

# Delegate Expectations

Title: Central District Conference Delegate

## Function

Acting on behalf of members of their respective congregations in any meetings of the conference, delegates determine major policy issues, evaluate the work of the Board of Directors, and discern the voice of the Spirit in the midst of the conference.

## Responsibilities and Duties

1. Prepare in advance of conference meetings.\*
  - a. Read carefully all the materials distributed to delegates before conference meetings.
  - b. Seek clarification from the Board of Directors on materials or statements that are not understood.
  - c. Ask for the advice and opinions of other persons in your congregation or the conference about policy issues for Central District Conference.
  - d. Formulate your opinions in advance based on input from others, prayerful discernment, and your own best thinking.
2. Participate actively in the Annual Meeting.
  - a. Be present and on time for each session.
  - b. Listen carefully to input from the moderator, conference leaders, and other delegates.
  - c. Participate assertively and intelligently in deliberations, respecting the needs of others to speak and be heard as well as your own.
  - d. Work cooperatively with other delegates to discern the voice of the Spirit in the conference, and to articulate God's desired future for Central District Conference.
  - e. Offer suggestions on ways to improve the various programs and services of Central District Conference.
  - f. Experience the conference sessions as worshipful work that honors God.
3. Serve as a conduit for information between conference sessions.
  - a. Receive and respond to requests for information and counsel from the Board of Directors.
  - b. Register new ideas, advice and suggestions focused on improving the outcomes and effectiveness of Central District Conference.
  - c. Suggest qualified candidates to the Gifts Discernment Committee to fill delegate-elected positions.
4. Communicate to congregation regarding conference decisions and activities.
  - a. Report back to your congregation the highlights and important issues discussed at annual meeting sessions or specially called delegate meetings.
  - b. Share other conference information distributed to delegates between annual meeting sessions.
5. Provide for continuity with newly appointed delegates.
  - a. Pass along past information of interest to the next delegate before the end of term.
  - b. Provide assistance as needed to orient newly appointed delegates to their work.

## Qualifications

1. Active participation in a member congregation of Central District Conference.
2. A commitment to discerning God's desired future for Central District Conference.
3. Interest in dealing with systems, values, and vision.
4. Willingness to make policy decisions in the best interests of the whole conference.
5. Personal commitment of time and necessary resources to attend each conference meeting for a minimum of two years.

### Congregational Responsibilities to Delegates

1. Appoint delegates immediately after the annual meeting in June, asking them to serve for the next two years.
2. Provide discernment in the delegate selection process to appoint capable and interested participants as their delegates.
3. Properly orient delegates regarding their role and responsibilities.
4. Assure that delegates are selected and delegate forms are filed with the conference office on a timely basis to permit their participation in annual meeting sessions.
5. Provide economic support of delegate attendance at conference gatherings as congregational finances permit.
6. Provide adequate venues and support for delegates to report back to the congregation on conference matters.

\*Conference meetings include the annual meeting held the fourth weekend of June and any other specially called meetings.

Note: Central District Conference does not necessarily expect delegates to be the same people who serve as delegates to the General Assembly of MC USA.

The function of delegate representation as outlined in the Central District Conference Bylaws Bylaw 1, Section B is as follows:

#### ***Section B: Delegates, Voting and Floor Privileges***

1. Representation and Voting: Every member congregation of the Conference shall have the right to be represented by one vote for every thirty members or fractional part of that number, with a minimum of two delegates from each congregation. In addition to the above delegates, every member congregation is encouraged to appoint one high school age youth delegate who is an active participant of the congregation and youth group. This will be an additional voting delegate.
2. Delegate Forms: Proper delegate forms shall be sent to all member congregations by the Conference administrator, and these forms shall be returned to the Conference administrator designating all delegates before or by the opening session of the annual meeting.
3. Floor Privileges: Any member of a constituent congregation present at Conference sessions may participate in discussion on the conference floor. Other guests present are welcome to join open discussion in the spirit of Christian love and mutual helpfulness.

Adopted by the Board of Directors, February 6, 2004