

MOUNTAIN SKY CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE CO-LAY LEADER APPLICATION for CANDIDACY PROCESS

Return by May 10 to registration@mtnskyumc.org or to Shelley Rabern at MSCUMC, 6110 Greenwood Plaza Blvd., Greenwood Village, CO 80111-4803. Please attach photo as well.

Name: Barry H. Welliver

Phone:

Email: bhwelliver@mac.com

Address:

Church Membership: Hilltop UMC, Sandy, Utah

Please list your experience related to this position:

- Past lay leader for Hilltop UMC, Sandy, Utah (2016-2019)
- Member of Mountain Sky Conference Pathways team
- Adult Sunday School education leader



What is your vision for the laity in the Mountain Sky Conference? --limit to 150 words

As lay leader at Hilltop I've wondered how I might help share our newly created vision at Hilltop with our congregation and others. As a Pathways team member, I found that our conference vision was not well known or understood. I believe that with the present turmoil in our denomination we have been given the opportunity to revisit and re-ignite our vision as Mountain Sky and as individual congregations. I would propose that we use this in-between time to explore our vision and values – not only as local churches, but also as a conference. This window of opportunity can be the time we say yes to God's good future.

Laity have an important role in the Methodist church. Our voice brings balance and stability and I will seek to raise this role by actively encouraging our leaders to keep our congregations informed and involved in the work of the church.

What are your gifts to accomplish this vision?

I helped lead the crafting of our new vision at Hilltop and learned that people yearn to understand why and how we do what we do as churches. It's important to remember both where we've come from and where we're going in the mission of the church to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

My work with the Pathways team provided me with an opportunity to see a wide cross section of opinions, frustrations and desires to be a conference with a rudder to help guide and unite

the many programs and diverse expressions of the love that Jesus has modeled for us. I believe we have been called to step forward and share a message of inclusion and push back against injustice.

What do you see as God's yearning for us as the "church" in the 21st Century?

While our buildings and locations sometimes unconsciously seem to define us, it is our spirit as individuals and communities that provides the face of our "church" today. Our recent experiences of worshiping and gathering virtually seem to reinforce the idea that when we see the church and see steeple, it's only when we open the doors that we see all the people. That is the expression of the church that the world needs to catch from us. We need to be visible in the world by what we choose to lift-up and speak to. We are living in new times – interesting times – one that is unique and challenging. I believe the church is ready to step forward and proclaim good news for the world.

I have read the 2016 Book of Discipline pages 419-420, paragraph 607, on the responsibilities of Lay Leaders, and the MSC Guiding Policies and Procedures C400 and C401 on the election of Conference Co-Lay Leaders in the Mountain Sky Conference. I have prayerfully considered this calling and commit to fulfill the responsibilities.

Signature



5.10.20