

ARUMC General and Jurisdictional Conference Self Nomination Form

Name: Deidre "Dede" Roberts

Date: 4/15/15

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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? My Charge Conference membership is First United Methodist Church, Conway

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 would be honored to serve as a delegate to General Conference. I love the United Methodist Church and believe our message of prevenient, justifying and sanctifying grace is the Christian gospel the world needs to hear. I would like to be part of shaping our ministries around that message. I am an orthodox theologian who intentionally seeks the "extreme center" where I believe we can conference about the tensions of our life together and creatively engage in new ways of being the church together. I know we are facing deep challenges of belief and practice, and I remain optimistic for our future. I would like to help define that future.

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 pastored churches of all sizes, served as a district superintendent, helped define the work of a District Mission Strategist and am now creating ways for churches, clergy and laity to take their own next steps toward vitality. I have also chaired the Board of Ordained Ministry and served on other conference committees. All of these places of leadership required deep listening, discernment, organization, team building and effective communication. I believe these experiences have helped me become a creative and responsive leader. Conversations with peers across the denomination have convicted me about challenges we are facing in our connection. However, Arkansas is a leader in addressing many of these issues. I would bring the sum of my experience, skills and networking to the table and be an active and informed member of our delegation.

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:

First of all, the development of discipling ministries is crucial. Members are not necessarily disciples. We must cultivate environments and resources to help people grow as disciples who make disciples. Secondly, critical to our health and growth as a church is the ability to engage in holy conferencing. Shrill arguments between the left and the right do not model or communicate our fundamental message of grace. Finally we need leaders, both lay and clergy, who not only understand the culture but can lead us in offering a relevant message of grace in and to it. I am committed to identifying, equipping and deploying spiritual leaders across the denomination.

Please limit to 150 words.

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

First of all, the need for spiritual revival is real among the people called Methodists. Revival cannot be programmed, but the values and virtues of practicing the means of grace, holding one another accountable in love and praying for revival will help bring renewed spiritual focus to our mission and ministry. Secondly, we need to honor our rich diversity as a worldwide church and admit that we do experience unique cultural contexts in our various places. One of the primary challenges of this General Conference will be to find a way to have a conversation before we make decisions regarding specific disagreements over belief and practice. Finally, I am most interested in identifying and equipping the next generation of leaders. This includes identifying new models of theological education for both clergy and lay leaders, identifying ways to pass the baton of leadership to younger disciples, and blessing new embodiments of Christian communities that can reach new people.

Please limit to 150 words.