

# 2016 General Conference Prayer Vigil Guide

## *Wisconsin Conference Prayer Vigil ~ April 1, 2016*

The Council of Bishops has asked that every annual conference set aside a day of prayer for the work of General Conference, which will meet May 10–20 in Portland, Oregon. In addition, the North Central Jurisdictional Conference will meet July 13–16, 2016 in Peoria, Illinois, where they will elect four new bishops for our jurisdiction.



Bishop Hee-Soo Jung has asked that every church in the Wisconsin Conference participate in a 24-hour prayer vigil on Friday, **April 1, 2016**. This guide, prepared by your Spiritual Formation Resource Team, offers information and resources for each hour of the vigil. The themes, prayers, and texts are from the “2016 General Conference Prayer Guide,” available for download from the conference [website](#).

### *Ideas for Organizing the Vigil*

- Include in your newsletter, bulletin, and website information about the vigil and opportunities for persons to sign up to participate in each hour.
- The vigil may be observed by individuals or by small groups (three people is a good group size for the overnight hours).
- The vigil may be observed at the church or in homes, but it is most effective if participants use the same, sacred space. Certainly, provision may be made for those unable to travel to participate from their homes.
- Choose a small space for the vigil and be sure to provide
  - a cross
  - Bibles
  - hymnals
  - comfortable chairs (and kneelers, if available)
  - prayer shawls, if available
  - candles and matches (with a note to make sure not to leave open flame untended)
  - the full sign-up schedule
  - this guide

# 2016 General Conference Prayer Vigil Guide

## *An Order for Every Hour*

### Read and Pray

Read the text and pray the prayer for the hour of your vigil. Sing or read the verses of the suggested Charles Wesley hymn from *The United Methodist Hymnal (UMH)*.

### Guided Meditation

**Sit:** Sit in a chair, with your legs flat on the floor and your hands resting gently open on your lap. Keep your spine straight, but not rigid.

**Breathe:** Inhale through your nose, keeping your shoulders relaxed. . . . Exhale through your nose. Inhale again to a count of five, keeping your shoulders relaxed. Let your belly expand with your breath. . . . Exhale to a count of five. . . . Inhale . . . . Exhale . . . . Inhale . . . . Exhale . . . .

As you continue this slow breathing, replace your counting with a prayer for God's presence:

Inhale . . . "Come, Holy Spirit"      Exhale . . . "Fill my heart with love"

—Or—

Inhale . . . "God of Grace"      Exhale . . . "Be present here"

—Or—

Inhale . . . "Lord Jesus Christ"      Exhale . . . "Have mercy"

Repeat this "breath prayer" for a time (at least a minute or two and as long as fifteen minutes). If you notice that your mind has wandered, gently return to the breath prayer on the next inhale. Check for any tension in your body, and gently relax your shoulders, hands, neck, and spine as you breathe.

**Imagine:** When you are ready, picture your congregation at a most holy time. It might be Christmas Eve, Easter morning, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Communion, a healing service, a baptism, a small group meeting, or a service opportunity. Consider what it is that makes that time most meaningful for you. Is it the altar setting, the liturgy or music, the joy of the people, the shared prayer time? Allow yourself to remember, to picture the experience fully, and enjoy the feelings that emerge.

Ask God to help The United Methodist Church fill each and every gathering, worship service, meeting, class, group, and ministry with that level of spiritual awareness and meaning. Ask God what you can do to make that vision a reality.

**Covenant:** Affirm your commitment to working for the love of Christ to fill The United Methodist Church by praying aloud the Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition (#607 *UMH*):

*I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt;  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering;  
Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things  
to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine and I am thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.*

# 2016 General Conference Prayer Vigil Guide

## Pray for Your Wisconsin Delegation

Delegates are listed in the order elected. Reserve delegates serve as needed in the order elected. All laity delegates are elected by laity; all clergy delegates are elected by clergy. Brief biographies, photos, and personal prayer requests from the delegation begin on page 10.

