CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VOTER’S GUIDE

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD
Within this voter’s guide you will find information regarding...

- Eligibility to be elected as a clergy or lay delegate,
- Eligibility to vote on the delegates,
- Electronic Voting procedures and Voting Keypad instructions,
- Candidate Information filled out and received by the May 3 deadline,
- The numerical voting number list for the eligible lay and clergy members,
- Ballot tally sheets for lay and clergy,
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Clergy Delegates - Those eligible to be elected and to vote

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

Lay Delegates - Those eligible to be elected and to vote

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

Please note: While any lay person meeting the requirements above may be eligible to be elected to the delegation, only the lay members to Annual Conference have voting rights and are eligible to cast ballots.

The Election Process

1. For the 2020 General Conference, 4 lay delegates and 4 clergy delegates will be elected. (These 8 will also serve as delegates to the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference.)

2. For the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference, an additional 4 lay delegates and 4 clergy delegates will be elected. (These will serve, in order of election, as reserve delegates to General Conference.)

3. Alternates may be elected as desired.

Other information regarding the process may be obtained from the Book of Discipline, the conference “Guiding Principles and Best Practices,” the “Annual Conference Organization” document, the “Policy and Procedures” manual, and/or will be outlined during the training and instruction on voting.
BADGE COLORS - AS THEY RELATE TO VOTING

BLUE BADGES: Designations: FD; FE; RD; RE

~ Clergy members in full connection who are entitled to vote on all matters except for the election of lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences. ¶35, ¶602.1 (a)

PINK BADGES (Vote for Clergy Delegates): Designations: AM; FL; PD; PE; PL; RA

~ Provisional clergy members who have completed all of their educational requirements are entitled to vote to elect clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional conferences. In addition, they shall have the right to vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, and all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. ¶35, ¶602.1 (b)

~ Associate clergy members are entitled to vote to elect clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional conferences. In addition, they shall have the right to vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When associate members are members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. ¶35, ¶602.1 (c), ¶635.1

~ Full-time and part-time local pastors who have completed course of study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election are entitled to vote to elect clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional. In addition, they shall have the right to vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When local pastors are members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. ¶35, ¶635.1

ORANGE BADGES (Do Not Vote for Clergy Delegates): Designations: AF; FL; OF; PD; PE; PL

~ Provisional clergy members who have not completed all their educational requirements shall have the right to vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. ¶35, ¶327.2

~ Affiliate clergy members and those from other Denominations appointed under ¶346.2 shall have the right to vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General, jurisdictional and central conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. ¶602.1 (c)

~ Full-time and part-time local pastors who have not completed course of study or an M.Div. degree or have not served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment shall have the right to vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When local pastors are members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy ¶635.1.

GREEN BADGES:

~ Lay members who are entitled to vote unless the matter pertains to the clergy, such as ordination; reception into full membership or election of clergy delegates. ¶36, ¶602.6

YELLOW BADGES: Designations: DM; DR

~ Diaconal ministers who are entitled to vote unless the matter pertains to the clergy, such as ordination; reception into full membership or election of clergy delegates. ¶602.2

RED BADGES: Designations: OA; OD; OE; OP; OR; RL; RO; SP; SY

~ Student local pastors, retired local pastors (unappointed), assigned lay supply, clergy from other annual conferences (¶346.1), missionaries assigned by the GBGM, and certified lay missionaries from nations other than the United States, both who are serving within the bounds of the Annual Conference who have voice, but are not allowed to vote.
VOTING IN THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
TAKES PLACE WITHIN THE BAR OF THE CONFERENCE

- **Lay Members** of the Annual Conference shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures except on the granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full conference membership, or any question concerning the character and official conduct of ordained clergy, except those who are lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry. ¶ 602.6

- Alternate Lay Members have all the privileges of the Lay Member only when the Lay Member is absent, and s/he is officially seated in the conference in his/her place. ¶ 602.7

- **Diaconal Ministers** are Lay Members of the Annual Conference (¶ 602.2, 6) and shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures except on the granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full conference membership, or any question concerning the character and official conduct of clergy.

- **Elders and Deacons in Full Connection** shall have the right to vote on all matters in the Annual Conference except in the election of lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences and shall have sole responsibility for all matters of ordination, character and conference relations of clergy. ¶ 602.1 (a)

- **Provisional Clergy Members** shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. Provisional clergy members who have completed all of their educational requirements may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional. ¶ 602.1 (b)

- **Associate Members** shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference on all matters except constitutional amendments and all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When associate members are members of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. ¶ 602.1 (c), 635.1. **In addition, Associate Members have the right to vote on the election of clergy delegates to general and jurisdictional conference.** ¶ 35.

- **Affiliate Members** shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences, and all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. ¶ 602.1 (c)

- **Full-time and Part-Time Pastors Under Appointment** shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. Local pastors who have completed course of study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional conferences. Student Local Pastors under appointment have voice without vote. ¶ 602.1 (d)

- **Clergy Appointed Under ¶ 346.1** ([Ordained Ministers from Other Annual Conferences and Other Methodist Denominations](#)) may be granted voice but not vote in the Annual Conference to which they are appointed.

- **Clergy Appointed Under ¶ 346.2** ([Ministers from Other Denominations](#)) are seated in the Annual Conference without vote, unless they have been " accorded all the rights and privileges of associate membership in the Annual Conference.”
Electronic Voting Procedures & Voting Keypad Instructions

Voting for delegates to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences will be done electronically. Each member of Annual Conference who is eligible* to vote for the delegations will receive a voting keypad (*please see pages 2-4 for eligibility information). Clergy voters will use the blue keypads, Laity will employ the green keypads. The blue keypads will not be active during Laity votes, and the green will be disabled during clergy votes.

We will vote for the General Conference 2020 (GC20) delegation first. A candidate must receive more than 50 percent of the valid votes cast in that round of voting to be elected. (i.e. if 450 votes are cast in a round, and 10 of them are ruled invalid due to entering an invalid number or other missteps, then the total number of valid votes for that round is 440 and a candidate would need to receive 221 or more votes to be elected. If, in the next round 450 votes are cast and all are valid, then a candidate would need to receive at least 226 votes to be elected.)

The GC20 delegation consists of four persons for both the clergy and the laity. As such, when the voting opens, each eligible voter will vote for their top four candidates. Once one or more persons are elected to the General Conference delegation, then voters will reduce the number of votes cast. For instance: if in round three the laity elect two persons and the clergy elect one, the laity will only vote for two persons in next round while the clergy would vote for three. This pattern will continue until four persons are elected to each GC20 delegation.

Once the General Conference delegation has been set, we will move to the election of the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference delegation (JC20). This will follow the same pattern as the GC20 delegation election - vote for four persons each ballot until someone(s) is/are elected and then reduce the number of votes cast accordingly until four persons are elected. Candidates for JC20 must receive more than 50 percent of the valid votes cast in each round to be elected.

The election of alternate delegates will begin once the voting for the Jurisdictional Conference has concluded.

How to enter your vote into the keypad.

Each person, both clergy and lay, who completed the online Delegation Interest form has been assigned a voting number. You can find a list of Lay voting numbers on page 25 of this guide. The list of Clergy voting numbers are on page 50. Each candidate’s voting number is also found next to their name in the candidate information sections of this guide. Any person who is nominated from the floor will be assigned a voting number. Voting numbers for persons nominated from the floor will be announced from the podium. Spaces to write those names and numbers have been provided on pages 25 and 50.

To cast a vote, simply type the three digit voting number of the candidate of your choice and hit SEND. For example, if you are clergy and want to vote for Rev. Dale E. Bread, you would find Dale on the voting number sheet, see that his assigned number is 596 and then type 596 and SEND into the handset. It’s the same for laity who would like to see Mrs. Ima B. Leever represent the CTC at GC20. Go to the voting sheet, discover that Ima’s number is 077 and then type 077 and hit SEND on the keypad.

You will repeat this process for as many votes as are needed in that round. (I.E. in round 1 your will enter a number and hit SEND four times. If by round 5, there are already two persons elected, you would only enter a number and hit SEND twice.)

During rounds when voters are voting for more than one person, voters must wait to see “PLEASE VOTE” on their keypad before entering the next voting number. (i.e. once the vote opens for that round, the keypad will read “PLEASE VOTE.” After you type your first choice’s voting number and press SEND, the keypad will say “SENDING” and then “3 REMAINING” - or 2 or 1 REMAINING depending on the number of ballots to be cast in that round. Once all the votes needed for that round have been cast, the keypad will say “BALLOT CLOSED.” If any additional votes are cast afterwards, the keypad will say “BLOCKED.” If a mistake has been made, 000 may be entered into keypad and the voter may start the voting process over.

PLEASE NOTE THAT KEYPADS ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN OUT OF THE BAR OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE. The voting keypads must remain at your tables during breaks or while the conference conducts other business. After the delegation voting process is complete, please leave your keypad in an easily visible place at your table so that they may be collected by the tellers and conference staff.

Detailed instructions with images on how to use the voting keypad are available at the end of this guide.
2020 General/South Central Jurisdictional
CTC Lay Delegate Information

Presented in alphabetical order
What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
For me the best thing about the United Methodist Church today is the same that it was when I first came into contact with and joined and that is the spirit of open hearts, open minds and open doors. While many may say that “the promise” of the United Methodist Church has not been fulfilled much lately I personally experience the grace filled love every day and know that it is alive, real and there for all. The belief that “church can happen anywhere” is but one way to continue working towards the promise.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
As an alternate in 2012 I saw just a glimpse of the process and being elected to serve in 2016 I had the opportunity to be fully involved and engaged. Being a part of the 2016 delegation helped to develop a greater love and appreciation overall for the “business” of the Church that carried over to the Called Session in 2019. There I gained more experience, developed much needed relationships around the jurisdiction and beyond which solidified the need for diversity and Lay involvement. Being self-employed enables me to commit the time required to serve.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I currently serve as Associate Conference Lay Leader and with that I am honored to serve on various leadership teams to include the Conference Core Leadership Team and the Conference Laity Team. Having been an active member in my local church for 25+ years serving and leading in various capacities at local and district levels have lead to the development of valuable relationships. Active in the United Methodist Women (UMW) serving at local, district and conference levels I currently serve as a member of the Program Advisory Group (PAG) representing the CTC UMW on a National level.

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about UMC today is the people (both local and global) who work together to make disciples of Christ and carry out missions to reach those who are in need or have not heard the good news. The UMC has so much to offer both in the US and globally. We must “do no harm, “do good” and “stay in love with God”. I believe the UMC can continue strong in these principles even though there is turmoil at the present time.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I have been a member since 1980 (Overton Park) and I have served in a number of positions since then including: Chair of Finance at OPLMC, Chair of Children’s Center Committee, Member of CTC Foundation Board (prior to dissolution), and Treasurer and founding member of AUMC Foundation. I recently retired from Texas Health Resources and have more time to devote to leadership within AUMC. I have desire to be a part of the solution for the UMC going forward and feel I can contribute due to my background and as a longtime member. I love the UMC and AUMC.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
Treasurer of AUMC Foundation, Member of AUMC Leadership Council, attend bible study sessions, active in Sunday School, member of Finance Committee. Now that I am retired, I have more time to devote to various activities both with the local church, the conference and nationally.
What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The United Methodist Church is a church that has always celebrated its diversity. It is found in rural and urban areas. Members include people from all races, ages, different backgrounds and income levels. Currently, though the UMC has continued to show growth, we are at a "stepping-stone" in decisions that could change the future of the church. Though division may be inevitable the UMC and its members will “see this through” and remain “the church” as it has done in the past - focusing on its rich heritage, the conviction of its members and, above all, the Holy Spirit.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
For many years I have considered expressing my interest in being a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conference. The main reason I haven't was due to age/maturity, parental and professional obligations and other conflicts which would have prohibited my full participation. At this time in my life I now have the time, capabilities and desire to make known publicly my interest to serve as a delegate. I would offer a new, fresh perspective as a delegate with the understanding that each delegate must be open to “hearing” and “learning” from other delegates—yet standing firm in his/her own conviction.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
At nearly 60 years old I have spent over 45 years either serving on local, district and conference committees, volunteering or employed by numerous CTC churches, employed by the Central Texas Methodist Conference, married to an ordained Clergy/District Superintendent, Annual Conference delegate too many times to count and teaching in numerous CTC churches. I was a “Local Pastor” serving for six years before realizing my “call” to ministry was not as an “ordained” clergy. However, I still consider myself a “minister” - a "let's sit down and have a cup of coffee" minister. Many times that's what people really need!

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about the United Methodist Church today is its willingness to put forth immense effort and resources to ensure the structured system of servanthood, discipleship, and accountability.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I am choosing to make known my interest, availability, and commitment to serve because I have personally experienced the denomination at its best. I would love the opportunity to give back. My family is living proof of what can happen in the lives and hearts of people when the Church reaches out to make disciples of Jesus Christ. In recent years, I have seen The UMC make a tremendous effort to tackle difficult issues with grace.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
Currently, I am the Associate Youth Minister at First Methodist Waco. I also serve as the Youth Minister of Life Church Waco (First Methodist Waco’s campus ministry).
What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about the United Methodist Church today is the active display of the churches roots and heritage. United Methodist Churches around the globe put faith and love into action daily and seek justice and renewal in a broken world. This is done not individually, but in a Christian community where God is able to do amazing works.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I have the time to commit and am able. I have a diverse social services background and am able to come to the table with an equity lens.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I serve as the LifeGroup Program Lead and on the administrative board. I also am a LifeGroup facilitator and participate in seasonal volunteer opportunities.

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about the Methodist Church right now is how much work we do within the world. We help in so many places when things happen. Like with UMCOR we help in all kinds of disasters. If that means sending people out there to help clean up or sending supplies. We always have some kind of hand out there helping. I am proud to say that we do those kinds of things. Secondly the fact that we have an "Open Table". Being able to let anyone who comes into our church on Communion Sunday be served is amazing.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I feel called to run as a delegate for 2020 because I believe there needs to be more young people being heard on the floor. To hear from someone who is currently going through the process to be an ordained Elder within the church. But also to show people that the younger generations have a voice and we need to be heard. But I also worry about where our church is heading, and I feel that I am being called to help make a change in the way we are headed.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I go to school at a Methodist school and try and show people on campus the love I see every day from God. I am also a Director of Student Ministries, every week I am teaching my youth to be open hearted and to show everyone the love they feel from God.
What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
Grace upon grace. I think many folks are drawn to the UMC because of the grace we show one another. We share our resources worldwide with those who are in need. We offer communion to all who enter our doors. We are able to share this grace with others because it was first given to us.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I am committed to serve as a CTC Delegate for the 2020 term. After serving this last term as a delegate, I’ve learned so much about our church and the ways we are moving forward. Our church is in an important era of making decisions for not only the present church but the future church. As a young delegate who is committed not only to my faith but also to this denomination, I see so much value in sharing the voice of young people while collaborating with those who have been running the race before us.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I have the upmost honor and privilege to serve as the Youth Director at FUMC Burleson! I get to love youth while teaching about Jesus, building community, and providing a safe space. I’ve served as a Program Director for our conference mission trip CTCYM for 5 years, have served on CCYM, our youth attend Mid-Winter each year, and I’ve led a conference mission trip to Africa for young adults. For the past term I’ve served as a delegate to Jurisdictional Conference and a reserve Delegate to General Conference 2016 and Special Conference 2019.

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The call to make disciples for our Lord in our connectional ministry.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
My love of the church united, my desire to show God’s love to all that we encounter and John Wesley’s quote: “The best thing of all is God is with us.”

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I am certified for UMCOR Early Response Team. I served on two CTC mission trips to Latvia. I serve as a member of Kairos Prison Ministry International for 9 years and the KOT-Boyd Unit Advisory Council. And currently serving as a Certified Volunteer Chaplain Assistant at the TDCJ-Boyd Unit.
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What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
I love that Christ is at the center of our denomination. His example of showing love to the hurting remains a focus in the UMC today. I was born and raised in a UM home. I have come to truly value the traditions and acceptance it has to offer. I also appreciate that all the clergy are held responsible to a governing body that includes church members and others who have walked the path before them and can guide them in wisdom and faith.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
Our beloved denomination is at a turning point in history. With so much on the table, I would simply be honored to be entrusted as a delegate at this time. Being a delegate means, stepping outside of your own personal agenda and voting for the betterment and benefit of many. All while realizing the heavy responsibility of the decisions being made.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
In my local church, I sing in our church choir, play in the orchestra and handbells. I regularly help with VBS. I faithfully attend each of the services in the capacity of my musical service and worship. I am also the Assistant Director at the preschool of our sister church, Austin Avenue UMC. I believe in the power of prayer and encourage others to pray for our clergy, members, and various leaders.

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What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
We are still wrestling. We still strive to be who we are called to be in each new age. We could be static and believe our understanding of God and how to be in relationship each other does not need to change. As United Methodists we continue to challenge ourselves asking, “How does the scripture speak to this?” “What is our understanding from our faith tradition?” “What are our collective experiences?” and “what is reasonable?” And as we wrestle, we remember we are a church who leads with Grace.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
As a third generation Methodist, I inherited a passion and desire to serve my church. I want the United Methodist Church to be a relevant, thriving, vibrant church filling people’s hearts with the knowledge that they are loved, valued and worthy of a joyous relationship with God and one another for many generations to come. By being a delegate for GC 2020 I can serve my church as part of the process that will help our denomination continue to, “Offer them Christ (Wesley’s words to T. Coke),” in whatever shape or form we are called.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
United Methodist Women have been part of my life since I was a child attending events with my mother. UMW’s focus on relationships with each other and the world, to grow spiritually and advocate for social justice guides my faith. I served on the Board of Directors of United Community Centers and Justice for Our Neighbor DFW. I actively seek to learn and expand my concepts of global issues and where the UMC has relationships to make lives better. I recently traveled to Haiti in partnership with the Methodist church in Mellier to resource the community with solutions for clean water.
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What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The United Methodist Church continues to proclaim, it is by Grace, not works, that we are saved through Christ. This historical declaration of Grace allows us to call ALL people into the Faith of Christ. It is the Mission of the Methodist church to reach out to those in Need of Faith, Grace and Social Justice.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
We, as a denomination, are at a pivotal time in the life and destiny of the United Methodist Church. Proper, Christ like, decisions be made NOW to ensure the direction and Future of our denomination for the next generation. We, that honor and love, our Methodist heritage, must take a stand now.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I am a 4th generation, lifelong United Methodist. I graduated from a Methodist University. I have worked to raise the next generation of the Methodist church in my children. One of my daughters will be attending SMU Perkins in the Fall. I am ready to help our denomination.

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What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
To me the best thing about The United Methodist church today is the same as it has always been, our understanding of grace and our open table. These two expressions of God's love for us, together with our connection to other United Methodists around the world, are what I love about The United Methodist Church. It is my prayer that we can maintain that connection as we join in ministry and mission together to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I feel I have gifts and graces that would be helpful in this ministry. I have served as a reserve delegate to two general conferences (2016 and 2019) so I have experience in the legislative process. I also have organizational and administrative skills which I utilized as the secretary of the delegation in 2016 and 2019. In my work with the Board of Ordained Ministry I have built relationships with many clergy and lay of the conference so I can serve as a bridge between clergy and laity. Lastly I bring relationships with other lay and clergy across the denomination.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I am an active member of Keller UMC having served on numerous committees, chaperoned mission trips, taught Sunday school and confirmation. I am on the board of the TCU Wesley Foundation serving as chair of board governance. I am a member of the GBHEM Psychological Assessment Advisory Committee, I serve on the GCFA UMCARES User Advisory Group, I am a participant in the Perkins School of Theology Course of Study Task Force and I am a member of the BOM Staff Network, and a TMF jurisdictional BOM group. Through these groups I have developed and nurtured relationships across the connection.
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What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
Although we, as a denomination, have not recently modeled it well, our theology still focuses on Grace in all its facets. I believe it is that concept of grace that separates United Methodists from other denominations.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
My focus is upon the jurisdictional election of our new Bishop, which will have the greatest impact on the CTC for the next decade. As a member of the appointive Cabinet, I have a unique insight into the traits that best serve our conference, focusing on the continued representation of laity on the Cabinet.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
As Conference Lay Leader, I have had the privilege of serving on the Cabinet with full voice and vote. That inclusion has given me a wide-ranging view of exactly what is or is not happening within the CTC. I'm very familiar with the issues we face as a conference.

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What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The UMC reaches out to serve communities: from local to international. By sharing Jesus' love, the church has a heart for people in need. John Wesley laid this foundation for the church as he started free health clinics and schools. He insisted members should visit and care for poor people. My local UMC is involved in ministries via local schools and nonprofits that serve persons with low wages. We are all filled with a "Divine Spirit calling us to live as Jesus lived: caring and compassionate". The UMC calls me to this work and sets the example.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
Since 1998 at Georgetown UMC, I have learned much about the Central Texas Conference by being a lay leader and by being on the DCOM committee. All our Church connections are to be valued. We all are aware of the current situation which needs addressing to bring healing and peace to our church. My guide is John Wesley who wrote: "Though we cannot all think alike, may we not all love alike? May we not be of one heart?" If I can model that, perhaps I can be of positive service to the United Methodist Church.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I am on the District Committee on Ordination and am South District Social Action Coordinator for the United Methodist Women. One recent project I led: informing women of the 2019 Tx. Legislature bills on matters of social justice that need their voice as to pass or not. As a former missionary to Mexico City, I value the UMC Justice For our Neighbors program as the local volunteer for clinics.
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FUMC Georgetown

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
In ¶105 of the Discipline, under “The Nature of Our Theological Task,” we affirm as United Methodists that, “Our theological task is both critical and constructive,” and that “Our theological task is both individual and communal.” (pg. 81) What this means is that we have really life-giving goals for all people and communities in the world, and we hope to achieve them honestly, authentically, contextually, and boldly. We are a Church that desires holiness and hope for everyone by bringing Christ’s love to the world. The best and most transformative things come from when we do this well.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I have been an active member of a local church and this annual conference since I was confirmed. I hope to be able to model what I have learned from everyone here in the last decade. I believe it is important going forward that we listen to young people, candidates for ordination, and seminary students as we make decisions with long-lasting consequences. I served as a delegate to the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference, and an alternate to the 2016 and 2019 General Conferences and would be privileged to do so again.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I am currently a certified candidate for ordination as an elder in our conference, working on my MDiv at The University of Chicago Divinity School. I am interning at the First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple alongside my class work. This summer I will have the opportunity to intern with the General Commission in Archives & History in Madison, NJ. Through my service in high school through CCYM, while a student at Southwestern University working at FUMC Georgetown, and my current work, I have met and built relationships with United Methodists throughout our conference and the larger connection.

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Arborlawn UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
There are several things that keep me United Methodist, and each have been part of shaping my faith and who I am in Christ today. Top 3: our approach to Grace, the open table at Communion, and the Wesleyan Quadrilateral. The Quadrilateral has been an important tool to help me build a foundation of faith that can listen to and respect differing views and faith walks. Each of our stories in Christ may look a little different, yet we agree that Jesus is Lord and that we are called to make disciples of Jesus.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I love our United Methodist Church and believe in our connections to each other across the US and around the world. Deep down, I want to help young people know how much God loves them. As a former youth director, I am passionate about our young people knowing that they are loved by God and that they are an important part of this body of Christ. I have seen unintentional harm in how we address and communicate how we are each beloved by God, and want to be a part of a positive solution.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I currently serve as the Discipleship Coordinator at Arborlawn UMC, offering opportunities for people to encounter the Risen Christ. I considered myself lucky to work at Glen Lake Camp when I was in college, and then in full-time ministry as the Director of Youth Ministries at Arborlawn from 2002-2017. I am continuing to support youth ministry in our annual conference as a consultant and coach to local youth directors. In the past, I have served as an Annual Conference Delegate, at the Methodist Children's Home, on the Glen Lake Board, and as the Volunteer Conference Coordinator for Youth.
What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The ‘open table’ policy that we practice during Holy Communion is the best thing about The United Methodist Church. As one of the sacraments, Holy Communion is an opportunity for anyone to experience Jesus’ love and grace. I believe that Jesus is always reaching out to humankind, so whether or not someone has a personal relationship with Jesus at the time they take communion doesn’t really matter; Jesus still meets them where they are every time they take communion. Jesus died for all, not just for those who were and are disciples.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
The United Methodist Church does a lot of things well, but one thing that could use improvement is the diversity in ages present at all conference levels. I will be a seminary student during the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences, and as a 23-year-old young woman, pursuing ministry, I would like to have a voice and vote for the future of the church that I hope to serve. The United Methodist Church will never be perfect, because it’s made up of imperfect people, but I would love the opportunity to try to make it the absolute best it can be.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I graduate May 4th from Oklahoma City University (UM affiliated) with my bachelor’s degree in Religious Education; the last four years of my life have very much been devoted to learning ministry in The United Methodist Church inside and out. I have always looked forward to coming home to be at First UMC Fort Worth. I often serve as lay reader, and love being a part of worship through serving communion. I have also served as the Youth Ministry Intern over the summer in 2017, 2018, and will serve again this summer. I plug myself in wherever I can.
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Arborlawn UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The United Methodist Church has shown the world that it stands for the true and accurate Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our denomination stands out to represent accurately the Word of God and will now go forward as an assured beacon of faithfulness and truth to draw those who are seeking the path of salvation. Recent events show that love can prevail without maligning the scripture as false, errant or misinterpreted for our times. But rather that the scriptures are alive and can be seen as exactly applicable to our days. I am excited for our church for the opportunities ahead.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I believe there has been too much focus on special interests. I have found myself longing to get engaged and now am able to make time to do so. I believe that love is bringing people to Christ despite their imperfections without engaging in conforming the perception of Christ to their desires. I believe the mission of the Church is unchanged and is needed more than ever now to spread the Gospel message unadulterated so that the Holy Spirit can convey the meaning to each person's heart. We must now reinforce this aspect going forward with strong traditional conference representation.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I have been a Methodist for 34 years at Western Hills first and now Arborlawn for the past 10 years. I have served on practically every committee and board at some point, been part of the choir, sung in various pageants and started the Arborlawn Men's Quartet, coordinated activities and chancel area setups, handled sound systems, taught Sunday School, fostered discussion groups, but I have not ever served as a delegate to annual conference. And now I am hopeful and excited for the chance to do so.

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First Methodist Mansfield

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
One of the best things about the UMC today is what has been true all along; our understanding of Grace and how that leads us to acts of mercy and justice. One of the ways we affirm this is having an open table for communion. These understandings are what called me into the UMC and keep me passionate for it today.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
My heart for the Methodist Church goes back to the mustard seed of my faith. I believe in the core of who we are as a people of Christ that strive to be the light of Christ in a hurting world. I am currently serving in several roles focus on missions, outreach and empowerment. I believe our strength and future lies in the local church and its ability to come together for issues of compassion and justice. I want to see us build on our strength as a people of grace and mercy.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I currently serve as the Director of Missions, overseeing FUMC Mansfield's response to local, regional and global missions. I also serve the Central Texas Conference as the Disaster Coordinator and serve our Jurisdiction in connection with other CDRC's in our surrounding conferences. I serve on the Project Transformation Leadership Board. I serve on with a team of Mission Directors from across the country along with UMC GBGM staff. I represent CTC on a Faith Council for Habitat of Humanity. I am the CTC representative to the State VOAD.
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El Buen Samaritano

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
It's freedom to truly accept anyone and everyone as Jesus did. Good doctrine and discipline guide that keeps a similar core structure throughout its different congregations.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
Luke 10:2 He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.
It is not easy to find committed people, but God has chosen those to show others the path of righteousness.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
Currently serve at El Buen Samaritano as Lay leader, Chair of Council and Praise and Worship director.

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Rockbridge UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about the United Methodist Church today is the focus on community and outreach. We as a denomination are more focused on reaching outside the walls of the church than keeping everything we know within them.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I am interested in being a delegate because I believe we need a delegation that represents our conference accurately which means more young adults because we are not just the church of the future, we are the church of the present as well.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I am currently serving as the Young Professionals life group leader at Rockbridge Church in Cedar Park. I also work closely with the youth group of the church.
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Arlington Heights UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The church is open and welcoming to all those who would come to worship and give thanks to our God.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I am concerned some are losing sight of our shared mission: to make disciples of single Jesus Christ from ALL those who seek Him. We must rededicate ourselves to the policy of “Open hearts, open doors!”

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
Joined Methodist Church 5 years ago. Currently participate in KAIROS Prison Ministry (and its 24-week follow-up program, Knights of the 21st Century.) Monthly visits to KAIROS Prayer and Share, TDC--Estes Unit. Serve as a Stephen Minister to our congregation and work with Catholic Charities and Cancer Care, a program for cancer victims and survivors. Teach Sunday School and an occasional Bible Study. Attended Ann Central Texas Conference as Voting Delegate twice.

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First Hurst UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
A connection of loving, caring, serving congregations, living by God’s grace to follow the teachings of Jesus the Christ, and sharing the joy of knowing the Father-Son-Holy Spirit is the one God who loves all humanity.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I have been an elected delegate to the Central Texas Conference from First Hurst for several years, and have always prepared for each Conference and attended every Lay meeting at each Conference. I have followed closely all the developments within the Church since 2016, and pray that we the Church will remain a cohesive international force for the spreading of the Good News to all of our brothers and sisters throughout the world and within our own communities.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
By supporting the church to which I belong with my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service and my witness.
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Saginaw UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
Today, as always, the United Methodist Church is striving to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In small towns and across the world, the UMC continues to declare the good news through its messages and its acts of love and charity.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
In my youth near Philadelphia, the United Methodist Church gave me a firm grounding spiritually and practically in faith, love, and charity. I’m now a resident of Fort Worth, but I have been privileged to learn other languages and travel widely. I’ve worshiped in a United Methodist Church in England, and I’ve visited places where Christians are a small minority of the population, meeting and speaking with people from many cultures. These experiences have given me a broad perspective on the worldwide Church. Now, as a grandmother, I hope to support future disciples in their work to transform the world.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I am conscientious in supporting both my local church and the worldwide United Methodist Church with my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service, and my witness. I have served on various church committees, and I am currently a member of the Lay Leadership Committee as well as a delegate to Annual Conference.

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FUMC Waco

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
I love the structure and the processes that are required because it ensures that things are done properly and thoroughly. I also love that it is home and that we make a point for it to be home.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I am choosing to run as a delegate to the 2020 Conferences because I have been to Annual Conference every year since 2012 and am very passionate about the order and regulations of the Church.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
Each year I attend Annual Conference in some capacity and have been involved in the Church any way I can be for years. I am now the Director of Children’s Ministry at Lorena UMC.
What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
Its adherence to John Wesley's Quadrilateral. Its passion for mission in helping the oppressed, the poor, the disabled, the elderly, "the least of these." Its Wesleyan goal of treating everyone equally. Its dedication to love as the foundational building block for everything we do.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
As a lifelong Methodist I have been deeply concerned by the conflict in which our church finds itself. I want to help find a loving and peaceful solution to this schism, if at all possible.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I have served in virtually every capacity on almost every committee at my church over the last three decades, including lay leader, church council chair and stewardship campaign leader. I am currently working with several groups both locally and nationally to seek a solution to our current impasse.

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about the Methodist church today is our call to justice. The work our denomination is doing throughout the world is incredibly valuable and important and must continue. The second-best thing about the United Methodist Church is our connection system. I am a born and raised United Methodist and hold fast to our theology. I have been a faithful member of not just the United Methodist Church but also our CTC. Our connection allows us to be a global denomination that seeks justice, offers grace and strives to makes disciples for the transformation of the world.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I feel called to serve as a delegate to 2020 because I am passionate about our Global Church and its future. I've spent great time speaking with and learning from friends and colleagues that were delegates for 2016 and 2019 and now have a greater understanding of the processes of our denomination and the commitment required. I am committed to listening and further building relationships throughout our conference in order to fully represent us at the 2020 General Conference.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
Currently, I am serving as a full time Director of Family and Youth Ministries. I am also active in the conference through my participation in CCYM, Mid-winter, Chrysalis and various mission opportunities including being a teacher for UMW Mission U. I attended the Conference Young Adult Mission Experience to Africa in 2017, the Jurisdictional Youth Gathering in 2017 and was an adult chaperone to Global Young Peoples Convocation in South Africa in 2018. I strive to fully live out my membership vows by my prayers, my presence, my gifts and my service.
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Mooreville UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
I have been a part of the United Methodist Church since childhood. I have always known that we are a connectional church but recent events have magnified that truth. On the night of February 7th, we lost our beautiful sanctuary to fire. The next day we were immediately contacted by our Bishop, District Superintendent, Cabinet, Conference Disaster Recovery Team, Central Texas Conference Office, all the area United Methodist Churches along with others. We were offered places to worship and any items that we needed to start over. The support of the United Methodist Church in connection is unequalled.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
Our beliefs and traditions of the United Methodist Church are very important to me. At this time, I feel called to be the voice of the small church. Many of our small churches are served by local pastors who unfortunately have no vote on constitutional amendments. It is therefore; extremely important for the laity of the small churches to have a voice.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
As a Pastor's wife, I serve Mooreville United Methodist Church. I teach Sunday School, work with the children for Bible Study, Vacation Bible School, Local Food Pantry, Epiphany Prison Ministry Team, and Area Emmaus Music Team. I volunteer my time with the youth and will be serving on the Central Texas Conference Mission trip this year.

