



2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE JOURNAL

June 19-21, 2026

Sioux City, IA Convention Center

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit

- Galatians 5:25 NIV -



Upper Midwest Annual Conference

June 19-21, 2026

Sioux City, IA Convention Center

Bishop Mark Webb

General Superintendent of the Global Methodist Church

Rev. James Parks

Superintendent of the Upper Midwest Conference

Rev. Ross Reinhiller

Vice Superintendent of the Upper Midwest Conference

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
WELCOME TO THE UPPER MIDWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE	5
MISSION and VISION OF THE UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE	6
SIOUX CITY CONVENTION CENTER SITE MAP	7
ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE	8
LEADERSHIP BIOS	9
Bishop Mark Webb	9
Rev. Mike Schafer	9
Rev. James Parks	10
Rev. Ross Reinhiller	10
BREAKOUT SESSIONS DESCRIPTIONS: Friday, June 19th at 1:30 PM	11
The Community Church: Growth Through Radical Presence	11
Restaurant Church	11
Bands: Becoming Like Jesus in Micro-Community	11
GuideStone Benefits Overview	11
A Fundamental Shift: From Churches that Support Small Groups to Small Groups that Support the Church	12
BREAKOUT SESSIONS DESCRIPTIONS: Saturday, June 20th at 1:30 PM	12
The Community Church: Growth Through Radical Presence	12
Blessman International: Missions in South Africa	12
Every Church Plants: From Vision to Practice	13
Bands: Becoming Like Jesus in Micro-Community	13
AI In and For the Church	14
A Fundamental Shift: From Churches that Support Small Groups to Small Groups that Support the Church	14
CONFERENCE STANDING RULES	15
BUSINESS AGENDA	16
MISSIONS TEAM REPORT	17
SOUTH AFRICA REPORT and MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING	18
PRAYER & INTERCESSION TEAM REPORT	19
ETHNIC MINISTRY TEAM REPORT	20

MULTIPLICATION TEAM REPORT	22
GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATION REPORT	25
GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATION	26
BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT	27
Clergy Session Board of Ministry Report	27
Appointment List	36
Ordination List	41
LAY LEADER REPORT	42
FINANCE REPORT	43
Proposed Budget (July 2025 - June 2026)	44
Statement of Financial Position	47
NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPORT	49
Conference Leadership Council	50
Board of Ministry	50
Superintendency Committee	51
Finance and Administration Committee	51
Nominations and Leadership Development Committee	52
Committee on Investigation	52
Administrative Review Committee	53
Conference Planning Team	53
Ethnic Ministry Team	54
Conference Prayer & Intercession Team	54
Multiplication Team	55
Communications Team	55
Missions Team	56
Conference Districts	57
CABINET REPORT	58
COMMUNICATIONS TEAM REPORT	59
DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM REPORT	61
JETHRO PROJECT REPORT	62
STRATEGIC PLANNING REPORT	63
SUPERINTENDENCY COMMITTEE REPORT	64
CONFERENCE PLANNING TEAM REPORT	65
CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS	67

Welcome to the Upper Midwest Annual Conference

A Spirit-Filled Life

Welcome to the Upper Midwest Annual Conference!



Our theme this year, “The Path Before Us: A Spirit-Filled Life,” reminds us that as we move forward together, we can only go where the Holy Spirit leads. God is calling us to be filled daily with the Holy Spirit so that we may be His witnesses in our communities and around the world.

This year, we will celebrate what God has been doing throughout our conference while also looking ahead to the priorities and opportunities God is placing before us. Our theme verse is Galatians 5:25: “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

We are not called into a holy huddle where we simply gather together. We are sent by the Spirit into the world to share the love, grace, and hope of Jesus Christ. As we walk together in faith, we trust that the Spirit will continue to guide, equip, and empower us for the work ahead.

