

*"The Best of All  
GOD  
is with us"*

*-John Wesley*



**Profiles of Clergy & Laity Seeking Election**  
for 2020 General Conference & Jurisdictional Conference

# Voting Rights

## Who Can Vote When

Your name tag indicates your voting status at Plenary Sessions. Please wear your name tag in a visible location during these sessions. All lay and clergy members of the Annual Conference have the right to speak on all matters before the Conference.

Voting privileges are as follows:

	Recommendations & Conference Business	Elections for clergy delegates to the General, Jurisdictional and Central Conference(s)	Elections for lay delegates to the General, Jurisdictional and Central Conference(s)	Constitutional Amendments	Matters of ordination, character and conference relations of clergy
<b>Clergy Members</b> in full connection (§1602.1a)	●	●		●	●
<b>Provisional Clergy Members</b> who have not completed all educational requirements (§1602.1b)	●				
<b>Provisional Clergy Members</b> who have completed all educational requirements (§1602.1b)	●	●			
<b>Associate Clergy Members</b> (§1602.1c errata)	●	●			†
<b>Affiliate Clergy Members</b> (§1602.1c errata)	●				
<b>Full- and Part-time Local Pastors</b> under appointment to a pastoral charge who have not completed Course of Study or an M.Div. degree (§1602.1d)*	●				†
<b>Local Pastors</b> who have completed Course of Study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election (§1602.1d errata)	●	●			†
<b>Elders or Ordained Clergy</b> from other denominations serving under appointment within the Annual Conference (§1346.2)	●				
<b>Lay Members:</b> Elected Members representing congregations, Members by Virtue of Office, At-large Members as designated by districts, Youth Members (§1602.4)	●		●	●	‡
<b>Alternate Lay Members</b> , when seated in place of lay member (§1602.7)**	●		●	●	
<b>Missionaries</b> regularly assigned by the GBGM in nations other than the US & Certified Lay Missionaries from nations other than the US serving within the bounds of the Annual Conference (§1602.9)	○				
<b>Conference Chancellor</b> if not otherwise a voting member (§1602.10)	○				
<b>Ordained Clergy or Provisional Members</b> from other Annual Conference and Other Methodist Denominations (§1346.1)	○				
<b>Retired Local Pastors</b> (§1320.5)	○				
<b>Visitors</b> , with majority approval of Annual Conference Members	○				

• Voting Privilege

◦ Voice without vote

† If also a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they may vote at Clergy Session

‡ If also a lay member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and/or Committee on Investigation (§1602.6)

\* No Local pastor shall be eligible as a lay member or alternate (§1251.2)

\*\* Please remember that only alternate members elected by their charge conference may be seated at annual conference (§1251.2)



# Profiles of Clergy & Laity Seeking Election for 2020 General Conference & Jurisdictional Conference

**For the purpose of this guide, membership is defined as:**

**Clergy** *(Clergy Member in Full Connection - Para. 35, 2016 Book of Discipline.)*

**Lay** *(A professing member of the United Methodist Church for at least two years preceding their election; and an active participant in the United Methodist Church for at least four years preceding their election; and a member of a church within the Arkansas Annual Conference - Para. 36, 2016 Book of Discipline. Lay delegates need not be voting members of the Annual Conference to be elected.)*

**Disclaimer:** While Self-Nomination Forms have been edited for formatting, responses to the questions have not been edited.

# 2020 Clergy and Lay Nominations

The profiles enclosed have been submitted by March 15, 2019 individuals who are willing to serve a Delegates of the Arkansas Conference to the upcoming 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

## **CLERGY** (alphabetical order)

(starting on page 17)

14. **Atkins, Clark**
61. **Chambers, Katie**
84. **Conrad, Troy**
105. **Davis, Mary (Jan)**
107. **DeLano, Lauren K.**
112. **Diffie, Bryan R.**
134. **Elrod, Brad**
135. **Embrey, John D.**
138. **Estes, Pamela Jean**
140. **Evans, Hammett N.**
147. **Fink, Bryan W.**
164. **Gosnell, Terry Maurice**
191. **Hilliard, J. Wesley**
195. **Hoffman, David D.**
215. **Jones, Aubrietta Lynn**
227. **Kilbourne, Lynn**
231. **Kjorlaug, Andrew C.**
237. **Lasater, Blake A.**
242. **Lenderman, Jim H.**
275. **Miles, Rebekah L.**
293. **Murray, Natasha**
305. **Norman, Mark K.**
306. **Odell, George E.**
317. **Pearce, Katie Goss**
328. **Polk, Jim P.**
342. **Reeves, William O. (Bud)**
344. **Richardson, Herschel L.**
346. **Roberts, Michael**
358. **Sardin, William J. (Bill)**
390. **Sutfin, Jason Eric**
397. **Teegarden, Jessie Waddell**
398. **Teeter, Garry Dean**
406. **Thueson, Daniel V.**

Submitted after March 15, 2019

---

---

---

---

## **LAITY** (alphabetical order)

(starting on page 50)

1. **Argue, Sarah E.**
2. **Bates, Brandon K.**
3. **Black, Samantha G.**
4. **Blackwood, Cathy**
5. **Boyd, Jimmie D.**
6. **Burleson, Lexie N.**
7. **Burris, Todd**
8. **Butler, Paul W.**
9. **Dreff, Ashley Boggan**
10. **Fair, Toby L.**
11. **Fink, Elizabeth**
12. **Forbus, Amy M.**
13. **Geier, Lauren A.**
14. **Gordon, Hannah**
15. **Hardage, Kayla M.**
16. **Hughes, Harold D.**
17. **Johnson, Clint R.**
18. **Mann, Karon S.**
19. **Maynard, Abbey L.**
20. **McConnell, Cecil G.**
21. **Meek, Mary JoAnn (Annie)**
22. **Moore, Michelle M.**
23. **Moran, Emily E.**
24. **Moses, Gerald D.**
25. **Odell, Tyler**
26. **Quick, Jeff L.**
27. **Roddy, Carol L.**
28. **Sanders, Phoebe K.**
29. **Sills, Michele M.**
30. **Swain, Brian T.**
31. **Turner, Elysa**
32. **Turner, Winston**
33. **Vick, Bruce D.**
34. **Weatherford, Kenneth M.**
35. **Whitaker, Asa L.**
36. **White, Jennifer L.**
37. **Wilbourn, Miller**

Submitted after March 15, 2019

38. \_\_\_\_\_



[illegible]

39. \_\_\_\_\_
40. \_\_\_\_\_
41. \_\_\_\_\_
42. \_\_\_\_\_
43. \_\_\_\_\_
44. \_\_\_\_\_
45. \_\_\_\_\_
46. \_\_\_\_\_
47. \_\_\_\_\_
48. \_\_\_\_\_
49. \_\_\_\_\_
50. \_\_\_\_\_
51. \_\_\_\_\_
52. \_\_\_\_\_
53. \_\_\_\_\_
54. \_\_\_\_\_
55. \_\_\_\_\_
56. \_\_\_\_\_
57. \_\_\_\_\_
58. \_\_\_\_\_
59. \_\_\_\_\_
60. \_\_\_\_\_
61. \_\_\_\_\_
62. \_\_\_\_\_
63. \_\_\_\_\_
64. \_\_\_\_\_
65. \_\_\_\_\_
66. \_\_\_\_\_
67. \_\_\_\_\_
68. \_\_\_\_\_
69. \_\_\_\_\_
70. \_\_\_\_\_
71. \_\_\_\_\_
72. \_\_\_\_\_
73. \_\_\_\_\_
74. \_\_\_\_\_
75. \_\_\_\_\_
76. \_\_\_\_\_
77. \_\_\_\_\_
78. \_\_\_\_\_
79. \_\_\_\_\_
80. \_\_\_\_\_

# Report of Clergy Ballots

[illegible]

# Report of Clergy Ballots

[illegible]

# Report of Lay Ballots

[illegible]



# Report of Lay Ballots

[illegible]

## **Clergy and Lay General & Jurisdictional Conference Delegates**

### **Who MAY BE ELECTED as Clergy Delegates to General & Jurisdictional Conference?**

1. Elders & Deacons in full connection, active or retired.
  - Clergy who have been elected into full connection at the 2019 Clergy Session of the Annual Conference are eligible to be elected.
  - Elders & Deacons in full connection on voluntary leaves of absence are eligible to be elected.
  - Elders & Deacons in full connection on sabbatical, family, paternity/maternity, and disability leave are eligible to be elected.

### **Who MAY NOT BE ELECTED as Clergy Delegates to General & Jurisdictional Conference?**

1. Clergy suspended from pastoral duties may NOT be elected.

### **Who MAY VOTE for Clergy Delegates to General & Jurisdictional Conference?**

1. Elders & Deacons in full connection, active or retired.
  - Clergy on voluntary leaves of absence may vote.
  - Clergy on sabbatical, family, paternity/maternity, and disability leave may vote.
  - Clergy suspended from pastoral duties may vote.
2. Associate Members, active or retired.
3. Provisional Members who have completed all their educational requirements, including History, Doctrine and Polity.
4. Local Pastors who have completed the Course of Study or an M.Div. degree, and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding election (2017-2019). The Course of Study or M.Div degree must be completed prior to the 2019 Clergy session.

### **Who MAY NOT VOTE for Clergy Delegates to General & Jurisdictional Conference?**

1. Clergy on honorable location.
2. Clergy on administrative location.
3. Local Pastors who do not meet the requirements listed in #4 above.
4. Laity

### **Who MAY BE ELECTED as Lay Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference?**

1. Lay persons who 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 or jurisdictional conferences.

### **Who MAY VOTE for Lay Delegates to General & Jurisdictional Conference?**

1. Lay members of the Annual Conference

From ¶ 34-36, Article IV, *The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.

# Clergy Voting Numbers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Conference Relationship</u>	<u>Voting Number</u>
Albright, Sam L.	RE	1
Alexander, Jaimie Jack	FE	2
Allen, Andrea E	FE	3
Allen, Maxine	RE	4
Allen, Zeke	FE	5
Alston, John O	RE	6
Anderson, Ben Hampton	RE	7
Anderson, Jimmy W.	RE	8
Armour, Charles W.	FE	9
Armstrong, Robert Clyde	RE	10
Armstrong, Roger	RE	11
Arnold, Fred	RE	12
Atkins, Edward Paul	FD	13
Atkins, Gary Clark	FE	14
Averitt, Louis (Biff)	RE	15
Bagby, Colin	FE	16
Bainbridge, Sara S.	RE	17
Baker, Cheryl Jean	RE	18
Baker, David E.	RE	19
Barling, Aaron	RE	20
Barnett, Thomas Winborn	RE	21
Barron, Mary Candace	FE	22
Bayles-Charlton, Sara Darlene	FE	23
Bell, Montgomery	RE	24
Bell, Robert	RE	25
Bell, Velda	RE	26
Bell, Wayne Allen	RE	27
Benfer, James A.	FE	28
Bennett, Bruce Wayne	FE	29
Bentley, David Bruce	RE	30
Bernholdt, Jocelyn A.	RD	31
Black, William Clint	FE	32
Blanchard, Michael	FE	33
Bodenhamer, Patricia	FE	34
Boggan, Rebecca	FD	35
Boggan, William Kurt	FE	36
Bolin, Michael	FE	37
Bounds, Christopher T.	FE	38
Bowen, Melissa Ross	FD	39
Bradford, Blake Russell	FE	40
Bradley, Heath R	FE	41

<u>Name</u>	<u>Conference Relationship</u>	<u>Voting Number</u>
Breshears, Russell D.	FE	42
Brizzi, Stephen	RE	43
Brooks, Gail Cole	FE	44
Buchanan, William V.	FE	45
Bulice, Clayton	FE	46
Burks, Gregory A.	FE	47
Burnham, Rufus Robert	RE	48
Burton, Helen J.	RE	49
Burton, Kay	RE	50
Burton, Robert	RE	51
Bush, David W.	FE	52
Butler, Patricia	FE	53
Caldwell, Claire M	FE	54
Campbell, Joe Michael	RE	55
Carter, Curtis Norman	RE	56
Carter, Earl Bruton	RE	57
CashBurless, Martha D.	FE	58
Cato, William F.	FE	59
Caudle, Helena Cathy	FD	60
Chambers, Kathryn Dunn	FD***	61
Chapman, Teresa Egan	FE	62
Chesser, Lewis V.	RE	63
Choate, James W.	FE	64
Choh, Sun Ug	FD	65
Christopher, James Clifton	RE	66
Cicioni, Pamela	RD	67
Clanton, Robert A.	RE	68
Clark, J. Wayne	FE	69
Clark, Judy Wilson	RE	70
Clark, N. Wayne	RE	71
Clark, Ronald	RE	72
Clawitter, Heather Spencer	FE	73
Clayton, Michael Rowe	RE	74
Cloninger, Kim	FE	75
Cloninger, Mark	FE	76
Cloninger, Robert Blackwell	FE	77
Coburn, Stephen Douglas	FE	78
Cole, Mary Jane	FD	79
Collier, John Russell	RE	80
Collins, Gerald	RE	81
Comer, Cletus Gregory	FE	82

<u>Name</u>	<u>Conference Relationship</u>	<u>Voting Number</u>
Connell, Foster Gladwin	RE	83
Conrad, Phillip Troy	FE	84
Conway, Luke	FE	85
Cook, Burnley Bruce	RE	86
Cook, Steve	FE	87
Cookus, Jerry Keith	RE	88
Cooper, Charles Marcus	RE	89
Cooper, Charles Randall	RE	90
Cooper, William Christopher	RE	91
Copley, Stephen Jean	FE	92
Coy, Paul B.	FE	93
Crismon, Benjamin William	FE	94
Criss, Douglas	RE	95
Crooks, J. David	RE	96
Cross, Carlton N.	FE	97
Cross, James H.	FE	98
Crossman, Robert Owen	RE	99
Crum, Roger Allen	FE	100
Daniels, Matthew I.	FE	101
Darling, Rex G.	RE	102
Darnall, John David	RE	103
Davis, Cynthia Lee	RE	104
Davis, Mary Jan	FE	105
Deere, Glen David	RE	106
DeLano, Lauren Kristine	FE	107
DeLee, Cornelia	RE	108
Delony, Lawson Leonard	FE	109
Dickey, Rex Alan	FE	110
Dickinson, Stephen P.	FE	111
Diffie, Bryan R.	FE	112
Dill, John T.	RE	113
Dodd, Marcia	RE	114
Dodgen, Lawrence	RE	115
Dodson, Edward Kavan	FE	116
Dodson, Royal Keith	FE	117
Doering, Carolyn	FE	118
Doering, Kirk	FE	119
Donham, Gordon	RE	120
Dorman, Wendell	RE	121
Douglas, Barbara A.	FE	122
Duncan, Jenni L.	RD	123

<u>Name</u>	<u>Conference Relationship</u>	<u>Voting Number</u>
Duncan, Valerie	RE	124
Durand, Jessica Lee	FE	125
Durham, Ronald W.	RE	126
Eason, William Alfred	RE	127
Eaton, David Carl	FE	128
Eaton, Lowell	RE	129
Edwards, Janet T.	FE	130
Edwards, John Wayne	RE	131
Efird, Ernest Eugene	RE	132
Elder, William M.	RE	133
Elrod, John Bradley	FE	134
Embrey, John	FE	135
Ervin, Floyd	RE	136
Estes, Catherine	FE	137
Estes, Pamela Jean	FE	138
Eubanks, Don	RE	139
Evans, Hammett Nichols	FE	140
Farthing, John	RE	141
Feeser, Ronald Lewis	FE	142
Ferguson, Carter	FE	143
Ferguson, Lawrence A.	RE	144
Ferris, Pauleen Ann	FE	145
Fimple, John Charles	FE	146
Fink, Bryan	FE	147
Fiser, William P.	RE	148
Fish, Bill Lindsey	RE	149
Fleming, David	FE	150
Fleming, John Andrew	FE	151
Frase, Thomas	RE	152
Freeman, David C.	FE	153
Gage, Angela	FE	154
Gallimore, R. Scott	FE	155
Galloway, Johnna J.	FE	156
Gideon, Regina Holtman	FE	157
Gifford, Richard	FE	158
Gillett, Denman L	RE	159
Glover, Roger E.	RE	160
Glover, Roger E.	RE	161
Goddard, Carol S.	RE	162
Goldman, Gary	RE	163
Gosnell, Terry M.	FE	164



<u>Name</u>	<u>Conference Relationship</u>	<u>Voting Number</u>
Goza, Keith	RE	165
Green, Charles H	FE	166
Green, Jana Dawn	FE	167
Green, Victor Ellis	RE	168
Griesse, Jonathan	FE	169
Griffin, Ruben Anthony	FE	170
Hager, Robert	RE	171
Hall, Donald L	RE	172
Hampton, Jeffery Bernard	FE	173
Hanshaw, David R.	RE	174
Hanson, Tandy Curtis	FE	175
Harding, Margaret Louise	RD	176
Harmon, Bennie Ross	RE	177
Harper, Charles Dee	FE	178
Harrison, Gary Frank	FE	179
Hathcock, Philip L.	RE	180
Haustein, Frederick H	RE	181
Hawkins, David Ray	FE	182
Head, William Joe	FE	183
Hemund, Chris	FE	184
Hemund, Ralph	RE	185
Hendricks, Donna	FD	186
Henry, Cynthia Shaw	FD	187
Higgins, Leonard	FE	188
Hightower, Iris	RD	189
Hill, Tyrone	FE	190
Hilliard, James Wesley	FE	191
Hilliard, Mary Susan	FE	192
Hocott, Gail Dee	RD	193
Hoey, Mary	RD	194
Hoffman, David D.	FE	195
Holifield, Elmer Brooks	RE	196
Holifield, J. Anthony	RE	197
Holifield, Robert	FE	198
Holt, Teresa L	FD	199
Hook, Roger B	RE	200
Howard, Bruce T	RE	201
Howe, Sue D.	RE	202
Hudson, Donnie	FE	203
Huie, Donnie J.	RD	204
Hull, Russell Edward	FE	205

<u>Name</u>	<u>Conference Relationship</u>	<u>Voting Number</u>
Hunter, Fred W.	RE	206
Isom, Everett	RE	207
Jackson, Carroll D	RE	208
Jackson, Jeffery L.	FE	209
Jarrell, R. T.	RE	210
Johnson, Matthew H.	FE	211
Johnson, Merle Allison	RE	212
Johnson, Siegfried	FE	213
Johnson, Steven	FE	214
Jones, Aubrietta Lynn	FE	215
Jones, Chester Ray	RE	216
Jones, John Jeffrey	FE	217
Jones, Robert David	RE	218
Jones, Rockwell F	FE	219
Jones, Sheila M.	FE	220
Jordan, Ben F.	RE	221
Kassos, J. David	FE	222
Keahey, Martha LaVerne	RD	223
Kelly, Margaret Sue	RD	224
Kelso, Larry Eugene	FE	225
Kerr, Edwin W	RE	226
Kilbourne, Elizabeth Lynn	FE	227
Kilbourne, Nathan Joel	FE	228
Kirby, Adam	FD	229
Kirkpatrick, Daniel R.	FE	230
Kjorlaug, Andrew C	FE	231
Kjorlaug, James Clark	FE***	232
Lancaster, Richard A.	RE	233
Langley, Robert	RE	234
Langley, Travis	RE	235
Langston, Lloyd Blake	FE	236
Lasater, Blake A.	FE	237
Lasater, James Mark	RE	238
Lascaro, Nicholas C	RE	239
Ledbetter, Justin	FE	240
Ledbetter, Susan	FE	241
Lenderman, James H.	FE	242
Lewert, Donald	FE	243
Linam, Joe	RE	244
Lindsey, Lynn W.	RD	245
Livengood, Virginia	RE	246

<u>Name</u>	<u>Conference Relationship</u>	<u>Voting Number</u>
Lizcano, Ramiro	FE	247
Long, Audie D.	FE	248
Long, Sam A.	RE	249
Lovell, Todd Martin	FE	250
Ludwig, Randall D.	FE	251
Lynn, Jacob Steven	FE	252
Lyon, Kevin	FE	253
Lyons, Robert L.	RE	254
MacMahon, Thomas	RE	255
Marble, Robert K.	RE	256
Marsden, Vaughn	RE	257
Martineau, Larry W.	FE	258
Maskell, Gary Lawrence	FE***	259
Mathews, Edward	RE	260
Mattox, Michael	FE	261
McAdoo, Charlie E	RE	262
McClure, Lynn Ann	FE	263
McCormack, Deanna L.	FE	264
McCoy, George W.	RE	265
McDonald, John Mark	FE	266
McKinnie, Richard D.	RE	267
McMurray, Kathleen L	FE	268
Meadors, Samantha	FD	269
Meeks, Gerald	RE	270
Merriwether, Rashim	FE***	271
Meyer, Eric	FE	272
Michael, John Franklin	FE	273
Miles, John P.	FE	274
Miles, Rebekah Linn	FE	275
Miller-Yow, Ronnie L.	FE	276
Mitchell, Richard S.	FE	277
Monroe, Rhonda K.	RE	278
Mooney, Von Dell	RE	279
Moore, David A.	FE	280
Moore, James Scott	FD	281
Moore, N. Robin	RE	282
Moore, Russell R.	RE	283
Moose, David	RE	284
Morey, Michael Cuning	FE	285
Morgan, Edna Mae	RE	286
Morris, Michelle	FE	287

<u>Name</u>	<u>Conference Relationship</u>	<u>Voting Number</u>
Mosby, Jimmy J.	RE	288
Moseley, David F.	FE	289
Mount, Kandi L.	RD	290
Moyer, Bonda Deere	RE	291
Mulkey, Louis M.	RE	292
Murray, Natasha Ja'Shun	FE	293
Murray, Thompson	RE	294
Murray, Wanda L.	RE	295
Murry, Charles F.	RE	296
Myane, Lee Benjamin	FE	297
Nelson, Nan	RE	298
Newberry, Ronnie	FE	299
Nichols, Joe Jerry	RE	300
Nicholson, Donald R.	RE	301
Nix, G Randall	RE	302
Nixon, Victor H.	RE	303
Nolley, Donald	RE	304
Norman, Mark K	FE	305
Odell, George Edwin	FE	306
Oliver, J. Lester	RD	307
Orr, David Paul	FE	308
Outlaw, William Edgar	RE	309
Ownbey, Carl A.	RE	310
Pair, Sara Cole	FE	311
Pair, Shane D	FE	312
Palmer, Carl D.	FE	313
Palmer, John David	FE	314
Park, Bong Won	RE	315
Partlow, Robert Daniel	FE	316
Pearce, Katherine G	FE	317
Pearce, Larry Wesley	RE	318
Pearce, Mary Jane	RD	319
Perdue, J. Beth	FE	320
Perry, Loyd A.	RE	321
Peters, Muriel Holt	RE	322
Pettit, Dubois	RE	323
Pettus, Lester Glenn	FE	324
Phillips, Leslee Lynn	FE	325
Platt, Karl Dixon	FE	326
Poarch, Steven M.	FE	327
Polk, James P.	FE	328

<u>Name</u>	<u>Conference Relationship</u>	<u>Voting Number</u>
Posey, E. Lloyd	RE	329
Post, LaVon	RE	330
Powell, Larry D.	RE	331
Pressgrove, Ronald Jeremy	FE	332
Price, Belinda	FE	333
Prothro, David F.	RE	334
Pruett, Clarence Edward	RE	335
Pulliam, Steven K.	FE	336
Racop, Carr Dee	RE	337
Rainey, Allen	RE	338
Ratliff, Henry Andrew	FE	339
Read, Corey Tyson	FE***	340
Reddin, Gordon Randall	RE	341
Reeves, William O.	FE	342
Richards, Walter David	RE	343
Richardson, Herschel Lee	FE	344
Roberts, Deidre Jo	FE	345
Roberts, Michael	FE	346
Roberts, William Zachary	FE	347
Robinson, William H.	RE	348
Robnolt, Jim	RE	349
Rogers, Naomi P	FE	350
Rook, George Edward	RE	351
Rowlan, Randy H.	FE	352
Rowland, James T.	RE	353
Rudd, Judy Wills	FE***	354
Ruehr, David Andrew	FE	355
Russell, Reginald	FE	356
Russell, Robert Craig	RE	357
Sardin, William J	FE	358
Schaible, Jacob F.	RE	359
Scott, James B.	RE	360
Scott, Molly Davis	RE	361
See, Lewis	RE	362
Settle, Charles Thomas	RE	363
Shafer, John W	RE	364
Shownes, Wade	RE	365
Sigman, Charles	RE	366
Simpson, Jay Stephen	FE	367
Sims, Patricia N.	RE	368
Singh, Linda Sue	RE	369

<u>Name</u>	<u>Conference Relationship</u>	<u>Voting Number</u>
Singleton Snyder, Betsy	FE	370
Skarda, Britt	FE	371
Smith, Darrell Van	RE	372
Smith, David A.	RE	373
Smith, Lloyd	RE	374
Smith, Michael Andrew	FE	375
Smith, Roy Patterson	FE	376
Smith, Walter L.	RE	377
Spence, Dennis	RE	378
Spragg, Dawn	FD	379
Starnes, Rockey Earl	RE	380
Steele, David Randle	RE	381
Steele, Rodney G.	FE	382
Steele, William N.	RE	383
Stegall, Helen	RD	384
Steinegger, Jane	RD	385
Stewart, John Scott	FE	386
Strang, Paul	FE	387
Sudbrink, Janice	FD	388
Sullinger, Thomas	FE	389
Sutfin, Jason	FE	390
Sutton, Michael	RE	391
Swift, David	RE	392
Tanner, George A.	RE	393
Taulbee, Todd-Paul R.	FE	394
Taylor, Martha S.	FD	395
Teague, Samuel	RE	396
Teegarden, Jessica Waddell	FD	397
Teeter, Garry Dean	FD	398
Teeter, Jimmy Keith	RE	399
Thomason, Dana	RE	400
Thompson, Andrew C.	FE	401
Thompson, Charles T.	RE	402
Thompson, Davis E.	RE	403
Thompson, William J	RE	404
Thresher, Jim	RE	405
Thueson, Daniel	FE	406
Timmons, Brian	FE	407
Toombs, Thomas	FE	408
Topham, Michael Wayne	RE	409
Turner, Fleming O.D.	RE	410

<u>Name</u>	<u>Conference Relationship</u>	<u>Voting Number</u>
Turner, Julia Beth	RE	411
Utley, Michael Darryl	FE	412
Van Hoose, Judith S.	RD	413
Vaughan, Carness	FE	414
Vaughan, Clefton Samuel	FE	415
Vick, William Todd	FE	416
Waggoner, Stephen Ellis	FE	417
Wainscott, James	FE	418
Waldrup, Beth Ann	FE	419
Walker, John Franklin	RE	420
Walker, Robert Henry	RE	421
Walls, John E.	RE	422
Walthall, Charles	RE	423
Wanasek, Sandra	RD	424
Warner, Bennie	RE	425
Warrick, Jeffery Trent	FE	426
Washington, Ulysses C	FE	427
Waters, Sherman	RE	428
Watkins, Beverly	RE	429
Watson, Brittany Richardson	FE	430
Watson, Kenneth E.	RE	431
Watt, Charles	RE	432
Waynick, Mark L.	FD	433
Webb, Gregory A	FE	434
Webb, Marilyn	RE	435
Weir, Thomas E.	RE	436
West, Jim	RE	437
Whitfield, Ann Michelle	FD	438
Whitney, Guy M.	RE	439
Whitney, Judith J.	FE	440
Wideman, Brenda Dianne	FD	441
Wiggins, Kay S.	RD	442
Wilcher, John A.	RE	443
Wilkerson, Joseph F	RE	444
Williams, George	RE	445
Williams, Heath	FE	446
Williams, Jeanne	FE	447
Williams, Jennifer Dawn	FE	448
Williams, Keenan C.	RE	449
Williams, Larry R	RE	450
Williams, Sam B.	RE	451

<u>Name</u>	<u>Conference Relationship</u>	<u>Voting Number</u>
Williams, Vida R.	FE	452
Wilson, David B.	RE	453
Wilson, J. Leon	RE	454
Wilson, Jack A.	RE	455
Wilson, Therral E.	RE	456
Wimberley, Millie Diane	FE	457
Wingo, James Steve	FE	458
Wiseman, Rebecca Searcy	RE	459
Womack, William Dane	FE	460
Wyers, Edward	RE	461
Yokem, George Mackey	RE	462

\*\*Pending election by Clergy Session on Wednesday, May 29, 2019



# Clark Atkins #14

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

clark.atkins@arumc.org  
501-773-6911  
807 McKenzie Ave.  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

**Membership:** Clergy

**District:** Northwest

**Church:** First United Methodist Church of Siloam Springs

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

Our church is in a deeply divided state; I witnessed this first-hand as an observer at the recent 2019 General Conference. I feel fortunate to have deep friendships with people across the theological spectrum. While I may have not always agreed with the solutions or “plans” submitted thus far to address this wicked problem we face as a church, I respect the passion and spirit behind every solution/plan thus far submitted. We are in a place and time in the life of our church where we need creative and adaptive changes and solutions. What that looks like I am uncertain, but among my spiritual gifts is to envision what could be and to work in new and creative ways to live out that vision. I want to be a delegate because I love this church and I earnestly want us to find a lasting way forward.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

Our church is not structured well for the realities of the 21st century, our decision-making model is outdated and ineffectual for the problems we face in the world today, and with an 18% projected reduction in the General Church budget we must make some tough decisions regarding the ways in which we fund ministry. These challenges are all informed and related to the impasse we find ourselves in regarding human sexuality. My hope is that as we lean in to creative solutions regarding our impasse we will also be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit to address our structure and decision-making model. These are tough challenges, but I am convinced we can meet them.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

While a provisional elder I worked with my local church, ASU Wesley Foundation, and through a grant from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas to envision and then bring into fruition a Mobile Food Pantry to serve community college students throughout northeast Arkansas. I’m proud to say that ministry continues even while I am no longer a part of it. While in the Northeast District I served as Chair of the Northeast District Leadership Team and as a member of the dCOM. While serving in the Northwest District I currently serve as Chair of the UA Wesley Advisory Council and as a member of the dCOM. For the past four years I have also served on the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry.

## Katy Chambers #61

### 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

katye.chambers@arumc.org

501-766-5858

1619 W Fargo Ave, Apt. 1

Chicago, IL 60626

**Membership:** Clergy, Deacon

**District:** Central

**Church:** Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



#### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

I love The United Methodist Church, and as a delegate to Jurisdictional and General Conference I could be a part of helping lead the denomination into being all that it can be, embracing its call to make disciples and transform the world. I want to be a delegate because as a young adult, a clergywoman, and a deacon, I believe it is critical that voices from the margins be brought to the center of conversations about leadership and the future of The United Methodist Church. I want to be a delegate at this particular moment in our existence because I believe my training and experience in ecumenical dialogue and relationships can be helpful as we continue to work for unity and a common witness in the midst of division, seeking justice and peace.

#### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

1) We must be attentive to the changing global nature of Methodism, of Christianity, and of religion in the 21st century. We must take a hard look at our institutional structures and ask whether or not they are still the best option to equip us for mission and ministry as a global church. 2) We must continue our strong Wesleyan tradition of social holiness, being people of mission and justice through the world. We must address challenges of migration and immigration, climate change, poverty, global health, and human rights as people of faith, meeting the practical needs of God's people and God's creation. 3) We must do a better job of creative inclusive communities that invite all people into relationship with God and neighbor. Divisions in the church based on sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status, age, race, disability, etc. must be removed so that all people are welcome.

#### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I am one of 10 young adults from across the denomination selected by the Council of Bishops to participate in a 2-year program to be trained in group leadership skills and how the UMC lives out Christian unity and interreligious relationships. I am also a 2017 graduate of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, Switzerland. The Institute is the international center for encounter, dialogue and formation of the World Council of Churches. I served as a Student Intern at the Connectional Table from 2015-2016. Created at the 2004 General Conference, the Connectional Table was formed to serve as both the visioning body of the church and the steward of resources to carry out the vision of the denomination worldwide. I served as a lay delegate to General Conference 2016 and as a young adult delegate to the Global Young People's Convocation 2010 in Berlin, Germany.

# **Troy Conrad #84**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

troy.conrad@arumc.org  
479-597-0438  
10517 W. Sardis Road  
Bauxite, AR 72011



**Membership:** Clergy  
**District:** Central  
**Church:** Sardis UMC

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines:**  
☒ Yes   ☐ No

### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I feel called to encourage others throughout our connection with respect and love.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

Developing new ministries and missions to reach the least and lost. Encouraging and leading inquiring candidates as they come to understand God's calling in their life through ordained ministry. Developing discipleship resources as we teach future disciples to lead the Church.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I have served on District Boards of Ordained Ministry for many years and served on District Leadership Teams. I have also served on many Conference and District boards and as a Disaster Response Leader and State-wide Trainer for UMCOR. Mentor for many pastor, chaplain and deacon candidates.

# Mary (Jan) Davis #105

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

jdavis@centraltolife.com  
479-442-4237  
6 W. Dickson Street  
Fayetteville, AR 72701

**Membership:** Clergy  
**District:** Northwest  
**Church:** Central Fayetteville

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**  
☒ Yes ☐ No



### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

I love the United Methodist Church and want to wholly offer myself for leadership and service at this critical juncture in our church's history. I have served at General and Jurisdictional Conferences for four quadrennium (2004, 2008, 2012, 2016) in various capacities including as a GC clergy delegate. I want to use my knowledge and experience of GC combined with my leadership skills to fully benefit the future of the UMC.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

**Theology.** Unify our understanding of Wesleyan theology and commitment to grow in grace. Ground our faith, beliefs and practices in the authority of scripture. Maintain a high Christology and recognize Jesus as Lord of the church. Seek to be a Spirit-filled and Spirit-led church faithfully serving Jesus Christ and follow his teaching, not the teaching of the culture around us. This unified commitment must extend to our university senate, schools of theology, boards of ministry and publishing houses.

**Finances.** Reduce and streamline the massive UMC denominational organization to enable more proactive leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Dramatically reduce financial expenses at the General Church level by eliminating waste and cutting unnecessary denominational costs.

**Renewal.** Methodism began as a renewal movement and we desperately need a new spiritual awakening. Denominational spiritual renewal will result in a vibrant, faithful, growing church equipped to reach new people for Jesus Christ and launch many new innovative expressions of church.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

Following is a list of my leadership experiences and service in the church. General Church Service: General Conference first-elected Clergy Delegate GC2016 Portland, OR, Committee on Ministry and Higher Education & Superintendency. General Conference second-elected Clergy Delegate GC2012 Tampa, FL, Committee on Financial Administration. South Central Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Delegate 2012 Oklahoma City, OK. General Board of Global Ministries, Advance Committee 2004-2012 executive board. Arkansas Annual Conference Service: Conference Future Facility Task Group, Northwest District Strategy Team, Northwest District Committee on District Superintendency. North Texas Annual Conference Service: Board of Ordained Ministry, Chair 2012-2016, Vice-Chair 2008-2012, Clergy Effectiveness Task Force, Co-Chair, Sending Servants Team, Chair, Core Leadership Team, Strategic Planning Committee. Pastoral Service: Pleasant Valley UMC, Sachse, TX 1998-2000 Part Time Local Pastor, Christ UMC, Plano, TX 2000-2009 Associate Pastor and Executive Pastor, First UMC, Rowlett, TX 2009-2016 Senior Pastor, Central UMC, Fayetteville, AR 2016-present Senior Pastor.





# Lauren K DeLano #107

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

lauren.delano@arumc.org  
479-409-3359  
1610 Prince Street  
Conway, AR 72034



**Membership: Clergy**

**District: Central**

**Church: First United Methodist Church, Conway**

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I have a love for the connectionalism of Methodism. Throughout my schooling and now as an Ordained Elder, I have been amazed as people from across the state, country, and world work together, connected by a common mission and doctrinal history. This work is never more evident than at General Conference, when clergy and laity from across the world come together for holy conversation to determine the polity of the church, which then has great implications for ministry in the local church. I have a deep desire to participate in this connectional work as a pastor in a local church, appreciating that conferencing has been a way of organizing throughout our Methodist history. I believe God might use my voice, as a young clergywoman, to cultivate this holy and connectional work.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

1. Connectionalism: Will we become a church that celebrates the diversity of the continental contexts we serve while still being connected through our general boards and agencies, our shared mission, as well as the doctrine and history of John Wesley's movement?
2. Reframing Evangelism: In a world that is afraid of the connotation the word evangelism carries, we must reclaim the word evangelism and reframe how we share the good news with people who don't know Christ through the building of relationships with those we encounter in our work and play.
3. Engaging young people: Young people are not the future of the church, but instead they are the church, right now. Highlighting our social justice roots captures the passion of young adults. A focus on recruiting young clergy and an emphasis on helping youth discern a call to ministry as clergy or lay persons are essential to engaging young people.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I am an ordained Elder and currently serve as the Associate Pastor at Conway First United Methodist Church. I preach and lead worship every Sunday, and I supervise our program staff. I have attended General Conference in 2016 and 2019 as an observer. I have embraced the connectionalism of the Methodist Church, in my time in Conway, by connecting with Methodist institutions and organizations by serving on the following boards: the Alumni Board of Governors for Hendrix, the Spiritual Advisory Council for Methodist Family Health, and the Ozark Mission Project Program Committee, serving as chair of the spiritual component. I believe being involved in community efforts in the town I live in is also extremely important as it connects the church to the community. I helped to start the Young Professionals of Conway in my first year and recently completed the Conway Area Leadership Institute through the Chamber of Commerce.

