

*Biographical Sketches*  
*of*  
*Lay 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”*

**Make Disciples**  
*of* **Jesus Christ**  
*to* **Transform**  
*the* **World**

 THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
GENERAL CONFERENCE 2012 • TAMPA, FL



# LAY CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

---

---

## **Peter Bendler**

**Fall River United Methodist Church**

**Professing Member Since: 2008**

**What is your experience in the connectional church?**

I have only had experience in the local church and the Annual Conference, but that is one of the reasons I would like to go to General or Jurisdictional Conference.

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

I have been a youth delegate for the past two years at the Wisconsin Annual Conference and also helped with the AV group last year.

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

I have never participated in a previous General or Jurisdictional Conference.

**What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?**

My priorities for The United Methodist Church involve training for clergy and lay leaders, the modernization of current outdated guidelines, and fixing the financial issues that churches are currently facing.

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

I would like to be delegated to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference because I feel that the possible things that I could learn by attending these conferences could greatly help my church, the Wisconsin United Methodist Churches, and all United Methodist Churches around the world.

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

My local church is facing some difficulties and I'm sure that whatever I learn will be able to be transferred into something to help. Whether it is something to engage the youth of our churches or different methods of worship our churches could use them to help spread God's word.

---

## **Gail Burgess**

**Bristol United Methodist Church**

**Professing Member Since: 1965**

**What is your experience in the connectional church?**

I am currently serving as Bristol's Lay Member to Annual Conference and sitting on all the committees that position requires. In addition I am the recording secretary of the Church Council, a member of the Missions and Outreach Committee and the president of our local UMW. I play in the Chime Choir and participate in our Breakfast Club/Bible Study. I am a Lay Speaker and help teach the circuit confirmation class.

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

I have been on the Conference Board of Global Ministries for seven years and am currently its chair. I was the Metro South UMW District President and served on the Wisconsin Conference UMW Executive Committee. I have participated in the Conference Prime Timers Retreat for several years, Faith Alive and recently returned from a VIM Trip to Alabama.

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

No, I have not.

**What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?**

We need to find a way in the United Methodist Church to work through our disagreements without tearing ourselves apart. We can't ignore the hurts that have been caused through our conflicts, yet we need to find reconciliation that will allow us to move on and utilize the many wonderful ministries available to us as we reach out in our communities and the world. Our ultimate goal would be to serve others and strengthen the church body through commitment and growth.

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

I believe I would be a good delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference. I have been a United Methodist all my life and I believe in the core values of

*Biographical Sketches*  
*Clergy Candidates for General and Jurisdictional Delegation*

---

our church. I have the time to study the issues and look at all sides now that I am retired. I enjoy working with people and would be able to collaborate, compromise and encourage others when needed. I have no one purpose, but rather hope to be able to learn and absorb all that I can. I enjoy serving as a Lay Member to our Annual Conference and would like to have the opportunity to represent the Wisconsin Conference.

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

I will share information as a Lay Speaker and through written articles when asked. I will incorporate what I have seen and learned into my work on the Board of Global Ministries and within my church and circuit.

---

**Lisa King**

**Fall River United Methodist Church**

**Professing Member Since: 1979**

**What is your experience in the connectional church?**

I have been a member of the General Council on Finance & Administration (GCFA) & the GCFA Audit & Review Committee from 2004 to the present. From 2004 to 2008, I was a member of the GCFA Financial Services and Nominations Committees, & from 2008 to the present, I have chaired the GCFA Official Forms & Records Committee & been a member of the GCFA Property Services Committee.

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

I have been the Wisconsin Conference Treasurer since December 2000. As such, I have been intimately & constantly involved in overseeing the financial and administrative aspects of the life & ministry of the Wisconsin Conference for the last decade.

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

I was a lay delegate to the 2008 General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

**What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?**

My priorities include stewardship of financial & other resources (including developing sustainable benefit

programs for clergy), strengthening clergy & lay leadership, & the restructuring of the UMC to reflect the transitional time we now face, including the shift to a truly global denomination from one that is U.S.-centric.

