What are your reasons for wanting to be a delegate?

I have served as a reserve delegate in 2008 for North Indiana and as a delegate in 2012 for the Indiana Conference. I hold a deep passion for the Church of Jesus Christ and especially this tribe called United Methodists. I want to do all I can to preserve its effective witness in the world and believe I am in a position to make an even greater impact. Having served previously, I understand the polity and process and continue to nurture many relationships I have developed across the connection.

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

1. Focusing on the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. It's imperative to make the main thing the main thing.
2. Structure. Our current structure is outdated and hampers our mission. Finding creative ways to reshape our polity so that we can focus on the mission is crucial.
3. Connection. Being a connected people and church is more important than many realize. Our current season of disconnectedness over many issues can be addressed biblically and overcome successfully.

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

1. The UMC was formed originally as a response to a movement happening across Europe and the colonies. Our focus needs to shift back to the spirit of that movement. It wasn't theological in nature, rather it was a focus on personal piety. It is what is desperately needed today.
2. Our 40 year journey about structure needs to be over. A simplified structure where we can expand our mission is critical. We are irrelevant to the next generations, therefore our witness has become unhearable by them. It's time to simplify and make our witness and our burden light.
3. Our disconnectedness seems to be centered around human sexuality, but the foundational issue is biblical authority. We have allowed too many "other tradition" understandings to seep into the UM conversation. We must move back to a faithful and consistent understanding of the scriptures.

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

I still believe in a United Methodist Witness and its importance in the whole of Jesus' Church. I believe a stronger and more relevant church is possible, once we get past the current challenges. The faith tradition that has nurtured us and millions of others can still nurture generations long into the future. Its future is based upon our trust in the living God and our faithfulness in living our mission every day.

Additional information you would like to share:

N/a