

# Laity Delegate Profile for 2024 General and Jurisdictional Conferences

**First Name:** David

**Last Name:** Bowen

**Phone:** 334-546-3970

**Email:** david.bowenjr@gmail.com

**Occupation:** Retired

## **Briefly tell us about your family:**

My family has been life long United Methodist Members. My Mom, Sister, Brother, and Sister-in-law were long time members of Frisco City UMC prior to its disaffiliation. My nephew and his wife and daughter live in Auburn and are members of Auburn UMC. My niece and her husband and daughter live in Tuscaloosa and are members of First UMC, Tuscaloosa.



## **Church Involvement**

**District:** Montgomery-Opelika

**Church where You are a Member:** Auburn UMC

**When did you join your church?** 2018

## **Previous church(es) and date(s) of membership:**

First UMC, Montgomery; Dalraida UMC, Montgomery; Whitfield Memorial UMC, Montgomery; Frisco City UMC, Frisco City

## **Please list any local church leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Currently serve as Vice Chair of the Administrative Board at Auburn UMC. Previously have served in churches as SPR Chair and on Administrative Board.

## **Please list any district level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Currently District Lay Leader of the Montgomery-Opelika District. Previously served as Lay Leader of the Montgomery-Prattville District. Previously served as District Director of Lay Servant Ministries.

## **Please list any conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Served 8 years on Conference Board of Trustees. Served as Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries for 4 years. Served on Committee on Standing Rules.

## **Please list any jurisdictional and/or general conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Served as Secretary of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Lay Servant Ministries.

## **Please share any community service, beliefs, philosophies, and reasons why you would make a good delegate:**

I believe that my 25 years working in state government and my many years of serving at the local church, district, and conference level, has given me a good ability to listen to the opinions of others and to bring people together. I also believe I would bring a calming, moderate approach as we move forward. I think it is very important as we go forward to assure churches that the United Methodist Church remains committed to its core values and that proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ remains our cornerstone.

# Laity Delegate Profile for 2024 General and Jurisdictional Conferences

**First Name:** Ryan

**Last Name:** Deaton

**Phone:** 334-790-4214

**Email:** ryan@fumcdothan.org

**Occupation:** Ministry

**Briefly tell us about your family:**

My wife, Kash, and I have been married for 8 years and have a 4 year old daughter and 2 year old son.



## **Church Involvement**

**District:** Dothan

**Church where You are a Member:** FUMC Dothan

**When did you join your church?** 2011

**Previous church(es) and date(s) of membership:**

FUMC Enterprise 2005-2011

**Please list any local church leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Director of Recreational Ministries 2011-2021; Director of Discipleship 2021-present; Board of Stewards 2011-present

**Please list any district level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

n/a

**Please list any conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Annual Conference Delegate for FUMC Dothan 2019-present; Blue Lake Trustee Term begins July 2023

**Please list any jurisdictional and/or general conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

n/a

**Please share any community service, beliefs, philosophies, and reasons why you would make a good delegate:**

In my 18 years of ministry, I have grown to appreciate the connectional system of the United Methodist Church. I have made great friendship and it has helped me immensely in my personal growth as a follower of Jesus Christ and my growth in ministry. I believe the skills I have learned in my time in ministry will serve me well in the capacity of delegate. I would bring a strong ability to listen objectively, understand the big picture, and be willing to ask hard questions. It would be an honor to give back to the church that has given me so much and represent the Alabama West Florida Conference.

# Laity Delegate Profile for 2024 General and Jurisdictional Conferences

**First Name:** John

**Last Name:** Dew

**Phone:** 205-246-0564

**Email:** jrdeu@troy.edu

**Occupation:** Adjunct Faculty at Troy University

## **Briefly tell us about your family:**

My wife, Lyndia, and I have been married for 37 years. We have three daughters and ten grandchildren. I am the son of the Rev. Randle Dew, who was an ordained UM minister in the Kentucky Conference. Since I retired as Senior Vice Chancellor at Troy University, Lyndia and I have enjoyed camping in our RV. We are both active with the Pike County Habitat For Humanity Affiliate. We have been members of UM churches in the Holston, Memphis, and North Alabama conferences and have enjoyed providing contemporary church music as part of our involvement in our church communities.



