

# Upper Midwest GMC Newsletter

## Fifth Edition - September 1, 2023

Connecting for passionate worship, extravagant love, and bold witness

### Information Across The Upper Midwest GMC

*By: Val Reinhiller*

There are many exciting things happening in the Global Methodist Church, nationally and globally. People are renewing their commitment to Christ. Many are bold witnesses in the world.



We have exciting news in the Upper Midwest area. The Conference Advisory Team (TCAT) continues to take Provisional Conference status. The TCAT elected a Pro-tempore and a Vice President Pro-tempore. James Parks of Iowa is President Pro-Tempore and Ross Reinhiller of North Dakota is the Vice President Pro-Tempore. The Nominations Team is at work developing Teams to assist in the ministry of future Upper Midwest Provisional Conference.

The Transitional Leadership Council (TLC) of the Global Methodist Church has granted us permission to hold an official Upper Midwest Global Methodist Gathering with an Ordination Service November 2-4, 2023 at Cornerstone Global Methodist Church, Watertown, SD. Bishop Mark Webb will officiate over the Ordination Service on Saturday, November 4. **The Gathering is open to laity and clergy.** More details are forthcoming. The [uppermidwestgmc.org](http://uppermidwestgmc.org) website has a listing of room blocks. More details will be coming soon.

## Upper Midwest Global Methodist Gathering

Watertown, SD

November 2-4, 2023

Thursday Evening, All Day Friday And Saturday Morning

Cornerstone Church  
1350 11<sup>th</sup> St NE  
Watertown, SD

# Upper Midwest TCAT Met In Person

On August 25-26, 2023, The Upper Midwest TCAT held an in-person meeting at Redeeming Grace Church (GMC church plant), in Sioux Falls, SD. Members met in person and some joined by Zoom.

The mission and vision statement was approved. An update was given from the Sessions Team regarding the Upper Midwest Gathering, November 2-4, 2023 with Ordination. The Nominations Report was received and approved along with the listing of Presiding Elders.

The 2023-2024 Upper Midwest Provisional Conference budget was received and approved.

A President Pro-Tempore and a Vice President Pro-Tempore were elected.

## The Upper Midwest Provisional Conference of the Global Methodist Church

*Our Mission:* To lovingly walk alongside laity and clergy as they make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

### Leadership 2023 – 2024

President Pro-Tempore: James Parks,  
GMC Elder  
Vice President Pro-Tempore: Ross Reinhiller,  
GMC Elder  
Secretary: Dale Fadley, Laity  
Conference Lay Leader: TBD  
Conference Treasurer: Jeff Pospisil, Laity

*Our Vision:* Every church is instrumental, and every leader is effective in sharing the saving and transforming Good News of Jesus Christ.

*Our Purpose:* The Upper Midwest Provisional Conference of the Global Methodist Church exists to create a culture of discipleship and mission by supporting local churches and clergy by shepherding, connecting, and equipping local congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

- Shepherding churches, clergy, and laity by providing grace-filled accountability and support to make disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Connecting to facilitate life-giving relationships with churches and clergy that are collaborative and mutually beneficial so that we are united in our mission.
- Equipping local churches and clergy by providing the necessary resources within their specific context as a means to assist them so that they will grow in their vitality and effectiveness to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

**On August 31 Val Reinhiller submitted the Upper Midwest Provisional Conference Formalization papers.**

## Provisional Districts with District Name and Number of Churches

### Iowa:

Northwest Iowa 10  
Central Iowa 14  
East Central Iowa 11  
East Coast Iowa 12  
South East Iowa 12

### Minnesota:

Northwest Minnesota 3  
Southeast Minnesota 4

### Montana:

Montana 2

### Nebraska:

Nebraska 1 16  
Nebraska 2 16  
Nebraska 3 14  
Nebraska 4 11

### North Dakota:

East ND 8  
West ND 7

### South Dakota:

Northeast SD 13  
Southeast SD 10  
West SD 5

### Wyoming:

Wyoming 0

# Connectional Funding – Keeping The Focus on the Ministry of the Local Church

*By Keith Boyette*

An overarching goal for the Global Methodist Church is to ensure that as much of the tithes and offerings given in the local church remain in the local church to advance its ministry in its mission field. Its mission field certainly includes the community in which it is located but extends to the ends of the earth. The GM Church intends for each local church to have a role in fulfilling the Great Commission around the world.

In the GM Church, connectional funding is structured to keep our focus on the ministry occurring in and through the local church.

When I pastored Wilderness Community Church in Spotsylvania, Virginia, our church knew we were to advance the Gospel and make disciples in our region, but we also sensed God was calling us to focus on one distant region of the world. After much prayer and study, we discerned God calling us to invest in fulfilling the Great Commission in the Ayacucho region of Peru among the Quechua, descendants of the Incas. For 15 years, the church annually sent three to four teams to that region to train pastors, build churches, provide medical care, and offer vacation Bible schools for children.

My prayer is that every Global Methodist church will, with thanksgiving and generosity, deploy financial resources for advancing the Great Commission in their given mission fields. And of course, I hope their commitments will also involve the personal offering of their individual members' gifts and skills.

