

**Information and Session Rules to Consider Ratification of the Board of Trustees'
Recommendations of Disaffiliation Agreements at the November 15, 2023
Special Session of the Pacific Northwest Conference**

Information About Today's Special Session of the Pacific Northwest Conference

This Special Session of the Pacific Northwest Conference has been called in accordance with ¶603.5 of **The 2016 Book of Discipline** of the United Methodist Church to address only the following issue: The consideration of recommendations from the Conference Board of Trustees requesting ratification of Disaffiliation Agreements with various congregations of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church, in accordance with ¶2553 of **The 2016 Book of Discipline** of the United Methodist Church.

The agenda, as posted, will be used.

Members of the Pacific Northwest Conference, with the right to vote, include all:

- a. clergy members in full connection;
- b. provisional, associate and affiliate clergy members;
- c. certified lay members assigned;
- d. full and part-time local pastors under appointment;
- e. ordained clergy from other denominations serving under appointment within the Pacific Northwest Conference;
- f. lay members or alternates who were last seated at the June, 2023 Annual Conference Session, or laity duly elected by their charge conference if needed to replace a lay member or alternate who is unable to attend because of death, serious illness or cessation of membership, as provided by ¶602.5 of The 2016 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church;
- g. laity who are members of Annual Conference by virtue of the 2016 Book of Discipline or Conference Standing Rules,
- h. youth members and those elected at the 2023 District Conferences as lay-clergy equalization at-large members.

Robert's Rules of Order 12th Edition will be the procedural authority for all business conducted by the Special Session of the PNW Conference when not in conflict with PNW Conference Session Rules, PNW Conference Standing Rules or the 2016 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church.

Today's votes on whether to ratify the Board of Trustees' recommendations of disaffiliation agreements will take place in a manner to fulfill the requirements of **Judicial Council Decision 1420**.

The Conference Board of Trustees, which is responsible for entering into a disaffiliation agreement with a local church board of trustees following certification of that church's vote to disaffiliate, will present recommendations to ratify completed disaffiliation agreements to the annual conference for its consideration.

The annual conference will then vote on whether to ratify each disaffiliation agreement by a simple majority vote, which may not include any amendments.

Session Rules of Order - Vote Required

1. The Session Rules of the Special Session of the PNW Conference will be those adopted at the opening Business Session of the November 15, 2023, Special Session of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference.
2. The bar of the Special Session will be set by the conference secretary.
3. The process for the consideration of recommendations from the Conference Board of Trustees requesting ratification of Disaffiliation Agreements with various congregations of the PNW Conference of the United Methodist Church will be:
 - a. A member of the Conference Board of Trustees will move the recommendation of the Disaffiliation Agreement. The presentation of the recommendation will not be considered a speech in favor.
 - b. Debate will be limited to two (2) two-minute speeches in favor of the motion and two (2) two-minute speeches against. This excludes persons inquiring about points of order or asking questions of clarification.
 - c. The presenter of the motion may offer a one-minute concluding remark at the end of debate before the matter is put to a vote.
 - d. The ratification vote will take place at the conclusion of debate.
 - e. Each disaffiliation agreement will be considered individually.
4. The following individuals providing technical support and assistance are granted permission to be inside the bar of the conference: Staff and Tech Team of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference.