

Sheila Ahler (2001)

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Address: 3521 Pinnacle Drive Cary, NC 27518

Email: sahler@cbh.com

Current Church: Apex UMC

Current District: Fairway

Local Church and District Activities

Current church (past 9 years) Apex UMC:

Past member (6 years) and chair (2 years) of Finance Committee

Led the team obtaining financing for a new construction program

Past member of Administrative Council

Current member (2nd year) of SPRC

Current Usher and Communion Server

Current member of Chancel Choir

Current member of small prayer group (9th year)

Involved in District activities

Previous church (25 years) – St. Andrew By-the-Sea UMC, Hilton Head, SC

Chair of Church Council

Treasurer

Member of SPRC

Member and chair of Finance Committee

Member of Building and Fund-raising committees for construction of a new sanctuary

Treasurer of Fall Festival

Sunday School teacher

UMYF counselor

Member of Chancel Choir

Involved in District activities

Annual Conference and Other Activities

NC Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) – vice chair (4 year term) – current chair (3rd of 4 year term)

Current member - Connectional Table (3rd year)

Current board member - NC United Methodist Foundation (7th year), on Exec Committee (3rd year)

Current member - Stewardship Committee (3rd year)

Current member - Seminary Debt Repayment Task Force

Current instructor – Academy for Leadership Excellence, teaching Holistic Stewardship (4th year)

Current instructor – Licensing School – teaching Ministerial Taxation (3rd year)

Current instructor – Duke Graduate School – teaching Grad Student Taxation (4th year)

Previous Instructor - Duke Seminary – teaching Ministerial Taxation

Attended CFA training – Jacksonville, FL – Feb 2013

Attended GCFA Financial Leadership Conference – Ft. Worth, TX – Mar 2011

Attended NC Annual Conference – 2009 through 2015

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I was born a Methodist; my father was an Elder in the North Alabama Conference. I have been actively engaged in Methodism my entire life –from childhood vacation Bible school, teen years in MYF, to adulthood teaching Sunday School. I am a partner in a Certified Public Accounting firm, just completing my 38th tax season. Serving on the NC CFA has been a blessing as I have been allowed to merge my professional skills with my faith.

Serving the Annual Conference for the past seven years has opened my eyes to the impact our conference can have at the General and Jurisdictional Conference levels. I see many of the obstacles facing our denomination and believe informed, dedicated members need to help find solutions. Many of these issues can only be resolved at the General or Jurisdictional Conference levels and I would sincerely like to represent NC Annual Conference in this process.

George Balch (2002)

Telephone: 910.875.4410

Cell Phone:

Address: 4204 Phillippi Church Road Raeford, NC 28376

Email: gbalch@nc.rr.com

Current Church: Sandy Grove

Current District: Gateway

Local Church and District Activities

Lay Delegate

Lay Leader

Member of Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Finance Chairperson

Certified Lay Servant Certified Lay Speaker for 25 years

Substitute Sunday School Teacher

Member of UMM

Member of Church Shepard Committee

Member of Church Cemetery Committee

Worship Servant

Offering Counter

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Lay Delegate

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

No

Ellen Beasley (2038)

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Address: 506 South 10th Street Erwin, NC 28339

Email: mebeasl2@ncsu.edu

Current Church: Raleigh Wesley Foundation/Erwin UMC

Current District: Capital

Local Church and District Activities

I am currently a student at NC State University where I am heavily involved with the Raleigh Wesley Foundation where I currently serve as the Ministry Team President. I have served on the RWF Board of Directors for the past year on the fundraising committee as well as on the personnel committee.

I am also a member of my home church, Erwin UMC in the Capital District. In the past, I have served as youth group president, served as the youth representative on the Administrative Board, assisted with Sunday School, bible school and children's choir, and I was chosen as the 2013 Lay Person of the Year.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

I have been attending Annual Conference since 2009, starting as a youth delegate and now a lay delegate for the Raleigh Wesley Foundation. I served as the 2012-2013 NCCUMC Youth President. My duties that came along with being Youth President was serving on the Conference Connectional Table, Board of Laity, the Committee on Episcopacy, Annual Conference Planning Team, and 3MC Board of Directors. I also assisted in leading the Conference Youth as the Conference Youth Council chair which assisted in the decision making and planning of conference youth events.

I was also a Young Adult delegate to the GYPC-LA: Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative Assembly (Youth and Young Adult's version of General Conference) in 2014.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I have always known that the United Methodist Church existed outside of the NCCUMC as well as around the world, but I had never thought about how the United Methodist Church is truly a Global church. While at GYPC-LA, I was able to hear from my brothers and sisters in Christ and see how our work here in the North Carolina Conference affects not only us, but the church as a whole. The UMC and the NCC has impacted my life tremendously and I feel that, if chose, through serving as a delegate to General Conference I will be able to express my passion for the UMC and the NCC and share my passion with my global church family in holy conferencing.

Jacob Beasley (2052)

Telephone: 910.897.2350

Cell Phone: 910.658.4622

Address: 506 South 10th Street Erwin, NC 28339

Email: jacobmbeasley12@gmail.com

Current Church: Erwin UMC

Current District: Capital

Local Church and District Activities

I have attended Erwin United Methodist Church my whole life.

I am currently orchestrating our Imagine No Malaria donation of \$4,000.

I have taken part in our Last Supper Dramatization for the past three years

I participate in NCCUMC Youth Events, which include Breakaway, ACS, Pilgrimage, and Global Vision.

I have participated in many Stop Hunger Now meal-packaging events and I am currently planning one for Erwin United Methodist Church.

Youth Service Projects

Coats-Erwin United Methodist Church Youth Group

Raking leaves for the elderly

Backpack Buddies packing and donations

Served at His Daily Bread Soup Kitchen at Coats UMC

Stop Hunger Now events

Morehead City, NC Mission Trip with the Coats-Erwin UMC Youth Group during the summer of 2012

Seaside Heights, New Jersey Mission Trip with the NC Baptist Men and First Baptist Church of Dunn during the summer of 2014.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church Youth President.

As President, I sit on the Board of Laity, the Episcopacy Committee, Methodist Men's Ministry Center (3MC), the Conference Connectional Table (CCT), the Conference Mission Team and Annual Conference Planning Team. I also serve on the planning teams of our conference youth events.

I served on the Conference Youth Council for the 2013-2014 year. I helped plan and organize events.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

As a delegate, I hope to bring diversity and a different perspective as a youth to General Conference. I was raised United Methodist and harbor a strong love for the church and this conference. I feel God leading me down this path and I am committed to anything that needs to be done in order to follow His

ways. With His guidance, I hope to be the voice of the youth and what we stand for as youth and as United Methodists.

Michael Beasley (2003)

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Address: 506 S 10th St Erwin, NC 28339

Email: carquesterwin@gmail.com

Current Church: Erwin UMC

Current District: Capital

Local Church and District Activities

Erwin UMC Lay Leader & Delegate to Annual Conference

Sunday School Teacher

Prayer Chain / eMinistries coordinator

Confirmation teaching assistant

Certified Lay Servant

Class work complete for Lay Speaker and CLM - organizing interviews and paper work to be ready for next Charge Conference

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Teller in 2014

Attended Annual Conference since 2001 as Delegeate

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I feel God's graceful nudge telling me to be a Delegate to the General Conference. Many years ago I attended Lay Speaker training at Lake Junaluska and met a wonderful lady that was the Conference Director of Lay Speaking for Mississippi. In our conversations she told me she would see me at General Conference one year - and I feel that now is the time that God is calling me to go. I have many years experience serving God in the Methodist Church and have completed the new Lay Speaker training and the online CLM training. I feel God is preparing and equipping me for this delegation.

Johanna Berg (2005)

Telephone:

Cell Phone: 910.734.7579

Address: 3908 Willowick Pk Dr Wilmington, NC 28409

Email: twin452000@gmail.com

Current Church: Wesley Memorial UMC

Current District: Harbor

Local Church and District Activities

I am an active member of our church youth group, and attend church, United Methodist Youth Fellowship, and bible study regularly. I help to make decisions regarding our youth group's budget, theme, donations, events, and activities by serving in an active roll on our church's youth council. I sing in one of our youth praise bands, and in our youth choir. I love to go and help lead worship at one of the local nursing homes when the youth are invited to go. I go on our annual mission trips with the rest of the youth, and love to go on other youth and church activities. I have also been able to serve on the Harbor District Youth Council.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

I annually attend North Carolina Conference youth events such as Breakaway, Pilgrimage, Kaleidoscope, and this year, ACS. I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve as a representative to the Conference Youth Council, and on the Conference Council for Youth Ministry. This year at ACS, Annual Conference Session for youth, I plan on running for Harbor District Representative. This past year, I had the opportunity not only to attend Annual Conference, but to also serve as a voting delegate, as I will again this year.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I would like to serve as a delegate at General Conference to give the youth a voice. As the people of the next generation, we will soon be picking up the mantle of the church and service in Christ. And as such, we will be the people who the decisions made here will most effect. I also want to give the perspective of people my age. I hope that this opportunity does not pass me by, as I see this as an opportunity to leave my mark on the church and on our mission in the world.

