

L I V I N G H O P E

Dear Lay Member to Annual Conference,

At Annual Conference 2019, our theme will be “Living Hope” based on 1 Peter 1:3. Peter’s blessing reminds us, this is the foundation for the communities’ hope, our community of Oklahoma United Methodists.

“3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy, he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

During this time of increasing change, General Conference will make decisions that will affect The Book of Discipline and the direction of our United Methodist denomination, which will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 5-15, 2020.

At the South Central Jurisdictional Conference that will be held in The Woodlands, Texas on July 15-18, 2020, bishop’s will be elected, assigned and transferred within our Jurisdiction at this Conference.

Included in this directory are committed, gifted laity servant leaders. This directory is provided so you may be better informed about the nominees, their involvement and concerns for our denomination. You will also have an opportunity to visit with them during the Laity Session on Tuesday, May 28. I encourage you to be well informed before you cast your vote.

The nominees will welcome conversations with you concerning their goals and yours for the future of our church. You’ll want to note the assigned voting number of each person you desire to support and bring a printed or electronic version of this directory with you when you come to Annual Conference.

Note that all of the voting for the delegates will take place in the Freede Center at OCU by electronic device, Tuesday, May 28. The first ballot is scheduled for 11:15 am. The second and subsequent ballots for the laity will take place at 2:00 pm.

Please know that we are thankful for your leadership in your local church, along with your willingness to serve as a lay member to Annual Conference. Let’s join together in prayer for our Bishop James G. (Jimmy) Nunn and for this conference, that God will be glorified through the mission and ministry of God’s people, known as Oklahoma United Methodist.

Blessings,
Chuck Stewart
Conference Lay Leader

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 700

AJINOMISANGHAN
Tsematosan (Gloria)

Church: Norman- McFarlin UMC | District: Heartland

Occupation: Minister | Age Bracket: 26-40

Responsibilities - Local Church

Evangelism team member
Greeter/Welcoming Team ministries
Associate Director of International Ministry at the OU Wesley

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

I have represented the Wesley at annual conference as a lay person and voted during the annual conference. I have also served as a leader for the jurisdictional wide campus ministry retreat.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe God is calling the UMC to walk in love and the beauty of His holiness through exemplifying Christlikeness and being an instrument of hope. We are also called to transform lives through active service, corporate prayer, and intentional outreach. Those things will help meet the needs of communities, families and individuals while also leading to the transformation of hearts and lives and the reign of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. In Luke 17:21, Jesus reminds us of this when He says: 'nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst.'

I believe this scripture applies to the UMC right now and in the near future. In order to effectively live out the mission of making disciples we need to express kingdom lifestyle through God's help.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

My experience with diverse cultures and Christian communities in the past drives my desire to serve as a delegate to the General Conference. I consider these experiences blessings which serve to foster growth and fulfillment of purpose in the UMC and the body of Christ. I believe I can make a difference through the help of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of God and the power of Christ at work in and through me. My core values of faith, hope and love, and the gifts of wisdom, discernment, and tongues will be valuably exercised by serving at the General Conference

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 701

BEARD
Herschel

Church: Madill- First UMC | District: Lake Country

Occupation: Abstract/Title Business | Age Bracket: 56-70

Responsibilities - Local Church

CURRENTLY: Lay Leader; Admin. Council Chair; SPRC; Finance; Lay Leadership (nominations); Chancel Choir; Mission Team.
PREVIOUS: Have served as Lay Leader, Admin. Council Chair, Council on Ministries Chair for numerous terms; Chancel Choir; SPRC; Lay Leadership; Sunday School teacher; Finance Committee Chair.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

CURRENTLY: Associate Conference Lay Leader and member Board of Laity; Chair of Conference Camps Board of Trustees; Nominating Committee; Annual Conference Council; Cross Point Camp Site Development Committee. **PREVIOUS:** First President of the Annual Conference Corporation; Chair, Standing Rules Committee; Conference Board of Ministry and lay member to the Exec. Committee where I supervised scholarships to seminary students; Vice President of Conference Finance and Administration; Annual Conference Council; member of the Conference restructuring design team for our current structure; served in the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegations for six quadreniums. Cross Point Camp Site Development Com

mittee; Cross Point Emmaus Community Lay Director for 2 years and men's walk lay director; Chrysalis boy's walk lay director. I also have served on the General Board of Discipleship and served as the Chair of the Boundaries Committee at a previous Jurisdictional Conference.

DISTRICT: currently: Chair, Dist. Bd. of Trustees; Dist. Committee on Ministry; Dist. Ministry Strategy Team; Dist. Board of Laity. **PREVIOUS:** (Ardmore District) Chair, Dist. Board of Trustees; Dist. Committee on Ministry; Episcopal Committee; District Lay Leader for 11 years; Dist. Council on Ministries.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I continue to believe in the United Methodist Church and its Wesleyan theology, which is even more relevant to the peoples across the globe and to those from all walks of life. We need to use our resources--both human and financial--to spread God's Word throughout the world, thus being faithful to the mission of making disciples.

The increasing gap between the world's wealthy and hungry and homeless is of grave concern to me. I believe that same concern is shared by members of our local churches who sit in the pews each Sunday and who give to a connectional church to touch those they cannot. The missional opportunities are endless if we are guided by scripture and by episcopal leaders who will uphold our church doctrine and the Discipline as written by the General Conference.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

Having served at six previous General and Jurisdictional Conferences, I believe I bring leadership and perseverance to the delegation. This is hard work. It will require a great deal of study over the next year preparing for what could be a turning point for our denomination. I am willing, as I have previously, to offer myself in leadership for the legislative committees where most of the important work of the Conference takes place. Sitting on the floor during the plenary sessions requires concentration and a strong knowledge of the rules which govern the process.

Much of my service has been in training laity. My previous experience at General Conferences gives me the opportunity to mentor and train younger members of our conference, both lay and clergy, who share a similar call to serve the church in this way--a call I have felt strongly for the past 20 years. It is important that the Oklahoma delegation be a strong, well--prepared delegation. Though we are not of the same opinion on the issues, we can love and care for each other through that long process in a way that creates mutual respect and concern for each other.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 702

BLACKSTEN
Courtney

Church: Yukon- Church of the Good Shepherd | District: Crossroads

Occupation: Youth Director | Age Bracket: 26-40

Responsibilities - Local Church

- Director of Youth Ministries at the United Methodist Church of the Good Shepherd in Yukon, (2012-Present)
- Professional Certification in Youth Ministry, awarded by General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, presented at Annual Conference in 2018
- Administrative Council Member
- Generosity Campaign, Stewardship Meal Coordinator
- Lead Innovator in the Center for Youth Ministry Training's Youth Ministry Innovation Laboratory

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

- Conference Council on Youth Ministry Adult Co-Chair
- District Youth Coordinator for Crossroads District
- Camping and Retreat Ministries Board of Trustees
- District Camps Curriculum Writing/Editing Team
- Design Team for Camp Spark and Spark Young Adult Camps
- Adult leader at youth camps: Camp Spark, CYME (now LEAD SH), JEM (now LEAD MS), Young Adult Spark Retreat

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe God is calling all the members of the United Methodist Church to take their baptismal vows seriously so that they are growing in discipleship and helping others to grow as well. Part of taking our vows seriously means listening to our young people and walking alongside them. The church needs to actively listen to the thoughts and ideas of young people because they are the courageous voices that will keep the church moving forward and growing in the world they are already shaping with grace and beauty. To more effectively live out its mission, the United Methodist Church needs to continue to create diverse avenues for the church's mission and ministry to be done. Adopting policies that allow for the diversity of the body that makes up the United Methodist Church will create new opportunities for discipleship around the world. For the church to be more effecting in living out its mission we must develop leaders, both lay and clergy, who are diverse and adaptive to their ever-changing contexts: leaders who work together to create innovative ways of doing ministry, build bridges between the church and their communities, and seek to serve and love all people.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I have been a youth director for the past 10 years, and one of my tasks is to be an advocate for youth and young people in places where they are not invited to the table. I want to serve as a delegate to General Conference to be a voice for the youth and young people that I work with and for.

I can make a difference by engaging in dialogue with the people in our Annual Conference, especially young people, about the future of our church and its mission. The General Conference sets the rules and establishes the culture of the church, but those members come from local churches. I want to help the church create policies and legislation that will allow its diverse members, both laity and clergy, be faithful to its mission of creating disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world in a world that is changing.

I know that serving as a delegate to General Conference carries great responsibility and will be committed to fulfilling that role to the best of my abilities.

Lay Nominees to General/Jursidictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 703

BOONE
Philip

Church: Tulsa- Boston Ave UMC | District: Council Oak

Occupation: Director of Mid-High and Confirmation Ministry

Age Bracket: 26-40

Responsibilities - Local Church

I am currently the Mid-High director at my church. In the past, I've been a children's director, sang in the choir, rang bells, and have been on the SPRC committee.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

I am involved with the Council Oak District Youth Council. I'm on the Design Team for Camp United.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

God is calling for us to show God's love. We are called to be the church by loving one another, by showing compassion to each other. We transform the world with the love of Jesus. It is our job to welcome everybody and to love everybody. As John Wesley succinctly put, it is our job to "do good, do no harm, and stay in love with God."

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I want to be a part of the delegation so I can help make a difference in the United Methodist Church. My youth deserve a thriving UMC for them to be a part of. I want to help that happen. I love this church and want to see it become the best it can be.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
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VOTING NUMBER: 704

BRAUCHER
Laley Danyiel

Church: Norman- Bridgeview | District: Heartland

Occupation: College Student, Intern for UMC Publishing House

Age Bracket: Under 25

Responsibilities - Local Church

I joined Claremore First United Methodist Church when I was in the seventh grade. I immediately became involved in everything that I could. My responsibilities ranged from leading worship for our youth group of 60-100 people and leading worship during our Sunday morning services to being a shadow student alongside my youth director, Jaimie Willis. The profound experiences that I had within my youth group in middle school ultimately led me to be immensely committed to leadership within the church during high school. In eighth grade, I attended CYME for my first year and this was such an impactful experience for me. I continued attending until I graduated high school and was no longer considered a youth, and I do plan to go back as an adult. My commitment to CYME transformed from simply being a camper to becoming the CCYM/CYME Chaplain and Worship Leader. I held this position during my senior year and during my graduate year.

Since high school, I have gone on to attend Oklahoma City University as a Bishop Scholar. I am studying Religious Education and Mass Communications. My first year of college, I was a Ministry Intern at Nichols Hills United Methodist Church where I served with the nursery, fifth grade, youth, and young adult ministry. My sophomore and junior years, I accepted a position as the Christian Education Director at Bridgeview United Methodist Church where I was able to be in such wonderful ministry, primarily with children and youth. During this time, I was also serving as the Camps Intern at the Oklahoma United Methodist Conference Office. I am now serving at the United Methodist Publishing House with the Senior Editor of Children's Curriculum as a Remote Intern, a position that has never existed before, with hopes of becoming a writer/editor at the House after graduation. Additionally, I am still working with Bridgeview United Methodist Church as their Social Media Coordinator.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

- During my sophomore year of high school, our youth band led worship at Annual Conference.
- I served as the Chaplain of CCYM during my senior year and graduate year of high school.
- I served as a youth delegate at Annual Conference during my junior and senior year of high school.
- Camps Intern- Oklahoma Camp and Retreat Ministries.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe that God is calling the United Methodist Church to love as Jesus did. Jesus stood with the minority, not with the majority. Jesus sat with the tax collectors, associated with foreigners, touched people who were seen as dirty in the eyes of society, and stood up for women and children. Jesus was an advocate. Jesus went against the norm. Jesus, above all, loved. I believe that God is calling the Church, and particularly the young people of the Church, to stand up and speak up for a more loving, inclusive, and accepting United Methodist Church.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I want to serve as a delegate to General Conference because I believe that the voices of young people need to be heard. I believe that our voices were not heard during the Special Session of General Conference 2019 and my hope is that, by serving as a delegate, this will change. By serving, I hope to make a difference for all of the children, teens, young adults, adults, and senior adults who are equally a part of the circle of God. We are all children of God and are of sacred worth, and I pray that this will be embodied at General Conference 2020.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
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VOTING NUMBER: 705

BROWN
Eric

Church: OKC- Mosaic UMC | District: Crossroads

Occupation: Parts Associate | Age Bracket: 26-40

Responsibilities - Local Church

Lay Leader (along with the various ex-officio positions), lay delegate to Annual Conference, Hospitality Table coordinator, merger exploratory team member, Mosaic-Mayfair Heights joint team member

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Member, conference Board of Church and Society

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

We have much soul-searching to do. This year and the next are a call to us to live in love, live in God, and live for each other. Some humbling or uncomfortable moments lie ahead, but it is up to us to own them and remove the logs from our eyes (as the passage goes) and have faith that it will allow us to make things well.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

At this pivotal time for the church, I want to help it take the bold steps that we have said are needed but seldom actually taken. Our ability to effectively be the hands and feet of Christ depends on it.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 706

CALHOUN
Kira Dawn

Church: Shattuck- First UMC | District: Cimmaron

Occupation: Youth Minister, Sapulpa UMC | Age Bracket: Under 25

Responsibilities - Local Church

I have served as Youth Minister at Sapulpa FUMC for the past 2 years. In my position as Youth Minister, I have created a local outreach for our community of students to feel welcome, participate in worship, and fellowship.

