

# Delegate Formula Plan

TLC adopted the following amendments to paragraph 613.10 of the *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline*:

*In order to allocate delegates to the convening General Conference, the Transitional Leadership Council shall establish a deadline by which time the annual conference must submit a list of those churches aligning with the Global Methodist Church and the number of full-time equivalent pastoral appointments and assignments in the annual conference. Delegates for the convening General Conference shall be allocated based on the number of churches and full-time equivalent pastoral appointments and assignments an annual conference or other divisions of the church not part of an annual conference has as compared to the total number of churches and full-time equivalent pastoral appointments and assignments of the Global Methodist Church as of the deadline. (Alignment decisions may be made by local churches after that deadline, according to any provisions adopted by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, but such decisions would not be taken into account for allocating delegates to the convening General Conference.) The Transitional Leadership Council may allocate delegates to annual conferences or other divisions of the church not part of an annual conference that are formed or in formation after the deadline established by the Transitional Leadership Council.*

Because of this action, the formula will be based on the number of churches and pastors that are in the Global Methodist Church at specified times. Both required factors will be counted as a part of the formula. The number of churches is included because the local church is the most important and basic unit of the Global Methodist Church. We believe that the full-time equivalent pastoral appointments and assignments will come numerically closer to the original TBDD intent of basing delegate allocation proportionally on membership, and therefore should carry greater weight than the number of churches. Both statistical factors are among the most reliable statistics available. The formula for allocation of delegates will be 1/3 based on the number of churches and 2/3 based on the number of pastors (FTEs).

To make sure that all areas of the church are adequately represented, we recommend a minimum number of two delegates (one lay and one clergy) be allocated to each Provisional Annual Conference (PAC) and Provisional District (PD). The Transitional Leadership Council (TLC) reserves the right to allocate other delegates. Knowing these things, here is the process.

By the deadline dates below, Presidents Pro Tempore or their designee will verify the list of churches in their PAC or PD that have joined the GMC. If they know of churches not on the master list provided by the GMC staff, they need to ensure those

churches pass through the TLC approval process to be on the master list by the deadline date. If local churches are listed in the wrong PAC or PD, they will need to ensure that an official transfer is processed by the deadline date.

By the deadline dates below, Presidents Pro Tempore or their designee will verify the full-time equivalent status (FTE) of each person under episcopal appointment or assignment to pastoral ministry within the PAC or PD. FTEs will be reported by church, rather than by individual. Persons to be counted for delegate allocation include:

- *Ordained Elders and Deacons* appointed to a local church.
- *Senior Deacons and Elders* serving under appointment in a local church, including those serving interim appointments.
- *Valid Deacons and Valid Elders* (clergy from another denomination) serving under appointment in a local church (Paragraph 416).
- **NOTE:** Ordained clergy serving in *Extension Ministry beyond the local church* will not be counted for delegate allocation. These persons will have all of the rights and privileges that come with their ministerial category when it comes to elections and voting, but they will not be included in the delegate allocation count. They are not appointed to serve a local GMC congregation (“pastoral appointment”), so their inclusion in the count is not warranted by the TBDD language. Their inclusion would move us away from seeking to stay as close as possible to the original intent of allocating based on membership.
- *Transitional Local Pastors* (TLP) appointed to a local church (Paragraph 419.2).
- *Supply Pastors* appointed to a local church (Paragraph 412).
- *Any Lay Supply, including Certified Lay Ministers (CLMs)*, who is assigned as a pastor of a local church by the bishop for the area (Paragraph 309.3). They are assigned to serve a local church in pastoral ministry (“pastoral appointments and assignments”), so their inclusion is warranted by the TBDD language. Their inclusion brings us closer to the original intent of allocating based on membership,

There will be two allocations of delegates: March 1, 2024, and June 1, 2024. Two hundred and fifty (250) delegates plus or minus 6% will be allocated after March 1, 2024, and the remaining delegates after June 1, 2024.

On March 1, 2024, the number of churches will be fixed based on church applications that have been received and affirmed by vote of the TLC and the number of pastors (FTEs) validated by Presidents Pro Tempore or their designee. The numbers from all areas will be added together and every PAC and PD will be allocated delegates reflecting their percentage of the overall total number of churches and pastors (FTEs),

with a minimum of two delegates. The percentage of pastors (FTEs) will be weighted twice and averaged with the percentage of churches. That percentage will be divided into the 250 delegates plus or minus 6% that will be distributed. The delegate distribution will be made public no later than March 4, 2024. No delegates assigned in this first distribution will be taken away from any PAC or PD based on the second distribution.

The first distribution will be based on the percentage of churches and pastors (FTEs). The second distribution will allocate a proportionally equivalent number of delegates to new PACs or PDs, based on number of churches and pastors (FTEs), as those given in the first distribution. Similar sized PACs or PDs will be allocated similar numbers of delegates.

After June 1, 2024, delegates will be allocated to those PACs and PDs that join the GMC through church application and affirmation of the TLC between March 1, 2024, and June 1, 2024. This new delegate allocation will be announced no later than June 4, 2024. The new allocation will bring us up to the maximum number of 350 delegates plus or minus 6% approved by the TLC. Included in this distribution is any further allocation made by the TLC.

All delegates must be elected and the names must be reported to the Commission on General Conference no later than 100 days prior to the start of the General Conference (June 11, 2024) unless an extension is granted by the TLC for missional purposes.

### **Summary and Organizational Notes:**

1. The TLC has established the number of delegates for the Convening General Conference as 350 delegates (plus or minus 6%). The delegate distribution will be proportional based on the number of churches and pastors (FTEs) and the percentages calculated in March.
2. In the June distribution, PACs or PDs cannot lose any allocated delegates from the March distribution. PACs or PDs electing delegates based on the March allocation may be allocated additional delegates in June if the number of delegates needed for the June allocation does not reach the maximum number. Therefore, PACs or PDs should elect extra alternate delegates in case their number is increased.
3. Delegates are lay and clergy and equally represented.
4. PACs and PDs may wait until after the delegate distributions are announced to hold their elections, or they may hold their elections prior to the announced dates. If a PAC or PD elects early, they should elect a large enough pool to cover their potential number of delegates and alternates (see #2), including the projected number from the first allocation and possible additional allocations in the second round. Delegates will be assigned in the order that they are elected. Elections may be held in person or if the technology is readily available, they may be held electronically, as allowed by conference or district rules.

5. Any PAC or PD joining the GMC after March 1, 2024 should elect their delegate pool (see #2 and #4) at the same time as their convening conference to avoid the need for a second meeting for delegate elections.
6. The TLC reserves the right to allocate delegates to annual conferences or other divisions of the church not part of an annual conference that are formed or in formation after the deadline established by the Transitional Leadership Council. In other words, they may adjust for folks who come in after June 1, 2024 or churches that do not have a PAC or PD. They may also correct any inequities or last minute concerns.