

# Shayla Jordan

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**Gender:** Female

**Ethnicity:** Caucasian

**Age range:** 21

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Delegate # 126

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

I just finished up my first year as a certified candidate seminary student at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas. I serve on the Forward in Unity team for Great Plains and am a young adult delegate from the South-Central Jurisdiction to the Division on Ministries with Young People under Discipleship Ministries. Beyond the U.S., I serve on the European Methodist Youth and Children's Council and the World Methodist Council. I recently served as the third lay delegate to General and Jurisdictional conferences as the youngest delegate on the floor.

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

I have loved my time on the General and Jurisdiction delegation as a young person and would like to be considered for the next delegation. I feel that I have grown in my leadership capacities, fellowship within the UMC connection, knowledge of the worldwide church, and clarity in my calling. I would like to be considered as a delegate so that I may continue in these areas, as well help shape the future of the church. I have a deep love for the United Methodist Church and care greatly about the issues discussed at both conferences.

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

While in Portland, I served as the legislative chair of the Discipleship Committee and have a strong sense of the work that is ahead and the administrative skills necessary. Although my faith has been challenged in the last couple of years, my faith has grown stronger and has been the cornerstone for me in these challenges. Lastly, I have a strong understanding of the worldwide church and connectionalism that is at the heart of the work to come in 2020. I believe I have the physical capabilities of being familiar with and understanding the work to come, as well as the heart for the connectional UMC to faithfully execute the task of being a delegate.

## **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 the church is called to continue to discern how we might move forward as a family recognizing our differences to fulfill our mission. I love and care deeply about the United Methodist Church and believe General Conference 2020 will be a space where we continue the conversation of how we move forward together allowing one another to do ministry best in our own contexts. This mission is done best by not blaming one side or another, but holding one another accountable to being led by the Spirit while also recognizing we may be wrong.

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

Some challenges and opportunities facing the UMC are the worldwide connectional system and how procedurally decisions are made best for a global church. The worldwide connection is one of our greatest assets, however, the church is in a place of opportunity to learn how to effectively operate as such with our different cultural and societal realities. Additionally, the UMC faces challenges on how decisions are to be made with such a large group of people as the sessions of general conference have proved to be a difficult platform for true spiritual discernment. General Conference 2020 will be a place where the church must consider these challenges and create opportunities for growth out of them.