Kim Arnott
GC Alternate Delegate/JC Delegate Reflection

What an honor and privilege it is to have been elected as a delegate to the General Conference/Jurisdictional Conference for 2020. It is also a daunting and humbling responsibility to be part of the process at this important juncture in the history of The United Methodist Church.

One of my guiding passages of scripture has come from the Book of Esther, Chapter 4, vs. 14: “Who can say but that God has brought you into this place for just such a time as this?” All Christians are called by God to serve in their own way and I feel that our delegation has been called to this particular time and place to do the work of God in our denomination. We all have been called to pray and most importantly LISTEN to God and what God might have to say to us at this time. Do we have differing opinions? Absolutely, but this reminds me of a quote from John Wesley: “Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences.”

Do I bring a certain theological and moral perspective to the process? Of course. However, more importantly, I feel an obligation to make decisions in the best interest of our denomination, which I love and respect. Whatever beliefs and ideas I might bring to the table, I vow to read, listen and learn as much as possible on both sides of the issue, whatever that issue might be, so that I can make decisions that will best serve God and our denomination. Are we as individuals perfect? No. Is our denomination and its system perfect? No. But as a life-long United Methodist, I love its theology, honor its focus on service and social justice and believe in its people, both laity and clergy. But, no matter what decisions are made in 2020, there will still be hurting people that need to know God, there will still be the poor who need our love and support, there will still be injustice in the world that needs to be addressed, there will still be communities that need to hear the Word of God, and there will still be lonely people that need our care. This needs to be our primary focus in the months and years to come.