

# Upper Midwest GMC Newsletter

## Eighth Edition - November 10, 2023

Connecting for passionate worship, extravagant love, and bold witness

### History In The Making

*By: Bill Hoffman*

Last weekend was a time for making history! The Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church held its first conference (which was also its convening conference), where we voted in agreement to be established as a conference of the Global Methodist Church.

Another first last weekend was ordaining one deacon and 45 elders into the church. I have never been to any conference that ordained so many at one time!

I spent 25 years in the United Methodist Church and never experienced a conference like this one. My thoughts and the thoughts of many others were that this is what conference is supposed to be like. As one leader put it, "My people were amazed that it was Spirit-filled. Leaving behind the past and striving to move forward for God's glory is what the conference was all about, and it stunned them. They are looking

forward to next year and meeting more people from all the regions! God is good."

The Spirit truly was present in this gathering—through our worship, through building relationships, through ordination, and through our new leadership. Bishop Mark Webb was present to bring a message of encouragement and lead the ordination service. We also heard messages from our President Pro Tem James Parks and Vice President Pro Tem Ross Reiniller. We look to them to lead us into the future as a church of Jesus Christ that worships passionately, loves extravagantly, and witnesses boldly!

This edition of our conference newsletter will be mostly focused on our convening conference. We hope you were blessed by this gathering and encouraged to move forward as the church of Jesus Christ to worship, love, and witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.



There were 45 Elders and 1 Deacon ordained into the Global Methodist Church Conference from seven states at the Convening Conference.

# And so it begins...

*By: James Parks*



The Upper Midwest Provisional Conference became officially a Global Methodist Conference on November 1. The very next day, we held our Convening Conference in Watertown, South

Dakota. The theme of the conference was “New Beginnings.”

It was a blessed time of worship, prayer, mission spotlights and breakout sessions. Two highlights for me were the business session and the ordination service. I know it might be weird to think the business session was a highlight, but it was. The reason it was a highlight is that it took less than an hour of our time (Actual business probably was 20 minutes). It was one motion, and it was passed unanimously. There was a unified spirit around approving the work

of our conference leadership. It showed great trust in one another. A great start.

The ordination service was also a highlight, with 46 ordinands! Many of the ordained have been serving in ministry for years as licensed local pastors. They had many varying gifts and graces that have served the church well. We were able to welcome them fully into the body of ordained ministers. I know God has plans to use each of them to be fruitful for his kingdom.

From this Convening Conference, my hope and prayer is that we continue to move forward together. It is up to each of us to be about the work of Jesus Christ. We no longer need to attempt to do this work on our own. Instead, we now have a conference that will shepherd, connect, and equip us as we make disciples of Jesus.

I am excited about what God is doing in and through you. And I keep remembering that we have only just begun.



# Giving Thanks!

By: Ross Reinhillier

*When they had finished dividing the land into its allotted portions, the Israelites gave Joshua son of Nun an inheritance among them, as the LORD had commanded.*

*Joshua 19:49,50a*

November is a month of thanksgiving starting with All Saints and All Souls Day, Veterans Day, and finally Thanksgiving Day! This November is no different except there is one more event bringing with it great joy, that event was our Convening Conference of the Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church. Here are a few of the blessings I received, and I give thanks.

I am thankful to be part of new beginning and the meeting of people who like me have waited for this day. Technology is convenient but there is something about seeing each other face to face. I am thankful for the opportunity to stand shoulder to shoulder and lift our hands in worship. I am thankful for Cornerstone Church providing the place making the conference possible.

I am thankful for the fulfilling of dreams. My heart is warmed seeing all the folks ordained. We are blessed by these servants who in many ways have already given their lives in Christian service but were always told that they were not quite good enough or equipped enough to be an ordained minister. The moment Bishop Webb placed hands on many heads dreams were fulfilled.



I am thankful that like Joshua in his day, I have a home, a portion among the people of God. I am part of the great work God and so are you! We have a home and a portion in the work of our Heavenly Father sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, empowered and counseled by His Spirit!

I am thankful!



# Notes From The Upper Midwest Convening Conference

*By: John Carpenter*

What an exciting time! At the beginning of this month, the Upper Midwest Provisional Conference was held at Cornerstone Church in Watertown South Dakota. New Beginnings was the theme of the gathering and we came together from seven different states in the upper Midwest: Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Thursday evening after the check-in time, all were welcomed and we heard from our President Pro Tempore, Rev. James Parks from Davenport, Iowa. He spoke on new beginnings from John chapter 1 about starting from the Word of God and recognizing the Holy Spirit that has been with us from the beginning, even the beginning of time as we know it (alluding to Genesis chapter 1).

