

Arkansas Annual Conference Young People's Statement

Statement for Representation of Young People in Arkansas's General Conference Delegation

God calls and equips young people for ministry, as evidenced in Caleb and Joshua's leadership of Israel into the promised land and the Apostle Paul's encouragement of Timothy as a leader of the church,

Young people are vital to the historic, current, and future life of the United Methodist Church,

Young people of the United Methodist Church around the world are being equipped for leadership through ministries such as Division of Ministry with Young People (DMYP), Global Young People's Convocation (GYPC), United Methodist Seminaries, Wesley Foundations, and local church youth and young adult ministries,

Young people ages 12-35 from around the world have banded together across divides of language, nationality, race, gender, political, and social affiliations to make compelling statements of leadership and love of the United Methodist Church to the General Conference,

Young people were grievously underrepresented as delegates in the 2016 and 2019 General Conferences of the United Methodist Church (Only 7% of delegates were ages 35 and younger), and

No church or institution can survive or thrive without young people and new voices investing in its leadership,

We hope that as the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church beings its voting for representation at both General Conference and Jurisdictional level that you will all consider electing young people to our General Conference 2020 delegation and all General Conference delegations to come, for the assurance of young people's voice and full participation in the total life of the church.

Thank you!

Submitted By: Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministry