

Laity Candidates for General Conference Delegate



Diana Briselli

Halifax Community Church | Harrisburg, PA

After much prayer, I feel called to serve as a lay delegate from the Northeast Conference to the Convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church.

I was humbled and very grateful to be a member of the Northeast TCAT and continue to feel honored to serve in the Northeast Provisional Annual Conference. I have witnessed the sacrifice of congregations, pastors and individuals who prayerfully made difficult decisions in order to ensure that God's Word and His Will are reflected in the churches and denomination of which we are now a part. In many ways it is this experience that has shown me that I can be of service in a different way as a lay delegate to the Convening General Conference.

I believe my giftedness rests primarily in Administration, Discernment and Exhortation, as evidenced by various roles in which I have served. Since beginning as a TCAT member, I have been a part of the Prayer Team and Communications Team, teams on which I continue to serve. I am a member of the Sessions Committee, which planned this Convening Annual Conference, and manage Conference email communications and the Conference Facebook page. Additionally, I am a member of the Episcopacy Committee and Committee on Investigation and Administrative Review. Effective February 1, 2024 I was recognized as a Certified Lay Minister within the Northeast Provisional Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church.

Prior to leaving my UMC congregation, I served as the Lay Leader of Grace UMC-Hummelstown from January 2015 - February 2023, was a certified Lay Servant, a delegate to the Susquehanna Annual Conference and served on Harrisburg District Committees.

My husband, Sec, and I live in Harrisburg and are members of Halifax Community Church. We have been married for 31 years and have three adult daughters and a son-in-law.

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Cora Doram

Westchester Methodist | Teaneck, NJ

My saying is "if you can use anything Lord, you can use me." With that said, eagerness to serve as a delegate builds on my saying above. I feel the delegation will benefit from my spiritual gifts in the areas (Knowledge, Administration, Leadership, Servanthood, Giving, Compassion, Shepherding) Areas served and still serving in my local church (Lay Leader, Lay Servant, Lay member to Annual Conference) On the Conference level (formerly New York Annual Conference) and on the District level of the United Methodist Church I served on BOOM (Board of Ordained Ministries, Conference Trustees and on Finance and Administration.

On the District level on dCOM (District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Health & Family Life, Nominations, and a District Lead Lay Leader. I had the opportunity to attend The United Methodist Church General Conference as a guest without voting privilege. From that experience I acquired understanding of the workings of a General Conference.

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Murray Drummond

Connection Comm. Church | Townsend, DE



My name is Murray Drummond, and I was an active member of the United Methodist Church for 58 of my 65 years with the exception of my 7 teen years. I, like so many others have watched my church walk away from Biblical teachings and follow worldly ways. I want to be involved in the Global Methodist Church to see that that doesn't happen again. I am proud that my church, Connection Community Church, boldly stood on Biblical principles and became a Global Methodist Church on November 1, 2023. In my many years at church, I've served on Trustees, SPRT, Chair of the Administrative Council, member of the Leadership Team, and am now serving on the Nominations and Leadership

Development Team. I served as a Lay Delegate to my Annual Conference for two sessions and am honored to serve this year at the historic Northeast Provisional Conference. I've been a part of a new church plant and was the church's Construction Manager through a \$4 million building project four years ago. I served on Lay Witness Missions for over ten years. I served on several Appalachian Service Projects. I've served and held leadership positions in the Emmaus and Chrysalis communities. I was part of a four-person Lay team that Pastored a two-church charge for ten months. In 2019 I received the Order of St. Barnabas award. God has blessed me with some wisdom and discernment abilities and just plain common sense. I love the Lord. I love the Church and I don't want to just sit on the sidelines and watch as this new exciting day is dawning. I believe my calling to this opportunity is to share my experience as a leader in the Church for those following in the future. I know it's our responsibility to pass along to the next generations a foundation that's been built on God's word. To me, that means keeping the Global Methodist Church on the narrow road that leads to eternal life.

Arnie Fritzius

Chapel Church of Red Lion | York, PA



I have served as our Trustee Chairman through the disaffiliation process and admission to GMC. Further, our congregation has confirmed me as the Church's Lay Leader. My spiritual gifts include Leadership, Vision and Spiritual growth.

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David Molik

**Maplewood Parkway Methodist |
Ballston Spa, NY**

My primary spiritual gifts are one of discernment. I believe this is vitally important with this convening conference. I am a pastor's spouse and have a unique perspective as to how churches operate and the organizations they report to. I have been an attorney and judge for 45 years and a member of the military for 37. Lots of leadership skills because of these.