Rev. Valerie Reinhilller from Williston, ND, who had led the Transitional Team, reminded us about the encounter Jesus had with the woman in the crowd who touched his robe (Matthew 9:21). She had been “subject to bleeding for 12 years”. After all the years, spending all she had on various physicians and not getting better; not able to be with family, not having any friends, ostracized from society, this was definitely a new beginning for her! She was cleansed not only physically and allowed to go back to friends and family but cleansed spiritually as well according to Jewish Law and according to her new found faith in Jesus.

Bishop Webb brought a message referencing Acts chapters 3-4. This Scripture is recorded referencing the time of the early church; during its formation. Jewish converts to Christianity were still allowed to worship in the Temple and “One day Peter and John were going up to the temple” when they encounter a crippled beggar whom they healed. A crowd gathered and Peter spoke to them which eventually led to Peter and John being taken to the Sanhedrin where Peter again gave witness. “They (Sanhedrin) were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13). We need to be “with Jesus”.

Rev. Ross Reinhilller, our Vice President Pro-Tempore from Williston, ND started us off with Friday morning worship picking up from the book of

Acts again. In chapter 3, at the Gate Beautiful approaching the Temple, a beggar was there perhaps for years or perhaps all his life. Peter and John approach the crippled beggar and Peter told him to turn and look straight at them. The beggar expected to get something from them. “Then Peter said, ‘Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.’” And of course, he not only walked but got up and danced around. Peter and John were asked by the Sanhedrin “By what power or what name did you do this?” (Acts 4:7). What an opportunity! Those in the world are initially willing to take so little for change and we can provide answers to a questioning world.

The first order of business for the business portion of the conference, led by our President Pro Tempore, was to elect the secretary for the conference. Dale Fadley, South Dakota, was elected by unanimous vote. Rev. Parks then went on to remind us how the intention for the conference was to keep expenses to a minimum as there were no individual registration fees to attend. Another area he touched on was the realization of communication amongst all the churches and how he hopes to be addressing this very soon.

Next, our Vice President Pro-Tempore, took us through the “Upper Midwest Convening Annual Conference Journal”. This document was unanimously approved with little discussion.

Bishop Webb then made reference to the GMC and revival that seems to be going on in various places across the globe and our prayer is to “do it again, and again, and again!” He made the points that Scripture should guide every part of our lives and we should watch-over one another in love. As a church, we need to experience more following and more leading.

Visualizing the future, we view the GMC as a global movement, planting new churches and helping to equip churches by sharing our resources. We need to partner with other local churches; making disciples and holding each other accountable to the mission. We are building a new GMC global culture. In closing, Bishop Webb encouraged us to be in continual prayer for the new President

Pro Tempore, the vice-president, the presiding elders and all those in positions of leadership and serving on boards and committees.

Jeff Pospisil had been the treasurer for the conference but has now moved to serve as treasurer for the denomination. Bishop Webb encouraged us to lift-up the 45 pastors and 1 deacon being ordained stating there will inevitably be more ordinations to come. It is the local church now that will be especially encouraging local pastors who are expected to do good and to do no harm.

Roger Sparr spoke about the People of “New Beginnings”. He brought to mind the Scripture in Philippians 3:13-14 — to remember, to forget, to press on for the prize and not be distracted for what God would have us do. God is real and we are in a new movement, seeing God’s power in our lives manifest in a new way. We press-on for the heavenly prize when we shall all stand before God. We experience God’s power being used in our lives impacting lives forever. We can see our lives as ripples going out from the center in a pond. What then does this say for the church in which we are to be the salt and the light of the world?

Friday afternoon there was a panel discussion (questions and answers) followed by various break-out sessions. Friday evening was a time for mission spotlights led by Rev. Joleen Pietrazk. There were several mission organizations represented.

Saturday morning was taken up with Ordination. Bishop Webb spoke to the ordinands as the rest of us listened-in. He brought up three main points. (1) Trust the One who calls you. (2) Trust the sufficiency of the one who calls you. (3) Trust the promise of completion. The rest of the service was the ordination liturgy.

The Upper Midwest Provisional Conference consists of 170 churches. We thank the Lord for all the blessings, and we are grateful to all who made our acceptance as a Provisional Conference possible. All Conferences in the Global Methodist Church are provisional until the convening General Conference which will be held September 20-26, 2024, in San Jose, Costa Rica.



