



General/Jurisdictional Conference Nominees

**May 18-20, 2023
Community Arts Center
Williamsport, PA**

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2023 Delegate Election
General/Jurisdictional Conference
Clergy Ballot

In 2018, the Susquehanna Conference passed a resolution calling for an orderly manner of self-nominating delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference. Notice was sent in Conference communications including the QuikLINK, website, and email notification. Persons were given the option to submit their candidacy online or in writing. The self-nomination period closed on April 21, 2023. All nominees have been listed in the pre-conference materials and have been assigned a ballot number.

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001. Miguel Arenas

005. Brand Eaton

009. Brent Salsgiver

002. James JP Bohanan

006. Renee Ford

010. Kristopher Sledge

003. Terry Brosius

007. Marian Hartman

011. Jennifer Williams

004. James Copulos

008. Mira Hewlett

012. Daniel Wilt

Clergy Nominees

Rev. Miguel Arenas
Church: Charlton UMC
District: Harrisburg



Experience:
Board of Ordained Ministry
Harrisburg DCOM
Member of The Beloved Community
Scranton Wilkes-Barre DCOM
Member Student Aid Fund Board
Member of Commission on Inclusiveness
Former President Stewardship Foundation

In these winds of change and anxiety in our church, I feel I have the opportunity to be an agent of service by representing our conference. Being able to carry the voice of those who have no voice and of those I represent is a duty but also a. I feel that the voice of an elderly Hispanic-Latino gives the delegation the possibility of having diversity, that diversity that we try to promote with words but also with actions. But at the same time, it allows me, as a minority clergy member, to be a voice of hope in a church that seeks the inclusion of many and diverse voices.

As a delegate, I intend to promote unity in this time of discernment, with the confidence that we are going to move forward as the body of Christ that we are. Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by reaching new, more diverse disciples and new generations who grow up healthy in revitalized congregations that are centers of hope and mission, of grace, salvation, and justice.

The church lives a process that has the urgency of having a vision of the future in unity in diversity. Therefore, my vision for the future of The United Methodist Church is that the gospel lives on, guided by the Supreme Potter, who makes a new creation from the broken pieces, molding them and giving a sense of restoration and healing.

Rev. Dr. James (JP) Bohanan
Church: Mountaintop: Christ
District: Lewisburg



Experience:
DCOM, Lewisburg
CF&A, Vice President and now President
Bishop's Leadership Team
Center for Spiritual Formation, board member

There was no religious practice in my family until I asked my dad, "Who is God?" My first faith experiences were in the Pentecostal and evangelical tradition and I moved into the UMC as an adult. I love our tradition, our mission, and our diversity; believe in our future as a united and more inclusive church; and am proud to have served as a UMC pastor for over thirty years.

Rev. Terry Brosius
Church: South Mountain Charge
District: York



Experience:
Pastor at South Mountain Charge since 2022.
Both sides of Juniata County 2014-2022.
V.P. Student Aid Board of Managers. 8 yrs. on Order of Elders.

I feel led to be a delegate because I have a prayerful, common- sense approach to the issues at hand as I represent 18 years of pastoral service and in a variety of locations from Chambersburg to Bloomsburg. My vision of the U.M.C. is to continue reaching, teaching, preaching and leading people to Jesus Christ, disciple people in the faith, and empowering people to discuss, value, and respect others as we work together for the commonality in our faith.

Rev. James Copulos
Church: Mt Calvary, Harrisburg
District: Harrisburg



Experience:
Co-lead of the Susquehanna Orthodox Network
Member of the Order of Elders

I feel called to serve in such a role because I represent what will soon be a minority perspective in our denomination, that being those with a traditional/orthodox theology. This year at our own Annual Conference, we will likely be saying goodbye to over a hundred clergy members who identify this way theologically. This includes many candidates who'd previously been elected GC/JC. If we are to truly be the "big tent" that the United Methodist Church desires to be then a plethora of voices need to be heard. My vision for the future UMC is a denomination claiming a renewed vision in discipleship and call for salvation. More than ever, our world is turning to secularism which denies the true authority of Jesus in our lives. There is only one means of salvation and that is in death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth and in our acceptance of His love into our hearts. There is only one Truth and that is in the Word of God as proclaimed in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament. There is only one hope for true reconciliation of all the brokenness in this world and that is to live in the righteousness that Christ calls us to.