My hope and prayer for our time together is that we will grow deeper in our walk with the Spirit. May we be renewed and refreshed as we pray, worship, and learn together. Then, may we return to our churches and communities ready to share what the Spirit is doing among us.

Paul’s letter to the Galatians reminds us of the freedom we have in Christ to live fully and faithfully. We are invited once again to lay aside the things that hinder us and to take up the gifts of the Spirit for the sake of God’s Kingdom.

May God bless our time together, and may He make it fruitful for His Kingdom.

Rev. James E. Parks

Superintendent

Upper Midwest Conference

Our Mission and Vision

The Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church

Our Global Mission:

The Global Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe.

Our Global Vision:

Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the Global Methodist Church envisions multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the earth who flourish in scriptural holiness as we worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

Our Conference Mission:

To lovingly walk alongside laity and clergy as they make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness around the globe.

Our Conference 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 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 of assisting them so that they will grow in their vitality and effectiveness to make disciples of Jesus Christ.



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

2026 Annual Conference | June 19-21, 2026

Convention Center Site Map

Address: 801 4th Street | Sioux City, Iowa 51101

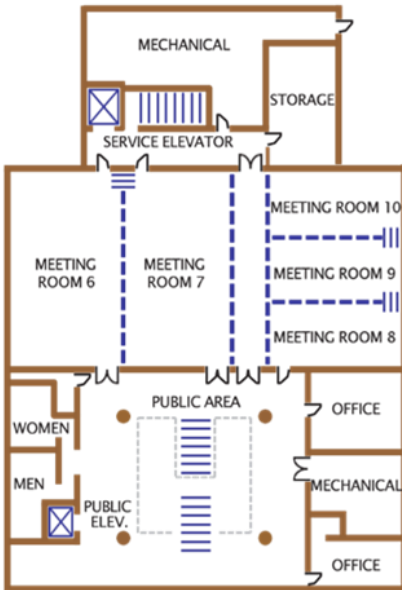
Galleries A, B & C

Email: info@siouxcityconventioncenter.com

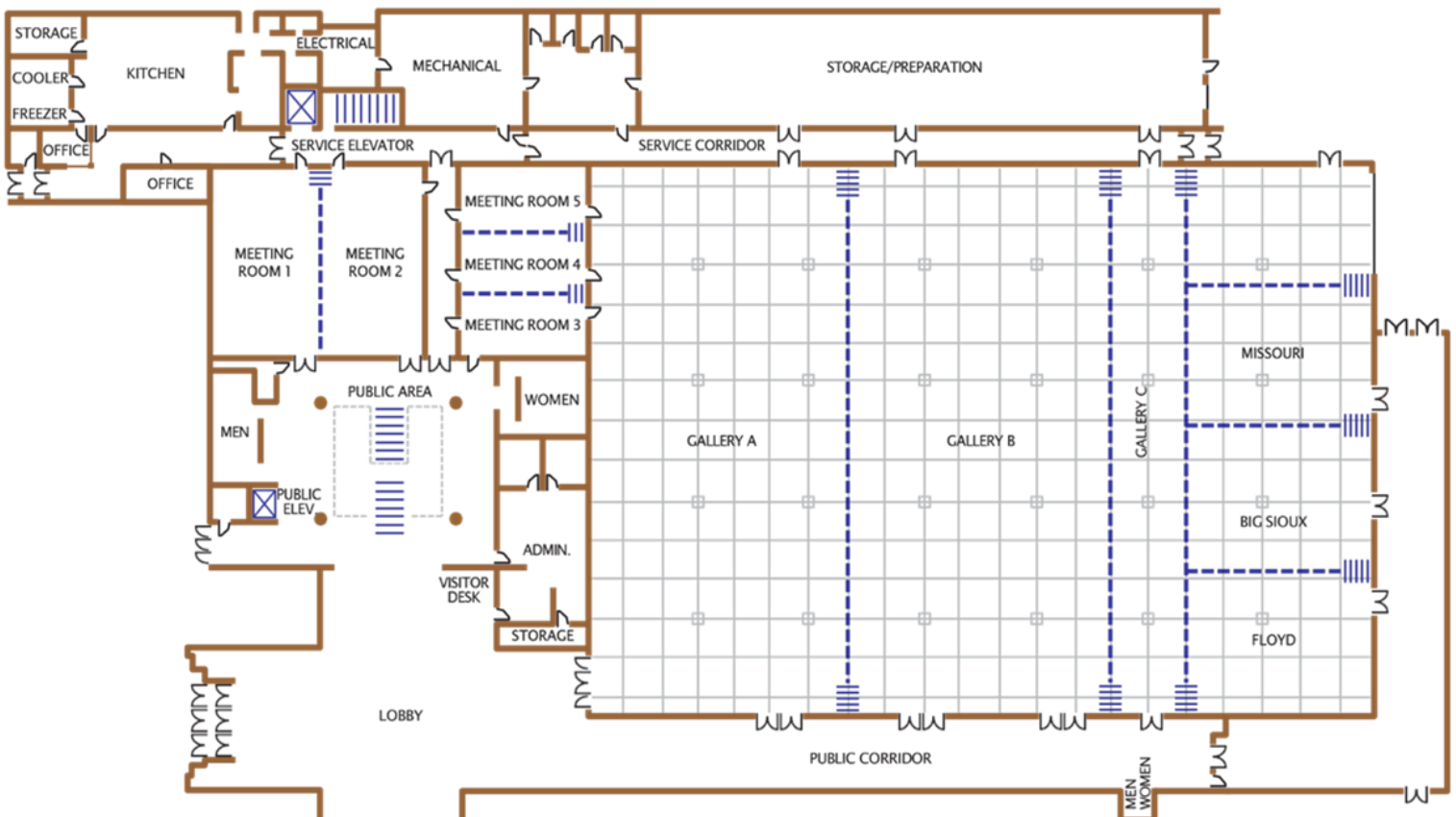
Phone: 712-279-4800

Parking: There is a Parking Ramp located across 4th street from the Convention Center for free use for all who are Attending Annual Conference.

Note: If you are staying at the Marriott please use the Marriott Parking Ramp



SIoux CITY CONVENTION CENTER SECOND FLOOR



SIoux CITY CONVENTION CENTER - FIRST FLOOR

Annual Conference Schedule

Friday, June 19th

9:00 AM	BOARD OF MINISTRY MEETING	Main Rm 1 & Upper-Level Rms 6/7
12:30 PM	CHECK IN OPENS	Main Room
1:00 PM	ORDINANDS MEETING WITH THE BISHOP	Main Level Room 2
1:30 PM	EARLY BIRD BREAKOUT SESSIONS	
	Community Church	Main Level Room 1
	Restaurant Church	Main Level Room 3
	Bands	Main Level Room 4
	GuideStone Benefit Overview	Main Level Room 5
	A Fundamental Shift	Upper-Level Rooms 8/9/10
3:00 PM	CLERGY SESSION	Upper-Level Rooms 6/7
3:00 PM	LAITY SESSION	Main Room
4:30 PM	DINNER ON YOUR OWN	
6:30 PM	WELCOME and OPENING WORSHIP with Speaker: Rev. James Parks	Main Room
8:00 PM	FELLOWSHIP TIME with SNACKS PROVIDED	Main Room
8:00 PM	GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATION MEETING	Main Level Room 1
9:30 PM	DISPLAYS/VENDORS CLOSE	Lobby

