

ARUMC General and Jurisdictional Conference Se Form

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Date: April 1, 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. Northeast District

Church:

What is your local church? Batesville First

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 believe in the mission of the United Methodist Church with all my heart. I work and pray for its return as the foremost desire of our hearts and minds. The 2012 General Conference clearly demonstrated we are a denomination with flaws, but we have a message of grace to all which sets us apart as special vessels of the good news. My heart aches from the losses we have realized in worship attendance. I am afraid we have focused on ourselves far too much rather than reaching out to the least, the last, and the lost in the communities around us. Legislation came before the 2012 General Conference which was designed to make us more nimble and responsive to the needs of the communities - it failed. We must become more effective in making Disciples of Jesus Christ and to seek new ways to be more effective in ministry to our neighbors.

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 been blessed to serve in a variety of areas in my local church as well as Arkansas Conference: Lay Leader 2003-2012, President of the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders, and member of the General Board of Discipleship. I have been honored to have served as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences for 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012 where I served as head of the delegation in 2004 and 2012. The challenges at the 2016 General Conference are huge. I pray that through the power of the Holy Spirit I will be equipped to debate and help prepare a way forward. My involvement has given me a broad understanding of the needs of the local church, an understanding of the workings of the General and Jurisdictional Conferences and has prepared me to work within the connectional church to continue our focus and emphasis on making Disciples of Jesus Christ.

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. Regain our zeal to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the least, last, and lost starting with our friends and neighbors where we live and serve.
2. Remove the bureaucracy and burden created by the General Church and allow the local church to be more nimble and effective.
3. Develop a process to enable clergy and lay to increase the vitality of the local church and hold both Bishops, and pastors accountable for their effectiveness. Current processes are difficult and practically impossible to remove leaders who clearly violate the Discipline and/or are ineffective leaders in their conference or local church

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

Please limit to 150 words.

Guaranteed appointments for clergy.

How to refocus our attention from "church business" to the "business of the church"

Division within the church continues to be a major issue. Progressives and Conservatives alike are becoming more and more polarized. There could be a vote on the floor regarding unity vs. separation. Regardless this will be a prevailing issue.