2019 Wisconsin Annual Conference

Biographical Sketches of Lay and Clergy Candidates for Election to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences of the United Methodist Church

by

The Wisconsin Annual Conference

June 14-17, 2019
Expectations Of Delegates

- Commitment to the journey of a “Connectional People” in the United Methodist tradition – multi-leveled, global in scope and local in thrust;
- Commitment to Team-building and Team-work within the delegation by appreciating and celebrating diverse gifts and callings to leadership in The United Methodist Church;
- Basic knowledge of the polity, the doctrines, and the structures and systems of The United Methodist Church (as a global and connectional denomination) based on The 2016 Book of Discipline;
- Familiarity with basic parliamentary procedures and protocol (based on Robert’s Rules of Order);
- Ability to comprehend the content and rationale of the proposed amendments to The Book of Discipline, as well as a basic knowledge of The Book of Resolutions as adopted and revised at the General Conference;
- Commitment to attend ALL Delegation Meetings/Gatherings both before and after the General and Jurisdictional Conference sessions, as scheduled by the leadership of the delegation;
- Willingness to take on and complete/fulfill responsibilities, tasks or projects, either voluntarily or as assigned by the delegation;
- Active participation in the process of endorsing an Episcopal candidate, if needed, using spiritual discernment and collaborative efforts;
- Maintaining connections and communication between the General Church, the Annual Conference, and local congregations, advocating to the General Church for the values expressed by the Wisconsin Conference vision, and to the Annual Conference and its congregations for the work of the General Church that expresses the commitment of The United Methodist Church to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Practical Requirements Of Delegates

- Delegates will be expected to read and comprehend hundreds, or perhaps thousands, of pages of material in preparation for both the General and Jurisdictional Conference. Much of this material may not be available to delegates until after January 1, 2020.
- The 2020 General Conference will be in session from May 5 through May 15, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Delegates are expected to be present in Minneapolis from May 5–15, 2020; and should be prepared to arrive in Minneapolis prior to May 5th and to depart on May 16th, 2020.
- Delegates need to have the physical stamina and health to put in very long days (which often begin before 7 am and end after midnight) for the entire 11 days of the General Conference session.
- The 2020 North Central Jurisdictional Conference will be held July 18 through 20, 2020 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Delegates are expected to be present from July 18-20, 2020; and should be prepared to arrive in Fort Wayne prior to July 18th and depart on July 21st, 2020.
- Delegates need to be both capable and willing to make a personal financial investment in the global church, as not all expenses for General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates are covered by the Per Diem offered by the General Conference and the Jurisdictional Conference, or by the Annual Conference. Only specified expenses are paid to the six seated and two first-reserve General Conference delegates, and to the twelve seated and two first-reserve Jurisdictional delegates.
- Delegates are elected for the entire quadrennium (4 years). They must be prepared to stay in and with the delegation throughout the quadrennium, and attend all meetings/events as scheduled by the delegation and its leadership both before and after the General and Jurisdictional Conference sessions. Delegates will be expected to attend any Special Sessions of the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference that may be called between the 2020 and 2024 General Conference sessions.
- Lay Delegates to the General Conference become Lay Members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference for the subsequent quadrennium, and should be prepared to attend and participate in the Annual Conference Sessions from 2020 through 2024.
Biographical Sketches of Lay and Clergy Candidates for Election to the 2020 General And Jurisdictional Conferences of the United Methodist Church

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VOTING ELIGIBILITY

Lay Delegates are elected by the Lay Members of Annual Conference
¶36. Article V. – Book of Discipline 2016

You ARE able to vote for lay delegates if:
• You are a Lay Member of this 2019 Wisconsin Annual Conference
• You are an Alternate Lay Member registered as a lay person representing a local congregation in place of a regularly elected lay member

You are NOT eligible to vote if:
• You are a Guest or observer at Annual Conference
• You must be a designated Lay Member to the Wisconsin Annual Conference to vote for lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

Clergy Delegates are elected by some of the Clergy Members of Annual Conference
¶35. Article IV – Book of Discipline 2016

*NOTE: Not every clergy person is eligible to vote in these delegate elections

You ARE able to vote for Clergy Delegates if:
• You are an Elder in the Wisconsin Annual Conference
• You are a Deacon in the Wisconsin Annual Conference
• You are an Associate Member of the Wisconsin Annual Conference
• You are a Provisional Members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference who has completed ALL of your (seminary) educational requirements
• A Licensed Local Pastors who has completed EITHER an M.Div. or the Basic Course of Study AND have served under appointment for two consecutive years immediately preceding the election.

You are NOT eligible to vote if:
• You are a Provisional Members who has NOT completed all educational requirements
• You are a Licensed Local Pastors who has NOT completed Course of Study or an M.Div.
• You are a Lay Preachers
• You are a UM Clergy Member from a different Annual Conference
• You are a Clergy Member of another Denomination serving a UM Church in Wisconsin
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Lay Voting Information

This year the Wisconsin Annual Conference will elect three Lay Delegates to the 2020 General Conference, and three additional Lay Delegates to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference, plus four reserve delegates (Conference Policy 140.1.1).

¶ 36. Article V.—The lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age, provided such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences.

*From The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016

Candidate Eligibility

Any Professing Lay Member of a United Methodist Church in the Wisconsin Annual Conference who meets the Disciplinary criteria listed above is eligible for election.

One does NOT have to be a Lay Member of the Annual Conference in order to be elected as a Lay Delegate to the General or Jurisdictional Conferences.
LAY CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION
TO GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

DONALD CRAMER
Central UMC: Milwaukee
Professing Member Since: 1995

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
- Lay Member to Annual Conference (6 years)
- Member of Southeast Wisconsin District Strategy Team (4 years)
- Statistician for Wisconsin Annual Conference (8 years)

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
As a life-long Methodist, I have appreciated the denomination's history and reach in the world. As a delegate to General Conference, I will be able to experience that history and depth first-hand. I find the connection with our ancestors and others around the world to be very spiritual and I want to be inspired to reach higher.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
With my analytical background, I consider the long-term and far-reaching effects of our decisions. I care deeply about the people we are called to serve, and I focus on the logistics of how we make our ministry happen.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
The world is full of people who are hurting: physically, mentally, and emotionally. The people of the United Methodist Church need to connect with those people and show them a better way of living - to know God, to learn from the teachings of Jesus, and to lead a spiritually disciplined life.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
I am disappointed with the General Conference's decision to separate a group of people from the United Methodist Church. I believe we are called to unite with each other, not divide. I pray that the church will continue its outreach to all people, including the LGBT community and those who want to separate from them. In doing so, I hope that we will be united again and reverse the decision of the 2019 Special Session.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?
I have 30-plus years’ experience as a Methodist in my past. I hope to have 50-plus years as a Methodist in my future. I expect my experience at General Conference to be life-changing and to inspire my ministry for the rest of my life.

DOUGLAS FEARING
Portage UMC
Professing Member Since: 1960’s

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
- Ad council (current and previously)
- Current Lay Member to Annual Conference
- Past Stewardship Chair
- Past Building Campaign Chair

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I’d like to be considered because we need new voices at the Conferences.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
I am the co-founder and president of a multi-million-dollar company. I am the past state President of the Wisconsin Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) when it was a 10,000-member organization. I have held numerous leadership positions throughout my years, including currently serving on the B.O.D. of Schools for Haiti and Leading with Power.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
To see that the mission of the UMC is actually carried out: To make disciples for the transformation of the world.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
Come to an amiable separation so we can focus on the mission instead of infighting.

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

Be faithful in truthfully and impartially disseminating the information and options.

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**JESSICA GOBEL**
Onalaska UMC
Professing Member Since: May 1990

**How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?**
I have loved serving in The UMC since I was fourteen years old and have served in both local churches and at the conference level. While in middle and high school, I was part of many church groups including Administrative Council. As an adult, I have been a part of committees such as missions, worship, nominations, Ad Council, and Staff Parish Relations Committee. For several years, I was the facilitator for our local Laity Circuit group. I have been a Lay Member of Annual Conference for eight years. I have served on staff as the Director of Children's Ministry at Onalaska UMC since 2012. Camp has always been an important ministry in my life as I attended as a child and now as an adult. I have served, (currently as the vice chair), on the Wisconsin Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries Board since 2013.

**Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?**
I have a strong desire to see The UMC grow and truly be inclusive and accepting to all people. I have always been a part of active and growing churches. This is a pivotal moment in UM history and I want to be a part of the change. Although I work with all generations at church, my knowledge of kids and young families brings a unique and new perspective to the table.

**What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?**
I have the daily privilege of interacting with young families who are the future of our UMC.

In my various roles of working with families and working with conference camp ministries, my skills of having open conversations and listening to all sides have been valuable in communication. My understanding of how The UMC works and its history help me to be a team player. I am a forward-thinking, organized person with a kind heart. I can appreciate many different views from multiple generations and believe all people are seen to be beautiful in God's eyes.

**What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?**
My first and foremost priority for the UMC is to be an inclusive, growing church. In this growing church, all should be accepted and work together to complete the mission of The UMC. By reading the pulse of my local congregation, including youth, young adults, and older members, I have identified that it is our priority to live out God's mission in a way that is relevant today.

**In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?**
In light of the 2019 GC special session, I believe The UMC should be welcoming and inclusive to ALL. It should be a priority for churches to encourage and empower all people to become leaders and participants in the church. When I look at the UMC mission statement, who can be a disciple? God wants all people to be disciples. If God wants us to transform the world, all people need to be included. It is my belief that all people can use their faith to transform 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 will serve my local church by informing the congregation what is going on and by listening to how I can best represent them at the Annual and then General and Jurisdictional conferences. If I am elected by the WI Annual Conference, I will stay true to my personal mission that got me elected and invite conversations from other lay members in Wisconsin. I see serving the UMC as a privilege and I will complete any work before the GC and go prepared to serve, listen, and prayerfully consider all that is presented as I cast my vote.
LISA M. JONES  
Milwaukee: Brown Deer UMC  
Professing Member Since: 1994

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
I am currently:
• Lay Member to Annual Conference for Brown Deer UMC
• South East District Strategy Team
• South East District Committee on Ministry
• WI Conference Nominations committee
• Vice President of the Connectional Table – Wisconsin Conference
• Member Black Caucus: BMCR

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I feel my talents and gifts are needed at this time in representing Wisconsin. My passion for working for justice for all people and to use the God given gifts to created beloved community.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
I am currently the Co-Chair of Racial Milwaukee working to eradicate institutional racism and hate in all systems and structures. As a black woman working on racial and other justice issues it gives me a unique perspective. One of my gifts is being able to express this perspective to different folks who don't look like me or have my lived experience.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
To free the institution from racism and hate. To be the church who truly works for justice for all. To be an example of beloved community.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
To face the challenges and conflicts ahead with issues of racism, homophobia, and sexism. Before we can create beloved community we must work to create it among ourselves. How are we to make disciples if we can't model beloved community?

LISA KING  
Wisconsin Dells-Delton UMC  
Professing Member Since: 1980

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
I served as a delegate to the 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2019 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. (However, I did not attend the 2016 GC because of staffing issues in the Wisconsin Annual Conference (WAC) Finance Office, where I was working at that time.) I served as a member of the General Council of Finance and Administration 2004-2012, including serving on GCFA's audit, budget, property and insurance, and forms committees during that period. I was the WAC Treasurer 2000-2016 and served one year as the President of the National Association of Annual Conference Treasurers. I have been the UMW South West District Treasurer since 2017 and the UMW Wisconsin Conference Interim Co-Treasurer since the beginning of 2019.

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
Although I no longer work for the Wisconsin Annual Conference (WAC), I believe my years of experience as the Conference Treasurer and my involvement at the denominational level have given me knowledge and relationships to be a valuable delegate for the WAC to the 2020 GC and JC, which promise to be critical to the future of the UMC. Like so many others, I love our church and believe in our mission.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
I would bring to the team my past experience as the Wisconsin Conference Treasurer for over 15 years, as a delegate to three separate GCs and JCs, and as a member and leader of multiple denominational entities.
What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
As much as is possible at this point in our history, I want to see the UMC stay together, allowing for diversity in non-essential beliefs. To best accomplish this, I think we need to restructure how the Central Conferences and the U.S. Jurisdictional Conferences relate to each other, The Book of Discipline, and the General Conference.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
I continue to believe the UMC is best able overall to make disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world if we remain an open, diverse, "big tent" church that welcomes and enables all people to use their individual gifts within and outside of the church. We need to include, respect, and support all parts of the body of Christ-centrists, conservatives, progressives, LGBTQIA+, and all others; to truly be the body of Christ. We have historically been a church that encourages its members to study, think, pray, and learn as disciples, rather than to simply follow a set doctrine, and I believe we need to continue to do so. Having said that, if the 2020 GC does not move in a different direction from the decisions of the 2019 GC, I am not sure the UMC can or will stay together, as a significant portion of the church in the U.S. will not be able to both fulfill its mission and fully follow The Book of Discipline.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?
As a member of the delegation, I would be available to talk to and listen to local churches and their members and would seek to use my experience and knowledge to make decisions that are in the best interest of local churches, the Wisconsin Annual Conference, and the UMC as a whole.

JOHN LAWSON
Gethsemane UMC: Pewaukee
Professing Member Since: 1970

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
- General Church: Delegate to General Conference. Board member of the UM Association of Health and Welfare Ministries
- District: Lay Leader. UMYF Vice President
- Local Church. Missions Chair. Church Council. SPRC Chair. UMYF President.

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I am a cradle United Methodist. My parents, David and Martha Lawson, instilled a deep love for our church. I attended our summer camps as a youth and worked on Summer Staff in my college years. I attended a UMC related University. I worked in UMC related retirement communities for much of my career. Now I have a deep concern for the future. I want to bring my knowledge and experience to bear as we face this uncertainty.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
Knowledge, experience and relationships. I have served as a delegate in the past. I have helped in the election of several Bishops. I have written and shepherded legislation through the General Conference process. I have relationships across the connection that help me to advocate for needed changes. I have been a part of the life and work of three different Annual Conferences.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
Finding ways for us to continue to support vital ministry in whatever new structures or successor bodies emerge. Minimizing collateral damage to our Universities, Health and Welfare Ministries, Camps, and UMCOR. Fully living out Open Hearts, Open Doors, Open Minds

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
Our Church will almost certainly take a very different form from what currently exists. In the aftermath of General Conference 2019, a variety of new ideas are emerging. If it is not possible for us to work together with integrity and increased inclusion, I hope to find ways to continue to support vital ministries like our Universities, Health and Welfare, Camps and UMCOR. Fully living out Open Hearts, Open Doors, Open Minds.

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

By being present and active in all delegation functions and conferences. Using my knowledge of General Conference processes to advocate for Wisconsin and a healthy church. I have been and will continue to be active in informing and interpreting the work of the General and Jurisdictional Church. I will bring best practices that I learn from others around the connection.

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**LYNN MESSNER**

Salem Eldorado UMC: Fond du Lac
Professing Member Since: 1979

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?

I have been a member of the WI Conference as Lay Representative for 20-plus years and Lay Leader of our church for 20-plus years. I am on the Administrative Board at Salem Eldorado UMC, teach Sunday School (25+years), serve on the Mission Committee (10+ years), attend and lead Bible Study, compile and publish our monthly newsletter, am Music Coordinator, and assist with Nurture and Care. I have been on the Board of Wisconsin Association of Confessing United Methodist (WACUM) for 20-ish years.

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?

I have a long history with the WI Conference, and have been witness to the many joys of accomplishments as well as the ongoing struggles and divisions in this conference. I have observed that the last few election of delegates cycles has not produced a balance of thought in our Conference and I seek to help adjust that through my participation.

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**RAVI ROELFS**

River Falls UMC
Professing Member Since: 2003

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?

In this very divided time, I seek to help resolve the hurt inflicted by groups and individuals from both sides of the ongoing human sexuality issue. If we are to truly love each other and do no harm, we must accept that we are not going to come to an agreement. I believe a greater amount of respect, self-control, kindness, empathy and maturity are needed and this must be promoted by all.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?