# Bryan R Diffie #112

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

bryan.diffie@arumc.org  
870-364-2127  
500 Main Street  
Crossett, AR 71635

**Membership:** Clergy Member - Full Connection  
**District:** Southeast  
**Church:** Crossett First



**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes ☐ No

### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

I want to be a delegate because of my deep love for Christ, The United Methodist Church, and Wesleyan theology. I am, I believe, a sixth generation clergy member of Arkansas Methodism. The first year on record that a Diffie was ordained into ministry in Arkansas was 1924. Since that time this chain of faithfulness has not been broken. I have a passion to see the church move into the future becoming what God desires for her to be so that disciples can continue to be made and lives transformed by the gospel.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

1. Division on matters of human sexuality,
2. Creating a culture where more persons can hear and respond to a call to licensed and or ordained ministry,
3. Reaching the un-churched and religiously unaffiliated.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I have been in pastoral ministry for 23 years and have served many different size churches. I am the chair of the Southeast District Committee on Ministry. I am a member of the Southeast District Leadership Team. I am a member as well as a board member of the Crossett Rotary Club. I am a member of United Fund of Ashley County. I am a board member of Salvation Army of Ashley County. I am also on the Patient Family Advisory Council for my area. All of these church and community positions require me to be able to work with individuals with differing backgrounds and ideas to come up with solutions that are mutually beneficial.



# Brad Elrod #134

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

brad@wiredwest.org  
501-993-8794  
115 Deerfield Dr  
Star City, AR 71667

**Membership:** Clergy  
**District:** Southeast  
**Church:** Star City FUMC

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

Honestly, I'm not sure that I do. That said, a number of folks I trust and respect have asked me to consider running, so I will honor their request and trust my colleagues' judgment. If you discern I may be of help to General Conference then I'd willingly serve to the best of my ability. Should you not, I most certainly understand.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

1. To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world with as much passion and commitment as we show towards our own points of view, agendas, and stuff. 2. We have a difficult time communicating (listening and talking) with ourselves. And yet we wonder why we aren't overly effective in communicating the Gospel with our world. 3. We lack nothing as God has given us all we need to reach our world. We need to believe in ourselves and each other as much as God believes in us.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

Within the current tension facing our church, I find myself agreeing with both sides. The net result is I feel stuck. Yet, I wonder if in all this tension is where one of God's unique gifts of the UMC resides. Though we may not think alike, we can love alike. Historically, we may break up but we always find our way back together. The Methodist movement was at its best when we balanced scriptural holiness with social holiness: while standing with the demonized, and those deemed "disposable", regardless of who they were, so the demonizing stopped and people weren't thrown away. We gave witness of the voiceless, powerless, marginalized and poor. We achieved this loving Jesus and people. If we of all folks can't find a way to be in conversation and work together, then how will the rest of our world? I pray we are still willing to try.

# John D Embrey #135

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

john.embrey@arumc.org  
479-996-6397  
1750 Meadow Bridge Dr  
Greenwood, AR 72936



**Membership: Clergy – Full Connection**

**District:** Northwest

**Church:** Greenwood UMC

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

The UMC is the church that baptized me, helped me to experience the love and forgiveness of Christ, that acknowledged my call to ministry, enables me to fulfill that call, and continues to share with me opportunities to be in servant ministry. I am blessed to serve as a UMC pastor in Arkansas, and I would be honored to serve as a delegate for the purpose of giving back to the church that has helped me to become who I am. I feel called to serve as a delegate to help sustain the future of the UMC so it can continue to make a transformational difference in the lives of others. I believe that it will be important for us to have some continuation in our delegation. Having served as a Jurisdictional/Reserve Delegate in 2016/19 I understand the work and am willing to make myself available to represent our Conference.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

The First Challenge facing General Conference 2020 is the outcome from the 2019 General Conference. The events in St. Louis showed the division that is present within our denomination. It is essential that we find a way to heal some of the harm that has happened to our church. Second, Social Principles – the 2020 General Conference will be considering a revised version of the social principles. It is important that this revision be given the necessary consideration to make sure that they represent the United Methodist Church. Third, Disciple Making – It is important for the UMC to refocus on making disciples and to experience spiritual renewal. Our Wesleyan theology of grace truly has something to say to the world right now, and we need to refocus the mission and ministry of the UMC to make disciples who are spiritually alive in Christ and willing to serve the world around them.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I have served on the faculty of Local Pastor's Licensing School since 2008, as the instructor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, and on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry's Executive Committee since 2011 as the Chair of Ministerial Assessment. I served several years as a Circuit Elder for several Local and Lay Supply Pastors. These experiences along with my appointments over the last 18 years have opened my understanding to the concerns of Ordained and Licensed Clergy, the laity serving in various mission fields, as well as small and large churches, and our continued need to work together. I also served as a Jurisdictional & Reserve GC Delegate in 2016 & 2019 and would bring this experience to the work of the 2020 delegation. I work well as a part of a team, and I am willing to do my part to help it succeed for the glory of Christ.





# **Pamela Jean Estes #138**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

pam.estes@arumc.org

501-617-4887

320 West Main, Magnolia, AR 71753

**Membership:** Clergy -Elder since 1991

**District:** Southwest/Central

**Church:** First United Methodist, Magnolia/  
St. Paul UMC, Little Rock



**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes   ☐ No

### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I want to be a delegate because I believe that the mission of Jesus Christ to the world is best done through the global United Methodist Church. I believe that the General Conference is a necessary part of our institutional life. Our quadrennial gathering is best served when delegates approach it with spiritual fervor, intelligence, and intentional openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit activating Jesus Christ within the whole Body. I believe that energy and enthusiasm are helpful assets to delegates. I have them. I am committed to an inclusive delegation. Experienced delegations as well as new delegates can help us be the best delegation.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

The first challenge is to model and to articulate a convincing message about the Risen Christ Jesus and the Good News of salvation for life, abundant and overflowing, now and in the future. The second is to serve the world's needs—body and soul—with the abundant resources God provides so that the world may know that following the Good News brings good. And, finally, we must do the things which keep an institution from needing to be institutionalized. That is, we must maintain appropriate structures which accomplish the first two challenges. This challenge must be met in local mission fields, annual conferences, and throughout the General Conference around the world.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I have participated in General and Jurisdictional conferences, 2008, 2012, 2016, and the special session, 2019. As Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry and as a member of the Hendrix Board of Trustees and the Arkansas United Methodist Foundation, I have wide experience in the collaborative process. I believe in staying at the table of God's innovative grace so that we can discern the best possible ways to be the movement of Jesus' love in the world. I am committed to the Risen Christ as Lord and Savior for the whole world.

# Hammett N Evans #140

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

hammett.evans@arumc.org  
501-944-9719  
317 South Main Street  
Monticello, AR 71655



**Membership:** Clergy: Elder in Full Connection  
**District:** Southeast  
**Church:** First United Methodist Church of Monticello  
**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**  
☒ Yes    ☐ No

### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

I believe my gifts for discernment and peacemaking would benefit our delegation in this time of increased polarization in the United Methodist Church. Our delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference next year must have gifts for bringing people together in the midst of our disagreement over biblical interpretation and human sexuality.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

- 1) Engaging new generations with the gospel so that young people may hear and respond to God's call.
- 2) Navigating the tension between the global nature of our church's mission, it's inclusiveness, and our theological task to creatively appropriate the wisdom of the past in this generation.
- 3) Charting a course forward for the United Methodist Church which enables people with differing opinions regarding human sexuality to work together to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

First as a lay person and later on as clergy, I have served in some form of ministry for thirty years. During that time, I have served in many leadership roles, including the Arkansas Conference Leadership Table, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, chairperson of the Southeast District Leadership Team, the Central District Board of Church Location and Building, and I currently serve on the Southeast District Strategy Team and on the UAM Wesley Foundation Board. Having served as a minister in a Methodist Circuit in Britain through the British-American Ministry Programme, I have experience working in a multicultural, international setting. I am a lifelong United Methodist, a third-generation UM pastor, a "double preachers' kid, and I love the United Methodist Church.

# **Bryan W Fink # 147**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

bryan.fink@arumc.org

479-409-6730

1918 McCracken St

Stuttgart, AR 72160



**Membership:** Clergy Member in Full Connection.

**District:** Southeast District

**Church:** First United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I want to be a delegate to GC 2020 for the following reasons. First, several pastors have encouraged me to do so. Secondly, I came to faith in Christ as a result of the people of The UMC and I want to see others experience new life in Christ. Third, I want to see The UMC maintain its current doctrine, discipline, polity and its emphasis on spreading scriptural holiness throughout the land. Fourth, I want to be part of the solution during a critical juncture in the life of the world-wide Methodist Movement. Fifth, I care deeply about the Wesleyan roots of the church. Sixth, I want to be a delegate because there are times when as a pastor, it's time to step up and serve the connection. This is one of those times. And seventh, I have attended the last two General Conferences as an observer and loved the experience. I am ready to be a delegate.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

I think three critical challenges facing The UMC include the topics of human sexuality, our doctrine, discipline and polity, and how the world-wide Methodist Movement is going to relate and work together in a manner that faithfully spreads the gospel of Jesus to a world in need of redemption.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I have been a UM pastor for 30 years. And over those years I have learned to work together with others different than me. I have also served on several different committees such as the Northwest Texas Conference Youth Coordinator and the Northwest District Board of Ordained Ministry of the Arkansas Conference. I am also committed to the rules of Holy Conferencing. I attended GC 2016 in Portland, OR at my own expense and GC 2019 in St. Louis as an observer. I believe I have a good idea how GC works. I want to be part of this privileged process and believe I'm ready to move from being an observer to a delegate. I also have the spiritual gifts of leadership and faith which would be beneficial for a role like this. I take great responsibility and ownership for anything I commit to and will follow through with it to completion. I am inquisitive, have an open mind and like to learn. I also like to sort through the clutter associated with problems and issues and find the best outcome possible. I also believe that my education which includes a BA, MDiv, and DMIN along with what I've already mentioned has prepared me to serve and as a delegate among the other honorable candidates.

# **Terry Maurice Gosnell # 164**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

terry.gosnell@arumc.org

479-422-8258

1002 N. Hall Av.

Fayetteville, AR 72701

**Membership:** Clergy in Full Connection

**District:** Northwest

**Church:** Trinity-Fayetteville/Viney Grove United Methodist Charge

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

"Best of all, God is with us." John Wesley declared these words knowing that the people called Methodist would flourish if we truly believed and embodied God's great commandment, "And behold, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live"(Luke 10:25-28).

Let us choose what gives us life, love. Embolden us to offer the best of us, Jesus Christ. I believe the General Conference is at its best when it adopts legislation that reflects these values.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

Welcome. Nourish. Serve.

I believe we are to have a theology of hospitality grounded in Matthew 25, "The king will answer, "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me." I believe the church is at its best when we realize we all stand at the foot of the cross. Let us reflect God's gifts of mercy and grace, truly open our hearts, minds, and doors.

Imagine a church that shares the heart of God, that torn, broken place where we share our vulnerability as God's children. Instead of describing Jesus dying on the cross and then being raised, let us live it out in our ethos as a Christian community, feeding the poor, lifting up the oppressed, and those tossed out

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I love God, and I love people. It's all about relationships. I believe "See All the People" is not just a slogan from the General Board of Discipleship it's who we are...I have lived my adult life understanding that listening is not something we're born with innately. It is an art to be practiced.

I believe I am a bridge-builder. The problem in our culture is not that we have liberals and conservatives at either end of the ideological spectrum; we have lost the "middle way." That doesn't mean that we can't be liberal or conservative; it means we listen...Not only listen to one another but also to the one who gives us the way...Jesus Christ.

I have practiced these values as pastor, Circuit Elder, in chaplaincy, from being dean of multiple camps at Tanako, Conference Church and Society, Conference Nominations, to teaching multiple MissionU.





# **J Wesley Hilliard #191**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

whilliard@heritage.church

479-474-6424

1604 Pointer Trail

Van Buren, AR 72956

**Membership:** Clergy Member in Full Connection

**District:** Northwest District

**Church:** Heritage United Methodist Church



**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I love the people of the United Methodist Church in Arkansas and want to see us move forward toward a faithful and fruitful future. My roots in Arkansas United Methodism go back multiple generations. I have a calling to advocate for a renewed church focused on making emotionally healthy, upper room (praying, receiving and going) disciple-makers in the United Methodist Church of Arkansas and to see us become truly "a house of prayer for all nations."

Serving as a delegate to Jurisdictional Conference in 2012 and as the first-reserve delegate to General Conference in 2016/2019 was a great honor and learning experience. We need strong, experienced, compassionate leaders from all sides to come to the table in 2020 to negotiate the best way forward for the church and people we love.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

1. Navigating our future in light of the 2019 General Conference decisions, 2. Seeking a way forward that truly allows enough autonomy and space for our diverse theological and cultural visions to run unhindered by one another, 3. Modeling Christian conferencing that honors the name of Jesus Christ and the teaching of John Wesley.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

My nearly 28 years experience as an Army officer and ordained UM minister provides me with a unique perspective working with diverse populations and navigating multiple viewpoints for a common goal. Successfully leading change is a skill often learned through many failures and painful experiences. The wisdom gained through such encounters will help chart our course through the challenges ahead in the UMC. I also lead our city-wide ecumenical ministers fellowship and a multi-ethnic, multi-denominational campus of the College of Prayer International.

## David D Hoffman #195

### 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

davidd.hoffman@gmail.com

501-475-6397

13003 Bart Moreland Drive

Roland, AR 72135

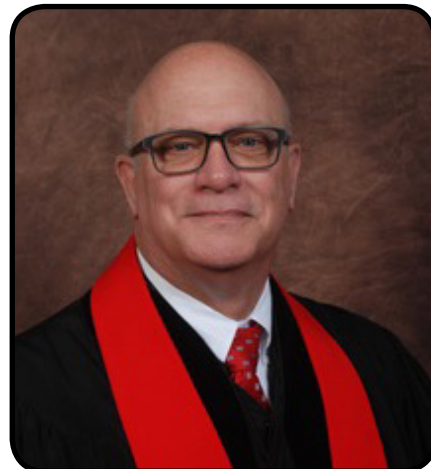
**Membership:** Clergy

**District:** Central

**Church:** Faith and Geyer Springs

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes ☐ No



#### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

While serving the church as an elder in full connection, I continue to be licensed as an attorney in the State of Arkansas. I am used to studying legislation and those processes. As a District Chancellor, I have become familiar with and am frequently called upon to research and advise churches and clergy on matters pertaining to the United Methodist Book of Discipline.

#### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

1 . The continued disruption of the church over sexuality issues (While the General Conference action might have established the law, it has left the church in extreme disarray). 2. Fighting to re-establish the relevance of the church in today's society and culture. 3. Advocating Christian action on matters of justice and human rights.

#### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

- Currently serving as District Chancellor and Associate Conference Chancellor
- City Attorney for City of Monticello, and the Towns of Winchester, Wilmar and Tillar, Arkansas (14 years)
- President of Arkansas City Attorneys Association (2002)
- Former Counsel for Monticello Public Schools, Drew County Developmental Disabilities, Chubb Services, USAA Insurance.
- Provided legal assistance for Arkansas Volunteer Lawyers for the Elderly
- Arkansas Ombudsman for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (10 years)
- Former Certified Law Enforcement Instructor, General Coursework and Firearms

# Aubrietta Lynn Jones #215

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

aubrietta@fumcmaumelle.org

501-259-5384

P.O. Box 13984

Maumelle, AR 72113

**Membership:** Clergy

**District:** Central

**Church:** First United Methodist Church Maumelle

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

I love the United Methodist Church and, like everyone in the denomination, I grieve for the brokenness we have been experiencing for quite some time. I still believe God has a purpose for the Methodist movement. God has purposes for United Methodist groups and individuals who are currently at odds with one another. To chart our next steps requires openness to many possibilities of what it could mean to be connected. In submitting my nomination, I commit to praying through all possibilities and discerning God's best future for the entire United Methodist Church- in all its diversity and all its expressions. My hope is that all my fellow United Methodists and I can participate in ministry from what could truly be a place of integrity and authenticity for each individual as we strive to follow God's call.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

1. The world needs an example of how to speak the truth in love. Many engage in demonizing of the "other" in our denomination's current struggle so that we have forfeited our right to witness to the world on this point and many others. 2. Our church is in the midst of an identity crisis. We are divided in our thinking regarding what it means to be United Methodist. 3. Our deep theological struggles and our top-heavy, rule-laden governance means we cannot easily shape our ministries to share the winsomeness of Christ to our unique contexts. All three challenges point to the biggest loss: we as a denomination are working against our own witness of what God can do with sinners who need a Savior. I long for the day when we effectively address our differences so we can place greater focus on the mission fields to which we are called.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

My leadership in the church includes the roles of Annual Conference Secretary, Board of Ordained Ministry members, member or chair of various District Committees, and Ministerial Alliance Chair. I've served in rural, urban, and suburban contexts, in churches ranging from 1000 to 25 in attendance. I've grown from ministry alongside people both in and outside the UMC. Mission-field experience with not only Anglo communities, but Latino and African-American communities in my ministry settings has enriched my faith. My church planting experience allowed me special time to focus on relationships with unchurched non-Christians as well as unchurched Christians. A gift I am called to offer in church and mission field is unity, healing and new direction. This is what our denomination needs now. I believe my creative problem-solving experience inside the church as well as outside the church prepares me to join others in strategizing to address our denomination's dilemmas.