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FUMC Fort Worth

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about the United Methodist Church today is its diversity of membership, clergy, and viewpoint. While we hold many different roles and views, it is our common faith and humanity that unite us in our spiritual journey. It is refreshing to share ideas and our faith in an environment comprised of so many different perspectives and where we can challenge one another to grow both spiritually and as people. But, we must be careful to maintain a supportive and nurturing environment where people may thrive together without fear or estrangement.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
It is no secret that our denomination is working through difficult disagreements over the scope and future of the church. I would like to be part of the group that is deciding how to plot the next steps in this journey. I want to apply my skills and efforts to preserving the common faith that unites us while preventing a course that would dilute the dignity or humanity of our members. I believe it is important to add my voice to the conversation of what the future holds for our church in whatever capacity I may do so.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I am an active member of First United Methodist Fort Worth. I serve on the Church's preparedness committee and have pledged to serve on the board of the preschool beginning later this year. I also teach my Sunday School class throughout the year. Even in non-official capacities, I support both the ministries and missions of the church through my gifts and efforts.
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St. Barnabas UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
One of the best things about the UMC now is it’s diversity of thought and persons. The UMC is a place where people come to worship, learn and serve together even though we may not all think alike. Learning and serving with persons unlike me has challenged me to grow. This diversity has led to a global connection and ability for worldwide mission. I cannot help but think of this John Wesley quote, “Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion?”

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I have served on three delegations and understand the commitment it takes to represent our conference at both the General and Jurisdictional levels. I have served on the Cabinet and as Conference Lay Leader. I would like the opportunity to guide our church into whatever form it takes in the future. I understand the importance of laity having a voice in the future of the church and I feel prepared to bring that voice to the table.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I serve my local church on the Leadership Council. I serve on the District Committee on Ordained Ministry, District Superintendency Committee, Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and Connectional Table. I serve as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of Discipleship Ministries (a UMC general agency) and Chair of the Curriculum Resource Committee for the UMC Publishing House. I am Secretary of the Commission on the General Conference and serve on the Task Force looking into voting irregularities. I also serve on the Texas Methodist President’s Advisory Council and their Development Committee.

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Couts Memorial UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
We are a church that is welcoming to all people. We are caring for our members, our community, our state, our country and our world. We love Jesus and are willing to share our love and making disciples. I also love our rich heritage.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I am interested in in the United Methodist Church and what is happening now and its future. I have loved being a delegate to the Annual Conferences in recent years. I love all of the reports, the representations of the churches, and what is happening in the conference. I am interested in what is happening to our church worldwide. I want to be a part of the decision making for the next four years.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I have served as a delegate to Central Texas Annual Conference several times. I have attended conference training and have been involved in charge conferences. I participated in our church's Healthy Church Initiative. In my local church I have served on the Church Council. I have served on several committees and have chaired the Church Council. I have served on Outreach, Adult Nurturing, and Children's Ministry. I have helped with youth mission trips. I have helped with Children's Sunday School. I have Chaired Couts Chick's in Action and outreach program. I have helped with Harvest Festival and played Hand bells.
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FUMC Hurst

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The United Methodist Church, with its strong Wesleyan foundation, provides the most effective set of tools to equip the global Church to make good on its goal, as stated by Jesus in Mathew 28:19-20, to make disciples of all nations for the transformation of the world. I have given my life to the service of the Lord, and to the goal of fulfilling that great commission, so that all people may know the love of God through a deep, complete relationship with Him.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I was deeply troubled by the lack of unity we witnessed at the 2019 called General Conference, and at GCs in the past. I feel called to be more actively involved in the decision-making process. All opinions have merit, and all people have sacred worth. I want to join my voice to our delegation to model how people in Christian fellowship can disagree with each other, yet still love one another. In our divisive world, this is a lesson I hear God crying out for us to teach. The world needs God’s people to lead here.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I’ve been an active, financially supporting member of FUMC Hurst for over 10 years. I’ve been very active in many of the ministries of the Church, mainly around discipleship for adults, children, and youth. I currently co-lead the seventh-grade youth Sunday school class, after serving as a confirmation family group leader for them the year before. I’ve been honored to serve as a delegate to Annual conference for the last five years. I am also blessed to serve as co-Lay Leader and have for the past three years.

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FUMC West

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
I have always loved the welcoming atmosphere of the UMC and our outreach missions into our communities, country and world. Spreading the love of Jesus Christ and serving as the hands and feet of God should always be first and foremost in what we do. Christ called us to be His disciples and spread the Word and the United Methodist Church strives to do that in real, meaningful ways. Methodists from churches both large and small, regardless of our age or abilities are always seeking ways to serve the Lord.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
The General Conferences should always have a cross section of the people it is representing. This should include laity and clergy from large and small churches as well as people from all walks of life. I hope to see this diversity present in the Central Texas delegation. Christ can and does use all of us for His Kingdom and we should as well. I can bring a perspective for our conference from a small town/small church and work to continue the mission that Christ has called us to do.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I have been a member of my church for over 30 years and have served in a variety of capacities. I am currently active as a liturgist and serve as the lay leader of our congregation. On a recent ZOE trip to Kenya and a past trip to Romania, I worked to spread the love of Christ through mission work and was delighted to see firsthand the work that Methodists are doing in other countries. I have served on Emmaus Walks and love seeing the transformation of people coming to Christ.
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Epworth UMC, Arlington

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?  
The best thing is that the people of the UMC seek to share the message of God’s love and grace. In our “Great Thanksgiving,” we ask that God make the bread and juice “be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.” The mission of the UMC focuses us first on the personal transformation that comes through our experience of grace as we follow Christ, but it extends to the way in which we shape and transform the world through living as disciples.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?  
We as the UMC have come to a crossroads, and I believe that I can contribute toward finding a way to align our institutional structures to better serve our mission. The current conflict over the role of LGBTQ people in the UMC is rooted in confusion of essentials and non-essentials of Christian faith. I believe and trust in the authority of scripture and affirm my faith through the historic creeds. This same belief and trust, however, also leads me to conclude that the UMC is creating artificial barriers that deny the witness and calling of LGBTQ people.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?  
I have been an active UMC participant for my entire life. As a member of Epworth UMC, I serve as the lay leader/lay member of AC and previously served three years as administrative council chair. I also periodically teach children’s and adult Sunday School classes and this summer will participate in our CTCYM group. Professionally, I serve on the CTC staff where I play a role in Vital Leadership Academy, Praxis, Lay Servant Ministries, MinistrySafe, CTC properties, AC planning, conference journal, etc. Earlier, I served four years as a full-time leader of children’s and youth ministries in a local UMC.

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Aledo UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?  
The United Methodist Church today, as it always has, honors Christ as the center of our faith, and grace as an expression of the salvation we are offered and can offer others. Although I was not raised in the UMC, the open-mindedness of the denomination that encourages questions, thoughtfulness and growth in our personal faith development was how I found my church home in The United Methodist Church.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?  
I am submitting my application to serve as a CTC delegate to 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences after ignoring the Call since 2012. In both 2012 and 2016, I completed but did not submit my application to be considered to serve as a part of the CTC delegation. Since my child is in college and my job responsibilities have changed, I now have the availability and time for the commitment it takes to serve as a delegate. I am finally answering God's call to serve in this capacity.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?  
As Methodists, we are to give of our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. After eleven years working in the Office of the Bishop, I now work in the East District office. In my local church, I taught youth Sunday School and college Sunday School; I currently mentor a college-age group and teach adult Sunday School. Additionally, I serve on committees in my local church.
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CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2020 General/South Central Jurisdictional
CTC Clergy Delegate Information

Presented in alphabetical order
What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about our denomination is the best thing we could say about any local church within the connection. It is the places and in the lives where the expression of our mission is being lived out. It's in life change, growth and deepening in individual's commitment to living as a follower of Jesus. It's hope being brought to the hopeless, tangible ways where restoration is being brought to broken lives and communities. I am grateful to serve a church whose roots are grounded in the Wesleyan way of expressing the Christian faith.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I hope to have multiple decades to give to the work of pastoring a church whose future is more fruitful than the present. I want to see our denomination move forward in a way that ever local congregation - regardless of the diversity of perspectives around the presenting issues of our day - is enabled to live into that future in the context of that local church. I am weary of answers that serve factions. I hunger for our work to be driven by our commitment to the Kingdom that is larger than our particular denomination.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I currently serve as a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. I formerly served as a clergy representative to the Conference Core Team.

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The UMC recognizes no one is beyond the saving power of God's grace. We invite all people into that life changing relationship with Jesus Christ. I love the healing and restorative power of God's grace. I have been a beneficiary myself and believe the Methodist Church offers a great place from which to invite others into that same gift of grace.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
After seeing the homogeneity of the voices in the 2019 delegation I thought the Central Texas Conference would appreciate a more diverse set of voices in their 2020 delegation. I believe I can contribute to that goal.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
During this emotionally charged season in the United Methodist Church, I believe the order of elders can be a significant benefit to their congregations by providing a calm and unifying presence in their parishes. In the congregation the conference has entrusted to me, I try to keep everyone focused on growing in love for one another as they grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus Christ.
What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
That we as United Methodists are a world-wide Christian movement proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and seeking to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We have chosen as a body to affirm biblical teaching and standards in all matters of faith and practice.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
That our 2020 General Conference in Minneapolis reflect the voting preferences of the world-wide church where Methodism is still growing. I also share the concern that our previous delegation was out of step with our brothers and sisters around the world in affirming biblical Christianity. We need to affirm the Traditional Plan of human sexual expression.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I have served in the ministry of the United Methodist Church for over forty years, preaching the gospel, and working for biblical-based church renewal. I have worked overseas in Ireland, as well as Argentina and South Africa in church mission, as well local missions. I also have a passion for teaching local pastors Perkins Course of Study School.
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What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
Today, the influence of the United Methodist Church is transcendent in both time and space in relationship to the message and ministry of Jesus Christ. I believe our “Theological Task” holds a unique place in today’s ecclesiastical landscape. While we hold to a historic past, we are also pressing forward into a faith-filled future through service to God and humanity. Finally, as we maintain and broaden our global influence, I am persuaded that our “salt” and “light” will continue to make a difference in a world that longs for the scriptural message of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
As a lifelong Methodist, I desire to serve and earnestly seek your vote to become a delegate because I am passionately interested and deeply invested in the future of our Church. I believe my years of experience in public service, particularly in the area of law enforcement, has equipped me with vitally needed people skills such as; understanding openness in communication, crisis management, de-escalation techniques, and bridge building abilities. Our current context requires the ability to digest information quickly, respond succinctly, and yet remain aware of the presence and leading of the Holy Spirit.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I am currently serving as Senior Pastor of Grace UMC Arlington, a church that is experiencing vital growth and living into the mission of, “bringing people into a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ.” I have been asked and have accepted the challenge to mentor several pastors in our Conference and consider that work to be a “high calling.” I also serve faithfully on the District Committee on Building and Locations and the Conference Board of Trustees where I am developing a deeper understanding and unique perspective of our connectional system.