Jacob Blount (2048)

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Address: 110 Forest Drive Clinton, NC 28328

Email: jblount@nccumc.org

Current Church: First UMC Clinton

Current District: Harbor

Local Church and District Activities

Founder of praise and worship service held every Sunday; served as the main worship leader 2013-14

Youth Ministry representative on the Administrative Council 2012-14

Youth Ministry Executive Team member 2012-14

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Conference Youth Council, 2012-2014

Youth Ministry Secretary, 2013-14

Conference Communications Team, 2013-present

NCC Pilgrimage Planning Team, 2012-present

Director of Communications Search Team, 2013-14

Delegate to Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative Assembly in Philippines, 2014

Annual Conference News Team member, 2013-present

Media Coordinator/Counselor at Camp Don Lee, 2015-present

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I was first introduced to the work of the North Carolina Conference and the United Methodist Church as a whole beyond the local church level during the summer between my sophomore and junior year at ACS. Upon this introduction, I immediately developed an interest to become more involved in the work of the UMC at the level of the NC Conference. I joined the Conference Youth Council (CYC) after my first year attending and served for two years before being elected as the Conference Youth Ministry Secretary the summer before my senior year. In my role on the CYC, I helped plan and staff youth events and this is where I fell in love with the NC Conference and what initiated my love for the global United Methodist Church. I joined the Pilgrimage Planning Team after serving as a youth staff member in 2012 and have continued in the role of Assistant Technical Director ever since. My role as the Youth Ministry Secretary was to manage all youth communications to include updating social network platforms, creating a monthly newsletter, taking notes at meetings, representing the youth ministry on the Conference Communications Team, and completing other small tasks. My work on the Conference Communications Team led to an appointed position on the Director of Communications Task Force in 2013-14 and a position on the Annual Conference on-site News Team. I share all of this to explain that I have found through my personal faith a love for the connection and overall body of the United Methodist Church. This love was confirmed once more when I traveled to the Philippines for the Global Convocation and Legislative Assembly and worshipped with United Methodists from all over the world. The work completed during legislative sessions as a united body has inspired me to serve as a delegate to General Conference and

the South Eastern Jurisdictional Conference. I would be honored to represent the NC Conference at both the General and South Eastern Jurisdictional Conferences and to fully participate in all legislative sessions. I also have an interest in running to be a member of the Division on Ministries with Young People through Global Young People and the General Board of Discipleship for the next quadrennial.

Adam Bock (2006)

Telephone:

Cell Phone: 919.667.3834

Address: 201 Stockbridge Place Hillsborough, NC 27278

Email: adamkbock@yahoo.com

Current Church: Mount Bethel UMC

Current District: Corridor

Local Church and District Activities

I am currently a member at Mount Bethel UMC in Bahama. As part of Mount Bethel, I currently serve as the representative to Annual Conference. In the past, I have served on the appointment committee and as the youth representative on Mount Bethel's Administrative Council.

I am currently attending UNC-Chapel Hill. At UNC, I am a member of UNC's Wesley campus ministry where I am the junior class representative on Wesley's leadership team. In the past, I have served as Worship co-leader and have also helped lead multiple small groups and helped run many other activities. As of June, I will also be the Co-Chair of Wesley's Board of Directors

While at UNC, I also regularly attend Christ UMC am heavily involved with the young adult group there.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

In addition to attending Annual Conference the last two years, I have also attended Pilgrimage (a conference youth event) many times and served as a Taste and See pastoral intern last summer at Pine Valley UMC in Wilmington. This summer I will be working at Chestnut Ridge, a camp ministry of the North Carolina conference.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

The love of God and the ministry of the United Methodist Church have been integral parts of my life. In response, I feel called to serve as a delegate to General Conference so that I can aid in perpetuation of these (sharing the love of God and continuing the ministry of the United Methodist church). Moreover, as young adult who is well versed in matters of the United Methodist Church, I can bring a different perspective to General Conference while being acutely mindful of United Methodist practices, policies, and teachings. I am also discerning a call to ordained ministry in service to God through the United Methodist Church. I believe that participating in General Conference will aid me in continuing to hear what God is calling me to do with my life, be that ordained ministry or ministry of some other sort.

Eston C. Brinkley (2007)

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Address: 5730 Market St. Wilmington, NC 28405

Email: ebrinkley@nccumc.org

Current Church: Wesley Memorial UMC

Current District: Harbor

Local Church and District Activities

As a member of Wesley Memorial UMC since 1976 I have served on many committees such as Delegate to Annual Conference, Lay Leader, Sunday School Teacher, SPRC, Finance, Evangelism, Nominations, Vision Planning Team, Trustee, Administrative Board, Stephen Minister, Emmaus Lay Director, small group leader, Lay Speaker.

District: 15 + yrs. director of Lay Speakers, co-director of Lay Servant ministries, board of Laity, LS instructor, Evangelism and District Committee on Ordained Ministry

Annual Conference and Other Activities

2012 SEJ delegate, Vice Chair of the Commission on Evangelism, Delegate to Annual Conference, 8 yrs. on the Board of Ordained Ministry, 8 yrs. on Extension Ministry committee, Conference 2010 recipient of the Harry Denman Award for Evangelism

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I have been blessed with a variety of local, district and conference experiences as a team member working with many Ordained, Local Pastors and lay Leaders across the conference. I am familiar with the Book of Discipline and our Social Principles. As a denomination we need direction and a clear vision as we face challenges and an uncertain future.

Katie B. Brinkley (2008)

Telephone: 910.458.3325

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Address: 5730 Market St. Wilmington, NC 28405

Email: eston0108@aol.com

Current Church: Wesley Memorial UMC

Current District: Harbor

Local Church and District Activities

Delegate to Annual Conference, Board of Trustees, Administrative Board, Lay Servant - Speaker, Community Lay Director for Coastal Carolina Emmaus, Kairos Prison Ministries, Chrysalis Youth Ministries, Sunday School teacher, finance comm., confirmation Mentor, Mission Vision Comm., Staff Parish Relation Comm., Chaired Parsonage Comm., VBS teacher, former Choir member, Disciple Bible Study facilitator.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Delegate to Annual Conference, 2012 delegate to SEJ, facilitator for Board of Ordained Ministry Prayer Ministry, Lay Witness team member, Board of Pensions committee.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I love our church and as a committed member, leader and disciple I offer myself in His service as needed. I have leadership training with business and Church application. I am grounded in the Wesleyan Way, familiar with our articles of faith, Book of discipline, teach the Social Principles and offer the experience of serving on various local, district and conference committees and boards.

Deborah Carter (2009)

Telephone: 252.685.0023

Cell Phone:

Address: 600 W Academy St. Robersonville, Nc 27871

Email: slady1dc@gmail.com

Current Church: Robersonville

Current District: Beacon

Local Church and District Activities

Teach adult Sunday school; assist with back pack buddies program, and various church activities (dinner & a movie, food programs during various holidays, etc.)

Annual Conference and Other Activities

This is my first conference.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I would like to help in any way that I could be of use. I use a cane to walk but it doesn't stop me.

Martha Caves (2010)

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Cell Phone:

Address: 4404 Burlington Rd. Roxboro, NC 27574

Email: bearcaves@aol.com

Current Church: Warren's Grove UMC

Current District: Corridor

Local Church and District Activities

Local Church: Lay Delegate to Annual Conference; Missions Team; Choir; United Methodist Women; Past President United Methodist Women; SPRC, Finance Committee.

District: Lay Leader; District Committee on Ministry; Mission Strategy Team; Building and Location Committee; Lay Servant Ministries Committee; past President United Methodist Women

Annual Conference and Other Activities

2012 General Conference and Southeastern Jurisdiction Delegation reserve Delegate; Conference Board of Laity Committee; Education & Nurture Committee; Dean of North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women Mission u; United Methodist Women Leadership Team; Insurance Committee.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I was honored to serve as a reserve delegate for the 2012 General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference. I spent time observing the process, subcommittees and general sessions of the General Conference, giving me a better understanding of how both Conferences operate and what is expected of each delegate. I would like to represent our Conference on the decisions made which will affect the future of our United Methodist Church. I have leadership experience, a desire to learn, and passion to do God's will, which will help me prepare for the work of General Conference.

Claire Cox-Woodlief (2011)

Telephone: 919.362.9992

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Address: 4141 Summer Ridge Court Apex, NC 27539

Email: ccoxwoodlief@nccumc.org

Current Church: St. Francis UMC

Current District: Capital

Local Church and District Activities

I have served in a number of leadership capacities in my local church for over 20 years including Church Council, Building Committee and Lay Coordinator of Adult Discipleship. I have taught children and adult Sunday School classes and have led and participated in a number of Bible Studies and other adult formative small groups. I have also served in various mission opportunities. I am currently the Chair of the Social Concerns Ministry Team in my local church and am a Certified Lay Servant, working to become a Certified Lay Speaker.

For the past 3 years I have served as the Assistant to the District Superintendent in the Capital District and support the District Committee of Ordained Ministry, the District Board of Church Location and Building, the District Committee on Superintendency and the District Board of Trustees. I also serve on the District Mission Strategy Team, the District Spiritual Formation Team and the District Hispanic/Latino Ministry Team. I am responsible for communication in the district, write a weekly column "Claire....ification" and support the clergy and laity in our 100 congregations in a variety of different ways.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

As the Capital District Assistant to the District Superintendent, I serve on Bishop Ward's Leadership Team. I also serve as a Conflict Transformation Minister and am on the Conference Conflict Transformation Advisory Team. I serve on the Conference Multi-Cultural Task Force and have served for 9 years on the leadership team of the NC Academy for Spiritual Formation. I participated in the Bishop's Wesley Heritage Tour in 2014 and am leading the effort to take a group of young adults to Taizé, France to attend an international Gathering Towards a New Solidarity this August with our Bishop.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I am often called upon to answer questions regarding UM Polity and I have had an opportunity to learn a great deal about The Book of Discipline and some of the resolutions of our church. I have made a point of studying our Social Principles with others and I have been vigilant in trying to remain informed about the complex issues that our church and society are faced with. I believe that rekindling our Wesleyan heritage is a key to a bright future in the Methodist Church. If I were elected to serve as a delegate, I would maintain my conviction that maintaining unity in spite of some of our differences is in our best interest and I would seek the Holy Spirit's guidance when called on to vote as a delegate from our conference, seeking to engage in collaborate exchanges that will move our church forward. It would be my honor to represent our conference laity in this holy conferencing and I would commit to sharing what takes place utilizing various social media and other communication outlets during and after this crucial work takes place.

