

THE ROLE OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATE

1. Delegates are elected by the local church at the annual society meeting (in January) and serve for the calendar year (6 months before conference and 6 months after conference).
2. Delegates represent the society (local church) at the annual conference. They serve as members of the conference only when they are seated, and the conference is in session.
3. Delegates serve as a liaison between the local church and the conference.
4. Delegates reflect both the society and their own personal views in their discussions at conference, and act on behalf of the good of the conference.
5. Delegates are expected to report significant actions of the conference to their local church. Reports may be to the congregation, official board, society, etc.
6. The delegate (or at least one of the delegates) serves on the local board of administration and the pastor's cabinet of the church.
7. Delegates ensure that pastoral care is provided for the pastor and family by:
 - appropriately welcoming a new pastor and family
 - inquiring as to whether family and ministry needs are being met
 - coordinating expressions of love and appreciation during pastor appreciation month (October), at Christmas time and other occasions
 - consulting with the pastor's cabinet and superintendent in recommending a sabbatical leave for study and/or physical, emotional and spiritual renewal
 - ensuring that the cost of family camp, the annual conference, pastors and spouses retreat, etc. are provided for by the church, if at all possible
 - serving as a loyal friend to the pastor - providing encouragement, prayer and counsel
 - appropriately thanking the pastor when a pastor is transitioning out of the church
8. Delegates serve as spiritual leaders in the church and as a liaison from the pastor to the congregation and the congregation to the pastor, all through the pastor's cabinet.
9. Delegates serve as spiritual leaders in the conference by:
 - praying for the conference superintendent and staff
 - completing the Superintendent Nominating Committee Survey re: conference priorities, leadership selection and superintendent nomination when a superintendent is being nominated
 - encouraging their church to keep current in their conference financial support commitments
 - seeking counsel of the pastors cabinet (after speaking with the pastor and before approaching the superintendent) if there is a perceived need for a pastoral change
10. Delegates take part in the superintendent nomination process by completing the Superintendent's Nominating Committee Survey regarding conference priorities and identifying potential superintendents.
11. Delegates enjoy the privilege of seeing, first hand, the broader vision and ministries of the conference and, in turn, endeavor to share this with the local church.