

# Jesi Lipp

**Address:** 3144 SW Trafficway

Kansas City, MO

**Church:** Lenexa St. Paul's UMC

**District:** Kansas City

**Email:** jesi.lipp@gmail.com

**Gender:** Female

**Ethnicity:** Caucasian

**Age range:** 29

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Delegate # 131

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

(from most recent to least recent)

Local: Church Council, SPRC, Annual Conference Delegate (15 yrs), youth director

Conference: Connecting Council, Mission Alignment Team, Mercy and Justice, parliamentary advisory team to the bishop, Young Adult Council, Session and Rules, Conference Council on Youth Ministries, Committee on Sexual Orientation and the Book of Discipline

Jurisdiction: Jurisdictional Youth Team (secretary)

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

I was born and raised in the United Methodist Church, and have always been deeply passionate about our mission in the world and the ways our connectional system empowers that mission. For me, it is doing that connectional work where I most often and most strongly feel God's presence. I would love the opportunity to serve as a delegate to General Conference and be a part of making decisions about the best way for the United Methodist Church to accomplish our mission in the world.

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

Along with my knowledge of church proceedings from being a lay member to annual conference for almost 15 years, I am knowledgeable and skilled in parliamentary procedure, and I am experienced with using those talents to help people who are less skilled in parliamentary procedure accomplish what they are trying to do. I also have a good amount of knowledge of the institutional structure of the United Methodist Church.

I am deeply concerned with where God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do, and believe that the inclusion of young voices, like my own, is vitally important in discerning that path.

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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 believe that the very essence of the mission of the church is one of unity and inclusion - inclusion of all in unity with God. It breaks my heart that the 2019 General Conference rejected this. I think as Methodists we are called to live with difference, and the 2019 session instead stated that there can be no difference or disagreement among us.

I hope and pray for unity, but what we have now is not that. I believe God is calling United Methodists into a new thing. I am not sure what the shape of this new thing is, but I am committed to the future and vitality of the people called Methodist, and I want to do my part in that process, and I am excited to see what comes of it.

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

I believe there is a place in this world, and especially in this country, for a church for thinking people that is also passionate about the love of Jesus Christ, for a church that is committed to both justice and righteousness. I think that a Methodist church that extends God's grace to all people and invites them to live fully into that kind of faith would be a powerful force in bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to earth. That is the opportunity. The challenge, of course, is that too few people hear that kind of message from us. And right now, even those who do hear us are probably reminded of Jesus teaching about trying to remove a speck of sawdust from your neighbor's eye. But I do truly believe that if we can confront the challenges that limit our relevance in the world right now, then our church can do amazing things through the power of God.