

Name: Emily Allen

Church: Palo Alto First UMC

District: El Camino Real

Age: 36

Ethnic Background: White/Caucasian

Terms as General/Jurisdictional Delegate: 2

Experience and Qualifications: In 2012, 2016, and 2019 I made a difference as a General Conference delegate, and I believe I can continue to do so. In 2012 I was elected secretary of my legislative committee; in 2016 I served on the General Conference Committee on Agenda and Calendar, and in 2019 I was elected chair of that committee. I know United Methodists across the country and the globe, many of whom will likely be at General Conference, and can facilitate cross-delegation communication and cooperation. On committees, I listen and contribute, and others appreciate my ability to sum up the essence of a point of view. Finally, I function on limited sleep—perfect for the long days at General Conference!

Current church experience: I serve as the Agenda Chair for Annual Conference Session. I also serve on the Western Jurisdiction and CA-NV Conference Committees on Episcopacy. I am a board member of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, where I serve as the chair of the Mission and Evaluation Committee. At my home church in Palo Alto I am a lay liturgist. My day job is Director of Communications at Los Altos UMC, where I am pleased to combine my passions for communications and The United Methodist Church.

Past experience: A lifelong United Methodist, I started actively participating in church life through children's choir and VBS. In high school I joined two church committees, but it was in college that I first appreciated the church's national and global connections. Through the UC San Diego Wesley campus ministry, and attending the UM Student Movement's national Student Forum, I was elected the Western Jurisdiction young adult representative on the newly formed Division on Ministries with Young People of the General Board of Discipleship, 2004-2008, where I was elected secretary. I served on the General Commission on Communication (United Methodist Communications) 2012–2016. In this conference I have served on the Committee on Higher Education and Campus Ministry, and at my church I have served at different times on the Staff-Parish Relations, Nominations, Centennial Endowment, Worship, and Christian Education committees.



Name: Amanda Bulls-Stephens

Church: Reedley, First UMC

District: Central Valley

Age: 44

Ethnic Background: White

Terms as General/Jurisdictional Delegate: 0

Experience and Qualifications: Amanda is a lifelong United Methodist who is serving and has served as: Vice President Central Valley District UMW 2019, Social Action Person CV District UMW 2018, CA/NV Annual Conference Lay Delegate 2018-present, Lay Speaker 2018-present, Nominations Member CV District UMW 2016-2017, Reedley First UMC UMW President 2016-present, Reedley First UMC UMW Coordinator and Co-Coordinator 2014-present, and attended the NorCal Emmaus Walk #66.



Name: Becca Cramer-Mowder

Church: Sacramento, The Table at Central UMC

District: Los Rios

Age: 35

Ethnic Background: White

Terms as General/Jurisdictional Delegate: 0

Experience and Qualifications: I am running for General Conference as an LGBTQ young adult to ensure that young people's voices are present at the table as we make decisions about the future of the UMC. I have spent my life living out what



I learned growing up in my local UMC about Jesus' message of all means all. As a college student, I advocated for the United Methodist Student Movement to adopt pro-reproductive justice and LGBTQ rights stances, for which the Reconciling Ministries Network honored me with their Cup of Justice Award. I continue to draw on my United Methodist beliefs and my experience advocating for progressive social values in the Church in my professional life as a lobbyist for LGBTQ rights in the California State Legislature. My belief in what the UMC could be and my desire to have the Church live out Jesus' radical teachings of love, community, generosity, and grace form the foundation of my desire to represent our annual conference at General Conference 2020. I have seen firsthand the harm that our denomination has caused, and I feel called to be part of discerning what the God of resurrection is calling into being, whether that be a new denomination, a change of course for the UMC, or something we haven't even imagined yet.

Name: Robert Dunning

Church: Eureka First UMC

District: Great Northern

Age: 70

Ethnic Background: White

Terms as General/Jurisdictional Delegate: 4

Experience and Qualifications: I have served on the Conference Council on Finance & Administration, Board of Pensions, Conference Council on Ministries, and as a District Lay Leader. I currently serve on the Board of Trustees of the Conference Claimants' Endowment Board. I do annual audits for many churches in the conference. I have been a reserve delegate for General Conference and a delegate at Jurisdictional Conference. I understand the wants and needs of our Conference.



