

Ballot 4: Educational Requirements for Clergy Members Voting for General Conference Delegates

There will be four ballots taken at annual conference on the proposed amendments to our constitution. The fourth ballot clarifies the educational requirements for clergy members of annual or provisional conferences who are eligible to vote for clergy delegates to the General Conference.

This amendment ensures that those voting for clergy delegates have met the denominational standards for theological education. It clarifies the meaning of an M. Div. degree and specifies qualifying theological schools and their equivalents.

Local pastors retain the right to elect clergy delegates to the General Conference if they meet the following educational and service criteria.

Educationally, they must have either completed the Course of Study or earned a Master of Divinity degree from a University Senate-approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a central or regional conference.

In addition, they must have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately before the election.

This amendment brings greater clarity and consistency to the voting process for clergy delegates while allowing for necessary contextualization within central and regional conferences.