## **Church Involvement**

**District:** Montgomery-Prattville

**Church where You are a Member:** We attend Montgomery FUMC, but I am on the conference roll as we are involved in planting a new UMC in Troy.

**When did you join your church?** I was confirmed into the Methodist Church in 1964 by the Rev. Sam Dodson at Calvary Methodist in Nashville, TN.

## **Previous church(es) and date(s) of membership:**

Calvary Methodist in Nashville 1958 - 1966; Fourth Ave UMC in Louisville, KY from 1966 to 1968; Leonia UMC in the North New Jersey conference from 1968 to 1970; Wesleyan Heights UMC in Owensboro, KY from 1970 to 1974; Broadway UMC in Paducah, KY from 1974 to 1980; Fountain Ave UMC in Paducah from 1980 to 1985; FUMC - Oak Ridge, TN from 1986 to 1992; New Liberty UMC in Ballard County, KY from 1992 - 1998; Trinity UMC in Tuscaloosa, AL from 1998 - 2007; FUMC in Troy from 2007 - 2020; Park Memorial UMC in Troy from 2020 to 2023.

## **Please list any local church leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Youth member of Church Council at Leonia UMC and MYF President, 1967 - 1968; MYF counselor and Chair of the Council of Ministries and adult Sunday School teacher at Broadway UMC in Paducah in the 1970's; Chair of the Administrative Board at Fountain Ave UMC 1982-1984 and Sunday School teacher; Chair of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee at FUMC-Oak Ridge in 1990 & 1991 and taught adult Sunday School for six years; Chaired Church Council at New Liberty UMC in mid 1990's and served as a conference lay speaker for the Memphis Conference; Served as UMYF counselor at Trinity UMC in Tuscaloosa and chaired the Board for the University of Alabama Wesley Foundation; Chaired the Administrative Board at FUMC - Troy from 2008 - 2012 and served on the Board of the Troy Wesley Foundation; Taught the Wesley-McCartha Men's class at FUMC - Troy for ten years.

## **Please list any district level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

n/a

## **Please list any conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

n/a

**Please list any jurisdictional and/or general conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

n/a

**Please share any community service, beliefs, philosophies, and reasons why you would make a good delegate:**

I love the United Methodist Church. Confirmation classes at Calvary with Rev Dodson and involvement with MYF groups in Nashville, Louisville, and Leonia N.J. shaped my life. I was able to attend Kentucky Wesleyan College where I was deeply influenced by the faculty. As my career took me around the country to work for Lockheed Martin Corporation, and then into academe where I worked for The University of Alabama and then Troy University, connection with the UMC has always been my first priority in becoming part of a community. I have served as President of the Habitat For Humanity affiliates in Paducah, KY and in Troy, AL and organized numerous Habitat spring break mission trips for the students in the Wesley Foundation at The University of Alabama. I have also served as a crisis intervention counselor for the Contact Teleministry in the Holstein conference. As the Senior Vice Chancellor at Troy University, I had oversight for the campuses in Troy, Dothan, Montgomery, and Phenix City. I believe I would make a good delegate because I have a calm approach to getting things done and am deeply committed to the UMC.

# Laity Delegate Profile for 2024 General and Jurisdictional Conferences

**First Name:** Clara

**Last Name:** Ester

**Phone:** 251-509-2572

**Email:** cester20@att.net

**Occupation:** Retired as Executive Director of Dumas Wesley Community Center 1970-2006

**Briefly tell us about your family:**

One son, Reginald Ester



## **Church Involvement**

**District:** Mobile

**Church where You are a Member:** Toulminville-Warren Street UMC

**When did you join your church?** Transferred my membership around 1972

**Previous church(es) and date(s) of membership:**

Centenary United Methodist Church, Memphis, TN; Baptized as an infant and remained on roll until transferring my membership to Toulminville-Warren Street UMC

**Please list any local church leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Served as Altar Guild 2000-2010; served as an Usher 2004-2010; served as Lay Leader 2006-2010; Chaired the Mature Adult Ministry 2002-2008; served on SPRC 2008-2010; and presently serve on the Nominating Committee. Served in numerous positions with United Women in Faith.

