



PROPOSED LEGISLATION FORM

Date: _____

Person submitting Bill: Thomas Sutton

District: 5th Conference: Desert Mountain

Address: _____

Ph. _____ E-mail: _____

1. Check the appropriate response. Prior Bill; Newly Proposed Legislation
2. Check all that apply. This bill has been reviewed, discussed and is supported at the following levels:

Local Church Lay Organization	District of the Annual Conference Lay Organization	Conference Lay Organization	Episcopal District Lay Organization
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3. Complete the following

BILL NO.	Leave Blank
TITLE	Local Church Organization: STEWARDS: Composition of Board
REFERENCE	Part IV, Church Membership, Section II, Local Church Organization, A. Boards, a. Stewards, 1) Composition, c. Nomination, The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2012, Page 61.
INTENT	Amend the method by which members of the local churches are appointed to the Board of Stewards so that the congregants can have an active role in choosing who represents the congregation on the Board of Stewards
RATIONALE	i) Under the current method, lay members' participation is meaningless and insignificant in the composition of the Board of Stewards. Approval of stewards is limited only to members of the Quarterly Conference as opposed to

representation from the entire congregation.

ii) The inclusion of congregational appointees will provide true representation of the congregants. Such appointments immune board members from being subjected to dismissal and/or reprisal from pastors when congregational appointees express independent views in response to actions and proposals by the pastors.

iii) The lay membership, not the itinerant pastorate, is the body that bonds to the local churches through a lifetime of committed service. Out of deference to the local church membership, the Discipline should change to allow the congregants an active role in nominating and electing some stewards to the board. The congregation is aware of members whom they are certain to be worthy of membership and would truly represent the interest of the congregation.

iv) The current method directs the pastor to identify all representation on the Steward Board whereas the proposed method allows the congregants to identify those they wish to present the congregation.

4. Existing Legislation now reads: (Quote applicable portion of current legislation; Include rationale for the change.) If more space is needed, please continue on a separate page identified as “No. 4 continued”.

Current Text:

The pastor in charge shall nominate the number of stewards needed for the mission, circuit, or station and shall submit them to the Quarterly Conference, which shall confirm them or, if it sees fit, reject them.

5. Proposed NEW wording (by article, section, and subsection). If more space is needed, continue on a separate page identified as “No. 5 continued”.

The pastor in charge shall appoint not more than nine (9) appointees and the church conference shall elect one (1) more of the number of appointed stewards to the Board of Stewards. The Board would then be comprised of pastoral appointees and congregational elected members which will be confirmed or rejected at the first Quarterly Conference.

Cost: FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This proposed legislation will have no financial impact on the General Budget.