In addition to the work of each local church, our connectional funding shares represent the way GM Church congregations band together to provide resources for the work of the general church and the annual conferences to which they belong. Connectional funding is established as a percentage of a local church's operating income. Rather than establishing a budget at the general church level and apportioning that budget to all local churches, the amount paid in connectional funding is determined by the local church. And what the local church pays in connectional funding determines the budget of the general church and the various annual conferences. The system encourages grass roots initiative, investment, and innovation.

Connectional funding is addressed in ¶ 349 of the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline. All local churches are asked to contribute one percent of their operating income to the funding of the general church. Among a number of things, these funds are used to cover the costs required for organizing the church, to recruit and train its leaders, to incubate and support its growth in challenging locations all around the world, and to invest in planting new churches and revitalizing existing ones. In one way or another, the funds are to support the entire connection in fulfilling the Global Methodist Church's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

More  
Information



*Newsletter Submissions  
Contact:  
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**Check out:**

The Upper Midwest GMC  
Dakotas Minnesota GMC Facebook  
GMC Clergy only Facebook  
Friends of the GMC Facebook  
The Global Methodist Church

[uppermidwestgmc.org](http://uppermidwestgmc.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/767228608030705>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/gmccclergy>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/globalmethodistchurch>  
<https://globalmethodist.org>

# ***A Challenge from Pastor Jake Schadel, Provisional Elder, NE Global Methodist Church***

“I challenge us to think of a different vision of ‘church’.

It could be a weekly celebration of how God has been working in our lives in the past week. The worship flows from the hearts of people.

This vision starts with small groups; the Wesleyan model described in the book of Acts. Here congregational care is primarily the responsibility of laity. These are small gatherings of loving, caring, discipleship groups who are praying to find out how to get the gospel out to people they know who need Christ.

There are two main ideas: intentional emphasis on discipling people (helping people grow in their faith) and intentionally being outward focused. (inviting people to join the group.)

This takes one courageous person or couple to invite people to their home. (inviting two or three people from their congregation and people who do not have a church home.) Spend 15 minutes getting to know each other, 15 minutes of worship or testimonies, 15 minutes thinking about other people to invite and praying for them.

I challenge every church to start small groups that concentrate on inward discipleship and outward focus. We need to reclaim this Wesleyan practice of ministry. It is time!!”

-Pastor Jake Schadel is a pastor at Valentine Methodist Church in Valentine, NB. He made the challenge to have three people from his church to commit to starting a small group. To his surprise 21 people volunteered to start a group.

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## **Disaster Relief For Fire In Maui**

According to news reports, almost the entire city of Lahaina, Hawaii, on the island of Maui, was destroyed by fire. At the time of this writing, the death toll is 96, and is likely to exceed 100 as search teams continue their grim work.

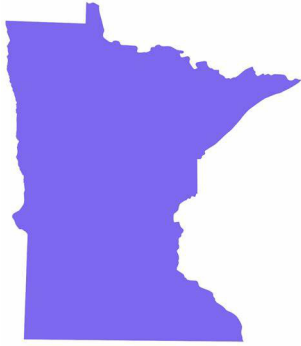
The Global Methodist Church is working with ministry partners to assist people who lost their homes and nearly all their earthly possessions. One hundred percent of your generous financial gift will allow volunteers and emergency workers to help people recover from the devastating fire.

Go to <https://globalmethodist.org/give-online/> in order to make a gift and help those in need. Under “Gift Purpose” click the arrows on the right and select “Disaster Relief.”



*Photo by Zane Vergara*





The Minnesota Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA) Board of Directors continues to meet monthly to prepare churches and pastors for the November

13<sup>th</sup> special annual United Methodist Conference (UMC) where several churches and pastors expect to disaffiliate.

In addition, they are resourcing some clergy and laity who plan to continue in the UMC into 2024. The monthly update Zoom meetings have ceased as the timeline for disaffiliation is ending. Zoom meetings will be held when there is need.



**Wespath**  
BENEFITS | INVESTMENTS

Global pastors will still be associated with [Wespath](#), just as you were with UMC. The following is a link to a very informative podcast put out by [Wespath](#) for Global Methodist pastors. You will meet Rick VanGiesen, Global Benefits officer, as well as other Wespath employees. They cover benefits for Retirement, Healthcare, and Disability. Also, some of your questions might be covered at [globalmethodist.org/faq](https://globalmethodist.org/faq)

<https://youtu.be/Xd8Re7sHC0s> After viewing the podcast, if you still have questions, you can get a virtual one-on-one consultation with a [Wespath](#) Benefits Educator.

The link is: <https://www.wespath.org/r/consults23>.



“One of the hallmarks of the traditionalist movement is embracing the value of being structurally nimble so the movement can remain just that and not become an institution. As the Wesleyan Covenant Association begins to look toward the end of 2023 that also means recognizing that the disaffiliation process under paragraph 2553 will be sunseting. (which has already happened in Nebraska)

The WCA, along with Good News and UMAction, are working together to secure a re-authorization of a new paragraph 2553 that would provide a consistent, uniform process across the entire UMC connection and prevent conferences from adding additional costs. We won't know, however, whether that effort will be successful until the UMC General Conference in May 2024.”

Read more from Rev. Jay Therrell at <https://Wesleyancovenant.org/2023/08/22regional-chapter-changes-coming/>