**Please list any district level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Served on Board of Ministry 2011-2019; served on Superintendency Committee 2012-2019; served on the Nominating Committee 2012-2019; served on the Board of Church Location and Building 2012-2019; served on Board of Missions and Church Extension 2012-2019; and served as District Lay Leader 2012-2019. Served on the Nominating committee and Vice President of United Women in Faith.

**Please list any conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Served on the Board of Laity 2012-2019; served on the Episcopacy Committee 2012-2020; served on the Core Team 2016-2019; served on the Committee on Investigation 2012-2019; served on United Women in Faith Executive Team 2012- 2020; and served on the Nominating Committee 2012-2019.

**Please list any jurisdictional and/or general conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Serve on United Women in Faith Charter for Racial Justice Support Team for the SEJ; Delegate to Jurisdictional Conference 2012; Delegate to General Conference 2016

**Please share any community service, beliefs, philosophies, and reasons why you would make a good delegate:**

I am one of the founding members of People United to Advance the Dream, as well as Mobile Habitat for Humanity. I served as National Vice President of United Women in Faith 2016-2020 and presently serve as President for the National Association of Deaconess and Home Missioners. I am a lifelong member of this denomination and believe

in the Social Principles of the UMC. The majority of my life I've been involved in social justice concerns and working with those who are marginalized. I was taught early in life to treat others as you want to be treated. I believe there is room at the table for all God's children and we must demonstrate open doors, open hearts and open minds by our actions. I would love to have the opportunity to participate in the policy making decisions of our denomination.

# Laity Delegate Profile for 2024 General and Jurisdictional Conferences

**First Name:** Celeste

**Last Name:** Eubanks

**Phone:** 334-303-5088

**Email:** celeste@awfumc.org

**Occupation:** Director of Connectional Ministries for  
the Alabama-West Florida Conference

**Briefly tell us about your family:**

Originally from Slidell, LA, I am the youngest of two children.

My sister is 15 months older than me. My parents have been married just over 50 years and still reside in Slidell, LA. I am single and have no children.



## **Church Involvement**

**District:** Mobile

**Church where You are a Member:** St. John UMC

**When did you join your church?** 6/1/2001

**Previous church(es) and date(s) of membership:**

Toulminville-Warren St. UMC - March 2004 - May 2011

While my membership is still at St. John UMC, I worship and am active in ministry at Metropolitan UMC in Montgomery, AL.

**Please list any local church leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Lay member to Annual Conference - St. John - 2014-2017; Chair of the vision team (during time of Grace Place/St. John merger) - 2014; Small Group Leader - St. John - 2013-2018; Finance Chair of "The Grace Place" (a previous ministry of St. John UMC) - August 2011-January 2014; Nominations committee - St. John - 2011-2017; SPPRC - Toulminville-Warren St. - 2008-2009

**Please list any district level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Young Adult Delegate to Annual Conference - Mobile District - 2009; Board of Mission and Church Extension (BOMACE) - Mobile District - around 2008-2010; Chair of Open Doors, Inc. (now Ignite Mobile) - 2011-2013; QuadW Missional Outreach Board - 2016-2021

**Please list any conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Board of Ordained Ministry - 2016-Present; Board of Global Ministries - 2014-2016

**Please list any jurisdictional and/or general conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

SEJ Conference Minutes/Recording Secretary - 2022; SEJ Committee on Appeals - 2022-present

**Please share any community service, beliefs, philosophies, and reasons why you would make a good delegate:**

I have been a member of The United Methodist Church (UMC) for just under 20 years and cannot say enough about the positive influence it has had on my life. I attribute most of my spiritual growth to clergy and laity in The UMC. Since becoming a member, I have had the pleasure of serving in a number of leadership positions at the local church, district, conference, and jurisdictional levels. In all of my serving, I have continued to live into mission

of The UMC - “[making] disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” In all that I do, it is about transforming lives and showing the love of Christ. As I put forth this nomination to be a lay delegate to General Conference, I keep this mission statement in mind. If chosen as a delegate, I will represent the Alabama-West Florida Conference well showing the love of Christ to all that I meet and being led by the Holy Spirit in all that I do.



# Laity Delegate Profile for 2024 General and Jurisdictional Conferences

**First Name:** Gene

**Last Name:** Lammers

**Phone:** 251-422-1875

**Email:** Genelammers@gmail.com

**Occupation:** Geriatric medicine physician, Professor of Internal Medicine,  
University of South Alabama

**Briefly tell us about your family:**

Cecilia, a retired kindergarten teacher, is my wife of almost 43 years.

