

ARUMC General and Jurisdictional Conference Self N

Name: John P Miles

Date: 4-15-2015

Email: jmiles@fumcjonesboro.org

Phone Number: 870-932-2320

Address: 414 W. Highland **City:** Jonesboor **State:** AR **Zip Code:** 72401



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. Northeast District

Church:

What is your local church? Jonesboro FUMC

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 love the United Methodist Church. I want to see her remain vital, intact, and reaching a diversity of people. I believe we have a message of grace and truth that our society desperately needs. I believe the UMC is uniquely situated to bridge ideological gaps that divide our society. I want to help the church avoid the terrible divisions that have afflicted both mainline denominations and more conservative denominations as well.

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 been a pastor in Arkansas for 32 years. I have served in four growing United Methodist Churches. I have served in rural settings and in large urban settings. I have grown churches with a great deal of diversity in terms of income, class, ideology. I have begun multiple worship services with a diversity of styles. I currently am working in our church to developing satellite churches to reach our community. I have been active in Walk to Emmaus and I have been the spiritual director of two communities in our state. I have been a delegate to two General Conferences and I have attended two more.

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:

We need to stream line our ordination and licensing process.
We need to hold our boards and agencies accountable to our task of making Disciples of Jesus Christ for The Transformation of the World.
We need to maintain the unity of the church in order not to cripple ourselves with the divisions plaguing so many other mainline churches .

Please limit to 150 words.

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

We have several people in our church who are exploring ordination and candidacy. The process is extremely complex confusing and daunting. I would love to see the licensing process simplified and more emphasis put on course of study, on line classes and apprenticeships.
Our boards and agencies need to refocus their attention on our mission of disciple making. In my experience they tend to have their own agendas and not the mission of the whole church at heart.
We need to find some way to live together on the issues around human sexuality. Many of our sister denominations are in steep decline because they could not find a way to bridge their divide. I desperately want to avoid that split in our community. There are some creative plans circulating we need to try to develop one that will work.

Please limit to 150 words.