While this has become my title, I feel that my responsibilities go beyond that. I serve on numerous committees: Finance, Trustees, Mission, and Council. I lead our contemporary worship service. I assist our lead pastor in programming, fellowship, evangelism, pastoral care, preaching and in any other capacity that he may feel fit.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

At the district level, I have served as the Council Oak Youth Adult Co-Chair for the past 2 years. This position has allowed me to serve as a worship team member, small group leader, and dean at our district camps. It has allowed me to assist our district youth in having a voice in what happens at camp, understanding the United Methodist Church, planning district events, and ensuring that our finances are in line with the district office.

Within the conference, I serve as an Adult for our Youth Delegates to annual conference. In this position, I help the youth have a better understanding of what is happening during conference, I answer questions about scripture and Biblical understanding, and I help shuffle them from place to place. I serve as an Adult on CCYM (Conference Committee of Youth Ministries) and LEAD (formally known as CYME) Executive Team. These positions are primarily assisting the youth in planning different activities: meetings, camp, and missional opportunities.

I have been a delegate to the Oklahoma annual conference a total of 7 years.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe in order to effectively live out our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, we must be willing to uphold the value of Scripture. We need to stop conforming to society but work on bridging the gap between what Scripture says and what society says. We need to better communicate our message of hope, love, and grace to our younger generations. My hope is that we are not creating an echo-chamber, rather that we are listening and directing all people to the understanding of what the Bible says.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

As a 24-year-old young adult in the United Methodist Church, I feel that part of my calling is to help other young adults and youth have better understanding of Scripture and our Traditional Wesleyan Views. I believe as a delegate to General/Jurisdictional Conference I will be that voice for those who are unable to be a part of the delegation.

I have the ability to understand, follow, and influence the legislative process that will occur at General/Jurisdictional Conference because I have received several years of theological training.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 707

CURRY
Kasey

Church: Edmond- First UMC | District: Crossroads

Occupation: Student, OKUMC Intern | Age Bracket: Under 25

Responsibilities - Local Church

I started off as a youth intern at FUMC Owasso in the Council Oak district. I was the intern for almost two years there. Now I am a youth volunteer at FUMC Edmond of the Crossroads district and have been there since August. Back in Owasso, I was on the church council and helped make decisions pertaining to that church. I also was on the design team for Youth Force when Owasso hosted it in 2016.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

I was an equalization delegate to the 2015 annual conference and as a youth then I had the honor to be a part of the people who voted. I have been to that annual conference and the one in 2016. I would have gone to more but I moved to Oklahoma at the end of 2013. I have been working at the conference office for 3 years now, since the beginning of my freshman year of college in 2016. I was on the first team to start up Oklahoma's Mobile Day Camp as the team administrator. I was a member of Project Transformation this past summer.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

Right now, God is calling for a lot of things to be done in the UMC. With the special called general conference just being finished there is a lot of work to be done. In the aftermath of the chaos that happened I firmly believe God is calling for love. Simply love. Making disciples is not about handing out Bibles to people and hoping they join a local church. It is about inviting everyone with open minds, open hearts, and open doors. The UMC cannot do one of those things without the other two. Once we extend an invite to someone we have to be supportive and loving in every way we can. The Church cannot thrive without the world seeing Christians as loving people, otherwise we will lose our people. Love is what I believe God is calling us, the UMC, to effectively live out our mission.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I was in attendance at this special called general conference and as a young person I urge the UMC to send more of us to these important decision-making conferences. As years go on the Church will need young people in the positions of voting on these matters and we need to start sending young people now. I am a very dedicated United Methodist. I am majoring in religion and am currently taking a United Methodists Studies class. I work at the OKUMC conference office and I hear what is happening almost every day. But those are just logistics. My spirit is calling me to serve because I care so deeply for the health of the UMC. As a young person I am what the Church needs because I am staying through the celebrations and the mournings of the Church. To have a young person so dedicated to the UMC is, I believe, of utmost importance. I will listen to all people of the UMC and do what I believe is best for our conference and our Church if I am voted in to this very important matter. Thank you.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 708

DAY
Madison

Church: Yukon- Church of the Good Shepherd | District: Crossroads

Occupation: College Student | Age Bracket: Under 25

Responsibilities - Local Church

While in high school, I was very active in my youth group. I held a position as the representative for my grad. I was also a leader in our youth praise band.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

I have been an active participant in CCYM and have attend the former CYME now LEAD for all the years available.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe that God is calling the United Methodist Church to be more open to effectively live out the mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I personally believe that we, as the United Methodist Church, should live out our motto of open hearts, open minds, and open doors. If we are to truly live out this motto we can touch the hearts of so many more people. When we shut others opinions out and put ourselves in a bubble, we are limited to the people who just like ourselves. If we are to open our hearts, minds, and doors, we are exposed to new ideas and beliefs that ourselves alone can not reach. I believe God is calling us to respect one another beliefs and open our hearts to something new. God has always been flipping our world upside down with new perspectives, we just need to be willing to open up and listen to how God is speaking.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I have recently attended the special called General Conference in 2019. While being there, I was dishearten being a young adult, eighteen, seeing that there was not much representation for us. I am a religion major at Oklahoma City University majoring in youth ministry. Because of this, I am very passionate about the youth and young adults having a voice at these conferences. Being a young adult, I believe I bring a new perspective to the table. There are many people from different generations of living. I believe young adults give a different view from the older generations and bring a new way of looking and interpreting proposals brought up at these two conferences.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 709

DEDMON
Caeli Ann Louise

Church: Edmond- First UMC | District: Crossroads

Occupation: College Student | Age Bracket: Under 25

Responsibilities - Local Church

At Edmond First, I was actively involved in the youth group and served on the Youth Leadership Team. I served as a leader for Growing in Grace, with incoming 3rd through 5th grade children. I also attended Senior High Leadership Camp and served as a small group leader.

At the OU Wesley, I recently completed the Leadership in Training Course. I will finish out the year serving on the Worship team, and next year I will lead a brand new Book Study group that will feature discussions on Christian books we otherwise might not get the opportunity to read.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

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What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

The United Methodist Church currently retains the ability to be globally relevant yet locally effective. Its position as a global church lends diverse perspectives that maintain the Church's versatile outlook and ability to be in mission with the rest of the world. As a Spanish speaker who understands the value of cultural diversity in engagement, I think maintaining this global outlook is important to the future vitality of the United Methodist Church.

I support the inclusion and full participation of all of God's children in His Church. A revitalized effort at Holy Conferencing will imperative to the future of the church, as young people watch how our issues are handled.

Environmental stewardship and human trafficking are two issues that God has especially placed on my heart. Concerted efforts toward sustainability around the globe model respect for God's creation. Oklahoma, with the intersection of 3 major highways, has high rates of human trafficking, and I honestly don't see the Church addressing this monumental issue. In May, I am excited to study human trafficking in Mexico, hopefully employing that knowledge in developing solutions.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

For a young person, I am uniquely qualified to participate in General Conference. 3 years of high school Speech & Debate experience at a national level equipped me with speaking, presentation, and parliamentary procedure skills. My experience in OU's President's Leadership Class and as a National Merit Scholar color my perspective as a young person, being able to view issues from both an analytical and strategic lens.

One thing I've learned from my religious studies class at OU is the importance of the different perspectives of both insiders and outsiders for any given issue. I am in a unique position in relation to the United Methodist Church: I am an experienced insider in the local church, but an "outsider" to the legislative process of the General Conference. My perspective, therefore, is rooted in a strong spiritual background, yet offers a fresh view on the issues facing the Church.

According to StrengthsFinder, my top three strengths are Input, Ideation, and Adaptability. Succinctly, I am good at taking in information, coming up with ideas, and being adaptable. Delegates to General Conference are tasked with sorting through an immense information load, and are required to must be flexible to work well with others.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
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VOTING NUMBER: 710

DEWEY
Melanie Daun

Church: Tulsa- Centenary UMC | District: Council Oak

Occupation: Deaconess | Age Bracket: 56-70

Responsibilities - Local Church

Appointed by bishop to Centenary in 2016. Serve as community social outreach coordinator, communion steward, Bible study leader, member of various committees, member of Administrative Council.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Member of conference Board of Laity, and Discipleship Ministry Team. District UMW officer. Frequent speaker and study leader for districts units.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

Before we can transform the world we must begin with transforming our hearts. Our personal transformation can only occur when we embrace Luke 10:27, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength and all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself". I believe God is calling all of us to seek Him, to fall in love with him, and to allow him to transform us. By doing so we will become equipped to live out His great commission, becoming disciples and disciple makers. As the UMC it is our mission to listen to God's call on our hearts.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

As a delegate to General/Jurisdictional Conference I bring a desire to participate in strengthening the UMC for the future. I believe that I am openminded, creative, willing to think outside of the box and diplomatic. The UMC is very near and dear to my heart and I feel a responsibility to be part of the solution to obstacles we are facing and may face in the future. I bring with me an ability to work with others and a dedication and commitment to hard work and integrity.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
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VOTING NUMBER: 711

DISTEFANO
Karen Jean

Church: Bartlesville- Oak Park UMC | District: Green Country

Occupation: Instructor; Mission Interpreter | Age Bracket: 41-55

Responsibilities - Local Church

Missions Committee Chair
SPRC Chair
Lay Speaker
VIM Team Leader
UMW President
Alternate Delegate to Annual Conference
UMYF President

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Conference Secretary of Global Ministries
Cookson Hills Board of Directors
SCJ CSGM Fellowship Chair
The Advance Committee Chair

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

When the Pharisees wanted to trap Jesus, they tested his understanding of Scripture by asking what the greatest commandment in the law was. His answer was unexpected. Instead of diminishing Scripture down to a checklist of perfunctory tasks to perform, Jesus reveals the transformative nature of the Word when he simply said to love God above all else and then love everyone else. I believe the most effective way the UMC can immediately live out its mission to make disciples of this Jesus for the transformation of the world is to do what he told us to do: love God and all of God's children through acts of compassion, justice, and mercy.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

A fourth-generation Methodist, I want to serve as a delegate because future generations need the same opportunity to know Jesus Christ through the foundations of Wesleyan theology: grace, faith, and good works. As Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, I have had the opportunity to work with faithful servants--and those still seeking--from all parts of the world. I bring this multicultural understanding to the Oklahoma delegation as we work to bring unity to the body of Christ.

