

Robin Grace McMahan
% Hampden Highlands UMC
44 Kennebec Road, Hampden, ME 04444
icepaw4g@gmail.com

Greetings,

My name is Robin McMahan, I am 16 years old, a junior in high school at Hampden Academy and a member of Hampden Highlands United Methodist Church in Hampden, Maine. I am one of seven youth selected to serve as youth delegates and reserves from the Northeast Jurisdiction (which includes 12 northeast states and Washington D.C.), to the United Methodist's Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa in July 2018. I am an aspiring youth leader in my church, my community, and hopefully one day, in our complicated and messy world. I believe that the Global Young People's Convocation will help me develop the skills and experiences to grow as a leader and as person.

The Global Young People's Convocation is an event held every four years where young people from all over the world gather to connect with other young people and create a community to foster growth and change in the church and the world. In local churches, young people can be few and far between, and because of this, we often go unheard. However, all churches need young people and their voices. This convocation is a way for young people in the United Methodist Church to be heard. The convocation has a legislative forum, where young people work together to carefully construct legislation. More information about the Global Young People's Convocation can be found at www.umcyoungpeople.org

Our time will not just be spent on legislation, but on creating intercultural and global connections with other youth. I am looking forward to this event, having gone to two New England Annual Conferences and one Northeast Jurisdictional Conference, attending the annual meeting of the National American Chestnut Foundation, and attending the spring Junior Classical League convention. Attending these many conferences and convention gave me the skills and confidence to act as a leader in my community. As I live this out today, I enjoy playing ice hockey, and teaching children how to skate and play hockey, well as advocating for women playing hockey. During the summer, I volunteer and work as summer intern for The American Chestnut Foundation.

I have a deep passion for helping people, and hope to pursue a career in biomedical engineering creating prosthetics and working to making them available to everyone who needs them. I also plan to follow my faith and become a deacon or missionary for the church. I am also strongly devoted to my faith, and I try to live my life in a way that follows Jesus. I believe that the sciences, without ethics or faith behind them, devolve into an amoral pursuit of knowledge. I love

to learn and experience new ideas. I am the kind of person who doesn't shy away from difficult questions, as I believe to do so is to ignore the problem entirely. Talking to others, listening to them, understanding where they come from, and being willing to compromise are the key to solving problems.

The estimated amount that I need to fundraise is \$3,500. Checks should be made out and sent to Hampden Highlands United Methodist Church, where it will be directed later to the New York Conference. I only ask that you give what you can, pray for me and the delegates, and more importantly, share this opportunity for a young person of faith.

Sincerely,

Robin McMahan