

Charles File

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Delegate # **111**

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

Sunday school teacher over 10 years, held various UMM offices, delegate to Annual Conference 16 years, Salina District UMM president four years, Southwest Regional UMM president two years, vice president UMM Great Plains Conference two years, president UMM Great Plains Conference 2½ years, Promise Keeper leader 12 years, lifetime member of Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship, Stephen Ministry several years, organizer of Salina District Men and Boy's Rally nine years.

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

I care deeply about our UMC. In 2015, I offered my services as a delegate to the 2016 General Conference. I missed election by only a few votes. On February 1, 2019 God revealed to me the reason why I was not elected. I was on the Holy Land Tour with Bishop Saenz and suffered a heart attack, and a doctor on our tour from Clay Center, KS said I was dead for 7 minutes. But God had other plans. Not only did I revive, I survived, came home, had heart surgery February 13th, and was still in recovery during the 2019 General Conference. When I asked Jesus why I was not called home to Heaven at that time, that still small voice said, "I have given you a new platform to share about your love for Me. I have more work for you to do." So, I am here seeking to serve God by offering my service as a delegate to the 2020 General Conference.

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

I am a leader, a good speaker, a Spirit-filled and directed Christian. I am responding to the invitation given in Isaiah 6:8, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" and like Isaiah, I am responding, "Here am I! Send me."

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?

We need to keep moving forward. God has called us to keep on making disciples of Christ and to train them to be "fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19).

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

We need to be offering all persons the love of Christ. We have an opportunity to talk about our faith and share the scriptures.