

## ARUMC General and Jurisdictional Conference Self Nomination Form

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**Date:** 02/10/2015

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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:

Please select your district. Northwest District

### Church:

What is your local church? Central United Methodist Church-Fayetteville

### 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.*

My heart aches at the dischord in the Christian community and how many unchurched people are not reached over the perceived and often real lack of unity in our church. I want to help reverse this pattern. I was privileged to serve as a reserve delegate to GC 2012 and a Jurisdictional delegate from Arkansas in 2012. This was my first time to serve in either capacity and I learned a great deal from the experience. I have been a UM my entire life having grown up in a small town UMC (Atkins) and now attend and serve on staff at the largest UMC in Arkansas. I value the perspective of both small and large churches as a result. I love our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ and relish the opportunity to serve Him. I am well-educated with a Master of Public Administration degree and would be honored and humbled to serve as your representative.

**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 am the Administrator at Central UMC-Fayetteville where I have served for 15 years. In this role I have learned a great deal about the internal workings of the UMC. Along the way, I had the privilege to serve many years as the District Treasurer for the NW District where I implemented greatly enhanced internal controls and reporting procedures. Most recently, I have had the privilege of serving on the Conference Pension & Insurance Board and providing assistance with the challenges we face particularly in the insurance arena. I previously also served on the Conference Technology Task Force that helped design our current staffing structure in that area. Finally, I have served on 14 Walks to Emmaus including service as Lay Director and a Board member.

**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.*

There are many possible answers to this question, but the three I want to lift up include:

- 1) Attract new young pastors. The average age of UM clergy is approximately 59. Many retirements are looming and we must fill the void that is upon us. This includes attracting the best and brightest into the clergy.
- 2) Become more relevant to young people. Statistics indicate that approximately 75% of young people leave the church after high school. Granted some return later in life, but we must find ways to keep young adults engaged throughout their college journey and subsequent years.
- 3) Increase the use of technology. Technology permeates all areas of our world. The church lags woefully behind in this arena. We are to be in the world and not of the world. This includes leveraging technology to reach and communicate with our parishioners, the nominally churched, and unchurched.

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

*Please limit to 150 words.*

- 1) We must provide a clearer path for clergy through seminary which includes greater scholarship assistance and more lucrative appointments earlier in their careers. Our Arkansas conference is making strides in this area. We must do it across the full connection. Another key element to this is working with seminaries to ensure that clergy are being provided with relevant preparation.
- 2) We must strengthen our Wesley Foundations across America and provide best practices to our churches on how to engage young adults. This is a critical area for the church else we will continue to lose future generations thus weakening the future stability of the church.
- 3) We must provide cost effective paths for churches to offer enhanced communication through technology including: appealing websites, social media connectivity, online giving, live streaming, text communication, Internet campuses and communities, and seeking ways to offer multi-site church experiences.