Lay Nominees to General/Jursidictional Conference
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VOTING NUMBER: 712

DOLLARHITE
Andrea Beth

Church: Lawton- Centenary UMC | District: Wichitas

Occupation: Church Administration | Age Bracket: 26-40

Responsibilities - Local Church

Finance Committee Member, Church Council Member, Business Administrator, Children's Minister, Youth Volunteer

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Wichitas District Finance Committee Member, Wichitas District Administrator, Wichitas District Superintendency Committee Member, Annual Conference Equalization Delegate, Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration Committee Member, Annual Conference Audit Subcommittee Member, Annual Conference Ex-Officio Delegate

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe God is calling the Church to stand on our Christian and Wesleyan Heritage through Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience. As a Global Church, we are called to be the witness of God's transformation through belief in Jesus Christ regardless of the demands of the culture and society we live in. We are called to actively pursue perfection in Christian love, as individuals and as the Body of Christ. General Conference is the governing body tasked with the responsibility to ensure the United Methodist Church is this witness and is actively pursuing this perfection in Christian love.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I have education in the areas of United Methodist Doctrine and Polity, as well as experience using the two together at the local and district levels, that will be highly beneficial to the legislative process of General Conference. I have a commitment to rules that make sense, serve the right purpose, and are equitable to all parties as possible. I believe that God has given me gifts, graces, education, and experience in finance and administration that are invaluable to the governing body of the UMC.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 713

FOSTER
Chantelle Soderstrom

Church: Edmond- Acts 2 UMC | District: Crossroads

Occupation: Welcome and Connection Director | Age Bracket: 41-55

Responsibilities - Local Church

I am currently on staff as the Welcome and Connection Director at Acts 2 UMC. I am responsible for welcoming guests and transitioning them into church membership, all special events, brand/marketing oversight, and radical hospitality. Prior to my staff position, I was engaged for 13 years as a full-time volunteer assisting my husband, Dr. Mark Foster, in all evangelistic duties as we planted a UMC in NW Edmond. I've served in nursery oversight, children's ministry, youth ministry, nurture, hospitality, two building committees, four capital campaigns, and oversight of marketing and branding for a daughter church and a church within a church. I've served as a church camp volunteer, a mentor, Bible study leader, VBS leader, and Project Transformation volunteer. I've been an active participant in local and international mission. I also served on staff in two other United Methodist Churches. I was the secretary for the music department at Highland Park UMC in Dallas, TX and the Program Coordinator for St. Paul UMC in Charlotte, NC. I was an active participant in UMW in Minco, OK and helped start and staff a CDO program at Wesley UMC in El Reno.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

I served as Vice President and President for the Clergy Spouse Fellowship and provided hospitality for clergy spouses at Annual Conference. I have served as a Lay Delegate to Annual Conference. I've served as a camp counselor for Growin' in Grace camp, 6th grade camp, JEM camp, North & South OKC district camp, Journey, and Dayspring. I also served on design team for Dayspring. I've hosted training events for the district at my local church. I regularly provide training in welcome, hospitality and evangelism for the conference (Crossroads, Heartland, Council Oak, Northern Prairie districts). I was a workshop co-leader and panel participant teaching on worship design for millennials at Bishop's Week for the South Central Jurisdiction.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe God is calling us to continue offering hope and grace to all we encounter. Carrying out our mission of making disciples will involve adapting to a world ahead that is radically different from all that is behind us. Adaptive leadership will be key in seeing, understanding, and facing with new actions the future of the church. I also believe God is calling us to work on the health of our local congregations and pastors. The healthier the church and pastor the greater the impact and ability to expand the Kingdom of God. We need churches full of praying people who are seeking whomever God will send and who are ready to receive them. To grow, welcome, make disciples and find a richer experience of "church," we must continue to seek opportunities to go out of our church buildings and into our neighborhoods and cities with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I have spent my entire adult life actively expanding the Kingdom of God through the local United Methodist church. I have held leadership roles in small churches with seven members and large churches of 10,000 members. For the past 20 years, I've had the incredible opportunity to be a part of starting a new United Methodist church that has birthed two more churches. In 1999, we began a new community with myself, my husband, our two-year-old son, and another son on the way. I was the first adult member of this new congregation that now has 885 members. In my time on staff, my main responsibility has been to bring new people into membership. Since 2012, I've brought in 667 new members with 227 of those being professions of faith. I poured 25 years into building the local church and building my family. God has given me all this experience for a reason. If I do not share this with the larger church, I will lessen the impact God can make on our world. I am ready to share my fresh eyes and ears and my passion for the church representing the Oklahoma Conference.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 714

FREESE
Piper Nigel

Church: Jenks- First UMC | District: Council Oak

Occupation: Homemaker | Age Bracket: 41-55

Responsibilities - Local Church

Audio/Visual Tech, Administrative Council Member, Youth Minister, Co-Led Mission Teams to Philippines twice, Sunflower Mississippi, state and local missions, numerous years as Youth camp small group leader, God Squad leader for Youth Force.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

I have been a district camp counselor, Youth Force Representative, part of the initial VIM Philippines Scouting Team, I have been lay delegate to Annual conference many times over the years.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

The United Methodist Church currently does a great deal to make disciples for Jesus Christ. I believe the church needs to reach further, find the people on the fringes that haven't met Jesus, and introduce them to Him. We have to go, not stay in our churches and expect people to come to us. We have to live life with people where they are. We should be willing to see the good, the bad, and everything in between. We need to be willing to walk along side them even when they don't look or act like us.

We also can't neglect our own churches. Discipleship is important, If people are not growing in their faith then we, the church, haven't done our job. We need Biblical based preachers and teachers that are willing to boldly train up disciples! Jesus was our example and we must continue His mission!

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

While attending as an observer to The Special Called General Conference 2019 I felt God compelling me to be apart of the future of The United Methodist Church. I know some believe our beloved denomination is over, but I feel just the opposite. I believe our greatest days are yet to come, and I want to be a part of making that happen. .

I believe I can make a difference by listening, using my Spiritual gifts of wisdom and knowledge, and standing on Biblical truth. The United Methodist Church is a wonderful Global Church that ministers to many and continues to make disciples. We just celebrated 50 years as United Methodist... I am looking forward to being a part of the next 50 years.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 715

FULTON
Kent Wade

Church: Edmond- New Covenant UMC | District: Crossroads

Occupation: Federal Administrative Law Judge | Age Bracket: 56-70

Responsibilities - Local Church

Chair, Pastor Parish Relations Committee; Co-Chair, Administrative Council; Lay Delegate to Annual Conference

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Chancellor, Oklahoma Annual Conference; Trustee, Camps and Retreat Ministries; Reserve Delegate to General Conference in 2008, 2016 and 2019; 2nd Laity Alternate to the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church, 2016-2020

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe God is calling the United Methodist Church to definitively resolve the human sexuality issue facing the Church as soon as possible so that we can return to our primary mission of making Disciples for Jesus Christ and sharing His love and grace with a world desperately in need of hope and salvation. Effective witness is made very difficult when our doctrinal disagreements turn into the no holds barred conflict witnessed in St. Louis. We can and must do better. Once we move past this current conflict, we will be able to fully devote our attention and resources to the people and places throughout the world in need of acts of mercy and loving grace.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I have been a United Methodist my entire life. I have committed myself to serving the church to the best of my ability wherever God has led me. I have witnessed with anguish three meetings of General Conference where brothers and sisters in Christ have turned against each other and accused one another of all manner of misconduct. I believe Jesus weeps at the state of the United Methodist Church. We can and must do better. As set forth in our Confession of Faith, I believe the Holy Bible reveals the Word of God so far as it is necessary for our salvation. It is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice. I further believe that over the last four decades up through and including the meeting in St. Louis, the United Methodist Church has remained steadfast to that Confession of Faith. As a Delegate, I will work to create accountability for those who will not abide by the Book of Discipline. I will also work to create a gracious exit for those who cannot in good conscience remain obedient to the doctrine and teaching of the United Methodist Church.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 716

HASTY
Rebekah Wofford

Church: OKC- New Hope UMC | District: Crossroads

Occupation: Connectional Ministries Admin. Assistant/ Office Manager

Age Bracket: 41-55

Responsibilities - Local Church

Beyond the Box Sunday School (Co-teacher with husband, Jason) 2012-present
Staff Parish Relations Committee, Secretary Jan-Oct 2016; Chair Oct 2016-Nov 2018
Lay Delegate 2016- Present

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Lay Delegate 2016-Present
Discipleship Ministry Team board 2016-present
employed at Annual Conference 2012-present

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

As a single woman in my early twenties, a baptized Christian, I struggled to find a place to belong. The denomination I was raised in no longer felt like “home.” I prayed daily to God, but lacked any relationship with other Christians. I was not raised United Methodist, but I believe this denomination chose me. I found love, acceptance, kindness and hope in the UMC. My husband and I have raised our daughter and son in an environment where women lead congregations and are given positions of leadership. Through the darkest of times, it is the love and support of the church that has carried us. What does God call us to do? “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...” Matthew 28:19. It is actually quite simple. Just like me, there are so many hurt children, youth, and adults who are searching. Do we have enough love, acceptance, kindness and hope? Do we have enough time and space? Yes! We follow Jesus Christ whose love for all is infinite! Can we open our hearts, together, to make a difference? Yes, together in love, we can make our UMC a “home” for all, and transform the world!

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

In the last seven years, I have had the extraordinary opportunity to work at the conference office. Working with clergy and laity from across the state, both large urban and small rural congregations, what remains consistent is their faith in Jesus Christ and love for their neighbors. The question always at work is “How can we do this and can we do it better?” Over the last three years, I have been a member of the board of Discipleship Ministry Team, served as a lay delegate from New Hope UMC as well as secretary and later chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee. Being a part of these ministries has shown me the inside workings of the church. In all instances, even when we disagreed, we were able to come together to focus on our one goal- our one calling- our Great Commission- to make disciples! I believe my previous experience and education make me a worthy candidate to represent the Oklahoma United Methodist conference as a lay delegate.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 717

HAWTHORNE
Maurice Ray

Church: Wilburton- First UMC | District: Lake Country

Occupation: Retired Physical Science Professor & Department Chair

Age Bracket: Over 70

Responsibilities - Local Church

Current responsibilities: Lay Leader, Assistant Treasurer, Worship Committee, Trustees, Finance Committee, Choir Member, Higher Education & Campus Ministry Coordinator, frequent Lay Reader/Worship Leader, Certified Lay Servant

Past responsibilities: Treasurer, Administrative Council Chair, Discipleship Team, Sunday School Teacher, Strategic Planning Committee, Education Committee Chair, Youth Mentor for Confirmation

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Current responsibilities: District Lay Leader, District Committee on Ministry, District Missional Strategy Team, Conference Board of Laity, Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Treasurer of Eastern Oklahoma State College Wesley Foundation/United Ministry

Past responsibilities: Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Conference Board of Education, Conference Board of Discipleship/Discipleship Ministry Team, District Director of Lay Servant Ministries, Associate District Lay Leader, District Discipleship Team, District Representative on the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Board Chair of Eastern Oklahoma State College Wesley Foundation/United Ministry

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

In today's American culture, the UMC must go outside the walls of existing church structures to meet people where they are. We need to put the ideas of "See All the People" into practice. Once we have met them where they are, established a relationship with them and invited them into our fellowship, we have to be truly welcoming to live up to our motto, "Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors." The former practice of "Build it and they will come" is not effective today when there are so many conflicting demands on people's time and interests and many people have serious doubts about organized religion.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I want to serve as a delegate in order to advance the kingdom of Jesus Christ through the United Methodist Church. The only way to do this is to prayerfully search out the will of God and act accordingly. I can make a difference by bringing the experience of over fifty years of service to the former Methodist Church and the current United Methodist Church in numerous leadership roles. I have the experience of serving in leadership while a high school youth in the Methodist Youth Fellowship, as a college student in Methodist Student Movement campus ministry roles, and as an adult.