Ann Davis (2045)

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Address: 3806 Blarney Street Greenville, NC 27834

Email: ardavis@nccumc.org.

Current Church: St. James UMC

Current District: Sound

Local Church and District Activities

Local Church

Administrative Council, Nurture Committee Chair, Leadership Team, Evangelism Chair, Church and Society Chair, Sunday School Teacher, Mission Committee Chair, Council on Ministries Chair, Finance Committee, Small Group Leader, all offices of UMWC, Stephen Minister

District

Current District Lay Leader, Mission Strategy Team, Lay Servant Ministry Team, Laity University Committee, Superintendence Committee, UMW President, UMW Secretary, Nominations Chair, Board of Laity

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Conference

Delegate to NC Annual Conference, Connectional Table, Vice Chair Board of Laity, past UMW President, past UMW Secretary, Outreach Team, Annual Conference Planning Committee, Nominations Committee, Lay Servant Ministry Team, Assistant and Dean of School of Christian Mission

General Church

2012 General Conference and Jurisdictional Delegate, National UMW Board Member, Role and Status of Women Board Member, Assistant Dean and Dean of South Atlantic Regional School

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I have a working knowledge of the United Methodist Church at all levels and understand our connectional system. My experience serving in all levels of the church along with my desire to be a servant follower of Jesus enable me to make decisions that are pleasing to God. I have an intense interest and desire to be a part of the challenges and decisions that our denomination is facing in our global society. I look forward with fresh lens at the amazing grace from God. I offer myself as a candidate to ensure that the Love Of God is represented in a manner that is inclusive of the local, rural, urban communities and of the world view, giving insight to what God has called me to do in sharing a bold, loving and faithful heart.

Christine Dodson (2012)

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Address: 700 Waterfield Ridge Place Garner, NC 27529

Email: christine@nccumc.org

Current Church: Mt. Moriah UMC

Current District: Harbor

Local Church and District Activities

- Local Church – I am currently serving on the Finance, Audit and Staff Parish Relations Committees for Mt. Moriah UMC. I am the treasurer for the church building construction account. I have previously served on Administrative Council for Mt. Moriah UMC.
- District – I have participated in and led sessions in districts for Lay Leadership workshops or Lay Rallies. These sessions have included financial leadership and accountability, stewardship, building risk management, property management, the role of local church trustees and finance committees, etc.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

- Conference – In my role as Conference Treasurer, I am responsible for the overall financial and business management for the annual conference. I work with various committees and boards within the annual conference including the Council on Finance and Administration, Board of Trustees, Board of Pension, Insurance Committee, Joint Committee on Clergy Medical Leave, Equitable Compensation, Stewardship and the United Methodist Foundation. In addition, I served as a member of the 2012 North Carolina General and Jurisdictional Conference delegations.
- Jurisdiction - I represent our annual conference at the jurisdictional level in serving as Vice-chairperson on the Southeastern Jurisdiction Council on Finance and Administration and Chairperson of the Audit Committee.
- General Church – I am currently serving as a board member of the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) where I am Chairperson of the Audit and Review Committee and a member of the Coordinating Committee. I have previously served as President of the National Association of Annual Conference Treasurers, a Steering Committee member for the Association of United Methodist Conference Pension and Benefit Officers, a member of the General Council on Finance and Administration Pension Study Group and the Economic Advisory Committee.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I offer myself in service to the NC Annual Conference as a 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation member because I believe that I can offer perspective from all levels of The United Methodist Church to the delegation. I am willing to put in the work to study the issues before the conferences, make myself informed on the decisions to be made and vote to implement the policies that will do the most to promote the work of God's people in the most efficient manner - all to bring glory to God in all that we do. I am a member of a small rural UM congregation and can offer that small membership church perspective to the delegation. We are at a critical juncture in the life and mission of The United Methodist Church and our delegates must work hard to fully represent the NC Conference during this critical time. I pray that all

of the work that I do and all the ways I can contribute will be blessed by God. I pray for wisdom such that my only role is in carrying out God's vision and fulfilling God's purpose in my life and Christ's church.

John Dooley (2047)

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Cell Phone:

Address: 7304 Cateswood Apex, NC 27539

Email: 7304cate@bellsouth.net

Current Church: Apex

Current District: Fairway

Local Church and District Activities

Worship as AV tech, lay speaker, liturgist, communion steward

Current Admin council, past trustees

Several local mission / home repair ministries

Past and returning, Prayer ministry

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Lay representative to annual conference, or alternate, or guest since 1992

A few Board of Ordained ministries reviews (not as member)

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I have seen how our interconnectedness affects both our local churches and the conference level. I have a passion for good structures which can help people work together (or not when the structures are not good). I have seen many parts of our NC conference and believe I understand many of the concerns and opportunities that face us and would be honored to represent them to our larger body.

Beverly H. Geer (2013)

Telephone: 910.628.7814

Cell Phone: 757.570.1038

Address: 1363 Hardin Farms Rd. Fairmont, NC 28340

Email: Beverly.Geer@gmail.com

Current Church: Bethesda

Current District: Gateway

Local Church and District Activities

Bethesda : PPRC. Worship Committee, UMW, Co-Chair Media Center

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Lay Member

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

John Hall (2040)

Telephone: 919.477.5802

Cell Phone: 919.696.5803

Address: 1509 Imperial Drive Durham, NC 27712

Email: jahall@nc.rr.com

Current Church: Aldersgate UMC Durham

Current District: Corridor

Local Church and District Activities

During our 26 years at Aldersgate I have been honored to serve in various leadership capacities, including Church Council chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Trustees, and Lay Leader. I was blessed to serve the Corridor District as the United Methodist Men district president. I currently serve as a Certified Lay Minister, Church Council chair, and a member of the Corridor District Building and Location committee.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Lay Delegate

Men's Ministry Specialist

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I grew up in a small, rural United Methodist church in Randolph County. Recently I have felt called to be more engaged in the administration and ministries of the Church. Having served as a lay delegate to multiple Annual Conferences, I now feel prepared to represent our Annual Conference as a delegate. I appreciate and understand Holy Conferencing as a means of grace where there is an expectation to encounter God, and pray that we would be led by God's Spirit as together we discern His will for His church. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve our Annual Conference as a delegate.

Vicki Hardee (2043)

Telephone: 919.779.7590

Cell Phone: 919.616.0338

Address: 139 Dullis Circle Garner, NC 27529

Email: vhardee1@gmail.com

Current Church: Holland's United Methodist

Current District: Capital

Local Church and District Activities

In the past or currently I have participated or am participating in the following areas of ministry:

Sunday School Teacher

Children's Department Director

Chancel Choir

Children's Council

Administrative Board

Council on Ministries

MYF Counselor

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Stewardship Committee

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women's Circle

Disciple Bible Study Teacher

Vacation Bible School

Youth Council

Women's Ensemble

Small Group Studies/Bible Study Committee, Chair

Personnel Support Management Team

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Heart of Carolina Emmaus

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I grew up actively participating in the Methodist Church. As an adult, I have been an active member of Holland's. My parents and grandparents were active in their Methodist church----my roots run deep in the Methodist Church, and I have a passionate heart for the Church.

It has been said that the church is one generation away from disappearing. We have a responsibility to maintain and cultivate the Church so that our children and youth will be nurtured and grow up in the way of the Lord while we continue to involve, support and address the needs, spiritual formation and deepening of our faith in our young, middle age and senior adults. The Church has the responsibility to provide what is needed for people to find a passion for, and follow, Jesus. I believe the Methodist Church has a strong and bright future to fulfill this mission--one that will be shaped in 2016 and beyond.

Believing in the Methodist Church, its doctrine, The Book of Discipline and our Wesleyan heritage, it would be an honor to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference.

CJ Hart (2014)

Telephone:

Cell Phone: 919.770.2042

Address: 3241 Seth Drive Sanford, NC 27330

Email: cjhart@cjhartstudios.com

Current Church: Hickory Mountain UMC

Current District: Fairway

Local Church and District Activities

Clergy Spouse

Certified Lay Speaker - Have 4 courses complete toward Certification as Lay Servant Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Teach Bible Study

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

Fred M. Hight III (2037)

Telephone: 252.237.1594

Cell Phone: 252.245.4282

Address: 1201 Branch Street Wilson, NC 27893

Email: fhight@myglnc.com

Current Church: Winstead UMC

Current District: Capital

Local Church and District Activities

Chair or Church Council

Member of Finance Committee

Sing in adult choir, Praise Band, and Winstead Quartet

Active in Hand and Hand Ministry

Mentor weekly at Vick Elementary School

United Methodist Men

Hope Garden worker

Driver for the Zebra Bus to pick up children and church members

Building Committee member

Core Leadership Team member

Sunday School teacher

Vacation Bible School teacher

Troop Committee chair for local Boy Scout Troop 89

Chair of Capital District Board of Superintendency

Member of District Mission Strategy Team

Task Force member for La Estrella Resplandeciente

One of the organizers for our recent Capital District event, Impact

District Board of Trustees

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Lay delegate for NC Annual Conference for a number of years

Mission Endowment Team member

Sexual and Professional Ethics Team member

Southeastern Jurisdictional Delegate 2012

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I am grounded in scripture and know the Book of Discipline, and I believe in the United Methodist tradition. I think it would be a privilege to serve in the General Delegation and to serve again in the Southeastern Jurisdictional Delegation.

