

**ADDENDUM TO THE RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
REQUIRING ACTION OR CONSIDERATION BY  
THE 2021 WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

*This document contains one REVISED Action Item (wc102) and one NEW Action Item (wc110). These materials are properly before the Annual Conference, and are incorporated into the pre-conference materials. Please see the note before each item below for a brief explanation. All members of the Annual Conference should have this Addendum document, as well as the original Pre-Conference Workbook, available during the Plenary Sessions of the Annual Conference on June 18 and 19, 2021.*

*Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary  
June 8, 2021*

*[Editor's Note: Action Item wc102 was originally included in the Pre-Conference Workbook that was distributed to members of the Annual conference in mid-May. After reviewing the action item, it was determined that revised language need to be used in some places to clarify the process by which additional items may be brought to the Annual Conference Session. That language is included in this REVISED Action Item wc102, which REPLACES the original Action Item that was published in the pre-Conference Workbook.]*

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**REVISED Action Item wc102: Proposed Session Rules and Procedures for the 2021 Online Wisconsin Annual Conference Session (2/3 Majority Vote Required) **REVISED 6/4/2021****

**Submitted by: Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary**

**INTRODUCTION**

The 2021 Annual Session of the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church is scheduled pursuant to notice and call for Friday, June 18, 2021 and Saturday, June 19, 2021. The Clergy Session is scheduled for Monday, June 14, 2021 and the Laity Session is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15, 2021.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Annual Conference Session will be conducted using a digital platform. The 2021 Wisconsin Annual Conference session will consider those matters deemed essential for conducting conference business until the 2022 Annual Conference.

Any gathering as large as an Annual Conference Session needs a set of guidelines in order to facilitate the work that the group must do together. Conducting an Annual Conference Session on a digital platform has inherent characteristics that make our work even more challenging. Many of those challenges affect the amount of time required to consider and complete the essential work that the Conference must do. These realities require different rules and procedures for conducting the essential business of the conference than those normally used when the Annual Conference gathers in-person. These "Session Rules and Procedures" are offered to the Annual Conference in order to guide and facilitate the 2021 Online Session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference. They are designed to provide the opportunity for faithful and open discussion and decision-making on those matters which must be considered by the Annual Conference this year, while at the same time using the digital platform efficiently to conduct the essential business of the Annual Conference within the time available.

The following Session Rules and Procedures for the 2021 Wisconsin Annual Conference Session are therefore respectfully presented to the members of the Annual Conference for adoption.

## RESOLUTION:

**Whereas** the Wisconsin Annual Conference has approved a resolution authorizing the use of an Online Meeting Platform for the 2021 Session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church,

**Therefore be it resolved** that the 2021 Session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, meeting online using the ZOOM Webinar Platform on Friday and Saturday, June 18-19, 2021, adopts the following “Session Rules and Procedures” as the basis for conducting the 2021 Annual Conference Session.

### A. General Rules.

1. These Session Rules and Procedures will guide both the preparation for and the activity during the plenary sessions of the 2021 Annual Conference. An edition of these Session Rules and Procedures that includes material specific to the Clergy Session will be included in the Report of the Board of Ordained Ministry and presented for adoption at the beginning of the Clergy Session.
2. These Session Rules and Procedures apply to the 2021 Annual Conference session notwithstanding any prior conference standing rule or policy. If there is a conflict between conference standing rules and policies and these Session Rules and Procedures, the Session Rules and Procedures will take precedence.
3. **Conference Rule 3.3.3 - Implications Committee** is suspended for the duration of the 2021 Annual Conference Session. The time limitations of using a virtual platform in a two-day session do not allow an Implications Committee to do effective work. Questions related to the implications of any motion to amend the Proposed 2022 Wisconsin Conference Budget will be referred to the Chairperson of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and/or the Conference Treasurer for response.
4. References to the *Discipline* in these Session Rules and Procedures are to the current *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (“Discipline”)* unless it is otherwise clear from the context that the subject matter refers to an earlier version.

