

Murray Crookes  
04/21/2026

## Statement of Candidacy for General Conference

### History of Service:

- 13 years of pastoral service, 8 years in the Alaska Conference, Ordained since 2023
- 6 years on AK Child & Family board as Methodist member
- 2 years on Leadership team
- 1 year Chair of Native Ministries Committee
- 2 years Chair of Western Jurisdiction Committee on Native American Ministry
- 1 year member/executive board member of Native American Comprehensive Plan
- 3 years Alaska Representative for SLAM trips
- 2 years on truth-telling group in Greater Northwest
- Faculty of Native American Course of Study

My name is Murray Crookes and I believe that I am an excellent candidate to be a delegate to General Conference representing the Alaska Conference for many reasons. The first is logistical: I will already be attending jurisdictional meetings because I'm the chair of the Western Jurisdiction CoNAM. As a conference, we have identified ministry with Alaska Native people as a top priority. I believe that I am an ideal candidate because of my perspective and experience working with Native ministries in Alaska and throughout our connection. During our Spring learning event, I noticed that many of the ministries that reach out to needy, struggling, or homeless people that were present were ministries that I am closely connected to. My practical theological perspective, commitment to liberation theology, and experience working with needy communities also make me a strong candidate. Some lesser-known things that I bring to the table include a firm commitment to people in the LGBTQIA+ community and with other persecuted people as my own identity intersects with the common struggle. I have shortcomings that should be considered as well. For example, I struggle with timeliness regarding paperwork and deadlines. My commitment to liberation can sometimes pit me against the institutions that I represent, especially when dealing with historical trauma of Native People. I also acknowledge that my plate is already full. It is from this perspective, however, that I put myself forward, because I know that a lot of work lies ahead for the candidates. I look forward to supporting our conference to the best of my ability.

Thank you very much.  
-Rev. Murray Crookes