### General Conference Delegates

Laity:

- Lisa King
- Barbara Dick
- Gail Burgess

Clergy:

- Dan Dick
- Sam Royappa
- Steve Zekoff

Jurisdictional Conference Delegates (also includes all General Conference laity and clergy delegates)

Laity:

- Katie Crise
- Tom Popp
- Judy Vasby

Clergy:

- Amanda Stein
- Jorge Mayorga Solis
- Dan Schwerin

### Reserve Delegates

Laity:

- Jennifer Southworth
- John Lawson
- Diane Odeen
- Julie Schubring

Clergy:

- Dawn Helton-Anishinaabeqwa
- Jeremy Deaner
- George Kafer
- Jenny Arneson

## Closing Prayer for Unity

Hymn: “Blest Be the Dear Uniting Love” (#566 *UMH*)

*Scripture Text: John 17:20-21— “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

Prayer: O God whose Son prayed that his disciples would be one, we pray for the unity of The United Methodist Church. Protect us in your name, and protect us from the evil one, that we may abide in you, the Eternal One, and you in us. Amen.

# 2016 General Conference Prayer Vigil Guide

## *Prayers for Each Hour*

### **Hour 1: Pray for Understanding**

Prayer: *Come to me for understanding*, since I know you far better than you know yourself. I comprehend you in all your complexity; *no detail of your life is hidden from Me*. I view you through eyes of grace, so don't be afraid of My intimate awareness. Allow the Light of My healing Presence to shine into the deepest recesses of your being—cleansing, healing, refreshing, and renewing you. Trust Me enough to accept the full forgiveness that I offer you continually. This great gift, which cost Me My Life, is yours for all eternity. Forgiveness is at the very core of My abiding Presence.

*Scripture Text: Joshua 1:5—No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.*

Hymn: “And Can It Be that I Should Gain” (#363 UMH)

### **Hour 2: Pray for Peace**

Prayer: God of Peace, You are our quiet center, the wellspring of deep peace. Guide us to new awareness of those places where we can work to bring peace for all. Amen

*Scripture Text: Colossians 3:15—And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.*

Hymn: “Jesus, Lord, We Look to Thee” (#562 UMH)

### **Hour 3: Pray for Gentleness and Humility**

Prayer: Lord, help us to reject the “wisdom” of the world and to depend completely on you. Equip us to take on your easy yoke, and make us gentle and humble in heart. Amen.

*Scripture Text: Matthew 11:28-30 (NRSV)—“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

Hymn: “Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine” (#606 UMH)

### **Hour 4: Pray for Patience in Preparation**

Prayer: Dear Lord, guide us as we prepare for a new season in the life of our conference and our church. Strengthen our faith and grant us the patience to wait upon your reveal. Amen.

*Scripture Text: Colossians 3:12-13 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*

Hymn: “I Want a Principle Within” (#410 UMH)

# 2016 General Conference Prayer Vigil Guide

## Hour 5: Pray for All Delegations

Prayer: *Learn to laugh* at yourself. Don't take yourself or your circumstances too seriously. Relax and know that I am *God with you*. When you desire My will above all else, life becomes much less threatening. Stop trying to monitor My responsibilities; things that are beyond your control. Find freedom by accepting the boundaries of your domain. Do not miss the Joy of My Presence by carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders.

*Scripture Text: Matthew 11:28-30—“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

Hymn: “Jesus, United by Thy Grace” (#561 UMH)

## Hour 6: Pray for Wisdom

Prayer: Lord, lead us into your deep wisdom. Open our souls to the wonder of your creation. Awaken us to the radiance of your presence, that light may dwell in us and guide us in the working of your Word.

*Scripture Text: Job 42:3, 5—“Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?  
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,  
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. . . .  
I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,  
but now my eye sees you”*

Hymn: “Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire” (#603 UMH)

## Hour 7: Pray for Discernment

Prayer: Open our eyes and our hearts to be able to discern your loving will together. May your love be the root of all that we do and decide. Amen.

*Scripture Text: Philippians 1:8-11—For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.*

Hymn: “Spirit of Faith, Come Down” (#332 UMH)

## Hour 8: Pray for Joy

Prayer: We sing hallelujah, Lord, and praises to your name in guiding our work and our leaders! Let us celebrate all they have accomplished for your church, all the hard decisions they have made through prayer and dedication. Amen.

*Scripture Text: Romans 15:5-6, 13— May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. . . .*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Hymn: “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (#57 UMH)

# 2016 General Conference Prayer Vigil Guide

## Hour 9: Pray for Patience in Transition

Prayer: Dear Lord, we stand in awe of the beauty you present us in the changing of the seasons. Help us to recognize that change strengthens our resilience to go out into the world and do your work. Grant us patience and fortitude to withstand the unknown, inspiration to look to the future, and faith to rest assured in your word.