I am grateful for your prayerful consideration and may God bless our denomination as we move into this new phase of life.

Rev. Dr. Brand Eaton
 Church: Director of Pastoral Services, Bethany Village
 District: Harrisburg

Experience:

President, Conference Historical Society; Conference Commission on Archives and History; Preachers' Aid Society; Chaplain to clergy in Harrisburg Dist



At this critical time in the history of The United Methodist Church, it will be critical that the clergy delegates representing Susquehanna Conference at Jurisdictional Conference be experienced pastoral leaders with deep knowledge of United Methodist history and polity.

I have served in pastoral appointments in the former Central Pennsylvania and current Susquehanna Conference for more than thirty years, with small and larger membership congregations of differing demographic contexts.

In my most recent role in extension ministry as Director of Pastoral Care to one of our church-related retirement communities, I have been privileged to minister to and with people of all walks of life, and of different faith traditions and no religious faith. I have been privileged to truly make the “the world my parish.”

It is my vision for The United Methodist Church that, following years of internal divisions, concern over declining membership, and struggling with the meaning of effective church leadership, we might once again seek to make “the world our parish.” The church has a place in every society to intercede in the name of Jesus Christ as a messenger of hope and the bearer of the Good News (Gospel).

Rev. Dr. Renee Ford
 Church: Grays/Woodycrest Extended
 District: State College

Experience:

Member & chair of Bishop's Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations, District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Safe Sanctuary Trainer



As an ordained elder with nearly 25 years of diverse ministry experience, including pastoral leadership in churches across the theological spectrum within our conference, I feel called to serve as a General Conference delegate. My vision for the future of our church is based on faithful biblical foundations, following Jesus' example to create welcoming communities where everyone can grow in faith and discipleship regardless of their background. My priority is to promote unity and civil conversations as we live in the “both/and” tension within our global, theologically-diverse denomination. As a delegate, I would draw on our rich Wesleyan history to help guide the church into a future that is both faithful to our past and responsive to the needs of our present.

I believe we are called to model Jesus' values of love and compassion, listening and responding to marginalized voices, as we work towards building a world that reflects God's sovereignty on earth as in heaven. As a delegate, I am committed to representing the Susquehanna conference as we work to establish denominational practices, guidelines, and governance so that we can nurture and launch

vibrant, welcoming, and relevant faith communities who reflect Jesus' humility, mercy, and justice, serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration for all.

Rev. Marian Hartman
Church: retired
District: Harrisburg



Experience:
Superintendent of Scranton/Wilkes-Barre District; Clergy Assistant to Board of Ordained Ministry; Convener Bishops' Care Team

I believe that I have sufficient experience and knowledge of the larger church to be a good delegate and my desire to serve in this capacity has been reinforced by others who have encouraged me to present myself as a nominee. My vision for the future of the UM church is to embrace differences in theology with the love of Christ and to cease doing harm to God's beloved children.

Rev. Mira Hewlett
Church: Carlisle
District: Harrisburg



Experience:
Member Board of Ordained Ministry, 2013-present; Member District Committee on Ministry, 2011-present; Sessions Committee, 2020-present

As a single-mom attending General Conference has not been possible in this season of my life due to family and church balance. Now with the possibility to participate solely in Jurisdictional Conference, a much shorter experience, I feel called to submit my name for consideration. I want to be part of helping to ensure the future UMC is a place where we still have theological and political diversity, because I have grown and deepened my faith and understanding in Christ when surrounded and pushed by colleagues and parishioners who don't always think like I do. I want to be part of creating a church that will continue to be leading in missions and ministry in and beyond our local contexts; and throughout the world for my daughter's generation and beyond. I believe we need to be a church that welcomes all, but respects and allows for each local church and pastor to determine what that looks like and how it is implemented while extending grace to one another. I want to help strengthen and build upon the rich history of the UMC in this region and therefore submit my name for consideration as a clergy delegate for our conference.