The latest edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall be the guiding resource in all cases where the *Discipline*, these rules, or other conference rules do not apply. In case of a conflict between these *Session Rules* and *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised*, these *Session Rules* shall take precedence.

5. The coordinator for the digital conference is GNTV Media Ministry (“GNTV”), working in cooperation with Conference support persons. Together they have developed and published instructions for registration, debate, voting and other processes.
  - a. The digital platform for the Annual Conference session is Zoom Webinar.
  - b. Zoom Webinar uses key terminology: “Panelist” is an individual who is leading, presenting, assisting leadership, or a promoted attendee allowed to speak and be heard by everyone attending the conference. “Attendee” is an individual who is able to see and hear what is happening, but who must be given access to speak and be heard by the presiding officer.
6. The most recent version of these instructions published prior to the opening plenary session are deemed incorporated into these *Session Rules and Procedures*, and will be used to govern decisions made during the Annual Conference session.
7. These *Session Rules and Procedures* will be presented for adoption by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote in the opening plenary session.
8. These *Session Rules and Procedures* may be amended from the floor of the Annual Conference session prior to their adoption at the beginning of the opening plenary session. Any proposed amendment to these Session Rules and Procedures will require a two-thirds vote of the voting body.
9. Once adopted, these *Session Rules and Procedures* may not be amended during the remainder of the 2021 Annual Conference Session.
10. The presiding officer for all sessions of the Annual Conference is the resident bishop or his designee.

### B. Membership and Setting the Bar

1. The bar will be set through the registration process.
2. Members authorized to vote will be screened when they register and issued a voter-unique identifier code for use in voting.
3. Only persons using their voter-unique identifier code will be permitted to vote.
4. The voter-unique identifier code issued to each person secures the ballots so that only registered and authorized attendees can vote.
5. The voter-unique identifier code will screen according to lay and clergy categories, as otherwise provided in the *Discipline*.
6. The voter-unique identifier code relies on the technology of the digital platform process and will not be independently monitored by human eyes unless a proper challenge is made to the qualifications of a given voter and this challenge is recognized by the presiding officer.
7. All lay and clergy members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference have the privilege of the floor and may address any issue before the body when recognized by the Bishop to speak.
8. Membership and formulas for lay/clergy equalization shall be those in effect for the 2017 session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference.
9. Roll call will be taken by recording the names and email addresses of persons who have been issued a voter-unique identifier code and matching those names with the persons who log on to the Annual Conference session.
10. Any active clergy who must be absent from the Annual Conference Sessions shall Email a request for an excused absence, along with the reasons for their absence, to the Conference Secretary at ConfSec@wisconsinumc.org and to the clergyperson's District Superintendent prior to the opening of the Annual Conference Session. Unexcused absences will be handled following the procedures of ¶602.8 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*.
11. Voting privileges belong to all those authorized to vote by the *2016 Discipline* and by Wisconsin Conference Rules 2.1.0 and 2.2.0.

### **C. Voting and Quorum.**

1. Voting is authorized by the following methods as called for by the presiding officer:
  - a. Voting for specific action: This method will be used generally for votes requiring a majority or super-majority vote. Examples of majority vote actions include approval of the conference budget and routine Annual Conference Action Items. Examples of super-majority votes are certain clergy classifications and certain parliamentary votes. Items that require a super-majority vote will be clearly identified in the Pre-Conference Workbook or the Report of the Board of Ordained Ministry.
  - b. Voting by class or slate of candidates: This method may be used for certain clergy classification votes and for other votes where deemed expedient or proper by the presiding officer.
  - c. Voting by ranked-choice: Qualified voters may be asked to vote for a specified number of choices from a group of options on a particular ballot. The voter must vote for exactly the number of choices specified for that particular ballot. The specified number of choices receiving the most votes after one ballot shall be deemed approved.
2. A majority vote is more than half of those eligible voters present and voting on a particular ballot. A one-third (1/3) vote is at least one-third of those eligible voters present and voting on a particular ballot. A two-thirds (2/3) vote is at least two thirds of those eligible voters present and voting on a particular ballot. A three-fourths (3/4) vote is at least three-fourths of those eligible voters present and voting on a particular ballot.

