

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 Doug Palmer
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City/State/Zip Niwot, Colorado
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Local Church Membership Longs Peak United Methodist Church
Gender Male Youth (under 25 years) Yes (Yes/No)
Ethnicity caucasian
Profession Student

Check all those statements that describe your willingness to serve:

- Yes 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

My Service in the United Methodist Church started in 2007 when I joined the Conference Council on Youth Miniseries. I served that council for 7 years holding every leadership position including President as a Sophomore in high school. From this role, and with the support from many conference leaders, I became more involved in the RMC serving the Board of Stewards, Board of Discipleship, the Rules Committee, and more recently both the Imagine Team and the Shared Futures transformed. I have also attended 4 annual conference sessions, Western Jurisdictional Conference 2012, the first week of General Conference 2012 as an observer, and the Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative assembly in 2014 in Tagaytay, Philippines. This year I have also worked with Emmaus Miniseries and the Upper Room to write a new version of the Walk to Emmaus curriculum geared toward young adults. Through these experiences I have learned about church structure, strategy and vision, and I have developed my own beliefs on how the Church can change moving forward.

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

1. The United Methodist Church has not effectively changed or adapted in order to serve a changing world. As the Church, we need to change in order to better live out our purpose in the world. This will take a lot of work, because it involves completely rethinking how we engage in the world. In my eyes, two pieces of the solution is to grow support of young leadership and to find new and creative ways to serve the mission field.

One thing that I love most about the United Methodist Church, is that we are a global church. This has many benefits, as seen with Imagine No Malaria and the great work of UMCOR. Because we have global partners around the world, we are able to reach the world quickly and effectively. However, being a Global Church, and being united across our many and diverse differences, is hard. In the next four years that Church will have to decide if we can put our differences aside in order to remain in fruitful ministry together. I truly believe that we can continue our work together despite our many differences, and I certainly hope that we do.
2. I believe that in the next four years that the Church will have to invest heavily into the development of young leaders. I believe this for two reasons. First, it appears to me that, as our older clergy begin to retire, we have fewer and fewer applicants to replace them. We need to have the right personnel to effectively serve our Churches. In addition, however, I think that young people have interesting and new ideas of what the Church could look like, which would help us to better reach our mission field. Although I don't think that Young People alone will save the Church, I do think that they have strong ideas and vision that not only play a key role in the survival of the UMC, but are all too often ignored or silenced.

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  Date March 12, 2015