Rev. Brent Salsgiver
 Church: Fishburn United Methodist Church
 District: Harrisburg



Experience:
 Member of Young Pastor’s Network program, leadership fellow of the Clergy Leadership Program of Central Pennsylvania, Previous CoDean of Ignite Camp

I was raised in this conference and the former Central Pa conference. Like a lucky few, I am one of a handful of PKs who were nurtured by this conference and chose to return to this conference. Growing up my vacations were annual conferences, and my earliest memories involve sitting in meetings in Wellsboro, Grace UMC, and the Shared Ministry because the Church was our babysitter. It was not hard to discern that God was calling me back to this conference, Urban Ministry degree and all.

However, I am not sure called is the word I am feeling most when opening myself up to returning to a General/Jurisdictional Conference. As a Lay delegate in 2004, I was elected as the secretary of the Church and Society subcommittee. I know the importance of this session of the General Conference for the future of our denomination. I feel capable that I know what the opportunity will entail with regards to time, work, commitment, and discernment. Yet, like those who came before me I feel called to make sure this denomination and conference is a strong United Methodist presence when sharing the Love of Jesus Christ. If that means you elect me to another General Conference, then that is where I will continue my work knowing the work, pain, and sleepless nights that will be to come. If it is not the will of this body that

Rev. Kristopher Sledge
 Church: The Journey Church
 District: Harrisburg



Experience:
 Chair/Beloved Community Commission, Preacher/Annual Conference, Faculty/Local Pastor School, Presenter/District Events, Camp Dean, Various Conf. Teams

I am a young adult (under 35), multiracial, passionate, and lifelong United Methodist who believes that God is not done with our beloved Church. It was my local United Methodist Church in Selinsgrove who saved my life as a young child and who loved and nurtured a deep love of God and love of the church within me. My depth of appreciation and love for the Church is great, and I long to be part of dreaming and investing in where God is leading our Church into the future.

Our beloved denomination must continue being a place where younger and more diverse people experience belonging and the new life that can be found in Jesus. The postponed General and Jurisdictional Conference is another pivotal gathering for the UMC. I would be honored to be a member in the shared work of navigating the pain that we’re all experiencing, and dream of the kind of church and people God is longing for us to be moving forward. Being a part of a growing multi-ethnic (55% White/45%

Black), young (65% under 40), and urban church in Harrisburg propels me to dream of the new people God is longing for us to connect with within our beloved denomination.

I would be honored to be one of your delegates to navigate our denominational realities, and work toward having the greatest impact in our communities and around the world.

Rev. Jennifer Williams
Church: Aldersgate, Mechanicsburg

District: Harrisburg

Experience:

NEJ Asst. Treasurer 2012-2024, Conference Parliamentarian 2008-2021, Annual Conference Arrangements 2016-2021



Where there is no vision, the people will perish. Life and leadership are about vision. You couldn't pay me to serve as a delegate to General Conference! AND as I learned for my Political Science degree - all politics is local. The local church is the future of the UMC. With God's discernment, who we elect as bishop will make all the difference. I've spent the last 15 years of my calling devoted to becoming the leader God sees. And I believe the future of our church is defined by the leaders we elect to lead us into the future. The 2024 jurisdictional elections will determine our future. I believe God has called me to be a part of that future. As NEJ Assistant Treasurer, I will attend either way. For 8 years I've not submitted my name, but I believe that my study and research has led me to be ... for such a time as this.

Rev. Daniel Wilt
Church: St. Paul's Lewisburg
District: Lewisburg

Experience:

EVC Team, Camp & Retreat Board, Lewisburg DCOM, Cluster Leader, Annual Conference Sessions, and Bishop's Committee on Christian Unity.



I feel led to put my name forward as a nominee for three reasons. 1. I am a younger clergyperson and have heard that our younger people need to step up to help lead. 2. I have watched many of my friends and colleagues lose hope in our denomination and leave. I have not lost that hope and want to advocate to make our denomination a place that offers hope in Christ to all people. 3. I serve in many different conference and district capacities. Not only can I speak to the needs of our churches, but to our larger connectional system as well.