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What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
As a Deacon in the United Methodist Church, my ministry depends on our connectional system. The ability to respond to the people of faith that I daily encounter with “yes, and...” is a liberating response to the work of Christ in their lives. The UMC is deeply blessed with resources in talent, faith, theology, geography, mission, diversity, opportunity, purpose, and witness. With our commitment to Christ and our connectional system we are a church that has the ability to be missional. We actively seek where God is at work and join God in the work of transforming lives.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
The essence of my service to the UMC comes from a deep commitment to invite people into an abundant life with Jesus Christ. I am motivated to help the UMC move through this time of transition using a lens of abundance over scarcity. Throughout my ministry career, this time of transition has been on the horizon. With great respect and appreciation to past delegates, I simply make myself available to complete this chapter of transition in our church. There is great opportunity and potential in our future as we daily encounter the living Christ in our lives and our church.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I humbly serve the young adults of Navarro College as a campus pastor, spiritual director and chaplain to athletes. Young adults change the world. I am blessed to engage the spirit of the youth and empower them to be Christian leaders. Through my ministry to young adults they are challenged to be present where their feet are planted, stand up to injustice and to make Christ the center of their lives.
What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about the United Methodist Church today lies somewhere in the midst of our theological stance of keeping Jesus Christ at the center of all we think, say, and do; the mutual accountability we experience in our connection; and our geographical bounds that span the entire globe. These serve our tradition well in providing a strong foundation for reaching the world for Jesus Christ, and developing the next generation of Christian leaders.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
Having served the UMC for twenty years under appointment in a multitude of ministry contexts (multiple-point rural, large urban church, mega church, and county-seat rural), I have gained much experience and knowledge in regards to the local church. I believe local church ministry is the primary vehicle God uses to advance the Kingdom of God on the earth, and am convinced that the more we energize and equip the local church, the more ministry will be done for Christ. If my service as a delegate can further advance local church ministry, then I have great interest.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I currently use my time to support the UM connection by serving on our conference Board of Ordained Ministry, our Conference Relations Committee, and chairing the Central District Committee on Ordained Ministry. Since being appointed to FUMC of Corsicana in 2015, our average worship attendance has grown from 231 to 465 and we have celebrated 25 people making professions of faith in Jesus Christ already in 2019.

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
Our connectional system, our missions support especially CTCYM, our believe that social justice and the message of sharing the good mews of Jesus Christ goes hand in hand (loving God and loving neighbor). The emphasis on the local church is the main focus of the conference not the conference itself.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
We are now divided into us and them just like our nation. We need to see the “US” and work to bring justice for all. I believe in the catholic spirit of our founder John Wesley when he said “in essentials unity, in non essentials harmony, in all things Charity.” What I saw and heard at the February Called general conference was the opposite of that spirit. We all stand in the need of God’s grace. We talked too much about grace yet sometimes our actions show judgment and exclusion. There is a big room for all of US.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I am a member of the CTC connectional Table team, I served on board of ordained ministry, conference relations.
What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
Our Wesleyan theology of grace and the way we take scripture seriously in our study and application of it, using the best tools of scholarship, our God-given powers of reason, our experience of God within the faith community and the larger community, and the rich traditions we have received. We emphasize God at work in our lives through prevenient, sanctifying, and justifying grace. We are a “big tent” denomination defined by our center, who is Jesus Christ. At our best, we are a church is open hearts, open minds, and open doors.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I have served as a delegate at the 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2019 General Conferences and served as head of the delegation in 2008 and 2016. I have served on the General Council on Finance and Administration and am serving my second term as first clergy alternate on the Judicial Council. In that capacity, I have participated in 74 Judicial Council decisions. I am putting myself forward to serve again because this is a critical time for the UMC. We not only need new delegates, but also experienced delegates with a broad knowledge of the general church.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I serve as head of the CTC delegation, as first clergy alternate on the Judicial Council, as a member of the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy, as a member of the CTC Episcopacy Committee, as a member of the CTC Board of Ordained Ministry, and as a member of the Board of Trustees of Texas Wesleyan University.

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about the UMC is our theology of grace, and historical DNA of faith sharing. Our understanding of grace as the undeserved, unmerited, unearnable love of God, gives the world hope. As Methodist we have a historical roadmap of faith sharing that, according to Alan Hirsh, if revived will bring Christianity back to the focus of our country and the world. Methodist are the people who built churches in every town in the U.S. and we can do it again. We are the people who together can bring faith, hope, and love to a world hungry for it.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve as a part of the CTC delegation over the past four years. Additionally, I have served in rural, urban, and suburban churches. I have also started a new church and now I currently serve on the CTC cabinet. From this unique background I believe I bring a vast array of experience that represents the fullness of CTC; this has allowed me to hear many voices enabling me to be a fair and just voice for our Annual Conference.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I serve as a CTC delegate to the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference, as well as a delegate to the 2016 and 2019 General Conferences. I am the Superintendent of the North District of CTC, where I serve on the following boards: Glen Lake Camp, TCU Wesley Foundation, and the Weatherford College Wesley Foundation. Prior to my new appointment in March, I served as the Conference Relations Committee Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, Vice Chair of the CTC Episcopacy, Chair of CTC Church and Society, CTC Connectional Table, and on the Executive Team for Center for Leadership.
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First United Methodist Mansfield

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about the United Methodist Church is our emphasis on grace: grace that comes before us, grace that surrounds us, and grace that saves us. I have always loved that we recognize that God’s table is open and for all and we believe that every one of us stands in need of the means of grace which the church supplies.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
Having been part of the delegation in St Louis, I am keenly aware that there is important work to be done as we discern what is best for our denomination moving forward. I have been blessed to serve churches in urban, suburban, and small town settings. Serving as Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry and having family who have served at the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, I have established strong connections in our Conference, our Jurisdiction, and beyond. I have the time, the interest, and the commitment to serve on our delegation.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
Currently I am serving as the Executive Pastor at First United Methodist Church Mansfield. I am a member of the East District DCOM and I am mentoring and working with candidates in various stages of the ministry process. As I prepare for this new phase of my life, I am looking forward to what God will lead me to do next.

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What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
Within three and a half miles of my church is an elementary school and hospital where more than 20 different languages are spoken. The global world has come to our doorsteps and the UMC with its Wesleyan Theology of grace can be the place of broken bread and poured out wine for all. When we embrace our theology, and our Wesleyan way of arriving at theological conclusions (scripture, tradition, reason and experience) we can be the church that provides the balm which heals the brokenness in our communities, nation and world.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
In 2008, I served on the Host Committee for General Conference while also serving as a Jurisdictional Conference delegate. It was a challenging experience, but I gained a great appreciation for the work, diversity and challenges of the general church and the value of committed servants. I have since served as a 2012 General Conference delegate and a Jurisdictional Conference delegate in 2016 and 2019. I am offering myself again as a servant to continue giving service and voice on behalf of others.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
Through pastoral leadership in the local church, National Black Clergy Women, and Women Leadership Team. I have also served on the South Central Jurisdiction Mission Council, the Board of Pension, Glen Lake Board, District Committee of Ordained Ministry and the Board of Ordained Ministry, taught in the School of Christian Mission. I currently serve as a Board of Ordained Ministry mentor.
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First Mineral Wells/Palo Pinto

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
We have a theology that maintains the best of the evangelical movement and the great need for social justice in our world. Living in this tension gives us a natural ability to answers God’s call to stand against the polarized nature of this day and age. Beyond theology, our core connectional structure is (when at its best) an example of shared life in an era of rampant individualism. We have, within our church, the ability to already show the world what authentic community looks like in a practical way through our connection.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I’ve spent a lot of time over the last decade of service under appointment praying for our delegates. Specifically, I asked for there to be a good number of people who represent some of our younger clergy and some of our rural churches. For General Conference 2020 I felt called to help be the voice for those groups in our conference and in our denomination. I hope and pray that I can help represent these groups in a way that lends their voice to the larger discussion about the future of the UMC.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I am currently appointed to First Mineral Wells/ Palo Pinto Charge. I also serve on the BOM, West dCOM, West District Finance Committee, Tarleton Wesley Foundation Board, Conference Ministry Safe Committee, and various other community boards and agencies beyond the local church.

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Missional Wisdom Foundation

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
I believe the theological stance of the UMC is exactly what the world needs today. Our emphasis on God’s grace and on growing in holiness over time gives people the time and space needed to encounter Christ in our hectic world. The quadrilateral provides an interpretative framework that emphasizes scripture, but also encourages the use of one’s spiritual gifts to understand it thorough our own reason and experience, and thorough the work of those who have gone before. Our emphasis on community and growth over time sets us apart from other Christian denominations.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
GC2019 clearly demonstrated that our denomination is at a turning point. I am very interested in participating in that process using a Methodist lens, which pushes me toward searching for a way to maintain disciplinary flexibility for individual UM leaders and churches. Wesley’s Catholic Spirit sermon teaches us to grip firmly to the core of our Christian belief and to be charitable in allowing for individual interpretations of the details of scripture. I cannot seek to shift the Discipline unless I am willing to serve in the transformative body.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I serve as the Executive Director of the Missional Wisdom Foundation, an extension ministry I co-founded almost 10 years ago. The MWF experiments with and teaches about alternative forms of Christian community. We teach clergy and laity all over the nation, which provides me with a broad view of the connection. It is my opinion that the American church wants to find a disciplinary path which allows us to stay in connection with as many of our brothers and sisters as possible. My work helps to bring in people who would otherwise not connect with the local church.
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University UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about The United Methodist Church is that everything we do is to share God’s grace with people. People are longing for forgiveness and connection. We have the privilege to witness to the forgiveness, connection, and transforming power of Jesus’s presence in their lives. The United Methodist Church shares God’s grace through each and every ministry - from the local church to our connectional ministries around the world.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
The 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences will be vitally important to the future of the UMC. They will also be difficult. Yet, I’ve experienced firsthand the power of the Holy Spirit to bring about healing and a renewed missional vision in tense and difficult circumstances. God has given me gifts to listen openly, dig deeper, and work with others toward a future that honors our call to share the love of Jesus Christ. The experience I’ve gained in the local church and throughout the connection has prepared me for the work of the General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I have said yes to almost every opportunity to serve the United Methodist connection, including: serving on the North District Committee on Ministry, the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Conference Relations Committee, and the Episcopacy Committee. I am highly involved in the leadership of the Mary & Elizabeth Coalition whose primary purpose is to support the ministries and leadership of the clergywomen of the CTC. Our local church serves as a host church for Project Transformation which connects us with other CTC churches as we engage in mission with college students, young children, and their families each summer.

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FUMC Waco

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about the United Methodist Church is the personal and social holiness of our faithful people as we are living in response to the grace of Jesus Christ. Taking seriously our call to make disciples of Jesus Christ, our rich and deep theology make United Methodists an activated and engaged people who carry with us Christ’s message of hope for the world. United Methodists, at our best, love God and love others with deep conviction and biblical witness.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I have served in UMCs in multiple conferences and in several ministry roles from the time I was a college student until now, about 15 years in total. I have a strong conviction to be a part of helping shape the people I am yoked with spiritually. It seems that we have struggled to find our way in who Christ has called us to be as a global denomination, one that reaches far past our borders. We need stable, consistent voices as we do the good, godly, and diligent work that is ahead of us.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I serve in the local church, bringing me into community with other local pastors. Most recently, the opportunity to preach regularly in the pulpit of another congregation presented itself as they considered a church merger. For several years, I have supported the connection through serving on Annual Conference planning committees. I currently serve as a clergy representative for the Conference Nominations and Leadership Development Team. I also have had the distinct privilege of being an individual mentor for candidates for ministry for the Central District, as well as having been named to the Central District Committee on Superintendency.
What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
Our theology of grace and how that leads us to an understanding that personal and social holiness are dependent upon one another. We are going to disagree, but God is calling us to something bigger. Grace (prevenient, justifying, sanctifying) calls us to make Disciples and build the Kingdom because that is the work God has been doing in each of us and in the world since the very beginning. Because of how we understand grace, I believe Methodist theology is uniquely poised to help us bring God's work closer to completion, especially in an increasingly divided society.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I believe that more than any other time in my life to this point, General Conference 2020 will be making decisions that greatly impact the future of the United Methodist Church. I believe that I can be a reasoned and thoughtful addition to our delegation as we face these decisions. I am committed to forming a future for Methodism that takes seriously our work of making Disciples and our theology of grace which makes room for all people, even in the midst of disagreement.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I have been a Methodist all my life and have served the Church in some capacity continually since 2003. I am currently appointed to Glen Rose UMC and will be appointed to Saginaw UMC after Annual Conference. I also serve on the North District DCoM and Glen Lake Camp Board. I have previously been a youth pastor, Associate Pastor, and summer camp director. I have led mission trips to UMCOR and Lydia Patterson, and have been a Project Transformation Intern.
What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
At our best, The United Methodist Church witnesses to the world the grace of God. As recipients of that grace, our faith response should draw us ever deeper into love of God and neighbor. The Book of Discipline says, “The Christian witness, even when grounded in Scripture and mediated by Tradition, is ineffectual unless understood and appropriated by the individual. To become our witness, it must make sense in terms of our own reason and experience” (pg. 105). Wesley’s theological approach, what we call The Quadrilateral, offers us reason, experience and tradition as we interpret Scripture and grow in Christ.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I have always been drawn to the General Church. During GC2008 I served on the host team as the CTC liaison to the German-speaking European delegates. I was elected as a jurisdictional alternate in 2012 and traveled with the delegation to Tampa where I served as our observer in Church and Society 2. I also attended Jurisdictional Conference. Prior to GC2016, Travis and I were expecting; however, I am now able to recommit to the long hours and hard work required, and I offer myself for consideration during this critical time in the life of The United Methodist Church.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I serve as the chair of the CTC Commission on Equitable Compensation and have established ongoing relationships with my jurisdictional counterparts. I also currently serve on the East District Committee on Building and Location and as a mentor. As the pastor of a diverse congregation that includes a significant number of Tongan Americans and Tongan Nationals, I also work with representatives of the General Board of Global Ministries around issues related to the Plan for Pacific Island Ministry.

