



2024 SCJC Self-Nomination Form for Alternate Laity Delegates

Name: Grace E Bloodworth

Number: 011

Date: 6/1/2024

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Please send this completed form and a photo of yourself as a separate attachment to Sara.Andrews@arumc.org by June 3, 2024.

Lay Membership:

Lay (A professing member of the United Methodist Church for at least two years preceding their election; and an active participant in the United Methodist Church for at least four years preceding their election; and a member of a church within the Arkansas Annual Conference - Para. 36, 2016 Book of Discipline. Lay delegates need not be voting members of the Annual Conference to be elected.)

District: Northwest

Church: Central United Methodist Church - Fayetteville

Commitment as an Alternate Delegate and Christian Conferencing Guidelines:

I have read and accepted the Christian Conferencing Guidelines.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Share your reasons for wanting to be an alternate delegate:

As a cradling United Methodist, I always enjoyed being involved in CCYM and the many different ways to be connected to the United Methodist community. Beebe FUMC was a like a second home for me growing up. I've always been passionate about the connection and community of the UMC. It's also important to me to be a delegate that comes with the perspective gained from being a social worker, a woman, and a young adult. Ultimately I want to be a delegate to give back to a denomination that has given me so much.

What do you believe are three (3) critical challenges facing The United Methodist Church in the next four years?

There are plenty of challenges ahead for the United Methodist Church, but three I feel are critical would be a lack of diversity, engagement and retention of young people, and social justice issues. I think there is a tremendous lack of diversity and a need for less homogenous congregations. If Christ is for all people, our churches should be too. As a young adult, I feel there is a lack of people my age in most congregations in my conference. Those that do show up often only come for a worship service or two and don't truly plug-in or engage. Social Justice is a place where I feel the church could and should do more. The UMC could can hopefully work towards justice with economic equality, racial equality, and environmental stewardship.

Is there any additional information you wish to share about yourself, such as leadership experiences in the church or community, that will help you do the work of the delegation?

During my time as a youth at Beebe FUMC, I served on youth council, DCYM, and CCYM. Within CCYM, I was the Youth Service Fund Chair for two terms. In February of 2019, I had the opportunity to experience the general conference special session. It was truly incredible to be surrounded by so many diverse United Methodists. As of recently, I completed my second year of volunteering as a youth small group leader for Central UMC- Fayetteville. These opportunities helped me grow as a leader and better understand the process of the UMC.