Lay Nominees to General/Jursidictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 718

HAWTHORNE
Amanda "Mandi" Eileen

Church: Wilburton- First UMC | District: Lake Country

Occupation: College Student | Age Bracket: Under 25

Responsibilities - Local Church

Apart of the worship team specifically the audio/visual aspects of worship. I have led several classes regarding human trafficking in the world and in Oklahoma and how we as Christians and United Methodists should respond.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

None

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

The UMC has a strong sense of justice, mercy, and working to change the world for the better. God calls each and every one of us to care for each other and to serve one another. In this chaotic world that we live in, the Church needs to be seen a beacon amongst that chaos. To be that beacon the UMC must be welcoming and inclusive to all that we meet no matter their circumstances. Jesus was one to favor the company of sinners rather than the powerful and affluent. The least of all are the people that are in need of God's love and grace the most of all and we should do everything that we can to serve those and show them that God is forgiving and will never abandon them no matter what they've done or what has happened.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

There is an extreme lack of representation and involvement from the younger generations in the Church. The older generations are over represented and for us younger people, we feel that we have no voice in the way our Church functions.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 719

HENSON
Faye Marlene

Church: Weatherford- First UMC | District: Cimmaron

Occupation: U.S. Census Field Representative & Retired, Faculty,
Southwestern OSU, Health Information Management; M.Ed.- Biology

Age Bracket: 56-70

Responsibilities - Local Church

Current - President, UMW-Weatherford, Chair Frances Good UMW Circle;
Previous - Member - Finance Committee, SPPR Committee, Church Council

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Current - President - Cimarron District UMW; Previous - Member of Nominating Committee for Cimarron District; Cimarron District & Clinton District - UMW Sec. Program Resources; OK-UMW served on Nominating Committee

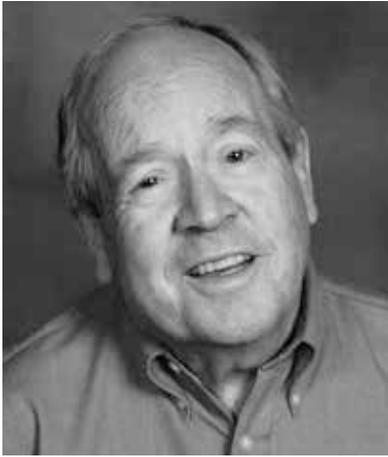
What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe we have to find ways to connect with all people in our society. I have to be willing to consider new possibilities as well as have individuals be able to use their gifts in the service of the church. Some of the most passionate followers of Christ, at first, may not have thought they could have a mission that God could call them to fulfill. That means being in our communities, being open to understanding neighbors near and far, and finding ways that we can make relevant the message through his teachings. We definitely have to meet people where they are – we can't wait for them to just "come through the front door." I don't think you can just make a disciple and then forget that person. The church should be supporting the continuing development of believers throughout their lifetime as a disciple of Christ – because it is a long-term commitment. A disciple must have a way to continue growing and maturing in their faith. When a person feels empowered by an inner spiritual calling, they will be motivated to go the extra mile for Christ in whatever mission they adopt – and that will transform the world.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I can be a member of the transforming generation for the United Methodist Church. I am not rooted in a strict traditionalist reading of the biblical teachings as I find an understanding of what the creators of the texts were trying to teach for their societal situations and how we must continue to understand the application of the universal teaching to "love your neighbor and love the Lord your God." I apply my understanding of current human circumstances based upon what is happening now, not upon what was understood in an era before scientific understanding. I rely on Wesley's direction to study scripture, respect tradition, apply reason, and use my experience to make decisions. I will listen and I will ask questions to improve my understanding of issues that we may face. I have travelled extensively to meet my neighbors around the world. I was blessed to have been able to travel to Israel with two respected members of the clergy as leaders of the team, and I feel women must participate as active members in their community of faith to be able to lift up the mission for caring that the church is called to fulfill.

Lay Nominees to General/Jursidictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 720

HIMSTREET
Roger Gordon

Church: Bartlesville- First UMC | District: Green Country

Occupation: Oil and gas production, retired. Consultant

Age Bracket: Over 70

Responsibilities - Local Church

Lay speaker, Family Life Committee, Sunday School class leader, children;s activity volunteer, youth confirmation leader

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

None

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

Carry out our mission as described in the Book of Discipline

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

Maintain UMC dedication to our Traditional discipline and clergy practices

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 721

JOHNSON
Darren Lee

Church: Collinsville- Meadowcreek UMC | District: Council Oak

Occupation: Youth and Children's Director | Age Bracket: 41-55

Responsibilities - Local Church

I have been doing youth, children's and music ministry for 25 years. I have served on Administrative Committee, Worship Committee, Trustees and Evangelism.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

I served as Bartlesville District Youth Coordinator for 8 years and Young Adult Delegate to Annual Conference from Bartlesville District. I have also served as a camp dean for 22 years in Joy, Growin in Grace, and District camps.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe the UMC is in a period of transition and God is guiding us to reach out to the disenfranchised of our communities. Too many times our churches have become insular and only focus on the immediate needs of the current congregation. There are so many of our fellow children of God who have left the church, been distracted by the allure (or tragedies) of the modern world, and those who have never had a personal relationship with Jesus. These are the flock we should be actively focusing on and meeting their needs physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The United Methodist Church should be expanding into this very close mission field.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I know what a difficult time this is for the church and have been praying for healing and unity within our members. While not everyone is excited with the outcome at the Special Conference, I know that the Holy Spirit will guide us as we move forward. I have a strong call from the Lord to be a part of the major decisions that are ahead. I am a man of God who knows that there are tough decisions to be made, but all with much love and grace. I am someone who works well with many different groups and have the temperament to do a job that is difficult and important. The decisions made at this conference will be historic and far reaching and I believe we need to focus on the will of the Lord for guidance.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 722

JOY
Holly

Church: Ardmore- First UMC | District: Lake Country

Occupation: Business Administrator | Age Bracket: 41-55

Responsibilities - Local Church

I am currently on staff as the Business Administrator for the Ardmore First Methodist. I oversee the handling of all income and expenses, to include all donations and accounts receivable, along with payroll and taxes. I am currently the elected secretary for our Board of Trustees, a member of our Finance Committee, Mission Committee, and Church Council. Further, I am the appointed Secretary for Ardmore First, according to the guidelines of the Book of Discipline. I am a Stephen's Minister as well as a certificated life coach through the International Coaching Federation.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

In 2017, I was an equalization delegate to the Annual Conference for the Lake Country District, and am currently a member-at-large of the District Missional Strategy Team. I am a team member for the OKUMC Youth Force Ardmore Mission, working with the Youth Force deans to organize and run the Youth Force Mission.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I feel that God is calling the UMC, as a whole, to continue to seek His guidance through prayer, fasting, and teaching our communities. We are being called to live out His directive to "Go and make disciples of all nations. Baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." GO is the first part of that. If we stay inside our individual church walls, we miss it entirely. We as a body must focus on the instruction to go. We cannot lose sight of that due to social issues and unrest. It is Biblical that these times were coming. But we are not to be relieved from the command to make disciples of Jesus Christ, no matter what. Things get complicated and I pray the UMC will go back to the basics that we were founded on. Go....

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

With 14 years in criminal and civil law as a paralegal, I feel that I have an understanding of the process of the General/Jurisdictional Conference, and am able to immediately contribute as a delegate. Through my job as the Ardmore First Business Administrator, I have been blessed to not only learn the inner workings of one of the largest UM churches in Oklahoma, but also familiarize myself with the processes at the OKUMC Office and District Office. Further, traveling to the Annual Conference office in Houston, Texas, broadened my understanding of the enormity of the UMC, as a whole. My background of working for elected officials, as well as for the church, has provided me with experience to manage conflict while also abiding by rules and laws that have been previously established. When called upon, I am able to separate my personal views and provide conflict resolution. I love working with people as a team and as individuals, and feel called to help further move the UM toward our Biblical and God commanded goal to make disciples.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 723

JUNK
Tom

Church: Tulsa- First UMC | District: Council Oak

Occupation: Trustee, Robert L. Parker Trust | Age Bracket: 56-70

Responsibilities - Local Church

Chair, Board of Trustees; Chair Finance Committee; Executive Committee, Staff Parish Relations Committee; Youth Mission Team Leader; Ad Council

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

General Conference Delegation since 1992; Chair, Okla Conference Corporation; Chair, Council on Finance and Administration; Chair; Board of Pension and Health Benefits; Chair; Health Benefits Committee; Okla Conference Ministry Center Building Committee; UMCOR Board of Directors; General Board of Global Ministries Board of Directors; SC Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy; Okla Conference Committee on Episcopacy;

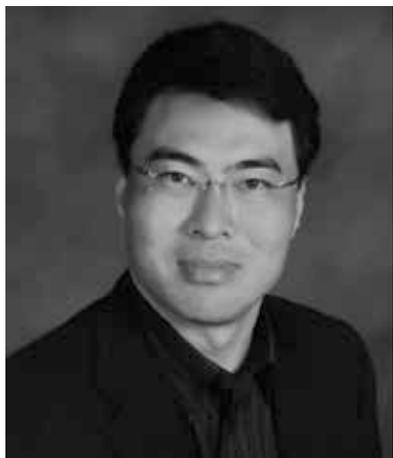
What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

Our beloved church has just walked through a very difficult season as we reaffirmed our traditional values regarding marriage and human sexuality. It was a painful process. But our mission to love and care for our hurting world has not changed. From our local churches, through our districts, conference, UMCOR and missionaries around the world, we are the best positioned church to share the good news of Jesus Christ. As grueling and difficult as these past few months have been for all of us, we have to remain focused on that mission. General Conference has encouraged me to redouble my commitment to Christ and his church because we have too much at stake to be discouraged and give up now. Jesus is our hope and the answer for our every need.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I will listen. I will listen to God and I will listen to you. I have been committed to the United Methodist Church at many levels for many years. Particularly during this season, I believe we need seasoned, steady leadership in our delegation. The UMC has some choppy waters to navigate ahead at the 2020 General Conference. Division may be a part of the plan or unity at all cost may be best. There are strong cases to be made for both positions. I will offer myself, my time and my heart to listen for God's Spirit to lead us to the right path for our church.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 724

KIM
Donald (Don)

Church: OKC- Korean First UMC | District: Heartland

Occupation: Physician | Age Bracket: 41-55

Responsibilities - Local Church

Current: Lay Elder to Holy Calling, Finance Chair, Board of Trustee, Member of Men's Group, leader of young adult bible study.
Past: Treasury, SPRC Chair, Choir Chair, Mission Director to Mongolia, Church Maintenance Chair

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Current: First elect Lay Delegate to the General Conference 2016/2019 and Lay Delegate to the General Conference 2012, Associate Conference Lay Leader, Member to the Conference Board of Laity, Board Member to District Superintendency, Board of Trustee to Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation, Board of Trustee to the Oklahoma City University
Past: Vice President of the Oklahoma United Methodist Corporation, District Lay Leader South Oklahoma City, Member and Chair to South Oklahoma City District Superintendency Board, Chair to Asian Committee, Member to the Congregational Development

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

United Methodist Churches are in a discernment process. Leadership and leadership development are needed urgently to have better future churches. Some delicate issues are hurting us as a whole. But in order to grow, it is necessary to experience some growing pain. It's been business-as-usual, yet, expecting a different result, not realizing this strategy has crippled us. I have been steadily growing from local churches, to now serving General and Annual Conference as a Lay Delegate and as an Associate Conference Lay Leader. Through my discernment process, I realized that we must be patient and wait for God's plan. We have been struggling for several quadrennium dealing with issues that is dividing us to our shortcoming of not waiting for God to reveal His plan. Meanwhile, we must prepare ourselves with training and discipline to make the next generation leaders. I want to seek out new and experienced leadership to better equip UMC for the next generation churches and to reconcile our relationship with God. God wants us to be that radical disciple to transform our conferences. After all, we all need to be better at our spirituality in order to serve others.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