# Offerings

**\$5,522.09 for new churches**

**\$2,367 for Ethnic ministries**

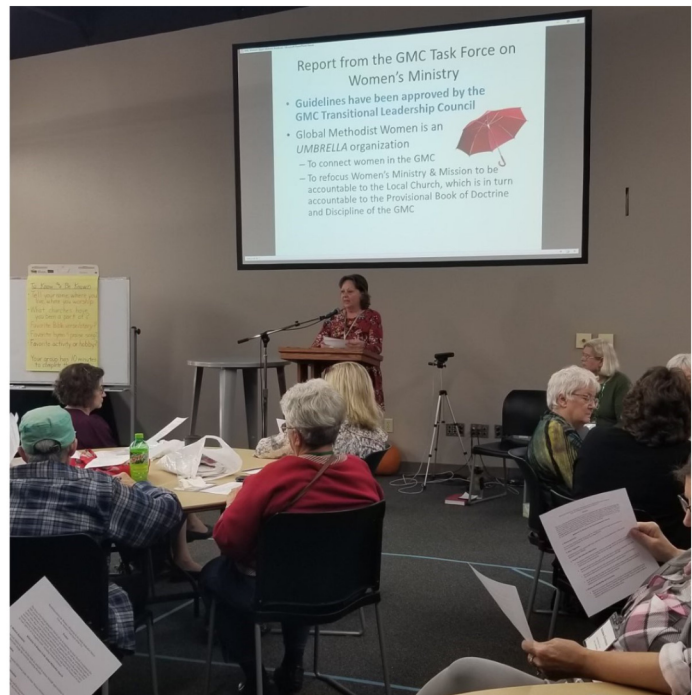
(at left) Jeff Pospisil, Global Methodist Treasurer, blessing the offering.

## Upper Midwest GMC Women's Ministry Task Force

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God is doing something new in the GMC. The above GMC Women's ministry Task Force is launching and developing a fresh, creative approach to Women's Ministries in the Upper Midwest. Our Mission Statement is to "Love God, rejoice in whom He has made us, minister to women through opportunities to grow in Christ, and change the world by spreading His love."

"We want to connect with you to share resources, encourage each other, grow spiritually, and reach out in Mission locally and globally. Feel free to contact any of us on the task force."

Guidelines have been approved by the GMC Transitional Leadership Council.

Global Methodist Women is an UMBRELLA organization

-To connect women in the GMC

-To refocus Women's Ministry & Mission to be accountable to the Local Church, which is in turn accountable to the Provisional Book of Doctrine and Discipline of the GMC.

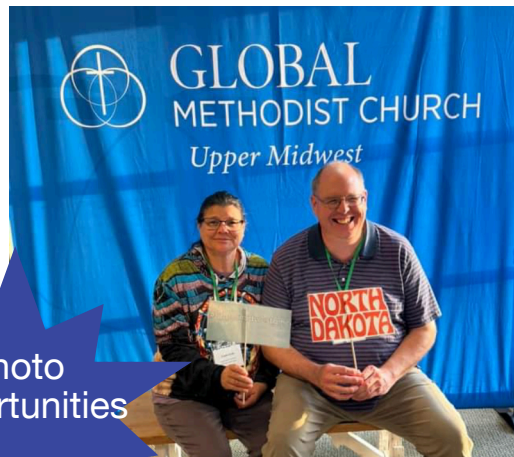
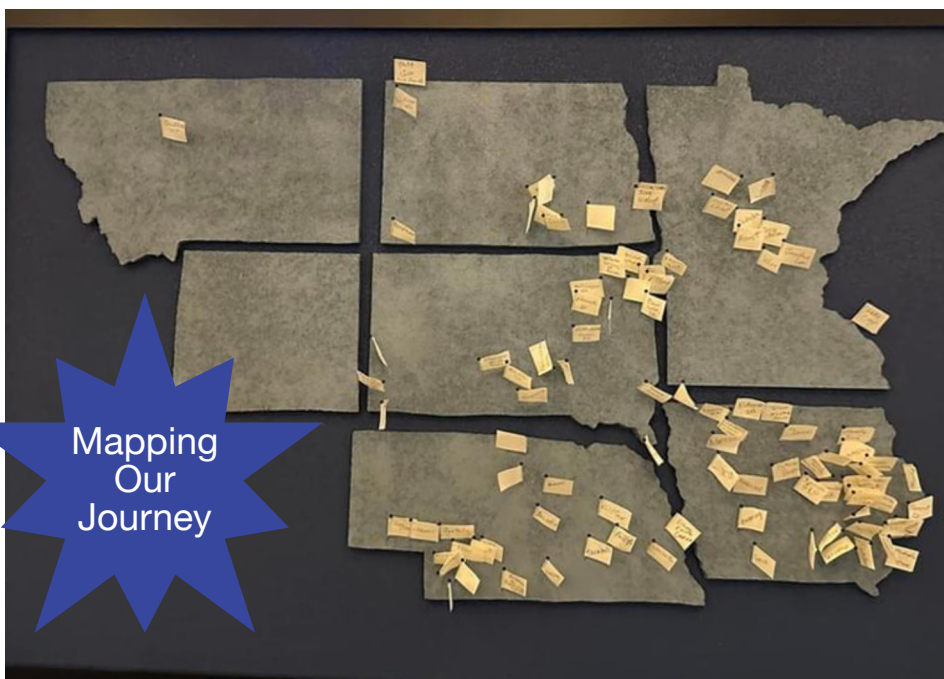


Photo Opportunities



Mapping Our Journey



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John or Karen -  
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