

Frequently Asked Questions about the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference 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

- Local Church Members of the Conference may cast the number of votes provided for in the paragraph below, which votes shall be cast through their respective lay delegates and lay youth and/or young adult delegates;
- Authorized Ministers Members of the Conference may each cast one vote on their own behalf;
- Health and welfare institution members of the Conference may each cast one vote through a delegate who must be appointed by that institution's Board of Directors, be a member of that institution's Board of Directors, and be a member of a Local Church,
- Ministers with Dual Standing Members of the Conference may each cast one vote on their own behalf;,
- Members of the Board who are not Authorized Ministers or Ministers with Dual Standing may each cast one vote on their own behalf.

How many lay delegates can a church send?

Each Local Church shall be entitled to select up to the number of lay delegates prescribed through the following table:

<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.**

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 enter 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.

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. Children are expected to be in childcare (up to age 12), or attending Annual Meeting activities under direct adult supervision at all times during the weekend. Youth should register separately and will also need to be either in the Annual Meeting sessions or under direct adult supervision at all times during the weekend. Youth must designate an adult chaperone (age 21+) at the time of registration. Youth will also be assigned housing in a separate area from adults and will have private rooms. Chaperones will be assigned housing near the youth. Again – children and youth are not allowed to stay in dorm rooms or roam the campus alone while parents/guardians/chaperones attend the meeting. All youth who will be lodging in the designated youth housing area must submit a Parent Authorization Form and Health Information Form. Young adults (ages 19-29) will be housed among other adults in general dorm housing.

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.

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 are many lovely trails available for walking and running, and bicycling as well as other recreational area. Feel free to bring your bicycle, frisbee, yoga mat, or other items to enjoy the beautiful campus and surrounding area.

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 indicate on your registration form. The College has indicated they will do their best to meet those needs.

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”. Registration fees do not currently cover all the actual costs of Annual Meeting.

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. Dr. David Lindsey, our Transitional Conference Minister at the Conference Office (612-871-0359) if you are requesting a waiver as retired clergy or a Member in Discernment.

On-line registration, payment by credit card or check

Registration for the Annual Meeting will open in early March. Please watch for that.

If my plans change, can I get a refund?

Sometimes plans change and it can't be helped. By June 1, we have to give hard numbers to the College of St. Benedict and we are billed for those numbers (as well as any additions). Because of this, we cannot refund any registration, housing or meal money after May 31.