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
Our connectional organization and openness to dialogue on issues that draw controversy.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
There is a strong need for theological issues that affect gender, race, age, social class that need to be heard from the vantage point of the marginalized.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
My local charge with great conviction paid 100% of the connectional giving for the year 2018.
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What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
Recently, I was asked by a member of the Cleburne community why I followed Christ in the United Methodist Church. My answer to his question and this question are the same. At our best, we are a community of Christ followers who embody God’s grace, make deeply committed disciples and partner with God to transform the world. We do so by being people of “the AND.” We live at the intersection of the Evangelical church AND the Mainline church. As Wesleyans, we are people of the social gospel AND the personal gospel; transforming individual lives AND the broader world.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I’m registering my interest to serve because I love the United Methodist Church, its witness and its ministry. I’m a third generation Methodist pastor. I have deep family roots in our church and I long to be a part of its faithful future. I know there are people of great wisdom and experience who are running, and I deeply admire many of them. As a 34-year-old pastor, I hope to serve alongside them, learning from them and with them, while offering a perspective that is connected to a generation the church is trying to better reach.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
Alongside many of my colleagues, I have served on a myriad of boards/committees at the district level throughout my years in the United Methodist Church. I have led covenant groups for my colleagues and would like to more faithfully serve the broader connection.

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Keller UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The amount of local United Methodists doing life-changing mission and service throughout the world in their individual churches is the best thing about the United Methodist Church. Watching lives being transformed even in the midst of a church and culture so divided witnesses to the true hope that only Jesus Christ can bring.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
As difficult and challenging as the work of General and Jurisdictional Conference is, I believe it’s vitally important that we continue to create a denomination that shares the unconditional love of Jesus Christ with the world. This not only happens through General Conference votes and legislation, but also through the many relationships and connections across the worldwide denomination that I’ve been honored to form over the past decade in connectional ministry as well as serving on the delegation since 2012. I believe there is much work for us to do and feel called to be part of that crucial work.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I support the connection currently through my service as the Board of Ordained Ministry Chair for Central Texas and the work I do with BOMs throughout the connection. I serve on the Texas Methodist Foundation Board and Executive Committee which supports the connection by striving to steward the potential of local congregations, individual lay and clergy leaders, as well as our denomination. I’ve spent many hours over the last two quadrenniums with delegation work. I also believe my work as a local church pastor strengthens our connection as we make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
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Church of the Good Shepherd UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
Grace as experienced and lived by the people in local churches transforming the world with their love of Christ is the best part. The diversity present across the globe and our historic ability to love alike despite difference is perhaps the best witness of the grace of Jesus Christ we have in a world so quick to divide.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
Sometimes a calling stirs inside before it’s recognized and hindsight shows the path that brings it. I’ve attended every General Conference since 2008. I was the “Methonerd” who took the General Conference class in seminary. Attending seminary in Boston afforded me global connections from whom I still witness the beauty of our connection at its best, despite its brokenness. The UMC is in yet another critical time as is our conference in receiving a new bishop. The Holy Spirit is moving and I want to be part of the hopeful future God has for the United Methodist witness.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
Aside from serving as a senior pastor, I also serve on the DCOM in the East District. I serve as the Conference Secretary for Global Ministries with connections around the globe and especially the SCJ that remind me of why we do the work of General Conference. Lastly, as an alumni liaison for Boston University School of Theology, I help future leaders both lay and clergy discern their call to theological education which supports the wider connection in developing future generations of leaders for the church.

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Central District Superintendent

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The United Methodist Church provides a grace-filled place for persons of all walks of life to come and experience God’s love and to fall in love with Christ. We love because God first loved us. The UMC’s commitment to inclusion of all persons at the Lord’s Table, while maintaining Biblical Authority, and Wesleyan teachings in the life of our church is paramount in my love for the UMC.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
The small church matter. 78% of the United States UM Churches worship less than 75 on any given Sunday morning (https://thesmallchurchpastor.wordpress.com/statistics). I am passionate about giving a voice to these faithful congregations. I will work with others to ensure our greater church legislation meets the small church needs as well as the needs of larger churches, which tend to be very well represented.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
As a District Superintendent, I support the United Methodist Connection through empowering laity and churches to work, support and hold one another accountable through small groups and covenant parishes. On a Jurisdictional level, I participate in a District Superintendent Group that meets three times a year for learning and networking. God is our greatest source as a denomination, but our second greatest source, is our connection and support of one another in the Wesleyan way.
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Central Texas Conference

*What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?*
A theology of grace which understands God as willing to go to any length to bring anyone and everyone into God’s family, has long been the best thing about the UMC. As for today, I think the best thing about our church is our willingness to address difficult issues no matter how difficult. One more great thing about our church is our determination to serve the people in our communities and world as our faithful response to Christ call to be servants.

*Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?*
I would like to believe that I can make some difference in the work that takes place at each Conference. Most of all, I simply offer myself in service to the Annual Conference.

*How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?*
I serve as the Assistant to Bishop Lowry. I also serve on the General Commission on Religion and Race as well as the Coordinating Committee for Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century.

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**Marilyn Jones (525)**
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Couts Memorial UMC

*What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?*
The United Methodist Church is an embodiment of the grace of God in my life. I believe that when we are at our best, we also embody God’s grace for the world as we strive to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of all of God’s people. United Methodist disciples are not just “hearers” of the Word but are also “doers of the Word” (James 1:22). Our dedication to action leads us to continue to think outside the model of the traditional church in search of creative ways to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

*Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?*
I feel called to lead our denomination as we make vital decisions that will determine our collective future. I have been a longtime observer of both General and Jurisdictional Conferences, and I am called to move beyond being a spectator. I have also been involved in leadership within our Annual Conference, and I realize that this year is crucial for our annual conference as we are receiving a new bishop. I am called to facilitate change that moves us past our division, helping us learn how to live and serve in greater harmony.

*How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?*
I am senior pastor of Couts UMC, where we are experiencing new growth and increased vitality. I provide Annual Conference leadership as part of the Core Team and am mentoring a candidate for the Board of Ordained Ministry. I previously served and am presently serving the District Committees on Ministry of both East and North Districts. I participate actively in Mary & Elizabeth Coalition. I have connected congregations missionally with sister Methodist churches in Cuba and Panama. I am an active supporter of the Latvian UMC church. I serve the Perkins School of Theology Alumni Council as a CTC representative.
Ryan Kiblinger
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rbkiblinger@gmail.com
United Protestant Church Grayslake

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about the United Methodist Church today is that we have the Gospel of Jesus Christ that the world so desperately needs. Out of our Anglican roots, we were birthed to bring our formal theological to bear in our practical theology lived out in love and grace. We have hope to offer the world in Jesus Christ and hope, true hope is something our world needs.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
The UMC today needs delegates that can speak the truth in love and humility. I am not interested in taking a side, but rather in doing the hard work of acknowledging our differences and seeking to work towards fair, equitable, and just resolutions. I believe that I have demonstrated my ability to speak candidly with clergy and laity alike, regardless of our agreement or disagreement, and to do so while being respectful and caring.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
Currently, I am appointed to a union church in the Northern Illinois Conference of the UMC. I am also working towards my PhD in Educational Studies where I am doing research on confirmation and the pastoral role in confirmation.

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Acton UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
I love our focus on the Wesleyan Way of Salvation. The UMC mission to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” flows out of this robust understanding of God’s grace. Purposefully introducing all people to Christ and walking with them as they grow in God’s love through the Holy Spirit is the epitome of sacrificial love. I know when disciple-making has been the #1 priority of the churches I’ve served, lives are transformed, generational brokenness is healed, darkness in every corner of the mission field is pushed back, and the denomination is its most vibrant.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
A new season dawns for the UMC. We need delegates to GC who will joyfully work to align our doctrine, discipline, and mission to ensure as many people as possible are reached with the Good News of Jesus Christ over the next 50 years. Our delegates must focus on leading the Church into this new season instead of refighting battles of the past. The Church is God’s idea, Christ is the Head; we play follow the Leader. It would be an honor to represent the CTC as a delegate as this new future begins. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I primarily support the UMC connection through leading the church I pastor to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” In addition, I am a member of the CTC Board of Ordained Ministry, Conference Finance & Administration (CF&A) Team, Glen Lake Camp Board of Directors, and serve as a mentor to candidates for ordained ministry.
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Arlington Heights UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The greatest thing about the UMC is our emphasis on grace. The grace that comes before and extends beyond our understanding. That grace that is reflected in our global impact on building the kingdom of God.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
As a deacon, I hope to add my voice to the global conversation as we seek to pursue holy conversations about where God is leading the church.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I serve my local congregation as well as partnering with others in our connection through the Five and Two food truck ministry. I also serve on the TCU Wesley board of directors.

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Rockbridge Church

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about the United Methodist Church is our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are a church that makes disciples who follow Jesus and through that relationship are transformed. Those disciples are then sent out to the world to live out God's call to transform the world around us. Our personal holiness through our relationship with God leads to social holiness in community and with our neighbors throughout the world. We love God, and we love neighbors.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I am passionate about the United Methodist Church, this is a church that as a child, through FUMC Azle, saved my life. It loved and accepted me at a time in my life that I desperately needed that love. We all know that the UMC is facing difficult times and that we are very divided. I believe it is important that we have people who are passionate about the work and ministry of the UMC and desire to see it thrive as we address LGBTQ inclusion in our communities.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I support the connect of the United Methodist Church through my service at Rockbridge Church. We know that vital ministry happens at the local church and as a pastor I lead the church to the best of my ability to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World. I have served on the board of Chrysalis for the Central Texas Conference; volunteered at Glen Lake Camp; and served on CTCYM. Recently I attended General Conference, volunteering as a Marshall so that I could pray for and assist the delegates.
What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
We are a part of a connectional system; the joining together of brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world for a common purpose. As was the case in the early Methodist movement and I believe still true today, this purpose is one of renewal of the church and the nation(s). This renewal movement is grounded in the uniquely Wesleyan message that God’s grace is available to all persons and more importantly, through God’s transforming and life changing grace it is possible for all to find holiness of heart and life centered on love for God and neighbor.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
My heart grieves that our denomination, whose Wesleyan understanding of God’s grace changed my life, finds itself struggling to remain focused on its mission of making disciples in the midst of ever-changing cultural norms.