We have 4 children living in Alabama, Florida, Virginia, and Italy.

We have 6 grandchildren, and our fur baby Zoey.



## **Church Involvement**

**District:** Baypines      **Church where You are a Member:** Fairhope UMC

**When did you join your church?** 2012

**Previous church(es) and date(s) of membership:**

Village UMC, Asheville Ohio, baptized and confirmed 1968; Carrollton UMC (AL), 1972-1982; Trinity on the Hill UMC, Augusta, GA, 1982-85; Reform (AL) UMC, 1985-90; Aldersgate UMC (Chapel Hill, NC) 1991-1993; Carmel (IN) UMC 1993-2011

**Please list any local church leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Chair, SPR, 1987-1990; Chair, Missions, 1998-2000; Certified Lay Servant 2015- present; Co-Lay Leader/Lay Leader, 2017-2020; chair, Board of Stewards, 2020-2021; Lay Member of Annual Conference 2017-2023

**Please list any district level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

District Committee on Ministry, 2019-present, Lay Member of Annual Conference for Baypines District, 2023

**Please list any conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Conference Covid Response Team, 2020-2022; Conference Board of Trustees 2023-present

**Please list any jurisdictional and/or general conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Marshall for the Special Called General Conference, 2019

**Please share any community service, beliefs, philosophies, and reasons why you would make a good delegate:**

I believe that Jesus calls us to love God and our neighbors, whether we agree with them or not. I believe it is more important to demonstrate our love than talk about it. I believe in the sacred worth of everyone, as all are created by God, in the image of God. I believe in the power of prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit to lead in discernment for questions in my personal life and in my church life. I am prepared to study any issue facing the global church, and follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. I pray that 2024 General Conference will be spirit-filled Holy conferencing. I am willing to serve our Annual Conference in any way needed.

# Laity Delegate Profile for 2024 General and Jurisdictional Conferences

**First Name:** Patricia (Pat)      **Last Name:** Luna

**Phone:** 334-202-9440      **Email:** patluna@me.com

**Occupation:** President of Compass Consultants, LLC  
(I lead capital campaigns for churches)

**Briefly tell us about your family:**

I am a cradle United Methodist and an Air Force brat. My Dad was stationed around the world. I was raised in a wonderful Christian home by two loving parents. My family has been involved in the United Methodist Church/Methodist Church for generations.



## Church Involvement

**District:** Marianna/Panama City      **Church where You are a Member:** Point Washington UMC

**When did you join your church?** 2010

**Previous church(es) and date(s) of membership:**

Whitfield UMC (1992-2010), Northport FUMC (1964-1992), St. Mark UMC 1960-64

**Please list any local church leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Board of Discipleship, Chair (2002-06); Stewardship, Chair (Numerous); Capital Campaign, Chair- Whitfield 2000 & Point Washington 2010; Finance (Numerous); UMW; Emmaus (Numerous); Sunday School Teacher (Numerous); Disciple Bible Study (1999-2002); Prayer Team (Numerous); Church Council or Administrative Board (Numerous); Building Chair 2019-present

**Please list any district level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Trustees; Lay Leadership (Nominations); District Delegate; I have taught and assisted with Super Sunday and other district events.

**Please list any conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

AWF Trustee (2020-present); Task Force on Church Planting and Revitalization (2023); UMCOR (numerous); United Methodist Foundation Committee (2015-22); Blue Lake Board and Development Chair (2014-16); Disaster Response Team (2012-present); 5-day Academy for Spiritual Formation, Retreat Leader (Numerous); Emmaus, Lay Director and Team Member (Numerous); Covenant Community (1999-2002); Chrysalis Chair (1995-2002); CORE Team (2002-10); Board of Discipleship, Chair (2002-10); Reorganization Task Force (2000); AWF Denman Award (2001)

**Please list any jurisdictional and/or general conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

General Conference Delegate (2016 and 2019); General Conference, First Reserve Delegate (2012); Jurisdictional Conference, Delegate (2012 and 2016); Jurisdiction, Nomination Committee (2012); Academy for Spiritual Formation, Retreat Leader (2006-present); General Board of Church and Society (2012-24); General Board of Discipleship Older Adult Committee (2012-16); Emmaus Anniversary Cruise, Keynote Speaker (2019); Study of Ministry Commission (2008-12); Upper Room, Author and Speaker; Discipleship Resources Team -Taught stewardship to the UMC laity and clergy in Mozambique (2001 & 2002)