*Scripture Text: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8—For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

*a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace*

Hymn: "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown" (#386 UMH)

## Hour 10: Pray for Rest

Prayer: Gracious God, let us come to rest in the strength of your Spirit. Release us from confusion and stress. Bring us together in the tender presence of your mercy, grounded and restored in your everlasting love.

*Scripture Text: Zechariah 4:6—"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the LORD."  
Psalm 46:10—"Be still, and know that I am God!"*

Hymn: "Thou Hidden Source of Calm Repose" (#153 UMH)

## Hour 11: Pray for Hope

Prayer: God of Living Hope, be with us in our waiting and searching. Fill us with your Spirit so that we may live all of our days walking into the light of your hope. Amen

*Scripture Text: Romans 5:5—And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

Hymn: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" (#302 UMH)

## Hour 12: Pray for the Future

Prayer: Gracious and Loving God, walk with us into the future of your church. Help us to be as one with one another even as we strive to be one with you. Amen.

*Scripture Text: Jeremiah 29:11— For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

Hymn: "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord" (#438 UMH)

# 2016 General Conference Prayer Vigil Guide

## Hour 13: Pray for Understanding

Prayer: *Come to me for understanding*, since I know you far better than you know yourself. I comprehend you in all your complexity; *no detail of your life is hidden from Me*. I view you through eyes of grace, so don't be afraid of My intimate awareness. Allow the Light of My healing Presence to shine into the deepest recesses of your being—cleansing, healing, refreshing, and renewing you. Trust Me enough to accept the full forgiveness that I offer you continually. This great gift, which cost Me My Life, is yours for all eternity. Forgiveness is at the very core of My abiding Presence.

*Scripture Text: Joshua 1:5—No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.*

Hymn: “Jesus, United by Thy Grace” (#561 UMH)

## Hour 14: Pray for Peace

Prayer: God of Peace, You are our quiet center, the wellspring of deep peace. Guide us to new awareness of those places where we can work to bring peace for all. Amen

*Scripture Text: Colossians 3:15—And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.*

Hymn: “Jesus, Lord, We Look to Thee” (#562 UMH)

## Hour 15: Pray for Gentleness and Humility

Prayer: Lord, help us to reject the “wisdom” of the world and to depend completely on you. Equip us to take on your easy yoke, and make us gentle and humble in heart. Amen.

*Scripture Text: Matthew 11:28-30 (NRSV)—“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

Hymn: “Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine” (#606 UMH)

## Hour 16: Pray for Patience in Preparation

Prayer: Dear Lord, guide us as we prepare for a new season in the life of our conference and our church. Strengthen our faith and grant us the patience to wait upon your reveal. Amen.

*Scripture Text: Colossians 3:12-13 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*

Hymn: “I Want a Principle Within” (#410 UMH)

# 2016 General Conference Prayer Vigil Guide

## Hour 17: Pray for All Delegations

Prayer: *Learn to laugh* at yourself. Don't take yourself or your circumstances too seriously. Relax and know that I am *God with you*. When you desire My will above all else, life becomes much less threatening. Stop trying to monitor My responsibilities; things that are beyond your control. Find freedom by accepting the boundaries of your domain. Do not miss the Joy of My Presence by carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders.

*Scripture Text: Matthew 11:28-30—“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

Hymn: “Jesus, United by Thy Grace” (#561 UMH)

## Hour 18: Pray for Wisdom

Prayer: Lord, lead us into your deep wisdom. Open our souls to the wonder of your creation. Awaken us to the radiance of your presence, that light may dwell in us and guide us in the working of your Word.

*Scripture Text: Job 42:3, 5—“Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?  
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,  
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. . . .  
I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,  
but now my eye sees you”*

Hymn: “Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire” (#603 UMH)

## Hour 19: Pray for Discernment

Prayer: Open our eyes and our hearts to be able to discern your loving will together. May your love be the root of all that we do and decide. Amen.

*Scripture Text: Philippians 1:8-11—“For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.”*

Hymn: “Spirit of Faith, Come Down” (#332 UMH)

## Hour 20: Pray for Joy

Prayer: We sing hallelujah, Lord, and praises to your name in guiding our work and our leaders! Let us celebrate all they have accomplished for your church, all the hard decisions they have made through prayer and dedication. Amen.

