

2012 – 2016 Western Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee
Candidate Forum Questions

1. Tell us about your experiences in managing staff and financial systems.
2. What is the appropriate relationship between a bishop and the local church?
3. Of the United Methodist Church's Four Areas of Focus, how does the priority of "Combating the diseases of poverty by improving health globally" impact the vitality of the church and how could your leadership as a bishop impact the church through this focus?
4. What is the appropriate relationship between a bishop and district superintendents?
5. How will you help the Western Jurisdiction continue to live into radical hospitality?
6. What is your assessment of the work of the Connectional Table, its successes, and its shortfalls, and if appointed to serve the Connectional Table, how could your leadership impact it and its service to the United Methodist Church in a positive way?
7. How would you determine the type of people you would invite to serve on your cabinet?
8. What is the bishop's role in church revitalization and what strategies are effective in the West?
9. What is your assessment of the work of the General Board of Church and Society, its successes, and its shortfalls, and if appointed to serve Church & Society, how could your leadership impact it and its service to the United Methodist Church in a positive way?
10. How would you manage the complexity of serving more than one conference?
11. What is the ideal relationship of the conference to the local church?
12. Of the United Methodist Church's Four Areas of Focus, how does the priority of "Engaging in ministry with the poor" impact the vitality of the church and how could your leadership as a bishop impact the church through this focus??
13. How would you go about determining the key leaders of your episcopal area?
14. Tell us about your experience as a leader forming relationships with people of other faiths.
15. What is your assessment of the work of the General Board of Discipleship, its successes, and its shortfalls, and if appointed to serve Discipleship Ministries, how could your leadership impact it and its service to the United Methodist Church in a positive way?
16. How have you actively engaged laity in key leadership and decision-making roles?
17. How does our Wesleyan tradition speak to our unique context in the Western US?
18. What is your assessment of the work of the General Board of Global Ministries, its successes, and its shortfalls, and if appointed to serve Global Ministries, how could your leadership impact it and its service to the United Methodist Church in a positive way?
19. How has the role of the bishop changed over the last dozen years and what kinds of new leadership style are needed?
20. In the scenario of an act of violence committed in your episcopal area, how would you respond?
21. Of the United Methodist Church's Four Areas of Focus, how does the priority of "Creating new places for new people and revitalizing existing congregations" impact the vitality of the church and how could your leadership as a bishop impact the church through this focus??
22. How would you describe your leadership style, especially in terms of conflict resolution?
23. What is your strategy for addressing the concerns of congregations in rural areas?

24. Of the United Methodist Church's Four Areas of Focus, how does the priority of "Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world" impact the vitality of the church and how could your leadership as a bishop impact the church through this focus??
25. In your work as a leader, how have you been coached or mentored and can you speak to the ways in which it has changed your leadership style?
26. What are the challenges and opportunities provided by the changing demographics of the global church, especially in regards to the rapid growth of the church in Africa?
27. What is your assessment of the work of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, its successes, and its shortfalls, and if appointed to serve Higher Education and Ministry, how could your leadership impact it and its service to the United Methodist Church in a positive way?
28. How do you inspire lay and clergy leadership?
29. How would you balance the pastoral and prophetic roles of a bishop, especially in relation to controversial issues?
30. What is your assessment of the work of the General Commission on Communication, its successes, and its shortfalls, and if appointed to serve UM Communications, how could your leadership impact it and its service to the United Methodist Church in a positive way?
31. Tell us about the relationship between the bishop and the Conference Lay Leader and how it can be the most effective.
32. What are your strategies for ensuring the full payment of AC & GC apportionments?
33. What is your assessment of the work of the General Commission on Religion and Race, its successes, and its shortfalls, and if appointed to serve Religion and Race, how could your leadership impact it and its service to the United Methodist Church in a positive way?
34. How would you effectively attract new clergy leaders?
35. How would you support connectionalism with an estranged local church?
36. What is your assessment of the work of the United Methodist Publishing House, its successes, and its shortfalls, and if appointed to serve the UMPH, how could your leadership impact it and its service to the United Methodist Church in a positive way?
37. How would you improve effectiveness and morale in ordained clergy?
38. What is your experience working with leadership in other jurisdictions and how do you represent the values of the West?
39. What is your assessment of the work of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, its successes, and its shortfalls, and if appointed to serve the Status and Role of Women, how could your leadership impact it and its service to the United Methodist Church in a positive way?
40. In what justice issues have you given leadership and how will you continue as a bishop?
41. What is your strategy for addressing the concerns of small churches in urban areas?
42. What is your assessment of the work of the General Commission on United Methodist Men, its successes, and its shortfalls, and if appointed to serve the United Methodist Men, how could your leadership impact it and its service to the United Methodist Church in a positive way?
43. Tell us about a conflict you managed and what strategy you used for resolution.
44. What is your vision of the church at its best as a presence in the life of the Western US?

45. What is your assessment of the work of the United Methodist Women, its successes, and its shortfalls, and if appointed to serve the United Methodist Women, how could your leadership impact it and its service to the United Methodist Church in a positive way?
46. How have you established systems for linking disciple-making with transformation of the world?
47. A bishop is responsible for deciding all questions of law in the regular business of the annual conference. What is your responsibility to law when you may disagree with it and when conference members may disagree with you?
48. What is your assessment of the work of the General Commission on Archives and History, its successes, and its shortfalls, and if appointed to serve Archives and History, how could your leadership impact it and its service to the United Methodist Church in a positive way?