



Local Pastors Voting Rights - General

§ 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, election of delegates to general, jurisdictional, or central conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.*

Local Pastors **ARE** eligible to vote for:

- Local Pastors **ARE** eligible to vote on most general business of annual conference including resolutions.
- Some Local Pastors **ARE** eligible to vote in the election of delegates to general and jurisdictional conference (see explanation below).
- Local Pastors serving on the Board of Ordained Ministry **ARE** eligible to vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations during clergy session. (§ 635.1)
- Local Pastors **ARE** eligible to attend clergy session with voice but no vote. (§ 605.7)

Local Pastors **ARE NOT** eligible to vote for:

- Local Pastors **ARE NOT** eligible to vote on constitutional amendments.
- Local Pastors **ARE NOT** eligible to vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy, unless they are members of BOOM.

Local Pastors Voting Rights - Election of Delegates

The Constitution of The United Methodist Church was revised in 2008 to give voting rights to SOME local pastors. Paragraph 35, Article IV now reads: “The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.”

Local Pastors **ARE** eligible to vote for delegates if:

- They have served two consecutive years (full or part-time), immediately preceding the election including the 2017-2018 and the 2018-2019 conference years, during which time no withdrawal of the appointed status has occurred.
- They have additionally, obtained their M.Div. degree or completed the course of study.

Local Pastors **ARE NOT** eligible to vote for delegates if:

- They have not served two consecutive years, immediately preceding the election.
- They have not obtained their M. Div. degree or completed the course of study.