I hope for the UMC and its future that it can reclaim its position for personal and social holiness. In this next season, we can focus our efforts on how the connection can better equip our conferences, districts, and churches to be places that help people encounter the healing and whole name of Jesus, as well as being fed, clothed, visited, cared for, and advocated for. I believe the UMC can be a place where we help people see their space at Christ's table and give them a purpose for their life here and now.

2023 Delegate Election
General/Jurisdictional Conference
Laity Ballot

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501. Kathy Armillei

509. James Hurley II

516. Karen Martell

502. Wesley Bealla

510. Andrea Katz

517. Brien McChesney

503. Lisa Bender

511. Jennifer Keith

518. Megan Millard

504. Matthew Brenneman

512. JoAnne Konick-McMahan

519. KimAnn Shockley

505. James Carpenter

513. John Konieczny

520. David Taylor, Sr.

506. Jacqueline Clabaugh

514. Diane Konieczny

521. Cindy Weaver

507. Marsha Curry-Nixon

515. Jerod Lycett

522. David Wolfgang

508. Stephanie Evans

Laity Nominees

Kathy Armillei
Church: Hope in the Valley
District: Altoona

Experience:
I have been the laity delegate for our church the past 5 years

I have been a United Methodist member since I was born.

Wesley Bealla
Church: Elm Park United Methodist Church
District: Scranton/Wilkes-Barre

Experience:
Conference Communications/IT Intern 2015-2016, Director of Communications and IT of Elm Park UMC, AC Media team Volunteer



I am a life long United Methodist and care very deeply for it. Being son of a UMC pastor who spent his whole career working at the local church, district, conference, and jurisdictional levels, I grew up in the church and going to Annual and Jurisdictional Conferences as a volunteer/visitor and grew up in both the former Wyoming and Central Pennsylvania Conferences, watching behind the scenes, the creation of the Susquehanna Conference. I have seen both the good and bad of the church and I want to see the United Methodist Church move forward in a positive way welcoming all people, and getting back to focusing on it's core mission of Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the world. Finally, I want help make it so that the UMC far out lives me and my family because it had been a major part of my entire life and who I am.

Mrs. Lisa Bender
Church: Grace UMC, Harrisburg
District: Harrisburg

Experience:
General/Jurisdictional Conf delegate; NEJ and Sus Conf Episcopacy Cmte; Sus Conf Bd of Global Ministries; Mission Central Board; Preachers Aid Society



As a cradle Methodist who was confirmed into the United Methodist Church as a teenager, and later married a United Methodist pastor, then worked at the Susquehanna Conference office for 18 years, I have for decades been proud of the UMC for our denomination's focus on John Wesley's works of piety and works of mercy. The loving support from God and from the people of the ten different UMC's I've been part of guided me throughout my life. From the Scriptures and years of Disciple Bible Studies, I have learned to be humble, kind, and generous while

seeing all children as children of God. The UMC allowed me to nurture leadership skills. My vision for the UMC is for a renewed and streamlined denomination where those associated with it reach beyond buildings' walls to share the good news about Jesus with all. I am especially interested in breaking down those walls by practicing anti-racism and anti-colonialism as we work in the world to resolve conflicts and bring peace with justice to those facing inequitable conditions. I support the work the church does to attack problems at the core, often led by our Board of Church and Society and our Board of Global Ministries. After serving at General Conference in 2012, 2016 and 2019, I believe I can be helpful to our delegation by bringing my experience to it.

Matthew Brenneman
Church: Lewisberry United Methodist Church
District: York

Experience:

Thus far, none. My experience has been limited to the local church level.

Throughout history, the Christian church has reached numerous inflection points. The United Methodist denomination is currently at such an inflection point. Since I've been a practicing United Methodist for as long as I can remember and have realized the witness of Christ in the UM church, my hope is the UM church will continue to grow and thrive. To make this possible, I want to do my part to help revitalize and strengthen the church's efforts in fulfilling Christ's command to love and be faithful to God's moral law while identifying and shaping ministry to address 21st century concerns. General Conference is the appropriate forum to address doctrinal challenges facing the church. In particular, I am a proponent of traditional marriage and trying to captivate younger folks in their walks with Christ. As a millennial who is a husband, father, Christian college graduate, and engineer, I am positioned to help reach younger groups such as Gen Z while being experienced enough to understand the testimony older folks share.



