

Statement of Availability for Election As a Lay Delegate to 2016 General or Jurisdictional Conferences
Representing the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference

Please fill out and send to GCJCdelegation@rmcumc.com by April 10, 2015

Name Diana J Huerta
Address 1877 S. Sherman St.
City/State/Zip Denver, CO 80210
Phone (Preferred) _____ (h) 303.698.2449 _____ (c) _____
Local Church Membership Trinity UMC Denver, CO
Gender F Youth (under 25 years) No (Yes/No)
Ethnicity White
Profession Consultant, retired from a career in human services

Check all those statements that describe your willingness to serve:

- I am willing to serve as a voting delegate to BOTH General and Jurisdictional Conferences.
 I am willing to serve as a reserve delegate to General and a voting delegate to Jurisdictional Conference
 I am willing to serve as a reserve delegate to Jurisdictional Conference

Service in the United Methodist Church

Delegate to 2012 General Conference; Alternate to 2008 General Conference; Delegate to 2008 and 2012 Jurisdictional Conference; past Co-Lay Leader of Metro (Colorado) District; Current member of District Committee on Ordained Ministry; current member of Conference Disability Visions committee; Certified Lay Servant; past member of Board of Laity, Second Century Foundation, Turnabout Board of Directors, Redemption Fellowship, Trinity SPRC; past Lay Leader at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Provide a brief statement about three major issues facing the United Methodist Church in the next four years.

1. The United Methodist Church is in a unique position to reflect the love and grace of God in a country that is often polarized by religious beliefs. The United Methodist values, the Wesleyan Quadrilateral, and our philosophy of inclusion, *if articulated*, can bring our denomination and other people of faith together for dialogue and shared goals. The church as a whole, as well as local Conferences, Districts, and churches, can be a force for social change, for an increase in civility in public life, and for a renewal of faith for so many in our country and the world that feel a lack of connectedness and meaning in life. How can we share our message with the world (or at least our communities) in a way that engages us *and* our neighbors as a force for common good?
2. Much like Paul and the early Christians, we need to find ways to connect with our local communities and neighbors to discern their needs, challenges, and world views. The United Methodist Church has provided campaigns and approaches to increase church membership and congregational vitality; however, at the local church level in the United States it often feels like an uphill battle, with membership and attendance affected by changes in family structure and customs, increased numbers of families experiencing home and work transitions, and changing societal perceptions regarding religion and faith. The churches of today were built by a generation that had lifelong loyalty and commitments to their church, and traditional worship services are appreciated – upcoming generations want multiple expressions of worship, are most comfortable in a diverse setting, and look to technology for communication. However they also, like generations before them, want to “do good” in the world and make a difference. What tools can we provide to local churches that support them in making the changes that may be needed to increase our relevancy in today's world?
3. My first experience of General Conference was as a delegate in 2012. I was in awe at how big the church is, how international, and how diverse – and, I learned that so much of the growth of our church is happening outside of the boundaries of the United States. There were many contentious issues brought before the body for action, and

divisiveness often was present at the table. How can we change our structure and our rules to honor our values as United Methodists while respecting the diversity in our faith?

I hereby certify that: (1) I have been a member of the UMC for at least the last two years,; (2) I have been an active participant in the UMC for at least the last four years; (3) I have acquainted myself with the important and time-consuming responsibilities of the position(s) for which I expressed a willingness to serve; and (4) I commit myself to fulfilling those responsibilities if elected.

Signature _____ Diana J Huerta _____ Date ___April 10, 2015_____