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

I want to be a delegate to share & respond to the various concerns & knowledge that I have gained both in my Conference staff position & through my work on GCFA & with other annual conference treasurers. Specifically for this General Conference session, that includes being able to provide an understanding of the current & proposed changes to the denominational pension plans, as well as an understanding of the denominational budget & financial concerns.

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

I believe that my experience & knowledge will allow me to make well-informed decisions on behalf of local churches, the Wisconsin Conference, & the entire UMC as a delegate to the General & Jurisdictional Conferences. Further, my role as a Conference staff member will allow me to share my experience as a delegate throughout the Wisconsin Conference.

---

**Erika Krueger**

**LaCrosse: Wesley United Methodist Church,**

**Professing Member Since: 2000**

**What is your experience in the connectional church?**

My experience with the connectional church involves participating in and organizing youth events and ministries at the local, district, conference, and jurisdictional level. I have also had the opportunity to attend a few global events for United Methodist college students including Exploration and Student Forum.

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

Throughout middle school and high school I served on the Conference Council of Youth Ministries; serving as President my senior year. I served on the conference Implications Committee during Annual Conference. I have also attended Annual Conference as a delegate since 2001.

*Biographical Sketches*  
*Clergy Candidates for General and Jurisdictional Delegation*

---

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

I had the great privilege to serve as a delegate to the 2008 Jurisdictional Conference.

**What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?**

My priority for the church is love. I am about finding ways for the church and its members to love God and to love our neighbors.

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

I would like to serve as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conference because I think that church needs to be represented by its young people and listen to them. Even though I am young, I have been a strong, participating member of this church and this conference for over ten years already and would like the opportunity to share my experiences and thoughts for the good of the church.

**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 would serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and the United Methodist by attentively listening to my fellow church members and my heart, voting as congruently as possible, and reporting back to the conference and my local church -- -- while praying constantly along the way! I believe in open communication and honest dialogue and would enthusiastically pursue both to ensure that our voice is heard.

---

**John Lawson**

**Pewaukee: Gethsemane United Methodist Church**

**Professing Member Since:** 1970

**What is your experience in the connectional church?**

North Central Jurisdiction Committee on Elections (Member 2008)

United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries - Older Adult Ministries Section Chair, Board of Directors. South Indiana Conference - Conference Council on Youth Ministries, District Lay Leader, Board of Church and Society (Vice Chair), Conference Council on Ministries (Vice Chair),

Conference Personnel Committee, Certified Lay Speaker.

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

Certified Lay Speaker - Metro North District, 2008 to Present

Conference Personnel Committee, 2009 to Present

Health and Welfare Committee, 2008 to Present

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

General Conference Delegate 2000 (reserve), 2004, 2008 (Elected in South Indiana)

Jurisdictional Conference Delegate 1996 (reserve), 2000, 2004, 2008 (Elected In South Indiana)

**What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?**

1) Growth in numbers and faithful discipleship, 2) Restructuring the church to provide for essential connectional ministries while recognizing the fiscal realities of our current economy, 3) Providing support to continue the strong growth of the Church outside the United States, particularly in Africa (A passion that has been a Lawson family tradition), and 4) Helping the church reclaim its vital health and welfare ministries (Wisconsin has been a leader in this area)

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

I have a passion for the Church, nurtured by faithful parents (Bishop David and Martha Lawson), wonderful Church camping experiences, and strong mentors in health and welfare ministries. I bring experience in both urban and rural settings, and in both Anglo and African American settings (Mary Scott Nursing Center, in Dayton Ohio). I have been part of the ministry and administration of several Annual Conferences including a major restructuring in the Indiana. This experience will be useful as the General Church considers significant restructuring and the Jurisdiction needs to realign Episcopal Areas. Finally, I am part of a task force working with GCFA to restructure relationships between Health and Welfare ministries and Annual Conferences. I would like to help shepherd this legislation.

