What are your reasons for wanting to be a delegate?

Having served at three General Conferences, I believe I have reached a point where I understand how General Conference works. With that understanding, I feel I can be an effective delegate.

What are three areas crucial to The United Methodist Church’s mission?

1. The United Methodist Church must find a way to be culturally fluent across the world. We must find a way to speak the Gospel to the cultures and contexts in which we find ourselves.
2. The United Methodist Church must find a way to be defined by love, grace, service and joy, rather than, division, argument, apathy and acrimony. We have such an amazing way to speak of grace and we need to share that message with the world.
3. The United Methodist Church must find ways to be relevant to people who are outside the church. Perhaps it is time to return to our roots of, truly, meeting people where they are. We need to have a voice in community issues. We need to be present for people who are living on the margins. We need to challenge systems that oppress and limit other's potential. These are the types of things that tend to upset people in the church, but they are the very things that energize people outside the church.

What are three emerging issues from those areas you stated above?

1. We have to learn to talk to one another. Our divisions have become so definitive that we have a difficult time hearing one another.
2. We need to help one another remember the importance and power of witness. Our witness is not just how we speak about Jesus. It is also how we speak to one another and "the stranger." When we "fuss and fight" with one another, our witness is clouded, at best, and negative at worst.
3. Emerging ministries like "Fresh Expressions" help us think about how we can be relevant to people outside the church. But, also, we should be engaging in helping ministries in our local communities. As we do this our connection to people grows (relationship) as we seek to listen and respond to needs (connection).

What is your desire or hope for the future of The United Methodist Church?

I hope the United Methodist Church will be for all people. I hope we will find ways to honor the cultural contexts outside the United States, but also allow for authentic ministry in the United States context as well. To that end, it is my hope that the United Methodist Church, in the United States, will become fully inclusive of LGBT people.

Additional information you would like to share:
N/a