

VOTING ON 2008 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS - SUMMARY -Reported May, 2010										
Compiled by Joe M. Whittemore										
PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS VOTING "YES"										5/28/10
AMENDMENT		PHIL.	EUR.	WJ	NEJ	NCJ	SCJ	SEJ	AFRICA	TOTALS
#	REFERENCE	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
XVII	LAY MEMBERS for COI	93.5%	65.3%	63.4%	76.1%	69.2%	65.3%	60.4%	92.0%	69.7%
XIX	LOCAL PASTORS VOTE	90.5%	65.9%	69.3%	82.8%	80.4%	75.2%	74.0%	93.3%	78.7%
VIII	GENDER ADDED	97.6%	94.5%	87.5%	86.8%	89.2%	83.0%	75.2%	92.7%	84.3%
IX	MINIMUM OF 100 JURISD. DELEGATES	83.9%	95.7%	84.6%	85.7%	86.9%	84.9%	66.3%	95.6%	81.2%
XXII	BERMUDA	87.6%	98.2%	92.4%	91.2%	92.0%	89.3%	81.7%	97.5%	88.6%
I	INCLUSIVENESS RESTATED	91.6%	83.7%	84.1%	60.1%	58.3%	55.6%	33.6%	2.1%	47.8%
II	ETHICS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST	94.0%	89.2%	83.3%	74.4%	69.9%	49.8%	49.0%	99.7%	66.1%
VI	REDUCED DELEGATES FOR NEW CONF.	70.7%	95.3%	71.3%	66.5%	56.7%	67.7%	48.2%	2.4%	53.0%
XV	LAY EX-OFFICIO TO CONSTITUTION	92.0%	67.7%	60.6%	68.1%	65.5%	65.3%	49.7%	95.6%	64.5%
OTHER	WORLDWIDE NATURE OF CHURCH (23)	72.5%	94.9%	81.6%	57.4%	50.6%	48.6%	15.0%	2.6%	39.5%
JMW Observations:										
1	That 48,000 interested United Methodists could sift through 32 proposed amendments and affirm five positive actions is a confirmation in the combined wisdom of our process and people. It causes one to wonder how in tuned General Conference is with pastors and laity of local churches.									
2	The negative vote on the WWNC amendments was confirmation of the lack of trust the annual conferences have in giving power to the general church establishment without the implications being clearly stated.									
3	The WJ, SEJ and SCJ did not support lay members for Cmte. on Investigation. Passed because of strong African vote.									
4	The SEJ was the most negative about lay members for Cmte on Investigation. It could be that clergy (and maybe some laity) just do not want change especially in an area that has been clergy territory.									
5	The Southeastern Jurisdiction and South Central Jurisdiction were only areas that did not support Ethics and Conflict of Interest addition (probably reflects a negative view toward any more rules).									
6	All areas supported Amendment XIX—local pastors voting (fairness factor).									
7	SEJ fell slightly short of supporting the 100 minimum delegates for Western Jurisdiction. (This may be an indication of how suspicious SEJ members are of anything having to do with WJ).									
8	Allowing reduced delegations for new annual conferences was defeated by SEJ and Africa.									
9	If anyone thinks the Africans do not communicate with one another, they need to take a close look. This is good!									
10	Only Philippines, Europe and U.S.'s Western Jurisdiction supported Amendment I—additional inclusiveness wording.									
11	WWNC was supported only by Philippines, Europe and WJ (the 3 smallest areas by far, which together represent only 5.8% of total membership). The two largest areas (SEJ and Africa) voted overwhelmingly against these amendments. Those two areas comprise 53.4% of total 2007 estimated membership.									
12	Looking at the voting of various annual conferences it was obvious that some simply voted against everything. Totally negative attitude about GC actions. (This is an indication of how fed up our people are with the idea of having a United States region.)									
13	Having one U.S. conference was supported in the U.S. only by the Western Jurisdiction. The U.S. vote was 2 to 1 against, when it would have required 2 to 1 in favor to be approved. The jurisdictions obviously see ourselves as continuing to have some jurisdictional uniqueness in mission and ministry.									
14	The two largest areas (SEJ and Africa, which have 53.4% of total membership) voted overwhelmingly against a U. S conference.									
15	This is a resounding defeat for the idea of having one U.S. area. This should put to rest not only the idea of a consolidated U.S. area but also any thought of electing and assigning bishops at the U.S. area level.									