

# The Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church

## Willingness to Serve

**Commitment of a Delegate** – Election to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference conveys the trust and respect of peers within the Annual Conference. Those offering themselves for election need to make the following commitments:

- Attend their respective conferences on a full-time basis (10 to 12 days for General and 3 days for Jurisdictional); General Conference is May 10 – 20, 2016; South Central Jurisdictional Conference is July 13 – 16, 2016.
- Participate in all scheduled meetings of the delegation – prior to, during, and after the conferences;
- Demonstrate familiarity with the ways in which the General and Jurisdictional Conferences function;
- Study proposed legislation in a thorough manner;
- Accept responsibility for expenses beyond the per diem;
- Exemplify a visionary outlook, a team spirit, and a disposition to conferencing;
- Adhere to the qualities set forth in the “Guidelines for Christian Conferencing” throughout the entire time they are delegates.

### Guidelines for Christian Conferencing

**1. Respect others as Jesus would have done when he was here on earth.**

*Romans 12:10 “Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.”*

**2. Pray for others as well as yourself, especially those with whom you disagree.**

*I Timothy 2:1 “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone.”*

**3. Listen to others before thinking about what you want to say in response.**

*Proverbs 18:13 “If one gives answer before hearing, it is folly and shame.”*

**4. Understand what others are saying so clearly that you could accurately state their view.**

*Proverbs 2:1-6 “My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; if you indeed cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding; if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom.”*

**5. Share your own point of view with grace and humility, as well as honesty and candor.**

*Ephesians 4:15 “But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.”*

**6. Focus your comments on issues being discussed, not on persons expressing them.**

*Philippians 2:3-4 “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.”*

**7. Commit yourself to the unity of the Spirit, seeking consensus whenever possible.**

*I Peter 3:8 “Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.”*

**8. Give the time needed to work through the process in which you are engaged.**

*Galatians 6:9 “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”*

**9. Acknowledge that you may be wrong, even when you think you are right.**

*Proverbs 15:33 “The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom, and humility goes before honor.”*

**10. Allow the fruit of the Spirit to permeate your way of interacting with others: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

*Galatians 5:22-23 “...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.”*