Mr. James Carpenter
Church: Faith United Methodist Church
District: Williamsport

Experience:

Council Chair
Church Council
Lay Delegate to Annual Conference

As a passionate, active member of a local United Methodist Church, I respect the diverse perspectives that make our local church the vibrant, outgoing, and uncharacteristically young community that it is. While I absolutely do not consider myself a social justice advocate, I do believe that the Church must create a more inclusive and welcoming community if it ever hopes to truly minister to younger and upcoming generations. However, I also believe this must be done in a way that neither forces existing clergy to act against their convictions, nor conservative members to abandon the local church in which they have walked with Christ all their lives.



Concerning the topics at hand, I bring a middle-of-the-road perspective that is equally concerned with posture as with outcome. If we do not treat one another as Jesus would treat any of us, how can we hope to be a light for the non-believers when we get to the other side of this issue?

Jacqueline Clabaugh
Church: Christ Community Altoona
District: Altoona

Experience:
I am serving as a District Hire for 2 churches in the Altoona District. I am working on becoming a CLM. I serve Broad Ave./Lakemont charge.

I want to do more for the kingdom of God.

Ms. Marsha Curry-Nixon
Church: Camp Hill United Methodist Church
District: Harrisburg



Experience:
I am currently head lay teller for this upcoming conference, I've been laity for several years, VIM for Sierra Leone mission work and Women of Faith

I have been blessed to be a member of the United Methodist Church for over 20 years, in that time many changes have transpired none of which has lead me to go in any other direction. I have grown tremendously within this church and wish to continue this Jesus-led journey. I believe that I bring a unique and welcoming presence to this space where my spiritual growth and knowledge in the faith-based/nonprofit sector would be beneficial. It is my hope that we as a church will continue to be intentional about making sure that we are including all voices in our discussions, that we would create a space where all hearts and minds would be free to speak authentically about their love for Christ.

Stephanie Evans
Church: Grace Harrisburg
District: Harrisburg



Experience:
I have served as a lay member at large to the 2021 and 2022 Annual Conferences.

I see the future of the United Methodist Church as a worldwide denomination that is sensitive to and adapts to the local cultures, allowing for flexibility depending on the location of each church and conference. I believe that connection is one of the most important principles of the denomination and within that connection it needs to give everyone and that means everyone regardless of race, gender orientation, and sexual orientation, the opportunity to be fully immersed life of the church and be a leader in whatever way they feel called. I

feel called to help right the injustices and the harm that has been done and is currently being done by the church. By serving as a delegate to Jurisdictional Conference, I hope to be part of the change which begins to heal the harm being done to our siblings in Christ.

Dr. James Hurley II
 Church: First United Methodist Church
 District: York



Experience:
 Conference webinar on Covid vaccination 2021
 Alternate conference delegate to Ann Conf 2019, 2020, 2021
 At large delegate to Ann Conf 2022, 2023

My philosophy has always been one of study, service, and surrender to Jesus Christ. My surrender to Jesus has given me confidence and peace in my faith. I am constantly looking for opportunities to serve and witness whether in the community or in church. I feel called to this opportunity to serve, as the United Methodist Church is at a nexus in its history and mission. Many people are disillusioned with the church leadership and its perceived inconsistencies, and are looking for something else to believe in. I believe that the UMC needs to refocus on spreading the Gospel and reaching out to all, regardless of status. This begins at the very top of the Methodist hierarchy. I believe that my participation in the General Conference will be a start in the right direction. Humbly submitted, James Hurley

Ms. Andrea Katz
 Church: Carlisle UMC
 District: Harrisburg

Experience:
 CLM, Local Licensing Pastor School 2020

My vision for the future of the UMC is that congregations will actively live out welcoming and hospitality to connect with those who are new to church and with Methodists who have been disenfranchised. I believe if we do this it will result in a strong, connected and loving church. One in which people recognise that Jesus lives in all of the members.

