

Oliver Green

Address: 6117 SW 4th St.

Topeka, KS

Church: Asbury Mt. Olive UMC

District: Topeka

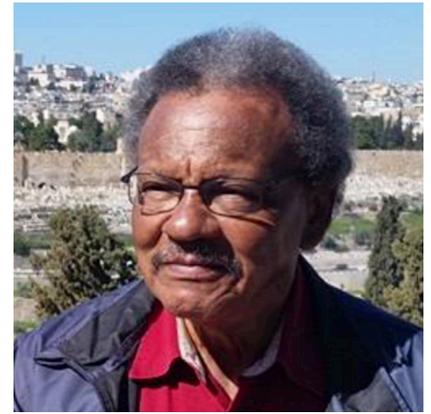
Email: oliverdeck@aol.com

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: African
American

Age range: 70

Phone: 785-580-5858



Delegate # **114**

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

Local Church (Quayle UMC, Salina, Kansas, and Asbury Mt.Olive UMC, Topeka) — Sunday school teacher, Christian education, finance secretary, SPRC, COM, UMM, UMYF sponsor and choir.

District — Topeka District lay leader

Great Plains Conference — Associate conference lay leader, Extended Cabinet, Episcopacy Committee, Nominations Committee, EMLC Chair, Mission and Justice Committee, and Forward in Unity Task Force.

Kansas East Conference — Conference lay leader, Extended Cabinet, nominations chair, EMLC, UNDC chaperone, sessions committee.

Jurisdiction — Episcopacy Committee

General Church — Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders board member; General Board of Church and Society eight years; Global AIDS Fund, eight years; General Conference delegate 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016 and 2019.

World Methodist Council — Representative for the Kansas East Conference.

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

The United Methodist Church has a bright and challenging future. The Church of God will endure as it has since its beginning. How we fit into God's plan is being revealed. I am open to the moving of the Spirit in communion with other believers to seek and clarify what that will be like for our denomination. I love this denomination and its pursuit of personal and social holiness. The struggles we face are serious and yet not insurmountable. I am willing to give my best in helping our church move forward in a spirit of "do no harm, do good and stay in love with God."

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

I enjoy meeting new people, hearing their stories and sharing mine. I consider myself a good listener. My mother often would say there is more than one way to skin a cat. I believe in diversity. It helps one to grow and mature. I have friends that do not see things the same way I do and we remain friends. Having been to several General Conferences and served on General committees and boards I have a good understanding of how our denomination functions, although I don't always agree.

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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?

Our mission as a Church has not changed, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. How we go about doing that as a worldwide church as a global church is the challenge. Based on our reason, experiences, history or tradition and understanding of scripture we form differing perspectives and differing realities. Many are angry, hurt, confused. Some are pleased and feel confirmed. I don't know what the future holds for the United Methodist Church but we must continue our journey to fulfill our mission. Now is not the time to give up, move away but to rise up and seek to work through the challenges we now face.

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

In my view the challenges and opportunities are in how we live into being a global church, a global denomination in the 21st century. It takes many attempts to reach individuals in their context. How my daughters and my granddaughter encountered the church has been different, yet similar in that they experienced a loving community that encouraged and accepted them. We are constantly challenged to be that loving and accepting community for all today.