# Lynn Kilbourne #227

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

Lynn.Kilbourne@arumc.org  
501-835-2201  
6701 JFK Boulevard  
North Little Rock, AR 72116

**Membership:** Clergy

**District:** Central

**Church:** North Little Rock First United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

In 2005 I attended my first Annual Conference as a lay member from the HSU/OBU Wesley Foundation. Never before had I gathered with so many United Methodists! It was exciting to see how our Church is so focused on sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through local churches and campus ministries, feeding the hungry, and providing education and health care. I learned these ministries are cared for and held together by a structure shaped by the voices of faithful local pastors and laity at the General Conference level. After ten years of appointed ministry in three local churches, I want to be a delegate to share my voice in shaping the future ministry of the United Methodist Church. I want to use my voice to call our Church to continue to share the Good News as we care for the least, the last, and the lost.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

Too many people in our communities believe that God and the Church would not make a difference in their lives. Our greatest challenge is always to reveal why God and the Church matter. Our theology of grace gives us a powerful voice to make this proclamation.

We are challenged to be a witness to the world in how we embody and model unity in the midst of division. What has made our Church strong is the tension that allows for diversity of thought. Any split of our Church weakens our witness and our power to share the Good News with the least, the last, and the lost.

My work on the Board of Ordained Ministry and with the United Methodist Foundation has highlighted the challenge of helping young people discern a call into ministry. We must be diligent in investing spiritually and financially in the next generations of ministry leaders.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

My variety of leadership experiences has given me a valuable view of the remarkable ministry of our Church. I currently serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry, the United Methodist Foundation Board of Directors, the Advisory Board for the Hendrix Youth Institute, and the Episcopacy Committee. In previous years I have served on the Committee on District Superintendency and as the Convener of the ARUMC Clergywomen.

One of my most recent joys is teaching Evangelism at Course of Study School. I hear story after story of how local churches and pastors are sharing their faith in diverse and exciting ways. Evangelism is the heart of the Church and these churches model its importance in all of our ministry settings – urban, suburban, and rural. I would love to use my experience and service to shape our Church in continuing to share our faith with our communities in exciting ways!





# Andrew C Kjorlaug #231

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

andrew.kjorlaug@arumc.org

501-984-3855

609 East Lake Dr. N

Marion, AR 72364

**Membership:** Clergy

**District:** Southeast

**Church:** Marion United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I would like to help the church move forward, seeking to reach a place in which we can both remain united as a church and still allow flexibility within contextualized settings. As a young clergy person, I engage with many persons in my congregation and community who are seeking to be part of something greater, but disagree with their churches regarding issues of human sexuality. I believe there is a way in which we as a church can bridge this gap between the traditional and the progressive, enabling persons to honor their calls, their convictions, and help make disciples for the transformation of the world.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

Engagement in our local communities to make disciples is first and foremost. Currently many of our communities do not engage nor reach out and this must change for us to grow as a movement and make disciples. 2. We must have the hard conversations regarding human sexuality and scriptural interpretation in ways that do not demonize each other. 3. Local financial sustainability is a growing concern in many rural areas that we have not been addressing. We need to find ways to help smaller rural congregations financially without unintentionally righting them off.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

Over the last few years I have had several opportunities to be in leadership in the conference. I have served on the conference worship team since 2015, helping to plan and implement the worship services for Annual Conference. During my time in the Northwest District I served as a Circuit Elder for 10 local congregations, providing leadership and assistance. I served a three-year term on the conference Trustees, discussing church closures and property issues. Within my local charges I have been successful in implementing new stewardship programs that have greatly raised not only our actual monetary receipts but have help many new people commit to supporting their church for the first time. I believe all this experience would help me bring a good perspective and varied voice to the delegation and General Conference.

# Blake A Lasater # 237

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

blakelasater@gmail.com  
479-426-2547  
3674 County Road 102  
Eureka Springs, AR 72632



**Membership:** Clergy

**District:** Northwest District

**Church:** Eureka Springs United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

**What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

It's time the church begins to embrace the deep needed change in its institutions so that it can be fully inclusive of all people.

**What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

Continued decline in attendance and membership, the loss of an entire younger generation, and the erosion of our core values.

**Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I served as a Navy Chaplain for 14 years, ministering to young people in a variety of diverse setting. I know first hand the bitterness many have towards the church.

# **Jim H Lenderman #242**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

jlenderman@cumcrogers.com  
479-319-8663  
2535 W. New Hope Road  
Rogers, AR 72758

**Membership:** Clergy  
**District:** Northwest  
**Church:** Central UMC - Rogers

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**  
☒ Yes    ☐ No



### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I'm deeply concerned for the church I love. As a cradle United Methodist I'm brokenhearted for where we find ourselves in the life of our denomination. The church where I met Christ and was nurtured in both my faith and my call to ministry is struggling to find its way. The readily apparent division in our church in matters that go far beyond those of human sexuality and clergy ordination standards is tearing our church apart. Time, energy and resources are being diverted from the primary mission of our church to make disciples who make disciples for the transformation of the world. I'm willing to be a part of the team that helps find a way for local churches to be doing the ministry God is calling them to. GC2020 will be a pivotal conference that will shape our denomination for many years to come.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

1) Navigating the uncertain future of our denomination following GC2019 – We'll take up matters regarding human sexuality/clergy ordination again that remain following GC2019. Beyond that the biggest issue will be how can we move forward into the future so churches can pursue the mission and ministry God is calling them to? The infighting and divisiveness has to be resolved so we can focus on the mission of our church. 2) Keeping our focus on the mission – We are about making disciples who make disciples who transform the world. We are about reaching people with first-time professions of faith in Christ and about ministry with and to "the least, the last, and the lost" beyond our churches. 3) Learning how to be a global church – We are entering a new era where the population center for United Methodism isn't centered in America. We don't know how to live into that yet.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

Track record of serving and working with people with whom I have differences both in the local church and on the conference and district levels. Pastored churches of all sizes: Senior Pastor – Central UMC, Rogers (2017-present); Senior Associate Pastor – Asbury UMC, Tulsa, OK (2008-2017); Senior Pastor – Grace UMC, Conway (2004-2008); Pastor – First UMC, Prescott (1997-2004); Pastor – Parkers Chapel/Pleasant Grove UMCs (1995-1997); Associate Pastor – First UMC, Hot Springs (1991-1995). Conference Leadership: Served on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for 12 years (Little Rock and Arkansas Annual Conferences). General Conference delegate (2004) – Attended as 2nd alternate in Pittsburgh, PA. Jurisdictional Conference delegate (2004) – Attended as a delegate in Corpus Christi, TX. Participated in Connected In Christ Group 1.

# Rebekah L Miles #275

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

rlmiles@smu.edu  
817-839-0312  
2424 Park Place Avenue  
Fort Worth, TX 76110



**Membership:** Clergy Member in Full Connection

**District:** Central District

**Church:** Local Church: First United Methodist in Fort Worth  
Charge Conference Membership at St. James in Little Rock

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

Many of our local churches are thriving, but as a general church we are up the proverbial S@#% Creek; it is a mess. General Conference 2020 is critical. We will either turn ourselves around or create an even bigger mess than the one we are currently floating in. My skill set is very small; you would never ask me to fix your computer, your carburetor, or even, I am ashamed to admit, your cornbread. But as it happens, my small quirky skill-set, plus a much larger and even quirkier social-network across the connection, is ideally suited for United Methodist church politics. I also enjoy it and am just faithful or foolhardy enough to be willing to throw myself again into the chaos of the proverbial creek and work with others to do everything in our power to make things better.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

- 1. Finding a way through our current mess.** We are stuck in large part because of our complex polity. Whatever happens, we will need restructure. As a member of General Administration and a cross-jurisdictional strategy group on restructure, I would bring experience for this work
- 2. Preparing clergy for ministry in a changing world.** We must continue to do better preparing clergy. This has been the primary work of my life and as a delegate who has written and worked for legislation to reform theological education, streamline the process leading to ordination, and strengthen the roles and missional opportunities of deacons, elders, local pastors, and associate members.
- 3. Working with a new generation for more effective and ethical politics.** I am helping organize a cross-jurisdictional group of experienced delegated working with younger delegates to find ways to engage in politics more effectively and ethically so that we can move toward a better future.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I would bring the following:

- Experience as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, including membership on the Legislative Committees on Higher Education and Ministry and on General Administration, (vice- chairperson once and sub-committee chairperson thrice).
- Experience writing General Conference legislation and organizing groups across jurisdictions to support legislation, primarily regarding deacons, elders, local pastors, associate members, theological education, and restructure.
- Leadership in many bodies in the General Church including University Senate; Commission on Theological Education (vice president); Commission on the Study of Ministry; and the Council of Bishops' Task Force on Theological Education and Leadership Formation.
- Writing and teaching in areas relevant to this work including ethics, theology, mentoring, United Methodist doctrine and polity, and the General Conference itself.
- Long experience training and mentoring candidates for ministry which would be relevant in the work of mentoring young delegates.
- Long practice in spiritual disciplines necessary to sustain this difficult work.





# Natasha Murray #293

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

natasha.murray@arumc.org

501.303.8766

1320 Heartwood St.

White Hall, AR 71602

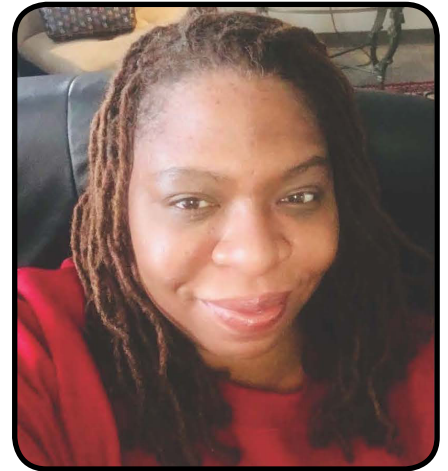
**Membership:** Elder in Full Connection

**District:** Southeast

**Church:** Wesley Foundation at University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes ☐ No



### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

Being a delegate to general and jurisdiction conference is a commitment that I am willing to make. I believe that a delegate should be able to take the time that is needed to review all material and engage in the work that is required of them. As a member in full connection, it is not a right but a responsibility we all share in tending to the order of the church. While the work itself is complicated and can be messy, I still believe that God is at work. As a delegate, I know that it takes time to create and sustain change. I believe that holy conferencing is needed not only in our conference, but in the global church. True holy conferencing allows the Holy Spirit to work, move, and transform the hearts and minds of those who are in opposition. It is my prayer that as a delegate, I can be an instrument of God's grace and peace especially now.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

The 3 critical challenges facing the UMC in the next four years:

- 1) Unity- In the midst of the aftermath of 2019, unity is needed. We need to have unity of heart and mind. Until we are all transparent, honest, and committed to live as disciples we can not truly walk together as one.
- 2) Discipleship- Pastors and laity need to work together to plow the mission field. Hearts and lives are being transformed in the Central Conferences. For some reason we have lost our way in our Christian witness. We have to share the story of how Jesus saves and transforms us to be new people. It's a daily act of sharing the good news. We have to remember to go and share. Jesus saves, not theological ideologies.
- 3) Who sits at the table-Men outnumbered women as delegates attending the 2016 General Conference and in the 2019 special session of General Conference. As for age, older adults outnumbered younger adults. I joined and answered my call in the United Methodist Church because I truly felt that it was a place where all were welcome. It's not a reality. We have to make room for all at the table. Having a place at the table means that there is no room for personal agendas or political gains. We must lift up the voices of the oppressed and speak out against injustices everywhere.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I truly believe that God is at work not only in my life, but the lives of those I serve at the Wesley Foundation. During my time there as the Director, I have listened to young adults express their disdain towards the walls they face in the church. As a delegate, I would bring the experience of a compassionate listener to the table, while allowing others to be encouraged and empowered. I have served on many boards in our conference. I currently serve as a member of the Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Board of Ordained Ministry.

# Mark K Norman #305

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

mark.norman@arumc.org  
501-303-0600  
1320 Heartwood St.  
White Hall, Arkansas 71602



**Membership:** Elder in Full Connection

**District:** Southeast District

**Church:** Southeast District

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

My children grew up watching an animated movie that states, "The flower that blooms in adversity is the rarest and the most beautiful of all." In 2015, I was thankful to be elected to the Arkansas delegation. Over the past few years, I have witnessed and experienced the adversities amongst the people called United Methodist in every level of our denomination. It has been a challenging experience; however, I humbly desire to serve as a delegate for the Arkansas conference. I've considered it an honor to represent the Arkansas conference in jurisdictional and general conference capacities. The work is often difficult, but at this critical time in our denomination, I am willing to serve. I must also admit that it has been a struggle to come to this decision; however, I am resolved to run because I believe I can engage in the work of the jurisdictional and general conference. The United Methodist church will definitely look different but maybe it will be something beautiful that gives glory to God!

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

I believe the United Methodist Church is at the most critical point in recent history. The first issue that we must address is how do we talk and live together as United Methodists. It's clear that we are all not of the same mind about the issues surrounding human sexuality, doctrine, and the authority of scripture, but the way we engage each other has to change. The words of Jesus should ring true to us, "This is my commandment that you love one another." The second question we face is will we schism or remain one church under different tents. The third and most crucial question is how the people called Methodist will improve our Christian witness in the world by making disciples.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I have been blessed to be the district superintendent/chief mission strategist in the Southeast District. I was elected secretary of both the interjurisdictional and jurisdictional episcopacy committees. I am honored to be on the board of trustees of my alma mater, Philander Smith College. Within the Arkansas conference, I was the cabinet representative to the conference finance and administration from 2013-2018. I currently work with the conference board of global ministry in the Arkansas Conference. I am honored to serve on the board of Directors for the General Commission on Status and Role of Women and a member of the Arkansas Conference of Black Methodists for Church Renewal.



# George E Odell #306

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

george.odell@arumc.org  
501-745-5181  
141 Joe Bowling Road  
Clinton, AR 72031

**Membership:** Clergy Member in Full Connection/Elder  
**District:** Northeast  
**Church:** First UMC Clinton

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**  
☒ Yes    ☐ No



### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

I have been a United Methodist my whole life as I was the son of a UMC minister. I believe that the Wesleyan way of life is one that is the best fit for me and I believe for those who want to live as disciples of Jesus. I have seen the church go through many transitions and struggles as we discern what it means to be a denomination that seeks to be that which the Lord has called us to be as disciples. I know that our young adults in our church struggle to know where they fit in our churches and in the denomination. I know that it is not easy to find one's place in the church when others do not see your value. I am not sure where we are heading but I would like to be part of the process to discern our way forward.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

1. Who are we as a denomination in regards to human sexuality. How can we minister to those whose lifestyle has not been the commonly accepted practice within the church? 2. How can we live into the present reality of the world around us and be a force for transformation? 3. How do we live out the Great Commandment?

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I have and am presently serving of the Committee for Native American Ministries; I am the Chair of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race; I serve on the Ethnic and Language Concerns Committee; I serve on the Conference Nominations committee as the representative of CCORR. I have served on the NE District Leadership team, I have served on the SE district DCOM and serve as a Circuit Elder and Mentor for those going into the candidacy process. I have served as the president of the local ministerial alliance and as Director of the TACS (Traveler's and Community Service Fund). I serve on the State Council for KPML of Arkansas and am on the Advisory Council of the Grime's Unit Kairos which is located in Newport, AR

## Katie Goss Pearce #317

### 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

Katie.pearce@arumc.org

501-354-4077

201 S. Chestnut St.

Morrilton, AR 72110



**Membership:** Clergy

**District:** Central

**Church:** Morrilton First United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

#### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

The UMC has nurtured my faith from my baptism, to my call to ministry in high school and now as a pastor. I want the United Methodist Church to be united so that it can continue to make disciples, nurture people's faith, and transform communities. I want to serve as a General Conference delegate to advocate for a church that is united in mission, Wesleyan theology, and grace.

I serve a county seat church. Smaller churches have not had much representation on the Arkansas delegation. I would like to see small churches and rural areas represented on the delegation because we face unique challenges. In my ministry so far I have served a rural church in an unincorporated community in South Arkansas, a suburban church, a county seat church, and as a hospital chaplain. I think this variety of experience would help me to represent the different perspectives and experiences of Arkansas United Methodists.

#### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

1. Too often our conferences are not holy conversations but instead are tainted with division, distrust, and anger. We need to reexamine our structure so that conferencing might serve as a means of grace and a witness to a divided world about how to disagree in love.
2. In the next four years the UMC will likely not come to consensus around human sexuality. Instead, we must decide what unites us despite our disagreements. We are held together by more than our property and history. We are united through shared missions, our emphasis on personal piety and social holiness, and our teachings on grace. We must not neglect these as we continue to wrestle with our division around sexuality.
3. Ministry in 2019 in the United States requires risk taking, creativity, and adaptability. This is difficult for large institutions like the UMC. We need to create space and grace for churches, pastors, and laity to take risks in their attempts to share Christ and bring the church to new people and places.

#### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I serve on Wespeth's Young Leaders Advisory Board as the South Central Jurisdiction's clergy representative. Y-LAB was created so that Wespeth could hear from young clergy and laity about how to increase participation among younger plan participants and educate young clergy about Wespeth's work. Through my work with Y-LAB I have a good understanding of our pension system and how various decisions could affect it.

I currently serve as the chair of the Nominations Committee and on the Board of Pensions. I have also served on a Human Sexuality Taskforce. The taskforce created a study to help churches facilitate Holy Conversations about Human Sexuality.

In the Central District I currently serve on the District Committee on Ministry, as a candidacy mentor, and a circuit elder. As the circuit elder for Conway County churches I have seen the strength and missions of rural small membership churches. I have served on the board for UALR's Wesley Foundation and the Hendrix College Alumni Board.





