

ARUMC General and Jurisdictional Conference Self Nomination Form

Name: Blake Andrew Lasater

Date: 09April2015

Email: blakelasater@gmail.com

Phone Number: 479-426-2547

Address: 8 Merritt Circle City: Bella Vista State: AR Zip Code: 72714

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. Northwest District

Church:

What is your local church? Living Waters UMC

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 believe passionately in the United Methodist Church, and I know as a movement we possess the gifts and graces capable of renewing people's vitality and faith, transforming local communities and world-wide associations, and our Wesleyan heritage is uniquely poised to speak deeply to the 21st Century Mission field. I wish to bring that knowledge and passion to the General Conference to work with others and set in motion not only the revival of our denomination but Christianity in general.

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 am a veteran of the Iraq War having served for ten years as a Navy/Marine Corps Chaplain in a multi-faith, pluralistic environment that taught me the importance of listening, serving, and leading people of different faiths, cultures, and generations. I have served as a new church start pastor building a faith community and reaching people outside the walls of the church. I have worked within the local church to challenge racial, gender, and sexual stereotypes, and bring about real and lasting environments of inclusion.

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:

Finding a new evangelistic energy that unlocks the deep truths of the Bible for a post-modern world of tremendous diversity. Re-discovering John Wesley's passion for moving beyond the confines of the church to share the Gospel of Christ to a generation that is searching for hope and meaning. Embracing our differences so that instead of seeing division we focus on our connectional nature so that our rich theological diversity may speak in the language of each and every person in our communities.

Please limit to 150 words.

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

We must come to realize that division is a failure that surrenders the future to irrelevancy and decline so we can, and we must, and we will find a way through our current polarization that enables the traditional and progressive witnesses of faith to come together for the mission before us -- we can all love alike. Re-discover our passion for helping others find their way to God's love and moving aside all obstacles that hinder this passion. Re-energize our connectional nature to bring out the best in one another and in our churches; each church and every person has a unique voice to share that will strengthen United Methodism.

Please limit to 150 words.