*Biographical Sketches*  
*Clergy Candidates for General and Jurisdictional Delegation*

---

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

General Conference can only enable the work of the local church; it does not and cannot do it. However, I have always returned from General Conference inspired by outstanding worship, stories of ministry throughout the world, and new ideas gleaned from other Annual Conferences and General Agencies. As a lay speaker and a member of committees, I love to share these ideas and stories. While the presence or absence of any one person will not stand in the way of God's will for the Church, I believe I have been given gifts and graces that will enable me to make a positive contribution.

---

**Jeannie Lee-Panesi**

**Madison: Trinity United Methodist Church**

**Professing Member Since: 1996**

**What is your experience in the connectional church?**

I worked with the Hispanic Churches for 8 year and was part of Board of Congregator and Development, member of Hispanic Caucus and the Committee on Hispanic Missionary Wisconsin Conference. Was for 6 years a Spanish Language Coordinator now I work as Language Consultant for Women Division. In Committee of Social Justice.

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

I worked with the Hispanic Churches for 8 year and was part of Board of Congregator and Development, member of Hispanic Caucus and the Committee on Hispanic Missionary Wisconsin Conference. Was for 6 years a Spanish Language Coordinator now I work as Language Consultant for Women Division. In Committee of Social Justice.

**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?**

A Universal Church where all Races can know the plan of Salvation under the doctrine of the Methodism in your own Languages.

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

To see if with my Background I could my a difference. Time are Changing and we need to include all Languages and Races.

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

Like everything I've learn is to see how I can help teach other about how the Church work.

---

**Julia Mayeshiba**

**Madison: Trinity United Methodist Church**

**Professing Member Since: 2005**

**What is your experience in the connectional church?**

As a life-long United Methodist, the church has always been a central part of my life. However, it was not until I transferred churches at the start of my high school career that I really became aware of the staggering diversity within our single denomination. This diversity was then affirmed when I first attended the United Methodist Women's School of Christian Mission in 2007, and never fails to manifest itself when I return every summer. After I moved away from my home in Madison I continued my ministry outside of my home church by attending a church in the Twin Cities where I attend college. This summer I am further reaching out to my brothers and sisters in Christ by participating in The General Board of Church and Society's Ethnic Young Adult Summer Internship in Washington D.C. where I will be in fellowship with Methodists not only from the United States but from around the world.

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

I have taken part in the mission of the Wisconsin Annual Conference by serving as a youth delegate to the 2009 and 2010 Wisconsin Annual Conferences. I have recently continued my service to this Annual Conference by accepting a position on the Wisconsin Commission on the Status and Role of Women which helps promote women and women's issues within the church.

*Biographical Sketches*  
*Clergy Candidates for General and Jurisdictional Delegation*

---

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

I have not yet had the privilege of participating in a General or Jurisdictional Conference.

**What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?**

My hope for the future of The United Methodist Church is that we keep issues of social justice at the forefront of our mission. Though the church must constantly change to become a more efficient steward of God's message, I firmly believe that the United Methodist's roots in advocacy and mission must not be forgotten.

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

I would like to be a delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference in order to bring the voice of young adult members of the United Methodist Church to the table. I would like to represent a younger generation of United Methodists that in the past has been absent in our delegations and thus in the decision-making process of The Church.

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

If selected, I will bring the experience that I gain from Jurisdictional to my other roles within the United Methodist Church. I will use it not only to enrich my local community of faith, but I will refer to it when serving on any committee for the United Methodist Church.

---

**Julie Mieke**

**Madison: First United Methodist Church**

**Professing Member Since: 1969**

**What is your experience in the connectional church?**

I have held multiple of leadership roles in the local church, from youth leader, financial secretary, mission committee.

I have held at one time or another all of the local UMW positions, district nominations, secretary of program resources & president. On the conference level have been secretary of program resources, & president. Also am the current Assistant Dean of

School of Christian Mission. Am a charter member and current chair of the Hmong House of Good News

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

I have been a member of COSROW and the Board of Lay Ministry. Participated in Faith Alive. Have led the Annual Conference 101 classes for past 3 years and this year. Have participated in 7 Volunteer in Mission trips, one in state, 5 national and one international trip. I am currently secretary of the board of Northcott Neighborhood House

**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?**

Using the strengths of connectional ministry to make disciples for the transformation of the world. Building stronger relationships with God in our everyday lives. Getting outside of our institutional walls and into the community to make a difference.