I believe I am able to listen to others' ideas. I am guided by my understanding of church and society, which will enable me to make sound decisions concerning the future of the United Methodist Church.

I believe I have adequate experience with the local church, the district, and North Carolina Annual Conference, and the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference to make me qualified for this delegation. My experience with numerous mission trips has helped me gain understanding of the needs and mission of the United Methodist Church.

If elected, I will take the responsibility seriously and serve to the best of my ability.

Curtis Hildt (2015)

Telephone: 910.324.1117

Cell Phone: 910.545.8582

Address: 104 Perfect Court Richlands, NC 28574

Email: readabook1@embarqmail.com

Current Church: Haw Branch UMC

Current District: Sound

Local Church and District Activities

Certified Lay Speak for approximately 23 years. Served as a Delegate at the Annual Conference approximately since 1992 for Northwoods UMC and Haw Branch UMC. Treasurer, Nominations, Finance, trustee and other positions. Lay Leader for 6 years.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Ran as a General Conference Candidate. Served on the Conference Board of Laity for 4 years and as New Bern District Lay Leader. Lay Leader for Northwoods United Methodist Church. Member of Emmaus. Served on advisory board for Reverend Yuko Miller. Serving last 19 years team member and now team captain for Onslow County Rely for Life. 30 years Boy Scouts of America and WoodBadge trained. Life Member Disabled America Veterans.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

Coming from a small church and serving the laity and pastors as a district Lay Leader for the New Bern District, I have a good vision of God's mission for me. I serve God in my church and as a Reading Specialist at Coastal Carolina Community. I work happily with students that have been told that they would never make anything of their lives. I believe that God helped me survive the Vietnam War because he has a mission for me. My experience in the classroom and as District/Conference positions have established me as a sound choice to serve as a delegate to the General Conference to represent the North Carolina Annual Conference.

Mary Hunt (2016)

Telephone:

Cell Phone: 910.734.3017

Address: 223 Crestwood Dr Lumberton, NC 28360

Email: mhuntrealtor@aol.com

Current Church: Branch Street

Current District: Gateway

Local Church and District Activities

Teaching Sunday school, working with the finances of the church and attending meetings with the pastor when requested

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Attends and votes on all aspects put before me. I always stay from beginning to end

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I feel that what happens with the UMC is very crucial to the lives of many people. Anytime I attend these meeting I make sure that I study the material and make sure that i know what is going on and how it will effect the lives of the people that i represent. I also make sure that I know what the word of God says about the material.

Emily Innes (2041)

Telephone: 919.435.0531

Cell Phone: 910.777.1109

Address: 8324 Wycombe Ridge Way Wake Forest, NC 27587

Email: emilyinnes@nccumc.org

Current Church: Wake Forest UMC

Current District: Heritage

Local Church and District Activities

Local Church: Over the years I have served in the following ways: DISCIPLE Bible Study facilitator (5 years), Administrative Board, Administrative Council, Mission and Outreach Chair, Evangelism Chair, UMYF Leader, Vacation Bible School Teacher, Building Committees, Chancel Choirs, Local UMW President, Christian Drama Director

District: Former Burlington District: Board of Laity (8 Years), Board of Managers Christian Enrichment Event (8 Years), Board of Mission Treasurer (6 years), District UMW President (4 Years), Committee on Hunger and Human Need (4 years), District Youth Council (3 years), Workshop Leader and speaker for Districts and Local Churches throughout the Conference

Annual Conference and Other Activities

NC Annual Conference: Delegate to the NC Annual Conference 1993- 1996, 1999-Present, Episcopacy Committee 2004-Present (Chair 2012-Present), Conference Connectional Table 2000-Present (Chair 2004-2012), Conference Lay Leader 2004-2012, Conference Board of Laity 2000-2012 (Chair 2004-2012), Member of the Bishop's Ministry Cabinet 2004-2012, Conference UMW President 2000-2004, Annual Conference Planning Committee 2000-2012, Conference Nominating Committee 2000-2012, Conference Staff Relations Committee 2004-2012, Insurance Committee 2004-2012, Mission Team and Board of Missions Inc. 2004-2012, Formation and Leadership Development 2004-2008, Leadership Team 2008-2012

Southeastern Jurisdiction: Member of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy 2008-Present (elected by the Committee as Vice Chair 2014-Present), President of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Conference Lay Leaders 2010-2012, Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference Planning Committee (2010-2012, 2014-Present)

General Church: Elected by the NC Annual Conference to serve as a delegate to the General and Southeastern Jurisdictional Conferences in 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2012. Then was elected by the delegation to serve as Vice Chair of the Delegation 2008 -2012 and Chair of the delegation 2012-Present. At General Conference 2012 was elected to Chair a Legislative Committee (Global Ministries), General Church Connectional Table 2012-Present, Council of Bishop's Vital Congregations Operations Team 2014-Present, Delegate to the World Methodist Council and Conference 2011 (South Africa), Director of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) 2004-2012, GBGM Executive Committee 2006-2012, GBGM Personnel and Search Committee 2006-2012, Director of Women's Division 2004-2012 (Vice President 2006-2012), GBGM Evangelism and Church Growth 2006-2012 (Chair of Missionary

Placement 2010-2012), General Commission on the Status and Role of Women 2004-2008, Board of Directors Methodist Home for Children 2002-2010

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I have a deep desire to serve Jesus Christ through the United Methodist Church, which I love. Having previously served as a delegate to four General and Jurisdictional Conferences, I am fully aware of the tremendous and extremely important responsibility of this particular calling, With God's help I will faithfully serve, pray, listen, study the issues, and represent United Methodist in the North Carolina Conference with integrity and dedication.

Phil Isaacs (2033)

Telephone: 336.376.6530

Cell Phone: 336.516.2553

Address: 5287 Lindley Mill Rd Graham, NC 27253

Email: gfi48@hotmail.com

Current Church: Cedar Cliff

Current District: Corridor

Local Church and District Activities

Lay Leader from 1995 to present, Delegate to the NC Annual Conference since 1992. Served on all of the committees of the church and as chairperson of several. Methodist Men President. Member of the District Board of Churches & Buildings. Burlington District Lay Leader, District Board of Laity, and District committee on Superintendency

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Lay Representative to the Conference Connectional Table, Delegate to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, Conference Board of Laity. Past member of the Eli Whitney Ruritan Club, currently the VP of the Alamance County Electrical Contractors Association and a member of the Cedar Cliff UMC team for the American Cancer Society Relay For Life.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

Having been a member of the UMC and Lay Delegate to Annual Conference for most of my life, I feel that I understand the policies and positions of our conference. I believe that the Word of God is the only rule that we need to follow to live our Christian faith. Making disciples of Jesus Christ, through the love of GOD & Neighbor & Self is the Mission statement at Cedar Cliff UMC. I believe that by following this mission statement and the book of discipline with God's guidance I can serve as a faithful representative for our conference.

Sam Isley (2017)

Telephone: 919.834.6042

Cell Phone: 919.559.5410

Address: 1422 Mordecai Dr. Raleigh, NC 27604

Email: sam_isley@hotmail.com

Current Church: Edenton St. United Methodist Church

Current District: Capital

Local Church and District Activities

Facilitator for Sacred Worth Care Group at Edenton St. UMC.

Disciple Bible Study substitute facilitator at Raleigh Correctional Center for Women.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Treasurer-Methodist Federation for Social Action-NC Conference.

Member-Reconciling United Methodist and Friends of NC.

Jurisdictional Conference Delegate-2012.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

As an infant, I was baptized and grew up at Davis St. United Methodist Church in Burlington, NC. I support the Connectional nature of our United Methodist Church and uphold John Wesley's approach for us of forever moving toward perfection. Are we perfect as individuals and as a church? No, but through our words, deeds, and actions, we can strive to welcome all persons to our United Methodist Churches, evangelizing, worshiping, and fellowshiping together, by celebrating the many, many things we have in common and recognizing and even celebrating the areas where we do not agree. Is there tension at times in our churches in the midst of our disagreements? Yes, but we can work together to harness that tension and turn that in to an energy where we can do good things for others, lifting them up when they are down and letting them know that God loves them. Will there be tension in Portland at General Conference 2016? Yes and at General Conference, I would strive to work with others to find that common ground centered in Jesus Christ and move forward as a church celebrating what we have in common, recognizing our differences, and bringing people to Jesus Christ. I want to be part of the glue that holds us together as a world-wide church. When my partner and I are at Surf City, NC, we attend Faith Harbor United Methodist Church's 8am worship service held at a pavilion right on the beach. As the members of Faith Harbor serve those gathered communion, I look out at the vast expanse of ocean and I am so grateful to be a part of a church family where one day all will be welcome at God's table.

