



Conference Delegate Roles and Responsibilities

Thank you for agreeing to serve as one of the Delegates to the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ. This is an important office in the life of your local church. Through your service, the mission and ministry of your local church and the entire United Church of Christ will be enhanced and strengthened. We are confident that you will find your role as a Conference Delegate a joyful and meaningful way to serve the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There are a number of ways that you can approach this task to make the most out of this opportunity.

1. **Attend all meetings** of the Conference during your term of service. Over the course of one calendar year, there are three regularly scheduled meetings:
 - a. *Day of Discipleship*. This is an opportunity to network with leaders of other churches, to gain practical skills, and learn about resources for building up and strengthening your local church. The meeting is usually held in February or March.
 - b. *Annual meeting orientations, as offered*, for the purpose of Delegate orientation, conversation about the resolutions, budget recommendations and other annual meeting matters will be held virtually.
 - c. *The Conference Annual Meeting*. This is the annual gathering of the Illinois South Conference for worship, fellowship and deliberation necessary for our shared life and ministry. The annual meeting is held in October.

In addition to these regularly scheduled gatherings of the Conference, Local Church Delegates attend:

- d. *Region Meetings*. If the Region meets throughout the year, delegates are asked to attend their meetings and activities.
- e. *Ecclesiastical Councils*. These special meetings are called to examine and approve persons for the Ordained or Commissioned Ministries of the church.
- f. *Special Meeting*. A special meeting will be convened when necessary to call a Conference Minister or address an emergency concern.

It is the role of a Conference Delegate to attend all of these meetings to ensure the full participation of your local church in the life of the Conference.

2. **Maintain communication** between your church and the Conference throughout your term.
 - a. *Listen and learn* about the issues, concerns and missions of the Conference and share these with your local church. Participate in your local church so you are fully informed and familiar with its life, mission and ministry.
 - b. *Share and interpret* the actions of Illinois South Conference Delegates with your local church members and leaders. Speak about the concerns and celebrations of your local church at meetings of the Illinois South Conference.
3. **Deliberate and decide** those matters that come before the Illinois South Conference for action. Your church has asked you to enter into the discussion and empowered you to discern the leading of the Holy Spirit. As a Delegate, you are expected to participate fully in the deliberation, both listening to the views of others and sharing your own faith and convictions. You vote as a faithful follower of Jesus Christ, an informed participant in your local church, and a discerning member of the United Church of Christ.