

Lisa Maupin

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Gender: Female

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Delegate # 132

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

General Church: retired General Board of Global Ministries Church and Community Worker

Conference: Great Plains Conference Lay Leader, 2016 General Conference Lay Delegate, 2012 General Conference First Lay Alternate, 2012 and 2016 Jurisdiction Lay Delegate, Annual Conference Sessions Planning Team, Conference Episcopacy Committee, Vital Congregations Team, Connecting Council, former Great Plains Conference Associate Lay Leader, former Great Plains UMW Conference Communications Coordinator

District: Blue River District UMW Journey in Faith Leader

Local Church: served on numerous local church committees including finance, administrative council, staff-parish relations and youth group leader.

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

I love the United Methodist Church and believe in our history of doing ministries and missions on a local, national and global level. I also know that we are challenged on a daily basis to build on that foundation as we look to our present and future. That is what delegates are asked to do. Honor our foundation and build a church on it that is able to disciple, serve, comfort and speak up in our respective communities and around the world. The work delegates do is not just about the UMC in the now but the UMC in the future. It is vital work and something that I am passionate about. I want our churches and our members to be equipped to do the ministries and missions in the best way possible in the context of the mission fields as they define them. I want to help with building and refining the framework so they can do so.

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

I bring a well rounded perspective from growing up in a rural United Methodist Church in the western part of our conference, leading in a extremely small urban church that tried not be overshadowed by the larger congregations in the area and currently to attending a larger downtown church that is challenged to stay relevant in a constantly changing community. I have an idea of what a number of the congregations in the Great Plains are challenged with because I have experienced them from a laity and leadership perspective.

I also bring experience to the table as someone who has been on the delegation but more so from serving on a number of conference committees that look at not just the administration role of how we do our ministries but

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also the generative aspect of what are the possibilities of new mission fields and empowering our congregations to continue to serve and be present in their communities. I have a strong United Methodist Women background so I know the importance of the organizations like UMW and UMM in leadership development and mission work.

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 United Methodist Church is hurting. It is anxious and it is unsure of itself. That makes it hard to think about what's next but more so to think about our mission and ministries and how we want to move those forward. We need to give ourselves time to breath, to pause and then put one foot in front of the other to continue to serve those in our communities who need us, to be places of refuge for those that need comfort, to be a voice in the darkness and to lead in hope. The United Methodist Church is called to be the United Methodist Church. That hasn't changed and is our anchor as we move into a new unknown wilderness.

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

The challenges are numerous and we are really good at naming them: lack of finances, lack of members, low worship numbers, conversations of closing the doors, not enough people to do the work and list goes on. However, the opportunities that exist are nothing less of than amazing. We have the opportunity to embrace creative ways to do ministry, redefine our mission fields as our communities change, rethink how we best utilize the United Methodist connection so that are resources which may feel like less can actually do more and to make space for leaders who challenge us. We have the opportunity to take the United Methodist foundation and put different building blocks on it. To do church and be church in ways that stretch us but stretch us in ways that reach different people and communities. How wonderful of a call to action is that?