# Jim P Polk #328

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

jim.polk@arumc.org  
870-814-1216  
The Arkansas Conference  
800 Daisy Bates Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72202

**Membership:** Clergy

**District:** Central

**Church:** Arkansas Conference Office

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

I am in my thirty-fourth year of ministry as clergy, thirty-one of which have been in the local church. My heart and my deepest sense of call is intimately tied to the local church. In particular, I love the people of the United Methodist Church. There is strength and goodness within us and an important place for us in God's Kingdom. I believe that. Still, we are in a time of great turmoil and transition, a time when our differences can seem overwhelming and insurmountable. I know that. It is to help reconcile those two things that I offer myself as a potential delegate to General Conference. I believe both my past leadership experiences in other times of transition and my current leadership roles have prepared me for just such a moment as this, and if the body believes I can be of service as a delegate then I will do so to the best of my ability.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

For me, some of the greatest challenges – and hopes – facing us are captured in the three main words of our name, but in reverse order of importance. First, we must strengthen our awareness of what it means to be the Church. More important than what we do or how we behave or even what we believe is who and whose we are. We are the Body of Christ in our world, a manifestation of God's Kingdom, the tool God has chosen to use "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." If we are to love, respect and trust one another again, we must with humility learn again to recognize God's presence in each of us and acknowledge that together we are the Church. Our second challenge is to embrace our unique place as Methodists within the larger church. We must re-discover how our Wesleyan theology, our connectionalism and our insistence on personal piety and social holiness can guide and transform our ever-changing and world-wide culture. Our third challenge is frankly to decide if the word "United" will remain an important descriptor of our church, and if so what new form it will take given the realities of our theological and cultural differences. I for one believe it is important, but that it is time for a new structural manifestation of that unity.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

For most of my career I have served in some capacity on a conference-level committee or board. Currently I am serving on the boards of UMFA, Methodist Family Health and Camp Tanako, as well as State Spiritual Director for the Noahs of Ark Walk To Emmaus Community. I served as Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry during the time the Little Rock and North Arkansas Conferences were merging into the new Arkansas Conference, and the experience in that time of deep change of molding two disparate boards into one that embraced and relied on those differences taught me much that can be applied to our current situation. As vice-chair and later chair of the Conference Finance and Administration Committee, I was asked to create a task group that would lead us into a new way of envisioning our apportionment system, eventually (with the help of many others) leading to the Arkansas Tithe Initiative. Again, a time of transition. Through those experiences I developed a good understanding of the structure and systems of both the UMC and of the Arkansas Conference. Now, in my current appointment as Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries I find myself once again serving in a conference leadership position during a time of transition. Whether or not I am elected as a delegate I will do my best to use that knowledge and experience to help guide us into God's future for our church.



# William O (Bud) Reeves #342

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

breeves@arumc.org  
501-681-5657  
200 N. 15th Street  
Fort Smith, AR 72901



**Membership:** Clergy, Elder in Full Connection)

**District:** Northwest

**Church:** First United Methodist Church of Fort Smith

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

I have observed General Conference closely for many years. Following the historic Special General Conference in 2019, I feel called in a way I never have been before to use my voice and vote for the good of the denomination. In many ways, the 2020 Conference may be more definitive of our future than the 2019 Conference. I would be honored to represent the Annual Conference in which I have spent my entire ministry.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

1. To continue to proclaim and perform the Gospel in ways that relate to diverse populations so that we can make disciples of Jesus Christ and transform lives, communities and the world. 2. To develop and implement a plan by which United Methodists of differing viewpoints on human sexuality can remain in vital ministry in the world together. 3. Acknowledging the global nature of the church, to give each context of United Methodist ministry the best chance to grow and thrive.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I have been in full-time ministry for almost 40 years. Yet I feel I would be a fresh voice, because I have never been to General Conference. At the same time, I am an experienced voice, having served small churches, large churches, and three years as a District Superintendent. I have served in every district (or its predecessor) in Arkansas, and I have friendships with people from all walks of life and theological perspectives. I believe I would be fair to all, because I understand those different perspectives. I have been active in Annual Conference leadership on boards, committees, and special task forces for many years, and I have experienced both successes and failures. I understand the process of and the need for change.

# Herschel L Richardson #344

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

Herschel.richardson@arumc.org  
870-819-1399  
845 Chapel Hill Dr.  
Conway, AR 72034



**Membership:** Elder Full Connection Clergy

**District:** Central

**Church:** Grace United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

I would like to play an active role in the inner workings of the United Methodist Church. I want to help create pathways that lead the church into the 21st century and beyond.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

1. Establishing adequate ways to have a Christian, loving relationship between all United Methodists regardless of theological understandings. 2. Exploring ways to increase membership within our denomination. 3. Creating new pathways that inspire other United Methodists to move toward the pastoral and ministry role.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I have had the opportunity to work on local, district, and conference committees. If nominated, I will serve diligently in my representation of the Arkansas Annual Conference.

# Michael Roberts #346

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

mroberts@arumc.org  
501-428-4061  
11 Evergreen Dr.  
Conway, AR 720349

**Membership:** Clergy

**District:** Central

**Church:** First United Methodist Church, Conway



**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

**Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

In this season of ministry, I am called to cultivate space at the holy and open table where we can bear one another in a love that is humble, patient, and kind. This is the way I would define holiness as a Wesleyan. I am convicted that we can give a united witness to the world if we would “steer a middle course.” When Wesley called us to this course he was not talking about politics or opinions, but about behaviors that allow us to converse and work together in ways that truly glorify God. While I have hope of doing this at a general church level, I also want to cultivate this at the Annual Conference level, and I have seen it happen with intentionality at the local church level. This hopeful conviction is at the heart of why I want to serve on this particular delegation.

**What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

Our greatest challenges revolve around us being open and attentive to the witness of the Holy Spirit. To build upon Wesley’s understanding, it is possible that God might give some extraordinary sign or process to fix the challenges before us, but we have little reason to think God will do this. Our challenge is to focus on the ordinary and universal ways that the Holy Spirit works among us through gifts and fruits that break down dividing walls and unite us together in the One who not only brings peace but who is our peace. By welcoming all into holy conversation at the open and holy table, we can faithfully address other critical challenges before us – being a global church that allows for contextual ministry, structuring for fruitfulness, resourcing local congregations for ministry, and finding ways for some, at least, to remove official statements that are perceived as doing harm.

**Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I love the United Methodist Church – its history, doctrine, witness, and mission. I have tried to share this love through years of ministry as a pastor of local congregations and as the director of Connected In Christ, a ministry to cultivate faithful and fruitful ministry within the Conference. Through workshops and writings, I have shared this love with the hope of bringing some insight and inspiration into our mutual journey. Through the years I have served in many leadership positions within the Conference and have led several workshops at national convocations and schools. I also served on the delegation in 2012. Whether as a delegate or not, I will continue to devote my prayers and energy to helping our Conference discern God’s calling and fulfill the mission that God has given us.



# **William (Bill) J Sardin #358**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

Bill.sardin@arumc.org  
870-530-1299  
112 Coomber St  
Hot Springs, AR 71901



**Membership:** Clergy in Full Connection

**District:** Southwest

**Church:** First United Methodist Church Hot Springs

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

There is very little representation of Generation X in our denomination; I feel my generation can help bridge divides between the Boomers and Millennials. Secondly, it is my deepest desire to serve both the denomination and Conference that dearly love. Finally, I believe we can be better than we have shown ourselves to be.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

1. Our aging and declining membership in the United States. 2. Current and future theological impasses. 3. Being able to speak to, with integrity, a generation that has lost faith in the church.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I have served in full-time ministry now for 13 years. I currently serve on the Southwest District Committee on Ordained Ministry. I also serve on the Arkansas Conference Committee on Discipleship.

# Jason Eric Sutfin #390

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

jason.sutfin@arumc.org  
870-761-9090  
403 E 3rd St  
Leachville, AR 72438



**Membership:** Clergy in Full Connection

**District:** Northeast

**Church:** Leachville/Caraway

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

**IXI** Yes ☐ No

### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I have struggled greatly as a moderate on the issue of the day . I know what scripture says, but I also know that God is a God of grace. I believe in the discipline's current stance but not every offense should require the death penalty. I believe the middle way is level of punishment along with admitting that scripture is authoritative on the issue. My plan would simply fine the offending party and have them sign an admission of guilt. The problem is I never hear a third way solution, but as a delegate my voice and stature will at the very least be heard..

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

1. Focusing the church back on being a church instead of something we have built that need our defense. We should be about God's business and not the other way around.
2. Gathering in Grace and unity once more, we, as a people of Christ, know that scripture make it clear if we are unified on the major issues. (Deity of Christ, redemption of sinners, need for grace etc.. ) they will believe God the Father sent God Son.
3. Acknowledge we are not dead yet! !!!!!!! Our mission is still before us if we get off our blessed assurance and do something.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I will work hard as a delegate. I will listen to everyone. I will bring no agenda except how we Love God and Love Neighbor in the midst of disagreement. I am not the most popular in our conference, and I get that, but there comes a time when time itself is hungry for a change. I promise I will not sit on my hands and keep my voice still if I see an opportunity to help the church I love. If you have read this far, I know what you are thinking. He can't win. But sometimes even that isn't the point. Perhaps by running I can get people to think a little bit about what we have in common than what divides, then writing this was worth it. And if the trumpet actually sounds, I promise to do those who voted for me proud.

# Jessie Waddell Teegarden #397

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

jessie.teegarden@arumc.org

901-417-0811

14327 White Fir Lane

Little Rock, AR 72212

**Membership:** Clergy

**District:** Central

**Church:** Argenta UMC

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

I grew up in the Arkansas conference and have seen its faithfulness from my childhood as I visited congregations around the state with my dad when he served as lay leader and witnessing the many ways United Methodists care for others through mission trips to Mexico, The Lord's Haven at Hoover UMC, and fish fries at Camp Aldersgate. I love the United Methodist Church and want to see our ministries continue to make disciples for Jesus Christ and to "do good" in the world through our acts of compassion and justice. I feel I have a unique voice to share with the United Methodist Church as a young adult, ordained deacon, and a lifelong United Methodist. I am committed to practicing holy conferencing with persons of all views as we have difficult conversations and find ways to work together in the mission of the church.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

Three critical issues facing the UMC are unity, reconciliation, and strengthening our heritage of being faith leaders in advocacy for social justice issues. The 2019 General Conference further revealed the division between United Methodists on the issue of human sexuality. I think it is important for us to acknowledge the pain we have caused one another and to find a way forward that leads to celebrating our unity in Christ. As I watched the live stream of General Conference I was often reminded of John Wesley's words, "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?" After a time of listening and reconciliation, we must find what unites us so that we might continue God's work together as a denomination. The United Methodist Church has always played a role in advocacy for the "least, last, and lost." Our denomination's leadership in this advocacy role has not only helped those in need but has also attracted many to the Christian faith. I believe we need to continue to strengthen our role in advocating for children in poverty, educational opportunity, and governmental policies that recognize all persons are of sacred worth.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I have been active in the UMC for many years. In college, I was active in the HSU/OBU Wesley Foundation and served as the Wesley Scholar, which involved leading and creating programs for connection and discipleship. From 2006-2009, I was on the Steering Committee of the United Methodist Student Movement. Through my time on the committee I had opportunities to work and fellowship with United Methodists from around the country and world. While serving as the chair of the Steering Committee I became familiar with Robert's Rules of Order and led meetings according to these practices. I have served on education and children's ministry committees at both large and small congregations and currently serve on the board of the UALR Wesley Foundation. All of these experiences have provided experience working with diverse groups of people and the importance of listening, particularly to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



# **Garry Dean Teeter #398**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

garry.teeter@arumc.org  
501-831-9399  
63 Crain Dr.  
Bryant, AR 72022

**Membership:** Deacon, Full Connection  
**District:** Central District  
**Church:** Benton First

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**  
☒ Yes ☐ No



### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I have been a Methodist all my life. I have been brought up in Wesleyan Theology. I see the struggles of today's United Methodist Church much like the early churches where new Christians struggled with the concept of Grace. I understand the struggles that the secular world imposes on our denomination and where it is easy to get distracted. However, I believe now more than ever that the struggles within the United Methodist Church are issues of accepting Grace over law. As a Deacon and a Licensed Professional Counselor I want to bring to the table my listening skills, my ability to address difficult issues with different opinions and facilitate healing by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

First, Grace. The United Methodist Church has been given a great opportunity to exhibit the Grace of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. It is important to remain at the table and to listen and hear one another through Grace. Second, Jesus said in John 13:34 to love one another as I have loved you. It is easy to love those you agree with, however, as Christians we are called to love as Jesus loved, the least, the last, the lost. Third, it is important to make a global statement. The United Methodist Church has a great opportunity to truly be the Church, inclusive to all of God's children.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I have an active leadership role in the life of the local church. I participate in the 8 am morning worship (and the 9 am Contemporary and 11 am Tradition service as needed) by leading worship, reading scripture, offering the Pastoral Prayer, leading the congregation in affirmations of faith and welcoming new members into a relationship with Jesus Christ by becoming a part of our congregation at Benton First. I serve in Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Christmas Eve and Easter services. I assist the Elders in serving Communion and in Baptisms. I serve the congregation in weddings and in funerals. I lead an adult Sunday School Class and our Wednesday Night Worship and Agape Meal.

I started Daily Bread Counseling in May 1997 as an outreach ministry. I completed my theological studies at Memphis Theological Seminar and Asbury Theological Seminar. I was ordained as Deacon in 2014.





# Daniel V Thueson #406

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

daniel.thueson@arumc.org  
479-965-1730  
14 Cedar Ln  
Charleston, AR 72933



**Membership:** Clergy

**District:** Northwest

**Church:** Charleston First United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

We need delegates who are willing to build genuine relationships and listen to our church members and church leaders. Through these relationships we can create a new way for the United Methodist Church to transition into the mid-21st Century as the body of Christ. I bring the skill set to help build a consensus with both traditionalist and progressive parts of the body. My background and successful history in change management, training, and organizational development show that I have the required skills to help make this happen.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

1. Focus on making disciples and training disciples to make disciples. 2. Create a way for the Church to transition from a polemically divided body to a new body that enables us to utilize our best characteristics, produce fruit, and continue making disciples worldwide. 3. Maintaining a cohesive and versatile body that continues to provide aid, disaster response/relief, and higher education.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I am not a cradle Methodist. I chose to be a Methodist because of the grace I experienced through this church. I believe God has gifted me with the experience and skillsets from successful small business and corporate careers to help the church succeed in this uncertain time. I hope to help lead and see it transition into a fruitful body that is able to proclaim the gospel to all people, in all places, at all times and share what God has done, what God is doing, and what God can do in us, with us, and through us.

# Sarah E Argue #1

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

sarah.argue@gmail.com

501-681-4924

1117 Bryan St.

Little Rock, AR 72207

**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Central District

**Church:** Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church



**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes ☐ No

### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

The United Methodist Church is at a crossroads. We must choose to move forward as a connectional, global church, or fracture into special interest groups. Serving as a delegate to General Conference 2020 would be an opportunity to give back to the Church that has given me so much. At this time in our history, we need leadership that is both bold and moderate – we need strength to carry forth the message of Christ, and we also need a humble spirit to be able listen to each other through this crisis. I seek election as delegate to help provide this leadership.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

The first challenge facing the UMC is its relevancy to Millennial and GenX generations. Without deliberate effort to attract and keep younger generations, the UMC will continue to decline. The Church must make a compelling case for membership; one may believe in Christ without belonging to a church. Second, our Conference needs to consider prayerfully its relationship within our churches. Strong leadership that brings different perspectives together for open, honest conversation is critical to the future of the Church. Finally, we must move the conversation forward in regards to the Church's stance on human sexuality. Nearly 70% of the 2019 GC delegate from the US voted in favor of the One Church Plan. With 99% of the global budget coming from the US, the failure of the UMC in the US will absolutely lead to global failure.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

As a life-long member of Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, I have had the opportunity to serve in several leadership positions, both as a youth and an adult. Most importantly, I have been an active member supporting the Church with my prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. I have taken the Methodist commitment to social justice into the world working for several non-profits, including serving as Board Chairman for the Ozark Mission Project. Through OMP, both as a youth participant and as an adult leader, I have had the opportunity to get to know United Methodists throughout Arkansas and listen to their stories, their concerns, and their faith. This experience has prepared me well to work with delegates across Arkansas and the world.



## Brandon K Bates #2

### 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

mrbkbesq@gmail.com  
501.372.2256  
72 Kingsbridge Way  
Little Rock, AR 72212

**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Central

**Church:** First United Methodist Church of Little Rock

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



#### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

Almost 60% of the world's population are 34 years of age or younger, and approximately 46% of the US population are 34 or younger, which are most of millennials and all of Generation Z. These are not the statistics for the United Methodist Church. As a youth minister who is Generation X, and worked with Millennials and now Generation Z, the presence, retention, and voices of young people are sorely missing. Bridging generations and ages, learning from one another, and sharing in leadership are imperative. I would serve at no more than 3 regular General Conferences, if elected.

Willingness to try new things, being service focused and globally-minded, as well as being a part of something bigger than they are are characteristics of these younger generations. I feel that the message and representation of Christ through the UMC can be ideal for young people and what they need to experience, but we have to appropriately present that message and work with young people. We have to empower without pandering. We must engage with younger generations today by being in ministry with them, or else we will not be able to transform the world.

#### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

- 1- Unity.
- 2- Greater understanding of, and ministry with, young people.
- 3- Being more missional and global while being contextual and less institutional.

#### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

Previously: 2016 Jurisdictional Conference Delegate/Reserve General Conf. Delegate, 2012 Jurisdictional Conf. reserve delegate, District Youth Coordinator (2 districts)- 6 years, Conference Youth Coordinator- 7 years, Jurisdictional Youth Coordinator- 3 years, Rep. to UMC Global Young People's Convocation 3 times, Conference Vision Team- 6 years, Rep. to Annual Conference

Currently: Mount Eagle Board of Trustees- 7 years (currently Vice-chairperson), Conference Youth Council (CCYM) Resource Adult- 9 years, Conference Youth Ministry Resource Team- 6 years, Youth Minister-19 years, Fuller Seminary Youth Ministry Innovation Cohort



# **Samantha G Black #3**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

sblack1435@cox.net  
479-629-4735  
3006 Grinnell Avenue  
Fort Smith, AR 72908



**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Northwest District

**Church:** Cavanaugh United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

After attending the special called General Conference in St. Louis, I feel that the Arkansas Conference needs delegates to represent young United Methodists across our state. I grew up in the United Methodist Church, and have always been passionate about its success and vitality. Youth and young adults play a large role in the ministries of the Arkansas Conference. These individuals are members of local congregations and involved in various student ministries across our state. The United Methodist Church has transformed me into who I am today, and I want it to continue to be a positive influence on many generations to come.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

I believe the most critical challenge facing The United Methodist Church is how to stay united in our love of Christ, our love of others, and our Wesleyan doctrine. To remain successful in our mission to make disciples who make disciples, we must stay one United Methodist Church. Another critical challenge we are facing is the ability of individual churches and conferences to contextualize their ministry to their mission field. While we are one body, we do not operate under the same contexts around the world. Taking advantage of our ability to contextualize will make us a stronger denomination as a whole. The final critical challenge I believe the church is facing is its inclusion of younger generations into the church of today. Young people want to be a part of the decision making in our denomination. They are critical to the continued vitality of the church today and in the future.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I began my involvement in church leadership during my time in college at the Arkansas State Wesley Foundation. During my four years, I served as the Wesley President, Delta Pride Summer Camp Director, Missions Student Intern, and Administrative Student Intern. Upon graduation, I am serving as the Post-Graduate Intern. I will finish this year-long internship in June. These experiences have strengthened my relationship with Christ and others. They have also taught me more about the work of the United Methodist Church. During the last year, I have also served as the youngest member of the Northeast District Leadership Team. I grew up in the Northwest District, have lived in the Northeast District for five years, and will be moving to the Central District to pursue a graduate degree this summer, so I believe I will represent the state well.