3. For all purposes on any vote otherwise called for during the Annual Conference session, a member is deemed “present and voting” if the member votes using the voter-unique identifier code that has been assigned to that person to cast a ballot.
4. For all purposes, a quorum shall be all members present and able to vote.
5. The digital voting platform is designed to provide an accurate vote count following the close of a vote. A report will be made on each vote taken in as timely a manner as possible within the limits of the digital platform, technology and human efforts.
6. All motions and amendments made during the Annual Conference session must be submitted in writing prior to being recognized on the floor. This shall be done by using the “Get Recognized” feature of the ZOOM Webinar platform discussed below under “Debate”. For lengthier motions or amendments (exceeding a short paragraph or 1023 characters), the proponent must use both the “Get Recognized” feature to signal that a motion or amendment is forthcoming, and also send the motion to both of the following email addresses to transmit the body of the motion or amendment: [ac@gntv.info](mailto:ac@gntv.info) and [ConfSec@wisconsinumc.org](mailto:ConfSec@wisconsinumc.org)

#### **D. Debate.**

1. The debate process during the Annual Conference session will generally follow the GNTV instructions. These instructions include:
  - a. Individuals wishing to speak may only be recognized by using the “Get Recognized” feature to express why they want to be recognized. These expressions will be placed in a queue for the presiding officer.
  - b. Use the “Get Recognized” feature to indicate why you want to speak. You must indicate on the “Get Recognized” form the exact purpose of your request for recognition: Ask a Question; Motion; Amendment; Second; Call the Question; Point of Order; Moment of Personal Privilege; and so forth.
  - c. If submitting a motion or amendment, you must submit the text in writing as provided above in Rule C(6).
  - d. Once recognized by the presiding officer, the attendee should use the “Raise Hand” feature of the ZOOM Webinar Platform to be identified in the attendee list. Their microphone will then be enabled by GNTV. The attendee then needs to unmute their microphone and begin speaking.
  - e. Please note that the “Chat” feature of the ZOOM Webinar Platform will be disabled during plenary sessions. Attendees cannot use the “Chat” feature to be recognized or take other action during debate or voting.
2. The presiding officer at any given session shall have the discretion to recognize who speaks to any matter and in what order. A member is not entitled to speak to a matter until recognized by the presiding officer.
3. The presiding officer may declare a recess in the proceedings at any time to address technical difficulties with respect to such proceedings, or for any other purpose deemed appropriate by the presiding officer.
4. The presiding officer may order the tabling or postponement of any motion, amendment or other matter on the floor to permit a sidebar discussion. The presiding officer may re-call the tabled matter at the next convenient time.
5. Members shall speak no more than once on a given item. Debate on motions and amendments shall be limited to three (3) speakers in favor and three (3) speakers against with a two (2) minute time limitation per speaker. In addition, the presenter of the motion, or person designated by the presenter, shall be entitled to no more than two minutes to close the debate. It shall be the privilege of the presiding officer to request the following procedure for debate: to recognize alternately someone for and someone against the issue, and, when possible, give balance to clergy and lay members. A timer should appear on the speaker’s screen once recognized to speak.
6. The presiding officer shall have the discretion to expand debate on any debatable motion or amendment.

