



2024 CLERGY ELECTION PROFILE BOOKLET
for the Texas Annual Conference

2024 Clergy Delegate Profiles

submitted by clergy of the TAC

offering themselves up for election as delegates to
the 2024 South Central Jurisdictional Conference
of The United Methodist Church

Procedure of Conducting Election of Clergy Delegates to Jurisdictional Conference

The process of electing lay delegates to the 2024 Jurisdictional Conference is open to any interested individual. However, through the Delegate Profile Booklet lay delegates voting members are better informed about the qualifications of persons who have specifically expressed an interest in being elected. Balloting and counting will be quicker and more accurate.

Procedural Steps:

1. All interested individuals were invited to submit photographs of themselves together with brief resumes for inclusion in this booklet to be distributed to all clergy in the Annual Conference. This booklet has been prepared and is being sent via email blast to all clergy as an addendum to the Pre-Conference Journal. The availability of the resumes and photos of persons interested in serving as delegates to the 2024 Jurisdictional Conference will enable all clergy to study individual qualifications and vote more intelligently.
2. The voting procedure will be as follows:
 - A. Each person listed in the distributed booklet will be assigned an identifying number for use in the voting process.
 - B. Clergy persons not in the booklet will have an opportunity to submit their name for the election process at the Clergy Session of the Annual Conference.
 - C. Ballots will be tallied by our TAC Tellers, (Lance Richards is the Head Teller):
 - i. Following the voting session the Clergy Session will move through its agenda, stopping at appropriate places in the agenda for the tally announcement and submitting of the subsequent ballot.
 - ii. When a delegate is elected, the newly elected delegate's name will be added to the list of 2024 Jurisdictional Conference Delegation on one of the screens at the front of the Grand Ballroom.



Name: Rhett Ansley

Church Information: Magnolia, Wildwood

District: Southwest

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1. What do you believe God is calling the United Methodist Church to do in the near future?

I believe God is calling us to open wide the doors of the church so that all can experience the inclusive love and grace of Jesus Christ. Our Wesleyan witness to the ministry of Jesus Christ holds a compelling message for those who have been lifelong United Methodists, those who seek to experience church in a new way, and those who have long looked upon the church with great suspicion. The congregation I serve at Wildwood and the community that surrounds it has taught me that a theology of inclusion is a theology that multiplies the witness of the church. I look forward to more of that!

2. What do you believe are the most important issues facing Jurisdictional Conference?

I would typically say the election of bishops, but this Jurisdictional Conference will be different. I anticipate the most important issues will be 1) conversations around a reduction in the number of bishops and 2) processing the ways in which General Conference 2020 legislation contextually changes the way we approach ministry as a jurisdiction.

3. Share briefly why you want to serve as a delegate.

I value the connection that we have as United Methodists and as clergy in the UMC. I would like to submit my name for future delegations, and would really appreciate the experience of participating with this jurisdictional delegation. As we live into new realities within the UMC, I believe our connection beyond our annual conference will become equally as important. While many of us have navigated a turbulent time within our congregations, there is still work to do so that our witness is one of hope and not anxiety. We need steady and thoughtful leaders representing us as we join with other annual conferences for the work of the jurisdiction. I believe I have these gifts.

4. Share your experiences of leadership at the conference, district, or local church levels.

Chair of TAC Clergy Leadership Team, Previous Team Coordinator for The Clergy Gathering, Southwest District Leadership Team (Finance Rep), Former Central North District Leadership Team, Former Central North District Auditor, Former Ex-Officio Member of TAC Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry. Churches Served: Lon Morris College (Chaplain and Dean of Students - 4 years), FUMC Longview (Associate Pastor - 3 years), and Wildwood UMC (Senior Pastor - 10 years)

5. Previous experience you have had on the General or Jurisdictional Conference levels.

Special Called General Conference 2019 - Observer



Name: Brandi Horton

Church Information: Houston, St. Paul's

District: Metro

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1. What do you believe God is calling the United Methodist Church to do in the near future?

In the near future, I believe God is calling United Methodists to a season of courage and compassion. This will inevitably include letting go of past structures that no longer serve us well while retaining those things that are part of our core identity. We must embrace the liminal season in which we find ourselves, experiment boldly, fail gracefully, and continue to strive for an ever-wider table of grace.