Saturday, June 20th

	BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN or ATTEND A BREAKFAST MEETING	
7:30 AM	ETHNIC MINISTRY TEAM BREAKFAST (Team Only)	Main Level Room 3
7:30 AM	SPECIAL MORNING GATHERINGS: (Open to Everyone)	
7:30 AM	Jethro Project	Main Level Room 1
	Group Publishing: Children's Ministry	Main Level Room 2
8:30 AM	CHECK IN OPENS	Main Room
8:30 AM	DISPLAYS/VENDORS OPEN	Lobby
9:00 AM	MORNING WORSHIP/Concert of Prayer	Main Room
10:00 AM	BREAK with SNACKS PROVIDED	Main Room
10:20 AM	CONFERENCE BUSINESS	Main Room
12:30 PM	LUNCH PROVIDED	Main Room
1:30 PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS	
	The Community Church	Main Level Room 1
	Every Church Plants: From Vision to Practice	Main Level Room 2
	Bands	Main Level Room 3/4/5
	Blessman International/South Africa	Upper-Level Room 6
	AI In and For The Church	Upper-Level Room 7
	A Fundamental Shift	Upper-Level Room 8/9/10
3:00 PM	CONFERENCE BUSINESS	Main Room
4:20 PM	MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE	Main Room
4:30 PM	DINNER ON YOUR OWN	
5:00 PM	SPECIAL GATHERING: Nebraska Movement Fellowship w/BYO Meal	Wesley GMC, Sioux City
6:30 PM	EVENING WORSHIP: Speaker Bishop Mark Webb	Main Room
8:00 PM	ORDINATION REHEARSAL	Main Room
8:00 PM	FELLOWSHIP TIME with SNACKS PROVIDED	Main Room
8:00 PM	MEETING: Investigation Committee	Main Level Room 1
8:00 PM	MEETING: Administrative Review Committee	Main Level Room 2
9:30 PM	DISPLAYS/VENDORS CLOSE	Lobby

Sunday, June 21st

	BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN	
8:30 AM	CLERGY GATHER BEFORE ORDINATION FOR PROCESSION	Main Level Room 1/2
9:00 AM	ORDINATION SERVICE – Bishop Mark Webb Presiding	Main Room

Leadership Bios

Bishop Mark J. Webb

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH



Mark J. Webb currently serves as a bishop in The Global Methodist Church.

He was elected a bishop in The United Methodist Church and consecrated on July 20, 2012, at the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference. Mark served as the episcopal leader of the Upper New York Area of the United Methodist Church from September 1, 2012, until December 31, 2022. On January 2, 2023, he was received as an elder and bishop in The Global Methodist Church.

Mark holds a M. Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Shippensburg University. He also holds a graduate certificate in nonprofit management from the University of Connecticut.

He served pastorates at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Mechanicsburg, Pa. from 1994-2007, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Wormleysburg, Pa. from 1991-1994, and Linglestown United Methodist Church from 1989-1991. He served as District Superintendent of the York District of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church from 2007-2012.

Mark encourages clergy and laity to work together in the development of discipleship pathways that will point people to Jesus Christ and bear fruit for the kingdom of God. He has a passion for Christ-following leadership development, new faith communities and ensuring existing congregations grow in vitality and fulfill the mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly and witness boldly".

He is a native of Williamsport, Pa., and is married to Jodi. Mark and Jodi live in Lititz, PA and have two sons, Tyler, who is married to Lyndsay and Benjamin, who is married to Mary. They have one granddaughter, Lydia Tatum Webb.

Rev. Mike Schafer

CONNECTIONAL OPERATIONS OFFICER
OF THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH



Reverend Mike Schafer currently serves as the Connectional Operations Officer of the Global Methodist Church. In this role, Reverend Schafer oversees the GMC global staff and works with the various leadership teams and the Assembly of Bishops to ensure that the operational side of this new movement stays focused on the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ and spreading scriptural holiness around the globe. Prior to serving as the GMC's COO, Mike served as the Conference Superintendent of the West Plains Conference.

Before joining the Global Methodist Church in 2023, Mike spent four decades in ministry in the United Methodist Church. He served in conference office leadership in the Northwest Texas Conference and pastored churches throughout West Texas for over 30 years, starting in his days as a student at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. Mike holds degrees from McMurry and Asbury Theological Seminary. His pastoral experience includes small rural churches, a mid-sized county-seat church, and a large city church. Mike is passionate about helping local churches follow Jesus into new and exciting adventures to reach more people with the good news.

