

Make Disciples
of Jesus Christ
to Transform
the World

 THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GENERAL CONFERENCE 2012 • TAMPA, FL



Biographical Sketches
of
Clergy Candidates for Election
to the
2012 General and Jurisdictional Conferences
of
The United Methodist Church
by
The Wisconsin Annual Conference
June 12-15, 2011

“Live, Give, Love . . . Beyond All Expectation”

A Word About The Election of Delegates to the 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conferences

The 2011 Session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference will be electing delegates to the 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conferences of The United Methodist Church. This is one of the most important responsibilities that we have, since the General Conference, which meets every four years, is the body that determines the direction of our denomination's ministry. It makes decisions about the priorities for the ministries of The United Methodist Church, allocates funds to those ministries, approves changes to The Book of Discipline, and takes actions on the important issues facing our denomination. The General Conference is the only body that can speak for the entire United Methodist Church. Similarly, the Jurisdictional Conference has as its primary responsibility the election of Bishops, who will lead the church into the future.

The Wisconsin Annual Conference finds itself in a unique place as we look forward to General and Jurisdictional Conference in 2012. Our General Conference delegation has been reduced by 40%: from 5 clergy and 5 laity to 3 clergy and 3 laity. Similarly, we will be electing only 3 additional clergy and 3 additional lay delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference. No longer will we enjoy the benefit of creating a broadly inclusive and balanced delegation, but instead we are faced with the challenge and opportunity of assembling a strong, representative team. This is our vision for our 2012 representatives:

We will not be a delegation – we WILL be a team.

We want our team to provide a witness to the entire denomination that we are committed to holy listening, collaborative leadership, creating a healthy future, and building bridges that unite us and tearing down the walls that divide us. We would love to be seen as innovators, visionaries, and leaders committed to reclaiming all that is great about The United Methodist Church.

Key considerations at our next General Conference will be The Call to Action and the other work of our Connectional Table, Apportionments, Guaranteed Appointments for Clergy, our Four Focus Areas, and the future of our General Boards and Agencies.

It is extremely unlikely that there will be any episcopal elections at our Jurisdictional Conference, but that doesn't mean there won't be important work to do. Action will be needed in response to the decisions of the General Conference, restructuring issues, and decisions concerning the merger of two episcopal areas into a one new area.

This booklet contains biographical sketch information which has been submitted by those CLERGY members of the Annual Conference in full connection who have identified themselves as candidates for election as a delegate to the 2012 General and/or Jurisdictional Conferences. Biographical Sketches of Lay Candidates for election will be published in a separate booklet, which will be distributed later in May.

Submission of a biographical sketch is NOT a requirement for election as delegate to General or Jurisdictional Conference. Clergy who are eligible to vote may vote for any Deacon or Elder in Full Connection who is a clergy member of the Wisconsin Annual Conference. Each clergy person eligible for election will be assigned a three-digit identification number, which will be used in the voting process. As we have for the past several General and Jurisdictional Conference elections, we will be using paper forms marked with a Number 2 pencil which will be scanned into a computer to tabulate the ballots. Instructions about the specific voting procedures will be given at the opening plenary session of the Annual Conference in June.

While each representative to General and Jurisdictional Conference brings personal passions and priorities with them, we respectfully ask everyone participating in the election this year – those who have submitted their names as candidates, as well as those who are voting in the election - to covenant with us to make the future of the Wisconsin Annual Conference and the health and faithfulness of The United Methodist Church our top priorities.

Dorothy Radley, Conference Lay Leader, On behalf of the Board of Lay Ministry

Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary

CLERGY CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

Jennifer Arneson

Onalaska United Methodist Church

Elder In Full Connection Since: 2002

What is your experience in the connectional church?

I served in staff ministry at River Falls UMC for eight years and currently have served four years at Onalaska UMC. I have also served as part of a campus ministry task force with the General Board of Discipleship.

How have you participated in the life and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference?

I currently serve on the Wisconsin Conference Board of Higher Education and Student Ministry after chairing that board for eight years. I have chaired the Chippewa/Heartland District Superintendency Committee; and been a member of the appointed Task Force to study issues of Fair Process. I was a lay member to Annual Conference from 1990-96.

Have you participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference, and if so, in what capacity?

No

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

My priorities for The UMC are to be a church of God's people focused on being disciples who know what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ by reaching out and welcoming people, relating them to God's transforming, mercy-filled love, nurturing them in their faith, and sending them out into the world for discipleship. Like God's expansive love, I believe The UMC is big enough to include all people and I long for and stay committed to working for justice within The UMC to include all people in the full life of the church. My priorities as a pastor also include living God's grace and love for all people and planting seeds of transformation within people that God will cause to grow.

Why do you want to be a delegate to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

It is with a true sense of blessing and privilege that I open myself to the process of becoming a delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference. My reasons

for wanting to be a delegate begin with my deep love of God through who I know Jesus the Christ to be and my genuine love of the Church. I believe that my purpose-centered relational leadership is such that I relate well to a wide variety of people and can be present with people in a variety of settings and circumstances. I also believe I demonstrate a balanced steadiness in situations where many points of view are being expressed and advocated and have the ability to engage persons well across the theological spectrum.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?

