

H. Eduardo Bousson

Address: 641 Sycamore Drive

Lincoln, NE

Church: Nebraska Wesleyan University

District: Blue River

Email: ebousson@greatplainsumc.org

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: Latino

Age range: 45

Phone: 913-645-7131



Delegate # **2004**

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

I have been a district youth leader (Topeka), member of the district committee on superintendency (Topeka), and have served in the district committee on ordained ministry (Topeka and Blue River-currently).

I served in the Conference Board on Hispanic Ministry (Kansas East), summer camp adult leader (Institute and Chippewa), Transition Team (Kansas East rep.), United Methodist Campus Ministries (currently) and have been in the conference delegation to General Conference (2008, 2012, 2016/19). I am part of the Haiti Task Force and am certified as an ERT.

I have served in the executive committee of MARCHA (Methodists Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans) and have been a director in the General Board of Global Ministries, UMCOR, The Advance, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (currently), and the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry (currently).

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

I was born and raised in the United Methodist Church. I love this Church. I met Christ in this Church. I was called in this Church. I am transformed every day by Christ in this Church. I believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ is lived and shared through our Church. My work with youth and now with college students compel me to work hard so the UMC can offer its gifts to the world. In these times of great uncertainty in the UMC, more than unity, I want to work for our youth and young adults to have a church that they feel proud of, where they feel welcomed, and where they can experience the transforming love of Jesus Christ. This is the Church the world needs. As a delegate, I will work hard so the UMC does not lose its grounding in the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

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

My work with the General Church has placed me in a unique position where I am well-connected with United Methodists from all over the world. These relationships that I have developed over the years include the type of trust that is needed to make decisions that follow the guidance of the Spirit and seek the well being of United Methodists around the globe. Having been a director of GBGM and a current director at GBHEM also gives me knowledge of legislation at hand.

Continued on next page

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?

The truth is that we are better together. We need conservatives, moderates and progressives working together for the expansion of God's kingdom on earth. The truth is also that the polarization that has infected U.S. society has infected every society where the UMC is present. We are better together but only if we want to be together. At this point it seems obvious that we think we are better apart from each other.

If that is the reality that we will face in the near future, we need to find opportunities where we agree in mission and ministry. Many people mention UMCOR as that place where we can meet. I think we can do better than finding one place. To find those opportunities of agreement and common mission would be a task that would need to take place together. I see those opportunities in higher education, new church starts, and discipleship. I think we also need to find common witness in the way in which we face society prophetically, speaking out for the rights of marginalized peoples.

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

The biggest challenge for the UMC is how do we live together as the church possibly divides into two (or more) distinct witnesses. I have no doubt that every sector of the UMC is seeking to be faithful to their calling, but in the midst of all the decisions that are made, we need to believe the best out of each other. In our day and age, that in itself, is probably the greatest challenge.