

# Concerned Methodists

## Revised Voter Guide For Amendments

### **Amendment:**

**I.** This proposed amendment sounds benign but is an attempt by gay advocacy groups to circumvent the church's teachings on this practice. Its passage would lead to continued church trials and rancor over the practice of homosexuality. (Vote No)

**II.** This calls "organizations in the UMC to adopt ethics and conflict-of-interest policies." There are enough checks in place in the *Book of Discipline* (BOD) and also within the polity of the United Methodist Church to effect this. (Vote No)

**III.** This is the first of 23 proposed amendments regarding the Worldwide Nature of the UMC. All of these amendments would lead to another costly layer of church bureaucracy, separate the U.S. church from the vital and growing Central Conferences, and lead to the weakening of our Connectional system. We encourage you to vote "no" on all of these amendments. We have noted that recommendation below with the acronym

"WWN-UMC (Vote No)" throughout the remainder of this guide. WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**IV.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**V.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**VI.** This proposal would allow General Conference to specify a "transitional" period for newly-created conferences during which they would be represented at General and regional conferences on other-than-a-proportional basis like the unfortunate way that the Cote d'Ivoire was brought into the Church, delaying their proper representation levels for a maximum of two quadrennia. (Vote No)

### **Amendment:**

**VII.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**VIII.** This adds "gender" to the church membership statement. It is seen as a "back door" attempt to bring those involved in homosexual practice into the church. (Vote No)

**IX.** This provides for a "minimum" basis of support for the election of bishops in jurisdictional conferences. The provision the United Methodist Church has now is good. (Vote No)

**X.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**XI.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**XII.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**XIII.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**XIV.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**XV.** This proposed amendment to Paragraph 32 of the *U.M. Book of Discipline* (BOD) would reduce the minimum period that a person must be an active member of the United Methodist Church before he/she can be elected as a delegate to Annual Conference. It is important for a person to be in the denomination long enough to learn how the church operates. A record of experience is useful for a person to have before he/she is elected to a position of such great responsibility. (Vote No)

**XVI.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**XVII.** This proposed amendment to Paragraph 33 of the *U.M. Book of Discipline* (BOD) would add laity to the Committee on Investigation to vote on the ordination and character of clergy at Annual Conferences. The policy that the United Methodist Church has now is good. (Vote No)

**XVIII.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

### **Amendment:**

**XIX.** This proposed amendment to Paragraph 35 BOD would allow clergy members, including provisional members and local pastors who meet educational requirements, to vote for delegates to General, Jurisdictional, or Central Conferences. (Vote Yes)

**XX.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**XXI.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**XXII.** This proposed amendment to Paragraph 37 BOD would add the Church in Bermuda to the Baltimore-Washington Conference. (Vote Yes)

**XXIII.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**XXIV.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**XXV.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**XXVI.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**XXVII.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**XXVIII.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**XXIX.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**XXX.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**XXXI.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

**XXXII.** WWN-UMC (Vote No)

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Dr. H. Eddie Fox of the World Methodist Council has been quoted as saying, "You should amend the constitution only as a last resort – after you have tried everything else."

**Before you vote for one of these amendments, please ask yourself two questions:**

**1. Is passing this amendment really necessary?**

**2. Will passing this amendment harm the United Methodist Church?**  
Please think carefully before you vote.

**Voter's Guide Revised – June 2009**