

Dear Members of the Arkansas Conference,

Even as we prepare for the called 2019 General Conference, it is time to begin thinking about the election of delegates for the 2020 General Conference. At this year's annual conference, we will once again have the opportunity to elect four lay and four clergy delegates for the General Conference to be held May 5 - 15, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and an additional four lay and four clergy delegates for the South Central Jurisdictional Conference to be held July 16 - 18, 2020 in The Woodlands, Texas.

Paragraphs 35 and 36 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline* delineate the eligibility requirements for both lay and clergy delegates:

*¶35. Article IV.—The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.*

*¶36. Article V.—The lay delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age, provided such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General and jurisdictional or central conferences.*

Along with this letter you will find the information and forms needed to self-nominate for election as either a lay or clergy General Conference delegate. Completed applications will be placed on our conference website and applications received by March 15 will also be printed in a delegate election booklet to be provided at annual conference. Although it is recommended that both lay and clergy candidates declare their desire to stand for election by March 15 in order to have their information included in the election booklet, it is important to note that any eligible person may be elected at annual conference.

If, through prayer and discernment, you feel led to submit your name for election, are willing to fulfill the commitment of a delegate and meet the requirements stated above, please send your completed self-nomination form along with a recent digital photograph of yourself to Rebecca Davis at [rdavis@arumc.org](mailto:rdavis@arumc.org) by March 15, 2019.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Aubrietta Jones  
Arkansas Conference Secretary