

Frequently Asked Questions about the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ Accompanied by Carefully Crafted Responses

Who can be a delegate to the Annual Meeting?

Article IV – Membership of the By-Laws of the Conference defines who can be a delegate. It reads:

The voting membership of the Conference shall consist of

- lay delegates selected and representing the Local Churches of the Conference,
- ordained ministers holding standing in the Conference,
- the Conference Minister and Associate Conference Ministers,
- Commissioned Ministers,
- Licensed Ministers, and
- Directors of Christian Education whose qualifications as such are recognized by the Conference wherein they are employed and are members of the United Church of Christ,
- the lay members of the Board of Directors,
- the lay members of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group,
- retired Unordained Conference Ministers or retired Unordained Associate Conference Ministers who have served their last five years in Minnesota and currently belong to a Minnesota Conference Church.

How many lay delegates can a church send?

Congregations are entitled to select a minimum of two and a maximum of six lay delegates according to the following formula based on membership:

<u>Membership</u>	<u>Number of Lay Delegates</u>	<u>Youth/Young Adult Delegates (age 13-29)</u>
0 - 199	2	1
200 - 399	3	1
400 - 599	4	1
600 - 799	5	1
800 and above	6	1

All congregations are entitled to one Youth/Young Adult Delegate age 13-29.

What will the housing be like at the College of St. Benedict?

Single rooms have one twin bed. Double rooms have two twin beds, some are lofted. Bed and bath linens are provided and all rooms are air-conditioned. **Single or double dorm rooms** have a shared bath down the hall. You will need to bring appropriate attire for moving between your room and the bath. **All rooms are air-conditioned, but in the event of cool weather, bring warm clothing and an extra blanket.** Suites are primarily reserved for families wanting to make use of family housing. There is a flat rate of \$105.00/night only for families in family housing.

HOUSING POLICY: The Conference will not assign roommates and the College will no longer re-assign roommates on site. If you wish to pay the double room rate, you must have a roommate, and you must write in the name of your mutually agreed-upon roommate in the space provided, and expect to stand by your arrangement.

There are plenty of single rooms available, however, they are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Please consider this in timing your registration.

Suites are primarily reserved for family housing. If you are interested in a suite and can identify 4-6 individuals who wish to commit to sharing a two or three bedroom suite, please contact Alison Bents in the Conference Office at alisonb@uccmn.org.

I prefer a single room. What should I do to be sure I get one?

Register as soon as possible. Single room requests will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis.

What should families with children or teenagers do with regard to the housing options?

Suites are primarily reserved for families wanting to make use of family housing. There is a flat rate of \$105.00/night only for families in family housing. Children are expected to be in childcare (up to age 2), participating in children's programming (age 3 through 8th Grade), or attending Annual Meeting activities under direct adult supervision at all times during the weekend. Children and youth are not allowed to stay in dorm rooms or roam the campus alone while parents/guardians attend the meeting without direct adult supervision.

Are there other lodging options nearby?

There are commercial lodging options in nearby St. Cloud. The AMPWG has not made any arrangements with local motels. The St. Cloud Area Convention and Visitors Bureau can provide information; their telephone number is 1-800-264-2940.

Are there recreational facilities available on campus?

There is a weight room available to us, as well as trails for walking and running. We hope to have hours when the swimming pool on campus is open for use by adults, youth and older children with the purchase of a \$5 pool ticket.

Can special dietary needs be accommodated?

Meals will be served in the Gorecki Center's cafeteria with several menu choices – including vegetarian selections – provided at every meal. Gluten-free meals will be available only if you check the option on your registration form. The College has indicated they will do their best to meet those needs. For those with specific dietary needs that cannot be accommodated, a list of local grocery stores and restaurants will be available at the Registration table.

How do you determine the costs for the annual meeting?

The Annual Meeting Planning Work Group (AMPWG) works to keep costs as low as possible while still making the Annual Meeting self-supporting. Using college campuses is one way to control costs. The total budget for the Annual Meeting covers per person facility charges; accommodations, travel, fees for speakers; administrative costs for producing mailings and packets; postage; administrative costs related to staffing the meeting; special activities fees like bus, internet, refreshments at breaks, media support; and other "hidden expenses"

I would like to attend, but am not a delegate. Can my registration fee be waived?

Visitors are always welcome at the Annual Meeting. However, we still incur facilities and administrative costs for visitors. Therefore we will need to charge the same registration fees.

Can my registration fee be waived?

In rare circumstances only the registration fee can be waived for retired clergy who are not attending as delegates from a church or for in-care students. You will still have to pay for housing and meals. Please call Rev. Karen Smith Sellers at the Conference Office (612-871-0359) if you are requesting a waiver as retired clergy or a student in-care.

On-line registration, payment by credit card

Log onto the Conference web site (www.uccmn.org/annualmeeting), look for the Annual Meeting tab (at top of Home page) and follow the directions. Payment may be made by credit card (VISA or MasterCard), through a bank account withdrawal, or by mailing a check to the Conference Office.