

Joyce M. Jones

Address: 816 E. 19th St.

Falls City, NE

Church: Falls City First UMC

District: Missouri River

Email: jjones2345@neb.rr.com

Gender: Female

Ethnicity: Caucasian

Age range: 62-63

Phone: 402-801-9070



Delegate # **125**

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

Lay leader of local church for 12 years in recent past. CLS since 2004. Currently, chair of finance team and leader of adult Bible study class on Sunday mornings. 2019 is my 20th year as chair of local mission team. Falls City First supported the IMT-Russia Initiative from 2000-2012. Since 2014, I have been the contact/coordinator for the local community garden in Falls City. In addition, I have been active with the UMW (1981-present), VBS (for decades), Sunday morning worship as sound operator (2006-present) and the list for local positions served goes on. I served as lay member to annual conference for five years (2003-2008).

I am currently serving on the leadership team for the Missouri River District in Nebraska.

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

I have lived my life in a small town, agricultural setting. I would like to represent the values from my local community; to be a voice for the smaller rural churches. I am retired from my employment as a medical professional. Retirement status allows me to commit the time necessary to prepare for and to attend the conferences in 2020.

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

As long as I can remember, I have had a respect and a love for the Word. I was raised in the LCA. The summer of 1973, I committed my life to Christ. In 1981, I joined the UMC. I have participated in Bible studies in many settings, including ecumenical studies. In 1994 I was introduced to the Disciple Bible Study series. I completed the four-book series. I have led this study several times. Currently, I am facilitating a class using the Disciple Fast Track.

I am a good listener. I have been told, by clergy persons, that I am an intuitive person.

I attended the Russia Initiative Consultations held in 2002 and 2007. I look forward to the opportunity to meet others from around the globe, both in Minneapolis and in Houston.

Continued on next page

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?

To maintain order as an institution, the UMC must follow through with the decision made by the voting delegates at the special General Conference. All three plans were prepared with much thought and time and prayer involved. The decision has been made. The UMC must move forward. Otherwise, the mission programs the church supports could be compromised; and the present state of confusion will continue. The focus should be to the future with God's guidance.

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

Interpretation of the Holy Bible. As a global church society, with so very many backgrounds, histories, cultures and customs, obtaining unity and concurrence on social issues is a struggle. Respect and consideration of others differences is vital to come to an understanding of each others needs. With patience, compassion and discernment the body of the UMC can move forward with God's blessings.