

Laity General Conference Nominees

David Bean



What Church Do You Attend/Serve?

Wilderness Community Church

Biography

I was raised in the Methodist Church since I was 3 years old as my father was a Pastor in the UMC for 49 years. I accepted Jesus when I was 11 during a confirmation class. At age 17 I heard a call from the Lord that I should go into the ministry but I walked away from this call at the age of 20. You could say I fit the description of the Prodigal Son. In 1998 I re-dedicated my life to the Lord and committed myself to serve Him fully. I have been the Lay Leader of two UMC Churches for a total of 10 years. I started a Men's Ministry at Culpeper, Building Brothers, which lasted for over 10 years and only stopped because of shutdown of the churches.

I was the VP of the United Methodist Men for the VA Conference for 4 years leading the Spiritual Retreats. I was also a delegate to the AC of the VA UMC for over 15 years. I have started a Covenant Relationship with a Church in Cuba which has lasted for 13 years and is still in effect. I was asked by the Church in Cuba to come and speak to the National Men's Gathering to speak to them about my Men's Ministry, Spiritual Fathers, with about 700 men attending. I was asked to be a member of the TDAT team in 2022, and was then asked to be the Chair of the VA Annual Conference Planning Team, which is a position I now hold. I also helped lead the members of Culpeper UMC through the disaffiliation process and after the vote fell short with 58% I lead about 60 people to start a new church which is named Stand Firm Christian Church, but they decided to stay an independent church. I know I was called to be in the GMC and that is when we started going to Wilderness Church, where I am now a member.

Calling to be a Virginia Delegate to General Conference

When I was notified that I had been nominated, I prayed and asked my closest brothers and sisters in Christ and they all agreed I should put my name forward as a nominee. I believe God has been calling me to go deeper into a relationship with Him and this is a way for me to continue to say yes to His calling.

Why would you be a great Delegate to Represent Virginia?

With all of my experience with the disaffiliation process with the UMC, starting a new church and being a delegate with the UMC I know I can represent the VA Conference GMC with integrity. I will always be in prayer and allow the Holy Spirit to guide me as I represent the Conference.

What is one thing you look forward to most about being Virginia's delegate?

To see God move in the hearts of Men and Women and to watch the Holy Spirit guide all the delegates that are in attendance as we discern what is the good and perfect will of God in this Holy Conferencing.

Gift Assessment (David Bean):

General Conference Skill	Personal Rating	General Conference Skill	Personal Rating
Passion for the mission and vision of the GMC	5	Understanding of the needs and vision of the VA Annual Conference	4
Gifts for Connection with Others	4	Ability to write updates that could be shared with the conference (via social media, email, or other formats)	4
Confidence in Legislation Work (writing, editing, etc.)	3	Comfort with and excellence in public speaking	4
Understanding of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline	4	Experience with International Travel	5
Experience with Robert's Rules of Order	4		

Other gifts that would help you in this role as a General Conference Delegate?

On of my top 5 spiritual gifts is Faith. I will always put my Faith in Jesus to help me in my decisions as a delegate. I will allow the Holy Spirit to guide me in all those decisions as well.



What Church Do You Attend/Serve?

Wilderness Community Church

Biography

My name is Amy Gearhardt. I am married to Ben; mother to Wesley, Jacob, Nathan, and Abigail; and grandmother to Adeline and Haven, with two wonderful daughters-in-law, Rachel and Riley. We've moved a lot, having secured seventeen addresses in the first twelve years of our almost 29 years of marriage. Virginia is now our home base, replacing Cincinnati and Ohio. Ben and I graduated our boys from our homeschool and still teach Abigail. I teach Shakespeare and English at our classical Christian homeschool co-op. In my spare time, I read fantasy and snuggle my new grandbabies.

My holiness heritage is rooted in the Salvation Army and Nazarene traditions, with my faith journey beginning as a

young child. My parents served as Salvation Army officers (pastors) from the time I was 11 years old until their retirement in 2020. I have served at summer camp, as a ringer and coordinator for Christmas kettles, summer day camp, VBS, and intake at a day shelter/homeless shelter in Monterey, as well as an administrative assistant at the district offices in Cincinnati. I have worked with youth at almost every church and city we've lived in.

I currently serve as the Executive Administrator of Wilderness Community Church. I serve on our music team, youth ministry team, and prayer team. Ben and I have been the youth leaders for the past thirteen years, with a few seasons of shared leadership with others. I have a heart for teens, especially middle and early high school, and long for them to know the joy of the Lord. I believe that each of us is uniquely designed by our Creator for His good purposes, and seek to help each young person recognize that truth.