I believe I am called to be a delegate for 4 reasons. As a gay married person I needed to make a decision to remain Methodist or find a new church. I chose to remain Methodist because I believe social justice is important. I believe as a Methodist that I have been taught about our God's free Grace and how in responding to that Grace in service, devotion and worship while connecting to those who are part of the church and outside I am able to continue to grow my relationship with Jesus. The process of my decision to remain Methodist has brought me both peace and pain, the feeling of peace overwhelming over shadows the pain I have experienced by the words and actions of my fellow Methodists. The final reason I believe I am called to be a delegate is that I am able to be present with people in their emotions and can acknowledge them while encouraging work to be completed.

Ms Jennifer Keith
 Church: Centre Grove UMC
 District: Altoona

Experience:
 Laity to Annual Conference

I feel like I am being called to be a delegate because I am part of the next generation in the church. I see us as a multi-generational church with room for all generations at the table. My hope is that my generation can bring our energy, our vision, our sense that things can change to help lead the church through this uncertain time and into a Spirit-led future. My vision for the future is that we are a denomination that has a unified core with multiple branch. Each annual conference should have the authority to make our own decisions even if they are against a decision by the General Conference. This way all churches, regardless of where we fall on the theological spectrum, are welcomed as a valued part of our conference and our ministry together. So, we are not forced to participate in acts that are against our personal religious convictions. In this time of change, it is important to remember that God is working in all of these situations to do something new. We need to ask, how can I join into what God is doing, joining Him in his work? It will take all of us putting in our time, resources and abilities to participate in the Body of Christ to form or reform the new thing God is doing. We just need to keep looking & asking God to show us the way forward.



JoAnne Konick-McMahan
 Church: Halifax Stone
 District: Harrisburg

Experience:
 Lay representative (HUMC) to annual conference for 5 years; Lay servant for 15 years; Conference Committee for Lay Servant Ministries for 2 years.

I feel called to be a delegate to General/Jurisdictional Conference to discern the future of the United Methodist Church based on my work with a disaffiliating church and facilitation of a "stay umc" group in the conference. I was part of the Halifax Church's planning and presenting group for the townhalls that occurred to educate church members prior to the vote. As part of the preparation and townhalls for this 700-member congregation, I have listened and processed a diverse range of views regarding the UM Church.

I discerned God's desire for me to "stay UMC" following a vote for disaffiliation of the Halifax Church. I have provided leadership for a group of believers who have discerned a desire to maintain a United Methodist connectional ministry. With the conference staff's valued guidance, the group is on a path to develop a house church in the Halifax community.

In addition, I have served as lay preaching pastor for a rural church in the Susquehanna conference for the past year. I was part of this church's discussion and discernment to not pursue a vote currently. The discussion following the presentation by the conference staff informs my vision for the future. That is a future in which all voices are valued as we make disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world.



John Konieczny
 Church: Aldersgate United Methodist Church
 District: Harrisburg



Experience:
 Past 11 years: Conference Lay Leader (Cabinet, Episcopacy, Pension, Sessions, Nominations, GROW, BOOM, NEJ Vision Table); currently CF&A and DCOM.

I start everything with a firm foundation of loving God, loving others, and making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I strive to live that out through servanthood, attempting to faithfully utilize the gifts and abilities with which God has blessed me and His Spirit has activated within me.

Besides my 40+ years of leadership service to the local churches where I have held membership, and for the past 11 years to the Harrisburg District, Susquehanna Conference and Northeast Jurisdiction that I have served, I have also led (and continue to lead) various discipleship formation efforts.

Following prayerful consideration, I humbly put forth my name in consideration for election as a delegate. I view this as an opportunity to continue that life of servanthood, being blessed with a rich variety of leadership experience from which I can draw for this vital role.

Though all our combined efforts as faithful disciples of Christ, I envision the United Methodist Church as a multiplier of my local church’s vision: reaching with the heart of God for the lives of our community.