*Scripture Text: Romans 15:5-6, 13—“May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. . . .*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

Hymn: “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (#57 UMH)

# 2016 General Conference Prayer Vigil Guide

## Hour 21: Pray for Patience in Transition

Prayer: Dear Lord, we stand in awe of the beauty you present us in the changing of the seasons. Help us to recognize that change strengthens our resilience to go out into the world and do your work. Grant us patience and fortitude to withstand the unknown, inspiration to look to the future, and faith to rest assured in your word.

*Scripture Text: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8—For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

*a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace*

Hymn: "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown" (#386 UMH)

## Hour 22: Pray for Rest

Prayer: Gracious God, let us come to rest in the strength of your Spirit. Release us from confusion and stress. Bring us together in the tender presence of your mercy, grounded and restored in your everlasting love.

*Scripture Text: Zechariah 4:6—"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the LORD."  
Psalm 46:10—"Be still, and know that I am God!"*

Hymn: "Thou Hidden Source of Calm Repose" (#153 UMH)

## Hour 23: Pray for Hope

Prayer: God of Living Hope, be with us in our waiting and searching. Fill us with your Spirit so that we may live all of our days walking into the light of your hope. Amen

*Scripture Text: Romans 5:5—And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

Hymn: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" (#302 UMH)

## Hour 24: Pray for the Future

Prayer: Gracious and Loving God, walk with us into the future of your church. Help us to be as one with one another even as we strive to be one with you. Amen.

*Scripture Text: Jeremiah 29:11— For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

Hymn: "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord" (#438 UMH)

NOTE: All scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

# 2016 General Conference Prayer Vigil Guide

## *Delegation Bios and Prayer Requests*

### **Jenny Arneson (Clergy, Reserve 4)**



Jenny was ordained elder in 2001. She received her MDiv from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, Masters in Administration from the University of Iowa, and Bachelor of Arts from University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Jenny has served as pastor at River Falls UMC, Onalaska UMC, and currently at Sun Prairie UMC. She has chaired the Conference Board of Higher Education and Student Ministry, the Chippewa District Superintendency Committee, and the Heartland District Council on Ministry. Currently, she serves on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and is vice-chair of the Conference Personnel Committee. Prior to entering seminary, Jenny was a lay member to Annual Conference and Head Women's Cross Country and Track & Field coach, assistant Sports Information director, and assistant to the Athletic Director for women's athletics at UW-Eau Claire.

*My prayer request is that the delegates will be able to model keeping everyone included and at the table as we engage across the theological spectrum; for relational leadership that can listen to a variety of perspectives and that will offer transformation by love.*

### **Gail Burgess (Laity, General/Jurisdictional Conferences)**



Gail Burgess is a retired librarian and loves Elizabeth George mysteries. She and her husband of nearly 40 years, Harold, have three children and three grandchildren. Gail is an active member of Bristol United Methodist Church. She is involved in UMW, currently as Dean of Mission u; has served as chair of the Wisconsin Board of Global Ministries, a VIM trip leader, and is currently associate dean of Faith Alive! Gail is on the North Central Jurisdiction Mission Council.

*I pray that we are all able to see the goodness in both those we agree with and those we disagree with, that we are able to remain healthy and energy-filled, and that we show God's love as we work together*

### **Katie Crise (Laity, Jurisdictional Conference)**



A lay member to annual conference, Katie serves on the Episcopacy Committee and the Implications Committee. Her husband, Eddie Crise, is a provisional elder serving the Danbury charge.

### **Jeremy R. Deaner (Clergy, Reserve 2)**



Jeremy is an ordained elder currently serving Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church in West Bend. He is passionate about music and worship arts, teaches about worship around the Conference, and serves as co-chair of the Discipleship Leadership Council to help provide resources for local churches. He is married to Anna Doherty, an Episcopal priest, and they have one newborn son, Andrew Clay.

