

YOUR ROLE AS A GC DELEGATE

- ◆ Know God and AME Zion church polity
- ◆ Know General Conference procedures
- ◆ Know Roberts Rules of Order/ Parliamentary Procedures
- ◆ Must have studied resolutions before GC begins
- ◆ Be able to focus on GC ongoing be able to intelligently question and or debate resolutions or issues on the floor.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Know Credential Committee stipulations (i.e.: Badge necessary to be seated). Delegate 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 so as to be available and able to perform the functions of the delegate in his/her absence; maintain interest in GC on-goings to be knowledgeable of resolutions and issues.

ASSESSING 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 other laws and procedures already in place
- Resolution gives a rationale for its purpose and proposes which actions should occur
- Resolutions 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. 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 rights and talents to the glory of God for the betterment of our beloved Zion.

General Conference

KNOW-HOW For DELEGATES & OBSERVERS



The General Conference shall be composed of ministerial and lay delegates who shall be elected from the annual conference for which they are members or associated with through their local church.

*Compiled by
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Protocol for the General Conference Floor...

1. Go to the microphone (mike) set up in the aisle nearest your delegation. If mike is on, address the chair by announcing i.e. Mike 3. Mr./Mrs. Chair. If mike is off, wait until mike is turned on and the Chair recognizes you by saying Mike 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 that 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.
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 him/her know of any malfunction 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 the General Conference
- Resolution Books
- Former delegates to the General Conference

How do I find out if a 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 Reports*

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 - wordy - poor rationale*
- *Distinction may not be stated clearly - poor quality*
- *Does not follow the format for resolutions provided by the General Secretary-Auditor*

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 (individuals via the Annual Conference Resolutions Committee) and must reach the office at least four months (120 days) prior to the setting of the General Conference. "Review Legislative Flowchart in the 2021 Book of Discipline, p. 290" Resolution documents are prepared for delegates who should read, digest, research and pray for wisdom in order to be an informed delegate. All resolutions are scrutinized by the Resolution 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's work is complete resolutions are brought again to the floor for final approval.

REMEMBER: *As a Delegate you have assumed the duties of a Legislator representing your Conference., Episcopal District and ultimately the entire A.M.E. Zion Church. You have not been elected to be a reporter only. Someone has suggested that the role of a delegate is a dual one –that of "delegate" (as described above) and "trustee". The trustee exercises his/her best judgement, informed by opinion of the constituency, but not limited to them, and votes his or her own convictions.*

This is "big" church business - handle it with tender loving Christian hands of integrity. Make sure you are a "Delegate" operating 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*

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