Mike has been married to his wife Sandy for over 44 years. Mike and Sandy have two sons, Nathan and Matthew, as well as a daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. In his free time, Mike loves woodworking, fishing, puzzle building, and collecting vintage toys.

Leadership Bios

Rev. James Parks

SUPERINTENDENT
UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE
OF THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH



Bio: James Parks serves half-time as our Conference Superintendent of the Upper Midwest Conference. He is also appointed as co-lead pastor with his wife, Helen, at Marion Methodist Church in Marion, Iowa. His main focus in the local church is preaching and teaching. They have two children, and as of May 29th a daughter-in-law.

A graduate of Iowa Wesleyan College with a degree in Business/Computer Science. He then received his M. Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary.

James enjoys learning about leadership development. He will often share what he is hearing in the Carey Nieuwhof Leadership Podcast or Working Genius Podcast with Patrick Lencioni. Or books he is growing from like The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry by John Mark Comer.

Rev. Ross Reinhiller

VICE SUPERINTENDENT
UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE
OF THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH



Bio: Ross Reinhiller serves as the part time Vice Superintendent of the Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church. Ross and Valerie Reinhiller also serve as pastors of Faith Methodist Church in Williston, North Dakota, and direct Out in Faith Ministries. Out in Faith is an outreach ministry working with issues of homelessness, poverty and hunger in the Bakken Oil Field communities.

Ross is a graduate of Dickinson State University (Dickinson, North Dakota) with a Bachelor of Science in education, Ross also holds a M. Div. and D. Min. degree from Asbury Theological Seminary (Wilmore, Kentucky). Ross is a Beeson Pastor of Asbury Theological Seminary class of 1999.

Ross and Valerie have two daughters, Jayne, who is married to Nick, and Anne.

Breakout Sessions

Friday, June 19th at 1:30 PM



The Community Church: Growth Through Radical Presence (Main Level Room 1)

Presenter: Rev. Mike Jones Pastor of Calvary Church in Walcott, Iowa

Methodism is built on the strength of the "connection," but to truly thrive, that connection must extend far beyond the church walls. This session breaks down a proven model for significantly increasing a congregation's size and vitality by moving from a passive presence to a radical one.

We will explore how becoming an indispensable partner to local schools, youth events, and civic organizations creates a culture of visibility that naturally invites growth. Learn how to identify the "pulse" of your community and leverage our connectional heritage to ensure that your church isn't just a landmark on a map, but a heartbeat in the community



Restaurant Church (Main Level Room 3)

Do what successful restaurants do and grow your congregation!

Presenter: Rev. Tom Shinkle, Pastor of Grand View & Center Grove Churches in Dubuque, IA and Wesley Church in East Dubuque, IL

Advertising, Atmosphere, Service, and food. This is a fun workshop challenging participants to think about how they are "doing church" every week and to consider implementing some of the best practices of successful and popular restaurants.



Bands: Becoming Like Jesus in Micro-Community (Main Level Room 4)

Presenter: Nick Perreault

A band is a group of three to five people who meet weekly to engage in five transformational questions. Bands are all about creating a safe and honest relational context where we can grow and heal as disciples of Jesus in community. Seedbed has been teaching and encouraging this model for more than a decade and now more than ever before it is bearing incredible fruit in the lives of those participating in bands. Join us in this lab to learn more about this model and how to begin to implement this in your life personally and your community.



GuideStone Benefits Overview (Main Level Room 5)

Presenter: Cody Gonzales

GuideStone will be providing an overview of life and health benefits accessible to Clergy. This includes programs designed to enhance the benefit experience and reduce member out of pocket cost.