I serve on the Leadership Team, Communications Team, Gathering Team, and Board of Ministry for the GMC VA Conference. I am honored to be considered for this opportunity as one of our lay delegates for General Conference.

Calling to be a Virginia Delegate to General Conference

I believe that the Lord moves in ways that provide for His good purposes, and I am open to being a part of His plan. I am confident that He who began His good work in me will equip me for whatever tasks He lays before me.

Why would you be a great Delegate to Represent Virginia?

I am a lifelong learner, always eager to ask questions, deepen my understanding, and expand my knowledge. I would apply these skills to serve Virginia at the General Conference, guided by the Lord's wisdom and discernment, which would equip me to serve Him.

What is one thing you look forward to most about being Virginia's delegate?

I most look forward to traveling to another country and culture, meeting others in our faith family from around the world, and connecting with brothers and sisters in the worship of our one Father.

Gift Assessment (Amy Gearhardt):

General Conference Skill	Personal Rating	General Conference Skill	Personal Rating
Passion for the mission and vision of the GMC	5	Understanding of the needs and vision of the VA Annual Conference	5
Gifts for Connection with Others	5	Ability to write updates that could be shared with the conference (via social media, email, or other formats)	5
Confidence in Legislation Work (writing, editing, etc.)	5	Comfort with and excellence in public speaking	5
Understanding of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline	4	Experience with International Travel	2
Experience with Robert's Rules of Order	4		

Other gifts that would help you in this role as a General Conference Delegate?

Gifted in faith, teaching, and wisdom will enable me to learn new things and to communicate them effectively to others. I am friendly and easy to connect with, able to engage new people and fill in gaps where needed.



What Church Do You Attend/Serve?

Beulah Church, North Chesterfield, VA

Biography

I feel I am your ideal candidate to be your Lay Delegate to the 2026 General Conference in Africa. I was elected to be your Lay Delegate to the Convening Conference in Costa Rica in 2024, where I served on the Finance, Administration, Benefits and Pension Committee.

My involvement with the Wesley Covenant Association (WCA) has been since its inception in Virginia in 2016. I have served on the WCA Board of Directors, the Virginia Provisional District Advisory Team (PDAT), and the Transitional Conference Advisory Team (TCAT). I am or have been a member of the Ambassadors Team, the Communications Team, the Conference Planning Team

and the Finance and Administration Committee. I have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to contact disaffiliated churches and taking on other tasks that have been critical to the formation of the GMC in Virginia. For example I compiled the list of disaffiliated churches and contacted them to obtain their current information.

In the secular world, I hold a Certified Financial Planning (CFP) designation and a BS Degree in Finance from VCU. I worked for an investment advisory firm for 20 years before accepting a position with the General Board of the UMC as a Deaconess/Church and Community Worker with the Mississippi Band of the Choctaw (a native American tribe).

Among my service to the Lord, I am a Certified Lay Minister (CLM), for the GMC and have trained as a Stephen Minister and a Certified Lay Speaker. I have been on numerous local, national, and international mission teams serving God as He has led.

I am married to Henry Hassell and I have 4 adult children, 1 stepdaughter, 13 grandchildren and 2 great granddaughters.

Others have commented that I am a person of integrity and a person of high ethical standards.

Calling to be a Virginia Delegate to General Conference

God has laid on my heart to serve Him in many different ways over the years. At this time I feel He wants me to be obedient to His calling me to be the Virginia Lay Delegate to the 2026 General Conference of the GMC.

Why would you be a great Delegate to Represent Virginia?

I am qualified and ready to continue the work started in Costa Rica as your delegate to further the growth of the GMC in Virginia and the world.

What is one thing you look forward to most about being Virginia's delegate?

I most look forward to sharing the work of the GMC in Virginia with new and old friends in a new place.

Gift Assessment (Diane Hassell):

General Conference Skill	Personal Rating	General Conference Skill	Personal Rating
Passion for the mission and vision of the GMC	5	Understanding of the needs and vision of the VA Annual Conference	5
Gifts for Connection with Others	5	Ability to write updates that could be shared with the conference (via social media, email, or other formats)	5
Confidence in Legislation Work (writing, editing, etc.)	5	Comfort with and excellence in public speaking	5
Understanding of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline	5	Experience with International Travel	5
Experience with Robert's Rules of Order	5		

Other gifts that would help you in this role as a General Conference Delegate

I have been involved in leadership roles since I was a teenager. I am a team player and a visionary.



What Church Do You Attend/Serve?

Annex Fellowship Church, Staunton, VA

Biography

I have been honored to serve in a variety of leadership roles within my local church, including as Chair of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC). I currently serve as Treasurer, a Sunday School teacher, and oversee sound and audiovisual operations for our weekly services.