I will use my experience as a delegate to continue to grow in my knowledge of the depth of the connectional church and to inform my work as a local church pastor in helping my congregation and circuit to better understand and navigate the work of the connectional church.

Amelita Grace G. Cajuat

Salem United Methodist Church

Elder in Full Connection Since: 2009

What is your experience in the connectional church?

I am appointed by the Council of Bishops as a Member of the 2012 Hymnal Revision Committee. I was a member of the Global consultations held in Norway, Congo, and Philippines to design a proposed 2008 Social Creed and presented it at the 2008 General Conference. I have designed Worship for GCORR Cross Racial/Cross Cultural Conference in California, 2011, and GCSRW General Assembly in Massachusetts, and General Conference, 2008. I have also been a song leader for the Troy Annual Conference & Cal-Pac Annual Conference, 2008 and a member of the Global Praise Team. I have been a Study Leader for UMW Regional School of Christian Mission in 2010 and 2011. I have designed education seminars for the Church Center for the UN, 2003 and am the Treasurer of the Asian American Pacific Island Clergywomen.

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How have you participated in the life and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference?

I was Chair of the Mission Motivation Committee 2006-2009 and am currently the Circuit Leader for Circuit #41. I am part of the Worship team for Annual Conference 2007-2012 and song leader 2003-2007. I am a Member of Metro Vision Team and aided the Winnebago/Nicolet Districts SPRC training on Cross-Cultural/Cross Racial Appointments. I have been a leader for "Israel/Palestine" Study at School of Christian Mission, 2008.

Have you participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference, and if so, in what capacity?

I participated in the previous GC as part of the presentation of the 2008 Social Creed during the Pre-General Conference News Briefing in January and the 100th Anniversary of the Social Principles May 2. I also designed and led worship for our GCSRW in 2008.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

My priority is to reveal God's grace for all as a key evangelistic tool. This means finding ways to bring to the Lord's table the voiceless and marginalized, including GLBT, ethnic minorities, women and the poor. Also, to bridge the cultural differences of the global church into one that builds the body of Christ, distinct and unified.

Why do you want to be a delegate to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

The leadership roles and responsibilities I have had in the Philippine Annual Conference and now in the WI Conference inform the identity of the United Methodist Church that I know and uphold. I desire that the resolutions and actions of the General church reflect that of the voices I have heard in the local church, in the Philippines, and the Midwest. I also look forward to working as part of our Wisconsin General Conference Delegation Team.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?

I constantly inform my work with the general agencies with my experience in the local church and I interpret the mission and theology of the global church according to the gifts and individual identity of the

local church. I find that "one size does not fit all." With that in mind, I will continue with that approach and share the decisions made at the GC through preaching, speaking engagements when asked, and interpret our message according to the context, need, and structure of the local church, the community, the conference, and the world.

Scott Carlson

Sun Prairie United Methodist Church

Elder in Full Connection Since: 1994

What is your experience in the connectional church?

It has been a privilege to serve in a variety of settings as a pastor, from an associate pastor, to a lead pastor of large churches, to serving as a solo pastor of a new church start. These experiences have taught me how to work with and develop effective ministry teams.

How have you participated in the life and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference?

I am currently on the Board of Congregation and Circuit Development. I have been active in participating in the Large Church Initiative here in Wisconsin. I have served on the Coulee District Committee on Ordained Ministry. I have also been on a Board for one of our camps and a past member of the Conference Board of Discipleship.

Have you participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference, and if so, in what capacity?

I served as an observer at the 1980 North Central Jurisdictional Conference. Additionally, as a youth I served on the National Youth Ministry Organization and I was on the North Central Jurisdictional Council on Ministries from 1980 – 1988.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

My main priority for The United Methodist Church is to help our church be more effective at helping people connect with God and grow in faith. I want to be a part of a church that is more committed to reaching and welcoming all people. It is my hope to help our church help folks develop a life of faith that helps them get out of bed each day and struggle to make sense of the world.

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Why do you want to be a delegate to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I believe that I can help our church move effectively into the future. I am a team-builder. I am good at listening and helping organizations move into a new future, based upon a vision motivated by God's love.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?

My hope would be to use this experience to inspire people within the church, conference and general church to live faithfully, with joy.

Jeremy Deaner

West Bend: Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church,

Elder in Full Connection Since: 2010

What is your experience in the connectional church?

How have you participated in the life and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference?

Have you participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference, and if so, in what capacity?

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

Why do you want to be a delegate to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist denomination?

What if we strive for healthy, spiritually mature leadership through connection, accountability, and communication?

I believe our most pressing need in The United Methodist Church is to strive toward an answer to this question. To "heal the Connection," as a mentor of mine once said. To believe once again that God really is with us as individuals in relationship, as churches, as communities, as the world. To be joyful, healthy, faithful, and hopeful leaders. To be responsible to God and each other because we are intrinsically connected as the body of Christ.