I believe we need to encourage one another during this time of separation, because we already are separated, and the church is imploding upon itself. Trust has been broken, not likely to be repaired. Yet, if we are gracious in our discussions and plans, we can witness to the world that we can truly "make disciples for Christ" each in their own way, free of conflict and hurt.

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

I would use the experience to help local churches, the Conference and individuals to resolve conflicts within their groups. Outward signs of bullying demonstrations which I have both witnessed and read about, are hurtful, designed to intimidate, silence, and shun those who believe differently. This must stop. There is no place for this in our churches. I would seek to be a mediator at all times.
I have been a United Methodist all my life. I was baptized, confirmed and will stay in the UMC because it’s important to continue to do the work of the church. I try to live into John Wesley’s means of grace by doing works of Justice and Mercy, as well as Piety, hence the reason I have been involved with the UMC on different levels.

Even as a youth, I was actively involved in my local congregation in Grantsburg, Wisconsin, in the NW District. I was involved in Youth Group, Choir, Administrative Council, Trustees, Finance, United Methodist Men, and Staff Parish Relations Committee. I chaired the Administrative Council and Staff Parish Relations Committee as a teenager and young adult.

However, I believed it was important to serve beyond the local church, so I participated in Circuit ministry. I am also a Certified Advanced Lay Speaker and have preached at various churches including my local congregations. I also worked at Whispering Pines United Methodist Camp from 2005-2008, as a camp counselor, maintenance worker, first responder and cook.

I attended Youth Convo in 1998-1999, and then started attending Annual Conference a few years afterwards. I have been to every Wisconsin Annual Conference since 2007, representing the Conference as a Young Adult Delegate or Lay Delegate from local churches.

- Laity- Youth observer-1999
- Central and Atlas UMC Grantsburg WI Annual Conference Delegate /Alternate-2007-2008
- Young Adult Delegate- NW District- 2009-2017

In 2016, I had a full-time job change, and moved to River Falls Wisconsin, and become involved at River Falls UMC immediately. I am currently involved with Staff Parish Relations, Finance, Administrative Council, Lay Delegate to Conference, Safety Coordinator, and confirmation mentor. I am involved in the life of the church beyond meetings. Some of my participation includes attending worship Sundays, attending studies, Wednesday night events, participating in the choir and assisting in worship. Currently at the Wisconsin Annual Conference level, I am participating in the two-year program called Faith Alive. I really have enjoyed the program, and I believe it is helping me keep the faith in these hard and challenging times. It also exposes me to topics that we all may have differences of opinion on, but we are still trying to live into doing those works of piety and mercy as John Wesley encouraged.

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?

I believe that I have served on many levels of the church and while that has been fulfilling and I will continue to do so, I am ready for something new, a new challenge. If elected as a General Conference Delegate, I would be moved forward to think on a different level, be exposed to different challenges, and also be serving the larger church.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?

I am a probation officer and have worked with people in conflict for years. I also developed a restorative justice and community service program for adult and juvenile offenders. I believe holding these positions has shaped me to lead conversation that might be tough within the church. Good Conflict Resolution skills require listening, repeating back what you hear, and understanding where the other person is coming from. I believe that when it comes to General Conference these are some of the skills I will continue to have and use when voting and discussing items on the conference floor. In my job, I handle a lot of paperwork, write reports to the court, and make recommendations on people’s futures. At General Conference, reading through the legislation paperwork would be a new task, however I believe I have the skills and ability to prepare for each day as it comes based on my experiences.

A final skill that you need to have for General Conference is patience. You need to have this, because you will immediately recognize things don’t always go the way you think they should go, people’s emotions run high at times, and you need to keep your composure. You are representing your Conference, and it is very important to stay composed in tense situations.

In Micah 6:8 from the Message written by Eugene Peterson, Peterson translates; “But he’s already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It’s quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in love, and don’t take yourself too seriously, take God seriously”.

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This passage is the foundation of my faith and I try to live into that daily in my work, and personal life no matter where I am. I believe my experiences within the church highlights this passage and thought process.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
My priorities for serving in my local church, and beyond the local church, at the Annual Conference Level and General Conference level would be to continue to make sure Young People have a voice in this church. While the outcome of General Conference is not what many of us were hoping for, I feel I still have a space in the UMC. This General Conference is not the end of the UMC, we are called to continue to be in ministry. Young People, LGBTQIA People may not know what to do next, and some will choose to leave the church. Some of us have decided to stay and prepare to re-engage in difficult discussions and discernment for the future.

The refrain from the song “Healer of our Every Ill”, out of The Faith We Sing comes to my mind: “Healer of our Every Ill, light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow”. The church is divided, we all know this, my priority is not to continue to have discussions around unity, but to figure out what Unity now means moving forward, beyond what we know, beyond where we have been and perhaps this means we cannot put new wine in these old wineskins. We may need to move forward in a new way.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
I recognize that we are a Global Church, but we also walk in very different paths. I attended General Conference 2019 in St. Louis as an observer, and experienced how the conference went, logistics, etc. My own priorities for this church are to remind people that even though we are divided, we still need to recognize we are all God’s Children, we all have a duty to love one another, and to do no harm. It is so difficult to know what might happen at 2020 General Conference. As I type these responses, Judicial Council has not yet met, has not ruled on anything from 2019, so there are a lot of unknowns at this point. I personally would love to see the church stay together, but I am not sure if that is a healthy thing to do at this point.

Respectfully, I believe that my LGBTQIA+ brothers and sisters need to lead the conversation at this next General Conference, to determine how the church goes forward. I am glad to be part of that conversation and continue doing the work of the church. I am also advocating that younger delegates such as myself (I’m 32) need to help lead this conversation. I would like to make it a priority to remember John Wesley and his concepts in these future conversations. The Quadrilateral shapes who we are as United Methodists, through Reasoning, Scripture, Tradition and Experience we have come a long way; however, I still think as we talk about reshaping the church, it is important to remember our history and use it as we continue our conversations. We are the future of this church and times are changing, whether one chooses to embrace that or not. I believe through my own skills of being a good listener and communicator, I can be a voice of hope for the future of my church. I am saddened to see that we are divided, but I also believe that means hope for a new tomorrow, that could be something different.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?
If elected, I believe this experience will help me be a better leader in my local church by building up continued confidence in my skills. I would like to also set an example for younger adults and youth. I am a person of color, also profoundly deaf and hard of hearing. I believe by having me at the table, I will be able to encourage others who may have a disability or anyone who is a child of God, that they are welcome to serve the church and use their talents. I believe at the Annual Conference level my experiences with General Conference, will allow me to educate others in WI churches about how the Conference operates. I believe that many people are not as informed as they would like to be, and I see the opportunity to be a teacher in this moment if elected.

MARIE L. SEVERING
Cargill UMC: Janesville
Professing Member Since: 1973

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
I have been an active member of the United Methodist Church since 1973, both through familial connection, going back over two hundred years, and by choice through my entire adult life. One could say that the church is part of my DNA. Though I have not served at the general, denominational or connectional level, however, as a recently elected lay leader, I am participating in the Wisconsin Annual Conference, serving in any capacity I am asked to. On the local level, I have served on Administrative Council, Staff-Parish Relations, Scholarship, Education and others.

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?
Social justice and human rights issues are important to me and should be for all human beings. I feel that I bring to a delegation strength and compassion, if asked, I can offer strategies and solutions for progressive movement in the church, and I can provide love and support to our clergy who give so much in the name of Jesus Christ.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
For 35 years, I have been a public school vocal music teacher, having taught a diverse population—socially, economically and LGBTQIA+. Through my teaching experiences, I have served on numerous task forces and committees to help students become successful in a variety of settings. Some of my duties as a teacher include, but are not limited to vocal music directing, leading student assistance programs, serving as a department chair, facilitating as a curriculum leader, and advocating for teachers as a union officer and negotiator. In addition, I have served as a section leader for the Wisconsin State Honor Choir, served as a vocal judge for the Wisconsin School Music Association, and have served on state committees for the WSMA.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
My priorities for the United Methodist Church going forward are healing, transformation and inclusivity of our lives as members, congregations, clergy and laity. Ultimately, these priorities may be met only by acceptance, tolerance and love for all people regardless of race, sexual orientation or gender.

