

Amy Lippoldt

Address: 18660 158th St.
Basehor, KS 66007

Church: Basehor UMC

District: Kansas City

Email: alippoldt@greatplainsumc.org

Gender: Female

Ethnicity: Caucasian

Age range: 40-45

Phone: 316-708-4104



Delegate # 2026

What has been your involvement in The United Methodist Church (include district, conference, and general agency/board involvement)?

My most recent conference activity has been as chair the Great Plains Board of Ordained Ministry, a member of the Connecting Council, and a member of the Episcopacy Committee. I also serve on the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee, am a part of a BOM officer group convened by the Texas Methodist Foundation and recently took part in an event called Launch 2.0 about increasing ministry innovation. On the general church level, I am a member of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters.

Why would you like to be considered for election as a delegate?

I left General Conference 2019 saying, this story is far from over. I am not sure exactly what is going to emerge in the aftermath but I would like to use my experience and my connections around the denomination to help the church move into a new season and possibly a new structure. I want to advocate for the Great Plains so we can have the healthiest and brightest future possible as Methodist Christians.

What unique skills, knowledge, and /or gifts would you bring to the delegation?

Two quadrennia now of working on the general church level give me a lot of relationships to leverage on behalf of the GP. My knowledge of BOM and of our judicial processes in the church are helpful in key parts of the polity argument at the moment. As a member of the Standing Committee, I've traveled the connection more widely than ever before and have learned a great deal about our global church. I also hope I bring to this work a presence that is about careful listening, humility, discernment, and fortitude while holding fast to the convictions of faith.

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In light of the 2019 special session of General Conference, how do you believe the church is called to move forward in fulfilling its mission?

As I write this on March 5th, we don't yet know all the implications of GC2019. But already we can see that the position we are in globally, with partial passage of the "Traditional Plan," is untenable. I am praying for a global structure to emerge where local churches can do what they do best, forming disciplines, nurturing one another in love, reaching out in mission, and sharing the good news of the Gospel with those around them. That will not look the same everywhere and we have to have contextual flexibility going forward, not only, but especially, around the full inclusion of LGBTQ people.

What do you believe are the challenges and opportunities facing The United Methodist Church today?

In the USA we are greatly challenged by a changing cultural context and loss of relevancy. We have to learn how to do new things and innovate like crazy on the local level. In the church we are greatly challenged by a global polity where we do not trust one another enough to make sound decisions. We have made a mess of General Conference. 2020 will be pivotal in how that mess moves toward something more future focused and life giving for United Methodists.