The connectional church is us. I believe it can heal. I have great hope for The United Methodist Church. I

believe we have a future as disciples of Jesus Christ working to transform the world. I will help give the Wisconsin Annual Conference a witness in the Connection by working as a team with the other delegates from Wisconsin. I desire to gain experience at the General Church level and I will do my best to help connect the Wisconsin Conference and local churches with the wider church. If elected, you will give young clergy a voice and leadership experience. You will give the Wisconsin Conference a delegate who will come back and be a resource for the duration of the four-year term on local church and conference levels.

I already have experience with this. I attended the Quadrennial Training in January 2009, learning how to interpret the Four Areas of Focus and Rethink Church in the Conference. Remember those "What if...?" presentations from two years ago in Appleton? Since then, as a participant in Q Group and Catalyst, I have been involved in striving to develop healthy, spiritually mature leadership, asking more "What if...?" questions and encouraging us to think outside the box. The Quadrennial Training inspired a new generation of active leaders in the Conference. For my part, I led Circuit 32 and currently serve as the co-chair of "Witness and Worship" on the Discipleship Leadership Executive Team for the Wisconsin Conference. With this fresh energy and excitement brewing in the last few years, imagine what sending young clergy to General Conference could do!

I preached at last year's Annual Conference Commissioning worship service about how we are all one in Christ: individuals sent together to equip the body of Christ to build itself up in love. I welcome the opportunity to live the message: to be sent together on a team to represent the needs of Wisconsin at General/Jurisdictional Conference, then to come back to resource and equip, to connect us with the Connection, and work together with you to transform the world. Thank you.

Dan Dick

**Director of Connectional Ministries
Wisconsin Annual Conference**

Elder in Full Connection Since: 1988

What is your experience in the connectional church?

3 1/2 years Director of Christian Education, Indiana; 3 years Licensed Local Pastor, 22 years ordained elder --

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Northern New Jersey Annual Conference/Greater New Jersey Annual Conference; Wisconsin Annual Conference. Worked 14 1/2 years for the General Board of Discipleship, Nashville; 2 years Director of Connectional Ministries, Wisconsin AC

How have you participated in the life and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference?

As Director of Connectional Ministries, I do consultation, training, leadership development, organization and planning with congregations, circuits and the conference staff. I preach and teach in a variety of settings throughout the conference, and am working to strengthen and develop the ministry and mission of the church at all levels.

Have you participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference, and if so, in what capacity?

Delegate to General Conference in 1988 & 1992; staff representative GBOD to General Conference in 1996 & 2000; staff representative to Western Jurisdictional Conference in 2004.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

1) To recapture the missional and evangelical core identity for the 21st century -- helping conferences and congregations become centers where people are trained, supported and equipped to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ committed to the transformation of the world. 2) To engage in faithful stewardship of all the resources we have to be a faithful witness to God and to become the body of Christ for the world.

Why do you want to be a delegate to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I wish to use my experience and influence to help our denomination be more effective and relevant in doing the will of God and the ministry of Jesus the Christ in our congregations and around the world. I want to participate in the decision making of the practices, policies, and processes by which we witness to the love of God and the presence of Christ. I believe we have great potential to heal a broken world and to become a source of justice, mercy and hope.

I want to see us achieve our full potential as a global community of faith, and how we work together to accomplish this work is going to be determined by our General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?

will serve as advocate and interpreter of the work done by our General and/or Jurisdictional Conferences throughout the Wisconsin Annual Conference as we plan and implement program and initiatives during the 2013-2016 quadrennium.

George J. Kafer

Wautoma: Grace United Methodist Church

Elder in Full Connection Since: 2010

What is your experience in the connectional church?

When I was in high school I attended one of the national UMC "Exploration" conferences for youth exploring a calling into ministry. In 2009, I was asked to be one of the representatives from the Wisconsin Annual Conference to the UMC Quadrennial training conference that focused on the UMC's future by discussing the last General Conference initiatives and revitalization of the UMC. In 2010, I was sent from the Wisconsin Annual Conference to the UMC Evangelism Conference for training on how to help Annual Conferences and local churches reach people and make disciples of Jesus.

How have you participated in the life and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference?

The Wisconsin UMC has been a big part of my 29 years of life. I became a Christian at a UMC V.B.S., grew up participating in two UMC's, had my initial calling at a UMC summer camp, and participated in church leadership after confirmation at my home UMC. During Jr. and Sr. High I was a youth lay speaker at lay witness weekends at various Wisconsin UMC's, a counselor at a weeklong UMC camp for 3 years, and director of the camp the last 10 years. I spoke on renewal at the 2009 Annual Conference and a district training event.

I currently serve as the circuit leader of Circuit 27, serve on the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries, serve on the Conference Conflict Transformation Team helping churches deal with conflict in a healthy way, serve as an advisor to the new Epworth League board which seeks to revitalize and support UMC young adult ministry, and recently have been added to the Annual Conference Program and Arraignments team. I am also part of the "Q" group, a gathering of

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Wisconsin Conference young adult clergy who are working to encourage good communication, accountability, and connection in churches and the Wisconsin Annual Conference. As a representative of this group I was invited to a VQIT meeting for input on last year's Annual Conference budget. I also participate in numerous Annual Conference related workshops and retreats each year including Marriage Encounter, which my wife and I have been invited to participate in as a presenting couple.

