

Andrew Eric Conard

Address: 4110 SE 34th St.
Topeka, KS

Church: Berryton UMC

District: Topeka

Email: aconard@greatplainsumc.org

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: Caucasian

Age range: 38

Phone: 785-925-7701



Delegate # 2009

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

Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation Trustee — 2019 to Present
Shawnee / Douglas Network Clergy Leader — 2018 to Present
Topeka District Strategy Team Leader — 2018 to Present
Advancing Pastoral Leadership – Cohort 6 — 2015 to Present
Launch 1.0 - Courageous Leadership Initiative — 2018
Great Plains Board of Ordained Ministry — 2014 to Present
Lewis Center for Church Leadership – Lewis Fellows 7 — 2012 to 2013
United Methodist Reporter, Board of Directors — 2010 to 2012

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

I am a third-generation United Methodist preacher. I respect and honor those who have shaped our connection to be what it is today. I want my children to grow up as part of a community of faith that will offer grace, hope, and love to all. I will continue to work toward these aspirations in the local church. I also want to humbly offer my efforts to be about this work as a delegate to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

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

I have served in a variety of local church settings, including rural, county seat, and suburban. I am comfortable with uncertainty and conflict. I am willing and able to act experimentally to help our church(es) continue to share God's love with all our neighbors. As part of a group, I am able to name with clarity where the body is trying to go. I have a passion for our way of practicing the Christian faith. I possess precise knowledge of our polity and parliamentary procedure. You can count on me for dry humor and a good laugh.

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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?

We must welcome all people into the entire life of the church. It is time to find calm amid our differences. This could happen in many ways, including:

- Connectional Conferences — The UMC continues with two or more Central Conferences in the U.S.
- Separation — The UMC continues, and either more traditional or more progressive congregations and clergy launch a new connection.
- Death and Resurrection — The UMC chooses to end its chapter in church history. We celebrate and remember its long and faithful history. We launch two or more new connections to continue to our Wesleyan approach to Christian life.

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

We face the challenge of demonstrating love for our neighbors in the Great Plains and around the globe in the way that we talk to one another. We have the opportunity to act toward others in ways that we would like others to behave toward us. We face the challenge of a deeply divided global denomination. We have the chance to name our differences, mourn our losses, and meet the future unafraid.

You can find more from me in response to these questions and about General Conference online at <https://andrewconard.com/tag/general-conference/>.