

The Lay Electoral College

Michael A. Cousin Jr.

Director of Lay Activities

Fourth Episcopal District Lay Organization

African Methodist Episcopal Church



To Our Connectional Leadership

Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker, Lay Organization Commission Chairperson

Mr. Matikane Abednego Makiti, Connectional Lay Organization President

Ms. Patricia Wright, Connectional Lay Organization Director of Lay Activities

Ms. Jamesha Williams, Connectional Lay Organization Young Adult Representative

Greetings to The Fourth Episcopal District Leadership

Bishop John Franklin White, Presiding Prelate

Bishop Philip Robert Cousin Sr., (Ret.)

Bishop Gregory Gerald McKinley Ingram, (Ret.)

Mrs. Penny Hartsfield White, Episcopal Supervisor

Dr. Margaret Joan Cousin, Episcopal Supervisor (Ret.)

Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram, Episcopal Supervisor (Ret.)

Mrs. Beverly Adams Thomas, Episcopal Supervisor (Ret.)

Mr. Jerry Turner Jr., Episcopal President

Mr. Terrence Sanford, Episcopal Young Adult Representative



We Are The FABULOUS Fourth Episcopal District!

Bishop John Franklin White

Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Penny Hartsfield White

Episcopal Supervisor

Mr. Jerry Turner Jr.

Episcopal President

Mr. Michael A. Cousin Jr.

