

## ARUMC General and Jurisdictional Conference Self Nomination Form

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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:** Central

**Church:** Sylvan Hills 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.*

I entered a United Methodist Church for the first time at the invitation of some good Methodists that my mom met while in line to vote in the 1992 presidential election. These kind people introduced me and my family to a church that would become home. This is the church that taught me to prayer, empowered me to preach, and gave me the courage to serve. I love the UMC and am honored to now serve the church as an ordained elder. I have experienced the power of the local church and believe in its ability to change lives and the world. I also know that what makes these local churches strong is the connectional support and leadership at the jurisdictional and general conference levels. I am confident that God is moving, reviving and transforming our church at all levels and I want to be a part of this movement.

**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.*

I have had the opportunity to explore the work of the church in many different arenas, each one teaching me what it means to lead. As a pastor, I have learned to cast vision and lead. On the Transition Team for Imagine Ministry I learned about the pace and strategy of change. As the secretary of the conference Council on Finance and Administration I have learned about the theological depth of budgets and apportionments. On the Taskforce to Study the Rules of Order and Standing Rules I learned about the complicated relationship between unity and passion. On the District Committee on Ministry I have experienced the beauty and diversity of UM ministry in Arkansas. Most of all, I have learned that serving the church is about being willing to give all of who I am to God, even when it makes me nervous.

**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. **Embrace Our Identity:** The world is in desperate need of a people obsessed with God's grace. This is who we are as United Methodists. What would it mean for our world, our communities, ourselves if the grace of God was what defined us?
2. **Appreciate Our Tradition:** I took a music appreciation course in college and my professor said that we study the greatness of the past so we can listen more attentively for greatness in the future. I believe that this stands true for our UM tradition. We must value our tradition, not so that we get stuck, but so that it will teach us to participate in God's movement in the future.
3. **Be More Childlike:** My son, Joseph, makes friends by simply waving and saying, "Hi". As long as you are breathing, Joseph will be your friend (dogs and spiders included). How can we be more childlike, seeking unity in our common created-ness instead of division in the midst of our brokenness?

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

*Please limit to 150 words.*

1. How can we empower our congregations to claim their United Methodist identity? Our unique connectional structure and grace-filled theology blends together to create a church that has the power to change the world through the grace of God. How do we share this radical message with our communities?
2. How can we move beyond novelty into purposeful innovation in the church? How can we embrace the meaningful traditions and structures of our church while also remaining flexible to the Spirit? This is a conversation to be had on every level of the church.
3. My greatest fear for our church is division. While our Sunday morning pews are filled with those who see beyond division and embrace grace, there are those in the Church who would have us believe that unity is impossible. Our strength as United Methodists lies not in our ability to agree, but our willingness to embrace love and Christian unity when we disagree.