“Why would you WANT to do that?” Each time I have offered myself to serve as a General Conference Delegate, that has been one of the most common questions I am asked. The short answer is, I want to serve and I want to make a difference. I know that may sound simplistic or naïve, or both. But let me explain.

“Why would you WANT to do that?” I still believe in the United Methodist Church, and I believe it is the best expression of my understanding of God’s grace and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am hopeful, as I have been each time I have served in this way, that my presence will make a difference. I trust that I will be able to show and share moments of grace and expressions of love. To me, being a delegate is about living our faith in the same ways we seek to do each day.

“Why would you want to do that?” Because God shows up. Yes, there is a lot of work and yes it is long and sometimes challenging. But, God shows up. God shows up in worship. Some of the most powerful experiences of worship I have experienced have been at General Conference. The music and forms of worship reflect the global diversity of our church. When I hear people singing songs that are in languages I don’t understand and see people worshiping in unfamiliar ways, I am moved by the common Spirit I feel. It is, truly, a moment when the Holy Spirit speaks directly into our hearts.

“Why would you WANT to do that?” Because it matters. It matters greatly. While we are in very difficult and complex days, we are also in the hands of a God who has delivered people from greater challenges than this. Our work as General Conference Delegates matters because we have been elected by our peers; challenged by our Annual Conference, and led by God to help the Church face this moment and find a path forward. What we do matters.

“Why would you WANT to do that?” Because I believe God has called me to it.