

## Lay Delegates to General Conference (2012)

Delegates to General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference will be elected at the 2011 Annual Conference. Information has been compiled below to help church members in the nomination process and decision process for those who are considering nomination.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for election as delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference, laypersons "shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General and jurisdictional or central conferences." Book of Discipline (2008), Para. 36.

**Nominations:** Eligible persons may be nominated by local churches, district boards of laity, or the Annual Conference Board of Lay Ministry, on Nomination forms obtained from district offices or on-line at <http://ac.holston.org> after December 10, 2010. The nomination form should be completed online with a photograph attached (see requirements below). The completed form should be printed for signatures (with requirements verification signed by the pastor) and mailed to the appropriate District Office by February 15, 2011. The biographical sketch is limited to 50 words (only the first 50 words of a longer bio will be printed and published online). Each District Board of Laity will review the nominees. Nominations will be forwarded to the Conference Board of Lay Ministry, which will submit for publication in the Book of Reports the names, photographs, and biographical sketches of all eligible nominees. Nominations may also be made at the Laity Orientation Session of Annual Conference, but these nominees will not have the advantage of being included in printed materials distributed before annual conference.

**Photo** must be: Either a passport style print photo that is a headshot, approximately 2" wide x 3" tall OR A jpeg of similar size 2x3, with a file size of NO LESS than 500kb. This file will need to be attached to the digital form submission or submitted on a CD.

**Commitment:** Serving Holston conference as a delegate to either General or Jurisdictional Conference is both a great honor and a tremendous responsibility. The Board of Lay Ministry has compiled a list of minimum commitments.

Time	General: 2 weeks (10-11 days plus travel) Jurisdictional: 1 week (4-5 days plus travel) Prior to the Conferences: 5-6 delegation meetings
Materials to be read	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 2 large books of proposed legislation and proposed changes to the constitution (assigned to a legislative committee)</li> <li>• Mailings from caucus groups</li> <li>• E-mails</li> </ul>
Optional time	Invitations to events and seminars
Financial	Travel is paid and booked through General Conference Room and meals are reimbursed per diem. Some personal expenses will occur.
Miscellaneous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patience during debates for many reasons, but in particular as debates have to be translated in several languages</li> <li>• Knowledge of parliamentary procedure is helpful</li> <li>• Allow extra space when traveling to bring home the large amount of materials received at Conference</li> <li>• Must be able to sit for long periods of time- very long days</li> </ul>