We as delegates have worked hard and well together to accomplish more than we have imagined. After partaking past 3 General Conferences, I realized that this is Methodist and parliamentary process of how UMC was established. It was very clear at the 2019 Special General Conference, there are critical issues still to be resolved. I believe we are in a hardship because God is wanting us to wrestle with ourselves, so to have a clearer thought process and hear His will. We must know what He meant for us to do and come together to reconcile our differences. Only through struggles we realize God's blessing of salvation which we already have through our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe this is the time where we as United Methodists must pray for God's will and have the right discernment to implement His plan. I don't believe there is such thing as agree/disagree or right/wrong. If we had the discernment of understanding God's will, we would all be celebrating and praising God for His will being done. I want to lead the next generation Oklahoma Lay delegates to have better discernment process, be prayerful and make a true difference for the sake of our future churches.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 725

LONG
Cheryl

Church: Presbyterian-Methodist Fellowship Church
District: Northern Prairie

Occupation: Rt'd Elementary Special Ed Teacher | Age Bracket: 56-70

Responsibilities - Local Church

Lay Leader; Lay Servant; Lay Speaker; Sunday School teacher (adults & children's classes); VBS Director; Mission Trips; Leading Small group Bible Studies; UMW; Chairman/member of various committees

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

NPD Lay Servant Director; Equalization Delegate to Annual Conference;

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe God is calling not only the UMC, but each Christian to live out our faith as He has directed us to do: By loving Him with all our Heart, Mind, & Soul and to Love our neighbor as ourselves. If this remains forefront in our minds as we reach out to our community, then we will be meeting needs & sharing His Love regardless of what we are doing: whether it's filling a Blessing Box, cooking Community Dinners, VBS, Angel Tree, UMW, Bible Studies, planting a Community Garden, or sharing in our Worship Service. If our reason for service is to Love God/Love Others; Serve God/Serve Others, then our actions will be doing a significant part in making disciples of Jesus Christ which will transform the world.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I am a Lay Servant. I love helping and serving in my local church, as a District Lay Servant Director and in my roles in the Walk to Emmaus community. I especially love sharing my faith as a Lay Speaker. All of these roles allow me many opportunities to meet and work with people, sometimes from my church, but often from various churches and backgrounds. I enjoy listening, learning, and getting to talk about our faith and work together to serve in the Kingdom. I believe I bring life-long experience of church involvement, and I can share that. But I'm also aware and open to the challenge of learning new ideas and more about issues that evolve in our church and world. In all things, I love the Lord and His Word. I value serving Him as a privilege and would take the opportunity as a GC delegate as another way to do just that.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 726

MARTIN
Sara Lyndi

Church: Prague- First UMC | District: Crossroads
Occupation: College Student | Age Bracket: Under 25

Responsibilities - Local Church

Certified Lay Servant (2014-Present)
Wednesday Night Games and Recreation Leader (2015-2017)
Guest Preacher (2015-Present)
Local Church Leadership Team (2015-2017)

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Oklahoma Annual Conference Council of Youth Ministry (2015-2017)
The General Board of Church and Society (2016-Present)
The Global Young People's Convocation 2018
The Young Adult Mission Cohort
The Leadership Development Team (2018-Present)
Lay Delegate To Annual Conference

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

It is essential to educate our youth and young adults about the policy-making bodies of our church. I believe God calls the United Methodist Church to connect our young people to the places they can make a difference. We can help our young people seek, develop, and cultivate their passions. We as the United Methodist Church can empower their spiritual gifts so they may be people who transform the Kingdom of God. The dream I believe God has placed on my heart is for young people to know they have a place at the bountiful table that is the United Methodist Church. One way this dream can be realized is by showing young people that they too can serve at all levels of church leadership.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

According to the Young People's Division on Ministry, less than seven percent of the seated delegates at General Conference are persons under the age of thirty-five. It is essential that the voices of young people are present at all levels of denominational leadership. I have worked with a diverse, global legislative forum that utilized the process of dialogue and policy-making through my experience attending the Global Young People's Convocation. I am familiar with the process of proposing changes and adaptations to the Book of Resolutions. I also have experience working with various policy-making bodies of the Oklahoma Annual Conference and at the General Church level.

As a Religious studies major, I value the work of biblical formation. I am knowledgeable about our Wesleyan heritage, history and the teachings of the United Methodist Church. I am working on a certification in Nonprofit Leadership of the Arts as apart of my undergraduate education. I believe the delegation would benefit from my experience, leadership abilities, work ethic, and motivation.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 727

McMURRY
Allison Rene

Church: Tulsa- Boston Ave UMC | District: Council Oak

Occupation: College Student | Age Bracket: Under 25

Responsibilities - Local Church

Welcoming Committee member, Co-president of the youth group/youth council, represented youth at monthly administrative board meeting, “Leader in training” with elementary schoolers for 6 years, Sunday school teacher, and high school intern with children’s ministry.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Chair of the district youth council, Vice-Chair of the district youth council, Secretary of the district youth council, Secretary (2 years) of the CCYM, and CYME/LEAD small group leader.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe the UMC is called to value diversity in opinions and work together to accept everyone. Even when we disagree so passionately. I believe we are being called to find a way to stay united and move past one issue so that we can focus on other issues and desires to make disciples and transform the world. I also strongly believe God is calling on the young people to be involved in the polity of the church, enabling the church to keep the structure and unity in the future. By having young people involved in this higher level we can encourage more young people to engage in the church and prove that their participation is truly desired. God is calling on the young people’s voices be heard so the church can continue to thrive in the future by making disciples and transforming the world.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I recently attended the Special Called General Conference 2019 as an observer. I was shocked by the lack of young people representing our churches. It saddened me that there were so few young voices being heard, especially when the church so desperately desires young people. I want to represent these voices that are not currently receiving proportional representation because I believe if the church is going to continue to survive and grow we need the young voices to be heard. I have represented my local youth group to my district and my district youth to the conference youth. I can make a difference in this delegation by accurately representing the diverse beliefs of the youth and young people of today and what we desire in order for us to stay active in the church.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 728

MERREY
Floyd Davis

Church: Yukon- First UMC | District: Council Oak

Occupation: Business Owner (IT Services) | Age Bracket: Over 70

Responsibilities - Local Church

SPRC member, Church Council, Worship Committee, Audio Visual lead (volunteer)

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

None

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

Be willing and able to communicate the Word of God with people of all ages, ethnicity, cultures, and degrees of sinfulness, as Jesus did. This will require thoughtful strategy and tactics, appropriate skills learned through specific training and consistent practice until it becomes a habit.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I believe in the mission, am passionate about it and have many years of experience in leading others in succeeding in overcoming a variety of challenges

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 729

MONROE
Tate

Church: Shawnee- St. Paul's UMC | District: Heartland

Occupation: Ministry | Age Bracket: 26-40

Responsibilities - Local Church

Director of Discipleship and Development
Church as Community Development Liason
Worship Design Consultant
Worship Leader
Pulpit Filler

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Youth Leader
Worship Leader
Lay Leader

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe the United Methodist Church needs to strive for an "outside/in" focus that builds relationships within our communities by nurturing the spirits of all people and serving the greater needs of those on the margins. Whether working in service together to make a difference in people's lives or being someone where a difference has been made, these relationships will be the invitation to come into our churches for more in-depth opportunities for worship and discipleship.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I began my discipleship with Christ at an early age growing up in a large and vibrant United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City. I have played a major role in theatre and music ministries, youth and children's ministries, leadership councils and biblical studies from a young age. I believe in the power of the Holy Spirit to move like electricity to inspire God's people for kindness in humanity and love of all God's creation. I believe it is imperative for there to be an opportunity for the same impact the United Methodist Church has had on me to be available to many generations to come. By being a delegate I will honor the many mentors and pastors who have shaped my call, love of scripture and heart for the mission of Christ. Also, I will in turn will be able to contribute to paving new paths that introduce and enrich the calls of practicing Christians to the mission fields around them. It is my hope to be used by God to nurture people's ability to experience the presence of God in their lives and to lead them to hunger for a richer understanding of their faith.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 730

NEWCOMB
Carlos Ralph

Church: Clinton- First UMC | District: Cimmaron

Occupation: Relief Pharmacist | Age Bracket: Over 70

Responsibilities - Local Church

Worship Committee, Fill-in Worship leader, SS teacher, SPRC, Trustees

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Lay person

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe God is calling the UMC to hold fast to its core values and strong teaching of God's holy word. Without our keeping of all the scriptures, we will not be making disciples of Jesus Christ but of human nature.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

My faith has been handed down by three Great-Grandfather preachers. A Presbyterian, Church of God (Anderson) and Methodist circuit rider in western Oklahoma with five appointments in the last 1800s. God's word does not change but human nature desires to change it to want they want it to say. My desire is to proclaim the gospel truth as in days of old to be handed down to generations to come.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 731

NICKLAS
Evan Hal

Church: Edmond- St. Luke's UMC | District: Crossroads

Occupation: Medical Scribe | Age Bracket: Under 25

Responsibilities - Local Church

Volunteer youth leader (2014-2019)

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Small group leader for Disciple Camp and Dayspring; God Squad Leader for Youth Force

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

As a lifelong United Methodist, I have grown to love teaching, learning about, and discussing Scripture and Wesleyan history. After working with United Methodist youth in Oklahoma for the past five years, it is disappointingly evident that the importance of knowing the Book on which we base our entire faith is not adequately taught. When I hear young United Methodists who are weekly church-goers tell me they did not know Jesus is God, they have never heard of the Trinity or they do not know the role of the Holy Spirit, it is clear our church has lost its focus. We, as a church, will not effectively fulfill our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ if we fail to teach our children and youth the basic tenants of our faith. I hope to be a part of a renewed UMC that produces Biblically literate young adults who are committed to life-long spiritual growth.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

After attending General Conference in both 2016 and 2019, it was disheartening to see the disrespect shown by elected leaders of our global church. As a young adult, I want to be a part of ensuring a Wesleyan church for the next generation. It would be easy for me to leave the UMC and go to a nondenominational church like many of my friends but I like our denomination's connectional and global nature that allows United Methodists to minister to the world in a unique way. I come from a long line of Methodists with two great-great-grandfathers named after John Wesley. I don't wish to abandon our Wesleyan tradition. If elected, I would help restore civility in the process at General Conference but, more importantly, help refocus our energy on growing disciples.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 732

NICKLAS
Cara

Church: OKC- Church of the Servant UMC | District: Crossroads

Occupation: Attorney | Age Bracket: 41-55

Responsibilities - Local Church

Administrative Board, past chair; Finance Committee, past chair; Staff Parish Relations Committee; past chair; Sunday School and small group teacher for children, youth and adults; Sunday School curriculum committee.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

General Conference delegate 2016 and 2019; Jurisdictional delegate 2012; Lay delegate to Annual Conference; Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation, trustee; Agency Emergency/Capital Fund, current chair

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

As John Wesley advised, God is calling the UMC to “hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which [we] first set out” lest we “only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power.” The UMC in the United States is declining in membership. This may be a result of spiritual mushiness within our denomination. Toleration of diversity cannot become indifference toward our core beliefs. Our churches must provide a place where seekers are challenged to deepen their relationship with God. Despite cultural changes, we must submit to the authority of the Bible. Its message is timeless and should not be dismissed as culturally irrelevant. A recognition of Jesus’ loving sacrifice for us and the witness of the Bible is where we find unity as a denomination. Structural changes within the United Methodist system and better prioritization of matters presented at General Conference are necessary in order to promote unity and ensure our mission is effectively carried out. As long as the focus of General Conference is dominated by the issue of homosexuality, the revival within our denomination that is so sorely needed will be less likely to occur.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I was a delegate to GC2019. The manner in which our church conducted itself at GC2019 was disheartening. We must avoid round two of the cage match we witnessed at GC2019. It was not holy conferencing. We need to shift our focus from human sexuality to evangelism and discipleship. I will work towards that goal and use my skills as a negotiator and peacemaker to achieve a resolution to the division within our church. I will act with integrity.