A Fundamental Shift (Upper Level Rooms 8/9/10)

From churches that support small groups to small groups that support the church

Presenter: Rev. Jake Schadel

Many churches are effective at gathering people and delivering content, yet struggle to develop disciples who live out their faith and reproduce it in others. This breakout explores a fundamental shift in how we approach discipleship, not as a program within the church, but as the foundation from which the church grows.

Drawing from the Disciple Makers model, this session will present a simple, reproducible pathway for raising up ordinary believers to engage in relational, Scripture-centered discipleship that leads to multiplication. Participants will gain both a theological framework and practical tools for moving from attendance-based ministry to a culture of disciple making.

Attendees will leave with:

- A clear understanding of the biblical model for disciple making
- A framework for launching relational discipleship groups
- Practical steps for identifying and developing leaders
- Insight into how small groups can become the driving force of church life and mission

This session is designed for pastors and leaders who are ready to move beyond programs and cultivate a culture of discipleship that can grow in any setting, rural or urban, large or small.

Saturday, June 20th at 1:30 PM



The Community Church: Growth Through Radical Presence (Main Level Room 1)

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We will explore how becoming an indispensable partner to local schools, youth events, and civic organizations creates a culture of visibility that naturally invites growth. Learn how to identify the "pulse" of your community and leverage our connective heritage to ensure that your church isn't just a landmark on a map, but a heartbeat in the community.



Blessman International: Missions in South Africa (Upper-Level Room 6)

Presenter: Jim Blessman

What began as a God-given calling for Dr. Jim and Beth Blessman in 2001 has grown into a powerful movement of hope, compassion, and transformation across South Africa. For 25 years, Blessman International has been serving vulnerable children and families by meeting critical physical needs while sharing the life-changing love of Jesus Christ. Through an expanding water well program, children and communities gain access to clean, life-sustaining water. Through a network of feeding hubs and feeding centers, tens of thousands of children

receive nutritious meals each month. Through the distribution of eyeglasses, shoes, and hygiene kits, children experience dignity, confidence, and care. Yet these programs are about more than meeting immediate needs—they are pathways to lasting transformation. Every well, every meal, and every act of compassion is part of a greater mission: offering dignity through compassionate service, hope through the Gospel, and purpose through discipleship.

As Blessman International celebrates 25 years of ministry, we invite you to become part of the story. Discover what mission engagement looks like in South Africa and see firsthand how God is transforming lives through compassionate action and Gospel-centered ministry. Whether you choose to pray, give, serve, sponsor, or join a mission team, your involvement can help bring hope, opportunity, and purpose to children and communities in need. Together, we can continue building a future where every child experiences dignity, encounters Christ, and is empowered to thrive.



Every Church Plants: From Vision to Practice (Main Level Room 2)

Presenter: Rev. Zach Kingery, Upper Midwest Multiplication Team Leader

Come hear a panel of practitioners share the “why,” “how,” and lessons learned from pursuing multiplication in the Upper Midwest. This breakout will feature real stories from individuals and churches taking faithful next steps in evangelism, disciple-making, church planting, and forming new faith communities.

Together, we will explore how ordinary congregations can cultivate a culture of disciple-making and multiplication, raise up missional leaders, and take faithful next steps as we become a Conference where Every Church Plants.

Panel:

- Aldersgate in Aberdeen is the sponsor/mother church for Faith Community in Rapid City, living out the vision of Every Church Plants by supporting Faith Community through prayer, encouragement, and tangible partnership.
- Valentine Methodist, located in a community of 2,700, launched home groups that reproduced and multiplied, shifting from a church that sends people to groups to groups that evangelize, disciple, and build up the church.
- 1927 in Des Moines, a liturgically charismatic church plant that started organically and uses “Chapters,” gatherings modeled on Wesleyan class meetings, for formation and deep disciple-making.
- Rev. Jonathan Lee, who led a season of church-plant discernment in the Twin Cities area, resulting in the birth of a campus ministry at the University of Minnesota.