I played a key role in guiding the Annex and Crimora churches through their transition out of the United Methodist Church (UMC), helping them navigate complex challenges such as bylaws, articles of incorporation, property surveys, financial decisions, and—most importantly—matters of faith and discernment. Together, we sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit to understand

God's calling for these churches during a pivotal time.

My work with Annex and Crimora extended beyond the local level through my service as First Vice President of the Wesleyan Covenant Association of Virginia. In that role, I had the opportunity to speak with numerous congregations across the state about the theological and organizational issues affecting our churches, and to offer insight into the options available to them. Through this experience, I built lasting relationships with faithful individuals from many communities.

This journey led me to serve on the Transitional District Advisory Team (TDAT) for Virginia within the Global Methodist Church (GMC). On this team, we laid the foundational framework, legal structure, and organizational design for what has now become the Virginia Annual Conference of the GMC.

I am currently privileged to serve on the Global Methodist Church of Virginia's Corporation Board of Directors, as a member of the Leadership Committee, and as Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee.

I am a lifelong resident of Augusta County, Virginia, and a proud U.S. Marine Corps veteran. Professionally, I serve as the Chief Operating Officer of a managed IT services provider based in Harrisonburg, VA. I've been blessed to be married to my high school sweetheart, Sharyn (née Hinebaugh), for 37 years. We have two children: Ashleigh, who passed away in 2017, and Christian (28). In 2024, I had the great honor of officiating Christian's marriage to his wife, Kendall. We are joyfully anticipating becoming grandparents in 2026.

Calling to be a Virginia Delegate to General Conference

I feel deeply called to serve as a delegate during this still critical and formative time in the life of our church. Through years of service in various leadership roles, both locally and across the state, I have witnessed firsthand the power of Spirit-led discernment, faithful dialogue, and courageous decision-making. I believe God has prepared me for such a time as this.

Why would you be a great Delegate to Represent Virginia?

I have consistently demonstrated strong, principled leadership and a deep commitment to the faith community, not only through my administrative capability, but also with a heart for ministry and dedication to the mission of the Church.

I believe I bring a clear understanding of the values, structure, and vision of the Global Methodist Church. My experience navigating complex organizational challenges—while staying rooted in prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit—positions me well as a thoughtful and effective voice in any deliberative setting.

What is one thing you look forward to most about being Virginia's delegate (Mike Huff)?

Selfishly, it would be experiencing the presence and indwelling of the Holy Spirit across all the nations and people represented that I know will occur. But, it is also creating new and lasting relationships that can be used to advance the kingdom both here in Virginia and abroad while we achieve the vision and mission of the Global Methodist Church and make Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Gift Assessment:

General Conference Skill	Personal Rating	General Conference Skill	Personal Rating
Passion for the mission and vision of the GMC	5	Understanding of the needs and vision of the VA Annual Conference	5
Gifts for Connection with Others	4	Ability to write updates that could be shared with the conference (via social media, email, or other formats)	5
Confidence in Legislation Work (writing, editing, etc.)	5	Comfort with and excellence in public speaking	4
Understanding of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline	5	Experience with International Travel	5
Experience with Robert's Rules of Order	4		

Other gifts that would help you in this role as a General Conference Delegate?

Selfishly, it would be experiencing the presence and indwelling of the Holy Spirit across all the nations and people represented that I know will occur. But, it is also creating new and lasting relationships that can be used to advance the kingdom both here in Virginia and abroad while we achieve the vision and mission of the Global Methodist Church and make Disciples of Jesus Christ.



What Church Do You Attend/Serve?

Living Sacrifice GMC

Biography

Kirk Little asks you to prayerfully consider his nomination as Lay Delegate for the 2026 General Conference. In 2024, he served the Virginia Annual Conference as an alternate Lay Delegate for the Convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church.

Kirk is Chairman of the Virginia Annual Conference Leadership Team. As Chairman, he coordinates and chairs monthly meetings, supports the various committees functioning as part of the Leadership Team, ensures action items are assigned and completed, and supports the Conference Superintendent and Vice Conference Superintendent. Kirk is also Lay Leader for the Virginia Annual Conference.

Always active in the Methodist Church, Kirk has been a Sunday School teacher, Sunday School Superintendent, member of the Methodist Men, member of the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee, and Administrative Council Chair at various churches in the communities where he has lived. He served as a Lay Delegate to the 2024 Virginia Annual Conference Convening Conference and has been a Congregation and District Lay Delegate to multiple Virginia Annual Conferences for the United Methodist Church. He served four years as Treasurer of the Evangelical Fellowship of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. He is a member of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and Confessing Movement. He currently serves as a Member of the Board of Governors for Wesley Theological Seminary.