My local church leadership includes serving during college as Christian Education Director at Marinette UMC and then as a youth leader and intern "Associate Pastor" at First UMC Green Bay. During Seminary I served as a Licensed Local Student Pastor for 3 years at Darien and Sharon UMC's and now as an Ordained Elder I am serving at Grace UMC in Wautoma where I have been a full-time Pastor for the last 4 years.

Have you participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference, and if so, in what capacity?

I watched many of the last General Conference sessions through live streaming video, but I have not yet had the privilege and responsibility of participating in a General or Jurisdictional conference as a delegate.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

For us to have the missional mentality found in the early Church and early Methodist movement. To build upon the "Four Areas of Focus" and make the shifts needed to be effective at our mission in the 21st century, which includes retaining the core values of our faith while using technology and understandings of cultural shifts to connect people with Jesus Christ. We also need to streamline parts of our process to be able to better adapt to ministry needs and focus on our mission in such a way that we check everything against the mission and do whatever it takes to love God, love and serve others, and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Why do you want to be a delegate to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

We are a global church with connectional resources and a Scriptural foundation that values a personal growing faith and living out that faith in the world. I believe God can use these strengths for transformational ministry in the world and I feel called to help, and I can as a delegate who brings a practical, young adult/clergy view and "quadrilateral" thinking

which considers issues in light of Scripture and the modern context. I have a passionate desire to be used by God to help our church keep what is working and bring revitalization as needed so together and as local churches we can effectively carry out our mission and Christ's work in the world.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?

I am not only a learner, but an integrator/practitioner of what I learn, that means since I am involved in various aspects of Annual Conference ministry the learning, resources, and experience I attain will not be "shelved" but likely to enhance conference level ministry in addition to ministry in my local Church.

Jorge Luis Mayorga Solis
District Superintendent

Elder in Full Connection Since: 2001

What is your experience in the connectional church?

I am originally from El Salvador Central America. I came to the United States in 1981, and had the blessing to become an American Citizen in 1988. Presently, I am serving as the District Superintendent for the Metro North/South Districts. I am a graduate from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Entered ministry in the Wisconsin Conference as a Probationary Member in 1998 and was ordained an Elder and became a full member in 2001. I served La Resurreccion UMC in Lake Geneva. I started this congregation as a faith community in 1993 as a part-time Pastor. In 1994, I was appointed a full time Local Pastor to this congregation, and in 1995, with a group of Lay Missioners we started a new congregation in Delavan. And three years later, this congregation started a new Hispanic Ministry in Whitewater.

I have served in the connection in different leadership positions:

- 1997-present National Facilitator for Lay Missioners of the National Hispanic/Latino Plan
- 2004-2008, Board of Directors of the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry
- 2008-present, Board of Directors of The General Board of Global Ministries
- 2000-2006, Vice-chairperson of NCJ Hispanic Caucus & at present I am the Chairperson

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- 2000-present, member of the faculty to The Course of Study in Spanish at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary every summer.
- 2008-present, North Central Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee member.
- Since I became a United Methodist, I have been very involved in Missions locally and globally.

How have you participated in the life and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference?

I am so blessed to participate in the life and ministry of our conference at many levels:

- Since 1993 I have served as a Pastor and Church planter, developing three new churches.
- I have served in different committees and boards: Board of Trustees, Board of Congregational Development, Commission of Religion & Race, Chairperson of the Conference Committee on Hispanic Ministry, Conference Committee on Episcopacy, District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Ethnic local Church Concerns Committee, and different task groups.
- District Superintendent for Nicolet/Winnebago Districts in 2004-2007, and from 2007 to present as District Superintendent for Metro North/South. Dean of the Cabinet for 2008-2010.
- As a DS, I have passion for new church start, congregational revitalization and leadership development. I have the blessing that during my DS time, I have started four new churches.

Have you participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference, and if so, in what capacity?

I was a delegate to General & Jurisdictional Conference in 2004. I was delegate to General & Jurisdictional Conference, and had the honor to lead the Wisconsin Delegation in 2008. Also, I had the blessing to be endorsed by our Conference as an Episcopacy candidate in our jurisdiction.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

That the church continues to be faithful to its call: to make disciples of Jesus Christ, proclaiming the good news of God in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

That the church can find new ways to advocate for people in need of justice, love and understanding, especially immigrants that live in our communities.

That the church develops and supports ministries to nurture children and youth in faith in Christ.

Why do you want to be a delegate to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

Because I love the UMC, and believe I have a good understanding of our connectional system and the needs of our Conference. Therefore, I believe I can represent very well our conference.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist denomination?

I will use my experience to interpret the general & jurisdictional conference decisions to strength our ministry here in Wisconsin.

Stephen J. Polster
Assistant to the Bishop

Elder in Full Connection Since: 1978

What is your experience in the connectional church?

The past 36 years of serving in a wide variety of settings including small multiple-point charges, regional ministry, a medium size congregation, as well as a larger multiple staff setting, and serving on the Cabinet for six years as a district superintendent and seven as the Assistant to the Bishop, have provided me many opportunities for service, learning, personal development, and growth.

