

Abraham Ruffcorn

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Church: Basehor UMC

District: Kansas City

Email: abe.r.ruffcorn@gmail.com

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: Caucasian

Age range: 22-23

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Delegate # 138

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

In high school, I was heavily involved with Basehor's youth group and helped every summer with the church's VBS. I went on mission trips and did other projects offered by the church. In college, I have been involved with Emporia State's United Methodist Campus Ministry. I currently am a student associate for it and have attended events there weekly since 2014. I have also been on five alternative spring break trips with ESU's campus ministry. I have also been a youth ministry intern through the conference in the summer of 2016 and a camp counselor at Camp Horizon during the summers of 2017 and 2018. I have been accepted to be a pastoral intern for this upcoming summer.

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

I have had a growing passion for the UMC since coming to college, and I have been called into ministry. I want to experience what General Conference is like, since God is calling me to be in ministry as a deacon. I want more young people to be apart of this delegation, and since I am under the age of 25, I think I would be an excellent candidate.

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

I think with my spiritual gifts of exhortation, mercy, and service, I can be an asset to others at General Conference and would want to encourage the church to move in a positive direction forward. Also, if there are events that are harming or upsetting, I am willing to forgive those peoples whom may have caused the harm. Finally, I like to think that I am someone who likes for there to be peace and cooperation. I want to find the grounds where the parties in any situation can agree on something and come to peace.

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 believe the church is being called to whatever God's will is. Whether that is moving forward with the Traditional Plan or that another idea is brought forth at General Conference 2020. I want whatever we are called to, to be God's will, not our own. I also believe we are being called to stand together and not break apart. I think God wants us to unite and stand strong together versus separating and lose brothers and sisters in Christ.

Continued on next page

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

A pressing challenge will still be the debate on human sexuality, especially with what occurred at the special session of General Conference. It is something that I believe will be an ongoing battle for many years until we can compromise. Another challenge, and opportunity, is the involvement of young adults. We need to find ways to grow our involvement, especially in bigger UMC events like General Conference. With young people, we can start building the future UMC today.