2. What do you believe are the most important issues facing Jurisdictional Conference?

The most important issues facing this Jurisdictional Conference are the deployment of episcopal leaders in light of decisions made at GC 2020. These decisions will stretch the South Central Jurisdiction and demand open communication, willingness to collaborate, and creative-thinking about what's possible. This will necessitate balancing limited resources with the boundless possibilities of God.

3. Share briefly why you want to serve as a delegate.

I want to serve as a delegate because I love the connection. The connection is our best resource for this season in the life of a changing church. Jurisdictional Conference does not speak for the UMC as the General Conference does, but it does connect us powerfully with those neighbors closest to us. I have been actively engaged in digesting and interpreting polity for my local congregations for years, and I would love to take part in it from a different angle.

4. Share your experiences of leadership at the conference, district, or local church levels.

I am in my fourth local church appointment in the Texas Annual Conference. I have served on the Board of Ordained Ministry for 8 years. While on the BOM, I have served as the Residency Director and the Secretary. Additionally, I serve on the Metro District DCom and District Buildings and Location. I have completed cohorts of Advancing Pastoral Leadership (APL) and the Courageous Leadership Imperative (CLI) with TMF.

5. Previous experience you have had on the General or Jurisdictional Conference levels.

I served as a volunteer page for the 2016 and 2019 General Conferences. I was an observer at the 2023 Jurisdictional Conference.



Name: Peter Cammarano

Church Information: League City, League City

District: Southeast

1. What do you believe God is calling the United Methodist Church to do in the near future?

I believe that God is calling the United Methodist Church to focus on discipleship while creating a welcoming environment for all in the near future. This direction involves moving from us merely 'doing for our neighbors' to 'being with our neighbors'. This requires deepening relationships and engaging more authentically with our community. By prioritizing these efforts, our denomination can better support believers in their spiritual growth and make our church a more inclusive and welcoming space for everyone seeking a place to belong, believe and become disciples of Jesus Christ.

2. What do you believe are the most important issues facing Jurisdictional Conference?

The most pressing issues for the Jurisdictional Conference are to better serve local congregations, enhance community connections, and embody the teachings of Jesus in caring for a broken world. The Jurisdictional Conference's role is pivotal in ensuring that local churches have the resources and support they need to thrive. Strengthening these congregations is essential for addressing broader social challenges and making a tangible impact. By focusing on these priorities, the Conference can help our church communities be more effective in their mission to heal and unite, fulfilling our call to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

3. Share briefly why you want to serve as a delegate.

My desire to serve as a delegate stems from a deep-seated love for the United Methodist Church and the Texas Annual Conference. As a first-career pastor, I have found not only a calling but a profound purpose and passion within this ministry. The relationships and experiences I have gained here have greatly enriched my life, filling it with gratitude and meaning. Serving as a delegate is an opportunity for me to give back to the community that has given me so much. It is a way to express my thanks and contribute positively to the denomination that has shaped my journey.

4. Share your experiences of leadership at the conference, district, or local church levels.

I have held several leadership roles within the denomination, demonstrating a commitment to supporting and developing our clergy and administrative structures. For the past ten years, I have coordinated the Birkman Personality and Leadership Team under the Center for Clergy Excellence, focusing on enhancing leadership capabilities within our clergy. Additionally, I have served for twelve years as the Psychological Officer on the South District Committee on Ministry, and most recently, I joined the Conference Council on Finance and Administration. These roles reflect my dedication to fostering effective leadership and sound administration in our church.

5. Previous experience you have had on the General or Jurisdictional Conference levels.

If elected this would be my first experience on the General or Jurisdictional level.



Name: Steffon Arrington

Church Information: Houston, Spring Woods

District: Southwest

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1. What do you believe God is calling the United Methodist Church to do in the near future?

With recent GC actions and removal of restrictive language, I believe God is calling the church to fully embrace Loving God with your whole heart, mind, soul, and strength and to love your neighbor as thy self. In doing so, we can walk toward being a church which truly embraces ethnicity, multiethnic and multicultural worship which leads to cross cultural transformation of making of disciples of Jesus Christ.

2. What do you believe are the most important issues facing Jurisdictional Conference?

Selection of Episcopal leadership for the future which will lead the church into the future with a slimmed down leadership structure and new governance under our recently completed General Conference.

3. Share briefly why you want to serve as a delegate.

I feel I have a lot to offer as a delegate, yet I have a lot to learn if elected. We all have a voice and yearn to be heard. I see myself as that rock that is skipped across the waters in order to see the ripples. Ripples represent a change. I desire to be part of the change.