Name: Jim Eychaner

Church: Sacramento, St. Mark's UMC

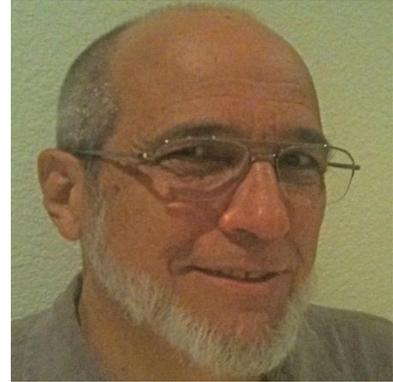
District: Los Rios

Age: 72

Ethnic Background: White

Terms as General/Jurisdictional Delegate: 1

Experience and Qualifications: I am a white male straight boomer Yankee Methodist, a very privileged ticket from the genetic lottery—but I am recovering. In 1970 as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco, I met the first Christian I knew to be gay, and many others followed. I am ever more deeply convinced that in Christ we are many members of one body. The question of who is Christian is more important to our mission than who is heterosexual. Education and work carried me to 8 Methodist congregations in 8 states from Texas and West Virginia to Minnesota and Hawaii. I speak passable French and used to speak Arabic. Since 2001 I have been a member of St. Mark's UMC in Sacramento, where I have been chair of trustees since 2007 and a member of the annual conference since 2008. Since 2012 I have helped sustain VIM work in Angola. As a reserve delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences in 2016 and the special General Conference in February 2019 (very far down the list!), I attended all three conferences and many team preparation meetings. My parents attended General Conferences more than 30 years ago, also working for full inclusion. I think I will serve you best as a reserve delegate again, in the background, but I will do my best in any role you give me.



Name: Ryland Christian Fernandez
Church: Sacramento, Japanese UMC
District: Los Rios

Age: 20

Ethnic Background: Filipino

Terms as General/Jurisdictional Delegate: 0

Experience and Qualifications: I'm a lifelong United Methodist; I was born and raised in the UMC, was baptized at an early age, attended Sunday service and Sunday School every week, was active in the youth program all through middle and high school, and continue to contribute my time and energy to the Church and all Church-related activities and programs. Around middle school was when I started becoming active in the Church. In 2012, I attended my first Annual Conference Session as a Youth delegate and continued in the role until 2016; after that, I served as a YA delegate. Beyond middle and high school, I continued to develop my leadership. In the fall of 2017, I became President of my university's Methodist Student Ministries. I also worked in our university's Religious & Spiritual Life department as the Western Religions Inclusion Coordinator in the 2017-2018 academic year and as the Religions & Faith Inclusion Coordinator in the 2018-2019 academic year; my job was to serve as a liaison between the different student organizations affiliated with Religious & Spiritual Life and the department itself. In essence, I was a type of connective tissue that helped the students' voices be heard by those further up the ladder. Besides these specific roles, I've been a volunteer for my church's Vacation Bible School, a volunteer in younger Sunday School classes, and a volunteer in my church's youth ministry programs. At the church next to my university, I volunteer as a worship leader and small group leader for the youth ministry. As a young person, I believe it's crucial for our voices to be heard. Not only do the decisions made and actions taken in the present affect us NOW, but they'll also affect us in the future; we'll have the duty and the responsibility to carry out the decisions, actions, and mission of the Church into the future and educate later generations in our role as Christ's body in the world. Thus, we as young people must play an active role in the Church in the here and now, contributing our own experiences and knowledge to help shape the Church into a place for all to come and learn of the love and grace of our God.



Name: Nina Klepac

Church: San Jose, Calvary UMC

District: El Camino Real

Age: 66

Ethnic Background: White

Terms as General/Jurisdictional Delegate: 1

Experience and Qualifications: Reserve Delegate to General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference in 2016 and 2019 special Conference. Other positions in the church include first president of El Camino Real United Methodist Women, former District Lay Leader of (then) San Jose District, past co-chair of Lay Servant Ministries District Committee (currently an instructor). I am CLayM trained. In the local church I am or have been lay leader, SPRC Chair, CFO, Financial Secretary, Nominations, Trustees, and Choir. Former Associate Director of the Council of Churches of Santa Clara County, during which time I served on the Northern California Ecumenical Council and a member of Western Association of Ecumenical Staff. I am also retired from the Santa Clara County Finance Agency. I would like to serve on the next elected delegation because I have spent years educating and ramping up to this and have served and have a significant body of knowledge and experience regarding the issues which we face and challenges to overcome. I believe that it is imperative that those of us who are serving now do not give up. This is the time when our faith and courage are most strongly tested.



