

ELIGIBILITY FOR VOTING ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The short answer for who is eligible to vote on constitutional amendments: The Discipline gives the right to vote on constitutional amendments to:

- Elders in Full Connection
- Deacons in Full Connection
- Persons elected Elder or Deacon in Full Connection during the clergy session of the current Annual Conference – if their election occurred prior to the vote on Constitutional Amendments
- Lay members to Annual Conference

Listed below are the paragraph numbers for all categories of clergy and what The Discipline says.

Part-time and Full-time Local Pastors: Par. 316.6: The membership of local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment is in the annual conference where they shall have the right to vote on all matters **except constitutional amendments**. . . .

Retired Local Pastors: Par. 320.5: Retired local pastors may attend annual conference sessions with **voice but not vote**.

Associate members: Par 321.1: Associate members shall have a right to vote in the annual conference on all matters **except the following: (a) constitutional amendments**; (b) all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.

Deacons in Full Connection: Paragraph 329.2: The Deacon in full connection shall have the **rights of voice and vote in the annual conference where membership held**.

Elders in Full Connection: Par. 334:1: Elders in full connection **shall have the right to vote** on all matters in the annual conference. . .

Those persons voted and approved for ordination as Elder or Deacon in Full Connection: can vote if they have been approved in the clergy session.

Provisional Members: Paragraph 327.2: shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters EXCEPT constitutional amendments.

Clergy from other Annual Conferences: Par. 346.1: Clergy in such appointments may be granted voice but not vote in the annual conference to which they are appointed.

Elders or Ordained Clergy from other Denominations: Par. 346.2. These persons may be accorded the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except the following: constitutional amendments. . .

The above is also outlined in Par. 602. a, b, c, d, & 602.4

Lay members to Annual Conference: Par. 602.6: The lay membership of the annual conference shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures EXCEPT on granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full conference membership or any question concerning the character. . .