



Constituency Meeting – What Is It All About?

On 19 September 2027, members from around the North NSW Conference will be converging for our 60th regular Constituency Meeting.

What is this meeting and why does it matter?

What is the Constituency Meeting?

The Constituency Meeting, historically referred to as “the Session”, occurs when delegates from each of the local churches in our Conference, along with special delegates (including guests from the Australian Union Conference and the South Pacific Division), come together to review the progress of the church and its mission in the North NSW Conference. The operation of the Constituency Meeting is governed by the North NSW Conference Unincorporated Constitution.

How often does it happen?

Article 8 Section 1 of the Constitution stipulates that regular constituency meetings of the Conference shall be held quadrennially at such time and place as the Executive Committee of the Conference (“the Executive Committee”) shall determine.

Who chooses the delegates?

Each local church has an allocation of delegates based on membership. Each local church can send two delegates, plus an additional delegate for every forty members (or a major fraction thereof). The local church business meeting selects the delegates from those on their membership roll in good and regular standing.

What happens?

The Constitution sets out the business to be dealt with at a regular Constituency Meeting:

- Election of Conference Officers, Departmental Directors and Associates, and members of the Executive Committee, the Appointments Committee and the Constitution Committee.
- The presentation of reports on the operation of the North NSW Conference for the 2023–2026 period.
- A discussion of any matter recommended by the North NSW Conference Executive Committee.
- A discussion of matters received from local churches and approved for discussion by the Executive Committee.
- Any required amendments to the North NSW Conference Unincorporated Constitution.

Will there be an option to attend the meeting virtually?

The 2027 NNSW Constituency Meeting will be held as an in-person event. Delegates must register in person. Proxy voting is not permitted.

What is the process leading to the election of Officers and Departmental Directors?

The Selection Committee will meet prior to the Constituency Meeting to appoint a Nominating Committee and suggest names for the Constitution Committee. Representation on the Selection Committee is based on church membership, using the formula set out in the Constitution: each local church is entitled to elect one representative, and churches with 500 or more members choose one additional representative for each 500



North New South Wales

members (or major fraction thereof).

Each local church nominates its Selection Committee representative(s) from among the delegates it has already elected for the Constituency Meeting and advises the Conference General Secretary of their names. The Nominating Committee will meet numerous times leading up to the Constituency Meeting.

At the Constituency Meeting, the Nominating Committee will put forward their recommendations for the position of North NSW Conference President, General Secretary and Chief Financial Officer, as well as Departmental Directors and Associates for the next four years. They will also recommend a team to serve as the Executive Committee as well as a Standing Appointments Committee.

Does it matter?

The Constituency Meeting is the primary forum for the local church to influence the governance of the local conference. It can appoint or reject church conference leaders, amend the constitution and ask all the hard questions – so it really does matter! We hope you are able to contribute to the effective governance of the North NSW Conference by attending this meeting.

Yours faithfully,

Leena Soloman

Executive Assistant | ACMS | Risk Management Coordinator

President | General Secretary

Seventh-day Adventist Church – North New South Wales Conference