Name: Dr. Randall Miller

Church: Berkeley, Epworth UMC

District: Bay

Age: 60

Ethnic Background: African American

Terms as General/Jurisdictional Delegate: 5

Experience and Qualifications: A longtime activist for LGBT inclusion, Randall Miller most recently chaired the General Board of Church and Society's (GBCS) Task Force responsible for revising the Social Principles. The newly revised Social Principles will be considered for adoption at the 2020 General Conference. He has also chaired the Commission on the General Conference from 2008-2012 and the Western Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy from 2012-2016. Additionally, he has served on the boards of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) and was appointed First Lay Alternate to the Judicial Council from 2008-2012.



Name: Howard Parker

Church: San Francisco, Glide Memorial UMC

District: Bay

Age: 69

Ethnic Background: Northern European

Terms as General/Jurisdictional Delegate: 0

Experience and Qualifications: Howard has served the conference for 11 years as one of the Conference Secretaries of Global Ministries and for two quadrennia as chair of the Equitable Compensation Commission. A pastor once described him as having served in every local church office except UMW President. For 40 years in his day job, he has been a prosecutor for the United States Department of Justice, enforcing laws that protect consumers. Howard is married with three grown children. His oldest daughter is a Global Ministries missionary serving in Nepal. Howard writes, "I have a lifetime of legal work relevant to legislating and am experienced in addressing conflict in a professional way. I believe I can contribute to the work of the delegation. I have deep passion for The United Methodist Church and a strong family connection to its past and future."



Name: Micheal Pope

Church: Concord UMC

District: Los Rios

Age: 62

Ethnic Background: Black

Terms as General/Jurisdictional Delegate: 0

Experience and Qualifications: I serve as Conference Lay Leader within the California-Nevada Conference.

I am submitting my name as a 2020 Delegate because I am being called to lead others into transformation!

Transformational leadership is characterized by great generosity, discernment, and a laser focus on “what would Christ DO”?

I am humbled by the privilege of the Christian work that God has called me to be apart and representing the diversity of the California-Nevada Conference. That said, I have been called at this time, with the prayers of the California-Nevada Conference, to ask for your support in bringing my time, talent and treasure to the position of Delegate.

My training in conflict resolution and guiding groups through finding their connection to God more deeply in the faith process has prepared me for a time such as this in our church. My career has taught me to change the atmosphere of an interaction or relationship. I am blessed to be able to speak to hard things with love, peace, kindness and patience.

While I have opinions about the topics that are being discussed throughout the connectional church, I am a mature Christian that knows how to silence my agenda and that of others when engaging in God’s work.

It is my honor to serve the California-Nevada Conference, and my prayer is that you will consider my nomination as a delegate for 2020.



Name: Gayle Shearman

Church: Novato UMC

District: Bay

Age: 60

Ethnic Background: Euro-American

Terms as General/Jurisdictional Delegate: 2

Experience and Qualifications: I am an active member at Novato UMC. I currently serve on our Conference Council on Finance and Administration. I am committed to participation in the broader ministries of our church. I have served in some capacity beyond my local church for the past 45 years. I have been an active and engaged member of our Conference's 2012 and 2016 delegation participating as an alternate delegate for General Conference.



I was confirmed into the United Methodist Church not long after it was formed. I learned of the intent to be a church which would be fully inclusive with a communion table open for all moving toward the only base for creation of conference boundaries being geography. I attended the 1976 General Conference and witnessed efforts to undermine the inclusiveness of the 1968 formation of the United Methodist Church by adding more negative language towards homosexuality and LGBTQIA people to the Discipline. Soon after this General Conference, I became a member of the Women's Division (now United Methodist Women Inc) and the General Board of Global Ministries where I served eight years.

Our conference has worked hard for a long time to live into being One Church which openly includes all, while also respecting each pastor and congregation in their interpretation of Scripture, Tradition, Experience and Reason. We have churches across the spectrum of those inputs and we support one another in the places of our commonality as Wesleyan United Methodist Christians. I want to be involved in a church that is open to all, seeks to be disciples on the margins as Jesus was, and is fully inclusive of LGBTQIA and all who follow their call to ministry and leadership among the laity and the ordained clergy.

I was deeply involved in the team which worked to elect Karen Oliveto as Bishop at the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference. I learned about strategizing and coordinating episcopal elections.

I want to work to clarify to the world around us that we are not of one heart or mind around things that have been purported to be our values. We must find ways to create a church which focuses on nurturing all who would be disciples of Jesus Christ in the Wesleyan tradition. We have many connections to rebuild reflecting our means of grace and our commitment to welcome all through our open table and doors.

I appreciate your support and prayers for my continued participation in our delegation and the work that is before us in preparation for the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences to make this be so.