

WHAT DOES THIS JOB REQUIRE OF YOU?

THE 2012 DELEGATION TO GENERAL CONFERENCE and JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

For those of you who have not previously served on the General Conference/Jurisdictional Conference Delegation, the time required may come as a surprise; this briefing will save you from finding out too late what you've gotten yourself into.

The Southwest Texas Delegation, for the past four quadrennia anyway, has organized at the Annual Conference at which it was elected and begun meeting within two months of then, usually by the middle of July. We have averaged a meeting a month from September through March of the interim before General Conference, with almost all of the meetings lasting from 10:00 a.m. until about 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays. The exceptions have been Episcopal candidate interviews, which have been two-day affairs beginning on Friday morning and going through Saturday afternoon; all delegates spent at least one night in San Antonio for those interviews, with many coming in on Thursday night in order to be more rested.

The Annual Conference has set aside money for reimbursing the expenses of the delegation, including meeting expenses prior to General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference. It has been the intention of prior delegations that the elected General Conference delegates be as fully reimbursed as possible, and that all other delegates receive as much reimbursement as possible. Everyone who is elected is treated as a "full" member of the delegation in terms of participation in planning, training and decision-making. No one should be surprised that the position of delegate generally takes more time than you expect going into the year, and the pay-off is that after the year is over almost universally members of the delegation feel tremendously blessed to have been a part of it all.

The general outline of activities includes (chronologically) team-building, discernment of Episcopal candidacy from within SWTX, preparation for the legislative activities of General Conference, becoming familiar with candidates for the Episcopacy in the South Central Jurisdiction, and tactical preparation for the meetings themselves. This time, we can expect more preparation than in the past because of escalating movement for reform of the denomination from a number of leadership elements. Among other new calls on our time, we may have a jurisdiction-wide meeting (probably in Dallas or Oklahoma City) of all South Central delegations in August or September of 2011, to prepare the whole jurisdiction to work together toward whatever the future may hold for us. Please prayerfully prepare yourself for this opportunity, should it come your way. May God be with each one of us as we look forward to these great opportunities to serve the Kingdom.

Jay Brim, Conference Lay Leader
Delegation Chair, 2008-2012

INSTRUCTIONS: Forms must be returned no later than Feb. 1, 2011. The form will be printed as filled out, so be sure to type or neatly write using black ink. A PDF version is available on the website at www.umcswtx.org.

Mail to: SWTX Conf. Secretary
16400 Huebner Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78248

Questionnaire for Prospective Lay Delegates to General Conference

Name _____ Local Church _____

Address _____ District _____

Occupation _____ Area of Education/Training _____

Check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Member UMC since	<input type="checkbox"/> Person w/ Disability
<input type="checkbox"/> African American	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian American	<input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American
<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (12-18)	<input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (19-30)	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult (31-60)
<input type="checkbox"/> Older Adult			

Please limit your answers to the space below:

Local/District/Conference/General Church involvement
Past:

Current:

The UMC has lost 3.8 million members in the US and Western Europe since 1968, while gaining 3.5 million members elsewhere in the world. What suggestions would you make to create a culture of growth in the US?

If you could change one thing about the UMC, what would it be? Why?

Why are you seeking to be a delegate?

Prospective Delegate Signature _____

Endorsement Form for Prospective Lay Delegates to General Conference

The Board of Laity has developed this double sided form to provide information about candidates for lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences uniformly to voting Annual Conference members. The Holy Spirit, not a political campaign, should influence the selection process.

Conference Standing Rule No. 61: "The Board of Laity will develop a form for persons interested in being elected to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference. This form will be included in the Charge Conference materials at the Charge Conference immediately preceding the Annual Conference Session when delegates are to be elected. Candidate(s) must be endorsed by their local Church in a Church or Charge Conference or a Church Council or its equivalent. It is the responsibility of the candidate to transmit the completed form to the Conference Secretary no later than February 1 of any election year. Copies of the completed form will be published by the Conference Secretary and mailed to all Conference members at least three weeks prior to the Annual Conference Session. This procedure is the only way that the Annual Conference will assist in publicizing the lay candidates"

Name of Prospective Delegate Being Endorsed _____

Name of Church or Individual Giving Endorsement _____

Please limit your answers to the space provided.

How long and in what capacity have you been familiar with this prospective delegate?

What gifts do you feel best qualify this person to represent the Southwest Texas Conference?

Which fruits of the spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) does this person best exemplify?

Signature of Lay Leader or Board Chairperson _____

Signature of Pastor _____