

Nathan Stanton

Address: 1902 Topaz
Wichita, KS

Church: Great Plains Congregational
Excellence

District: Wichita West

Email: nstanton@greatplainsumc.org

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: Caucasian

Age range: 40-50

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Delegate # 2035

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

- * Probationary deacon '92, deacon in full connection '99, elder in full connection '04
- * General Board of Global Ministries Board of Trustees '12-16, United Methodist Development Fund '12-16, KSWest Commission on New Church Development '09-13, Chair, Wichita West Committee on Superintendency '05-09, Chair, KSWest Committee on Nominations '04-07
- * Great Plains director of Congregation Excellence, '17-present, New Church Development coordinator '13-17
- * United Methodist Health Ministry Fund Board of Trustees '06-13, Kansas Wesleyan University Board of Trustees '14-present

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

By serving on the delegation I'll be able to provide leadership that shapes the ministry of the United Methodist Church for the next generation. I believe the church needs leaders with experience, wisdom and passion to move the denomination forward. I will serve with hope for the local church, the conference and the denomination.

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

I've served as a pastor in multiple-point rural churches as well as a county seat church. I have served multiple urban parishes including cross-racial appointments. In each of these circumstances I have brought stability, integrity and a growth mindset around discipleship no matter the context. In each appointment we created new places for all of God's people in the community where the church was planted. I'll bring an honest perspective about the needs of the local church balanced with the bigger picture of the annual conference and the general church having served in that capacity for six years now.

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?

After the issues of constitutionality are sorted out in April, the church will begin living into the best way to move forward with multiple factions continuing to pull us in different directions. With factions pulling in different directions it will be increasingly difficult to find common ground as we are currently functioning. I believe it will be essential for the churches, conferences and general agencies that remain affiliated in the United Methodist Church to strive for the common ground of serving Jesus Christ to transform the whole world and the local community.

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

We have an opportunity to continue to serve the people where every local church and every ministry is planted. Those opportunities to continue serving under the United Methodist Church's cross and flame will be deeply challenged in many places while others may find it a place they are more comfortable. The challenge is our congregations will permanently be seen as a place that is no longer open to every person in every circumstance and now has become even more closed as a system than was previously assumed. The destabilization and the disaffiliation of churches will create less stability at the annual conference level as well as at the general church.