# **Cathy Blackwood #4**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

tree21958@gmail.com  
479-640-7590  
2822 Parkwood Circle  
Rogers, AR 72756

**Membership:** Lay  
**District:** Northwest  
**Church:** Central UMC - Rogers



**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes ☐ No

### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

After spending Saturday and Sunday at the General Conference session in St. Louis as an observer, I was reminded again of the global nature of our church. How different languages and locations can remind us of the ministries that are carried out in Jesus' name by United Methodists around the world. It reminds us that everything is not about us, though we don't think alike, we can love alike. I would like to be a part of how we can continue to love alike – what will that unity look like in the future. I was raised in the UMC and welcome the opportunity to serve the church as a delegate in 2020.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

How will the church move forward after the Special Session of General Conference in St. Louis. The United Methodist Church's effectiveness in reaching out to make Disciples for the transformation of the world – being relevant to all generations – and continuing to support the ministries and missionaries that we have invested our prayers, money and effort into over the years. Identifying the emerging ministry needs in our own mission fields and in the world, along with new ways to reach those that don't know Christ yet.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I have been an active member of my church participating in the Chancel Choir, Disciple Bible studies, serving as the recording secretary for our Church Council, and a member of the Missions Committee. I have been a certified Lay Servant for the past four years. I serve on the Northwest District Leadership Team and have been a District Member-at-large to the Annual Conference for the past 4 years. At the Conference level I have served on the Council of Finance and Administration, and currently am a member of the Board of Church and Society. I have served on all levels of United Methodist Women: Unit President and Treasurer; Northwest District Social Action Mission Coordinator, President and Treasurer; Conference Treasurer, Vice President, and currently as Conference President. I have also worked on staff at Grace UMC in Rogers for the past 22 years.

# **Jimmie D Boyd #5**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

jimmie.boyd@arumc.org

870-718-3649

1110 Wooley Road

Rison, AR 71665

**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Southeast

**Church:** Mount Olivet United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes ☐ No



### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I love the United Methodist Church and I have followed so many other great Methodists that have contributed to the leadership, that they left an indelible impression on me. Without leadership that supports any organization it will soon develop problems. Yes I know that our Church is in some stress, but I also know that even in Christ's days on this earth there were difficulties. We are called to "come out from the world" and be witnesses to the Faith that will withstand all trials. I believe that we have a chance to "do new things" in Christ's name, even among all the strife. Our witness to the world does not have to be about bitterness among us, but about God's Word that teaches that even in strife we can still love. I pledge to be a faithful Delegate and direct my energies to representing the Arkansas Annual Conference, its Churches and all of its Members as best I can through Prayer, Holy Conferencing, attending all of its meetings and giving my best witness of what Christ has done in my life.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

1. Our witness to the world is our first priority. Is it "tarnished"? , maybe, but we can still continue our witness, ministries, training, community poverty needs, and many more ways we are involved in the lives of those who need Salvation, those who need assistance, as well as emergency relief efforts.
2. Obviously the next issue is our differences in how we accept the Bible as the Holy Word of God. Some of us consider it "infallible" others do not. We will eventually have to make the choices that will determine our future as a "United" body.
3. There are many issues that we will face based on the outcome of this 2020 General Conference, as well as decisions to be made at the Jurisdictional Conference including finances, election of Bishops, possible "exit" plans, selection of our next Bishops and other decisions that may completely "reshape" the United Methodist Church, but it will not reshape the words in the Bible we hold so dear. We may be in the forefront of a "great Awakening" as we face our future.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

My name is Jimmie Boyd, My wife of 54 ½ years is Sylvia. I am almost 73 years old, and still have a great desire to serve the Lord actively. I have been a member of the United Methodist Church since 1975 (44+ years) I have attended Annual Conference for most of those 44 years. I was asked in 1986 to become the Southeast District Director of Lay Servant Ministries. I served in that position for a little over 20 years, retiring from that in 2016. I served the last two years of the Little Rock Conference as the Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries. I then was elected as the Arkansas Conference Director of Lay Servant ministries and have served there the past 8 years. I attended National meetings of the Conference and Jurisdictional Lay Servant Ministries each year as Conference Director, and served on the Educational committee for 2 years (ending this year) My term as Arkansas Conference Director of LSM ends this year. It has been an Honor to serve the Lay Servant Ministry for all these years and I am continuing as a Lay Servant as long as I am able and God still needs me. I hope to be able to continue my love and concern for our Church and my ability to work with others as a General / Jurisdictional Conference Delegate.



# **Lexie N Burleson #6**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

burlesonln@hendrix.edu  
501-650-5625  
1600 Washington Ave. P.O. Box 3140  
Conway, AR 72032



**Membership:** Lay  
**District:** Central District  
**Church:** Lakewood United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I would like to be a delegate for the United Methodist Church because I know the importance of having young people represented and of sharing the thoughts and feelings of the youth and young adults of the Church. In a time of such deep conflict, it is imperative to have the voices of young people respected and heard. We are not just called to be leaders some day, but are called by God to lead today. I hope to be a voice that shares the love and grace of God, something I learned in my United Methodist upbringing, in a place as important as our United Methodist Conferences. I am blessed to be an Arkansas United Methodist and to have so many mentors and loved ones in the Arkansas Conference. I would be honored to represent and serve them well.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

The three most critical challenges the United Methodist Church is facing over the next four years is the challenge of reconciliation between the members of the Church body, the challenge of sharing all of the good our Church continues to do even in the midst of strife, and the challenge of attracting and retaining young members. Now is the time to demonstrate the growth of the Church in our relationships with each other, with all of the groups and individuals we are in ministry with, and with young people.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I have been fortunate to hold many leadership positions in the United Methodist Church. I served as the President of the Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries, which gave me experience in listening to and representing the voices of our young leaders. In addition, I was also a delegate at the 2016 and 2017 Arkansas Annual Conferences, which introduced me to the voting structure used at our Church's conferences. I was able to build strong ties with churches, clergy and laity with diverse views in our state through my many years of service with Ozark Mission Project. I am currently a Religious Studies Major at Hendrix College, a United Methodist Affiliated school where I am learning more about Christian and United Methodist teachings while building connections with those who share a passion for serving our Church professionally.



## Todd Burris #7

### 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

tburris@arumc.org  
501-324-8024  
800 Daisy Bates Dr  
Little Rock, AR 72202

**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Central

**Church:** Conway First United Methodist

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



#### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

Having been a delegate to the 2012, 2016 and 2019 General Conferences, I've seen firsthand how fractured our church has become at that level. The General Church must be redefined to allow local churches to reach its mission field. I am certain that our Wesleyan theology is what our world needs. The message of love and grace is what our neighbors are longing to hear. I believe we must find unity in our love of Christ and each other and stop trying to legislate unity by polity and doctrine.

#### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

1. The primary issue facing the United Methodist Church now, and the next four years is the worldwide nature of the church. We must allow churches more flexibility to reach their unique mission fields. This means making the U.S. its own central conference. Without a plan to change our current structure in 2020 the U.M.C. will break apart in open schism.
2. We must focus on that which unites us as a global church while allowing room for conversation surrounding divisive issues at a local or regional level.
3. We must face the fact that many of our churches are over 100 years old. We have to balance that heritage with the changing population and be willing to close or move churches to where the people are now.

**Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**



## Paul W Butler #8

### 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

marathonhog@hotmail.com  
479-886-1243  
4318 Tanya Circle  
Russellville, AR 72802



**Membership:** Lay, Member in good standing of Wesley United Methodist Church, Conway Arkansas.  
Professing member of a United Methodist Church since 1999.

**District:** Central District

**Church:** Wesley United Methodist Church, Conway Arkansas

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

#### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

I believe that The United Methodist Church, both globally and locally, is at a critical intersection on its path to fulfilling its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. My personal experiences in coming from a different faith tradition, falling in love with the gracious doctrine of the UMC, growing in faith through Walk to Emmaus, Bible studies, acts of service, and most of all speaking with and listening to the faithful servants around me, give me great insight into what God's vision is for our church. I believe I can represent the laity of the Arkansas Conference at the General Conference faithfully and with both wisdom and grace.

#### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

Clearly the issue of same sex relationships in the United Methodist Church is at the forefront of our discussions and how we relate to those inside and outside of our church walls. We must make decisions on how we move forward from our current position of indecision. Second, while this decision is of singular importance, it is actually part of a larger discussion of how can the United Methodist Church continue to serve God and serve his people for the next 4 years and the centuries to come. To meet this need we must focus on how to transition our church from one generation to the next while keeping alive our calling to meet all of the people where they are, young or old, faithful or faithless, rich or poor, and anywhere in the world. Finally, through all of these discussions we must never forget that we are called to serve the least, the last, and the lost, to always stand on the side of the oppressed, and to always leave the 99 to go save the 1. All decisions must be seen through the lense of the Great Commandment.

#### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I am an Engineer with 23 years of experience in consensus building, interpreting and applying complex rules and regulations, basing decisions on facts, seeking to understand instead of waiting to reply, and leading groups of peers to the best solutions. I've served in Leadership at a local UMC church with 2000+ members and I have also attended a church with 8 active participants. I'm an avid reader of history and the founding of the Christian church. I admire those that have come before us as they put into words ways to organize and administer the earthly structure of the church while still loving and leading the least and the lost among us. I love the United Methodist Church and I want to be part of moving it forward and listening to the will of God as we honor our past and take steps towards our future.

# Ashley Boggan Dreff #9

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

ashleydreff@gmail.com  
501-680-0606  
1313 Kensington Dr.  
High Point, NC 27262



**Membership:** Lay  
**District:** Northwest

**Church:** First United Methodist Church, Bentonville, AR

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

I am a life-long United Methodist, the child of two ordained UM clergy. I feel called to be a voice at the General Conference 2020 as a young lay delegate representing the Arkansas Conference. As the Director of United Methodist Studies, Assistant Professor of Methodist Studies, and Director of the Institute for Early Career Clergy Development, I am immersed in UM history, doctrine, and polity professionally. Despite my living outside of Arkansas for the past ten years for post-graduate and professional reasons, I have maintained contact with Arkansas UMs, clergy and lay. Arkansas will always be my home, where I feel most connected to the grace-filled church that raised me. This is why I have never changed my membership from the Arkansas Annual Conference.

No other conference has felt quite like home. I hope to be given the opportunity to represent the grace that my home conference has shown me at General Conference 2020.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

First, The UMC must be focused on healing. After Feb. 2019, it became quite clear that there are wishes from various parties and local congregations to disaffiliate. Our church needs to heal, and we must remember Wesley's Rules to "do no harm" and to "do good." Second, the polity of The UMC needs an update. It's quite constraining as it is and prevents persons in the local churches from being able to mission with and serve with the communities around them. Third, The UMC must embrace its young persons. Our beloved denomination strives to include the younger demographic in the local church, and often struggles to include them at the administrative level. Only 7% of the delegation at General Conference 2019 were under 35 years of age. The next generation is striving to be heard but are rarely given the opportunity to sit at the table. If they are given a spot at the table, they are rarely listened to. If we want to grow in the US, we must be willing to tell young voices that they are worthy of being heard.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I am an Assistant Professor of Methodist Studies, Director of United Methodist Studies, and Director of the Institute for Early Career Clergy Development at Hood Theological Seminary, an AME Zion seminary in North Carolina (2017-present). I have a PhD in Methodist History from Drew Theological School (2012-2017). I have worked for two administrative agencies of The UMC: The Connectional Table (Chicago, IL, 2014-2016) and the Commission on Archives and History (Madison, NJ, 2012-2014). Both of these organizations taught me the "ins" and "outs" of United Methodism so I am well versed in how General Conference works. I have been an observer and/or staff person at two previous General Conferences. Through my research, I have read every Daily Christian Advocate since 1972, a hobby that has allowed me to be well-versed in Robert's Rules of Order. I know that the General Conference process takes patience, prayer, and a whole lot of grace. I am a published Methodist historian who has spent the last decade researching and writing on the history of Methodism and how our denominations have talked about human sexuality since the 1870s (see my 2018 book "Entangled: A History of American Methodism, Politics, and Sexuality" published by GBHEM's New Room Books). It is all of the above which has kept me away from Arkansas for the past decade, but it is also the above that has allowed me to find my voice as a United Methodist. I want to be able to use this voice to represent Arkansas in 2020.



# **Toby L Fair #10**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

[myfairlady@aristotle.net](mailto:myfairlady@aristotle.net)

501-425-4629

35 Oakridge Drive

Maumelle, Arkansas 72113

**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Central

**Church:** First United Methodist Church-Little Rock

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

Basically I have been looking for a way to serve my church and feel this would be a good way to do that. I am known for my attention to detail and fairness. It is going to take people who are not afraid to ask hard questions and take a stand for what is right. I think I can be that person.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

- 1) Fallout from outcome of the St Louis Conference, including evidence of improper voting
- 2) Decline in membership
- 3) Failure of the two constitutional amendments that focused on equality in the church for women and girls

**Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

# Elizabeth Fink #11

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

efink18@live.com  
479-200-6755  
3 lois lane  
Bella Vista, AR 72715



**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Southeast district

**Church:** First United Methodist Church Stuttgart

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

I believe this is a time to stand and not be silent. There is a lot going on within our church and the world. I have experienced the past two General Conferences, and now see that as a young adult I can't stay on the sidelines. I want people to know that there are Young adults out there who are committed to a world that is just, loving, and whole, but also holy and sanctified. I am an evangelical orthodox Christian who believes Christ should be the center of all things, the Bible is His inspired word and primary authority, and the Church is an extension of Christ and His ministry. It wasn't always easy, but I enjoyed my time serving as your representative. I felt that I was a part of something important and would like to see it through.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

Three critical challenges I see that have been and will continue to be before us include: 1) Decline 2) Culture 3) Witness. I believe these three are all connected. We continue to see a decline in the U.S. because we open ourselves up to what the culture says instead of Christ, and that leads to a tainted witness. We need to remember our global connection, Wesleyan heritage, and who we are representing. In the U.S. we have been trying to do it on our own too long, and we can learn a lot from the example of those around the world. Young people seek authenticity in a culture that is so fake. We need to speak Truth, and not sugar coat it. None of this is easy, but it is possible with Jesus as our center. But don't lose heart! Revival and renewal are coming!

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I was honored to serve as a General and Jurisdictional delegate to 2016 and 2019. I served as a Young Adult Missionary for two years through Global Ministries. I have led youth groups and participated in youth activities over the past 12 years. I have witnessed the ups and downs of our churches/conference over the years from growing up as a Pastors kid in the Arkansas UMC. I believe I hold a unique perspective that can prove to be beneficial for the Arkansas delegation.



# Amy M Forbus #12

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

amy.m.forbus@gmail.com  
501-707-4230  
101 Woodlore Circle  
Little Rock, AR 72211

**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Central

**Church:** CanvasCommunity UMC

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

Serving as a delegate to General Conference is one of the most draining experiences a United Methodist can willingly embrace — physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Having attended one General Conference as a delegate, one as an alternate/observer, and two as media, it's not a task I would undertake lightly. However, I believe my experience at the local, district, annual conference, jurisdictional, and denominational levels has left me well qualified to serve. Spurred on by the results of prayer, reflection, and the encouragement of others to meet the approaching deadline to submit a self-nomination form, I am compelled to offer my gifts and knowledge as a candidate for the General Conference 2020 delegation. I leave the decision of whether I will be asked to serve in the hands of the Holy Spirit and Arkansas Conference.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

- 1) Finding ways to live together amid disagreement is by far the most critical challenge we face today. Our structure mimics the U.S. government, and I believe it's no coincidence that we reflect the divided U.S. culture of our day, whether that day be in the 1860s or last month.
- 2) Declining membership, regardless of cause, hampers a denomination attempting to live within a cumbersome framework that moves forward (or backward) only from General Conference to General Conference.
- 3) We cannot ignore the need to mitigate the damage done by General Conference 2019, especially in the eyes of young people — whom I pray will receive at least 25% representation in this quadrennium's Arkansas delegation, even to the exclusion of my own election — and those who are part of the LGBTQ community or love someone who is. We've blatantly disregarded John Wesley's first rule, "Do no harm."

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I served as a delegate to General Conference 2008 and Jurisdictional Conference 2004, and on the South Central Jurisdictional Mission Council, while active in the North Texas Annual Conference, where I also served on my District Committee on Ordained Ministry. I have worked for the local church in paid and unpaid roles, and since 2001 I have worked for the United Methodist Church or a related organization: Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Carrollton, Texas; UMR Communications (home of the *United Methodist Reporter* national weekly newspaper); the Arkansas Conference as editor of the *Arkansas United Methodist*; and Hendrix College as Communications Director. I currently serve as Leadership Team chair for CanvasCommunity, a United Methodist congregation in downtown Little Rock that has mission-driven relationships with a number of other local churches and ministry partners with the shared goal of alleviating the effects of, and putting an end to, homelessness in Little Rock.





# Lauren A Geier #13

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

geier.lauren@gmail.com  
901-409-9298  
1900 S. Donaghey Ave  
Conway, AR 72034



**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Central District

**Church:** First United Methodist Church, Conway, AR

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

**IXI** Yes ☐ No

### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I believe I bring a unique experience and perspective as a delegate. My experiences growing up in the UMC as well as moving around while my husband served in the US Army has given me regional insight into differences within the denomination structure. Additionally, my profession as a licensed mental health therapist, aids me in bringing insight into social justice and congregational care focuses.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

(1) The UMC following the Way Forward will be in a period of rebuilding and rebranding. Remaining applicable and relevant following difficult conversation and a time of great pain. Our LGBTQ membership and family have been and continue to be wounded by having their worthiness and humanity a topic of debate. (2) Environmental concern has unfortunately become politicized. As Godly people, we are called to be stewards of the Earth, regardless of political party or position. The UMC will have to navigate partisanship in order to continue a longstanding environmental focus. (3) The ongoing migrant/immigrant discussions occurring throughout the world continue to be on the forefront of our social justice call for action.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

My parents and grandparents demonstrated through action the philosophy of "we the church" by serving on local, district, and national committees. I want to carry on this tradition and model the same philosophy for my children. I do not always agree with decisions within the UMC but believe that unless I am a part of change, I cannot expect change. I was a youth representative on various committees within my congregation and involved in the Wesley Foundation at UCA. As an adult, I have been a member of Wesley Monumental UMC, Savannah GA; Isle of Hope UMC, Savannah GA; Christ Methodist UMC, Memphis TN; and First UMC, Conway AR. I am currently serving as chair of the SPRC at FUMC and teach high school Sunday School. I helped develop the MidYouth program and volunteer as a Created by God Small Group Leader each year. In the past, I have served on the Children's Council, Family Council, Outdoor Ministries Council, and the Conference Outdoor Ministries Council. My husband and three children are also involved. In addition to my church involvement, I serve on the Cradle Care Board of Directors, Faulkner County Democratic Women, and Arkansas Educational Television Network volunteer guild. I am a reader and writer in my spare time. Professionally, I have been a licensed professional counselor working in the community mental health system. I specialize in serving children who have experienced complex trauma, foster children, and LGBTQ adolescents. I conduct community trainings and write articles to aid families in better understanding complex mental health related issues. In my role as a therapist, I have to be able to listen and meet people where they are. I believe these experiences would be of utmost importance in the Conference setting and experience. Thank you for your consideration.