It is by this love and acceptance for all that healing, transformation and inclusivity can occur. With God's guidance and love, miracles can happen.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
It is my sincere hope that the United Methodist Church will move forward in unity as a fully inclusive body of Christians. The Bible states in 1 Corinthians 12:12, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all of the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Jesus Christ." Our Lord does not differentiate between black or white, gay or straight, rich or poor, but loves us all equally. Therefore, the UMC should not differentiate when marrying or ordaining any human being. Our church professes to be "Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors"—that means all. We must welcome everyone into this loving, accepting, welcoming group of Christians worldwide, allowing each and every person to serve freely within the United Methodist jurisdiction.

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 want to serve compassionately, admirably and professionally; coming back to my local congregation and to the Wisconsin Conference with tools to help with healing, solutions and strategies for positive forward movement, and with knowledge that will help our church families understand the processes of the United Methodist Church. My goal is to do whatever I am able to help others feel loved and cared for no matter who they are.
Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?
I believe that the church needs young adults to speak out and to share our voice, I find it too often that our voice gets diminished. Being in college, General Conference 2020 falls right at the end of the school year and overlaps with finals week, but I am working with my professors so that I can attend General Conference 2020 because that is how passionate I am about the church.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
I am an outgoing person who works well with others. Being a delegate to Global Young People's Convocation has also prepared me for things like Annual and General Conference because it gave me an insight towards what expect, even though I realize that Global Young People's Convocation and General Conference 2020 will be two different settings.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
I believe that giving everyone a voice no matter their race, gender, age, or sexual identity is important. I also believe that it is important that the church gets more youth and young adults involved, both in the local and global levels.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
I believe that the United Methodist Church should keep working towards being a church for everyone. I grew up hearing "come as you are" and that is still a part of the church. One of the most important commandments that God has given us is love your neighbor, so that is what we need to do as a church.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?
Being a delegate will help me better understand the United Methodist Church, so that I would be able to report back to the Wisconsin Conference and my home church. It would also give me more experience on what church work is like, which is good for me because I am majoring in church ministries in college.
Doing this will be a witness to our own members, to other denominations, and to the unchurched or followers of other religions.

**In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?**

I believe that our differences in matters involving human sexuality are too deep and wide for us to continue as a single denomination. That was made very clear at General Conference 2019 in St. Louis. Therefore, I would like to help us find a way to separate amicably, so that churches can move on and do the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ in their own theological contexts and communities.

**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 happy to speak about GC outcomes in local churches, with United Methodist Women at every level, and at Conference boards/agencies/commissions/committees. I will be in prayer for wisdom and discernment regarding how decisions at General Conference 2020 will affect all members and connections of the UMC spiritually, financially, and in practice in order to be able to explain the big picture.

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**AUDREY J. WILDE**

Wesley UMC: Wausau  
Professing Member Since: 1983

**How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?**

I was a member of Columbus United Methodist Church, Columbus WI from 1966-1983. I served as a Sunday School Teacher as well as Sunday School Director and as a UMW President, as part of that church. I moved to Wausau, WI in 1983 and joined the Wesley United Methodist Church. While here I have been a Sunday School teacher as well as Mission Committee Chair. I have organized a couple of Mission trips plus, for the past 10 years, I have been the director of our church's involvement in Sunday Community Dinners with other area churches. I currently serve as Wesley's Sunday School Director.

**Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I feel like this is what God has called me to do. I love the openness of the United Methodist and I want to see it continue.

**What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?**

I have been involved with a number of our past Ministers as Wesley Mission Team Chair. I have been a Methodist Member for 53 years. I have been involved with our children's education program for most of that time. I also have attended a large number of our adult Bible Study classes. I have a strong desire to learn more about John Wesley's Mission for our church. I feel that as our Mission Chair I have a responsibility to help lead Wesley into the future.

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

- Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.
- Welcome the unchurched in our community with open hearts and open arms.

**In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?**

To be inclusive according to God's Word, “The Holy Bible.”

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

Our church offered a number of listening session regarding General Conference 2019. I have attended all of our General Conference meetings held at Wesley since becoming a member. I look forward to taking part in future General Conference listening sessions throughout our Annual Conference. I will communicate everything I learn to all our congregations. I love the diversity and global nature of our denomination and look forward to interacting with delegates from other places of the world. I am passionate about missions and look forward to using my experience as a delegate to further local, national and international United Methodist missions.
Clergy Voting Information

This year the Wisconsin Annual Conference will elect three Clergy Delegates to the 2020 General Conference, and three additional Clergy Delegates to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference, plus four reserve delegates (Conference Policy 140.1.1).

¶ 35. Article IV.—The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the Jurisdictional or Central conference shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.

*From The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016

Any Clergy Member in Full Connection (Deacon or Elder) of the Wisconsin Conference Annual Conference who meets the Disciplinary criteria listed above is eligible for election.

Voting Eligibility

Clergy Members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference specified in ¶35 above may vote in the election.

Clergy members of other Annual Conferences who are serving in Wisconsin are only eligible to vote in the election of and be elected by the Annual Conference where they are members.

Clergy members of other denominations, as well as Provisional Members and Local Pastors who do not meet the educational and service requirements listed above, are not eligible to vote in the election.
CLERGY CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION
TO GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

REV. JENNIFER M. ARNESON
Sun Prairie UMC
Elder in Full Connection Since: 2002

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
I am currently in my fourth year serving at Sun Prairie UMC. Previously, I served eight years at Onalaska UMC and eight years at River Falls UMC. I served as an alternate to Jurisdictional and General Conference for the 2012, 2016 and 2019 delegations. I currently serve as the Chair of the Conference Personnel Committee. I served four years on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and 11 years on the Conference Board of Higher Education and Student Ministry, eight of those years as Chair. I have chaired the Heartland District Committee on Ministry and the Chippewa/Heartland District Superintendency Committee.

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I am grateful to have had the privilege and blessing of serving as an alternate on the last three delegations to General/Jurisdictional Conference. My reasons for opening myself to the process of becoming a delegate for the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences begins with my deep love of God through who I know Jesus the Christ to be and my genuine love of the Church.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
I believe my purpose-centered and relational leadership style has the ability to relate well to a wide variety of people. I have the ability to be present with people in a variety of settings and circumstances. I also demonstrate a balanced steadiness in situations where many points of view are being expressed and advocated. I also have the ability to engage people well across the theological spectrum. Having been present on the last three delegations, I have gained knowledge and insight regarding the functioning of General/ Jurisdictional Conference.

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 disciple who know what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ who reach out with a wide welcome so others may come to know God's transforming love and grace. My priorities focus on a commitment to a fully inclusive UMC. 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 The UMC to include all people in the full life of the church.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
I believe the 2019 Special General Conference shed light on deep-seeded wounds and long-standing divisions within our denomination when it comes to how we interpret Scripture and how we include people in the full life of the Church. What happened at the Special General Conference does not tell the story of how many local churches are committed to sharing the invitational, expansive love of God through Christ to all people. I believe, as seen in moments at the Special General Conference, the great hope for The UMC will come from young people and others willing to stand with them to fulfill our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by offering a wider vision that shows what sharing God's love broadly can really look like. I often think of the Pentecost scripture from the book of Acts that reminds us that those who witnessed the Holy Spirit breaking into their midst were from different cultures, they spoke different languages and I'm sure had very different beliefs and understandings of God; and they became the Church.

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 share and champion what it means to be a connectional church. My experience as a delegate will continue to inform my work as a pastor in the local church and allow me to help the congregation and circuit I serve to better understand and navigate the work of the connectional church.
REV. SCOTT CARLSON
District Superintendent: South West District
Elder in Full Connection Since: 1983

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
In High School, I was a part of the National Youth Ministry Organization, a division of GBOD. From 1980-84, I was on the NCJ COM. In the Wisconsin Annual Conference, I have served on DCOM, the Conference Strategy Board (and its predecessor bodies), The Board of Trustees, The Connectional Table Resource Team. In my current role, I have the privilege of working with clergy and churches across the district and the Annual Conference.