4. Share your experiences of leadership at the conference, district, or local church levels.

I have served on DLT's, finance teams and DCOM's in the districts to which I have served. At the Conference level I have served on the COSROW committee and currently serve as a member of the BOOM.

5. Previous experience you have had on the General or Jurisdictional Conference levels.

No experience at either levels.



Name: Steven Newcomb

Church Information: Wharton, First

District: Southwest

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1. What do you believe God is calling the United Methodist Church to do in the near future?

God is calling the United Methodist Church to love quickly and never allow people to feel invisible. God is calling the United Methodist Church to accept people for who they are as beloved children of God and not to arrogantly put ourselves in the seat of judgement. God is calling the United Methodist Church to recognize God's call on the lives of his children, encouraging them to be disciples of Jesus Christ as they are called and not to take it upon ourselves to set criteria for who God is allowed to call into various forms of discipleship.

2. What do you believe are the most important issues facing Jurisdictional Conference?

The jurisdiction's Episcopacy Committee has issued a recommendation that no elections be held this year. With one retirement expected, this would leave seven bishops. Although this recommendation was issued prior to General Conference, seven bishops is in line with the new allocations decided there. Even with seven, the Oklahoma conferences are expected to combine with Arkansas, and the Northwest Texas Conference is expected to join the Dallas/Fort Worth Area conferences. This further emphasizes the importance of appropriate episcopal oversight to larger geographic areas in addition to continued missional outreach of the jurisdiction through agencies such as the Lydia Patterson Institute.

3. Share briefly why you want to serve as a delegate.

I feel active participation in all levels of the denomination is the responsibility of any member in full connection of the Annual Conference. Although jurisdictions will likely be removed or substantially changed after the 2028 General Conference, if Global Regionalization is enacted through votes of Annual Conferences, they are part of our current reality and play some specific, yet vital, roles in the governance of our denomination. I feel it is my responsibility to do what I can to play a part in such governance.

4. Share your experiences of leadership at the conference, district, or local church levels.

I currently serve as a Senior Pastor at the local church level. At the district level, I serve on the DCOM, work as a candidacy mentor, and serve as a host for quadrant clergy meetings. At the conference level, I take full advantage of leadership opportunities as they arise. In the past I have served as a mentor through Candidacy Summit, an advocate for young people entering candidacy, a conference chaperone for Exploration, and as a clergy liaison to youth ministry professionals, under which I led the annual Conference Retreat for Youth Ministry Professionals.

5. Previous experience you have had on the General or Jurisdictional Conference levels.

I have not served as an elected delegate. However, I have attended multiple Jurisdictional Conferences and have engaged virtually with General Conferences to ensure I was able to answer questions appropriately within my congregations.



Name: Mike Lindstrom

Church Information: Brenham, First

District: Northwest

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1. What do you believe God is calling the United Methodist Church to do in the near future?

We are being called to bring more people into a life-giving relationship with the risen Lord Jesus; to offer forgiveness and new life and an abiding hope that settles deep in the soul; to create a place of belonging and connection. In a world where the tendency is to push others away and make our circles smaller, I believe we are called to draw bigger circles rather than harsher lines.

2. What do you believe are the most important issues facing Jurisdictional Conference?

At this time the most important work may be to determine if changes are needed to annual conference boundaries. While this may be a change that comes in a future Jurisdictional Conference, that work likely needs to begin at this one. Beyond that, the jurisdiction best serves the church by helping us live into this more open and inclusive table so that we may be a light of hope to a world growing more divisive.

3. Share briefly why you want to serve as a delegate.

I am a self-professed traditionalist who believes the work done at General Conference does more good than harm. I want to help us keep people at the table as I believe unity is the one thing Jesus prayed most diligently for his followers. While I have no doubt that people, such as myself, will not be pushed away from the table, I want to facilitate the possibility that they will not feel compelled to excuse themselves from it.

4. Share your experiences of leadership at the conference, district, or local church levels.

I have served as a sole pastor, a senior pastor, an associate pastor, and an executive pastor. I know much of the work of the church in all its facets. I have also been one of the deans of Local Pastor Licensing School, which allowed me to see the diversity of our connection through those who served as faculty, and to see the ways God is calling new people into the work of the church. I currently serve as the chair of the NW District Leadership Team, which means I have also had the privilege of serving on the Conference Leadership Team.

5. Previous experience you have had on the General or Jurisdictional Conference levels.

I have not had the opportunity to serve at either level up to this point in my 27 years of ministry.