

Lisa Buffum

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Gender: Female

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Delegate # 106

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

I'm United Methodist since childhood; faithful at FUMC Winfield since 1992 — serving on several committees: education, children's, evangelism care, SPPRC, leadership council. I have been lay member to AC twice. A 1997 certified lay speaker, I've served on the district committee for lay ministries. I'm trained and experienced as a Disciple Bible Study facilitator, and thus called to and completed a Christian ministry master's degree and equip Christian leaders for ministry.

I am in my 13th year of working to create advanced Lay Servant Ministries courses, the UMC-approved Certified Lay Ministry modules, and other online opportunities.

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

I would like to be considered for election as a delegate to General Conference because I would like to represent the Great Plains Annual Conference in a mature and thoughtful manner. I have high moral standards with an emphasis on and knowledge of scripture and personal holiness. I value thoughtful, intelligent reasoning and remain open-minded for creative solutions. I'd be willing to consider any reasonable option for our church to move forward through its current impasse, and I am tough enough to remain grounded and not be swayed by political maneuvers.

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

My master's degree provides a nice undergirding of education on the Trinity, Christology, Theology, Old Testament studies, etc. to speak knowledgeably on matters of doctrine and scripture. I am a very good listener and observer; these two skills are going to be highly important in 2020.

In addition, I have several years of experience with Robert's Rules of Order, and I stay informed regarding all current matters UMC.

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?

The UMC is probably at a Paul and Barnabas moment. There's strong disagreement, however, we should agree to bless each other's ministries/callings and part ways. This is difficult, for we want to remain together, but perhaps unity is not to be. My conservative/traditional friends feel called to unity with the global church, placing priority on scripture and personal holiness, and remaining aligned with the current Discipline. My progressive/OCP friends feel called to ministry with the LGBTQIA community. Parting ways, we could all refocus on the mission to make disciples for the transformation of the world in our different ways.

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

Our challenge is also our opportunity. We must find our way through this impasse to participate in the ministries God calls us each to. We should move beyond "The Way Forward" without totally destroying one another. Short of a miraculous solution given to us by God, I'm afraid we are challenged to agree to disagree on this subject, part ways, and bless one another as we go.

We are challenged and have the opportunity to show others what Christ-like love looks like as we love one another and focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.