Episcopal Director of Lay Activities

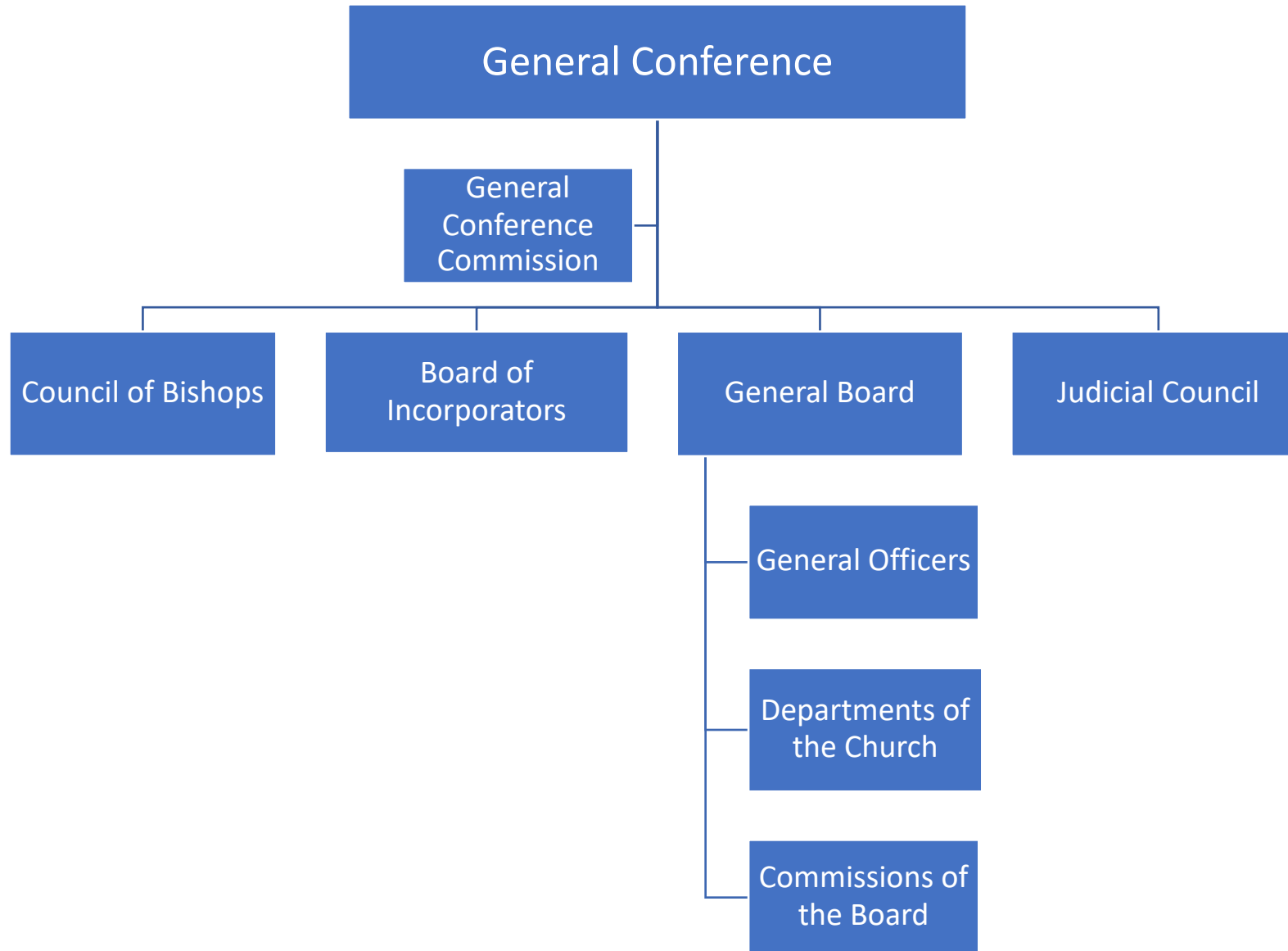
Mr. Terrence Sanford

Episcopal Young Adult Representative

COURAGE

Deuteronomy 31:6

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."



General Conference

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graph TD; A[General Conference] --> B[Annual Conference]; B --> C[District Conference]; C --> D[Church Conference];
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Annual Conference

District Conference

Church Conference

What Happens at The General Conference?

Elect	Elect Bishops, General Officers, and Judicial Council Members
Pass	Pass Proposed Legislation
Adopt	Adopt a Quadrennial Budget
Hear	Hear Departmental and General Officers Reports
Confirm	Confirm General Board Members

The General Conference

(Part X Organizational Structure of
General and Connectional Divisions
Section II The General Conference
*2021 Doctrine and Discipline of the
African Methodist Episcopal Church*
pg. 174)

- **Section II The General Conference**
 - The General Conference is the supreme body of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is composed of the bishops, who serve ex officio as presidents, according to the rank of election, and an equal number of ministerial and lay delegates, elected by each of the Annual Conferences. (See Part XIV, Section I-A: General Conference Composition)

The Composition

(Part XIV Conferences Section I. The General Conference A. Composition)

- The composition of the General Conference shall be the bishops; the general officers elected by the General Conference; the General Secretary/CIO of the General Conference; the presidents of the universities and colleges; the deans of seminaries that have been in operation continuously for one (1) or more years prior to the General Conference; the Judicial Council; the president and treasurer of the Women's Missionary Society; the editor of the Women's Missionary Magazine; the director of the Young People's and Children's Division; the Connectional presidents of Women in Ministry (WIM), Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC), Young People's and Children's Division (YPD) and Lay Organization; Episcopal District Lay Presidents; the president of the Connectional Council; the Executive Director and Medical Director of the Health Commission; active-duty military and veterans administration chaplains who have been ordained for at least four (4) years preceding the General Conference and those who are retired with a minimum of twenty (20) years of service in the Armed Forces of the United States; former World War II Chaplains who are in good and regular standing in their annual conferences; the administrators of all Connectional institutions (i.e., Douglass Hospital); the president of the Connectional Presiding Elders Council, and elected clergy and lay delegates from each annual conference.

Know Your Numbers

(Part XIV Conferences Section I. General Conference)

B. Notification to Episcopal Districts regarding Delegates

The Chief Financial Officer shall give notice to each Episcopal District one (1) year prior to the election of delegates of the number of ministerial and lay delegates to the General Conference to be elected in each annual conference, based on the approved formula.