Henry Jarrett (2018)

Telephone: 919.787.3122

Cell Phone: 919.606.5674

Address: 3405 White Oak Rd Raleigh, NC 27609

Email: jarretth@bellsouth.net

Current Church: Fairmont United Methodist Church

Current District: Capital

Local Church and District Activities

Currently serve as chair of the Outreach Team, Served as Church Council Chair twice, and have led work teams from Fairmont since 1998. Also was a Senior High Youth Counselor for 12 years.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Served on conference Board of Church and Society 1988-92, Conference Board of Social and Ecumenical Ministries 92-95 , and Chair conference Board of Church and Society-1995-2000. Served on conference Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry 2004-2012 and currently serve as chairperson of conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I love The United Methodist Church and I think there is bright future ahead for it. I believe my broad background of service and leadership enable me to understand the challenges that face the church and help it grow not just in numbers but spiritually as well.

Phillip Jefferson (2046)

Telephone: 919.604.2431

Cell Phone: 919.604.2431

Address: 1001 Avent Hill B4 Raleigh, NC 27606

Email: phillip.h.jefferson@gmail.com

Current Church: Avent Ferry UMC

Current District: Capital

Local Church and District Activities

As a member at AFUMC I have had the pleasure of beginning my involvement at church by providing special music as part of the worship service. As a trained musician, music in worship is very special and sacred to me and a way to make a joyful noise unto the lord. I began active participation at AFUMC early on by becoming a part of the Communication team and shortly after joining the Mission Outreach team. During that time I had the opportunity to learn about the reconciling movement in our church and became very involved with RUMNC and have since become coordinator for churches in the conference where we work closely with RMN as well as other conference groups such as MFSA. For the last four or more years, I have served and currently serve as our Missions Outreach and Evangelism Chair, where we have worked hard to bring on new ideas to reach out to the community and make people of all backgrounds feel welcome at our church. We've done this through our missions arts fellowship, joining UMC Rethink church strategies, outdoor spritual movies and food events, spiritual dance, bible giveaways and many more. I am also a member of our church council. Thanks to the support of our pastor we have great new outreach activities in the works. I also have had the pleasure of serving as youth leader to the junior high level at our church and showing them ways of supporting the community through small mission projects at church and outside of the church. They are our future and I continue to work to show them God's love for all people. They look up to me and I learn from them the direction for our church.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

I have participated in annual conference for the last number of years with MFSANC and RUMNC and representing RMN. I find social justice and inclusion to be the work of Christ and learning to continue to love one another. I've had a chance to learn and experience more and more at conference and connect with clergy and laity throughout the NC conference. I have been able to volunteer at exhibit tables for our organizations and experience conference floor activities. This year will be my first year as an at large delegate for the Capital District.

I am Program Director at Wake Technical Community College for the Architectural Technology department, a member of the American Institute of Architects where I am on the AIA Triangle Board of Directors, and chair the AIA Triangle Tour of Residential Architecture. I serve on committees at Wake Tech as well as advise our student club. Youth are the future for our global community and we should continue to help them grow and learn to be leaders that will shape tomorrow.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I see the UMC as a part of my youth. I grew up in the UMC and learned so much from my parents about god and our church over these 37 years. My great great grandfather, on Amelia Island, Fl, helped to start our family church, Franklinton UMC. I have seen it evolve over the years and continue to see it grow with the world and reach out to its community eventhough it is a small church. I see my current church, Avent Ferry UMC, the same way, evolving, growing and welcoming all people to the love of Christ. Our global church also has to grow and welcome all of our communities through open hearts, open minds and open doors to share in the love of Christ. I want to help our entire church carry on the legacy that my

great great grandfather, my grandparents and my parents worked so hard to do during their lives with a small congregation, show God's love in our communities and have a presence for people of all backgrounds to experience the love of Christ. Our youth can also show us where our church is going. We need to show them that we hear them and want them to be our future leaders in the United Methodist Church and should teach them how to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Earl Jones Jr. (2049)

Telephone:

Cell Phone: 910.391.8321

Address: 224 Lofton Drive Fayetteville, NC 28311

Email: jdcestnd@aol.com

Current Church: Harry Hosier UMC

Current District: Gateway

Local Church and District Activities

Former PPRC Chair

Former Youth Coordinator

Currently On Finance Committee

Assistant Youth Coordinator

Member of Methodist Men

Church Council Member

Former District Committee Member

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Attended Last two Annual Conferences

Member of CFA

Executive Committee Member of CFA

Chair of Housing Subcommittee for CFA

In-Coming Chair of IT Subcommittee for CFA

Member of BMRC

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

If provided the opportunity to serve as a Delegate to General or Jurisdictional Conference I would bring over 35 years of corporate experience in decision making, problem solving skills with the current methodologies standards, along with a Christian perspective. I possess the necessary objectivity and visionary skills set to contribute to a legislative process. Last as a retired technical professional I would bring my critical thinking and analytical skills.

Jimmy Kennedy (2019)

Telephone: 910.422.9955

Cell Phone: 910.734.8837

Address: 2850 Butler Rd. Rowland, NC 28383

Email: sososober326@aol.com

Current Church: Trinity Fairmont

Current District: Gateway

Local Church and District Activities

Lay Leader, UMM, Mission Work (local & international), Volunteer at Partners in Ministry, Laurinburg, NC recruiting mission teams, and Chair of our Outreach Committee.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

NCC Disaster Response Committee, Badged ERT, and UMCOR Certified ERT Trainer, and Laity representative at Annual Conference.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

As people are lost without Jesus Christ in their lives. It is important that we provide a haven for them to find shelter, and be informed that they too can receive the Holy Spirit. And at the United Methodist Church we can provide that without compromising the laws of God. The trials of life can be difficult at times for many, but determined faith will prevail. The UMC and God above has saved my spiritual life and for that I am eternally grateful.

Therefore if there is anyone my input may save I am willing to humbly serve you, my brothers and sisters in Christ at General Conference.

LaVohn Lewis (2020)

Telephone: 252.291.9190

Cell Phone:

Address: P.O. Box 97 Sims, NC 27880

Email: lavohn@embarqmail.com

Current Church: Sims UMC

Current District: Corridor

Local Church and District Activities

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

Gary Locklear (2021)

Telephone: 910.521.3160

Cell Phone: 910.734.4070

Address: 667 Locklear Road Pembroke, NC 28372

Email: glocklear@nccumc.org

Current Church: Sandy Plains

Current District: Gateway

Local Church and District Activities

I am a Sunday School teacher for more than 45 years. I have served in almost every capacity in leadership in my church from Council Secretary to Chair of the Administrative Council to the chair of the SPRC.

I am currently serving on the District Mission Strategy Team. Each year I lead workshops in my District Training events.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

I am currently serving as Conference Lay Leader. I chair the Board of Laity and the Connectional Table. Part of the duties that come with being Conference Lay Leader is serving on the Leadership Team. I also serve on the Insurance Committee, The Committee on Episcopacy, The Mission Team, The Annual Conference Planning Team and the Committee on Native American Ministries.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I believe I have a lot of experience in working at many levels of the church from the local setting to the General Conference. I am a Missionary and my experience there has allowed me to see a broader perspective of the church that I could not see from the local church pew. I believe my many years of broad experience in our church prepares me for key decision making for the future of our church. I have a passion for the Local Church especially in the Rural setting where so many of us worship and live.

Robert Macy (2022)

Telephone:

Cell Phone: 910.318.1738

Address: 15661 Jerusalem Road Laurinburg, NC 28352

Email: methodistmacy@gmail.com

Current Church: Saint Luke UMC

Current District: Gateway

Local Church and District Activities

Lay Speaker

Lay Delegate to the Conference

Food Pantry Manager

Kairos Prison Ministry: planted local board and volunteer

Epiphany Ministry: served youth of the Methodist Home for Children

Walk to Emmaus: team member for numerous weekend

Chrysalis: table leader

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Conference Youth Event Servant x 7 years

Academy of Christian Witness x 2

Multi-Cultural Conference, 2013

UMM National Gathering, 2010 & 2014

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

With 20 years active military, I have had the opportunity to experience different cultures around the world and serve those who had little or no hope. Additionally, I've completed my criminal justice undergraduate studies at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and believe I can bring a different perspective to the table.

I look forward to connecting and working with others as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Duncan McMillan (2023)

Telephone: 910.920.2301

Cell Phone: 910.818.5220

Address: 3301 Kentrye Drive Fayetteville, NC 28303

Email: duncan@camprockfish.org

Current Church: Haymount

Current District: Gateway

Local Church and District Activities

HUMC Discipleship team

Young Adult Small Group

HUMC Preschool Board

HUMC Visioning Team

Active worship attendance

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Program Director of Camp Rockfish

Reserve Delegate for General Conference 2008

General Conference Delegate 2012

Secretary of the District Supt. Committee 2012

Chair of Rules Committee to the Commission of General Conference

Delegate to Commission to General Conference

NCC Board of Laity

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

It has been my privilege to serve as a delegate to General Conference. I have found it to be inspiring and meaningful to be involved in the process of decision making. The NCC has been and remains to be a powerful influence in my life. Through this conference I have been given friendship, guidance, support, nurture and witness. Serving as a delegate would allow me to continue to serve.