**Please share any community service, beliefs, philosophies, and reasons why you would make a good delegate:**

Community Service: Chair and program writer for Epiphany Ministry (a ministry for juvenile offenders); Kairos Prison Ministry (Numerous leadership positions); Mission trips; Board member, leader and/or fundraiser for numerous nonprofits. Reasons I'd be a good delegate: First and foremost, I love Jesus and nothing is more important to me than my relationship with God! Having been a delegate to two General Conferences (16 and 19) and First Reserve and fully participating in General Conference 2012 and three Jurisdictional Conferences, I can testify to how much you have to learn, how hard this work is, and how challenging it is in ordinary times. I can't begin to imagine how challenging it will be in 2024 with all that is before us. Should I have the honor of being elected again, I will make every effort to understand the breath and depth of the issues as well as the key people essential to effectively serving our conference and the larger connection. I believe in The United Methodist Church! I am proud to be a United Methodist and serve Jesus Christ, through this imperfect but wonderful denomination that has changed my life and the lives of so many!

# Laity Delegate Profile for 2024 General and Jurisdictional Conferences

**First Name:** Lindsey

**Last Name:** Middleton

**Phone:** 334-332-8818

**Email:** LindseyM@aumc.net

**Occupation:** Interim Director of Youth Ministry, Auburn UMC

## **Briefly tell us about your family:**

My husband Scott and I met and married at First UMC Montgomery almost 29 years ago. Our older son Will lives in north Alabama and will marry his fiancé, Laiken, this summer. Our younger son, Mark, is an honor student at Birmingham-Southern College. We have lived in Auburn and attended Auburn UMC since 2004.



## **Church Involvement**

**District:** Montgomery-Opelika

**Church where You are a Member:** Auburn UMC

**When did you join your church?** August 1, 2006

## **Previous church(es) and date(s) of membership:**

First UMC, Montgomery: 1986 - 2006; Taylorville UMC, Taylorville, AL: 1984 - 1986

## **Please list any local church leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

2007 - 2019: Work Area on Missions, Executive Board; Missions & Outreach Committee Member; Chairperson, Outreach Subcommittee on Justice; Administrative Board; Children's Council; Think Tank Leadership Development Committee, 2006 - 2019: Adult Bible Study Leader, 2005-2011: Children's Choir Leader, 2012: Mission Team Leader, Spirit Lake, North Dakota; 2013-2017: Preschool Music Teacher; 2013 - 2019: Mission Team Leader, Haiti (12 teams)

## **Please list any district level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Jan 2018 - August 2022: Montgomery-Opelika District Committee on Ministry; Sept 2019 - August 2022: Registrar, Montgomery-Opelika District Committee on Ministry; 2019 - 2023: Montgomery-Opelika District Lay Delegate at Large to Annual Conference

## **Please list any conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Oct 2019 - present: Clergy Effectiveness Team

## **Please list any jurisdictional and/or general conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

n/a

## **Please share any community service, beliefs, philosophies, and reasons why you would make a good delegate:**

My father is a fifth-generation Methodist preacher, so the United Methodist Church is both my church and my heritage. As my mother's father and one of her great-grandfathers were also Methodist preachers, it is a legacy that both sides of my family hold in common. My paternal grandparents ran an annual interdenominational, open air, holiness camp meeting for decades, while my mother's family had a more "high church" approach to faith. I grew up experiencing the gifts of worshipping in churches large and small, formal and rural, in both the North Alabama and Alabama-West Florida Conferences of the United Methodist Church. Since 2012, I have been

employed in children's, college and youth ministry settings and am now a seminarian and a certified candidate on the deacon track. Experiencing firsthand the depth of faith I see in young church members who will carry our denomination forward, I offer myself as a delegate to General Conference in hopes of helping to guard the good thing that has been entrusted to us: the Spirit-led future of The United Methodist Church.