Dennis Rader

Mariners Bethel GMC | Ocean View, DE

As a lifelong Methodist, and now a Global Methodist, I have been involved with and served the church in a variety of roles. Over the past twenty-five years, in two churches, in two conferences (Baltimore-Washington and PenDel), I have held multiple leadership positions to include membership and eventually chairing the Church Council, Staff-Parish Relations, Trustees, and Finance committees. In addition, I am the Chair of the ARC of Southern Maryland board of directors, a non-profit organization (NPO) that serves the intellectually disadvantaged community. And before retiring professionally, I was a Deputy Director of a Department of a Defense agency, responsible for managing

a program of 3500 people with a budget of \$425 million and concluded my federal career with the investigative agency overseeing the post-Gulf war reconstruction of Iraq. In short, I have an extensive career in leading both NPO and federal organizations. Last year I led our church discernment effort to determine our path forward regarding disaffiliation. We undertook a prayer-based, intentional, and informative discernment process that spanned 10 months, and included (7) interactive congregational meetings, ongoing prayer sessions and small group discussions, to discern God's will for the future of our church. The last congregational meeting culminated with the vote to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. And shortly thereafter, the church again voted to join the Global Methodist Church (GMC). This effort also required me to interact with the media/news reporters and clearly explain our actions and position to ensure our ultimate decision was accurately portrayed in the community. I then finalized the legal and administrative requirements of conversion to the GMC, interacting with attorneys, county officials, and the UMC Annual Conference officials, leading to timely completion of disaffiliation and notification to the GMC that our congregation was ready to join! All this history inculcated me to the issues surrounding disaffiliation and theology and mission of our GMC. My spiritual gift assessment reveals my gifts to be leadership, administration, and wisdom. I believe that I am called to continue to use these gifts - led by the Holy Spirit - to serve, assist, and promote the future course for our denomination. However, I will happily serve the church in whatever capacity God calls me to.

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Carl Samans

Connection Community Church | Cecilton, MD

My name is Carl Samans. Church has been a very active part of my life since I joined the UMC about 25 years ago. I have served on several committees: SPRC, Nominations, Admin Council. I love learning about God and serving where I am sent. Since that first small rural church, I have relocated to a larger church, still maintaining involvement on the tech team and several teams: nominations, SPRT, Lead Team. I have also been very active in the Emmaus & Chrysalis Communities, at one point being the Chrysalis Community Lay Director. I was a co-chair of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry for 10 years.



When the WCA formed, I was asked to be a member our conference's WCA Board. I was very active until we disbanded when over 90 churches disaffiliated and our function turned elsewhere. I have always had a love for UMC polity, closely following many General Conferences and having served as a lay delegate for my conference. I was elected to be a GC delegate for the 2020 General Conference, which never met due to Covid. I was still a delegate when our church disaffiliated and I resigned that position. I am current keeping very busy with the Northeast Provisional Annual Conference Sessions Team. I am honored to be considered for a lay delegate position to the convening General Conference of the GMC. I think it is very important to really get the start right, how we define our doctrines and lay out our discipline. Regardless of the outcome, I do look forward to working with my brothers and sisters in Christ for the betterment of the kingdom. Thank you.

Lara Sandell

Second Avenue GMC | Altoona, PA

It is such an honor to be considered as a delegate for General Conference. I've been around Methodism my entire life. Being the daughter of a now retired United Methodist pastor, I have served in many areas of the church. I have been blessed to go on youth mission trips, sing on the praise team, serve on committees, lead and oversee Vacation Bible school, and even preach. God has blessed me with three amazing children, a wonderful, supportive husband, and a loving church family. I feel led to be a delegate to General Conference because I believe my experience, gifts, and service would be a blessing at this year's General Conference.



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Walter Warriner

East Randolph Methodist GMC | Randolph, NY

How we do things as Christians is as important as what we do. The very first GM General Conference will set precedent for how we handle things. It is important that at the end of every process, those affected know they have been heard and respected, whether or not they like the outcome of the process. I am always interested in the way systems work, how they put topics together and how they separate them, and how they treat those with less power.

I have been a licensed local pastor, ad council chair, trustees chair, SPRC member, Finance member, mission team member, choir member, Bible study leader, Bible study member,

missions team member, Lay Member of Annual Conference, UM Conference Camping Committee member. I have a Master of Divinity, Masters in Social Work and Masters of Science in Psychiatric Nursing. I was a licensed local pastor for 7 years, a social worker for 11 and a psychiatric nurse practitioner for 19 years.



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