Kirk retired from the Air Force as a Space Operations officer and today he is the Vice President & COO of Apogee Solutions, Inc., a business he co-founded in 2002 with his college sweetheart, Dasha. They manage over 130 employees in 16 states across the country, primarily providing services to the Department of Defense and Department of Labor.

Kirk has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from East Carolina University, a Master of Science (with Honors) in Human Resource Management from Chapman College, a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, and a Doctor of Business Administration degree from Temple University.

He and Dasha are members of a new church plant, Living Sacrifice, in Chesapeake, VA. They have four adult children and five grandchildren. They strongly believe only Christ-centered churches can fulfill the Great Commission—and it is time to cast our bread upon the waters!

Calling to be a Virginia Delegate to General Conference

My experience as a Lay Delegate for the Convening General Conference in Costa Rica reinforced to me the importance of the Global Methodist Church mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. It is imperative we spread scriptural holiness across the globe through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit so all disciples may worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

Why would you be a great Delegate to Represent Virginia (Kirk Little)?

While I have participated as a Delegate in multiple Annual Conference sessions, I was very humbled to experience the encouraging, and intentional, focus presented by General Conference—it was a total commitment to furthering God’s Kingdom. That is something I have always yearned for and why I want to be a part of fanning the flame of that commitment at the 2026 General Conference.

What is one thing you look forward to most about being Virginia’s delegate?

We are so blessed to be American Christians, but we have Brothers and Sisters in other parts of the world who are not similarly blessed—they face animosity, oppression, and persecution. And yet they continue to profess their unwavering faith; I want to be there to encourage them and let them know how important their example is to all Christians.

Gift Assessment (Kirk Little):

General Conference Skill	Personal Rating	General Conference Skill	Personal Rating
Passion for the mission and vision of the GMC	5	Understanding of the needs and vision of the VA Annual Conference	5
Gifts for Connection with Others	5	Ability to write updates that could be shared with the conference (via social media, email, or other formats)	5
Confidence in Legislation Work (writing, editing, etc.)	5	Comfort with and excellence in public speaking	5
Understanding of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline	5	Experience with International Travel	5
Experience with Robert’s Rules of Order	5		

Other gifts that would help you in this role as a General Conference Delegate?

So much of the work of a legislative body like General Conference is based upon relationship building and respect. Having lived in the United States, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, I have an appreciation for other cultures and different perspectives that helps to transcend hurdles and find resolution.



What Church Do You Attend/Serve?

Daybreak Church in Williamsburg VA

Biography

Eric is currently serving on the leadership team of the Virginia Annual Conference. He is also serving on the Virginia ambassadors committee. He is passionate about creating opportunities for people to fellowship and do Christian life together. He serves as the chair of the Men's ministry team as well as several other ministries at Daybreak Church in Williamsburg VA. He has been working as a Board Certified Behavioral Analyst. Working with Children with Autism and special needs. Eric has worked in this field for almost 30 years. Eric is blessed to have a wonderful wife and two beautiful daughters.

Calling to be a Virginia Delegate to General Conference

Over the past couple years I have felt an explosive desire/push inside me to serve others and be on the ground floor building a church that calls on the authority of scripture to guild us all through life's struggles. I feel I can serve to guild, encourage, and empower others to continue the work started in the GMC.

Why would you be a great Delegate to Represent Virginia?

I am eagerly looking forward to the Holy Spirit working through me using my past experiences to guild me to make Kingdom decisions that will empower individuals to lead others to Christ.

What is one thing you look forward to most about being Virginia's delegate?

As a possible delegate, I am really looking forward to meeting, encouraging, working, and worshiping with other followers of Jesus from Africa and across the Globe.

Gift Assessment:

General Conference Skill	Personal Rating	General Conference Skill	Personal Rating
Passion for the mission and vision of the GMC	5	Understanding of the needs and vision of the VA Annual Conference	5
Gifts for Connection with Others	5	Ability to write updates that could be shared with the conference (via social media, email, or other formats)	5
Confidence in Legislation Work (writing, editing, etc.)	4	Comfort with and excellence in public speaking	4
Understanding of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline	4	Experience with International Travel	4
Experience with Robert's Rules of Order	4		

Other gifts that would help you in this role as a General Conference Delegate (Eric Shuey)?

My strongest gifts have to do with encouraging others to get moving. God calls all of us and some of us just need some encouragement and motivation to get going. I feel I bring a positive outlook and energy to groups. As a behavioral analyst I feel I possess gift to develop strategies to aide leaders to make Christ centered decisions to server and help others. I also feel I have the imagination and vision to open doors and create new opportunities for the GMC across the world.