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I think our denomination is at a crossroads. I believe God is at work in us and in our denomination. I have served a variety of churches from rural, to urban and suburban congregations. Each of these churches have grown (with one exception). I am committed to helping churches (and our denomination) move toward health and vitality.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
I bring the ability to listen to others. I know how to be a part of a team, using the gifts I have, while honoring, celebrating and caring about the gifts of others. I seek to understand others views, even as I am pretty clear about my views. I seek to be a person of integrity and honesty, who yearns to help the movement of Jesus go forward.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
I yearn for and am working for a Church that is faithful to the call of Jesus that helps people develop a life of faith that helps them get out of bed every day and deal with the challenges of life. I am committed to working for an expression of United Methodism that is open and welcoming of ALL people. I am willing to think outside the box to help us move toward this vision.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?

We need to find a way to stop the hurt that has been caused in this almost fifty-year fight. If we can't find a way for people of faith, with different views on human sexuality, to be a part of one denomination, then I believe we need to find a way to become multiple expressions of United Methodism.

REV. JEREMY DEANER
New Richmond UMC
Elder in Full Connection Since: 2010

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
I currently serve on the WAC Board of Ordained Ministry and NW District Committee on Ministry. I am a graduate of the Institute of Congregational Development 2018. From 2010 to 2016, I was Vice-chair of the Discipleship Leadership Council and Executive Team, helping Imagine Wisconsin Anew in local churches with resources like "Think Greater!" and "Live the Fruit of the Spirit." I often teach and lead in Conference and District worship. I served as a delegate to the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference and as first alternate to the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference.

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I want to make a difference in the larger United Methodist Church by expanding upon the experience I have with previous delegations. I want to give younger clergy a voice and leadership experience in the church, a church that I love so much. I believe now is a time for us to give voice to the next generations, so that the church can be vital for many years to come.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
I have a unique ability to comprehend large networks of relationships and to conceptualize procedures and strategies for bringing people together. I can hold and understand the past in tension with a vision for the future. At a time when building productive relationships is so important, I believe this gift can be my sacred offering to the delegation and the conference.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
The first question I was asked after the Special Session was, "what happened to open hearts, open minds, open doors?" It wasn’t until later that I was asked, “does this mean the church will split?” For many in The United Methodist Church, their priority clearly leans toward an answer to the first question. For me, my priority is living that vision as fully as I can. I seek a church that is as open as our table, a church that incarnates love for all God’s beloved people like Christ does, and a church that invites our best versions of ourselves as we mature as disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
I have always seen the big umbrella of The United Methodist Church as an asset, and God as a big God, able to love all of us. I have come to believe that unity is not the same as uniformity. Just as United Methodist worship varies widely but still has an unmistakable "Methodist" feel, so our church must seek to find ways to be "Methodist" more contextually. I would work creatively for multiple expressions of United Methodism that can best accomplish the mission of the church in a given context.

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 my leadership and experience in preaching and teaching, and will serve as a resource in Conference leadership positions. I have grown up in a time when “open hearts. open minds. open doors.” grew from an advertising slogan to a vision for the church. I value that vision and will help the church live into it as fully as possible.

REV. KRYSTA DEEDE
First UMC: Tomah
Elder in Full Connection Since: 2015

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
- Board of Ordained Ministry
- ICD graduate—2016
- Communications Commission
- Programs & Arrangements Committee
- Youth Council
- Nominations Committee

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
After prayerful discernment, I sense God calling me to be a voice for people who continue to feel unwelcome at the table (as I myself once felt), to witness to the power of the Holy Spirit as the dynamic conversations occur for how the church births something beautiful for future generations and to claim Christ as the source of our redemption. To assert the Wesleyan spirit is yet alive in reforming the church which has a structure that is unsustainable, a colonial perspective which needs eradication and members who need reminding they are disciples first.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
I am a strong, organized, passionate leader, listener, life-long learner, and creative thinker. In my current appointment, I have led in creating a new (growing) worship opportunity (Family Church), increased giving, self-led capital campaign, and intentional discipleship process. I value diversity and work to raise awareness to the multi-cultural context in which the church serves, lifting the importance of the church reflecting that diversity. Not only do I bring strengths from pastoral ministry, conference leadership, ecumenical connections but also, I bring strengths from my 20-plus year career in manufacturing and small-business ownership including financial management, budgeting, human resources, communication, technical writing, purchasing, and staff management. I seek information in order to make informed decisions and look at the implications of decisions on the big picture and meeting mission/vision/strategic goals.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
To navigate the unknown and unfolding response following the 2019 Special General Conference, it will be imperative to listen well, weigh implications, analyze affects and creatively strategize the next steps as a reformed United Methodist Church unfolds.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?

To profess faith in God, incarnate in Jesus the Christ for our salvation and energized in the constant work of the Holy Spirit. To proclaim grace, the undeserved, unmerited and loving action of God. To claim God's demand for love, mercy and justice in radical social holiness seeking to avert any forms of discrimination or institutional rules. To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world where God's diverse people with their individual gifts, participate in the life of the Church, the community and the world to co-create with God to realize the fullness of Christ's Church.

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

It would be a humble honor to serve as a delegate. To grow in my personal relationship with God as expanded by the opportunity to engage people of different cultures and contexts. To be a bridge of communication and shared learning. To be a catalyst representative of the unfolding church. To bring a fresh perspective to delegate leadership.

REv. KEVIN DEMBINSKI
Marinette, Peshtigo & Harmony UMC's Elder in Full Connection Since: 2011

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
I am currently serving on the Board of Ordained Ministry and the North East District Committee of Ordained Ministry. I am the Circuit leader of NE #06. In addition, I am on the District Strategy Team, and teach Lay Servant Ministries classes around the District. I always try to be involved as best I can within the many connections of The United Methodist Church.

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I have always been intrigued with the Polity of The United Methodist Church and its history since the beginning of John Wesley. I believe that the future of The United Methodist Church must also receive voice from the younger clergy of our connection.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
My knowledge and passion of the history of The United Methodist Church and the Methodist movement is strong. I also value all walks of life within the connection as we know that our spectrum is very wide in beliefs. The time is not only to listen but also act in once again making a difference as The United Methodist Church.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
The biggest priority for me as a United Methodist is unity. While I acknowledge that our denomination is broken, I do believe in the activity of The Holy Spirit that is still ever guiding us forward. We need all voices at the Table as Christ our Lord invites all to the Table. Other priorities include shaping The United Methodist Church to once again be the denomination that makes a difference in the life of the world as it was known to be years ago. I long for the day when The United Methodist Church speaks and the people of the world not only listen but see God's love and God's hope in our vision and ministries.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
Many are calling for a split. I want to hang on to the vision of unity. I have always celebrated the wide variety of voices that are brought to our denomination. The world is diverse; so must be our denomination. I do see the time being now to finally accept LGBTQIA+ leaders to officially serve The United Methodist Church. God too has called them to serve with their gifts and we must not stand in the way and deny God at work.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?
Over the past few years, and even now these past few months since General Conference Special Session 2019, I have educated and excited a new passion among the church members I serve. I am seeing more involvement of the laity as we learn our Wesleyan Heritage. I will continue to teach, inform, reform all people and communities with the rich history of The United Methodist Church and our meaning of being a global denomination.