*(i.e. The Fourth Episcopal District has **89** delegates allocated)*

The Local Election

(Part XIV Conferences Section I. General Conference D. Election of Delegates Item 2. Lay Delegates)

• 2. Lay Delegates

- a. Every pastor shall publish a notice of the Church Conference that is to elect lay representatives or delegates from his/her local church to the Electoral College at least two (2) weeks prior to the election.
- b. The election must be held at least three (3) months prior to the meeting of the Electoral College. Only full members eighteen (18) years of age and older of said local church shall be eligible to vote or to be elected a delegate. A majority of those present and voting shall determine the elected delegate and alternate delegate, and no proxy vote shall be counted, either at the election of the local church or at the election held in and at the Electoral College.
- c. The young adults shall elect their delegates to the Electoral College at the same time, but in a separate place from the election of the adult delegates.


The Local Election (continued)

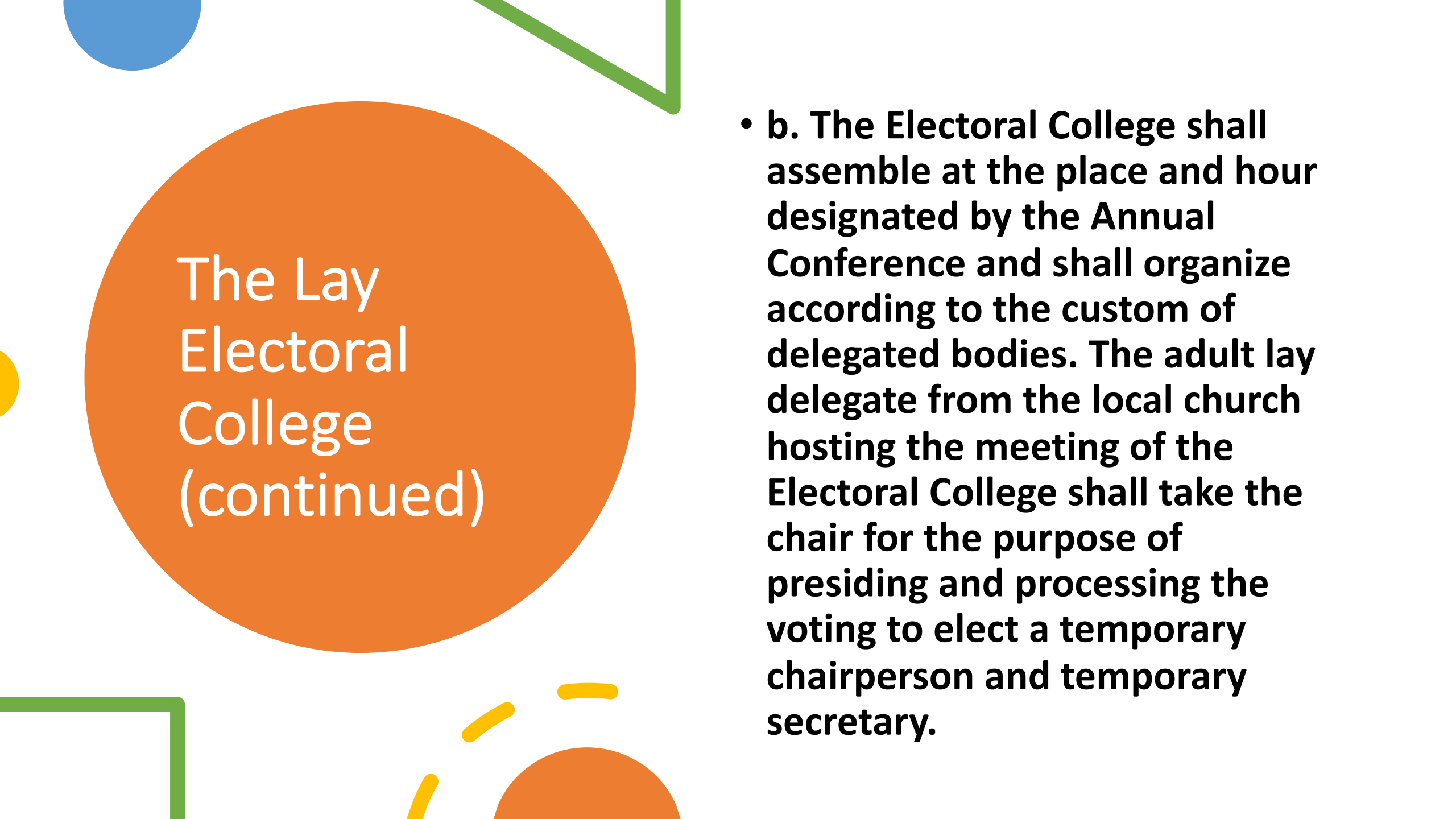
- d. Two (2) members, one (1) adult and one (1) young adult between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty-five (35), in good and regular standing, shall be elected to the Electoral College from each local church. At least one (1) member of each Annual Conference lay delegation shall be a young adult between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty-five (35). The combined number of young adult and adult lay delegates shall be equal to the number of elected ministerial delegates.
- e. Anyone eighteen (18) years of age who votes for delegates to the Electoral College from the local church and to the General Conference from one (1) Electoral College may not vote where any other Electoral College is concerned.