Allen O. Morris (2024)

Telephone: 910.488.5090

Cell Phone: 910.309.2461

Address: P.O. Box 2864 Fayetteville, NC 0

Email: allen@cmpage.org

Current Church: Camp Ground United Methodist Church (CGUMC)

Current District: Gateway

Local Church and District Activities

- Local Church – Past: Vice-President and President of the Methodist Youth Fellowship; Youth Coordinator at CGUMC, Administrative Board, Council on Ministries, Vice-President of the UMM, Sunday School teacher for youth. Current: Sunday School co-teacher of the Men's Bible Class, Sing in the chancel Choir, Sing with the Kingsmen (men's choir), Member of the Grooms Gang (maintains the yard, cemetery, buildings, equipment).
- District – President, Gateway District of the United Methodist Men; District Lay Rallies, District classes. Emmaus Community.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

I have served as a full time volunteer for Concerned Methodists, inform annual conference members of issues important to the United Methodist Church through its information display, Concerned Methodists' publications to include books, the "Monthly Update" and as Editor of The Christian Methodist Newsletter. As the Gateway District president of the United Methodist Men and a member of the 2012-2016 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, I have served as a Lay member to Annual Conference.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I have a passionate desire to serve the Lord Jesus Christ and to bring people into a relationship with Him. I believe that the Wesleyan Doctrine is the best in terms of helping people everywhere understand how to live their lives in the fullest way possible according to the teachings of Jesus Christ. But up until now we have sustained an unbroken 46-year decline in membership; we need to recognize the problems in our denomination so that we can implement solutions. The United Methodist Church has had a rich heritage; we can have an even more brilliant future. What we need is authentic, spiritual revival.

As the Executive Director of Concerned Methodists, I am engaged in full time volunteer work; my full-time focus is on the actions needed for revival in the United Methodist Church. In the twenty-five years I have been doing this, I have studied thousands of pages of information and data, analyzed the reasons for our church's problems, and formulated what I believe can spark a turnaround and the reversing of our decline. As one who has talked with people and churches from Florida to Fairbanks, Alaska, and to the Sunset District in San Francisco, California, I have a wide grasp of the concerns expressed by a cross-section of United Methodists, both laity and clergy. As the Editor of The Christian Methodist Newsletter with a circulation of 17,000+ all over the United States and up to 31 foreign countries to include Africa, Europe, and the Philippines, we can have an influence that reaches out to other countries as well.

My interest in the future of the United Methodist Church is evidenced by my actions. In addition to my participation in District and Conference activities, I was an active member and participant of the Southeastern Jurisdictional delegation during this past quadrennium. I have attended all General Conferences since 1996 and General Commission of the United Methodist Men quadrennial Conferences since 1997. I have been active in researching and informing General Conference members of issues important to the UMC thru Concerned Methodists' website, books, and The Christian Methodist

Newsletter. I am the author of nine books addressing renewal in the United Methodist Church, with the last being *Jude (Contending for the faith in the United Methodist Church)*; advocated on the thirty-two amendments to the constitution of the UMC to pass those beneficial to the church and defeat the detrimental ones, sending information to include the book *On the Brink* to all 2008 General Conference delegates around the world; submitted petitions to 2008 General Conference. Attended 2001 World Methodist Conference in Brighton, England.

Dr. Richard G. Morrison, Ph.D. (2025)

Telephone: 910.616.5091

Cell Phone: 910.616.5091

Address: 1000 Bay Head Circle Wilmington, NC 28405

Email: dickmorrison36@icloud.com

Current Church: Wrightsville UMC

Current District: Harbor

Local Church and District Activities

Annual Conference Laity from Wrightsville UMC

SPRC of Wrightsville UMC

Finance Committee of Wrightsville UMC

Board for Sierra Leone "Mission of Hope"

Administrative Council of Wrightsville UMC

Sunday School Teacher (now part-time)

Former Chair of Building Committee

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Board Member of Board of Ordained Ministry

Board Member of Methodist Home for Children

Laity Delegate from Wrightsville UMC

Advocate of the Academy for Leadership Excellence

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

It will be an honor for me to serve as a Delegate to the General Conference where I can share ideas/suggestions for the ongoing work of the Methodist Church. I am very interested in the growth of the Methodist Church and I am especially interested/committed to Mission activities abroad. We live today in a different world than just a few years ago and I am confident I can be of help in shaping our Church for the future. Please know that I have lived in many countries as an executive of a major USA Pharmaceutical Company and have traveled to West Africa to help restore a much needed Methodist Hospital in Rotifunk. I am VERY interested in International Church growth and development, as well as ongoing growth in the USA. I know I can make significant and meaningful contributions as a Delegate to General Conference.

Mack Parker (2036)

Telephone: 919.279.8078

Cell Phone: 919.279.8078

Address: 2204 Laurel Valley Way Raleigh, NC 27604

Email: mparker130@nc.rr.com

Current Church: North Raleigh

Current District: Capital

Local Church and District Activities

Current member of Capital District Board on Superintendency; North Raleigh UMC (NRUMC): Past Chair Administrative Board, Staff Parish Relations Committee and Finance Committee; Chaired Admin Board when NRUMC made the decision and broke ground to build \$3.2 million new sanctuary; Gave leadership to Stop Hunger Now meal packing event in 2006 that packaged approximately 40,000 meals with 150 volunteers (This was a joint effort between NRUMC and the Rotary Club of North Raleigh when I served as the Rotary Club president); Led joint effort between NRUMC and Rotary District 7710 to help with Hurricane Sandy relief in New Jersey (Feb 2013); Completed Disciple I and II Bible Study Programs at NRUMC, and served as a leader for Disciple I; Participated in annual January Bible Study Series led by Dr. Mickey Eford from 1997 to 2014.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Delegate to 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012 General and Southeastern Jurisdictional Conferences; Past President NC Conference United Methodist Men; Past Chair of the Board of Trustees of the United Methodist Retirement Homes, Inc. (Board chair when decision was made and broke ground to build \$15.5 million new UMRH facility in Lumberton, NC); Past Vice Chair NC Conference Council on Finance and Administration; Past member of NC Conference Board of Pensions, Connectional Table, Board of Laity, Equitable Compensation Committee and Board of Directors for Zimbabwe Orphan Endeavor (now called Zoe Ministries); The NC Conference encourages support for hunger relief: Presently serve on the Executive Committee of Stop Hunger Now, who shipped 10.6 million meals to Haiti in 2013 (I visited Haiti in October 2010, after the January earthquake, and saw the need to help school children. Meals provided in schools encourages children to get an education.); An extended ministry of the NC Conference is the Walk to Emmaus: Served as Lay Director in 1991 and 1997 for the Cape Fear Emmaus Community; Past member of the Board of Directors for the Cape Fear and Heart of Carolina Emmaus Communities.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I believe that experience and leadership ability are critical factors in making a contribution as a General Conference Delegate. I have been blessed to serve the United Methodist Church at North Raleigh, the Capital District (formerly Raleigh District), the NC Conference, the Southeastern Jurisdiction (UMM officer) and at the General Church level as a member of the Board of Directors for the General Commission on United Methodist Men, and a four time General Conference delegate. This is in addition to civic leadership positions as a Rotary District Governor and member of the Executive Committee of Stop Hunger Now (Nominating Committee chair). I believe in the primacy of Holy Scripture as God's instructions to us as demonstrated by the life of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. I want to serve in the General Conference Delegation because, by God's grace, I am able to combine my leadership experience with the love I have for Christ, and to make the commitment to faithfully serve the Church at this level, and at this time in our history.

Donna Pinckney (2051)

Telephone: 910.798.0136

Cell Phone:

Address: 3821 Gillette Drive Wilmington, NC 28403

Email: donna@wrightsvilleumc.org

Current Church: Wrightsville UMC

Current District: Harbor

Local Church and District Activities

I have been on staff at Wrightsville UMC since 2002 where I serve as the Director of Spiritual Formation. In this role I have the opportunity to both plan and implement our adult discipleship programming as well as oversee the Directors of Youth Ministry and Children's Ministry. It is my privilege to work with an exceptional team of clergy and lay staff in service to our great congregation. I have attended various District workshops and events throughout my time in North Carolina. In my past volunteer roles at church and throughout the communities where I have lived, I have served in various leadership positions and have learned through each role.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Currently I am serving my 7th year as a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. I also serve on the Executive Committee of this Board. Previous to that, I served on the Conference Safe Sanctuaries Committee. I have attended Annual Conference every year since I returned to North Carolina in 2001.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I offer myself to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference because I believe that I can provide a perspective born of many different experiences that could be valuable to the Delegation. As a military spouse I have lived in many different regions and gained insights from each. I believe that equips me to bring a different perspective to the work of the Delegation. My position as church staff also brings with it a perspective that is unique and broad. I believe my background can be of benefit. I know that there is a great deal of work required of Delegates and I am willing to take this work seriously and put in the effort and time required. It would be an honor and privilege to serve the North Carolina Conference in this capacity.