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

I would like to experience the church on an even larger scale representing the fellow Methodists of our conference. Have prayerfully considered whether or not this is a task I have been called to by God. I believe this is a calling to work as a community to make some differences in the world. Strive for the unification in purpose with the broad diversity of individuals.

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

I am hoping this may be a stepping stone to greater leadership roles within my local church and the Wisconsin Conference, and even at higher levels. Share the hope I have in Jesus Christ with others and to be able to do that enthusiastically, abundantly and with deep love

*Biographical Sketches*  
*Clergy Candidates for General and Jurisdictional Delegation*

---

---

**Diane Odeen**

**River Falls United Methodist Church**

**Professing Member Since: 1974**

**What is your experience in the connectional church?**

I have been active in committees in my local congregation, including being chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee. I have served as a lay delegate to the circuit team,

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

I am on the Board of Ordained Ministry, and currently serve as vice-chair. I am also a current member of the conference Episcopacy Committee, and on the North Central Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee. I have been a member of the conference misconduct response team.

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

I served as a reserve delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference in 2004 and as a delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference in 2008.

**What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?**

I believe the UMC needs to re-discover its roots in social justice and continue Christ's work among the least and the lost, whether in our own communities or across the world.

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

I'm interested in working to help make the UMC a more Christ-like organization, where social justice is expected in the institution and fostered in the world. I would like to help build cooperation within our own delegation, and collaboration with other sister delegations.

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

I have been involved in the Church in the local congregation, in the Conference, and in the Jurisdiction. I would welcome the opportunity to experience the diversity of the global church so that I could bring the experience back to my home

congregation. We are an increasingly global world, and yet many of us see our spiritual lives as small and personal, with only an occasional connection to some mission project far away. I would like to help make the global church seem real, here.

---

**Tom Popp**

**Lake Mills United Methodist Church**

**Professing Member Since: 1979**

**What is your experience in the connectional church?**

I have served on several boards and committees, and I was a District Lay Leader. I am a member of Annual Conference, having served two quadrennia in the 80s and now serving a two more quadrennia. Currently I am in my second term as a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry. I was honored to receive the Bridge Builder Award for a layman at Annual Conference.

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

In addition to the above, I am a member of the staff of Bethany United Methodist Church in Madison. My title is Director of Church Life, and I am responsible for marketing, membership development, and some small group activities. I supply preach on occasion.

**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?**

The central messages of the New Testament are God's generous love and forgiveness. We, as followers of Christ, are called to practice love for all of God's creation and forgiveness of others, as well as we humanly can. The church is called to do the same, ever seeking to reach out to those who are not yet part of the church family.

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

I want to be part of building bridges between those who have and those who need, between people of different races and histories, between people of different sexual orientations, between and among all of God's children. How we do our work as an institution

*Biographical Sketches*  
*Clergy Candidates for General and Jurisdictional Delegation*

---

reveals who we are. It's hard work to manage a large institution. I hope that my experience as a city manager and non-profit executive, now retired, will contribute to the well-being and good administration of a loving church.

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

I will be available to report or provide programs at local churches as well as for Annual Conference. I will continue to serve in other connectional ways, both in Wisconsin and for the greater United Methodist Church.

---

**Dorthy Radley**

**Jackson: Still Waters United Methodist Church**

**Professing Member Since: 1972**

**What is your experience in the connectional church?**

Serving as the Wisconsin Conference Lay Leader has provided me with many opportunities to serve and be in collaborative ministry with many boards and agencies, local churches and circuits. As the Chair of the Board of Laity, we develop and support many training and faith development opportunities through Lay Servant Ministries, Faith Alive! and Catalyst. I have served on the Wisconsin Council of Churches and participate in the National Lay Leader Conferences.