## **E. Agenda and Schedule**

1. All proposals for action at the 2021 Annual Conference session shall relate to matters essential to the ongoing operation of the Annual Conference. They shall be published electronically in the Pre-Conference Workbook on the Conference website ([www.wisconsinumc.org](http://www.wisconsinumc.org)) and on the Conference Registration website, and shall be available to the members of the Annual Conference prior to the opening of the Annual Conference Session.
2. The Agenda for the 2021 Annual Conference Session shall be the list of Action Items published in the Table of Contents of the Pre-Conference Workbook. The Pre-Conference Workbook will be published on the conference website(s) and available for review prior to the opening of the Annual Conference Session. All Action Items published in the Pre-Conference Workbook and any Addenda to the Workbook are automatically before the Annual Conference Session, and do not require a motion or second in order to be considered by the Annual Conference.
3. Motions from the floor introducing new material require the suspension of Conference Rule 2.3.4. If the conference votes to suspend this rule, then any resolutions or action items brought to this session of Annual Conference that were not submitted by the established date will be dealt with after the business of the Annual Conference is completed, but before the order of the day for the Ordination and Commissioning Service, at the discretion of the Bishop as time allows.
4. The Schedule for the 2021 Annual Conference Session shall be published on the conference website(s) prior to the Annual Conference Session. The schedule, and the sequence in which items are considered, may be adjusted by the Director of Connectional Ministries in consultation with the Bishop, Conference Secretary, and/or the Chairperson of the Conference Program and Arrangements Committee.
5. The Action Item format shall include a section for the Proposed Action and may include a Rationale. Only the Proposed Action of an item (typically labeled “Therefore be it resolved...”) may be debated or amended. The Rationale (typically labeled “Whereas”) is presented for information as a resource for conversation.
6. All Action Items will identify the group or individual submitting the action item. That group or individual will be responsible for presenting the Action Item to the Plenary Session of the Annual Conference, and for responding to questions related to the Action Item. Video or Audio Presentations of most Action Items will be pre-recorded to facilitate the flow of the Online Annual Conference Session.
7. The Conference Secretary, in consultation with the Bishop and Cabinet, may:
  - a. Combine Proposed Action Items to promote good conversation or clarity of intent.
  - b. Designate one Proposed Action Item as a “Main Motion” and other Proposed Action Items as “Amendments.”
  - c. Develop special parliamentary procedures to consider the Action Items.
8. In order to facilitate the electronic balloting process, Action Items of a similar nature or subject may be grouped under one motion. In this way multiple related Action Items may be voted upon using a single ballot. GNTV’s voting software allows separate votes on multiple related action items to be taken on a single ballot. When that is to be done, it will be clearly indicated in the Pre-Conference workbook.

## **F. General Parliamentary Procedures.**

1. The presiding officer shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the body in question. In case of such an appeal, the question is not debatable, except that the presiding officer may state the grounds for the decision and the appellant may state the grounds for the appeal.
2. Only a member with a voter-unique identifier code has the right to make a motion and to vote.
3. A Call to Prayer shall always be in order.
4. All motions must be made before speaking to the motion or matter under discussion. If, after discussing a pending question and before relinquishing the floor, a speaker makes a motion of any kind, that motion shall be out of order.
5. If a speaker requests the floor without identifying the purpose of their request as “Make a motion” or “Amendment” any motion that person makes prior to relinquishing the floor shall be out of order.
6. When a motion is made and seconded, or a report presented or read by the Secretary and then stated by the presiding officer, it shall be deemed in possession of the Annual Conference.

7. Because all votes taken on the digital platform are counted votes, a motion requesting a count vote and/or a motion to “divide the house” shall not be in order.
  8. The following motions are not debatable:
    - a. Fix the time to adjourn.
    - b. Adjourn.
    - c. Recess.
    - d. Question of privilege.
    - e. Call for the order of the day.
    - f. Lay on the table.
    - g. Previous question.
    - h. Limit or extend limit of debate.
    - j. Reconsider a non-debatable motion.
    - k. Take from the table.
    - l. Suspend the Rules
  9. No new motion or Action Item shall be entered until the one under consideration has been disposed of, which may be done by adoption or rejection, but one or more of the following motions may be made, and they shall have precedence in the order in which they are listed, namely:
    - a. Fix time to adjourn.
    - b. Adjourn.
    - c. Recess.
    - d. Lay on the table.
    - e. Order the previous question.
    - f. Postpone to a definite time.
    - g. Commit or refer.
    - h. Amend (by addition, deletion or substitution)
    - i. Postpone indefinitely.
  10. A main motion may have only one primary amendment and one secondary amendment at any one time.
  11. A motion “to move the previous question” or to “call the question” is used to request an end to debate on the motion that is currently before the Annual Conference, shall not be debatable, and requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority to pass.
  12. A motion “to move the previous question (or “call the question”) on all that is before us” is used to request an end to all debate on the entire matter before the Annual Conference, and requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority to pass. When a motion “to move the previous question on all that is before us” is approved, the conference then proceeds without further discussion to vote on any secondary amendments, primary amendments, and the main motion (the “Action Item”) that are currently being considered.
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*[Editor's Note: The following action item was received by the Conference Secretary on Saturday, June 5, 2021. It is in compliance with Conference Rule 2.3.4, which requires that "All resolutions and petitions to be considered at an Annual Conference session must be submitted no later than ten (10) days before the opening of Annual Conference." It is properly before the Annual Conference, and has been placed on the agenda for Annual Conference consideration. It has been designated as Action Item wc110.]*

