

United Methodist Church Constitutional Amendments

Voting Eligibility and FAQ

1. Who **IS** eligible to vote on proposed constitutional amendments?

Clergy members (elders and deacons) in full connection (§ 602.1.a) this includes clergy on sabbatical leave, voluntary leave of absence (§ 353.7), family leave (§ 353.7), transitional leave (§ 353.7) or medical leave (§ 356)

Lay members of annual conference (§ 602.6)

Diaconal ministers and active deaconesses are lay members of annual conference and as such have the right to vote (§ 33, Article II of Constitution)

2. Who **IS NOT** eligible to vote on proposed constitutional amendments?

Provisional deacons and elders (§ 602.1.b, *Book of Discipline*.)

Associate and affiliate clergy members (§ 602.1.c, *Book of Discipline*.)

Full-time and part-time local pastors (§ 602.1.d, *Book of Discipline*.)

Clergy on Honorable Location (358.2) or **Administrative Location** (359.3)

Lay Observers, Alternate Lay Members not certified as sitting for an absent Lay Member

3. May an annual conference amend a proposed constitutional amendment?

No. Members may debate a proposed amendment, but they cannot amend it.

The only voting option is to vote *yes* to approve the amendment or *no* to reject it. Each amendment has already been approved by the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, and every annual conference will be voting on the identical amendment.

4. What determines whether a proposed amendment is made to the Constitution?

A constitutional amendment must be ratified by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members voting in all annual conferences (§ 59, Article I).

The vote, after being completed, shall be canvassed by the Council of Bishops, and the amendment voted upon shall become effective upon their announcement of its having received the required majority (§ 59, Article I).

*All citations are from **The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline***

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