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

As the Conference Lay Leader since 2004 I am passionate about being an advocate, equipping, engaging and empowering those in ministry. We have built a cohesive Board of Laity, revitalized the Lay Ministry program & developed disciples through Faith Alive!. I am a charter member of Still Waters Community UMC, a new church start in 1996.

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

I served as a delegate for the 2008 Jurisdictional Conference. Serving on the delegation was inspiring, educational and an opportunity to be a part of the larger connection. I also attended, as an observer, several days at General Conference.

**What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?**

My priorities are to create a relevant church for our future, ministering to ALL people around the globe, extending and building bridges that unite us, creating a ministry that we can all be committed too with our stewardship, Time, Talent and Gifts, that will produce healthy fruit and disciples that will transform the world.

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

I want to be a delegate because I believe I can be a witness for all people and be in partnership with United Methodists around the globe, creating a movement that unites us in Christ's love. I desire to work to create opportunity for collaborative leadership, create a healthy future where we can celebrate our common bond, and to speak with love around all our differences. This will be a Body of Christ that can go out, serve the world, and develop loving disciples of Jesus.

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

I will be a witness in all places and use my experience as a leader to continue developing ministry opportunities for all United Methodists and for those who do not know Christ. I would use this opportunity to educate what it means to be a United Methodist, a disciple for the transformation of the world, to serve in the world and how positive change is providing relevance for future generations.

---

**Chris Reynolds**

**Madison: Trinity United Methodist Church**

**Professing Member Since: 1996**

**What is your experience in the connectional church?**

I have volunteered for and have close friends in leadership roles with the Methodist Federation for Social Action and the General Board of Church and Society. I have, for many years volunteered for and played leadership roles in conference-wide youth activities including summer camps and mission trips.

*Biographical Sketches*  
*Clergy Candidates for General and Jurisdictional Delegation*

---

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

While I have only been a member of the Wisconsin Annual Conference for two years, I have been an active volunteer at Trinity UMC, serving as chairperson of the finance committee and on the administrative council. I have also helped initiate new ministries for youth, children, and young adults in the community.

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

I have never attended the General Conference, but I did volunteer to find housing in my home town of Fort Worth, Texas for young and financially vulnerable attendees of the 2008 Conference. I found free accommodations for 40 attendees.

**What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?**

I am a life-long Methodist who has faithfully served churches in Texas, the District of Columbia, and Wisconsin—three regions with distinct interpretations of Methodism and varied hopes for the church. I wish to preserve what makes all of these communities great and I seek to make the changes necessary to ensure that future generations can be proud of their family's connection to the UMC. That starts with ensuring that the Church does not become a haven for bigots.

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

As a young person with broad experience in the United Methodist Church, I have been in community with a broad range of persons of faith and I know what they seek for the church and I know how the changes that others seek will affect them. I have tremendous love for the Church and its members, and that fire in my heart and in my belly will allow me to be a tireless advocate for the Wisconsin Conference and for the loving, affirming, and accepting Church that I—like my parents before me and their parents before them—have devoted my life to. Methodism has recently played ostrich to issues that other denominations have not shied away from addressing. If my kids and grand-kids are to be proud of this Church, we need advocates now who insist on (loving and respectful) confrontation in the service of progress.

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

We face declining membership as we age and withdraw faster than we welcome newcomers. We face declining cultural relevance as we are squished on two fronts between secularism and evangelicalism and we sometimes lack the gumption to push back. We face declining moral authority as we remain silent on issues of justice rather than championing what we know through scripture, tradition, reason, and experience to be good and right. We have more to do than can be accomplished alone, but I will do everything in my power to help where I can and to find allies, new and old, to join in.

---

**Jennifer Southworth**

**Madison: Trinity United Methodist Church**

**Professing Member Since: 2008**

**What is your experience in the connectional church?**

As a relatively young member of the United Methodist Church, I haven't had as much time to appreciate the connected nature of the church to its full extent. I've enjoyed meeting many people and witnessing the connections my pastor has with people she went to seminary with, during Annual Conference and through ministry in general. Living and studying in Washington, D.C. with United Methodists from around the U.S and world has really illustrated and expanded the idea of church family for me as well. I hope that participating in General Conference will reinforce those feelings and ideas.

