



**GENERAL CONFERENCE
KNOW HOW FOR 2024 DELEGATES**

**Everything you need to know to
represent your:**

***Episcopal District, Annual Conference &
District Conference,***

**and ultimately, Zion Methodism
during the
2024 GENERAL CONFERENCE**



PROTOCOL FOR THE GENERAL CONFERENCE FLOOR

- 1. Go to the microphone (mic) set up in the aisle nearest your delegation. If mic is on, address the chair by announcing (i.e. Mic 3, Mr./Mrs. Chair). If Mic is off, wait until Mic is turned on and the Chair recognize you by saying, "Mic 3 or whatever it might be.**
- 2. Once recognition is gained, state your name and Episcopal District, plainly, then address the issue before the House. Speakers must address remarks to the Chairperson.**
- 3. Pay attention to motions to come before the house, noting whether you are voting on main motions and amendments, etc. You may ask the Chair to have a motion restated if you are not clear as to its content.**

PROTOCOL FOR THE GENERAL CONFERENCE FLOOR (CONT'D)

- 4. Knowledge of parliamentary procedure is essential (main motions, amendments, motions to reconsider actions taken, motion to suspend rules, substitute motions, point of order, previous questions, division of the house, parliamentary inquiry and many others) and is the Delegate's way of communicating with the Chairperson regarding actions you want to see happen with the item that is before the House.**
- 5. Close attention must be paid to instructions given by the electronic voting technician. You must let her/him know of any malfunctions of your voting device.**
- 6. Maintain Christian decorum, in all your proceedings, irrespective of what you may see or hear from others.**



HOW TO RESEARCH RESOLUTIONS ...

When you need information where do you go?

Information sources:

- **Official journals of past General Conferences,**
- **Resolution Books,**
- **Former delegates to a General Conference**



HOW DO I FIND OUT IF A RECENT RESOLUTION WAS PREVIOUSLY WRITTEN?

- **Search the official Journal of the General Conference by topic.**
- **Speak with former delegates to the General Conference**
- **Search Revision Committee Report (2000 through 2021)**

HOW DO I FIND THE OUTCOME OF A WRITTEN RESOLUTION?

- **Check the Official Journal of the General Conference (minutes).**
- **The Resolution Books.**
- **Request information from the Resolution Committee**

A resolution that lacks merit:

- **May lack value - too wordy - poor rationale**
- **Distinction may not be stated clearly- poor quality,**
- **Does not follow the format for resolutions provided by the GC Resolution Committee**

PROCESS OF ADOPTING RESOLUTIONS.

The legislative work of the General Conference comes in the form of resolutions, written by individuals, groups, organizations, and general agencies of the church. Resolutions are submitted to the office of the General Secretary-Auditor and must reach the office at least four months, (120 days) prior to the setting of the General Conference, Review “Legislative Flow Chart in the 2021 A.M.E.Z Book of Discipline, page 290.”

Resolution documents are prepared for delegates, who should read, digest, research and pray for wisdom in order to be an informed delegate.

PROCESS OF ADOPTING RESOLUTIONS (CONT'D)

- *All resolutions are scrutinized by the Resolutions Committee. The committee makes its report by reading a summary of each resolution, with a recommendation of merit, or non-merit for consideration.*
- **Delegates Vote on Resolutions** –*Delegates can ask why resolution lacks merit. If not satisfied, inquirer may offer a motion for resolution consideration by the body. Before the Revisions Committee work is complete, resolutions are brought again to the floor for final approval.*

PROCESS OF ADOPTING RESOLUTIONS (CONT'D)

REMEMBER: As a Delegate, you have assumed the duties of a Legislator, representing your Conference, Episcopal District and the entire AME Zion Church. You have not been elected to be a reporter only.

This is “big” church business - handle it with tender, loving Christian hands of integrity. Make sure you “Delegate” at peak performance for God and Zion Methodism.

AND NOW SOME HELPFUL DELEGATED DON'TS

- **Do not seek to be a delegate to learn about the church**
- **Do not do puzzles, Sudoku, texting, twittering, etc.**
- **Do not keep your phone on.**
- **Do not ask an alternate to replace you to go shopping.**

Our prayers are with you as you represent the body of believers

YOUR ROLE AS

A GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATE

- **Know God and AME Zion church polity.**
- **Know General Conference procedures.**
- **Know Robert Rules of Order /Parliamentary Procedures.**
- **Study resolutions before General Conference begins.**
- **Be able to focus on General Conference on-goings and be able to intelligently question and or debate resolutions or issues on the floor.**

YOUR ROLE AS A GC DELEGATE (CONT'D)

- **Should be a committed, dedicated, reliable, working, active member with experience in local, district and conference meetings.**
- **Punctuality and regular attendance is a must to understand the issues up for discussion.**
- **Must understand what trust and A.M.E. Zion loyalty means.**
- **Be knowledgeable, honest, and vote your Christian convictions.**

YOUR ROLE AS A GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATE (CONT'D)

- **Know Credential Committee stipulations, (i.e. Badge necessary to be seated). Delegates must be seated in their Episcopal District.**
- **Attend all meetings of committees, to which you are assigned - understand functions of interface committees.**

ALTERNATE DELEGATE—information above is for you also. Stay in place to be available and able to perform the functions of the delegate in her\his absence; maintain interest in General Conference on-goings to be knowledgeable of resolutions and issues.

ACCESSING RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions are suggested legislation (governing law) for individuals and organizations, groups, and general agencies of the church. As an elected GC delegate, you will vote on resolutions that have been given merit (legal significance) for the following reasons.

- Resolution is valid and would have a positive impact on the church.**
- Resolution will not impact negatively on all the laws and procedures already in place.**

ACCESSING RESOLUTIONS (CONT'D)

- **Resolution gives a rationale for its purpose and proposes which actions should occur.**
- **Resolution predicts advantages to its acceptance**

You will receive the resolutions prior to the GC, and you should read, study, ingest, digest, research and become as well acquainted with the contents as is humanly possible. Pray for guidance in every undertaking, you will be required to make.

Your vote very well may be the vote that swings the pendulum.

ACCESSING RESOLUTIONS (CONT'D)

All resolutions are not given merit, and as a delegate, you may inquire from the Resolution Committee as to the reason. If you are not satisfied with the committee's rationale, you may make a motion to have the resolution considered by the body .

Maximize your gifts and talents, to the glory of God for the betterment of our beloved Zion.

The General Conference shall be composed of ministerial, and lay delegates who shall be elected from the annual conference for which they are members