The Lay Electoral College

(Part XIV Conferences
Section I. General
Conference D. Election
of Delegates Item 3.
Lay Electoral College)

a. The Electoral College shall be composed of one (1) adult and one (1) young adult between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty-five (35), in good and regular standing, from each station, circuit and mission in the Annual Conference, whose expenses to said College shall be paid by the station, circuit or mission represented.





The Lay Electoral College (continued)

- **b. The Electoral College shall assemble at the place and hour designated by the Annual Conference and shall organize according to the custom of delegated bodies. The adult lay delegate from the local church hosting the meeting of the Electoral College shall take the chair for the purpose of presiding and processing the voting to elect a temporary chairperson and temporary secretary.**

The Lay Electoral College (continued)

- **After devotional service, the College shall elect a permanent organization, electing a chairperson, secretary, two (2) tellers and two (2) clerks, and then proceed to elect from its members by ballot delegates, at least one (1) of whom must be a young adult between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (35), and alternates, as provided by law under the caption, “Composition of the General Conference.” (See Part XIV, Section I-A)**

The Lay Electoral College (continued)

- c. In cases where ballots are required and the election is uncontested, a voice vote may be held.
- d. The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority for all elections.



The Lay Electoral College (continued)

- e. The Electoral College shall elect the same number of alternates, with the same qualifications, and by the same method as delegates.
- f. If, when the results of the balloting are announced, a member of the Electoral College shall desire to contest the results of the election, the chairperson shall permit the member who announces his or her desire to contest the election to count the ballots in the presence of the members of the College before the meeting in which the election is held either recesses or adjourns. If an error is discovered in the recount, the chairperson must declare the election void and the Electoral College shall elect delegates as provided by law. All ballots cast during the Electoral College shall be delivered to the annual conference when certification of the election is presented to the Annual Conference.

The Lay Electoral College (continued)

- g. If, in the composition or activity of the Electoral College, a law of the Church is violated, complaints may be made to and a hearing held at the next session of the annual conference, which shall adjudicate the matter.
- h. The secretary of the Electoral College shall prepare and certify over his or her signature a report of the proceedings of the Electoral College, including an accurate list of the electoral(?) and an accurate list of the elected lay delegates, in the order of their election, and forward the same to the presiding bishop of the district and to the secretary of the Annual Conference within thirty (30) days after the election, and to the Chief Information Officer one-hundred-twenty (120) days prior to the opening of the General Conference

The Lay Electoral College (continued)

- i. The Electoral College shall give each lay delegate and alternate a Certificate of Election, signed by the chairperson and secretary, to be presented to the Annual Conference for record.
- j. The Annual Conference shall give a Certificate of Election, signed by the bishop and secretary, to every delegate.
- k. It shall be unlawful for any minister to interfere in any way in the Electoral College.
- l. Each Episcopal District Lay President shall be a member of the General Conference, by virtue of his or her position. He or she shall automatically be included in the number of delegates certified at the Electoral College. The District Lay President must be a member in good and regular standing in his or her local church and his or her local Lay Organization.

What to Bring?

2021 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised)

BIBLE

My Thoughts

Do YOU have what it takes?

General Conference NOT a Vacation

WHY are we here?

The Annual Conference Delegate is NOT the same as the Electoral College Delegate

Remember the foundation: The Local Church



Questions?

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