As a global church, our denomination is set apart from other denominations. We should embrace that uniqueness. The church’s historical and global context helps keep us from interpreting Scripture solely within the context of our own culture. There is much we can learn from our international brothers and sisters. I have formed relationships with international delegates and appreciate what they bring to the table. I want to see our US church more fully embrace our global nature. One way to better recognize our global nature is to completely revise our Social Principles in such a way as to decrease the US centered political debates at General Conference. I am working towards that goal.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 733

OZEE
Sean

Church: OKC- Quail Springs UMC | District: Crossroads

Occupation: Telecom Technician | Age Bracket: 26-40

Responsibilities - Local Church

Worship and media team member, capital campaign member

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

I have not held any responsibilities outside of my local church up to this point.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe the UMC has a unique calling to nurture the church and to make disciples. We are called to live out our Wesleyan creed to do all the good we can, long as ever we can.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I am a 10 year member of the UMC, and I am the father of a queer child. I want to serve as a delegate to the conference to be a voice for her and other LGBTQIA+ people who need the church to nurture them and affirm them, as God does: fully and completely.

Lay Nominees to General/Jursidictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 734

PALMER

Billy

Church: Ponca City- Albright UMC | District: Northern Prairie

Occupation: Service Engineer | Age Bracket: 41-55

Responsibilities - Local Church

Trustee, Trustee Chair, Committee Member.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

None

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

Share the love of Jesus Christ everywhere.
Share the word of the Lord whenever possible.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I think this would be a good opportunity to Learn About How church operates on a conference level.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 735

PATTON
Franklin Hardy

Church: OKC- First UMC | District: Heartland

Occupation: Chief Audit Executive (Retired) | Age Bracket: 41-55

Responsibilities - Local Church

I am currently the chair of our SPRC committee and help with our weekly Friday Night Alive homeless ministry. Over the years, I have been the Administrative Council Chair, Finance Committee Chair, president of the our men's group, and helped lead youth mission trips to Costa Rica, the Dallas homeless alliance, Cross Point, and Canyon Camp among others.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

I led our local church's delegation regarding the SHIFT program. This program included two local districts coming together for training while encouraging each other in ways to make our local churches more fruitful and productive. I also completed district led lay leader training at Canyon Camp and over the years I have filled the pulpit at First United Methodist Church OKC, St. Paul's UMC in Sulphur and Mill Creek UMC while their pastor was away.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe God is calling the United Methodist Church to return to its roots. These roots include a church that is grounded in the faith (scripture, tradition, reason, and experience) and focused on love. Love for our brothers and sisters around the globe is key. Without love we labor in vain. We must love everyone and encourage a diverse and inclusive church while holding fast to the tenets of our faith. I believe people are drawn to where the Holy Spirit is active and that is frequently where the church body is grounded in the faith. To truly love others, we must show concern for their situation in life. Many in this world are poor and struggle economically. We as a church must show compassion for our fellow man regardless of whether they have economic, social or moral challenges. I believe fervently that we can be compassionate while still holding firm to the core Christian principles laid out in scripture. We are called to be salt and light in this world. The only question that remains is whether we will answer the call. I pray that our answer will be send me.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I believe God is calling me to use the gifts he has given me for the advancement of the kingdom. Being a lifelong Methodist created a love for the Wesleyan tradition and inspired me to be active in my faith through the church including UMC congregations in OKC, Norman, Ada and Mill Creek. Additionally, God allowed me to progress my professional career with 22 years of experience at Devon Energy including three years as the Chief Audit Executive. This position reported to the Audit Committee and CEO which allowed me to see the company from a global perspective and make recommendations on improving governance, risk and control functions within the organization. I hope to use my financial experience as a CPA and risk experience as a CRMA (Certification in Risk Management Assurance) to provide input that will move the United Methodist Church forward as a global body transforming lives through Jesus Christ. I believe God placed a special calling on my life many years ago and that he is now moving me forward to service to Christ through the global church.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 736

PEARCE
Patrick Ricky, Jr.

Church: Edmond- New Covenant UMC | District: Crossroads

Occupation: Attorney | Age Bracket: 41-55

Responsibilities - Local Church

Board of Trustees, Acts 2 UMC
Pastoral Council, Connect UMC
Small Group Leader (various)

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

None

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe God is calling the UMC to work toward unity and shared discipleship. The Church is called to live as a beacon of hope and light for the world. It should be an example of what is right with society and not mired in politics and division. Above all, the UMC is called to inclusion and love of all.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

As an attorney, I am very interested in the lawmaking side of the UMC and how it the General Conference can exhibit Holy Conferencing above politics and gamesmanship. I am hopeful that the next General Conference will be a place where the UMC is able to achieve unity or, if that proves impossible, to part ways peaceably. I am interested in ensuring that UMC pastors who are uncomfortable with the direction of the global church and the 2019 General Conference have the same opportunity for a gracious exit as has been described for local congregations.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 737

PEARSON
Kevin

Church: Tulsa- St. Paul's UMC | District: Council Oak

Occupation: Teacher | Age Bracket: 26-40

Responsibilities - Local Church

Coordinator of Reconciling Ministries; Leader, Holy Conversation About Race; Member, Administrative Council; Member, SPRC; Lay Delegate Alternate, 2019 Annual Conference

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

None

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

The UMC must absolutely brace itself for change, and it must, without question, seek to become more inclusive and affirming of all God's children - including our LGBTQ siblings. As the Oklahoma Delegation to the 2020 General Conference, we are called to lead the way, advocate for the cause of Christ, and love our neighbor -- all of our neighbors.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I want to be a delegate to General Conference to impact the policies and procedures of the United Methodist Church. I was moved - called to action - by the passage of the Traditional Plan at the 2019 General Conference. It is my desire at this time to work within our structure to influence the change that is necessary to fully live out God's kingdom here on Earth.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 738

PERRY
Barbara Jean

Church: OKC- Chapel Hill UMC | District: Crossroads

Occupation: Adjunct Math Professor | Age Bracket: 56-70

Responsibilities - Local Church

PRESENT-

Chancel Choir (17 yr)
Church Council (17 yr)
Lay Leadership Nominating Committee
Regional Food Bank volunteer coordinator
Rebuilding Together mission teams
Sunday School newsletter editor
Sunday School treasurer
Whiz Kids tutor

PAST-

Bible Studies Leader
Faith Promise and Missions Committees
Ministry and Missions Fair Chair (10 yr)
Mission Teams- Rio Bravo
Spiritual Gifts- Placement Consultant
Staff Parish Relations Committee (6yr)
Strategic Planning and Vision Committees (6yr)
Support Our Soldiers Chair (13 yr)
UMW- Nominating Chair and Reception Chair

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

OK- Annual Conference-
Annual Conference Council
Head Teller (8yr)
Laity Luncheon Registrar(8 yr)
Lay Member Delegate (15 yr)
Board of Laity (12 years)
Discipleship Ministry Team
Episcopacy Committee
Leadership Development Ministry Team
New People New Places Committee

District-
General Conference 1st Alternate Delegate- 2012, 2016
GC2019 1st Alternate Delegate
Jurisdictional Delegate- 2012, 2016
District Lay Leader (8yr)
District UMW Treasurer (4 yr)
Bi-District Board of Buildings (10 yr)
Bi-District New Church Fund Chair
Committee of Ordained Ministry (10 yr)
Missional Strategy Team
Superintendency and Trustees Committee
Epworth Villa Living Center Board of Directors

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe that God is calling us to return to our mission of making disciples by showing the love and hope of Christ to a broken world. We must maintain these Godly priorities for the UMC. Ridding our denomination of conflict will help us allow the Holy Spirit to renew our minds and keep our mission of making disciples for Christ, as our central focus.

The path to transformation of the world must be based on cooperation, compassion, and minimizing conflicts in our churches and denomination. I pray for renewal and revitalization within our denomination, with greater emphasis on deeper Bible study and relationships, locally and globally. I also pray for spiritual awakenings, guided by the Holy Spirit, that will move the focus away from our differences, and enable us to fully focus on evangelism, discipleship, and sharing the love of Christ.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I would love to be a Delegate to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences in 2020. After being elected and serving at all the days of 3 General Conferences and 2 Jurisdictional Conferences in the past, I feel that I have much great experience and perspective with these UMC legislative bodies. I have gained a great understanding of the processes used during Legislative Committees and Plenary Sessions. Furthermore, I am very willing and available to set aside the time needed for multiple meetings of the delegation, in the year leading up to each conference. I am also very willing to dedicate the great amount of time that is needed for reading, study, and conversations, concerning the upcoming legislation, to be very well-prepared for each conference.

Having an analytical mind, the ability to work together well with others, the spiritual gift of discernment, and being led by the Holy Spirit, are all His gifts that lead me to believe that I can make a difference and be a very effective, encouraging, and passionate Delegate.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 739

POWERS

Kyla

Church: Edmond- First UMC | District: Crossroads

Occupation: Student | Age Bracket: Under 25

Responsibilities - Local Church

Youth Leadership Team Member
Contemporary Worship Band Vocalist/Violinist
Summer Day Camp Leader
Vacation Bible School Leader
Preached in Worship
Certified Lay Speaker

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Conference Council on Youth Ministry Student Chair
Crossroads District Missional Youth Strategy Team Student Chair
Camp Lead Senior High Student Dean
Lay Member to Annual Conference (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe God is calling the UMC to reach out to younger generations and to give them a voice in the conference. If we as the church are serious about reaching young people, they need to be able to see that they are not powerless and feel like they are accurately represented among the delegation and the church in general. There's a whole generation of people that we are not doing a great job of reaching who are capable of doing amazing things for God and expanding God's kingdom even more than we already have. Reaching this generation for Christ is a means to the betterment of the church as we know it, and I truly believe God has called us to this task.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

As a young person serving in the church, I believe I can represent my generation accurately at general conference. I can bring a unique perspective to the table because I am not only a young servant who has lived her entire life watching the Methodist church change and adapt, I have also served in growing churches and learned more about how to expand them through this experience. I will do everything I can to help the church grow and learn if I am elected as a delegate because I love The United Methodist Church as a family and because I love God.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 740

PRUITT
Connie

Church: Lawton- St. Paul's UMC | District: Wichita

Occupation: Retired | Age Bracket: 56-70

Responsibilities - Local Church

SPRC Chair, Mission committee, Administrative Council, UMW President (previous church Trustees, SPRC)

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Wichita District UMW Resource

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe God wants us to demonstrate our love for him for others to witness, to share our love to those who are witness to our lives and to invite those people to join in learning about God that their lives might be changed and filled with God's presence and love.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I believe I am open-minded, tolerant, patient and forgiving. God tells us to love one another and that we are not to judge people. We all have value and talents. We must extend the opportunity for cultivating those. I believe I can listen, pray, discern and represent my church and church family as they would want me to do so.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 741

REED
Paul

Church: Ardmore- First UMC | District: Lake Country

Occupation: Pharmacist - Pharmacy owner | Age Bracket: 55-70

Responsibilities - Local Church

Over the last 40 years most of the activities one can find. Was active in Wesley at SWOSU where I was truly introduced to the UMC. Sixth grade and various adult Sunday School class teacher. Participated and lead Disciple Bible Studies. Extremely active in the Cross Point Emmaus Community, serving in most available positions, ending with Lay Director, Community Lay Director, 6 years on the Board (3 as Laity, 3 as Clergy as a Full Time Local Pastor), and served as Clergy on 1 Walk. While at FUMC Ardmore I have served numerous times on SPRC, Nominating, and Admin Council. Was involved 2 different times in our Faith Promise and served 3 years each on the committee to decide how to disburse \$130 - \$180,000 in annual missions spending. Participating in Missions to Bolivia in 1992, 1994, Peru in 2004, and Mexico in 2006. Had trained as a VIM Leader. Trained as an Alpha leader and lead our first Alpha Ministries class. Served as Annual Conference Lay Delegate 2 or 3 years from FUMC Ardmore. In the mid 1990's helped re-establish UMM at FUMC Ardmore.