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**Action Item wc110: Resolution for Anti-racism and Anti-hate crimes against Asian and Asian Pacific Islander Americans**

**Submitted by: The Commission on Religion and Race, Rev. Ebenezer Insor, Dr. Don Kim**

**Conference Action:**

**Whereas:** Hate crimes and discrimination against Asian and Asian Pacific Islander Americans have increased enormously during the pandemic from March 2020 but it has a long history since 1871. Although the awareness of anti-Asian hate is finally permeating the mainstream, the most common form of racism against Asian Americans is "the perpetual foreigner stereotype." Regardless of their family history and length of residence in the United States, most Asian Americans – including second, third, and fourth generations – are asked, "Where are you really from?" (excerpts from "10 Things to Know about Asian Americans," GCORR, United Methodist Church)

**Whereas:** a tenacious struggle for racial justice in this country has been a part of our history. To understand more fully our place in history we as gather at the birth of new beginning, joining our efforts to dismantle racism and build a multicultural church and society, we need to acknowledge and celebrate those who have been on this path before us.

**Whereas:** when we examine institutional racism, remember that racism is the power to enforce one's prejudices, which have been institutionally empowered to oppress and exploit the people of color and our personal bigotry in many ways against the people of color consciously and unconsciously. Persons of color today, including Asian American sisters and brothers, are still not only viewed as marginal in a negative sense, but also dehumanized and decolonized in society as well as in the church, the body of Christ.

**Therefore,** in doing so, we affirm that we are not the first, and nor are we alone. Many have been here before us. God created all people according to the image of God to be free in dignity with God's blessings. Even more important is the message of God's intervention and redemption, with an invitation and a command to repent of our divisions, to be forgiven, restored, and empowered to rebuild God's human family on the basis of unity, love and justice. Like each of us, the church is, in the language of the Reformation, simul justis et peccator, simultaneously holy and sinful. The church is both divine instrument of God and human institution.

**Therefore,** we affirm that a racially just society must be built on a multicultural foundation, which our profession of faith is based on the creation of God in the beginning. It provides a clear understanding that the whole human family is created by God to exist in unity and equality, and a clear judgment that any violation of God's intentions is a sin against both God and humanity. With this vision and with this commission we are empowered to overcome racism and hatred, and to build a racially just society and the church of Jesus Christ, the new community of the Spirit, seen in its ideal vestment at Pentecost in Acts 2, opens up the community of faith to even those who live at its very edges.

**Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Wisconsin Annual Conference supports the work of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race, in partnership with all the other Ethnic Caucuses (Black Methodist for Church Renewal, Committee of Native American Ministries, Hispanic Caucus), to join in unity and solidarity with our Asian brothers and sisters of the Asian, Korean and Hmong Caucuses to call on each local church in the Wisconsin Annual Conference to denounce a demonic force that threatens the vitality of the church, and actively engage in conversation to dismantle the walls of racism, and to promote the awareness of the hate crime and prejudice against the persons of color and Asian 'siblings' by building multicultural and multiracial communities and institutions, including support of efforts to eliminate all forms of social oppression and to educate others in multicultural perspectives.