How have you participated in the life and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference?

I have years of leadership experience in the Annual Conference including:

- Currently Advisory member of the Council on Finance and Administration & Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance and Equitable Compensation
- Past Member of Board of Directors and Secretary for the United Methodist Foundation
- Served as Member of Conference Episcopacy Committee and Past Chair of the Episcopal Residence Committee
- Past Service as an endorsed chaplain in the U.S. Air Force Reserve
- Many Conference committees, task groups, and projects

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Have you participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference, and if so, in what capacity?

Clergy member of the 2000 and 2004 Jurisdictional Conference delegation, and 2008 General Conference Delegation. Chairperson of the North Central Jurisdictional Conference Journal Committee (2000) and Member of Jurisdictional Conference Presiding Officers Committee (2004 and 2008)

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

- Equipping clergy and lay leaders for the work of making new disciples and growing established disciples in and through the ministry of the local church.
- New faith community development.
- Extending the love, compassion and redeeming power of Jesus Christ into the world.

Why do you want to be a delegate to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

If elected to represent Wisconsin, I will seek to center the work of the United Methodist Church on creative and innovative approaches to ministry and new faith development in the context of existing and new faith communities. And, to keep us moving forward in living out our faith in ways that invite everyone to engage in learning, sharing, and growing together in faith.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?

Often the work of the Church beyond our own Annual Conference seems far removed from the reality of every day living of disciples in the local church and faith communities. Yet, the decisions made at the General and Jurisdictional Conferences have great impact in our Annual Conference, Circuits, and congregations. My goal is to offer leadership, support, and a link to efforts designed to build an environment turning our United Methodist movement from focus on decline and scarcity to possibility of growth and plenty at all levels of the Church.

Dawn Jeffers Ramstad

Beloit: River of Life United Methodist Church

Deacon in Full Connection Since: 2001

What is your experience in the connectional church?

I am a life-long United Methodist. I was an active lay member in the Minnesota ACS from high school until I learned of diaconal ministry in 1988 and began to pursue candidacy for that lay order. There, I was active at the conference level in family ministries. With my husband's work taking us to California in 1993, I received my M.Div and M.A. from Pacific School of Religion. There I was active at the conference level in student ministries and served at Wesley Foundation: UC Berkeley. While I was diaconal candidate in 1996 the order of deacon was established, and with the regulations of the transition was ordained deacon in 2001. Also in 2001, John and I felt the call to return to minister in the Midwest and that process led us to Wisconsin. Like many who lived the diaconal/deacon transition I am deeply concerned about the practical implications of our current ministry study.

How have you participated in the life and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference?

Since transferring my membership to Wisconsin in 2002, I have served ad hoc committees the first few years, as a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and as chair of the Order of Deacons. I currently co-lead the Inquiring Candidates Retreat and the Provisional Residency program. I have served as Interim Director of Course of Study at Garrett-Evangelical and as an instructor in the COS at Perkins School of Theology. I am active in my circuit ministry.

Have you participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference, and if so, in what capacity?

In being faithful to my growing family and my call to doctoral studies, this is the first General Conference that I have been in a position to offer myself as a delegate.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

I am always concerned about the health of our local congregations and the role of the denomination in forming and sustaining the leaders who pastor and deacon those churches. After attending the general church Chairs of the Orders meeting in January 2011, I

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am deeply concerned about the implications of the current ministry study in sustaining quality pastoral leadership.

Why do you want to be a delegate to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

As the Chair of the Order of Deacons, I want to serve in this capacity now because of my training in clergy formation and effectiveness as a part of my specialization in Christian formation. My call to ministry lies at the line between deacon and elder, but I have stayed on the deacon side so I could focus on the work of Christian formation. As one who loves the local church, I believe General Conference must support local ministry. As one who educates elders and local pastors as a part of her ministry, I have a strong interest in what is best for my students in their practice of ministry. As the wife, mother, daughter and sister of active United Methodists, I have a deep concern for our denominations support of their formation and ministries. My desire in being a delegate is to serve the needs of the whole church.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist denomination?

I have been blessed in every endeavor I have taken on for the good of Christ's church in ways beyond my imagination. I hope to be a blessing to the church serving as a delegate just as I hope I bless the church working with our candidates for ordained ministry. I will use this experience as another means of furthering Christ's commission to make disciples in whatever way I can.

Samuel (Sam) J. Royappa
District Superintendent

Elder in Full Connection Since:

1986 Full Member of the Methodist Church in India (former central conference)

2000 Transferred to the United Methodist Church (Wisconsin Annual Conference)

What is your experience in the connectional church?

- 2004 - 2008 General Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns
- 2008 – 2012 General Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns

- 2008 – 2012 Church System Task Force of GBHEM & GBPHB

How have you participated in the life and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference?

- 2004 - 2007 Board of Ordained Ministry
- 2005 – 2007 Chair of Elders
- 2006 – 2008 Secretary of Asian Caucus
- 2005 & 2010 Leader/Teacher at School of Christian Mission

Have you participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference, and if so, in what capacity?