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

At the local church level I have served on a number of committees, assisted in worship, planned worship while the pastor was on leave, cofounded and run a young adult's small group, and participated in many smaller activities and retreats. At the conference level, I have had the experience of being a lay delegate to Annual Conference in 2010

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

I have served as lay member to Annual Conference, but as a young adult I have not yet had the opportunity

*Biographical Sketches*  
*Clergy Candidates for General and Jurisdictional Delegation*

---

to serve as a member of General or Jurisdictional Conference.

**What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?**

The United Methodist Church should seek to live out Christ's commandments to serve and worship our God and to love each other as God loves us. This means being open to and accepting of everyone unconditionally - I expect the Church to live up to that standard in practice and theory. I also expect that this calls the Church to actively participate in alleviating the major problems the world is facing today, including homelessness and poverty, human trafficking and the violence of war.

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

As a student at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, I want to be active in the life of the greater Church body that I hope to be a leader in someday. I want to play my role in both the growth and evolution of the Church by learning about the issues we are facing, debating priorities and having the privilege of casting a vote on behalf of our shared beliefs in Wisconsin that uphold these values.

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

I will actively educate others about the experience and the outcomes of the conference through connections at seminary and through social media (primarily blogging). The experience will foster connections within the church and will deepen my knowledge and understanding of the polity and discipline of the UMC, eventually helping me make responsible choices in my future ministry setting.

---

**William F. Stimeling**  
**Holcombe United Methodist Church**

**Professing Member Since: 1965**

**What is your experience in the connectional church?**

- Participate in Circuit #7 events/projects
- Active in intra-charge activities
- Lay Speaker for numerous other churches
- Champion the meeting of apportionment giving
- SPRC for three church charge

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

- Past delegate to Annual Conference
- Currently serve as Conference Trustee
- Advanced, Advanced certification as Lay Speaker

**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?**

- Make Disciple for Jesus Christ
- Increase Mission-giving
- Enhance inter-church sharing of talents/ideas/support

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

I feel that I have a fairly complete understanding of the denominations Discipline and the foundation upon which Methodism is/was founded. I support the current manner in which the United Methodist Church is inclusive in membership and pastoral appointments.

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

- Being energized by first-hand observation of the world-wide church at work
- Advocating for greater circuit and regional passionate service/giving
- Carrying word of the work of the General Conference to the rural areas (i.e. where I live)

---

**Judy Vasby**

**Cambridge: Willerup United Methodist Church**

**Professing Member Since: 1960**

**What is your experience in the connectional church?**

Member since confirmation. Attended UMCs through high school, college, & adulthood. When I travel, I worship at UMCs and always feel welcome & at home. Attended junior high church camp at Asbury, meeting youth from around the state. As a member of United Methodist Women, I have participated in district, conference, & national events, connecting with women from across the country. Am a certified lay

*Biographical Sketches*  
*Clergy Candidates for General and Jurisdictional Delegation*

---

speaker/servant. Currently a candidate in the deaconess program.

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

Local church: many committees over time. Current Conference President of UMW. Board of Directors-Hmong House of Good News & Northcott Neighborhood House. Member of Conference Board of Lay Ministry & East Angola Task Force. Member-Commission on Archives and History. Conf. Disaster Response: Childcare + Region 3 LTRC chair. VIM trips.

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

I have not.

**What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?**

To grow deeper in our relationship with Jesus Christ and to make Him known through Word and Action to all the world's people.

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

I am interested in helping to set policies that will guide our Church into the future.

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

I will be delighted to speak to local congregations about the process, the atmosphere, the worship, and the people present at General Conference in order to help members feel connected to the larger church. I will continue to support the decisions and policies made at General Conference, as I work at local, district, and conference levels of church and United Methodist Women, and as a deaconess (lay woman serving vulnerable populations) after my commissioning.

---