Ken Ripley (2035)

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Email: kenripley@embarqmail.com

Current Church: Gibson Memorial UMC

Current District: Heritage

Local Church and District Activities

I am Annual Conference representative and serve on related local church committees. I am a recently approved lay speaker under 2012 format, am vice chairman of district committee of lay servant ministries, and serve as regular pulpit supply for Whitakers UMC and other courses as well as am a scheduled preacher at Nash Correctional Institution.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

I am chairman of the Disability Concerns Committee, serve on Christian Formation Team, and join district chairman in participating in conference committee on lay servant ministries. I am active in prison ministry, leading a Yokefellow group in local state prison and former Disciple leader in same prison as well as chairman of its Community Resource Council. I serve on the statewide board of Yokefellow Prison Ministry. As a newspaper editor and publisher, I am very active in my community. I am chairman of the Spring Hope Library board and the town planning board. I serve on the board of Braswell Library in Rocky Mount and am now working to create a county library system. I am also an active advocate for mental health reforms and care for those with mental illnesses.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I have a mixed background that combines to make me useful in making and implementing policies affecting the United Methodist Church. I am an evangelical Christian who strongly affirms the traditional values and theology of the church, including a passion for evangelism and the need for true discipleship in our lives and in the life of the church, yet as a professional journalist and political moderate, I also have a passion for social justice and ministry to "the least of these." I have an ability, proven over the years, to combining those passions to both build up God's Kingdom and the world around me. Spinal and other problems have put me in the category of "disabled," which is a category sorely lacking among delegates to general and jurisdictional conferences. I cannot walk with two canes, and that with difficulty, yet my mind and mouth work very well. As an independent newspaper owner, I have the ability to set my own schedule (around issues, of course) and can take the time, if elected, to do what needs to be done. My life, church and secular, is devoted to the service of Jesus Christ, and I very much wish to apply that devotion to serving as a delegate to General or Jurisdictional Conference.

Susan S. Robbins (2026)

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Current Church: Westview

Current District: Harbor

Local Church and District Activities

Local church committees - Trustees, Membership Care, Worship, SPPR, Finance

Teacher - Sunday School, VBS

MYF president

District - Committee on Superintendency, Board of Ministry

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Youth Delegate

Adult delegate - 2003-present

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

As the Westview Annual Conference delegate since 2003, I have become more aware of the larger picture of UMC business. While Holy Conferencing is necessary, the committee reports and resolutions require prior study and prayer.

As a delegate I have invested my energy and prayer to be prepared for discussion and votes. I have also kept Westview members informed of issues before Annual Conference and do a follow-up report after attending.

If chosen as a delegate for General and/or Jurisdictional Conference, I would be willing to invest the time and energy to the preparation and prayer needed for this endeavor.

Paul Roodhuyzen (2027)

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Current Church: Trinity United Methodist Louisburg

Current District: Heritage

Local Church and District Activities

Stop Hunger Now, Imagine No Malaria, Pilgrimage, Youth Leader and Sunday School. Southside Emmaus and Chrysalis. Gleaning with St Andrews

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

To help anyway I can to make it easier for others.

Gretchen Shea (2028)

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Address: 12229 Norwood Rd Raleigh, NC 27613

Email: gshea@soapstoneumc.org

Current Church: Soapstone UMC

Current District: Capital

Local Church and District Activities

Since May of 2014 I have served on staff at Soapstone UMC as the Director of Discipleship. From August 2005 - April 2013 I served as the Director of Youth Ministries at SUMC.

1996 - 2005 - Served as the Director of Youth Ministries at Front Street UMC in Burlington.

1998 - 2005 - Served on the District Youth Committee for what was then the Burlington District.

2000 - 2004 - Served on the local camping board for Camp Chestnut Ridge.

2005 - 2013 - Was an active member of YOWO (Raleigh Area Youthworkers).

Annual Conference and Other Activities

1997 - 2013 - Served on staff for conference youth events (Summer Breakaway and ACS - many years for Breakaway and three years for ACS. I also served one year on the staff for Global Vision.)

2007 - 2011 - Served on the conference board for our NCC camps.

2006 - to present - Member of the North Carolina Conference Chapter of Christians Engaged in Faith Formation

2010 - to present - Member of the national CEF

2012 - Lay Delegate, Alternate, to Jurisdictional Conference

2013 - to present - Serve as the president of the NCC chapter of CEF

2013 - 2014 - Member of the Education and Nurture Committee of the conference

2014 - present - Serve as the president of the Education and Nurture Committee

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

My faith and theological understanding is rooted in my upbringing as a United Methodist. As a college student I chose to stay in the UMC and as an adult chose to work in local UM churches. I raised my now young adult children in the UMC and I want them to be able to raise their children in the UMC.

In 2004 I was an observer at General Conference where I was blessed to see the church at its best and brokenhearted to see the church in confrontation. I believe God is calling us beyond the confrontation to find a new path; a path of love, forgiveness, self-sacrifice, and humility.

Representing our Annual Conference as a lay delegate would be an honor and I would do my best to be faithful to the people of our conference. I would serve with a listening ear, an open mind, and a heart for God's will to be done in and among us.

Jacquelyn (Lynn) Shuffler (2034)

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Address: 131 McMillan Avenue Wallace, NC 28466

Email: lynnshuffler@earthlink.net

Current Church: Pine Valley UMC

Current District: Harbor

Local Church and District Activities

I served as a local church Lay Leader for many years as well as on most committees as a result of this. I also taught Sunday School and lead an interdenominational ladies Bible study for 12 years. I now lead a small group at Pine Valley. I currently serve on the Leadership Team for Celebrate Recovery in Rose Hill. I was a certified Lay Speaker for 20+ years under the old system and have now completed the courses required for Certified Lay Servant Ministries. I was a graduate of the first class of the Academy of Leadership Excellence. I was a delegate to annual conference several years before becoming District Lay Leader.

On the District level I have served as Harbor District Lay Leader since its inception and serve on the District Committee on Superintendency, the District Strategy Team and the District Lay Servant's Ministries Team. I head up the Harbor District Prayer Team. I help lead workshops for our Lay Leaders.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

I am currently the Harbor District Lay Leader and by virtue of this attend Annual Conference each year. I am a member of the Conference Board of Laity. I have served as a Table Leader for Chrysalis Walks

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I would consider it an honor to serve as a delegate to General Conference. I feel that the future of the United Methodist Church will be decided at next year's conference. I have a passion to see unity in the UMC of the future as we come together in love. I do believe that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and desire to see Spiritual Revival in our denomination. I think God is calling us to love one another as we look at the challenges that we face. I pray that we are led by the Holy Spirit as we join together in Holy Conferencing and make important decisions about the church of the tomorrow.

Blake Smith (2053)

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Current Church: Covenant Church

Current District: Sound

Local Church and District Activities

My wife and I are both involved in the Beaufort County campus of Covenant. Over the last 5 years, I have been one of the leaders on the production team and have assisted with worship at all three locations and our online campus. I have a heart to reach people for Jesus Christ and my background in IT has gone "hand in glove" in assisting our evangelism ministry.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

I have served in a number of ministry opportunities through our church's work in the Washington area:

*The Beaufort County Christmas Village Toy Store, where we have moved from a "give away" mentality to restore dignity to families who need assistance to be able to provide for their families at Christmas. Our team served dozens of families by allowing them to purchase gifts for their children at a greatly reduced cost. The transformation in families usually degraded by a system that keeps them trapped as victims of poverty was amazing! There were connection with the community in Washington and the surrounding county like has never happened before.

*The Washington Summer Music Festival Outreach is an annual event where the church seeks to have a presence in a festival that brings thousands of residents downtown in Washington. Last year, we stood and offered people water and gave donated items away and were able to meet somewhere between 400 and 500 new people. We WERE noticed by the city officials, the school board members, and many locals residents. A huge thunderstorm hit the festival and tornado-like winds ripped down booths and tents. We were one of the only groups with a van and people in Washington are still talking about our service to them helping them get out of the weather and back to safety because we offered them our van. Many of the people who attend our church campus in Washington first heard of us through this evangelism event.

*The NCC Disaster Preparedness Team is very active Beaufort County because of recent hurricanes and tornadoes. Teams from Covenant Beaufort County partnered with our conference team and have ongoing relationship to be the hands and feet of Jesus for people in their times of greatness need. I was and will continue to be active in this partnership.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I believe that our conference has welcomed a place for younger voices. I am a 30 year old man with a passion to serve Christ. I grew up in a small rural church so I understand the unique needs of that context. I am member of one of the largest church in the conference and worked with staff and lay teams to serve Christ effectively in this context. I now am back in a congregation that has the unique opportunity of being a part of the large church with a smaller church feel. This new form of church planting is exciting and gives the UMC many possibilities to relevant and reach any demographic.

I would be honored to serve our conference as a delegate to General Conference.

LaNella Smith (2039)

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Current Church: New Creation UMC

Current District: Corridor

Local Church and District Activities

At New Creation, I serve on the Trustees and the Building Committee. In my local UMW unit, I serve as treasurer.

For the Corridor District, I serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Mission Strategy Team. Recently, I led the Lay Servant Ministry advance course of Methodist Heritage.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

I have the honor of serving as the conference president of United Methodist Women (UMW). For the National UMW, I have lead workshops on "Acting for Justice" at their national Leadership Development Days.

I am a member of the following conference committees: Financial Discipleship Committee, the Connectional Table, the Mission Team and the Liberia Task Force. On the Equitable Compensation Committee, I serve as chairperson. I also serve as a board member of United Methodist Men Ventures where I am a member of the Finance Committee.

Additionally, I am the assistant to Belton Joyner, the secretary of the Judicial Council.

In the Durham Community, I serve on the board of Durham Congregations in Action (DCIA) as its secretary. DCIA is a multi-faith network offering care and support for the most vulnerable and forgotten in our community, and planting seeds in new initiatives to change lives in Durham. Its mission is to bring together congregations to promote understanding across boundaries of faith, race and ethnicity and build an inclusive community of justice and peace

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

One of my favorite songs is "Lord, I'm Available to You." As I have walked my faith journey, I have made myself available to God in numerous ways through leadership, through service and through witness. As I have made myself available to God, I have grown in faith through the joys and challenges of serving. The opportunities afforded me to serve God in multiple ways have prepared me to be an effective delegate to General Conference. My service has allowed me to become knowledgeable about the polity and structure of the UMC and the issues and the challenges of our denomination.