Diane Konieczny
 Church: Aldersgate Mechanicsburg
 District: Harrisburg



Experience:
 EVC team chair, (teaching EGP, church consulting, AC presentation) /AC Registrar/Assisted NEJ Sec. with Special NEJ 2022/Current AA in Bishops Office

My work through the EVC team and the Bishop’s Office has helped broadened my perspective and understanding of the connectional church.

My hope is to continue working with churches to help them become equipped and vital in the SUS Conference as well as throughout the United States and world.

My vision for the future: as God continues his good work in and through the United Methodist Church. I envision the church’s growth and strengthening of the people already in our churches. I envision an outreach to those who are still searching and looking for the source of our strength, as well as purposeful connection with those in our communities.

I humbly submit my name for consideration as a delegate. Thank you for your consideration.

Jerod Lycett
Church: Summerdale
District: Harrisburg

Experience:
Former member of CONAM, previous Jurisdictional alternate

We have lost the oneness that is our United Methodist selves. We need to reconcile and move towards a thriving future.

Karen Martell
Church: Congress Hill United Methodist Church
District: Altoona

Experience:
None

I'm retired and at a time in my life where I can help my church more and after receiving a dual cancer diagnosis in the Fall of 2022, I wanted to serve my church the best way I could and that would be to become a lay speaker. I also love to learn and I have God's perfect timing (while resting from chemotherapy). Praise The Lord ?????

Mr. Brien McChesney
Church: Lake Winola United Methodist Church
District: Scranton/Wilkes-Barre

Experience:
Member of the Beloved Community Commission, Discipleship representative of the Young People's Ministry Council, Lay Member at Large of the 2022 AC, etc



In a time when it is so easy to speak, we need leaders and decision makers to listen. In a world where hostility and aggression are admired, we need leaders and decision makers willing to be meek, thoughtful and curious. In a church being stretched and torn, we need Christians who will follow the Prince of Peace in being wounded healers. I would be honored to be a listening, meek, thoughtful, curious, and discerning decision maker for the Susquehanna Conference.

I would desire to defer to whatever Jesus' vision for us may be. While we may not see that yet in full, I do believe our tradition can tell us a few things to start with. What does the Lord require of us? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God. What are we to do with the least of these? Whatever we do for one of the least of these, we do for Jesus. How much good are we to do? "Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can." What is the vision I have for the UMC? I pray for a prophetic voice that acts justly, loves mercy, and walks humbly. I imagine a community

that keeps track of “the least of these”. I envision a conference that is known for its desire to do good in the world.

Megan Millard

Church: Wesley
District: Lewisburg

Experience:

AC young adult rep-Lewisburg District-'18-Now
District Superintendent Hire-Christ Northumberland-'22-Now
Ministry Intern-Wesley Bloomsburg-'20-'21



An atheist once told me I was “the only good Christian [they] ever met” and it shattered my heart. Jesus calls us to be a light and yet time and again I meet people who feel we are the darkness. People outside of the church express that they aren’t experiencing love, joy, peace, and hope in the church. They aren’t feeling prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace. Throughout my life I have seen a disconnect between the church and those outside of it. We use scripture, tradition, reason, and experience to create our theology, but so often hyper fixate on one part. Realizing this kindled something in me, that was my calling. We need to empower the value of grace and balance how we preach and live it. This is something we each can do on an individual level, but it needs to happen on a denominational level as well. That is the future of the UMC. It’s a future where “they will know we are Christians by our love.” Where we preach the gospel and share Wesley’s belief about grace to those we meet. A future where our doctrine and those who follow it strive to further reflect a Christ-like image to the world.