In 2001 I began the Inquiring Minister Book and progressed through the District Committee on Ministry to become a Certified Candidate. Began attending Perkins School of Theology full time 2002 and in 2003 became a FT Local Pastor at Ringling and remained there through completing my Masters of Divinity from Perkins, and the first 2 years of Provisional Membership. At Ringling I was a part of basically EVERYTHING a Pastor is a part of in a smaller local church.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

I currently serve on the Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry as Laity, and also serve on the Lake Country Board of Ordained Ministry. I have also served several years on the District Trustees.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe that Jesus loves me, just the way I am. I also believe that Jesus died for me so I don't have to stay that way. That is about transformation because of the love of Christ. I believe that we as the UMC can live our lives in a way that we can proclaim the message Jesus gave the woman caught in adultery, "neither do I condemn you...GO AND SIN NO MORE". I believe this is a message that people caught in sin and despair NEED to hear and understand so they can find the WAY.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I have a broad background and understanding of Methodist History, of current events, and my theological education. I bring all my experience of the last 40 years and my life in the church as Laity and Clergy to bear on this responsibility to serve our church. I stand with the Wesleyan Quadrilateral in that I use Scripture and Tradition (both defined as the historic understanding of the Christian Church), Reason and Experience. I believe I can help navigate the current situation we find ourselves in.

Lay Nominees to General/Jursidictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 742

RILEY
Larry

Church: Claremore- First UMC | District: Green Country

Occupation: Optometrist | Age Bracket: 56-70

Responsibilities - Local Church

council on ministries chairperson finance committee chairperson active in missions local to international

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

annual conference delegate

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

A decision regarding our book of discipline is paramount to our ability to get our efforts back to making disciples for Christ. If we stay mired in our current debate indefinitely we have lost sight of our mission

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I want to serve because I can devote the time and energy needed to study our options and represent our Oklahoma Conference with integrity

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 743

ROLIN
Emma Elizabeth

Church: Purcell- Trinity UMC | District: Heartland

Occupation: Athletic Trainer | Age Bracket: Under 25

Responsibilities - Local Church

Certified Lay Leader, Youth Intern, Part-time Youth Director

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Youth Delegate at Annual Conference, Delegate for ECU Wesley at Annual Conference

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

The United Methodist church was built on the principles of John Wesley, and one of the missions he instilled in the church was to spread the love of God by doing all the good that we can in all the ways that we can. I believe in order for the UMC to continue to grow and be fruitful, we must get back to the basics. By adjusting our focus off of what will make the church happy and instead onto what will please God and bring Him the most glory, I think we can get to where we need to be. Ultimately I believe that the best way to accomplish this is by loving His people. If we focus more on showing love in the best way we know how, I truly believe that we can become the denomination God believes we can be.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I was born into the UMC and it has made me the young woman I am today. I want more than anything to help create a church home that is dedicated to loving God's children and spreading His good word, and a church home that is one body. It would be an honor to take part in General Conference and be a part of the decision making process. Making decisions for an entire denomination is a grueling but necessary process, and I believe I could bring a level head and a full heart to bring about the best for our church.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 744

SCRAPER
Kate

Church: OKC- Southern Hills UMC | District: Heartland

Occupation: Director of Benefits & Personnel | Age Bracket: 26-40

Responsibilities - Local Church

Youth Director, Youth Volunteer Coordinator, Missions Coordinator, VIM Team Leader, UMW Chair, Lay Delegate to A/C, Finance Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, Church Council, Outreach/Evangelism Team, Worship Committee, Choir/Praise Team, VBS Leader, Mobile Meals Team, Disaster Response Team,

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Conference Director of Benefits & Personnel (Pension, Insurance, HR for conference staff, conference clergy, and local church laity), Leadership Development Ministry Team (Vision Team Chair), Heartland District Building & Location, Conference Board of Pension and Health, Conference Clergy Spouse Fellowship President, District Youth Camp Design Team, CYME Adult Leader, Skyline Urban Ministries Board Member,

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe that the UMC has been given an opportunity to show the world what our church truly is, and who we will be in adversity, a changing demographic, and culture. How our church models itself and how it chooses to love will have a direct impact in our effectiveness in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our world is hurting, our church is hurting, and we need to show the world that the United Methodist Church loves even when we are hurt; we care, even when we don't all share the same beliefs, and we stand together as brothers and sisters in Christ. Then, we can roll up our sleeves and get to work!

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

We are at a crossroads as a denomination. GC2020 will be unique in that it will be wrestling with the inevitable fallout from the called GC2019. Additionally, Wespeth Benefits and Investments, our pension plan manager, will be presenting legislation that will completely redefine our pension plans for our clergy persons. I want to be a part of that discussion, knowing full well the challenges we face as a conference to continue to fund pensions for our clergy (as that is my function in my role at the conference office), while also being a spouse that will depend on those funds in the future. Our church will have to determine how best to continue to provide necessary and important benefits while finding financially sustainable methods of doing so.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 745

SHAHAN
Aly Elizabeth

Church: Stillwater- Lost Creek UMC | District: Northern Prairie

Occupation: Student Engagement Manager, OSU Wesley
Age Bracket: 26-40

Responsibilities - Local Church

- Director of Youth Ministries for over 10 years
- Sunday School teacher (Children, Youth, Young Adults, and Adults)
- Family Life Committee
- MOPS Leadership Team
- Clergy Spouse
- HomeGroup Facilitator
- Creator of “For Better” Marriage Ministry

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

I am a three-time delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences (2012, 2016, 2019)

I currently serve as:

- Associate Conference Lay Leader of Young Adults and Young Families for the OKUMC
- Co-Dean of Camp Spark
- Co-Dean of Young Adult Camp Spark
- Laity Chair of the Annual Conference Council of the OKUMC

I previously served as:

- Coordinator of Re-Ignite Workshops
- Administrative Assistant for Discipleship Ministries and Connectional Ministries of the OKUMC
- Heartland District Missional Strategy Team
- District Youth Coordinator for the Heartland District
- Vice President of the Clergy Spouse Fellowship

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

The UMC has long been known as a denomination of the “Via Media”, or, the “Middle Way.” We are a denomination for all people on all sides, and I think that is imperative to continue as a denomination. I don’t want to belong to a church with only people who believe like me, nor do I want to be surrounded by people who ‘fight my same fight.’ When we keep company with only those who are just like us, that is when people are forgotten, mission fields are not served, and parts of Christ’s Body are left untouched. I believe God is calling the UMC to show the world how to be in communion with people who believe differently than we do. God’s Church is not complete until all are there. We have got to stop drawing lines and move from a Book of Discipline-centered-faith to a faith centered on the words, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

General Conference 2020 is going to be difficult. Our division run deep, friends. One of my gifts is being able to bring people from “different sides,” and with different ideas, together for God’s greater purpose. Having served on the delegation to GC/JC three times has provided me with many leadership opportunities and global relationships that will help in finding a true way forward for our denomination. I have worked with youth and young adults for my entire career and lead many ministries for young people and young mothers. I believe hearing the voices and vision of young people for God’s Church is imperative to making more of an impact in the world and making more disciples of Jesus Christ.

Lay Nominees to General/Jursidictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 746

SILVER
Randall (Randy)

Church: OKC- Southern Hills UMC | District: Heartland

Occupation: Radar Engineer | Age Bracket: 26-40

Responsibilities - Local Church

Lay Leader, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference, Trustee, Youth Director, Sunday School Teacher/Leader, AV Team Chair, Certified Lay Servant

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

N/A

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe God is calling the UMC to better use its resources to help equip people to hear the message of Jesus in ways that will mean the most to them. We need to be better in tune with the media consumption practices of the people we're trying to reach, or be willing to provide and teach the people how they can consume our message reliably and consistently.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

The perspective I bring as a younger person and as an engineer can help to make our delegation more representative of the church in Oklahoma. Furthermore, my particular perspective will likely be unique, making our delegation more well-rounded. And finally, as a life-long member of the UMC, I care about the future of our church and would like to opportunity to help guide the direction our church will

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 747

SLOAN
Lauren

Church: Yukon- Good Shepherd UMC | District: Crossroads

Occupation: Student | Age Bracket: Under 25

Responsibilities - Local Church

Member of the Youth Council from 2010 (student) - present (adult)
Youth intern in Dec. 2011 - rotated between youth each month of the year
Youth chair on the Board of Trustees in 2014
Youth and Children's Ministry Intern in the summer of 2018
Active adult volunteer for the UMC Good Shepherd youth group from 2016 - present
Member of the team participating in the Innovation Lab Program 2018 - present
Active adult volunteer for the CCYM

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

At large member of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry from 2011-2013
Executive member of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry from 2013-2016
- Youth Service Chair 2013-2014
- Sr. Jurisdictional Youth Team member 2014-2015
- Youth Service Chair 2015-2016
Elected as an observer for the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference at Youth 2015
Lay Delegate at 2018 Annual Conference

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe that God is calling the church to love everyone. With the recent 2019 Special Session of General Conference, I have heard both sides of our brother and sisters in Christ and I saw the love that we all have for one another even in conflict. That expression of love showed me what our church is capable of in sharing God's grace and love towards people, and I think we should be able to share that love on a bigger level. I love the inclusivity of our church, and I feel like God is calling us to be the best brothers and sisters in Christ to one another.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

With my previous experience as an observer at the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference and as a Lay delegate at Annual Conference, my passion for sharing my voice and vote grew. My love for the United Methodist Church grew as I saw the inner-workings of the church and the world of opportunities opened itself up to me. Being able to be a voice of the church would be an absolute honor, especially as a young person. If elected, I would be able to bring a young person's perspective, which is important. Young people are not the church of tomorrow, they are the church of today. I would represent the Oklahoma Conference to the best of my ability, and it is a great passion of mine to be involved in the UMC, I am so grateful to even be considered as a representative in 2020.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 748

SMITH
Deena

Church: Tulsa- New Haven UMC | District: Council Oak

Occupation: Teacher | Age Bracket: 41-55

Responsibilities - Local Church

Current: Church Member for over 30 years, Dance director, Choir Member, Children's Church leader, VBS leader,
Past: Children's Sunday School Teacher, Day School Teacher, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Nominating
Committee, Day School Board, Liason to OCU

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

I have not been involved, but I would lo support our church in this way.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe the UMC needs to reach out more and invite more people to join us in serving the community. So many people feel that Christians (and yes, Methodists) are judgmental, and they are quickly separating themselves from the church. We need to focus on accepting one another the way Jesus did. This means figuring out a way for all people to be included in the United Methodist Church.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I am a lifelong United Methodist, and my step-father, Nicky Blackford, was a great United Methodist pastor whom I was fortunate to know first as my pastor as a youth. I believe he and my pastors at New Haven have been truly inspired by Jesus and His teachings, and I feel fortunate to have learned about God under their guidance. I also was fortunate to grow in faith along many wonderful Christian friends through Kappa Phi at OCU. I want to see the United Methodist Church represent Jesus to the world and to grow in membership so that it is a place where everyone can feel welcome, safe and loved by Jesus as I have.