# Hannah Gordon #14

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

gordonnhannah@gmail.com

501-269-6977

284 Round Mountain Road

Conway, AR 72014



**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Central

**Church:** First United Methodist Church Conway

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

My reasons for wanting to be a delegate is the want and need for the voice of the youth among the people attending General Conference. As an active youth in the United Methodist Church being able to witness the decisions made at General Conference 2020 the voice of youth would be heard. As the current and future leaders of the United Methodist Church the voice of young people must be heard to help spread the love and acceptance of God. Not only would my voice represent the youth, but it would bring possible hope to the ones looking up to the delegates using their voice. The words spoken in front of thousands of youth across the world at general conference can not only influence the voices heard today but the voices of youth in the future.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

One concern I have for the United Methodist church is the recent decision made at General Conference 2019. The passing of the Traditional plan not only does not follow the book of law for the Methodist Church, but it does not spread the message that we as christian are called and lead to spread. There has been and there will continue to be a negative affect on the United Methodist Church, especially within the youth, if there is not a continued discusstion over this plan.

Another challenge I see in the church is the lack of representation UMW. As the growth of women as clergy and lay increases, the representation among large discussions is not as voiced as others.

Lastly, the representation and support of youth among the church is not as strong as it should be, especially when considering the discussion being held today. Youth are not only the future leaders of this church but also current leaders. We need to grow in love to support the upcoming leaders of UMC by building a strong foundation for those wanting to lead in ministry.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

At First United Methodist Church in Conway, AR I am a member of the leadership team. I am also a member of the District leadership team, DCYM. I have used both of these platforms as a chance to grow and lead through every experience. I am also a member a competeitive dance team. Being one of the older girls on my team, I am looked up to as a leader as to how to act and respect others when competing. I also compete with a solo. I have used this solo as a chance to put my faith journey into movement. Through the song and dance I spread the message of God's love and how God created everyone as beautiful through all their flaws.

I'm a strong believer that through every situation there is a learning moment and a teaching moment, and that everyone should take advantage of those opportunities.

# Kayla M Hardage #15

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

kaylakalkbrenner@gmail.com  
501-617-8652  
2993 Wildwood Dr.  
Benton, AR 72015

**Membership:** Lay  
**District:** Central  
**Church:** Benton First United Methodist Church



**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**  
☒ Yes   ☐ No

### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

You could say I am a cradle Methodist, I was born and raised in the church, active through UMK, UMYF, DCYM, as well as on several committees in my youth. In college I become active with the Wesley Foundation and worked at Tanako. Through my 20's I have struggled to find my place in the Church. I know I am supposed to be here, and I want to be here. I am hoping a chance at being active on a conference level again, I can assist in keeping the UMC, a strong global organization.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

1. Declining membership. How do we increase membership without "watering down" the gospel to active members? How do we keep active members engaged? How do we retain kids/youth/young adults? 2. Keeping the global affiliates. We need to be proactive on social issues not reactive. Christin values should be remembered and practiced. The church has good infrastructure. 3. Recruiting young leaders in the church. The Baby Boomer generation is retiring and there is not a huge pool to pull both clergy and lay people from.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I believe I am an excellent candidate. I think big picture, but can be hands on the day to day work. I currently work for the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, where I oversee the Welcome Center Program. I believe in the United Methodist Church and want to do my part in keeping her alive and well!

# Harold D Hughes #16

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

rainbowharold@yahoo.com, harold.hughes@arumc.org

501-612-0902

621 Cumberland St, Apt 4  
Little Rock, AR 72202



**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Central

**Church:** Quapaw Quarter

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes ☐ No

### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

After much prayer and meditation, I feel called to take a greater voice in the future of the UMC. The immoral, unconstitutional, and discriminatory actions of the 2019 General Conference have diminished the ability of the UMC to do mission and create Disciples. My voice can help in reshaping the denomination to become a welcoming place, poised to create the change Christ commissioned us to do.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

- 1) Reversing the outcome of the 2019 General Conference
- 2) Making the UMC a truly welcoming, hospitable, and welcoming place
- 3) Making Disciples in an increasingly cynical world that distrusts and thinks of church as a hypocritical and judgemental place.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I have been a Lay Member of the Arkansas Conference and of my Church Council over 15 years. I have served as a Lay Servant since 2007. I have served on the Bishop's Task Force on Human Sexuality and the Conference Rules Committee, and have served as Leadership Coordinator for (open) ARMs, the Conference Reconciling group. I have served as co-chair of a local Rights organization and currently sit on the board of the Arkansas Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice.



# Clint R Johnson #17

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

clint.johnfin@gmail.com

501-472-1559

235 Schultz Road

Vilonia, AR 72173

**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Central

**Church:** Vilonia United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

I am 32 years old and feel that the voice of my generation needs to be heard so that my children can inherit a vibrant and growing Church, full of disciples that make disciples. I have served my Church as lay member and feel that I am representative of many of our brothers and sisters that are beginning to take a leadership role in our local churches and at a larger scale. I have served in leadership positions at my local church and at the conference level and am ready to represent the Church that we know and love at a larger scale. I am excited about the possibility of making my voice heard and helping to shape our church into an accepting and loving community that reflects the love and grace of Jesus.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

I believe the first critical challenge is keeping our denomination together and not unravelling the work that was done by those that came before us. We are a family of faith and it is normal for families to have disagreements, but our differences should not stand in the way of our ability to serve Christ together. Our second challenge is staying relevant and continuing to grow in the future. Membership is declining with younger generations and we need to figure out how to keep those people in the fold. Our third challenge is faithfully serving others as Jesus sent us. This is not a new challenge and is not unique to our denomination. The Methodist movement was built around piety and service but we have evolved into a community that thinks more about how we can fill our own spiritual cup, rather than filling the cup of the needy.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I am proud to be a third generation, life-long member of the United Methodist Church and I hope my two boys will make four generations of our family in fellowship with the Church we love and in service to Christ. I have served my local church and at the conference level by volunteering with our youth program and serving two years as our part time Director of Youth Ministries. I currently sit on the Board of Directors for Mount Eagle Christian Retreat Center, I am an active volunteer with Ozark Mission Project as a camp director and member of the Construction Committee and serve as the Central District Coordinator for UMCOR Disaster Response. I am passionate about my church and want to take an active role in the future of our denomination.





# **Karon S Mann #18**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

karon57@comcast.net

501-225-7971

1806 Martha Drive

Little Rock, AR 72212

**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Central

**Church:** Pulaski Heights UMC

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I believe that some type of unity is the best way forward for our United Methodist Church. I will use my ability to listen and understand other viewpoints in all discussion and preparation for General or Jurisdictional Conference. Relationships I have developed in the course of my work at the conference and general church level have prepared me for this. I love the United Methodist Church deeply, and believe the Holy Spirit can lead our church forward in ways we have not yet imagined.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

1. The most immediate critical challenge is the issue of how we move forward together, as a denomination, and whether we are able to maintain some type of connection within the United Methodist Church. I believe we are better together than apart, and pray that some type of unity is maintained. 2. The global nature of our church: successful structuring of our church that respects cultural differences while maintaining connections. Focusing on beliefs and values we share will be key. 3. Under any scenario developed under #1 or #2, the future of our church truly depends on the teaching and training of lay leadership. Laity must be equipped to live out their calling to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

Arkansas Conference Lay Leader, 2012 – present; elected to General and Jurisdictional Conference in 2008, 2012 and 2016. The 2016 delegation attended the 2019 session. Currently serving as chair of the Arkansas Conference Committee on Episcopacy, and a member of the South Central Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy. Member, United Methodist Women national board of directors, 2008 – 2016; General Board of Global Ministries board of directors, 2008 – 2012; United Methodist Develop Fund board of directors, 2008 – 2016; president Arkansas Conference UMW, 2006 – 2008; Camp Aldersgate board of directors, 2006 – 2016; 1996 – 2005 member of Arkansas (and former Little Rock) Conference Council on Finance and Administration; various conference and district level UMW positions 1995 – 2004.

## Abbey L Maynard #19

### 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

abbmay@yahoo.com

870-659-8165

1102 W 14th St

Stuttgart, AR 72160

**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Southeast

**Church:** Stuttgart First United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



#### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I am committed to serving the United Methodist Church, and I believe that young people are not well enough represented here. This is a church that I believe in and want to spend my life serving as a pastor, and I am already a certified candidate and about to begin seminary. I have gotten to be a part of churches that have had a variety of views, and I want to represent them and that diversity of thought. I want to also be a representative for the young people of the Arkansas Conference because we are a conference full of youth and young adults who are passionate about this church and its future. Young people are often underrepresented at General Conference, and I want help there be a more realistic percentage of young people there compared to the number that are active in our overall church.

#### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

There is understandable division right now within the denomination over human sexuality which will probably continue for a while as we figure out where the church is headed. I want to be a part of helping this denomination that has a wide variety of views stay together or be separated in a way that is still loving and grace-filled. Young people leaving the church also needs to be addressed. Without youth and young adults, the church will struggle to have a future, and we need to find ways for the young people of our denomination to feel heard, valued, and included not just as the future of the church but as the current church. I also believe that the United Methodist Church can do a better job of connecting with, recognizing, and addressing the needs of our communities. During my time with Ozark Mission Project, I stayed in many churches that are thriving, but are in communities which still have so much need that I believe we as a denomination could address.

#### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I am currently a certified candidate for ministry and am preparing to go to seminary in the fall and hope to eventually serve the church as an ordained Elder. I was active within my youth group in Stuttgart, the Southeast District Council on Youth Ministries, and the Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries while in high school. In college I have been a United Methodist Youth Fellowship Scholar, been active with the Hendrix Chapel Band, worked with Ozark Mission Project, been the Chaplain Associate for Worship, and been the Pastoral Intern at Conway First United Methodist Church. Since I was a youth, the church is where I wanted to be, and I want to continue working for the good of the whole church.

# **Cecil G McConnell #20**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

CecilMcConnell@gmail.com  
870-814-4094  
820 Columbia Road 47  
Magnolia, AR 71753

**Membership:** Lay  
**District:** Southwest District  
**Church:** First United Methodist Church of Magnolia

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

As a lifelong United Methodist, I have always taken pride in the fact they we follow the example of Jesus of loving and accepting all people to our churches, regardless of their race, color, gender, or sexual orientation. Our churches should welcome homosexuals as members with open arms, showing Jesus' love and acceptance and grace and as was the example of Rev. John Wesley. Jesus and Holy Scripture is our final authority in the regards to monogamous marriage between one man and one woman. I support the Traditional Plan which passed at GC 2019 and affirms our 2,000 year Christian orthodox tradition of marriage and our 280+ year Methodist tradition since Rev. John Wesley. Regardless of how our GC delegates vote, we should practice openness and open disclosure of our theological views and be candid and truthful with how we intend to vote if elected, as I vow to do and have done in my bio.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, Creating unity across our denomination, and challenging each United Methodist to become all that Christ desires us to be in our ministry.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

Church leadership positions: Chairman of Administrative Board, SPRC committee member, and Nomination Committee member. Active is Sunday school and Adult choir. Have lead Visitation group. Have taught Young adult Sunday school classes and worked with youth group. I am actively involved in FUMC prayer ministry. Have served on the Boy's and Girl's Club of Magnolia for many years. I organized and ran the American Legion Baseball program in Magnolia for many yrs. Currently facilitating a Coach's Outreach Bible study program here in Magnolia. Have been in supervision/leadership at my job with Albemarle and received training and development that will be beneficial in my work of the delegation. I have study Methodism most of my grown life and have a sound understanding who we are as Methodist.

# Mary JoAnn (Annie) Meek #21

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

annie.meek@garrett.edu

501-413-9181

1501 W Juneway Ter, Floor 2

Chicago, IL 60626

**Member:** Lay

**District:** Central

**Church:** Trinity United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

Right now, I feel a Pentecost movement among young people, answering a call to unite across differences in Methodism to reflect the whole body of Christ in our worship, service, and holiness. I grew up Baptist and chose the United Methodist Church in high school after a couple of years of discerning where, if anywhere, I belonged in the church. Mentors in the UMC guided me from Sundays through Saturdays to discern my vocation in ministry. It is my home. The UMC is not only my home but home to the rest of the Methodists I believe we all need to best represent the hands and feet of Jesus as a denomination. I want to serve as a delegate to represent other young leaders who love the UMC and want to see a way forward that includes all of us so that we might be able to faithfully answer our calls in our contexts: making disciples for the transformation of the world.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

Challenge #1 is both our greatest gift and challenge as a culturally and theologically diverse church: our contextual theologies in our connectional church government. I believe we need to reclaim or envision new ways to understand, articulate, live, and nurture the Methodist movement of gracious love and discipleship forward that reflects the Spirit's gifts in both our Wesleyan theology and cultural diversity. Challenge #2 is to embrace our identity as the church, the body of Christ, revitalizing spiritual practice and ministry in sacrificial ways as local congregations and across the connection, not just on Sundays. Our baptismal vows remind us of the commitments we can only answer together by the grace of God: to "accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves... confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races." Challenge #3, especially in the US, is to address our aging membership and leadership. We need to continue to empower new lay and ordained leadership, young and old, in all those who exhibit the gifts and graces and seek to answer God's call on their lives, especially those whose voices are often missing in church leadership.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

My Baptist upbringing, Methodist conversion, and education at Hendrix College in religion, politics, science, and sociology have prepared me well to see the nuance and complexity of the polarized theological situation we're in. I have a heart to build bridges across differences as my own faith and Christian life has been blessed by those in relationship with me who challenged my way of thinking with grace, reciprocity, and peace. I want to listen to others well and do my part to uplift other's voices too. I believe that if a large body can humbly work together, we can exhibit Christ's healing and hospitality and synthesize possibilities of hope and respect forward. As a certified candidate discerning ordained ministry, I feel especially called to work with the marginalized, folks who have been largely excluded from church life and leadership. Throughout college, I served as an ecumenical small-group leader, a UMYF Scholar participant, the Chaplain's Associate for open table communion, and lay-ministries food-pantry and community meal assistant at First UMC in Conway. I've also served as a House Pastor for Project Transformation in the Pacific-Northwest, a tutor and summer camp teacher, and an intern case-manager at Miriam's Kitchen in D.C. serving folks experiencing chronic homelessness in our nation's capital. Currently, I'm a full-time seminary student at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, a United Methodist seminary. I'm married to my best friend, Ryan McGregor, who will be pursuing a graduate degree in Economics this Fall.





# Michelle M Moore #22

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

michelle.moore@arumc.org  
501-324-8048  
800 Daisy Bates Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72202



**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Central

**Church:** Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes ☐ No

### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I love the UMC and have pursued my calling to be a teacher, mentor, encourager and voice for young people in the UMC for the last 18 years. I believe that being a delegate for GC 2020 continues this work to empower our young people and the next leaders of the UMC.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

1. The divisiveness leading up to and continuing after GC 2019.
2. Decline in membership.
3. Valuing the full voice and participation of young people in the UMC.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I have extensive experience on the local, district, conference and jurisdictional levels of the UMC. I served as the AR Conference Council on Youth Ministries coordinator for 9 years. I am on the ARUMC conference staff as the Youth and Young Adult Coordinator (6 years) and the Developer of Clergy Recruitment (10 months). I'm an active participant at both the jurisdictional and national level of the UMC in the area of young people ministries.



# Emily E Moran #23

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

emilyemoran1996@gmail.com  
501-352-5393  
108 Horseshoe Dr  
Sherwood, AR 71720

**Membership:** Lay  
**District:** Central  
**Church:** Sylvan Hills United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**  
☒ Yes ☐ No



### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

It is time for the United Methodist Church to look to the future by including our young people in our decision making. I want to bring in another perspective as not only a lifelong Methodist, but as a youth director. The future of the United Methodist Church should be centered around its mission, our true purpose is to do two things, love our neighbors and bring others to Christ's love; I want to bring that mindset to the delegation from Arkansas. I want to be proud to tell my children and grandchildren that they are 4th and 5th generation Methodists.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

The United Methodist Church is facing the challenge of an aging population; and sustaining membership and interest among young adults. The future of our church depends on having young members. The divide revealed at GC SC 2019 must be discussed and the Methodist Church must find a way to heal the hurt caused by this decision. Finally, changes in the global community and the perception of the United Methodist Church are a crucial topic the UMC must discuss in order to be able to completely fulfill our mission.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I am a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church and have volunteered in many capacities throughout the church and assorted missions including: Ozark Mission Project, Conference events for youth, Arkansas State University Wesley Foundation, as well as being the Youth Director and chair of Education at Sylvan Hills UMC. I am invested in the future of the Methodist Church.

# Gerald D Moses #24

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

gmlrsteam@aol.com  
501-350-2147  
214 barton bethel rd  
Nashville, Ar 71852

**Membership:** Lay  
**District:** Southwest  
**Church:** Nashville First United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**  
☒ Yes    ☐ No



### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

I feel that you should serve the locale congregation request as well as the Annual Conference request when you attend General Conference. You should vote their request and not say one thing then do something else. I have attended Annual Conference as Lay Person for 10 + years

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

As everyone knows the thing that is on everyone's mind is the Way Forward and the Traditional Plan.(2) We are seeing the shrinking congregations everywhere we need to stick to making Disciples who make Disciples.(3) Teaching The Bible in its true Word.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I have been a United Methodist since 1983. I truly believe in and love the Church. I have served on just about every committee there is and held many chairmanships. I served as Lay Leader for 8 years at Mabelvale United Methodist Church. I was a pilgrim on Walk to Emmaus #160 and worked #164.