KimAnn Shockley

Church: Carlisle UMC
District: Harrisburg

Experience:

Coordinator of Lay Excellence (July 2019), Acting Director of Lay Servant Ministries, Hbg LSM Committee, Board of Laity



I am called as a delegate because I know that our Wesleyan theology and way of living in the world is what people want, so I will invest in our future for the sake of people we have not met yet. I have a “hands wide open” attitude toward how I interpret Scripture, build relationships with people, and balance sharing faith through my words and deeds. I celebrate the open mindset as a way to embrace God’s work that I may not understand, but have faith that God is all knowing and all benevolent towards God’s creation. To be involved in listening, deliberating, making decisions, and putting those decisions into action would be a good use of me as a member, leader, and co-worker in the UMC. What I envision for each UMC is a strategic focus about how God wants to use us in community, knowing that the right answers for one place will not be the same as another. Will we express why we exist on this street corner, country lane, small town, and city to say that we love God, love people, and make disciples that can transform the world? Will we claim the Fruit of the Spirit as the behavior that is necessary to transform the world? Will we be the body of Christ who loves boldly and

generously? Finally, will we live without fear so that we can express love to everyone we meet, everywhere we go?

Mr. David Taylor Sr.
 Church: W. Nicholson UMC
 District: Scranton/Wilkes-Barre



Experience:
 ATTENDED PRIOR COVID 3 CONFERENCES

MY FEELING IS THAT THE G/J/C ARE TOO VAGUE IN WORDING AND ROLE RESPONSIBILITY AND THE LAITY IS SINGLED OUT AS MINIMAL VALUED. MY ROLE IS TO DEFINE POSSITIVELY WHAT THE LAITY ROLE IS AND THE VALUE TO THE CHURCH. MY CHURCH HAS NOT HAD A PASTOR FOR SIX YEARS AND THE CHURCH DOES NOT WISH TO HAVE ONE. THE MONIES SPENT TO COMPENSATE A PASTOR IS USED TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS, CHRISTMAS' TO FAMILIES IN NEED AND FAMILIES IN NEED.

Cindy Weaver
 Church: St. Paul's Lewisburg
 District: Lewisburg



Experience:
 Conf Secretary, AA-EVC, Beloved Community, Age Level Ministries
 Dist Superintendency/Conf Episcopacy Committees
 Asst Secretary/Jurisdictional Conf

I deeply believe in the future of the United Methodist Church. My grandmother, in her own special way, instilled in me John Wesley's understanding of "Do no harm, do good, stay in love with God." I feel called to serve in the capacity as a delegate to help ensure that future generations may continue to be taught and live out Wesley's three simple rules.

Times have changed since my grandmother influenced my developing faith. When I was younger, things seemed simpler. Today, very few of us would say life is simple, including life in our beloved UMC. Even in these days that some find troublesome, there is always hope. Our hope is in Christ that all things will work together for good. In this Christ centered hope, I look forward to what the future holds for the UMC as we continue to live in God's grace, as we continue to serve the people around us and as we grow as Christ's disciples in leading others in becoming disciples for the transformation of the world.

Having experienced a Jurisdictional Conference I understand the emotional and physical strength it takes to discern God's will in making decisions that shape the future of the church. When discussions and emotions run high, as they often do at G/J Conferences, I can offer a non-anxious presence. Thank you for your consideration to represent you.

Dr. David Wolfgang
Church: Fairbrook UMC
District: State College

Experience:

4 years as Dean of Conference Soccer Camp, 8 years lay member to Annual Conference, member district lay leadership committee, attendee Lay Academy.

As a certified lay speaker for 35 years, I have invested much prayer, meditation, and reflection on effectively sharing my personal Good News. I have shared my story in teaching, outreach, and in short term mission projects in the US as well as internationally. I have taught the Lay Servant course Living our Beliefs. This has solidified my belief that Wesley developed a dynamic balance of personal piety along with a robust desire to make a tangible difference in a hurting world. I recently completed the Lay Academy sponsored by the Conference Stewardship Foundation. This reinforced in me that the Holy Spirit is calling me to take a more active role in developing friendly evangelism among Methodist laity. I am confident that everyone who comes to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior has a unique and powerful story to tell. Helping people share their personal Good News by word and deed is my calling. I recently retired and can devote my time and resources to this end. Wesley provided a great model for us to emulate. He didn't shy from sharing the message that all could be saved by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ. He also encouraged his followers to help heal those in a hurting and confused world. May the United Methodist Church follow the Wesley model in Word and Deed.

