



2021 District-Wide Charge Conferences Session Rules

Authority of the District-Wide Charge Conferences

2016 Discipline ¶246.2-3 states: “The membership of the charge conference shall be all members of the church council or other appropriate body, together with retired ordained ministers and retired diaconal ministers who elect to hold their membership in said charge conference and any others as may be designated in the Discipline. If more than one church is on the pastoral charge, all members of each church council shall be members of the charge conference.”

2016 Discipline ¶246.10 states: “A joint charge conference for two or more pastoral charges may be held at the same time and place, as the district superintendent may determine.”

2016 Discipline ¶246.6 states: “The members present and voting at any duly announced meeting shall constitute a quorum.”

Consideration of District-Wide Charge Conferences Matters

1. The District-Wide Charge Conferences session rules will be adopted at the opening of the District-Wide Charge Conference by majority vote of the gathered members of the Charge Conferences in attendance.
2. Only annual business items approved by the DS for consideration from the submitted Charge Conference Packets will be considered at the District-Wide Charge Conferences. Other items will require an individual called charge conference session.
3. The business of the District-Wide Charge Conferences is treated as a Consent Calendar. All the charge conference forms are to be approved at the local governing board (Church Council/Administrative Board) level before submission to the District Office. The District Superintendent may withdraw reports and business which do not conform to the UMC Discipline or will require further consultation at the local church/charge level. The vote at the District-wide Charge Conferences indicates approval of the consent calendar. A valid objection within 24 hours after the adjournment of the District-Wide Charge Conferences using the approved online form removes the particular local church item(s) of business from the consent calendar and the item(s) will instead be considered in an individual called charge conference session.
4. The online form for objection to consider items of business in the Consent Calendar of the District-wide Charge Conferences is located at <https://fs28.formsite.com/ARUMC/CC2021objection/index.html>
5. An online objection form, once received, will be validated by district office staff in collaboration with local church officers. Valid objections must come from a member of a congregation's currently elected Charge Conference (or a member ex officio), and an objection can only relate to business or submitted forms from the member's charge/church. Charge Conference membership is described in the 2016 Book of Discipline ¶246.2.
6. A valid objection will then be relayed to the local church, the district superintendent, and the appropriate circuit elder (if applicable), the item(s) of business in question will be held in abeyance awaiting action by regular order, and an individual charge conference session will be called by the DS to consider the item(s) of business which received an objection.

*Creating vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ,
who make disciples equipped and sent to transform lives, communities and the world.*



Meeting of the 2021 District-Wide Conferences

1. Due to safety concerns associated with the Covid-19 global pandemic, the 2021 District Wide Charge Conference will be held by remote communication via an online Zoom platform consistent with Arkansas Act 253 of 2021 allowing for remote meetings.
2. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the procedural authority for the business session of the District Conference when not in conflict with District-Wide Charge Conference Session Rules, *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* or the Arkansas Conference Standing Rules.
3. For all purposes, this electronically conducted meeting is deemed to be the equivalent of an in-person meeting.
4. Voting members of the District-Wide Charge Conferences, with the right to vote, will be those elected or ex officio members of the local church Charge Conferences.
5. Members of the District-Wide Charge Conferences are responsible for ensuring that all necessary technology on the member's side of the meeting is in proper working order prior to the meeting. Those present will be counted by electronic log-in, are deemed to be present for the meeting and will constitute a quorum.
6. All votes taken shall be conducted in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* and Session Rules.
7. The business of the District-Wide Charge Conferences is treated as a Consent Calendar. The vote at the District-wide Charge Conferences indicates approval of the consent calendar. A valid objection within 24 hours after the adjournment of the District-Wide Charge Conference using the approved online form removes the particular local church item(s) of business from the consent calendar and the item(s) will instead be considered in an individual called charge conference session.
8. To maintain an open meeting, the District-wide Charge Conferences meeting will be livestreamed and recorded for playback.
9. Facilitators (online meeting technology hosts, secretary, Q&A monitors, and vote counters, will be selected by the district superintendent.

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