

# Zach Anderson

**Address:** 1116 Sherman Ave.

Goodland, KS

**Church:** Goodland UMC

**District:** Hays

**Email:** zanderson@greatplainsumc.org

**Gender:** Male

**Ethnicity:** Caucasian

**Age range:** 30-35

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Delegate # 2003

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

Delegate General Conference: 2016 (Clergy), 2008 (Lay), 2004 (First Reserve Lay)

Delegate Jurisdictional Conference: 2016 (Chair of Petitions & Resolutions Committee), 2008(Lay), 2004 (Lay, Conference Boundaries Committee Assistant Secretary)

Conference Council on Finance & Administration: Great Plains AC 2014-Present (Chair 2016- Present, Vice Chair 2014-2016) and Nebraska AC 2000-2003 & 2004-2013

General Commission on Religion and Race: Board of Directors & Finance Committee Chair 2016-Present

District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Missouri River District: 2013-2017 (Chair 2014-2017, Registrar 2013-2014)

Registrar, 2013-2014

Chair, 2014-Present

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

I believe being a clergy person under 35 years old and having served as clergy and lay staff in rural, suburban, and urban communities over the last 15 years gives me a good perspective to share with our delegation and our church. Currently, serving in a rural community, I feel there are many challenges the local church is going through and needs to be the focus of work as a church. The local church is where our greatest impact is as a denomination and we need to find more ways to strengthen and resource our work there. I feel there are many complex conversations that need to occur to prepare our church for the future, and I am not afraid to engage in them with the diversity of our church.

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

I bring many years of experience as a lay person and a clergy person with the finance and administrative work of our denomination at all levels. These issues may seem technical and boring to many, but are very important to strategic planning for our ministries. In a time of diminishing resources, my experience with stewardship and financial planning within the church will be valuable in General Conference work. I am able to look at new ministry proposals or proposed legislation and see the potential financial impacts that may not always be apparent. I also bring years of ministry experience in a diversity of theological settings, which has taught me how to appreciate the vast gifts of our diversity for the mission of the church.

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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?**

I feel that God is not finished with the United Methodist Church. We are a people who are broken and hurting at this time. I believe the Church is called to show its perseverance in the midst of the dark valley we find ourselves. In each of our communities, people are hurting and in need of the love of Christ. The Church is being called to move forward in engaging the people God has placed in our midst and listening to what their needs are. This will be different for every community, but God is calling us to be engaged, caring, loving, and hospitable to who is among us now and who is outside the walls looking in. The questions before us are to find ways that we can respond to the needs we find around us, and how the larger denomination can resource us to do this work.

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

We are facing changing demographics across our conference and denomination, and learning to adapt to these changes is a huge challenge for our longtime, established churches. Learning to be open to changes is the greatest opportunity we have. To me this is the power of our diverse, global denomination. We can learn so much from our sisters and brothers from different contexts to try new things and move forward in the way the Holy Spirit is nudging us.