

Ally Drummond

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Church: Church of the Resurrection

District: Kansas City

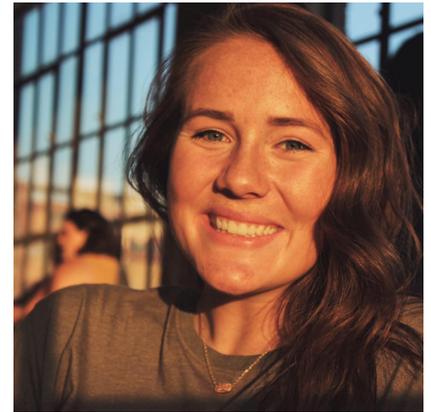
Email: Drummond.Allyson@gmail.com

Gender: Female

Ethnicity: Caucasian

Age range: 22

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Delegate # 108

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

Since being a member of the United Methodist Church my whole life, I have become increasingly involved in the UMC over the years. Within my local church, I have taken on a variety of roles. I was heavily involved with serving through my local church's nursery and childcare programming, along with their summer camps. Following, I am currently a Pastoral Intern in my church's Congregational Care Ministry department after spending time as a Lay Care Minister at my church's downtown campus.

This past summer I was an intern for the Great Plains conference through the Micah Corps organization. During this time I not only was able to make great connections with congregations and their members throughout the conference but I also had the privilege of spending a week in Washington, D.C., learning and collaborating with staff members of the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society.

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

I would like to be considered for election as a delegate to help represent the voices of the younger generation, the future of the church. I recognize that there is usually a lack of younger delegates but I feel as if having a diversified representation of generations in our delegation is an important trait to capture the heart and soul of the Great Plains Conference. Furthermore, as I begin seminary in fall 2019 to continue answering my call to ordination as an Elder in the United Methodist Church, I hope that I may be considered for election as a delegate to also help in representing the voices of the young clergy in our denomination. As a young leader in my local church and conference, as well as a future church leader through my call to be a clergy woman, I believe I could be a great asset to our delegation.

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

After being able to spend this past summer traveling around the Great Plains Conference and meet with various local church leaders and learn about their church needs based on their cultural contexts, I have gained a greater knowledge of the Great Plains as a whole and what may be best for our conference. Coupled with some of my most cultivated strengths of harmony and connectedness, I believe I would bring the gifts of being able to work to be able to listen and learn in order to make the best decision and representation to the delegation. As well as with such skills and my passion for pastoral care, I hope to also represent and consider the voices of those who may be marginalized in order to make decisions that reflect the voices of the people Jesus would have sought to be with, yet are often overlooked today.

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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?

In order for the Church to continue to fulfill its mission of 'Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, I believe we must first recognize there are those hurting on all sides of the decisions made at the special session. First, as Christians, I believe the Church is called to comfort those who are mourning, grieving, and hurting during this time, just as Jesus would care for them. Additionally, after recognizing and comforting those who are hurting from these decisions, there should be further conversations had which include an inclusive, diverse number of voices and opinions. In these conversations, I would hope there to be further conversations about how to stay as one church while still honoring the values, cultural contexts, and biblical interpretations of all people, not just a select group of the denomination as a whole.

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

How we choose to respond to the world around us is a signal of a challenge or an opportunity for the United Methodist Church. With that, I believe many of the challenges that face the United Methodist Church today stem from a lack of empathy of those whom we may disagree with. This may be a common trait throughout the polarized world in which we live in, yet the United Methodist Church has the opportunity to be counter cultural through encouraging each other to be a source of hope and not judgement during these times. Likewise, when we allow our judgements of others to get in the way of displaying the unconditional love of Christ to all people in all situations, we face a large challenge within the UMC. By living into the truth that we may all love alike, even if we may not all think alike, as Wesley reminds us, then the UMC has a great opportunity to make Disciples of Christ in the world.