- 2008 Delegate to General and Jurisdictional conferences

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

They include: (1) Receiving and Giving spiritual direction & formation based on the Wesleyan “Means of Grace”; (2) Resourcing, strengthening and revitalizing local congregations; (3) Being passionate about doing the ministry of mission, evangelism, and outreach by empowering the potential laity for effective ministry in and through local churches, a ministry-model of John Wesley; (4) Encouraging and equipping clergy and congregations to emerge as multi-generational & multi-cultural/racial congregations, based on the baptismal vows; (5) Reinforcing the five-fold membership or discipleship vows or commitment at all levels of the United Methodist Movement – Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service & Witness.

Why do you want to be a delegate to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

They include: (1) Active participation in the process of amending the Book of Discipline and the Book of Resolutions and supporting the legislations and Resolutions that would look like “Rethink” church and “doing church” creatively and differently in the post-modern period; (2) Promoting Christian unity at all levels by celebrating all our gifts and graces, ministries, opportunities, strengths, and dedicated leadership of both clergy and laity; (3) Advocating for health and growth of clergy, circuits and congregations; (4) Listening to and learning from people of the global church about the “Journey of a Connectional People” and leading both clergy and

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congregations for becoming a beloved community – global in scope and local in thrust. (5) Making use of this opportunity to interpret the values of our connectional system and global movement, especially at the local church level.

Dan Schwerin

Waukesha: First United Methodist Church

Elder in Full Connection Since: 1991.

What is your experience in the connectional church?

I served on the general conference connectional ministry funding patterns task force from 2005-2008. I was the district superintendent of the metro south district from 2002-2004, and for the metro region from 2004-2007. I have served on the north central jurisdictional urban ministry network since 2004.

How have you participated in the life and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference?

I grew up in the UMC in Wisconsin, serving as a pastor here since 1990. During that time, I served in rural, suburban, and urban settings, starting a new church, and turning around existing churches. I served on the Shalom Zone board, and currently serve on the Conference Response team, the formation tending board, the Catalyst team, and as circuit leader.

Have you participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference, and if so, in what capacity?

I went as a visitor to the General Conference of 2004, and the Jurisdictional Conference of 2004.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

1. Deepen life-giving faith formation for every generation in our church.
2. Align our systemic practices with our values, especially around economics and inclusivity.
3. Strengthen and equip effective local church worship, service, and mission.

Why do you want to be a delegate to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I can be an effective advocate for the people of the UMC in Wisconsin. My work has been innovative, team-driven, and justice-oriented. I am passionate about reflecting theologically on our practice to

increase our faithfulness. I have a history of effectiveness related to being able to adapt the team I am on to faithfully impact our context.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist denomination?

I am blessed to serve with a great team in Waukesha. I would bring this area of service to our teams for study and service opportunities. I would bring this ministry experience back to my circuit in Wisconsin, and to the jurisdictional urban network. Thank you for your consideration.

Amanda Stein

Madison: Trinity United Methodist Church

Elder in Full Connection Since: 2004

What is your experience in the connectional church?

I love being United Methodist and treasure our connectional heritage. As a child I attended a UM church with my family and camped at Whispering Pines; for two years I attended Hamline University; I went to Wesley Seminary for graduate school and was asked to return as a fellow with the Lewis Center for Church Leadership. Now I serve a UM Church and join with other United Methodists for mission/ministry at the Circuit, Conference and General Church levels—feeling pride as relatives of a large, extended family of faith. I would be honored to expand and deepen those relationships as a delegate to General/Jurisdictional Conferences.

How have you participated in the life and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference?

My participation in the life and ministry in the WI AC this quadrennium has been: Jurisdictional Delegate, Secretary-Episcopacy Committee, Co-leader Circuit Council 47, MFSA convener, Sexuality Task Force, Strategic Planning, Camp Director;

2004-2008: Chair-Board of Church & Society, Secretary-Conf. Committee on Hispanic Ministries, Conflict Transformation Team, Camp Director, Mentor, Missions Interpreter, Board of WI Council of Churches, Int'l delegation leader

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Have you participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference, and if so, in what capacity?

In 2008 I was elected a Jurisdictional Delegate and attended General Conference as an observer and second alternate. I also observed in Pittsburgh-2004.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

My priority for the UMC is to show God's transformative love to the world through healthy relationships and faith communities. As inheritors of the strangely-warmed heart we can do this by deepening our commitment and broadening our embrace. I desire a Church that is honest, full of integrity, and includes all persons.

Why do you want to be a delegate to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I want to be a delegate because I am passionate about Christ's Church and its ability to change and better peoples' lives. I love engaging others in dialogue-- like what happens at GG & JC-- sharing ideas & resources, so we can be a more loving and compassionate people. Having lived in four countries outside of the US and four major metropolitan areas outside of WI, I feel I have the cultural-sensitivity to listen and learn from fellow Christians from different backgrounds and simultaneously offer to them a voice of Wisconsin United Methodists.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?

