

ARUMC General and Jurisdictional Conference Form

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Please send this completed form, and a photo of yourself as a separate attachment, to 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. Central District

Church:

What is your local church? Lakewood 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.

Please limit to 150 words.

This is a time of transition, revitalization, and reimagining of ministry within the Arkansas Conference and the United Methodist Church. Yet, the primary discussion seems to focus around the various points of division and debate rather than the ways in which the United Methodist Church can spread the gospel. In response to this tension, I would like to be a delegate to support the continued unity of the church, even in the face of disagreement and discussion. The gospel of Jesus Christ (of love, healing, and forgiveness) must be shared and the church can do that more effectively as one body.

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

Please limit to 150 words.

Throughout my time in ministry, both as a lay staff person and as a clergy person, I have been very involved in numerous and different kinds of ministry. In my time in Nashville, Tennessee I was actively involved in English as a Second Language ministry and immigrant outreach. Through my time in seminary I experienced the nature of urban ministry. Since returning to the Arkansas Conference, I have been in leadership within my congregations in leading worship, imagining new ways in which we can reach out to our communities, and in focusing on connecting the church to a younger and changing community.

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

Please limit to 150 words.

1. The church must actively and authentically reach out to new groups within our communities. The church has experienced significant decline over the past several decades. To reverse this trend, we must do the difficult work of changing our primary tools of outreach and go in new directions.
2. Church unity is important and must be strived for. We must acknowledge that we will not agree on all issues and seek meaningful compromise within our church structure to allow unity and diversity within the greater body of the United Methodist Church.
3. The church must confront directly the issues of poverty and social inequality. Throughout scripture, Jesus challenges persons to look at others for their worth as children of God. However, we many times fail to address the issues surrounding poverty and social inequality, instead trying to spend our way out of the issues. The church must be more upfront and direct in addressing these very important issues.

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

Please limit to 150 words.

1. The establishment of a new General, Central, and Jurisdictional conference structure to facilitate church unity and diversity.
2. Supporting churches (financially and pastorally) in emerging communities to make disciples in bold new ways.
3. Becoming advocates for the poor and disenfranchised within our society, particularly within our local congregations and communities.

