

Declaration for Candidacy for General Conference

Rev. Dr. Charles Ensminger

I would like to formally declare my interest in being a candidate for General Conference. I am currently the pastor of Kunéix Hídi Northern Light United Church in Juneau, Alaska where I have been serving since July of 2023.

My heart and interest are in theology and how we define and express our understanding of that theology in the local church. Given the turbulence of the previous two quadrennium, I feel that it is with deliberateness that we, as a denomination, must work to continue to speak to a polarized world. To do that, we must approach General Conference with humility, sincerity, and hope.

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Ordained Elder in 2002, I have served as a pastor in the United Methodist Church for 30 years, (four years as Probationary Deacon) predominantly in the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church. I also taught as an Adjunct Professor of Religion at Tennessee Wesleyan University for 16 years (2001-2011, 2017-2023).

I attended Drew University in Madison, New Jersey where I earned a Master of Divinity as well as an M.A. in Biblical Studies. I also hold a D. Min. degree from Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

I have written three books:

Crafting the Sermon: A Beginner's Guide to Preaching (2019)

Saturday Faith: Moving through the Crisis of Hopelessness (2021)

From Advent to Ascension: A Journey with the Christ (2022)

And the chapter: "And in the End" in the book *Now What? A Guide to the Gifts and Challenges of Aging* (2021).

Regarding Conference offices, while in the Holston Conference, I served on the following:

Board of Higher Education for the Holston Conference 2001-2004

Board of Directors for Camp Lookout, a UM camp in the Holston Conference 2001 – 2004

Cleveland District Board of Ordained Ministry 2004 – 2011

Cleveland District Discipleship Committee 2004 – 2009

Chattanooga District Development Team 2014 – 2018

Hiwassee (formerly Cleveland) District Board of Ordained Ministry 2020 – 2023

In the Alaska Conference:

Disaster Preparedness and Response

Professional Ministries Unit (current chair)

It would be a privilege to serve as a delegate to General Conference.