*My prayer request is that General Conference may be a time when the church acts in ways that witness to the very best of who we are as United Methodists, offering God's grace to one another and to the world.*

# 2016 General Conference Prayer Vigil Guide

## Barbara Dick (Laity, General/Jurisdictional Conferences)



A member of Wellspring UMC, Barbara serves as lay member to the Wisconsin Annual Conference; delegate to the 2016 General Conference; and president of the board of directors for The Crossing, UW Madison campus ministry. She works as a freelance editor for religious publishers on leadership, worship, and preaching resources. Barbara and Dan are the proud parents of Greg, a true inspiration and a firefighter in Asheville, N.C., and of Joshua, a fine young man and a working actor in Washington D.C.

*My prayer request is for hope and joy to dominate the work of The UMC this year.*

*Please also keep Dan and me in prayer as we listen for God's leading for our future.*

## Dan R. Dick (Clergy, General/Jurisdictional Conferences)



Dan R. Dick serves as Assistant to the Bishop with the Wisconsin Conference. He served as the Director of Connectional Ministries from 2009 to 2015. Dan worked for the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, Tennessee for 15 years. He authors the blog, United Methodeviations ([doroteos2@wordpress.com](mailto:doroteos2@wordpress.com)), and has written fourteen books and hundreds of articles. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Sun Prairie, and have two sons, Greg (32), a firefighter in Asheville, North Carolina and Josh (27), an actor in the Washington, D.C. area.

*My prayer is that our General Conference might witness to the very best conduct and respect as we address the critical issues facing our church. May we be a people of the highest vision, values and virtue as we make this journey together.*

## Dawn Helton-Anishinaabeqwa (Clergy, Reserve 1)



Serving as pastor of Kenwood United Methodist Church in Milwaukee, Dawn also serves as chair of the Conference Native American Task Force and on the Board of Ordained Ministry

## George J. Kafer (Clergy, Reserve 3)



George is an ordained elder with training in congregational revitalization currently appointed to serve as Lead Pastor of Christ Church in Racine Wisconsin. He received his calling into ministry during Jr. High and was blessed to have formative ministry experiences through his home church during high school, working as a youth minister during college, a student pastor during seminary, and a fulltime pastor of two congregations over the last 9 years. George has been married to Cassandra for 12 years and together they have three young children.

*Please pray for a passionate focus on renewing and planting healthy, disciple-making UMC congregations that more and more people can know God's transforming love and forgiveness, and, in turn, God's kingdom values transform families and communities.*

# 2016 General Conference Prayer Vigil Guide

## **Lisa King (Laity, General/Jurisdictional Conferences)**



Lisa serves on the conference staff as conference treasurer.

## **John Lawson (Laity, Reserve 2)**



John serves on the Conference Board of Global Ministries as chair of Health and Welfare Ministries. He also serves on the Conference Personnel Committee. He is active in the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries. He served as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences in 1996 (reserve), 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2012 (reserve). He has served as a member of the Jurisdictional elections committee and as chair of the presiding officers committee.

*I pray for wisdom, discernment and grace filled conferencing as we do our work.*

## **Jorge Luis Mayorga Solis (Clergy, Jurisdictional Conference)**



Jorge currently serves as pastor of the Salem United Methodist Church in Waukesha. He also serves on the conference Immigration Task Force, the Personnel Committee. Jorge has also served as a District Superintendent.

## **Diane Odeen (Laity, Reserve 3)**



Diane serves as alderperson at large for the City of River Falls, Wisconsin. She also serves on the North Central Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee.

# 2016 General Conference Prayer Vigil Guide

## Tom Popp (Laity, Jurisdictional Conference)



Tom is a member of the Lake Mills United Methodist Church and a lay member of both the Wisconsin Annual Conference and its Board of Ordained Ministry. He is a retired city manager and non-profit executive, currently holding a part-time job as Director of Church Life at Bethany United Methodist Church in Madison. Tom is single, and his three children are grown with their own families. He serves as chair of the board of the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, and he remains actively involved with orphans in Malawi (southeast Africa) in a project he helped to start ten years ago.

*I have two grandchildren on the way, one to be born in March and the other in September. My prayer request is for a safe delivery for them and their moms and for a celebration of joy for our whole family.*

## Samuel J. Royappa (Clergy, General/Jurisdictional Conferences)



I was transferred from The Methodist Church in India to the Wisconsin Annual Conference in 2000. Since then, I have served two local churches as an appointed pastor and two districts as a district superintendent until 2015. I am currently serving as the Director of Connectional Ministries. My commitment is to strengthen the local churches, to develop multi-generational, multi-cultural and multi-racial ministries and to make our connectional system bear fruit at all levels. I am blessed with a wonderful family: wife and three children and an adorable granddaughter.