Through watching General Conferences, engaging in countless conversations and prayer, I’ve felt God’s nudging to be a part of this denominational process. I believe the foundation laid by Wesley and the early Methodist movement, one of spreading God’s love by combining orthodoxy and orthopraxy, is still God’s plan for our denomination and our mission of “Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
First, I serve the local church. At the district level, I serve on the Board of Church Location and Building and have previously served on the District Committee on Ordained Ministry. At the conference level, I serve on the MinistrySafe Oversight Committee and the Board of Trustees.

Serving as a part of the conference’s CTCYM’s annual mission trip allows me to serve beyond our conference. I have also been fortunate to support our connection on a global level as part of a clergy mentoring endeavor in Latvia as well as by serving in mission to Maua Kenya and surrounding areas.
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**What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?**  
The best thing about the United Methodist Church today is its people. Its people are its strength for witness and service, for mission and for beginning and continuing vital communities of faith. You can have a great vision and plans and programs, but without the passion of the people called United Methodist you will have nothing. One unique aspect of the UMC is that its people are connected all over the world. The people of the UMC are truly the body of Christ working to be a blessing in all areas of the globe.

**Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?**  
I have been a part of the United Methodist Church all my life and am passionate about its mission and its future. The reason I am making my interest known about serving as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences is that I think that our delegation needs more theological diversity. It is common knowledge that our 2016 and 2019 delegation was significantly underrepresented from the conservative theological perspective of which I represent. I would like for our delegation to represent the entire theological perspective that is true of the UMC globally and was made evident at GC2019.

**How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?**  
There are two ways that I am currently using my time to support the United Methodist connection. The first is working with the Center for Evangelism and Church Growth to help start a new faith community in the now closed Handley UMC. Trinity UMC is excited about this project and unanimously voted for it. The second is that I am the president of the local chapter of the Wesleyan Covenant Association which is an association of individuals and congregations who share a common understanding of our historic Wesleyan doctrine and desire to become a vibrant, faithful, growing 21st century church.

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FUMC Hurst

**What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?**  
Two things immediately come to mind: 1) Our Wesleyan theology of grace is bedrock to us denominationally and remains our strength in terms of evangelism and witness. 2) Our connectional ministry binds us together and enables us to be in service to the world. For example, the United Methodist Committee on Relief is second-to-none in responding to crisis globally.

**Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?**  
The United Methodist Church is responsible for bringing me back into the fold of the Christian faith. I am deeply indebted to United Methodist Christians for showing me grace and making space for my questions. I feel I owe the church my time and ability and can best repay it by serving as a delegate. Since being ordained, I have served the Annual Conference in a variety of ways and believe that now is the right time to serve the General and Jurisdictional Conferences as a delegate.

**How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?**  
I have served as Chair of the East District Committee on Ordained Ministry for nine years. I also serve on Church Finance and Administration, CTC Core Leadership Team, East District Superintendency Committee, and Chair the Board of Directors for CTC Project Transformation. I am the Senior Pastor of a large church that has always paid 100% of our connectional giving and still maintains this as a priority.
What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The United Methodist Church has a unique and wonderful message of God’s grace and forgiveness through Jesus Christ, for a world filled with fear and confusion. As we minister across the globe, lives are changed, light shines through the darkness, and hopelessness is replaced with faithfulness. I truly believe that once we resolve these current controversial issues facing the church, our best days are ahead of us. Serving as a pastor in The United Methodist Church is one of the great privileges of my life.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I have had the privilege of serving as the first clergy alternate delegate for the last three General Conferences. In addition, I have been a delegate to the last three Jurisdictional Conferences. I believe I am being called to be a part of the solution that currently distracts The United Methodist Church from fully engaging in the mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
My primary means of supporting the United Methodist connection is by serving as the pastor of a local church. I am also chair of the Committee on Administrative Review, serve on the Conference Core Leadership Team, and a member of the South District’s DCOM.

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
There is “no holiness but social holiness.” When it is at its best, the United Methodist Church facilitates community where people regardless of who they are, where they are from, or what they have done may experience the overwhelming grace and love of God through authentic relationship with other beloved children of God. Encouraged and held accountable by these relationships, we may all better grow into the likeness of Christ together and embody Christ’s kingdom work in our families, local communities, and even the world.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I am thankful to the United Methodist Church for providing me a spiritual home and family of faith throughout my 37 years. I have known the love of God, in part, because I have been loved by God’s people in this church. So, I am willing to serve because I am grateful for what I have been given. I am also willing to serve because I am interested in helping in whatever ways I can to make sure that all might know the love of God and be as fully included in that family as I have been.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I’ve worked in local churches for the past 13 years first as a youth minister, then a small group coordinator, and now as an associate pastor for Arborlawn UMC where my primary responsibility is leading our contemporary worship community as their pastor. Unofficially, I am also an enthusiastic supporter of the TCU Wesley Foundation and its students. I will be ordained as an elder in full connection at this annual conference.
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Wellspring UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The diversity and the future hope of the United Methodist Church is the best thing we have going. Despite our current struggles, the church has a solid future. My prayer is for greater inclusiveness and a broadening of the vision of how the UMC can be relevant as we move into our bold new future.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I believe in the future of the United Methodist Church, and I believe I can make a difference with an ability to listen and then speak across the many lines that divide us.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I currently serve on the South District Committee on Ordained Ministry and the South District Board on Church Location and Building.

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White’s Chapel UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about the church today is the people of the United Methodist Church, who are more passionate about Jesus than the issues that divide us. The church continues to be a channel of God’s amazing grace, which reaches out to those at the margins, revives the weary, rescues the captive, restores us to proper relationship with God and humanity. Despite the challenges of today, I believe that the church’s best days are ahead of her because the Spirit is at work in our midst.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I believe that God is doing a new thing in the United Methodist Church, and I want to be an active participant in the change that is coming. Given my experience working in diverse settings where people often share very different views about the practice of faith, I believe I can effectively work with them to reach solutions that honor their convictions and demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I currently serve as Vice-Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and I am a Phase 2 Mentor for certified candidates for ministry. Previously, I served as the Chair of the Order of Elders and I have served on the Board of Ordained Ministry for seven years. I represented our Jurisdiction at the National Council of Churches gathering in Washington D.C. to End Racism. I am a part of the Executive Pastoral Team at White’s Chapel where I am responsible for Worship Support, Small Groups, and Faith Development.
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Arlington Heights UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about the UMC is our commitment to the “Wesleyan Quadrilateral.” We do not require people to adhere to a black & white understanding of the Christian faith, where questions have only one “correct” answer. Applying scripture, tradition, reason and experience while following the promptings of the Holy Spirit, disciples in the UMC are encouraged to question, wrestle with, and even revise our understanding of the tenets of the Christian faith. As this occurs in the context of worship, personal study, and Christian conferencing, we discern God’s will and grow as disciples of Jesus the Christ.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I care deeply about the future of the UMC and I have experience and connections that will add value to the delegation. I was a voting member in 2012 and a reserve member in 2016/19. In 2012, a year that our delegation secured the election of Mike McKee to the episcopacy, I had the privilege of sitting on the jurisdictional committee of the episcopacy, where placement of Bishops was determined. The experience I gained, and the connections I have formed throughout the Jurisdiction will be helpful, especially as we will receive a new Bishop in 2020.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I support the United Methodist connection by educating lay members of my congregation about the UMC: our history, polity and doctrine. I also encourage congregational participation in conference initiatives. Beyond the local church, I serve as Residency Registrar on the Board of Ordained Ministry, working closely with those who are seeking ordination and occasionally serving as a mentor. I am intentional about building friendships throughout our jurisdiction and beyond, and seek out opportunities to network with clergy and laity across conferences.

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Saginaw UMC

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The founding revelation given to John Wesley is perhaps the best thing about the UMC. God revealed to Wesley the Good News of Grace. Grace that goes before, walks with and leads the way to convict lives and change hearts. I believe the greatest thing the UMC has to offer the world today is proclaiming the central conviction of God's desire of mercy and not sacrifice (Hosea 6:6, Matthew 9:13, Matthew 12:7).

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
The UMC has been given this Good News to share and I believe that it is our structure that allows us to scale up sharing that message to the ends of the earth. I am interested in helping the UMC imagine how God desires to structure the denomination to best reach the world. Not only do we need to consider the structure that supports local churches of all sizes (especially smaller) but also Annual, Central and Jurisdictional conferences, and Boards and Agencies.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
In addition to supporting the connection through serving in a local church, I am a member of the CTC Finance and Administration board. For the past eight years I serve on the North District Dcom, the last two years as Registrar. I have served as a reserve delegate to the 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conferences and the 2019 General Conference. Because many of my writings have been picked up by several UMC publications I have been able to build relationships with people across the connection.
What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
Our emphasis on Grace for all people.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I have been interested in doing so for years. It is an important way to serve the church that has been part of my life for all of my life. I am concerned we may be losing sight of what is most important, to make disciples for Christ.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I serve as pastor for St. Johns United Methodist Church in Georgetown, Texas and work with my District.

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about the United Methodist Church is how diversity, uniqueness and creativity unite in a congregation to make disciples that can reach out in mission to a community. In the UMC, there is a calling to servanthood that is specialized and needed inside and outside the church walls. The UMC allows all to be kingdom builders together! The joy of being connected and engaged with others in the world wide UMC offers endless potential to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I have a passion for discipleship, and the change servant disciples can make in the community. I am deeply invested in the mission of the United Methodist Church and feel strongly that right now I am being called to help this denomination through discussions of togetherness. I feel called to be a partner in this role. The role of engaging others through the creative decision and organizational means offered by our United Methodist process will only lead to transformation and growth in the spiritual journey for all.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I serve in the South District at Nolanville FUMC. I am involved in DCOM, CBL, the City of Nolanville, KISD Community Advisory Council, Food Pantry, Cavazos Elementary School Good News Club, Bell County AWARE (Human Trafficking) and Baylor Scott and White Faith Health Community. Being the United Methodist presence on these committees opens doors for the church to connect faith to the daily lives in our local community. PULSE (People United Love Serve Engage) attracts over 40 new neighbors every Sunday night for worship. This witness within the community is a flourishing presence of our mission and ministry for others.
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Journey of Faith

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The UMC has always held out the promise of grace. Rather than condemnation, the UMC has focused on the promise of hope and transformation. We’ve long been a “big umbrella” church that welcomes all kinds of people to find their seats at the table. Our culture desperately needs to hear the message we have to offer. We continue to be a beacon of light in the darkness.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
Since ordination (1987/1990), I’ve worked at living out the ideal of full inclusion of all God’s children. I’ve chaired the Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), and served as a trained advocate for victims of Clergy Sexual Misconduct. As the founding pastor of CTC’s first Reconciling Congregation (2009), I continue to be active in the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN). In October, 2013, I was awarded the “Voices in the Wilderness Award” at RMN’s national convocation. Serving as a delegate to GC could be a next step in my work for justice and inclusion.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
In addition to serving as pastor of a truly diverse and inclusive local church, I currently serve on the South District Committee on Ordained Ministry and on the Conference Inclusiveness Umbrella Team.