As a delegate I commit myself to bringing the dedicated and generous spirit of WI to the General Church. As a Spanish speaker and student in French I look forward to speaking with our UM family of the world-- glean from their wisdom and return to enrich our Conference with these experiences. I would love to use social media (blog, Twitter, Facebook) while at GC and link it to the Conference website- allowing anyone to learn firsthand what's happening and expand our connectionalism!

Deborah Thompson
Mission Coordinator
Wisconsin Annual Conference

Elder in Full Connection Since:1998

What is your experience in the connectional church?

I was brought up in the Central Jurisdictional Conference of the Methodist Church so the connectional church has been important to me all of my life. I have been part of various conferences as child and a young adult, primarily in the Northeast and in Mississippi and Alabama.

How have you participated in the life and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference?

I transferred to Wisconsin from the Detroit Annual Conference sixteen years ago while living in the North Georgia Conference. Since then, I have been in the Wisconsin Annual Conference serving as a pastor in six churches, and participating and chairing various boards, agencies and commissions, such as Board of Church and Society, Board of Congregational Development, Parish Development, Commission on Religion and Race, and others.

Have you participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference, and if so, in what capacity (delegate, page, observer, etc)

My first experience at a Jurisdictional Conference was in Sioux Falls, South Dakota when Bishop Edsel Albert Ammons was elected to the Episcopacy in 1976. Since that time, I have served as a page and an observer at both General and Jurisdictional conferences.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

My priorities for the United Methodist Church is to develop faith communities actively engaged with youth and young adults, while participating in the life of the community where they are serving nationally and internationally. (NIV) Micah 6:8 "The Lord has shown you what is good, o people, and what does he require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

Why do you want to be a delegate to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I want to go to General and Jurisdictional Conference because I am still inspired by and I believe in the

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mission of the United Methodist Church “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”. I have faith that we can grow in disciples as long as we continue to work and pray together, while respecting and honoring our diversity.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist denomination?

After attending the General Conference, I will share with churches in Wisconsin Annual Conference all that I can about General and Jurisdictional Conference, and lift up our priorities and how we are connected.

Carrie Kreps Wegenast

East Troy: St. James United Methodist Church

Elder in Full Connection Since: 2010

What is your experience in the connectional church?

I grew up in the West Ohio Conference, attended a UM university in Ohio, received General Board of Higher Education scholarship money, and ended up at Garrett-Evangelical after hearing God’s call at a UM Camp. I think our connection is one of the best things we have going for us as United Methodists. As a child my family would stop at UM churches all over the country on vacation. It was an assuring feeling to know that while I wasn’t at home I was home through the connection.

How have you participated in the life and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference?

Since I accepted my first appointment in the Wisconsin Conference in 2006, I have appreciated the opportunities offered to me. My husband, Markus Wegenast, and I have traveled with WI VIM to Biloxi and been founding members of the Q Group (encouraging you to ask, ‘What if...’ again at this Annual Conference). I serve on the Council of Finance and Administration as secretary and have been a member of task forces for Immigration and Apportionments. I’ve been a camp counselor at Pine Lake for Sneeches Camp, taken confirmation youth to UM Children’s Services in Milwaukee, and taught a session on ‘how to teach the Bible’ for the Youth Ministry Institute. This Annual Conference you will see me in the role of Petition Committee chairperson.

Have you participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference, and if so, in what capacity?

I have not previously attended a General or Jurisdictional Conference but in 2008 I often watched the action on the live video web stream.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

Our priorities as a church need to be healthy relationships, a renewed sense of unity, and an intentional focus on being the Body of Christ in our communities. When we are a true connection, through the sharing of our resources and engaging in healthy relationships, we will be more successful in being the Body of Christ.

Why do you want to be a delegate to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

The UMC is the church I love and am committed to so I am uncomfortable when our discord influences our ability to be in relationship. I will go, not with my own agenda, but to work as a team with the others elected. I bring energy, enthusiasm, passion for living as the Body, and great hope for the present potential and future promise of the Kingdom of God.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist denomination?

I intend to push the group of delegates to create an action plan for our return to Wisconsin after the Conference. We will be sent on your behalf and I would like to see us come back ready to share the information and the experience with you. This may include town hall meetings, a daily blog from General Conference, and certainly a report at the 2012 Annual Conference. I will also use the experience personally as I discern my role in leading the church, conference and global Church forward.

Forrest R. Wells

Janesville: Cargill United Methodist Church

Elder in Full Connection Since: 1981

What is your experience in the connectional church?

I have been involved in many aspects of the connectional church including: Current Executive Committee Member of the World Methodist Council, Participant and Leader with the World Institute of

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Evangelism for the United Methodist Church, and participant in a national consultation on youth ministry. I have been privileged to develop connectional relationships with lay and clergy leadership throughout our jurisdiction and the general church which has broadened my perspective and participation in the entire United Methodist Church.

How have you participated in the life and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference?

Commitment to the Wisconsin Annual Conference has been significant since my entrance into ministry. I have served on almost all the conference boards and agencies including the Board of Congregation and Circuit Development, Board of Global Ministries, Board of Discipleship, Conference Personnel Committee and the Nominations Committee to name a few. In addition I have served as Conference Youth Coordinator, Conference Junior High Coordinator, Chairperson of Youth Convo, and have directed over 27 conference camps. I have also led several contextual education experiences to various Middle East locations.