Lay Nominees to General/Jursidictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 749

SNELL
Daniel (Dan)

Church: Norman- St. Stephen's UMC | District: Heartland

Occupation: Retired Teacher | Age Bracket: Over 70

Responsibilities - Local Church

Member, SPRCommittee, two terms
Liturgist
Sunday school teacher
Vacation Bible School teacher
Chair, Endowment Committee for St Stephens

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Delegate to annual conference, 2018

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

We say Open Doors, Open Minds, but we need to mean it, preferably as expressed in local congregations. Our community outreach needs to be systematic and adapted to our local conditions. Otherwise, we will have lost a whole generation of people who cannot abide the perceived intolerance in the recent conference and of course in the Christian church as a whole. Efforts at social justice especially for children and the neglected must be stepped up.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

Clearly the actual views of the majority of North American church members and their bishops were not reflected. I hope to represent them in their pursuit of tolerant dialogue.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 750

SPRINGER
Mark

Church: Tulsa- Asbury UMC | District: Council Oak

Occupation: CPA, Attorney | Age Bracket: 56-70

Responsibilities - Local Church

Member of Administrative Council, member of Men's Ministry council, teacher, previous Chair of Stewardship and Finance

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Member of Board of Laity, Member of CFA committee, Oklahoma Methodist Foundation Trustee, Conference President of UMM

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

Our God has not changed the call that He makes to all believers, to spread the Gospel to the world. I believe that God is calling the UMC to reach out to men and women in our local communities and to train our local church members to be someone's hero. We need safe places, not just for children, but also for adults of all ages, that are being hurt physically or emotionally. It is important that the numbers we discuss have faces, and the faces have names and families.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

Having been an active member of several small and large churches in Oklahoma and Georgia, I learned the importance of active laity in the church. When living in South Georgia, every congregation had someone filling the pulpit every Sunday during two full months of the year and no person spoke twice on the same Sunday. As our church moves forward the call on the laity is greater and greater. My life verse is out of Job, ask me what I know... I know my redeemer lives. Despite anything that I see, say, feel or experience, I know this is true.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 751

STEWART
Chuck

Church: Stilwell- First UMC | District: Green Country

Occupation: Rancher | Age Bracket: 56-70

Responsibilities - Local Church

Lay Leader, SPPRC Chair, Co-Chair Church Council, Lay Member to Annual Conference.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

Conference Lay Leader, 2016 General Conference Delegate, Associate Conference Lay Leader, District Lay Leader.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe 50 + years are longer enough to be arguing about the human sexuality issue. We need to resolve this and move on to our priority of Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for The Transformation of The World.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I will advocate that we continue to use the Holy Scriptures as guide for making decisions. I will advocate for greater accountability to the Book of Discipline.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 752

TAYLOR
Devon Constance

Church: Piedmont UMC | District: Crossroads

Occupation: Youth Director | Age Bracket: Under 25

Responsibilities - Local Church

I am the youth director, the representative for young adults on administrative council, and assist with teaching confirmation. I also coordinate family night activities for the church. In the past I was our youth representative for administrative conference.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

I was a youth delegate for annual conference when I was in high school.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I think too much focus is sometimes put on bringing people into our churches rather than going out into our communities to make disciples for Christ.

- 1) I believe that a personal relationship with Christ is the key to showing others Christ. I must first have a personal relationship and understanding of scripture in order to be an example and make disciples.
- 2) I think it is important to meet people where they are through being invested in the community. Showing those around us we care and we are there to support them instead of expecting them to always come to us.
- 3) Trusting in God's plan and allowing Him to move through you instead of focusing on how I will benefit. Making those authentic connections with others and allowing Christ to be the center of those interactions.

I think so often the focus is put on what can I do instead of what can God do through me. We need to be able to go outside the church and pray with others, read scripture with others, and show a genuine interest in the lives of those around us.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

As a young adult who has grown up in the United Methodist Church I have grown to love not only my local church but the United Methodist Church as a whole. It would be an honor to serve as a delegate especially at this time where we so desperately need to turn the focus back to making and growing disciples of Christ. As someone who works with youth and young adults I want to be an example for them that your age doesn't determine your ability to make a difference and do God's work.

Lay Nominees to General/Jursidictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 753

VANZEE
Mackenzie

Church: Tulsa- Faith UMC | District: Council Oak

Occupation: Student, Intern OCU Church Relations
Age Bracket: Under 25

Responsibilities - Local Church

I interned at my church during the summer of 2018. I mainly worked with children and youth spreading the message of God and the church. I also did some administration work,

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

None

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

We are a global church. God wants us to work cross-culturally. There is too much miscommunication. We need to sit down and talk to each other in a civil and productive way. We may not be of one mind but we are of one body.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

The church is seeing a decline in attendance in young people. If the church wants to keep young people than they need to include young people in the conversation. I'm a young person, include me in the conversation.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 754

WAGNER
Peyton

Church: OKC- New Hope UMC | District: Crossroads

Occupation: Youth Intern | Age Bracket: Under 25

Responsibilities - Local Church

Member of Youth Council (2 years), Youth Volunteer (2 years), Sunday School teacher (2 years), Youth Intern (2 years)

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

I was the Youth Intern at the Oklahoma Conference Office for one year and worked under VIM.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe that God is calling the UMC to be more open to young people and the power and witness they provide our denomination. God called me into youth ministry and the past 4 years I have worked with the young people at my church I have gotten to see firsthand how intelligent and knowledgeable they are. They are not just the future of our beloved denomination, they are the NOW of our denomination. Our youth groups are growing; these young people desire to learn about Jesus. I would love for our passionate young people to have more seats at the table, and have their voices be heard. Our young people are some of our best evangelists. If they felt like they are being heard, they would be more likely to stay and get connected into other aspects of ministry.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

Like I said previously, our young people are the church of now. I believe our young people deserve a bigger voice in the governing body of the UMC which is exactly why I would love to be a lay delegate for the 2020 General Conference. I want to give the younger generation a bigger voice. I was also an observer at the special session of General Conference in St. Louis and watching how it worked was extremely fascinating to me and I would be honored to be a part of the Oklahoma delegation and serve our young people. I am passionate, I am driven, and I love the United Methodist Church.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 755

WEATHERFORD
Charles (Chuck)

Church: OKC- Church of the Servant UMC | District: Crossroads

Occupation: Director of Music | Age Bracket: 56-70

Responsibilities - Local Church

All aspects of worship in the Celebration Center come under my office.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

While in Kentucky I worked closely with Bishop King in planning and producing annual conference worship experience each year. I was the orchestra conductor at the Pittsburgh General Conference

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe God is calling us to spend more energy in attracting new converts to the church. This means to do worship the very best we can. I believe to have boring worship is to bear false witness. This is worship whether traditional, blended or modern that is well thought through and prayed over. In a time when the high school plays sometimes look like Broadway productions, we must up our game. We must be more inclusive in every aspect of our church and its relationship to the community in which we serve. We can't just set back and wring our hands about the decline in attendance and membership we must do more and do it better.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

As a professional lay employee of the church for over 40 years, I have seen the church in all of her incarnations, good and not so good. As Director of Music, I have a unique perspective of the church at worship. I have worked at some of our largest churches such as Church of the Resurrection with Adam Hamilton, Christ Church in Jackson MS as well as Church of the Servant here in OKC. I want to help the church come together once again a united body. I can't complain if I don't try to work within the system. I would be honored to serve the church in this capacity. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 756

WHITE
April Sellers

Church: Sapulpa- First UMC | District: Council Oak

Occupation: Retired Judge | Age Bracket: 56-70

Responsibilities - Local Church

Lay Leader, Lay Delegate, Church Council, Finance Committee, Staff Parish Committee, Visioning Team, Sunday School teacher, Choir member, Praise Team member, Youth Council adult member, UMW member

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

District Superintendency Committee, District Mission Strategy Team/District Committee on Church Location, District Lay Servant Committee, Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries Board chair

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

God is calling us to reach out to young families and to offer opportunities for worship, learning and service which let them actively participate in the family of God. The church can offer opportunities which appeal to several age groups together as well as some offerings which appeal more to different age groups separately. For the church to flourish, we need regular growth of young families as well as nurturing both established and new members in our faith so that we experience the richness and strength of a multi-generational family of God worshipping, learning and serving together.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

My experience in the practice of law then twenty-seven years as a judge have trained me to read both the specific language of a proposed resolution and to also consider how it will be interpreted in light of other existing parts of the Discipline. The breadth of my involvement in the internal workings of the church will help me consider all the ramifications of any potential changes in Discipline language.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 757

WILLIAMS
Harrietta

Church: Harrah UMC | District: Crossroads

Occupation: Retired | Age Bracket: Over 70

Responsibilities - Local Church

I am a past president of the Administrative Council and currently serve as a Trustee. I have been president of the Harrah UMW and now hold the office of treasurer.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

I am a past president of the former North OKC District UMW. I am now the program chair for the conference UMW and serve as the chairperson for the conference Board of Church and Society. I am also the District Director of Lay Servant Ministry for Crossroads District. In addition, I also serve as vice president for the South Central Jurisdiction of Lay Servant Ministry.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I believe God would like to see all of us to walk through the doors of our churches, see the people in our communities (especially the least, the last and the lost) and build those relationships so that we can truly love our neighbors.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

Being a delegate to General/Jurisdictional Conference would allow me to bring my skills to the table. Being a leader requires you to have good listening skills and the ability to make informed decisions. Being a delegate would allow me to continue to serve this church.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 758

WILLIS
Kendal

Church: Claremore- First UMC | District: Green Country

Occupation: Childrens Director | Age Bracket: Under 25

Responsibilities - Local Church

I have been to several meetings, been apart of several councils, and I work in the nursery/children's area

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

I was apart of my districts youth council and went as a delegate to my annual conference for five years. I was on the executive of the CCYM and helped plan and was a leader at CYME for five years

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

I hope and pray that the young people's voice will be shared and present for we are the church. We need our voice and I pray that me just being nominated will make an impact that young people care and are listening.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I went to the special session General Conference in 2019 and was moved by the global church. I believe that if I am to serve as a delegate I will give the young people a voice. I will take guidance from my elders and I will listen to the young people. I will be a voice of love and a voice that hears out all persons no matter where they stand.

Lay Nominees to General/Jurisdictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 759

WILSON
Janey

Church: Ada- First UMC | District: Lake Country

Occupation: East Central University Wesley Campus Minister
Age Bracket: 26-40

Responsibilities - Local Church

Served as the Young Adult Minister at Ada First United Methodist Church; Served as the Associate Campus Minister at the University of Oklahoma Wesley; Served as a Children's Minister at Tulsa Will Rogers United Methodist Church.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

-District: Lake Country District Strategic Missional Team, United Campus Ministry Board of Directors at ECU, Wesley Board of Directors at the TU Wesley.

-Annual Conference Responsibilities/experience included: Board of Laity, Associate Conference Lay Leader, Episcopal Committee, Corporation (served as Secretary), Discipleship Ministry Team, at large member represented the Board of Laity, Conference Nominations Committee, Higher Education Committee, Young Adult Council of the Oklahoma Annual Conference, Oklahoma Annual Conference Camps for 19 years as a volunteer, leader and dean.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

Often, we focus too much on our churches and us. We forget that Jesus explains it very clearly in the Great Commission, "Go and make disciples." Three questions come to mind from this passage.

1. What does it mean to be a disciple?
2. How do we disciple others?
3. What is God calling me to do?

I strongly feel the UMC needs to equip its members to be able to answer these three questions or our members will continue to leave the church. Being a disciple means we need to be determined and devoted to Christ in how we live out our lives. We need to learn to trust in Him with all of life.

The key to discipling others is being in an authentic relationship with them. We can do this by: praying, studying the bible and sharing life together. A word that stands out in the Great Commission is 'GO.' We must be willing to go when God says go. We need to change the culture from event focused to evangelism outside the church. For example, offer small groups in homes.

How will we do this UMC? By living out the Great Commission. It starts with us!

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I have had the honor of attending General Conference 2016 and Special Called General Conference 2019. Sadly, we haven't spent hearing, discussing or planning on making and growing disciples. My heart is that at General Conference 2020, we will become the "CHURCH" we are called to be from Matthew 28:18-20.

Lay Nominees to General/Jursidictional Conference
Election 2019 for 2020 Delegates



VOTING NUMBER: 760

WOODLEY
Lisa Robin

Church: McAlester- First UMC | District: Lake Country

Occupation: Small Business Owner | Age Bracket: 41-55

Responsibilities - Local Church

Former youth minister (7 year tenure). Formerly served on nominations, capital campaign, spr. Currently serving on SPR, building committee , umw and hospital committee for local church.

Responsibilities - District or Annual Conference

6 year tenure as District AA for Darrell Cates and Sandy Wylie. 3 year tenure as camp Egan dean.

What I believe God is calling the UMC to do to more effectively live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ:

To clearly articulate our mission statement, to put faith into deeds and to go forward and grow His church.

Why I want to serve as a Delegate and what difference I can make as part of the delegation:

I believe God is calling us individually and as a body to put our words into action and to discern without punishing. I believe delegates must do the difficult job of looking forward to the future as they honor the past. Having served in multiple paid and unpaid positions and listened and learned from the highest biblical scholars to the youngest of tender members, I believe I am equipped to balance view-points and rhetoric while prayerfully listening to God's voice in my journey.