



## **Thomas C. Shinkle**

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I have served as a United Methodist Pastor for over 25 years - as a SLP, PTLP, Probationary Member, and Full Member-Elder in Iowa, Missouri, and Louisiana. I have always served with a passion and drive to change and improve things, with the goal to grow the Church and make it healthy. I will bring this same passion and energy to serving as a delegate.

I am constantly focused on crafting new ways to be the Church in this world. I am well aware of the stresses and challenges facing the UM denomination: from issues around sexuality, to income/membership declines, to tensions between Conferences. I am deeply interested in the more specific areas of “guaranteed appointments,” Camp and Retreat Ministries, apportionments, and the African UMC. I have served on CF&A, Chair of the Bishop’s Task Force on Apportionments, the Implementation Team for New Structure, and received the Denman Evangelism Award for Clergy in 2014. I currently serve as Chair of the Board of Camps, and am actively engaged in Nigerian Mission/Ministry.

My biggest passion and focus, though, is empowering the local Church to become healthier and better at making more - and more mature - disciples of Jesus Christ. If I serve at General and Jurisdictional Conference, this will be the lens through which I view most of the decisions: What helps local Churches grow healthier and feel more deeply connected to the United Methodist denomination? I will continually ask, “How does this help revive us or make us stronger?”