

## ARUMC General and Jurisdictional Conference Self N

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Please send this completed form, and a photo of yourself as a separate attachment, to [vicki.davis@arumc.org](mailto:vicki.davis@arumc.org) by **April 15, 2015**.

### Membership:

**Clergy** (*Clergy Member in Full Connection - Para. 35, 2012 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, 2012 Book of Discipline. Lay delegates need not be voting members of the Annual Conference to be elected.*)

### District:

Please select your district. Northeast District

### Church:

What is your local church? Cherokee Village United Methodist Church

### Commitment as a Delegate and Christian Conferencing Guidelines:

**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 entire life. Throughout my childhood, as a child of a Navy officer, I was able to be involved in many United Methodist Churches of varying sizes and ethnicities. For many years, I have felt called to be a delegate to General Conference but knew that I would need to be able to commit time for prayers and presence for all that it needs. Through prayerful discernment, I feel that it is time. I embrace who we are as United Methodist. I have the support of my congregation to pursue this calling in the life of our United Methodist way. Being a delegate is another way to serve our connection as we seek to do God's work in the world.

*Please limit to 150 words.*

**What leadership experiences have you had in the church or community that will help you do the work of the delegation?**

I have served the United Methodist church as both laity and clergy. As laity, I served on local church and conference committees, and worked in both children and youth ministries on church staff. As clergy, I have served in four congregations as a pastor. I have also been involved on district and conference committees, and still serve on both levels. I currently am serving as the chair of the Northeast District Leadership Team. I also have been the president of two different Ministerial Alliances, and as treasurer in a third. I am currently the vice president of a civic organization as well. I am accustomed to working within the diversity of the church and the community. As a delegate, I would work within the diversity of the General Conference and seek God's discernment in all matters.

*Please limit to 150 words.*

**Share three (3) areas crucial to The United Methodist Church's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world:**

(1) Evangelism - Often congregations are inward focused, worriing about survival instead of discipleship and transformation. Evangelism is critical to making disciples for the transformation of the world. We must find new ways to reach people and introduce them to the grace of Christ. (2) Outreach/Mission - We must get outside of our walls and fulfill our calling from Christ. We have a world that is plagued by poverty, hunger, loneliness, and more. If we become the church that we are called to be, then we will transform the world and touch lives in ways that fulfill our calling. We must realize that our mission field is beyond the local church. (3) Unity - We have much discussion going on about division and should talk about maintaining unity within our denomination. We must find ways to maintain our integrity, remaining unified. Division hurts people. Unity expresses love.

*Please limit to 150 words.*

**What are three (3) issues emerging from those areas you stated above:**

(1) Unless we begin to share Christ in ways that reach those who have little or no connection to a life of faith, we will continue to see decline in Christianity overall. Evangelism has to change with the missional communities where we are actively engaged. Evangelism focused on grace, love and acceptance of wherever the person is in their life is what we need. (2) Outreach/Mission has fallen by the wayside. Getting outside of our walls and serving Christ by working with those on the fringes empowers the work of God in our communities and the world. It helps people to become more engaged in their communities and with people. (3) We have to find ways to begin to work with others who are different than ourselves. Through the discernment of the General Conference, I believe that we can have Holy Conferencing about unity and love.

*Please limit to 150 words.*