

PETITIONS

Petition 1

Subject: Amend the Rules of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church

The undersigned move that the rules pertaining to the election of delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences be amended as follows:

Procedure for Election

Lay and clergy delegates shall be elected at the Annual Conference in the calendar year preceding the General and Jurisdictional Conferences and shall serve for the quadrennium. The number in each order (clergy and lay) to be elected shall be provided to the bishop and Conference secretary by the General Conference Secretary no later than December 2, prior to election. Persons elected to Jurisdictional Conference shall, in the order of election, be reserve delegates to General Conference.

The Sessions Committee shall provide a one-page *Willingness to Serve* form. Information sought shall include pertinent personal data, a biographical sketch, why he/she is a United Methodist, and a statement of three critical issues to be considered at General Conference. Persons eligible for election are invited to submit a completed form to the Sessions Committee by March 15, prior to the election. Copies of the forms received shall be provided to Annual Conference members in the respective order, at least 30 days prior to Annual Conference. Submission of a completed form is not essential for a person to be considered for election. ~~No person or group shall print or distribute material by any means, or otherwise promote or solicit on behalf of person(s) for election within Annual Conference meeting facility.~~ **Because the issues faced by General and Jurisdictional Conferences are so important and because voters may not personally know all persons willing to serve as delegates or eligible to serve as delegates, caucuses, groups or individuals may submit surveys and questionnaires to persons willing to serve as delegates and may report and distribute any responses. Persons willing to serve as delegates, however, are under no obligation to respond to such inquiries. Such reports will be distributed by the ushers, but duplication will be at the expense of the caucus, individual, or interest group involved. Persons willing to serve as delegates and their supporters may distribute promotional material intended to truthfully, accurately and positively inform the voters of issues or persons willing to serve as delegates, outside the auditorium or at its entrances. Promotional signs should not be displayed within the bar of the annual conference or visible from the voting area. Christian standards should be followed in all of this, and in no case should material or lists of who "not to vote for" be distributed.** The Sessions Committee shall provide opportunity, prior to the first ballot, for members of the Annual Conference to meet and talk with persons willing to serve.

The Conference Secretary shall arrange for a Head Teller and a sufficient number of tellers in each order to count the ballots. Ballots counted at the close of any session shall be sealed and the results not known until reported at the next session. Voting shall be on official ballots, with the number of names voted for each ballot being exactly the number announced by the bishop. On write-in ballots, the names of those voted for must be spelled correctly. Majority of valid ballots cast shall constitute election. Balloting shall continue in each order until the allotted number of delegates for General Conference is elected. Following completion of these elections, balloting shall begin for Jurisdictional Conference delegates, continuing until those

1 delegates have been elected. When all delegates have been elected, an additional ballot shall
2 be taken in each order, with those receiving the three highest votes constituting the additional
3 reserve delegates. These reserve delegates may act as reserve delegates to General
4 Conference when it is evident that not enough of the previously elected reserve delegates are in
5 attendance at General Conference (Paragraph 34).

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7 Rev. Joseph N. Easley

Rev. Mark L. Dicken

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9 ***Note: After reviewing this document the Rules and Structure Committee recommends***
10 ***maintaining original language.***

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1 **Petition 2**

2 **Subject: *Intentional Interim Pastoral Ministry***

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- 4 A. Many other denominations (Presbyterians, Christians, Mennonites, etc.) designate
- 5 certain pastors to serve in short-term pastorates that prepare for a more permanent
- 6 appointment. These interim pastors conduct a variety of procedures within a special
- 7 open atmosphere created in the church at this time.
- 8 B. Rather than focusing on new ministry goals, outreach strategies, or program
- 9 development, interim pastors are free to work in the following adjustments:
- 10 a. HEALING congregational rifts and differences that may have developed during
- 11 the previous pastorates.
- 12 b. RE-EVALUATING old goals and policies, with a view to changing and adjusting
- 13 to new ones.
- 14 c. Identifying the strengths of the desired NEW PASTOR's leadership style, so that
- 15 they may be clearly articulated to the Cabinet.
- 16 d. Supporting the congregation through the grieving process resulting from the loss
- 17 of the previous pastor.
- 18 e. Reconnecting DENOMINATIONAL ties that may have been strained in conflicts
- 19 during the previous pastorate.
- 20 C. Interim pastorates may follow either short or long term previous pastorates – wherever
- 21 the same needs and conditions are present.
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23 WE RESOLVE that the Cabinet of the Indiana Conference identify, and appoint, at least one

24 pastor to be trained to serve churches within the conference, in an interim capacity. This

25 ministry shall be evaluated within ten years, to determine its effectiveness. Salary needs must

26 not be neglected. No additional funding need be increased to facilitate this ministry status.

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28 Rex Charles
29 Flora United Methodist Council

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