

ARUMC General and Jurisdictional Conference

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Date: 4/15/2015

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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? Pulaski Heights

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.

While many see our current state as a time of fear and chaos, I believe and am excited to think we are in a time that promises opportunity for deep change and renewed spiritual vigor. I believe I understand the Church well enough to help it find a way into its preferred future of proclaiming and living the Gospel in a rapidly changing world and culture. It is time for the general church to move away from "politics" and become focused on disciple making and faith-sharing. This conversation has been occurring within our annual conference and I believe it needs to occur at the denominational level. I believe my voice and experience can aid in defining a way forward so that the church will fulfill Jesus' desire to make disciples.

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?

As a denomination, we are confronted with significant challenges that require serious and thoughtful leaders. I have had the opportunity to observe our church from many different perspectives: local church pastor, District Superintendent, Conference Staff and delegate to the 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. In my current role as Executive Director of Mission and Ministry and Assistant to the Bishop, I am part of conversations with other leaders across the denomination. These vantage points, along with my passion for making disciples and my understanding of how General and Jurisdictional Conferences function, will aid me in serving as a responsible and committed delegate. I will be faithful to the task. I will pray, listen, study, do the homework and make the hard decisions that align with and reflect the Vision and Mission of the United Methodist Church.

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:

- 1) Unity within the church. How are we going to live as a global church when our cultures are so diverse? In the midst of our differences, we must focus on the leading of the Holy Spirit to help us see beyond our differences and bring obedience to the will and hope of God.
- 2) Role of Leaders, especially among our Bishops and District Superintendents by selecting spirit-filled leaders and training them in mission field strategies so that conferences can benefit from servant/leaders who are able to guide conferences and congregations into identifying and serving neighborhoods and local mission fields.
- 3) Alignment of General Conference structures so that we better support churches that are growing in or showing potential for vitality. The general church should enable and strengthen local churches and annual conferences so that they are empowered and free in their ability to make disciples in their neighborhoods and mission fields.

Please limit to 150 words.

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

- 1) A renewed focus on the role of General Conference to bring unity in the midst of diversity and further define the identity of United Methodism in the world.
- 2) Continued refinement of the District Superintendent as District Mission Strategist and the responsibilities and role of a Bishop.
- 3) Proposed changes allowing for "Regional" Conferences and aligning the budget of the general church to leave more resources at the local church level for the purpose of addressing mission field needs.

Please limit to 150 words.