# Laity Delegate Profile for 2024 General and Jurisdictional Conferences

**First Name:** Mary Catherine **Last Name:** Phillips

**Phone:** 334-590-5641 **Email:** marycatherine@awfumc.org

**Occupation:** Director of Communications for  
the Alabama-West Florida Conference

**Briefly tell us about your family:**

Married to Scott for 21 years. Daughter, Sarah Elizabeth (10)  
Parents and in laws are all United Methodist



## Church Involvement

**District:** Montgomery-Prattville **Church where You are a Member:** FUMC Montgomery

**When did you join your church?** 1986

**Previous church(es) and date(s) of membership:**

n/a

**Please list any local church leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Communications team, 2000; Long range plan committee, 2010; Nominations team, 2022-present; Stay UMC leadership team

**Please list any district level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

n/a

**Please list any conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Director of Communications, 2011-present; Voting lay member of annual conference, 2011-present; AWF Core team, 2011-present; AWF nominations team, 2011-present; Bishop's extended cabinet, 2011-present

**Please list any jurisdictional and/or general conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Communicator of the year, 2019

**Please share any community service, beliefs, philosophies, and reasons why you would make a good delegate:**

Jr. League of Montgomery, 2000-2010; Cloverdale neighborhood secretary, 2008-2010; Hillwood neighborhood Vice President, 2020-present; I am a lifelong United Methodist and committed to the United Methodist Church. The Alabama-West Florida Conference has an opportunity after disaffiliations to design and implement what a "new" church looks like embracing all United Methodists. I score high on the empathy charts and am able to truly understand other's perspective and feelings. I would represent the AWF Conference and consider what is best for us all; not just my personal feelings.

# Laity Delegate Profile for 2024 General and Jurisdictional Conferences

**First Name:** Carolyn

**Last Name:** Witten

**Phone:** 850-227-4047

**Email:** carolynwitten@gmail.com

**Occupation:** Retired School Administrator, (37.5 years in education as classroom teacher, reading specialist, resource teacher, and administrator)

**Briefly tell us about your family:**

Fred and I have been married for twenty-three years. Together we have five children, one of which we lost to glioblastoma in 2020. Most importantly, we have eleven grandchildren who are the lights of our lives.



## **Church Involvement**

**District:** Marianna/Panama City

**Church where You are a Member:** Port St. Joe FUMC

**When did you join your church?** 1988

**Previous church(es) and date(s) of membership:**

Wewahitchka UMC, 1958-1981; Trinity UMC, Gainesville, FL., 1981-1988;

**Please list any local church leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

SPRC 2008-2010, SPRC Chair 2009-2010; Lay Leader 2011-2013, 2022-present; Church Council 2016-2018, Church Council Vice Chair 2016, Church Council Chair 2017; Board of Trustees 2013-2015; Making Space for God Building Committee Chair 2014-2017; REBUILD Committee 2019-present; Interior Design Subcommittee 2020-present; Sunday School Teacher and VBS volunteer in each of the churches I have held membership in. UMYF Parent Volunteer 1982-1988, Trinity UMC. \*Some dates are to the best of my memory. PSJUMC records prior to 2018 Hurricane Michael were lost.

**Please list any district level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

n/a

**Please list any conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

AWF Conference Board of Trustees November, 2021-June, 2022

**Please list any jurisdictional and/or general conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

n/a

**Please share any community service, beliefs, philosophies, and reasons why you would make a good delegate:**

Board of Directors, Life Management Center; American Cancer Society Relay for Life Executive Committee; Volunteer at FUMC PSJ Care Closet; Chaplain of PSJ Gideon Auxiliary. I strongly believe we are called to serve our fellow man in whatever ways we are able. I understand, and have experience in, guiding people to consensus. I also am able to stand by my beliefs while exhibiting respect for the beliefs of others.

# Laity Delegate Profile for 2024 General and Jurisdictional Conferences

**First Name:** Katy

**Last Name:** Wrona

**Phone:** 724-889-6754

**Email:** kwrona@communitiesoftransformation.org

**Occupation:** Executive Director of Communities of Transformation

## **Briefly tell us about your family:**

I am part of a large, loud, and beautiful family. My family lives in Western Pennsylvania and Western North Carolina. My dad is a steel worker and works hard to provide for his family. My mom is a local pastor in the United Methodist Church. I have an older sister, Rachel, and twin brother, Sean. I am the favorite aunt to my nephew, Cannon, and I am excited to meet my second nephew this fall.