# Tyler Odell #25

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

t2345jo@gmail.com  
903-701-7771  
141 Joe Bowling Road  
Clinton, AR 72031

**Membership:** Lay

**District:** North East District

**Church:** Clinton United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

As a young person in the United Methodist Church I feel that the younger voice is underrepresented. For this reason, I would like to be a delegate to represent that voice that is not present at the table.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

The first critical challenge I believe is facing the church is reaching out to the Millennial's and Generation Z'ers. The current church is having a harder time reaching out to these younger generations. The second challenge facing the church is the how the church will maintain its open image after the passing of the Traditionalist Plan at the Special General Conference of 2019. The third challenge facing the church is bringing in the people who are unchurched.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I am a UMYF scholar at Hendrix College. I am on the Kairos advisory council for the Grimes unit. Im also a young adult delegate to the Annual Conference.

## Jeff L Quick #26

### 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

scooterjq@yahoo.com  
870-405-6398  
1709 Coachman Drive  
Mountain Home, AR 72653

**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Northeast District

**Church:** First United Methodist Church Mountain Home

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



#### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

The United Methodist Church has made a significant impact on my life. I have spent more than three decades of my life in direct service to our church, and in return have been blessed in ways that I can't begin to explain. Our church is at an historic moment, and my prayer is that my voice, experience, and ability to listen compassionately to others will be qualities that will benefit our denomination during this time. I believe in the Rotarian motto of service above self and humbly offer myself in service to our church and our Lord.

#### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

Making disciples of Jesus Christ, navigating a way forward for our church, and finding ways to be in relevant mission and ministry while offering Wesleyan theology, grace and social justice to the world in ways that moves us beyond our disagreements.

#### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I am the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance Board of Directors President, Mtn. Home Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Vice-President, a lay delegate to Annual Conference, and a Rotarian. Experience includes election to General Conference 1992 & 1996, Chair of the Shared Mission Focus on Young People 1996 – 2000, member of the General Council on Ministries 1996 – 2000, Co-Coordinator for the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, Secretary of the Conference Nominating Committee, member of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, and member of Bishop Wilke's Teen Crisis Task Force. I served as Youth and Young Adult Director at Sequoyah UMC in Fayetteville; FUMC North Little Rock; FUMC Bryan, TX; and FUMC in Friendswood, TX. I'm the CEO of the Food Bank of North Central Arkansas where I work collaboratively with community leaders across nine Arkansas counties to end hunger and poverty. My experiences serving the UMC have allowed me to grow in my faith, my understanding of the global nature of the church, in leadership, and most importantly my relationship with Christ.

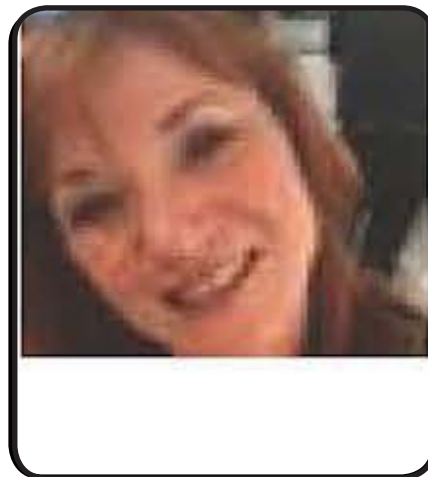
## Carol L Roddy #27

### 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

croddy10113@sbcglobal.net  
501-837-5044  
5419 L Street  
Little Rock, AR 72205

**Membership:** Lay  
**District:** Central  
**Church:** Little Rock First UMC

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**  
☒ Yes   ☐ No



#### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I offer my candidacy as a delegate to General Conference 2020 as a representative of the progressive, mainstream movement within our denomination, bent on maintaining our church and open to responding to the current efforts to split our denomination. I support efforts to establish a United States Conference where we can move forward in unity to reach out to all persons without condemning our brethren in the Central Conference whose mores, traditions and values arise out of a different culture. I believe the vote taken at the General Conference in St. Louis put our denomination in an inquisition of judging worthy children of God as somehow unworthy. This is not who we are. It is comparable to saying persons with blue eyes are not fit to serve as clergy in the United Methodist Church. We must seize this moment to correct this wrong for Methodists to move forward.

#### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

Correcting the action of the 2019 General Conference. Demonstrating our ability to bring the kingdom of God to this earth through helping our neighbors. Becoming servants of Christ who seek social justice in our secular socio-economic systems.

#### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

Current president of the Arkansas Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action.



## Phoebe K Sanders #28

### 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

psanders@episcopalcollegiate.org  
501-658-3149  
3622 Foxcroft Road  
Little Rock, AR 72227

**Membership:** Lay  
**District:** Central District  
**Church:** Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**  
☒ Yes ☐ No



#### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

Since fifth grade, my faith and spiritual life in the United Methodist Church has been a constant in my life, and has been a source of strength, clarity, and purpose for me. Especially during Confirmation in sixth grade, I grew to understand that I can have a personal relationship with God that could be separate from anything related to school, my friends, or even attending church. Being a part of the Pulaski Heights youth group has been one of the biggest contributors to my spiritual and personal growth, and has molded me into the outspoken, adventurous, and compassionate person I am today. Being a delegate will allow me to further discern my call to ministry, and be God's hands and feet in the world.

#### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

One critical challenge facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years is behaving as a unified denomination. In light of the recent Special Session of the General Conference, there will be many churches, individuals, clergy, and families who will leave the church (this would have happened regardless of the decision). So, the next steps the church takes in strengthening and embracing the United Methodist identity are crucial in our reputation as a church, and how we can best display God's love in the world. Stemming from this, two more problems include the wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ United Methodists, and evaluating our priorities as a denomination.

#### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I have served on the Board of Stewards of Pulaski Heights UMC since 2017, am a member of the Pulaski Heights Youth Leadership Team, as well as the Central District Council on Youth Ministries and the Refuge task force of the Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries. I have attended four Ozark Mission Project camps since the sixth grade, and am active in volunteering in the community through Quapaw Quarter United Methodist Church and Camp Aldersgate.

# **Michele M Sills #29**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

michele.sills1@gmail.com  
318-278-2558  
16 Brodie Circle  
Little Rock, AR 72211

**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Central

**Church:** Trinity United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I want to be a Bridge Builder for our church so that we will succeed and grow for the benefit and needed services of future generations. I have always been called to nurture people, and I benefited from some excellent training, and now I ask for the opportunity to use all that I have experienced to help guide our church forward.

I work very hard at listening to others. I try to communicate very sensitively and honestly. Then, after much prayer and research, I form my plan of action and responsibility.

My beloved United Methodist Church has helped me to learn about, and grow many of the most important parts of my life. I want that tradition to continue and to gain strength. God gave me a servant's heart and our church has given me many opportunities to use it! I have always been willing to do whatever it takes. I want to be a part of the solution.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

First, we have to address the heartfelt divisions in our church concerning the membership and leadership roles of our homosexual (LGBTQ) brothers and sisters in Christ, and all the detailed responsibilities that follow any changes. Our congregations have real pains in their chests that have to be healed. This is an opportunity to show compassion, to see unique gifts in ourselves and others, and proclaim that people (all seekers) are the real treasures in our church. Second, to carefully evaluate and use all of our properties for the best ministries and future goals of our church. To manage all of the cost and hardships involved with repurposing, selling and /or maintaining our underserved United Methodist buildings. To make future plans for the designs, purposes, and locations of all our church structures to help us encourage ministry growth and increase membership. By doing so, we can increase diversity in many areas and reach a lot of younger, underserved populations. I have dreams about many ideas...open air, mobile units, tents, walk-ins welcome! Third, life is about changes. Our future depends on us growing and leading in new ways. Technology used for engaging purposes, mobile churches going out to the people, community meals teaching better nutrition and budgeting with the help of our gardens! Dog friendly trails, bike sharing, Art space, on-line choir practice and music lessons for those who can't drive in...saying yes to new ideas. And attract the best new pastors by supporting their innovations.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I have been married for 38 years and raised two children and helped raise two grand girls! My first profession was Speech Therapy followed by a specialty in therapy for the hearing-impaired. I continued my education and taught Theater Classes for children. My favorite position came later in my life. I got to be the Minister of Nurture and Assimilation for a large United Methodist Church, Trinity, in Louisiana. I received training in: "Every Member in Ministry" program; Peacemakers Ministry to resolve conflict in ourselves and our congregations; Kairos and Epiphany Prison Ministry; Worship Team; Red Cross Shelters; Leader of Ministry teams at UMCOR; Sunday School teacher; Chaired Fall Festivals; planned and organized weekly Fellowship Dinners with Programs.



# **Brian T Swain #30**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

bswain@centraltolife.com  
479-442-1828  
64 Saint John Place  
Farmington, AR 72730



**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Northwest

**Church:** Central United Methodist Church-Fayetteville

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I believe I have the experience and knowledge about how the United Methodist Church functions and operates to allow me to be an effective delegate for our conference. I have been a reserve delegate to the 2012, 2016, & 2019 General Conferences. I have been a delegate to the 2012 & 2016 Jurisdictional Conferences. I serve on the Conference Comm. for Finance & Administration and the Committee on Episcopacy. I am also the Executive Director for Central UMC-Fayetteville, the largest UMC in Arkansas and have served there for almost 20 years. Our church is at a critical juncture and I believe my knowledge and leadership skills can be an asset as we sift through the challenging times ahead. Finally, I am committed to the current disciplinary position on marriage and if elected I will work to ensure it is maintained.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

1. In the aftermath of General Conference 2019, our church is in a perilous situation and likely headed to a separation. Navigating that course will be extremely challenging. 2. With the likely departure of members over GC 2019 actions, the aging of Boomers, and changing giving patterns, financial stability will be a challenge from the local church to the conference and denominational levels. We will need persons involved in proactively positioning ourselves so that we don't experience financial ruin. 3. We have been very sidetracked with the debate on human sexuality and have somewhat lost our focus on making disciples for Jesus Christ and we must regain that focus in the years ahead in order to reverse the decline in church participation we have seen over the last few decades.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I am a graduate of the University of Arkansas with a Master of Public Administration degree. Over the years, I have served on approximately 15 teams for the Walk to Emmaus and Face to Face Encounter programs. I was also recently selected to be on the Alumni Board for Arkansas Tech University where I graduated from in 1988. I have been married to my wife, Jovie, for 30 years and we have two adult sons, one of which will be entering a US military academy this fall as a freshman cadet and the other will be entering graduate school to seek a master's degree in public health. Finally, serving as a delegate takes much time and commitment. I promise to do my very best for the Conference and for our great God if elected.

# **Elysa Turner #31**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

elysa.turner@arumc.org  
479-833-3249  
P.O. Box 155  
Greenwood, AR 72936



**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Northwest

**Church:** Greenwood United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I am a life-long student. I enjoy finding out everything I can about whatever I am given to do. I believe I will be a great delegate because I will look at all the facts, ask questions until I understand, and research in any area I need to so that I will be able to make an informed vote. I feel I am a fair- and open-minded person. I am very respectful to others thoughts and feelings but I am also not afraid to voice my thoughts. I feel to be a delegate will be a great learning opportunity to learn the inner workings of United Methodists on a world level.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

I believe trying to keep us United is one of the critical challenges we face. The next one would be we are not making disciples in the United State as we once did. We need to focus on our youth and young adults. Lastly, Science is taking place of faith in the eyes of the young, so we must find better answers for them then what we have. Also, sports are taking the place of church time. We must show our young how important it is to be part of a church family.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I am not a lifelong Methodist, but I choose to be in this faith and still believe it is the best one for me and many. I would love to have the chance to work alongside others United Methodist Lay and Clergy to help our faith be stronger in the world.



## Winston Turner #32

### 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

turnerwinston7@gmail.com  
870-394-6663  
6317 PHILLIPS 350 ROAD  
Poplar Grove, AR 72374

**Membership:** Lay. I am a Lay Member of the Marvell United Methodist church and have been so for the past 4-years. I am also a Certified Lay Servant.

**District:** SOUTHEAST

**Church:** Marvell United Methodist Church



**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

#### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

To learn firsthand about the working of General Conference and to have a voice in the future of the United Methodist Church.

#### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

Teaching, Evangelism, Sexual preference.

#### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

Lay Servant Ministry, Pulpit supply, Prayer, Walking In the Community.



## **Bruce D Vick #33**

### **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

bbvick@cox.net

479-651-7837

3709 Pebble Court

Fort Smith, AR 72903

**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Northwest

**Church:** Fort Smith Faith United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



#### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I have been told by others that one of my spiritual gifts is that of discernment. I feel I can be a delegate who will use this discernment and listening to the guidance of the Holy Spirit to make the best choices in voting for the legislation that will come before the Conference.

#### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

The three critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years is 1. The future of the United Methodist Church in a very divided world. 2. A greater focus of the church on bringing people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. 3. The church standing firm on Christian principles.

#### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I am a life long Methodist and have a great love for the church and for Jesus Christ. I have been active in the church since my childhood and have serve in nearly every capacity that a layperson can hold in the local church. At the district level I have served on numerous committees and currently I am serving as the Northwest District Lay Leader. Previously I served a as the district lay leader for the former Fort Smith District and the West District. At the conference level I have served or am serving as a member of the Conference Nominating Committee ,the Board of Laity, the Annual Conference Planning Committee and other committees.

# **Kenneth M Weatherford #34**

## **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

weatherford.ken@gmail.com

501-850-2030

1608 Robinhood Rd.

Bentonville, AR 72712

**Membership:** Lay

**District:** Northwest

**Church:** First United Methodist Church,  
Downtown Bentonville



**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No

### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I weep for the deep hurt of so many in our church. I long to be a delegate to stand up alongside those whom we have marginalized and pushed out, to give voice to a younger generation, and to push for unity in a church I have loved for so long.

### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

Unity. Inclusion. Giving voice to young people.

### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I have served in leadership as your conference worship leader for 5 years. I have traveled the country, toured the world, spent time walking in the footsteps of Wesley himself. I hope the conference will find in me a humble person willing to serve, willing to listen, and willing to fight for the future of our denomination together.

## **Asa L Whitaker, Jr. #35**

### **2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee**

asawhitaker333@yahoo.com  
870-307-2236  
160 Ottinger St.  
Batesville, AR 72501

**Membership:** Lay  
**District:** Northeast  
**Church:** Batesville FUMC

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



#### **Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:**

I have a passion for ensuring the United Methodist Church continues to be effective in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. We the delegates to GC 2019 made a decision on the issue of homosexuality but our division did not decrease and I believe the division intensified. I feel called to be part of the solution and use the experiences I have had to work toward bringing that about.

#### **What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?**

1. The results of GC 2019 are known. The UMC will be different and I and our critical challenge is to recover from the division created by the decisions made in St. Louis. We must be effective in making Disciples of Jesus Christ.
2. Rise above our differences and regain our focus on making the main thing the main thing

#### **Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

It has been me honor to serve as the past Annual Conference Lay Leader for both the North Arkansas and Arkansas Conferences for a total of 12 years. Additionally I have had the privilege of being a member of the Arkansas Conference Delegation to General Conference in 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2019. It is currently my joy to be responsible for outreach ministries in my local church.

# Jennifer L White #36

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

jennifer.pooh89@gmail.com  
870-674-4475  
307 East 4th St  
Stuttgart, AR 72160



**Membership:** Lay  
**District:** South East District  
**Church:** First United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**  
☒ Yes    ☐ No

### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

If you elect me, I will vow to read every word of the DCA and attend every delegation meeting. I agree with Michelle and Brother David! We need more young people attending, district, annual, jurisdiction and general conferences of the UMC not only as visitors but delegates. Thank you for giving me prayerful consideration.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

1. We must keep the "main thing" That is making disciple of Jesus Christ!
2. John Wesley said; "The world is our parish!" We must continue to grow as a global church!
3. Many youth and children in America have addiction challenges! We must as a denomination start new ministries that help out kids.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

I am 29 years old and love the United Methodist Church, I am a cradle roll Methodist. My major at Ouchita Baptist was youth ministry. I am in the 8th year of leading one of the largest youth group in the state. Every year we have taken more kids to veritas than anyone else. Michelle Moore and Dr David Bush has been encouraging young people to run as a delegate, and I prayed about it and felt it was time for me to serve our annual conference. I have served many times our annual conference as a district delegate. I believe in reaching out as an evangelical with a social conscience. Our youth do missions trips locally and globally. I have been honored to receive the Arkansas Conference Denman Award and this year was honored to receive the Stuttgart Citizen of the year and commendation from the Arkansas House for my work with the youth of Stuttgart.

# Miller Wilbourn #37

## 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominee

millerwilbourn@gmail.com  
501-350-1976  
12 Ridgeview Ct  
Little Rock, AR 72227

**Membership:** Lay  
**District:** Central  
**Church:** Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church

**I have read and accept the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.**

☒ Yes    ☐ No



### Share your reasons for wanting to be a delegate:

While my experience serving as a delegate in the past has often been challenging and even disheartening, I feel that God has called me through the discouraging moments and is urging me to shine my light more brightly than ever. I continue to believe with the passion that first propelled me to serve the UMC by becoming a delegate, and I have developed a clearer vision for how my involvement can help the Church fulfill its mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world. Throughout the past several years I have built upon my knowledge of the polity of our church, invested in relationships with United Methodists across the Connection, and witnessed truly Spirit-filled moments that have signaled to me that there is a way forward to a place where we can all live and love together.

### What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

The first challenge we face and will always face is living into our calling as a community whose primary objective is love. We have failed this calling since our infancy and we will never perfectly embody it, but we must continue to strive to love one another as Christ first loved us. This leads to our next challenge—unity. How may we be unified when we do not all agree—and in fact often disagree sharply—on how we must love our neighbors? This will take holy, empathetic conversation and the wisdom to accept that no one individual or organization holds all or even most of the answers. Creative, grace-filled solutions focused on love rather than judgment are our only way forward. Our last challenge is humility. There are good, reasonable, God-loving people of all perspectives, backgrounds, and identities in our Church and we can no longer fall into the trap of self-righteousness, no matter how strong our convictions.

### Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?

My experience as a delegate to Annual, Jurisdictional, and General Conferences in the past as well as my position as board member of the Connectional Table have been invaluable experiences for coming to understand the structures and political makeup of our Church, and I hope to build on this knowledge for the good of the UMC at future conferences. My experience as a delegate to two Global Young People Convocations and my membership in the Young People's Caucus at the global level of our Church prepare me to dialogue and collaborate with communities that constitute much of the vitality and vigor of our denomination but are often underrepresented outside the local church. I would be honored to continue to serve as a representative for both our conference, my own local church, and the young people of Arkansas in future efforts to transform the Church into the love-filled community it was always meant to be. We must keep striving to live out the greatest commandment.





# Notes



Annual Conference 2019  
Hot Springs, Arkansas