Have you participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference, and if so, in what capacity?

I was a part of the 2004 and 2008 Jurisdictional Delegation as an alternate. In addition I have observed and served as a marshal at General Conference.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

I am tired of the divisive nature of our church in our day. At the minimum I would pray for a temperament that exudes Wesley's admonition, "We may not all think alike, but can we not all love alike?" For years I have advocated for a radical re-formation of our denomination before the burden of bureaucracy mixed with steady decline causes the UMC to implode. I dream that the people of the United Methodist Church would become consumed by passionate love for God in Jesus Christ and driven to outreaching love and connection with people who do not know of the wonderful grace and liberty that God can bring

Why do you want to be a delegate to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I seek to be a bridge-builder in a time of division; a reformer in the midst of an increasingly legalistic system. I am saddened when debates seemed to be more about winning and losing than spiritual

discernment; more about maintenance than mission; more about institutional maintenance than outreach; more about power and control than serving. I want to be a delegate in order to be a voice who consistently and gracefully points toward the mission of outreach to the least, the last and the lost.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?

I will use the experience as a delegate to continue to teach, dialogue and dream with people from all walks of church life and beyond in order to bring greater understanding and partnership for our task together as United Methodist followers of Jesus Christ.

Wendell Williams
Mauston United Methodist Church

Elder in Full Connection Since: 2005

What is your experience in the connectional church?

Growing up in the Methodist Church I experienced the connectional part of our church through going to church camps and attending district activities at other churches. As an adult I have been active with Wisconsin Volunteers in Missions, Lay Speaking Ministries, and the Walk to Emmaus.

How have you participated in the life and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference?

I was the State Coordinator for WISVIM for four years and have been on the conference committee for many years. I have taught both the Basic and Advanced Lay Speaking Ministries classes and have been both a Spiritual Director and Assistant Spiritual Director on the Walk to Emmaus. I'm also currently on the Conference task for on Human Sexuality.

Have you participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference, and if so, in what capacity?

I have not participated on a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

As a pastor I have been called to equip disciples of Jesus Christ for the work God calls them to do for the transformation of the world. As people come to know Jesus

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as their Lord and Savior, the Church needs to walk with them as they put their faith and love into action. The process of sanctification is a life long process of spiritual growth and we need to be about helping disciples grow in faith and service.

Why do you want to be a delegate to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

When the Holy Spirit nudges us we need to respond. The United Methodist Church can and is a powerful instrument of God's Word and work in the world. We need spiritual servant leaders who can help lead our people in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world and then helping put feet to their faith.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?

We are a connectional church with both a local and worldwide impact. As a delegate, I would be able to help the local church, the Wisconsin Annual Conference, the North Central Jurisdiction and the world wide United Methodist Church be connected as I shared the work and experiences of the General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

Steven E. Zekoff
Conference Benefits Officer
Wisconsin Annual Conference

Elder in Full Connection Since: 1978

What is your experience in the connectional church?

Assistant General Secretary, General Council on Finance and Administration, 1992 - 2005. Association of United Methodist Conference Benefits Officers, 2010 to present. Trustee, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and Chair, Alumni/ae Association Board, 1983 - 1989. NCJ Camp Executives, 1979-1989. World Methodist Council, 2001.

How have you participated in the life and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference?

Conference staff (1979 - 1989; 2009 - present), Trustee's president (2007-2010), Statistician (2004-2007), Rules Committee Chair (1996-2004), Petitions Committee Chair (1992 and 1996). Member Council on Finance and Administration (1997-2005), Board of Higher Ed and Student Ministry (1992-1996) and Board of Discipleship (1980s)

Have you participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference, and if so, in what capacity?

Delegate, 2004 and 2008 Jurisdictional Conferences. General Conference staff: 1996 (GCFA), 2000 (Business Manager's Office), 2004 (GCFA), 2008 (Secretary's Office). Floor Manager, 2000 North Central Jurisdictional Conference

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

Our church has a proud history of connecting the Word and our words with action in our World and denomination. As we look towards the future, it is important that we retain that engaged approach to a life of faith. It is crucial that we seek to apply scripture, tradition, reason and experience to our understanding of what God is calling United Methodists to be.

Why do you want to be a delegate to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

As membership in the U.S. has declined over the past couple decades, the number of United Methodists in the Central Conferences (especially those in Africa and the Philippines) has grown markedly. The subsequent reduction in the number of delegates that Wisconsin will send to both the General and Jurisdictional conferences will make it important to have members of the delegation with experience and relationships at both the general and jurisdictional church level. I am offering my knowledge and experience as a third-time member of the delegation. There will be crucial decision making needed around financial, pension and benefits, and structural issues, all of which I have been directly engaged with over the past several decades.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist denomination?

My service to the church will continue to be as an active participant and leader at the local church, conference and denominational level. As decisions are made at the General and Jurisdictional conferences, as a member of the delegation I would share the responsibility to interpret those decisions and commitments to other United Methodists in Wisconsin.