*My prayer request is that the General Conference would be a place where God's people would gather in the name of Christ, celebrate God's goodness and greatness, deploy the gift of listening and learning, and make a commitment to stay united for the sake of proclaiming the gospel of love, justice and mercy.*

## Julie Schubring (Laity, Reserve 4)



I am a life-long United Methodist who is finishing my PhD in Medieval Church History and Christian Education at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. I have been involved in Conference groups for over 20 years, and currently serve on the Commission on Archives and History as well as the Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns.

*My prayer request is that I finish my dissertation, be approved for graduation, and find a job. Blessings!*

## Dan Schwerin (Clergy, Jurisdictional Conference)



Dan Schwerin has traversed thirty years of shepherding in The UMC. He is Wisconsin-born and served in Duncan, OK; in Wisconsin at Parfreyville, Jackson starting a new church, then the metro Milwaukee regional office, and now at First UMC Waukesha. Dan loves his work in Waukesha—developing an urban ministry and growing community partnerships—especially those that serve the needs of children. He is married to Deb, and they have two grown children and two very above average grandchildren. He was trained as a narrative preacher, and received post-graduate education in systems theory. His first collection of poetry, *⊕rs*, is currently available at red moon press.

*I pray that The UMC focuses on the vision of the reign of God with compassion and peace.*

# 2016 General Conference Prayer Vigil Guide

## Jennifer Southworth (Laity, Reserve 1)



Jen Southworth is the Minister of Outreach and Spiritual Formation at Sun Prairie UMC, where she's served for 3 years. An alumna of UW-Madison ('07) and Wesley Theological Seminary ('13), Jen enjoys both the city and the country; hiking, musicals, cross country skiing, and shopping. Jen lives in Madison now and spends much of her free time playing board games with her boyfriend, Ryan (she usually wins). This will be Jen's second quadrennium participating in the delegation process, and she is looking forward to having deep conversations about theological and practical issues facing the Church.

*Please pray for endurance for those who are attending the conferences this year! General and Jurisdictional Conferences are a test of one's mental and physical strength as the days are long and often trying spiritually. The hope is that everyone comes home with new ideas and a fresh perspective for their local churches, rather than apathetic or cynical about our future.*

## Amanda Stein (Clergy, Jurisdictional Conference)



Amanda Stein is a local church pastor, currently serving the great people of Bashford United Methodist Church in Madison. She is a self-professing geek of political ecclesiology and excitedly awaits quadrennial years. Amanda is thankful and humbled to be an alternate delegate to General Conference to represent and serve on behalf of faithful United Methodists of the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

*I am in a time of intentional listening; I invite you to listen for God's voice too.*

## Judy Vasby (Laity, Jurisdictional Conference)



Judy Vasby is a deaconess (a laywoman called to ministries of love, justice, and service), appointed to serve at Willerup UMC in Cambridge as Coordinator of Caring Ministries and Archivist/Historian. She is active in UMW and has held offices at local, district, and conference levels, including Wisconsin Conference president. A certified lay servant, Judy has served on the boards of Northcott Neighborhood House and Hmong House of Good News, and was a member of our Conference's Disaster Response team and the East Angola Task Force. She currently serves on the Conference Commission on Archives and History. Judy has been married to Kent for 45 years; they have 4 daughters and 15 grandchildren.

*Please pray that all present at General Conference will demonstrate good conduct and respect for one another and will be open to the Holy Spirit, giving God's perspective and direction during deliberations and voting, with outcomes that will strengthen the church and develop disciples.*

## Steven E. Zekoff (Clergy, General/Jurisdictional Conferences)



Steve Zekoff, delegation chair, is a second time GC clergy delegate. He was staff at the four preceding General Conferences: twice with the General Council on Finance and Administration, Assistant Business Manager and on the Secretary's staff. North Central Jurisdiction Conference 2016 will be his fourth as a voting delegate. Steve serves as Conference Benefits Officer. He has served as a camping director, conference program staff, General Church agency staff, flood recovery project director, and as pastor in Iowa and Wisconsin.

*Please pray for the Spirit to be present among the delegates representing the church at General Conference. I ask your prayers upholding me as delegation chair, especially for wisdom, strength, empathy, compassion, patience and joy.*