REV. DAN R. DICK
Appointment Beyond the Local Church, WAC
Elder in Full Connection Since: 1988

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
- Assistant to the Bishop, Wisconsin (2015-19)
- Director of Connectional Ministries, Wisconsin (2009-2015)
- Director of Research, Conference Development, Congregational Development
- Stewardship -- General Board of Discipleship (1994-2009)
- Pastor, Wantage UMC, New Jersey and Director of Stewardship Ministries for Northern New Jersey Conference (1988-1994)
- Associate Pastor, Westwood UMC, New Jersey (1984-1988)

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I love The United Methodist Church and have dedicated my life and ministry to serving to make our denomination open, welcoming, inclusive, and effective in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. I am committed to full inclusion, and the evangelical witness to God's grace, mercy, compassion, justice, and unconditional love. I have served the Wisconsin Conference as a member of the 2012 and 2016 delegations. I would be honored to serve one last time in 2020 to provide continuity and experience.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
I have a comprehensive knowledge of our history, doctrine and polity. I understand the workings of The United Methodist Church and the legislative purpose and processes of General and Jurisdictional Conference. I am dedicated to representing, as fully as possible, the whole Wisconsin Conference, honoring its diversities of race, gender, age, sexuality, theology, and biblical perspectives.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
1. Full inclusion of all of God's children; all means all.
2. Global restructuring that honors cultural, theological, biblical, ethical, and social differences and the regional autonomy that allows United Methodist clergy and laity leadership to be faithful in fulfilling our mission and supporting our global witness.
3. Recover a vision for transformational ministry grounded in the grace and unconditional love that allows The United Methodist Church to be a leader in the historic and traditional areas of evangelism, global missions, and social justice.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
To truly honor our global diversity in real, structural, systemic ways to be an open and welcoming faith communion appropriate in every cultural context. Our Central Conferences are unique and reflect needs and values very different from our U.S. culture. We must remain connectional, but unyoked from a "one size fits all" doctrine and polity that does violence to different regions of our church.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?
To do the legislative work that will improve and clarify our Book of Discipline to align with our United Methodist identity, history, theological task, and to work to change the systemic and structural realities that are doing harm and violence to people within and beyond our churches. To shift the focus from the institution to the people who ARE the church.

REV. JOAN FROST
Faith UMC: Westfield & Calvary UMC: Coloma
Elder in Full Connection Since: 1988
How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
I have the following experiences in the Wisconsin Annual Conference:
- Member of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry
- Chairperson of the Ecumenical Campus Ministry Committee
- Chairperson of the Wesley Foundation Board in Madison
- On the District Committee on Ministry in two districts, including chairperson of one DCOM
- On the Superintendency Committee in two districts
- Circuit Leader multiple times, including currently
- Member of the Board of Ordained Ministry for fifteen years

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
1. I would like to be considered for election as a delegate because I have a deep passion for justice, and believe an inequity was continued for LGBTQ+ at the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference.
2. My lifelong involvement with justice ministries of all types leads me to an ongoing concern for minorities and people who are at the margins of society and the UMC, including the poor, the homeless, and children.
3. In addition, I feel called by God to step up in WAC leadership by being a voice for clergy who serve multiple point charges and for laity from smaller WAC congregations.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
Having been a United Methodist pastor in Wisconsin since 1986 and an Elder since 1988, I will bring a certain continuity and sense of longevity to the delegation team. Being able to communicate with a wide range of persons and to engage in conflict without taking it personally are necessary skills. Some of my gifts are integrity, passion, a strong sense of justice, and a deep and vital spirituality. I have a working knowledge of The Book of Discipline and Robert's Rules of Order.

I also have a wicked sense of humor and don't take myself too seriously, both of which can help in group dynamics.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
My first priority is the full inclusion of LGBTQ+. Other priorities include the continuing support and development of a racially and ethnically diverse UMC; maintaining and increasing the rights and responsibilities of Local Pastors; furthering mission and ministry with the poor and disenfranchised, including children; and a church-wide focus on spiritual development.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
I believe the UMC is called to change its direction and move towards the full inclusion of LGBTQ+, including removing the language from The Book of Discipline that "homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching."

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 interpret The Book of Discipline and The Book of Resolutions to persons at local church and conference-wide levels. I will represent The United Methodist Church as faithfully as I can, at all times and in all places.

REV. MAO HER
Christ UMC: Greenfield
Elder in Full Connection Since: 2016
How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
I have been serving my current charge for 6 years. The following are board, agency, caucus I have served or currently serving:
- Chair of the WI Hmong Caucus
- Served as leader with Hmong National Caucus
- Chair of the Hmong UM Women
- Member UM Women in WI
- Member of Conference Strategy Board (MSB)
- Ethnic Local Church Concern
- Mission overseas (Thailand Methodist Mission/Lao Mission Initiative)
CLERGY

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
Our denomination is at a crossroad right now. We have so much to offer the world, but we are so broken from within. I believe my voice can make a difference in directing our future together as a denomination. I believe I can be a voice of hope and peace in the midst of much disagreements. It would be a privilege to be a voice from Wisconsin Annual Conference.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
I would be the first Hmong Woman Clergy ever to represent not just our conference, but the denomination. I am privileged to be a part of the UMC. I love the UMC. It is the UMC that has welcomed me with open heart, mind, and door. As a Hmong woman and a clergy, I bring unique perspectives and leadership experiences that are different from other delegates. It is time that I give back to my beloved denomination.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
My top priority is our mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ in every nation for the transformation of the world. As the first female Hmong representative from our Annual Conference, I would bring a multicultural perspective to the issues we are dealing with currently as a denomination, as well as decisions in regards to legislation for our future. With God's blessings, my hope is to place emphasis on work that focuses on our mission going forward as the Body of Christ and as the United Methodist Church.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
I believe God is doing something new among the UMC. I believe, in order to move forward with God, the UMC needs strong godly leaders who are bold and have strong conviction about fulfilling God's mission of transforming the heart and mind of people with the good news that is found in Jesus Christ alone. We need leaders whose focus is on God's mission and not their own agendas. We need leaders who are self-giving and are willing to lay aside their own interests/agendas for the well-being of others for the sake of the gospel. I believe the UMC needs to reclaim its Spirit Filled Movement … it is the only way to move forward to accomplish God's mission … it is the only way God will bless our denomination.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?
If elected as a delegate to General Conference, I will do my best to be a resource to the members of my local church, to the caucus I am serving, and to all members of our conference. I believe knowledge of what happens at GC, as well as within the denomination is crucial if we are going to help our people understands the root cause of our problem … the source of our disagreement. I hope to be bearer of peace, comfort and hope to the people of the WI Conference in such a time as this.

REV. KATE CROSKERY JONES
District Superintendent: North West District
Elder in Full Connection Since: 2006

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
General Conference:
- GCFA
- Committee on Legal Responsibility & Corporate Governance-Vice Chair
- JustPeace-Intern, Staff

Annual Conference:
- Rules Committee
- Nominations Committee
- Spiritual Formation
- CF&A- Cabinet rep

District:
- Visioning team
- Circuit Leader
- Lay Servant teacher

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I am by nature a "problem-solver." I believe that my best gift is the capacity to creatively and graciously lead in the midst of difference and that this is the season where my gifts and graces are needed at the General Church level. I am called for such a time as this. I love the United Methodist Church and whole heartedly desire to use my gifts for the service of the Church's future.
What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
I am a trained parliamentarian, trained mediator; lawyer (dual credentialed in law and ministry), strong, visionary leader with the courage to take a position and lead, but open to and willing to form deep relationships with others of different viewpoints. I have rural, urban, suburban, North West, North East and South East District church experience including pastorates across the theological spectrum. I have effectively served as a full-time and part-time pastor, in Extension Ministry beyond the local church and as a District Superintendent in addition to starting new ministries.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
1. Re-organize the Church for the future to effectively bring the Gospel to all people in their own context, replacing colonial marginalizing structures and sanctioned discrimination with structures to grow an apostolic, evangelistic fully inclusive church;
2. Effectively gather and distribute resources to equip disciples to effectively make disciples for Jesus Christ.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
1. Acknowledge our brokenness
2. Understand and confess with contrition our corporate sins (from colonial abuses to scriptural abuses, especially but not limited to distortion of the passages related to human sexuality
3. Accept the gifts of "otherness that enrich the church,"
4. Create (a) structure(s) for inclusive, effective discipleship-making and efficient stewardship of resources

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I believe I offer a fresh voice to the current divisions facing our United Methodist denomination and will work to build a bridge between the progressive and traditional voices represented. As stated in Isaiah 58:12, "Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations. You will be called to be ‘repairer of broken walls’, ‘restorer of streets with dwellings’." We need to embrace this call.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
I can provide a strong, listening ear to all sides of the conversation. In our current environment, it is essential to hear and understand each other to achieve foundational common ground to work from and not just work to be heard. During my time serving the Irish Methodist Church in Belfast, Northern Ireland, I have experienced the tragedy of division as well as the power of reconciliation that results from bringing divisive communities together.
What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
My priority for our church includes the following:

- Congregational Revitalization
- New Church Starts
- Nurture and Strengthen Congregational Leadership
- Commitment to inclusivity at the local, conference, and jurisdictional levels

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
I believe that the church is opened to all people no matter their life’s journey, social-economic background or sexual orientation. All people are to be loved and respected as children of God. Everyone has a place in sharing the Gospel message. Because of this, I continue to support the One Church Plan as I believe it provides a mechanism that honors full inclusion yet recognizes the varied theological perspectives in our 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 church we must recognize that all of God’s children are of sacred worth. All means all! My desire, if I am voted as a delegate, is to work to help the local church, circuit and conference understand and appreciate the beauty that is found in the diversity of The United Methodist Church. Unity does not mean conformity. There is enough room for all of us around God’s table.

