ARUMC General and Jurisdictional Conference Self Nomination Form

Name: Brandon Bates

Date: 4/8/15

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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? St. James 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.
Please limit to 150 words.

As a young adult and a youth minister, I believe that the voices of young adults and youth are underrepresented at General and Jurisdictional Conference. That was further apparent when I observed at General Conference 2012 and was an alternate at Jurisdictional Conference that same year. Fresh and new ideas, willingness to try new things, being missional, and being globally-minded are characteristics of young adults and especially youth. These characteristics parallel much of the church, but more should be done to intertwine the church, these characteristics, and young people. I feel that the message and representation of Christ through the UMC is ideal for young people, and the fact that over half of the world's population is 30 or younger, we have a big calling ahead of us. I want to continue to be part of us answering that call.

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.

Previously: 2012 Jurisdictional Conference reserve delegate, District Youth Coordinator- 6 years, Conference Youth Coordinator- 7 years, Jurisdictional Youth Coordinator- 3 years, Representative to Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative Assembly (sponosored by Board of Discipleship) 2 times, Conference Vision Team- 6 years, Delegate to Annual Conference- 14 years
Currently: Conference Youth Council Resource Adult- 5 years, Conference Youth Ministry Resource Team- 3 years, Mount Eagle Board of Trustees- 3 years, District Delegate to Annual Conference, Youth Minister-16 years

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- Be more globally focused and sensitive and look like our communities throughout the world.
2- Greater understanding of, ministry to, and ministry with young people.
3- Being more missional and less institutional.

What are three (3) issues emerging from those areas you stated above:
Please limit to 150 words.

1- How do we allow for a framework for the UMC to be understood in the context of local culture instead of an American context being the guiding principles of the UMC throughout the world.
2- We are continually neglecting those 30 and younger. We seem apprehensive to take chances to engage with and reach this generation.   If we have no desire to do so, then we should be up front about it. If we do have this desire and call to reach this generation then let us do it well and do it quickly.
3- Many times our focus seems to be on maintaining the institution instead of serving Christ and serving people. There seems to be a need to look the following: how itineracy in the 21st century could look, how apportionments play a factor in local and global ministries, new contexts for creating new ways for people to worship and serve.