

## **Renee Nicholson**

Burlington District-New Beginnings Community Church of Efland

Ethnicity-White

### **Share your testimony of coming to faith and salvation in Jesus Christ.**

I was baptized, confirmed, and raised in the UMC. Even though I knew who Jesus was, I didn't have a relationship with Him. One day my 10-year-old son came home from a neighbor's and asked if we could get a bible; we had bibles, he just had never seen them. Ashamed, we began taking our family to church. I remember sitting in the service, with tears rolling down my face, listening to the preacher say, 'It is no accident that you are here today'. That day I welcomed Jesus into my life. I read my bible, I volunteered in Sunday school, I went to small group, I thought I was doing everything right. However, my life was a mess. My marriage was shaky, I was overweight, our finances were in shambles, we filed bankruptcy, lost our home, and worst of all, my kids did not know Jesus. I was angry. Even though I tried to blame Jesus (because He was supposed to make things better, right?), He wouldn't let go of me! After a series of events involving a tragic accident and death of a family member, Jesus gently reminded me that He had never left me. He filled my heart and my life with His amazing grace and reminded me that He was King. Today, I have a relationship with Him that I want everyone to have. I am so thankful for His mercy and grace. My faith in Him has and will see me through all things.

### **Describe your ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.**

God has gifted me with a passion for His Son and sharing His word. Although I have no formal theological training, He has given me the ability to ask questions and listen for His voice in reply. I then use my gift of discernment to recognize His message and share it with others. Sometimes I share by speaking, sometimes it is by dancing with the kids in Kid's Church, sometimes it is balancing the monthly church accounts, sometimes it is by welcoming that new person into the family of Christ. All the time it is to glorify His Name. I prayerfully consider where He needs me, and I try to be obedient. It is so comforting to have a relationship with Him and know that He can use me, as flawed as I am, to bring others to Him.

### **Service in the General Conference is a special task. Explain your understanding of this task.**

In March 2023, our local UMC failed to disaffiliate, and several long-time members left the UMC with the same question 'Now what?' 'Now' is the adverb in this question, but the 'what' is and always has been JESUS. Now Jesus! The goal of our initial group of 8 was to follow the written Word. We prayed and boldly asked Jesus for discernment as to where it was best to spread His word, and He led us to the GMC. We planted a new church and in less than 1 year have seen Him move us along at a fast pace from our initial meeting to 41 members, 9 baptized, and an average of 45 people in attendance every Sunday. We have been a bold voice for Jesus in everything that we have encountered. I believe that serving as a Lay Delegate to the originating General GMC conference will give me an opportunity to continue our mission to boldly and proudly spout the saving grace of Jesus Christ and help strengthen the foundation on which the GMC will be built. I am not a theologian nor a member of clergy, but I am a Believer and Disciple of Jesus and can unabashedly help to form a global presence for His ministry. It would be my honor and privilege to serve as a

voice in shaping the path of the GMC, its global policies, and the furtherance of His Kingdom.

**What gifts/strengths/passions/talents do you bring to the building up and organizing of the Global Methodist Church?**

My father has often said to me 'God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called.' Those words have never rung more true to me than within the last year. Unfortunately, I have medical issues that have left me unable to sustain full time employment. When my UMC church failed to disaffiliate, I felt a calling to help build a church for Jesus that followed the written Word. My past employment involved leadership, administration, highly detailed review of medical and scientific protocols, U.S. FDA rules, and U.S. Code of Federal Regulations and accurate documentation. When our church plant started, it made sense for me to take the administrative lead. I have successfully worked with GMC and other organizations to obtain our church's incorporation approval, create our church's bylaws and corporate policies, the initiation and submission of our IRS 501 (c)(3) status (pending), among other things. My gifts and talents lie within the administrative realm, but my passion is for Jesus Christ. This combination, along with the force of Jesus, provides me with the strength and courage to speak boldly and offer sound opinion to policy and direction. I feel that I have been equipped 'for a time such as this' (Esther 4:14), following scripture and my father's quote.

**Do you agree to fast and pray for your role and the delegation to the General Conference?** Yes

**Do you attend worship at your church at least 3 out of 4 Sunday's a month?** Yes

**Are you a part of a small group, Sunday School class or band?** Yes

**Are you involved in Christian missions at least once a month?** Yes

**Do you pray regularly for your church, pastor, and members?** Yes

**Do you give a full tithe to the church of your membership?** Yes

**Do you uphold and agree with the Doctrinal Standards of the GMC as stated in Part 1 of the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline?** Yes

**Do you uphold and agree with the Social Witness of the GMC as stated in Part 2 of the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline?** Yes

**If elected will you agree to represent Jesus Christ and uphold the integrity of the GMC NC PAC?** Yes

**Do you have a current U.S. Passport?** Yes

**In order to serve, will you be available to travel to Costa Rica from September 19-27, 2024 and attend online meetings ahead of the conference?** Yes

**Are you willing and able to bear some of the cost for attendance to serve in this capacity?** Yes

**I once again affirm that I satisfy the requirements to be a delegate to the Convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church.** Yes

**I consent for my answers to be published on the NCPAC website.** Yes