

Thank you for agreeing to be part of the team that will make General Conference 2016 a success! Over the next few weeks all volunteers will receive several emails that the local host team hopes will prepare you to warmly welcome delegates and visitors to Portland.

We hope that it goes without saying that volunteers should be friendly and have a smile ready for all of our guests. Even though being a volunteer at General Conference can be hard work, we hope that you will genuinely enjoy interacting with folks from every location our denomination serves. In short, we hope you have fun doing this important work.

As volunteers at General Conference our foremost goal is to *“provide extravagant and gracious hospitality whenever and wherever possible”*

In order to accomplish that goal the local host committee asks each volunteer to focus on these three core values:

- attention to safety
- accurate information
- helpful hospitality

Every General Conference volunteer will wear a green vest or apron that will identify them as a person ready to help delegates and visitors whether they are at PDX airport, one of the hotels, or at the Oregon Conference Center. Upon check-in as a volunteer, you will be issued a vest or apron, which needs to be passed along to the next shift of volunteers. You will also receive a commemorative name tag button which will be yours to keep.

Because volunteers are at General Conference to serve all delegates and visitors, it is important that we not act as advocates for any cause, entity or movement. You may not wear buttons, advertisements or information on your vest or clothing other than your name tag. The local host committee realizes that many volunteers may come to General Conference and devote part of their time to special interests, but during your official shift as a volunteer for the local host committee, you must remain neutral concerning activities and policies of the United Methodist Church.

Blessings,

Reverend Ruth Marsh
Director of Volunteer Training