## **Church Involvement**

**District:** Mobile

**Church where You are a Member:** St. John UMC

**When did you join your church?** 2016

## **Previous church(es) and date(s) of membership:**

First UMC (New Kensington, PA): 2004 - 2006; Bethel UMC (Lower Burrell, PA): 2006 - 2016

## **Please list any local church leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Financial Chairperson: 2023; Present Financial Secretary: 2016 - 2019; Trustee Member: 2017 - 2019; UWFaith Unit President: 2018 - Present

## **Please list any district level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

n/a

## **Please list any conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

COSROW: 2022 - Present; Global Ministries Conference Secretary: 2021 - Present; Board of Laity: 2021 - Present

## **Please list any jurisdictional and/or general conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

n/a

## **Please share any community service, beliefs, philosophies, and reasons why you would make a good delegate:**

My mother recently called me intense and said it was a compliment. I said that I would prefer passionate, but I've been processing her comment ever since. See my mother is a local pastor in the United Methodist Church and serves a church in the Western Pennsylvania Conference. She has always been my example of a strong faith leader as she walks in her calling with grace and compassion. She taught me to study, dig deeper, ask hard questions, listen, and strive to grow closer and closer to perfection each day. She showed me the power of relationships, the importance of lay leadership in the church, and the impact of missions/ministries in the community when she served as a lay leader. I learned so much from her leadership as both a lay and clergy person and it helped shape me into the person I am today, even if that's slightly intense. It is this lived experience that has developed many of my beliefs today. I believe in the power of one voice in the church. I believe that everyone should be at the table, and it is our responsibility to seek out those who have yet to be invited. I believe that we must put our words into



action and make the change we want to see in this world. I believe that we must continue to be open so we can continue to be transformed as we grow in our faith journey. I believe in mission and development of women, and I am very active in the United Women in Faith organization. I currently serve as the conference Vice President, and I love organizing our large events held during the year. I believe in affordable housing for all and volunteer several times a month with Habitat for Humanity. I meet new people and learn new skills while providing a forever home for a family in my community. Webster defines intense as extreme force, degree, or strength. I now see my mom's comment as an actual compliment. I want to be strong in my beliefs and hold myself and others accountable. I want to be passionate about the ministries I believe in. I want to stand strong and represent myself, my local church, and this conference at General Conference.

# Laity Delegate Profile for 2024 General and Jurisdictional Conferences

**First Name:** Robert

**Last Name:** Young

**Phone:** 850-304-1808

**Email:** rsyfam1@aol.com

**Occupation:** Retired Military Officer

**Briefly tell us about your family:**

I've been married to my wife Karen for 45 years. We have two sons, Jacob and Eric, both married. We have four grandsons, Owen, Isaac, Iain and Silas.



## Church Involvement

**District:** Pensacola    **Church where You are a Member:** FUMC Milton

**When did you join your church?** 2004

**Previous church(es) and date(s) of membership:**

Christ UMC, Mobile, AL 1999-2004; Coast Guard Chapel, Bourquin PR 1996-1999; FUMC Milton, FL, 1992-1996; White Bluff, UMC, Savannah, GA 1989-1992; FUMC Ada, OK 1986-1989; Gareden Grove UMC, Garden Grove, CA 1981-1986; FUMC Milton, FL 1980-1981; FUMC Ada, Ok 1978-1980

**Please list any local church leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

Lay Leader 2005-2023; Stewardship Chair 2004; Chapel Finance Committee 1996-1999; Lay Leader 1994-1996; Finance Committee 2001-2004; Youth Group Coordinator/Leader 1978-1989; Full time Youth Director 1987-1989

**Please list any district level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

n/a

**Please list any conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

n/a

**Please list any jurisdictional and/or general conference level leadership positions you have held and the dates of your terms.**

n/a

**Please share any community service, beliefs, philosophies, and reasons why you would make a good delegate:**

I have served our country as a military officer for more than 30 years. I understand that service often requires sacrifice. I believe our most important reflections as Christians is to serve all of Gods Children, regardless of location or circumstance. I have been a United Methodist all my life, I know how difficult things have been the past few years. I believe our church can be more than it ever has been, a shining light of Gods grace and love to all who seek him.