

Below are the North Alabama Conference voting procedures that will be followed during our church wide vote. Rick Owen, District Superintendent, will be presiding over the vote. **PLEASE READ** to ensure that you understand the process.

The congregational vote will be held on **Monday, July 17, 2023, at 6:45 PM**. You must arrive early to receive a ballot.

PROCESS:

1. Enter the building through the Welcome Center double doors. There will be signs, as well as people directing traffic. The golf carts will be running. **Doors open at 4:30 PM. Doors close at 6:45 PM. Once doors close, no one else will be allowed to obtain a ballot. In other words, if you are late, you do not get to vote. We are expecting a large number of people, so please arrive early to ensure you get a ballot.**
2. Upon entering the Welcome Center, find the table with the corresponding first initial of your last name. You will be asked to sign your name and will receive your ballot.
3. Once you have obtained your ballot, please proceed to the Sanctuary to wait until the voting begins. The Gym will be set up in the event more seating is needed. Please note that once you have your ballot, you are not allowed to leave the church campus until after the voting process is completed. **No one may leave after receiving a ballot. All voting members who receive a ballot must remain until the ballots are officially collected. You may not vote and leave a ballot prior to this time.**
4. The Church Conference will begin promptly at 6:45 PM with Rick Owen, District Superintendent, leading voting procedures. He will give specific instructions, and everyone will vote at the same time.
5. After the voting process ends, ushers will collect all ballots. Please remain seated until all ballots are collected.
6. After the ballots have been collected, you are free to leave. You are also welcome to stay to hear the results if you wish. Please note that the counting process may take a couple of hours.
7. Once ballots have been collected, all votes will be manually counted. Three counting tables will be set up in the Sanctuary. Each counting table will consist of two North Alabama Conference counters and one Riverchase counter. In total, there will be nine counters.

8. After all votes have been counted, Rick Owen will announce the voting results. These results will also be emailed to all Riverchase members on Tuesday, July 18, 2023.

IMPORTANT MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:

- The North Alabama Conference recommends arriving 1 to 1 ½ hours before vote time to complete the sign in process and receive a ballot. Vote time is 6:45 PM.
- Ballots will be handed out between 4:30 PM and 6:45 PM. No ballots will be distributed after 6:45 PM.
- No one will be allowed to vote without a ballot.
- If the church elects to disaffiliate from the UMC, your vote to disaffiliate will also be a vote to join the Foundry Network. The recommendation to join the Foundry Network upon disaffiliation was approved by the Board of Stewards on June 25, 2023.
- The Gym will be used if more seating is needed. If this occurs, a broadcast of the Church Conference will be shown in the Gym. There will be ushers in the Gym to collect your ballot. Once the ballots have been collected, you are welcome to move from the Gym to the Sanctuary, if you wish to stay to hear the results as long as space is available.
- This vote is in person only according to the North Alabama Conference rules.
- Only full RUMC members are allowed to vote. Associate and affiliate members are not allowed to vote. The church has provided the final list of all full members to Conference. If your name is not on their list, then the church records do not show that you are a full member, and you may not vote.