REV. CLARISSA L. MARTINELLI
Fifth Avenue UMC: West Bend
Elder in Full Connection Since: 2014

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
- Circuit Leader (2015-2016)
- Circuit Leader (2017 - present)
- Chairperson Program and Arrangements Committee (2017 - 2018)

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
Leadership at this level is a serious commitment. Delegates help shape not only the rules of our Church, but our culture. It would be a humble honor to serve as a GC/JC delegate. It would provide me the opportunity to be involved in the church universal and to be amongst United Methodists throughout the nation and world, praying, worshipping together, and sometimes disagreeing; lovingly but always keeping our eyes on Jesus who calls us to, Love ye one another; and to remember that we are called to serve.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
I bring integrity, mental and physical stamina, courage, alertness, energy, commitment, investment of time, and resources, calmness, discipline, teamwork, refined manners, punctilious courtesy, and the nicest sense of personal honor. Selfless leader who values diversity. Inspirational. Articulate. Professional. A humble servant-leader.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
My priorities are to listen, listen, and listen. With prayer and discernment, I pray for the United Methodist Church to become -open hearts, open minds, open doors, as we once again become the church Jesus called us to be: accepting and loving to all. I pray and invite the Holy Spirit to works in combination with each delegate to shore up our foundations of faith, hope, and love all the while building upon our spiritual gifts we are called to share.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
This beautiful hymn; "We Are Called" ("Come! Live in the Light") by David Haas, The Faith We Sing #2172, should be our theme: get out of the dark; Jesus is light! Jesus is love! Jesus calls all people for Kingdom building. United Methodist, come live in the light; we are all children of God. "Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God Refrain: We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly, we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God!

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?
I am so very willing and able to serve in any capacity needed or requested.
It has been my honor to be a member of the Wisconsin Annual Conference and to serve in various roles. I pledge my leadership, knowledge, training, and experiences as a GC/JC delegate to help shape not only the rules of our Church, but our Methodist culture. This humble opportunity is hard and challenging, but fulfilling work. I am called and very willing to serve! When the Wisconsin Annual Conference place their trust in me to represent them, I pray that I will represent them with knowledge, sound scriptural understanding, and openness to listen to others.

**REV. DAN SCHWERIN**  
First UMC: Waukesha  
Elder in Full Connection Since: 1991

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
I have been blessed to enjoy service currently as the Wisconsin Conference Chair of the Committee on the Episcopacy, as well as the Chair of the North Central Jurisdiction Urban Network. I have served as a delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference twice, and served on a General Conference Task Force for Funding Patterns in the UMC. Last year I taught for one of the Faith Alive Weekends as well as for the Institute for Congregational Development. I have served a variety of strategic task forces in the Wisconsin Conference and for 12 years I have co-convened a small group that meets monthly to reflect on the practice of life and ministry with family systems theory.

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I believe the church needs leaders who have recently served a local church, and who love the ministry of the local church, as well as individuals who have a history of ministry with vision and effectiveness.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
I have a broad range of experiences in revitalizing ministry, starting new ministry, and supervising ministry. I have practiced systems theory for several decades and I have enjoyed a history of innovation in ministry.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
We maintain a fierce solidarity to living the reign of God and the moral imagination of Jesus.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
I believe the results of the General Conference point to a need to create more autonomy for the UMC in North America while continuing to be a global church. The time is now, and has long been, when civil disobedience is required to make the church fully inclusive and reflective of the vision 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 have been an active delegate, and more deeply involved at the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference. I have an eye for the Wisconsin Conference and have long served to make it healthier and more vital. I believe in and try to be supportive of my colleagues in ministry.

**REV. ALLIE SCOTT**  
Family Church-UMC: Neenah  
Elder in Full Connection Since: 2018

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
I have participated in a diverse array of churches across 5 annual conferences in three jurisdictions (Greater New Jersey, Upper New York [Former Troy], New England, North Georgia, and Wisconsin). My experiences in each setting has allowed me the chance to build relationships across our denomination and communicate across theological and cultural boundaries. Since moving to Wisconsin by chance in 2012 and returning by choice in 2017, I have made Wisconsin Annual Conference my home and served it devotedly.

I currently am on the:
- Northeast District Strategy Team  
- Serve as a clergy mentor  
- Chaired the Launch Out! committee as we ushered it through the Annual Conference affirmative vote at Annual Conference last year.
In the past I have served on:

- Board of Higher Education as Chairperson
- Student Ministry (2013-16)
- COSROW (2013-15)
- Annual Conference Worship Design Team and worship resource facilitator for Learning Day (2014-16)
- Circuit leader (2015-16)
- Graduated from the first class of the Institute of Congregational Development.

I am also a regular participant of the United Methodist Young Clergy Women Collective and with them have published several open letters regarding The UMC and been published in two devotional books through that group.

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?

For as long as I can remember (at least since I was confirmed in 2000), I have been amazed and in awe of what United Methodists have been able to accomplish as a denomination. I am energized by connectional gatherings in which faithful Methodists from around the world gather, and plan to be a part of whatever God is calling “the people called Methodist” to do. Being a part of Wisconsin’s delegation seems a faithful way to do just that.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?

1. I am a 31-year-old with two young children (ages 5 and 2). The vast majority of my years in ministry are ahead of me. I am running as a delegate to be a part of creating the Methodist movement that in which I will serve for years to come, the one that will support my children as they grow.

2. I have a close understanding of the workings of our global church, what historically has brought us to where we are today, and how that plays out in our current global polity. My views on mission and ministry come from a place of mutuality and deep respect, which I think is critical as we engage current conversations in our denomination.

3. I am also a certified Daring Way facilitator, having been trained by Brene Brown in courage, shame, vulnerability, and empathy.

I believe these skills would be helpful both within our delegation, as we process General Conference together, and for larger conversations in our denomination as a whole.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?

I yearn to be a part of a Methodist movement that is a network of collaborative communities of faith who are passionate about the story of Jesus and the Spirit’s transformative power. In order to live into such a reality, I believe the UMC needs to:

- Repent of its colonialist tendencies and structure so that it fully affirms the breadth of knowledge and experience of people all over the globe
- Care more about spreading scriptural holiness - that is, the love of God and neighbor - than it does about winning fights and consolidating power
- Extend that love of God and neighbor to include the affirmation of LGBTQ people called to love and service
- Trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to transform us all as grow more perfect, more whole, in Christ’s love

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?

In response to General Conference, I have watched many colleagues retreat to their various “camps,” closing doors and shutting out Colleagues as we close our circles to only those who match our theological and relational approaches to the gospel. This is completely antithetical to our connectional system, whose purpose is to unite us in Christ, share that love with others, and through that love be empowered to transform the world. In order to remain a United Methodist church, we need to do two things:

1. Stop the harm being done to LGBTQ+ siblings
2. Be willing to show up for each other, recognize the pain that some are carrying and yet promise to love each other through our differences as we ground ourselves in our baptismal vows.