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Trinity UMC, Arlington

What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
I believe the best thing about the UMC is, and always will be, our well-rounded theology that we inherited from John Wesley, which emphasizes grace, sanctification and Christ-centered mission - resulting in warm hearts and active hands.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
I grew up in the Methodist Church (even before it merged with the EUB), and my parents were charter members of our congregation. I have deep affection for our denomination, and want to see it continue its time-honored traditions and Wesleyan ways.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
As a fulltime General Evangelist, I am in the unique position of traveling all over our conference and beyond. I sometimes volunteer my services to churches and work closely with a number of pastors to further their local mission.
What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
The best thing about the UMC is the hope that we will find a way to be fully inclusive.

Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
As a retired elder, I have freedom to follow my Lord without the same concern of consequences of actively appointed clergy.

How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?
I have become active at Saginaw UMC, attending worship and singing in the choir.
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Frequently Asked Questions for persons interested in being candidates for election to the 2020 General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference.

What are the qualifications needed to be elected as a lay or clergy delegate to General and Jurisdictional conference?

Clergy Delegates: Regarding the election of clergy delegates to General Conference, Jurisdictional Conference, and reserves, “The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election” (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016, ¶35).

Lay Delegates: Regarding the election of lay delegates to General Conference, Jurisdictional Conference, and reserves, “The lay delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age, provided such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General and jurisdictional or central conferences” (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016, ¶36).

Do I have to be a Lay Member to Annual Conference in order to be elected?
No. Any lay person meeting the above qualifications may be elected to serve as a delegate.

Can I vote for myself if I’m a qualified candidate but not an official member of the Annual Conference?
No. Only the clergy and lay members to Annual Conference have voting rights.

What is the election process?
Delegates will be elected during the 2019 Central Texas Annual Conference (June 9-12) utilizing the process approved by the 2018 session of the Central Texas Annual Conference. The process is as follows:

Before the 2019 Central Texas Annual Conference Session:
1. At the time of annual conference registration, the “Interest, Availability, and Commitment Delegate Election Form” shall be included with online registration. The form may be reformatted by conference personnel for online use.
2. The form shall also be made available on the conference website, separately from annual conference registration, to accommodate eligible lay persons, who are not lay members to annual conference.
3. Persons, both eligible lay and eligible clergy, may have the option of filling out this form and returning it/submitting it to the office of the Annual Conference Secretary in time for each of the
responses to be compiled and published as an addendum to the Preliminary Report, available online with all other annual conference materials at least two weeks before the start of the 2019 Annual Conference session.

4. Only those persons, both eligible lay and eligible clergy, who completed the above form and submitted it within the appropriate timeframe will be assigned a number prior to the beginning of the annual conference session for use with whichever balloting system has been chosen for use during the elections.

During the 2019 Central Texas Annual Conference Session:
1. The previously published forms will be a helpful tool for identifying eligible lay and eligible clergy who wish to make known their interest, availability, and commitment for serving as a delegate.
2. Eligible lay will elect eligible lay delegates and eligible clergy will elect eligible clergy delegates utilizing the chosen balloting system with only the numbers for those persons who have submitted an “Interest, Commitment, and Availability Form” provided before balloting begins.
3. At any point during the election process eligible lay or eligible clergy may be nominated from the floor and assigned the appropriate number for use throughout the balloting process.

After the 2019 Central Texas Annual Conference Session:
1. Persons elected as a General Conference, Jurisdictional Conference, or reserve delegate who did not fill out an “Interest, Availability, and Commitment Delegate Election Form” may wish to do so and submit it to the head of delegation.
2. The Delegation may wish to use these forms as a way of getting to know and keep covenant with one another.
3. The above outlined process shall be archived for use and possible adoption by future sessions of the Central Texas Annual Conference.

How many delegates will be elected?
For the 2020 General Conference, 4 lay delegates and 4 clergy delegates will be elected. An additional 4 lay and 4 clergy will be elected as jurisdictional delegates (those elected as General Conference delegates also serve as Jurisdictional Conference delegates). An additional 2-3 lay and 2-3 clergy will be elected as reserves to Jurisdictional Conference (the exact number will be determined by the annual conference).

Is the order of election important?
Past delegation practice has been that everyone elected has an equal voice at the table. However, the order of election does have significance in the following areas:
• The order of election determines the order in which legislative committees are selected within the delegation;
• Delegates are seated at General and Jurisdictional Conference in order of election;
• The first elected lay and clergy are expected to attend the pre-conference briefing in January 2020 in Minneapolis;
• The first elected lay and clergy will represent the Central Texas Conference on the South Central Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee for the next quadrennium;
• Typically, the first elected will chair the delegation. (Past practice has been to alternate between lay and clergy each quadrennium. In 2020, the first elected lay delegate will chair the delegation.)
What are some of the expectations of delegates?

- Commitment to the journey of a “Connectional People” in the United Methodist tradition - multi-leveled, global in scope and local in thrust;
- Commitment to team building and teamwork within the delegation by appreciating and celebrating diverse gifts and callings to leadership in The United Methodist Church;
- Basic knowledge of the polity, the doctrines, and the structures and systems of The United Methodist Church (as a global and connectional denomination) based on the 2016 Book of Discipline;
- Familiarity with basic parliamentary procedures and protocol (Robert’s Rules of Order);
- Ability to comprehend the content and rationale of the proposed amendments to the Book of Discipline, as well as a basic knowledge of The Book of Resolutions as adopted and revised at the General Conference;
- Commitment to attend ALL delegation meetings/gatherings both before and after the General and Jurisdictional Conference sessions, as scheduled by the leadership of the delegation - in last quadrennium [2016 and 2019 General & Jurisdictional Conferences] the delegation met roughly once every 3-6 months, including a two-day meeting for Episcopal interviews in Dallas and a two-day Jurisdictional pre-conference briefing, in Oklahoma City. Some past delegations have also had weekend retreats.
- Willingness to take on and complete/fulfill responsibilities, tasks or projects, either voluntarily or as assigned by the delegation;
- Active participation in the process of endorsing an Episcopal candidate, if needed, using spiritual discernment and collaborative efforts;
- Maintaining connections and communication between the General Church, the Annual Conference, and local congregations; maintaining the core values of the delegation.

What about costs and reimbursements?

- For General Conference delegates, the General Conference typically pays air transportation or reimburses ground travel to and from General Conference.
- Typically, a per diem is paid to each General Conference delegate attending General Conference to cover lodging, meals and expenses.
- In addition, the CTC Annual Conference will reimburse reasonable expenses in excess of General Conference per diem, for General Conference delegates and for certain reserve delegates to General Conference.
- Reserves and other Jurisdictional Conference delegates who attend General Conference do not receive General Conference assistance but might receive assistance from the CTC Annual Conference.
- Jurisdictional Conference delegates receive a per diem from the Jurisdictional Conference (amount still tbd for 2020) to cover lodging, travel and expenses. Delegates are typically responsible for arranging their own lodging and transportation to Jurisdictional Conference.
- The CTC Annual Conference will additionally reimburse some expenses in excess of the Jurisdictional Conference per diem.
- Reserve delegates who attend General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference might be partially reimbursed by the CTC Annual Conference. There is no Jurisdictional Conference per diem for reserves (unless they are seated to replace another delegate).
- Depending on availability of Annual Conference funding, delegates may be responsible for bearing the cost of travel to meetings and lodging and travel to pre-conference briefing and Episcopal interviews.
What are some of the practical requirements for delegates?

- Delegates will be expected to read and comprehend hundreds, or perhaps thousands of pages of material in preparation for both the General and Jurisdictional Conference. Much of this material may not be available to delegates until after January 1, 2020.
- The 2020 General Conference will be in session May 5 - 15, 2020, in Minneapolis, MN.
- Delegates are expected to be present in Minneapolis from May 5 - 15, 2020, and should be prepared to arrive in Minneapolis prior to May 5 and depart on May 16, 2020.
- Delegates need to have the physical stamina and health to put in very long days (which often begin before 7 am and end after midnight) for the entire 11 days of the General Conference session.
- The 2020 South Central Jurisdictional Conference will be July 15 - 18, 2020 in The Woodlands, TX.
- Delegates are expected to be present from July 15-18, 2020 and should be prepared to arrive in The Woodlands prior to July 15 and depart on July 19.
- Delegates need to be both capable and willing to make a personal financial investment in the global church, as not all expenses for General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates are covered by the per diem offered by the General Conference, the Jurisdictional Conference, or the Central Texas Annual Conference;
- Delegates are elected for the entire quadrennium (4 years). They must be prepared to stay in and with the delegation throughout the quadrennium, and attend all meetings and events as scheduled by the delegation and its leadership both before and after the General and Jurisdictional Conference sessions. Delegates will be expected to attend any Special Sessions of the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference that may be called between the 2020 and 2024 General Conference sessions.

The preceding is not intended to be a comprehensive listing of all possible questions. Please email Clifton Howard, the conference secretary, (cliftonhoward@ctcumc.org) if you don't find the answer you seek here. Thank you for your interest in serving the conference and our United Methodist connection as a delegate to General or Jurisdictional Conference in 2020.
KEYPAD INSTRUCTIONS

HOW TO TURN ON YOUR KEYPAD:

• Press the power button on the lower right hand corner of the device.

• You will see numbers and a battery meter on your screen and that is how you’ll know your device is on.
Your Keypad will display **Vote Now** when polling is open.

**To cast your vote:**

- Press the number that corresponds with your choice.

For example: Press **1** for Yes, **2** for No, **3** for Abstain
- The number you press will appear in keypad display.
- Double check for accuracy.
- Use the DEL key as backspace, if necessary.
- Press **SEND** to submit your choice.
- Your keypad will display Sending...
- Once your vote is received you will receive message back that says COUNTED.
- If you make a mistake, press a new number and **SEND**.
  - Followed by the number of choices that Remain

Your Keypad will display **Vote Now** when polling is open.

**MULTIPLE SELECTION ELECTION VOTING**

**To cast your vote:**

- Press the number that corresponds with the candidate you wish to choose. Candidate numbers can be found in the printed materials you received.
  - The number you select will appear in keypad display.
- Double check for accuracy.
- Use the DEL key as backspace, if necessary.
- Press **SEND** to submit your choice.
- Your keypad will display Sending...
- Followed by the number of choices that Remain
• When your keypad displays the number of choices that REMAIN, enter your next choice followed by **SEND**.
• Continue this process until you have made the maximum number of selections you wish to make.
• The maximum number of candidates you are permitted to choose may change per ballot. It will be displayed on the slide each time.
• You cannot vote for the same candidate twice. The remaining number on your keypad will not change, as a duplicate vote is not accepted.
• **BALLOT CLOSED** will appear when you have made the maximum number of selections allowed.
• If you enter more than the maximum number of choices allowed your keypad will display **BLOCKED**.

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**CHANGING YOUR VOTE**

• If you make a mistake, press 000 followed by **SEND** to clear **ALL** votes on the current ballot.

• Once your remaining number resets, you may begin re-voting.
DEVICE MESSAGES RECAP

✓ Vote Now – polling is open
✓ Sending... – vote is sending
✓ Remain: – number of selections that remain
✓ Ballot Closed – maximum selections made
✓ Blocked – attempt to vote after maximum choices have been entered
✓ Counted – vote received on Yes/No votes, Single selection elections
✓ x – polling is not open yet or you are ineligible to vote at that time

TIPS:

✓ Keep track of who you have voted for during each round as you will only be able to vote for a candidate one time during a round

✓ Keep track of who gets elected because you will not be able to vote for them in the next round!