I keep informed about issues of the UMC through reading The Interpreter Magazine, reading the weekly email from United Methodist News Service and other electronic media distributed by the denomination.

I love the Lord as He is my constant traveling partner. The unconditional and everlasting love of God has sustained me all of my life. And I love the United Methodist Church and its strong support of mission and its work for justice. I would like to serve as a delegate because of my love for the church and because I feel prepared to serve as a result of my work in the church.

Serving as a General Conference delegate for the North Carolina Conference would be an honor.

Kenneth Sorensen (2029)

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Current Church: Macedonia United Methodist Church

Current District: Capital

Local Church and District Activities

Many officers and committees over 40 years.

Sunday school teacher

Visitation of Seniors

President of Swifters senior organization for food, fellowship and fun !

Annual Conference and Other Activities

None

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

Not really.

Sue Stutz (2030)

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Current Church: Epworth UMC, Durham

Current District: Corridor

Local Church and District Activities

UMW

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

Steve Taylor (2044)

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Address: 410 West 18th Street Lumberton, NC 28358

Email: staylor@nccumc.org

Current Church: Sandy Plains

Current District: Gateway

Local Church and District Activities

Local Church – I am an active member at Sandy Plains UMC, a rural congregation near Pembroke. As such, I have preached, taught Sunday school, developed missional programming for Vacation Bible School, tutored community children, and have provided a conduit for Global Ministries engagement.

District - I have led workshops in all districts; have provided training in discipleship formation, risk-taking ministry, and ministry across the many boundaries -- ethnicity, economic, class, etc. -- that limit our witness of Christ's boundless love. I have led dozens of congregational groups in biblical animation, an experiential bible study that brings scripture to life in one's own community. I have worked extensively with the United Methodist Women, facilitating numerous district MissionU gatherings and other missions events. I have provided extensive coaching for dozens of congregations in congregational vitality, evangelism, and outreach. I have worked with numerous rural congregations to develop collaborative ministry models in their communities. I have also been deeply blessed to lead Advance Lay Servant ministry sessions on several occasions.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Annual Conference - Since 2001, I have served as Director of Missions and Outreach Team Coordinator for the NC Conference. In this role, it has been my responsibility to help guide the outreach mission and ministry of the Conference. I work with a number of boards and agencies within the conference, to include the Outreach Team, Missions Team, Project AGAPE, Board of Missions Incorporated, Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries, and others. I was recently selected for the position of Director of Connectional Ministries and in this role it will be my responsibility to focus and guide the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church within the annual conference.

General Church – In 1999, I was commissioned as a United Methodist missionary serving in the role of Church and Community Worker. From 2001, I have worked in partnership with UMCOR, United Methodist missionaries, other Annual Conferences, and mission personnel at Jurisdictional and General Church levels. I developed and facilitated the "Messaging New Ways of Leadership" workshop for United Methodist Women (Global) Assembly 2014. I co-led the "Engaging Coaching" plenary for the 2014 United Methodist Deaconess/Home Missioner Convocation. I have been very engaged in a multiplicity of United Methodist ministries around the world, developing outreach, working with missionaries and Global Ministries, and advancing ministry in such places as Russia, Zimbabwe, Liberia, Chile, El Salvador, Armenia, and others. I was a Conference delegate to 2008 and 2012 General Conferences. I am a certified Home Missioner candidate scheduled to be consecrated at 2016 General Conference.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

In the recent Council of Bishops gathering, a vision for a missional direction for the next quadrennium was cast: It includes “partnering with schools to help end poverty, starting new faith communities, building a culture of call, reaching children with life-saving interventions, and equipping congregations with disciple-making processes to continue making new disciples and increasing the number of vital congregations.” I rejoice in this quadrennial vision and rejoice in actions of the people called United Methodist here in the NC Conference, for we are already leaders in this vision. It has been my great blessing to have taken part in the development and leadership of many such ministries. I believe we are at a critical juncture in our world and it is only through these actions of congregational vitalization, care of the most vulnerable, discipleship formation, and loving evangelism that we can hope to bring the saving grace and life giving reality of Jesus Christ to a broken world.

Such acts of ministry have been our Christian covenantal call since Jesus called us to love God, love our neighbor, and make disciples across the world. In such acts, we proclaim our Methodist DNA of personal holiness and social holiness – love and justice. To remember and enact God’s love and justice is to remember that there is special connection between divine revelation and the poor, between Sabbath practice and the assurance of abundance, and between blessing and hospitality. To live love and justice is to demonstrate Jesus’s particular interest in those who are given little space at the table: the poor, the outcasts, the leper, the woman with blood, and those perceived as unworthy. To live out such reality is to live the will of God. The prophets claim this reality over and over again. Mary announces the same in her birthing song and then Jesus claims it in his inaugural address when he proclaims that he has come “...to preach good news to the poor...to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

My deep desire is to proclaim the love of Jesus that knows no bounds, that unites a tax-collector and a Zealot, that always makes space for the “least-of-these,” and that forever offers the promise of resurrection life. It is sacred space indeed. It is in this spirit that I offer myself as a delegate for General Conference 2016.

Shirley Townsend- Jones (2050)

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Current Church: Piney Grove UMC

Current District: Gateway

Local Church and District Activities

Presently I am serving as Chairperson of the Ministry Teams (Christian Formation, Leadership, Outreach Ministry and Stewardship), member of the mass choir, an usher and always willing to assist when and wherever I am needed to support the ministry and mission of our church. I have served in many other leadership positions in my church.

I have participated and supported various district events and served in various leadership capacity when it was the former Rockingham District.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

I serve on the Committee on Native American Ministries and in the past have served other boards, agency and committees To name a few Board of Missions, Board of Education and ELCC. I am the lay delegate to Annual Conference. I have attended and supported various conference events.

I serve on various committees, boards and agencies in my home and work communities.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I would like to serve as a delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference. I have the knowledge and experience of working in the church and it has prepared me to serve the church on this level. The broad range of experience I have gained for 34 years as a missionary has enabled me to see the church from a local to a global perspective. The local, jurisdictional, national and global experiences have prepared me and with God's guidance will enable me to make some important decision for the future of our church.

Darrell Vickers (2031)

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Current Church: Epworth UMC, Durham, NC

Current District: Corridor

Local Church and District Activities

Older Adult Ministries, Hispanic Council, Lay Speaking, Sunday school teaching, Technology, but most importantly I drive the bus. I have provided leadership on overseas mission trips, work teams and disaster response.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

I have been active in the UMC for over 35 years and have served in numerous positions from Office Modernization to the Chair of Stewardship. My interest has been in Small Membership Church growth. Being a clergy spouse has given me an arms-length viewpoint of the issues confronting a pastor, her congregation, and the church in general. Having served as a sounding board for many years I feel uniquely qualified to understand many issues facing the church at large.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I am an Engineer, Entrepreneur, and Educator – retired. I think like an Engineer, manage by consensus, make decisions with facts and figures, and seek always to be guided by the Holy Spirit in all that I think, say, and do. I attended the 2012 General Conference of the UMC in Tampa as a guest, and can attest to the need for some level-headed discussion and decision making. The approach that I bring to the mix is my greatest qualification to serve as a delegate.

I also have an extensive background in the International arena. I have travelled out of the country hundreds and hundreds of times. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, I have been called upon to witness to my faith on many occasions. I wish that the enthusiasm and hunger for the Word that I have seen in developing countries was as evident here in America.

Tom Walden (2032)

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Email: tlwaldensr@cs.com

Current Church: Wake Forest

Current District: Heritage

Local Church and District Activities

Currently serve as District Lay Leader

I have served in many local church leadership positions.

Teach Lay Speaking Courses

Annual Conference and Other Activities

Board of Laity

Thustee Emeritus

Member of Board on 3MC Center in Goldsboro.

Past president Methodist Men. \

Coordinator of Lay Witness Missions.

Denman Award Winner

Society of John Wesley Fellow Methodist Men

Life Member United Methodist Men

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I want to see that we continue the Bible as our direction and do not yeald to various pressure group.

Ken Walker PhD (2042)

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Email: kennethlwalker@gmail.com

Current Church: Concord

Current District: Corridor

Local Church and District Activities

I am the Lay Leader of Concord UMC, a thriving middle sized rural church in the Corridor district. I am a Lay speaker and preach frequently both at smaller and larger Methodist churches in the area. I have filled in for neighboring pastors who were on sabbatical or out for surgery and rehabilitation. My experience preaching at a number of churches has given me a greater appreciation for the diversity and issues facing the Church.

I teach an adult Sunday School class, am Finance Secretary, Witness and Evangelism chair, an active Stephen minister, and am a Certified Lay Minister with my ministry covenant focused on building and strengthening disciples.

Annual Conference and Other Activities

I am active in the Emmaus community. I have met individuals from across the conference as I have taken advanced lay servant courses in a number of the districts for Lay Speaker qualification. I have attended different events organized by the Academy for Leadership Excellence including most recently the N.C. Festival for Preaching.

Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?

I was not "born into" Methodism, but it was in the Methodist Church that I encountered the incomprehensible love of Jesus and his power to transform. I have a deep love for the Methodist Church and pray intently for it. As a previous leader of a large business and as a member of the National Academy of Science and Engineering, I have experience dealing with complex problems and large organizations. I desire to use my leadership experience, keen desire to learn, and disciplined preparation to serve as a delegate because of my passion for God and my gratitude for how I have been blessed by the Methodist Church.