How will you use your experience as a delegate to serve the local church, the Wisconsin Conference, and The United Methodist Church?
I plan to be transparent during my time as a delegate, continuing to build relationships with my siblings all over our conference and denomination, as we work to consider what the future of the Methodist movement will be. I’m not going anywhere.

REV. TOUA THOMAS THAO
Albright and New Hope Hmong UMC’s: Milwaukee
Elder in Full Connection Since: 2017

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
My participation the life of the Church involves serving on:
- BOOM and South East DCoM from 2018 to the present time
- SE District Strategy Team since 2013
- Conference Board of Higher Education and Student Ministries from 2014-2018
- SE 01 circuit leader since 2016
- Chairperson of National Hmong Caucus from 2009-2011
- Vice-Chair of Wisconsin Hmong Caucus from 2009-2012
- Asian American Language Ministries study group from 2009-2011
- Privileged to monitor GC legislation on behalf of the National Federation of Asian American United Methodists in 2012

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I would like to offer myself as the first Hmong delegate to GC/JC. I believe that the conference needs more minority delegates represent our Annual Conference. I am proud to be part of Conference that values diversity.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
I bring the perspective of a non-white, minority, and immigrant person. I understand what minorities understand when it comes to oppression and colonialism. If the church is to be a global church, I want to work towards a church that values our brothers and sisters from all over the world. With my experience of leading a two-point charge which is very diverse culturally, ethnically, linguistically, age-wise, theologically, and politically since 2015, I believe I have the gifts and knowledge to build the kingdom of God on earth.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
My priority for the UMC is to make disciples and transform lives. This means, we need to stop fighting. I believe we will not be able to fulfill the mission of Christ, if we continue to fight. I will strive to work for a Church that lives in truth and unity. However, if it comes to the point that we cannot work together anymore, I will seek to work toward an amicable separation.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
I am praying that we will find a peaceful way forward that will acknowledge both viewpoints. I am a peacemaker and will work towards healing our Church from this pain that we are experiencing and directing ourselves back to John Wesley’s goal of Scriptural holiness and holy conferencing. I believe in and work hard on practicing “Doing No Harm, Doing Good, and Staying in Love with God.”

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 to enrich the lives of United Methodists on every level. This means making the Book of Discipline practical for the daily lives of our members on every level of the Church. I have enjoyed teaching my congregations about the Polity, History, and Doctrines of our Church.

REV. DAN VERDEGAN
Zion UMC: Batavia
Elder in Full Connection Since: 2015

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
I have participated in the life of the UMC since my adoption. I grew up at Stoughton UMC, participating actively in the activities of the church (hand-bells, playing instruments, reading Scriptures, helping with food pantry, etc.), as well as being on various committees. As a young clergy, I have been the Chair of the Conference Youth Council for 5 years and currently a member of the Connectional Table Resource Team (CTRT).
Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
Since watching the 2019 Special General Conference and hearing the call and urgency for young delegates to be represented at future General Conferences, I have been in prayer about this role and I believe that my voice would add to the many young voices who will lead the UMC in the future.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
I believe that the skills and gifts I offer are: active listening, teamwork, ability to bring a jovial perspective, and harmony in conflict. These are important skills and gifts because as representative of the Wisconsin Conference, but ultimately, as ambassadors for Christ, while we might not all agree on all topics and issues, we are to be united in Christ mission for the Church.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
My priorities for the United Methodist Church are to be able to help settle differences and decide on a way forward that enables the United Methodist Church to focus on its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I believe I am called by God to represent the Wisconsin Annual Conference by prayerfully discerning support of legislation that heals, rebuilds and enables the global church to offer Christ to every corner of the world.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
In light of the 2019 Special Session of the GC, I believe that we, as United Methodists must continue to seek the welfare of all who are oppressed. United Methodists, through connectional ministries, seek to advocate for social justice just as God of the Old Testament and Jesus of the New Testament. We are to use Scripture as the means of Truth, not for harm, but with holy, spirit-led discernment to invite all to salvation that God offers through his Son Jesus Christ.

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

1. My experience as a first-time delegate will help me to connect the local church with the global church. The churches I have served do not always keep in mind a global understanding of the work of the United Methodist Church and thus, one of the results is a misunderstanding of apportionments.
2. As a delegate, I can serve the Wisconsin conference by being more in tune to all clergy and lay members.
3. As a delegate, I will serve the UMC to bring Scripture holiness where God leads me.

WENDELL WILLIAMS
Retired: Mauston UMC
Elder in Full Connection Since: 2005

How have you participated in the life of The United Methodist Church?
I have been a lifelong member of the UMC and served four congregations between 1999 and 2016. I have been active with WIS-VIM and was chair of the Wisconsin National Committee from 2004-2008. I was active on the North Central District on Ministry while I served Loyal/York Center. I have also been active with the Fox Valley Walk to Emmaus community from its inception. In addition, I served on the Conference Task Force on Human Sexuality during Bishop Lee's tenure.

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I love Jesus and His Church and the Wesleyan call to holiness of heart and life lived out in discipleship and service to all the world. I believe that I have the intellect and spiritual discernment to understand the resolutions that will come before us and to prayerfully make decisions that will be in the interest of sharing the love of God and the transforming power of Jesus Christ with the world.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
Theologically, I am an orthodox Wesleyan and would bring to the team an open mind and heart. I can both listen and respond to diverse theological positions without bitterness or rancor. I believe the Bible is clear when it comes to our sinful abuse of our sexuality and I know that other brothers and sisters in Christ have just as strong of an understanding that God's inclusive love in scripture makes our sexuality...
What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
I strongly believe that for far too long we as clergy have been content to take care of our congregations and have forsaken Christ’s call to go and make disciple. We have been chaplains for our congregations and not evangelists in our communities. We have failed to share the transforming power of the Holy Spirit as we confess our sins, turn to Jesus with repentant hearts and experience the saving, atoning power of Jesus Christ in our lives. When we fail to share God's amazing grace with all of our neighbors, we have failed to answer God's call to discipleship. The church needs to refocus on what we are call to be about.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
We are a church that is theologically divided and human sexuality is only the "tip of the iceberg." I believe that it is in the best interest of our church and our mission that the UMC divides so that the work of making disciples for the transformation of the world may move forward. As cells split and grow forming a new baby, may we split and grow to form two strong vital expressions of God's love and power to the world.

What unique skills, knowledge and/or gifts would you bring to the delegation team?
I bring an understanding of people who are less than perfect physically having been without the use of my right arm since birth. I also have spent time with Christians from Uganda as well as South Sudan during my trips to Africa helping teach pastors. As a Church historian I understand where the Church has been, how we have arrived at our current position theologically and culturally and would like to be a part of where the Church is moving to in its future.

What are your priorities for The United Methodist Church?
Revitalization, renewal and growth are the three key words. I believe that as we renew our understanding of what Methodism’s historical understanding of theology, Church and the person and character of Jesus Christ we can return to a place where we are growing churches and bringing people, young and old, not only into the church but also into Christian ministry.

How would you like to be considered for election as a delegate to General/Jurisdictional Conference?
I bring an understanding of people who are less than perfect physically having been without the use of my right arm since birth. I also have spent time with Christians from Uganda as well as South Sudan during my trips to Africa helping teach pastors. As a Church historian I understand where the Church has been, how we have arrived at our current position theologically and culturally and would like to be a part of where the Church is moving to in its future.

In light of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, how do you believe The United Methodist Church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?
I believe that the United Methodist Church is called to be a Church that helps the Christina body in the United States and around the world see how a Church can live out both an orthodoxy and an orthopraxi that represents Christ Jesus’ mission to the world and His
purpose in establishing the Church. A body that believes the truth of the Gospel and cares for people individually and corporately as well as all of creation.

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

I will seek to understand the needs of our Annual Conference and its Congregations and incorporate what I learn into how I hear God’s voice when dealing with the issues that come before me as a delegate representing the Wisconsin Annual Conference. I will try to help the local churches, both the one I serve and other United Methodist Churches to understand the whys as well as the what’s of what happens at General and Jurisdictional Conference.
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