

## ARUMC General and Jurisdictional Conference Self

**Name:** Miller Wilbourn

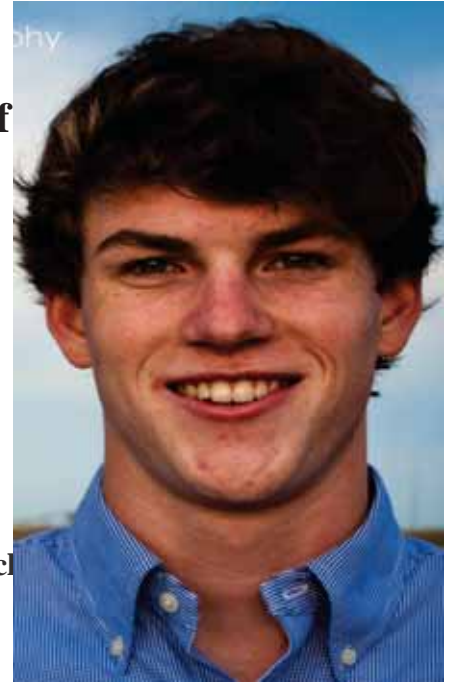
**Date:** 3/10/15

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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. Central District

### Church:

What is your local church? Pulaski Heights 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.*

As a young person in the United Methodist Church, I have been blessed with a unique perspective as to the future of our Church. On the one hand, I have seen the incredible, life-changing, dynamic ways that the Church can move when it is infused with the Spirit. However, I have also seen it become bogged down in institutionalism and tradition and fail in its goal to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Christianity as well as the United Methodist Church are on the decline, at least in North America and Europe, but it is my firm conviction that God is not finished acting and speaking through his Church. It is time for a new infusion of spirit and vision so that the Church can reverse the tides of dereliction, but it must seriously undertake the radical movements that it is called to, and has been called to throughout history. I believe I have been blessed with part of this vision for our next movements and I hope to contribute that at General Conference.

**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.*

My leadership experiences within the Church have mostly related to youth ministry. I have served on the District Council on Youth Ministries and as Chaplain and then President of the Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries. The youth events and ministry I was a part of through these organizations have been a huge part of my development as a person of faith and as a United Methodist and I believe my experience in the area of youth ministry should be present at General Conference. Through my involvement in these leadership roles, I was elected to be a lay delegate to Annual Conference in 2014 and as a voting delegate to the Global Young People Convocation and Legislative Assembly held in the Philippines in the same year. Especially from this last leadership experience, I gained insight into what it means to work with people from totally different backgrounds and beliefs toward a common goal and in a spirit of holy conferencing.

**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.*

One of the most crucial vocations for the United Methodist Church in order to fulfill its mission is reaching young people and those who previously have not been involved in the Church. Young people are the future (and the present) of the Church and its size and scope in coming years will largely depend on how effectively it can reach them. Second, the church's commitment to focusing outward rather than inward will play a huge role in its mission. It must seek followers rather than waiting inside its buildings and it must also commit to service in an even greater degree than it has in the past--because we are the hands and feet of Christ. Last, The United Methodist Church is a global body with members of an unlimited number of backgrounds and beliefs and therefore holy conferencing, open-mindedness, and cross-culturalism will be necessary for it to continue its mission without schism.

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

*Please limit to 150 words.*

The Church's love and acceptance toward people of the LGBTQ community is vital for its pursuit of young people. In order to be relevant to the daughters and sons of the twenty first century (and in order to love others as Christ taught) there can be no perception of discrimination or prejudice in the United Methodist Church. It must also approach this issue with a spirit of holy conferencing in order to avoid division that would be counter-productive to its mission. Second, it is of the utmost importance that the Church continue and ramp up its commitment to fighting malaria and ebola and the countless other diseases and systems that assault God's children. Third, as the Church tackles these issues it must face that problems that will arise from vastly different perspectives of members from around the world. We must find a way to agree to disagree in some capacities but work in the same spirit toward important goals and above all to the goal of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.