Bands: Becoming Like Jesus in Micro-Community (Main Level Rooms 3/4/5)

Presenters: Nick Perreault

A band is a group of three to five people who meet weekly to engage in five transformational questions. Bands are all about creating a safe and honest relational context where we can grow and heal as disciples of Jesus in community. Seedbed has been teaching and encouraging this model for more than a decade and now more than ever before it is bearing incredible fruit in the lives of those participating in bands. Join us in this lab to learn more about this model and how to begin to implement this in your life personally and your community.



AI In and For the Church (Upper-Level Room 7)

Presenter: Dr. Andrew Gustafson

This will be a workshop/discussion about AI and the Church. We will talk about some very basic questions like what is AI, and what are some of the ways you can learn how to utilize it? What are my options for platforms and what are some easy and quick things AI may be able to help with to bring about more effective ministry and service to the congregation? But we will also talk about some of the limits and potential dangers of misusing AI, and talk briefly about how we might think about the work of the Holy Spirit and AI-- for example, how could or should a pastor use it in helping create a sermon? How should a teacher use it in developing curriculum? Examples will be given.

This session is being led by a philosopher, not a tech-guru, so set your expectations appropriately-- if you've never used AI at all, you will still find the session useful I believe. If you are an AI expert, we look forward to your contribution to the discussion!



A Fundamental Shift (Upper Level Rooms 8/9/10)

From churches that support small groups to small groups that support the church

Presenter: Rev. Jake Schadel

Many churches are effective at gathering people and delivering content, yet struggle to develop disciples who live out their faith and reproduce it in others. This breakout explores a fundamental shift in how we approach discipleship, not as a program within the church, but as the foundation from which the church grows.

Drawing from the Disciple Makers model, this session will present a simple, reproducible pathway for raising up ordinary believers to engage in relational, Scripture-centered discipleship that leads to multiplication. Participants will gain both a theological framework and practical tools for moving from attendance-based ministry to a culture of disciple making.

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This session is designed for pastors and leaders who are ready to move beyond programs and cultivate a culture of discipleship that can grow in any setting, rural or urban, large or small.

Conference Standing Rules

Organizational Resolutions and Standing Rules for Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church.

1. Robert's Rule of Order is the primary source of parliamentary procedure employed by the Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church.
2. The printed agenda becomes the official agenda of the Conference, with adjustments, as necessary. All requests for additional items to be placed on the agenda shall be submitted to the Conference Secretary.
3. The bar is the Main Room whether set up as tables or as an auditorium. All in attendance are invited to be seated, though only voting members both laity and clergy are given voice and vote. All votes are limited to the bar of the Conference.
4. The following persons are given both voice and vote during the business session of the Annual Conference:
 - a. Registered Lay Members of the Annual Conference who represent Global Methodist Charges or Church who are officially recorded as part of the Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church.
 - b. Registered Clergy assigned or appointed to an official Global Methodist Charge or Church. Registered Clergy who serves in an officially recognized appointment beyond the local church. Clergy who are appointed to Senior Status and are within the first seven years of that appointed status.
5. Voting on some topics is restricted by the Book of Doctrines and Discipline of the Global Methodist Church. The presiding officer will inform the body of the Annual Conference when restrictions apply to a specific vote.
6. The presiding officer may grant other persons the right of voice during the Conference.
7. During debate or addressing the Annual Conference from the floor the speaker will state their name, church and status of laity or clergy.

Business Agenda

Only those with badges marked as "Voting Laity" and "Voting Clergy" may participate in voting.

All are welcome to attend.

Missions Team

South Africa Connection & Blessman International

Prayer & Intercession Team

Ethnic Ministry Team

Witness

Multiplication Team

Witness

Mike Schafer - GMC Connectional Operations Officer

General Conference Delegation

Board of Ministry

- Historic Questions
- Certified Lay Ministry Recognition

Witness

Conference Lay Leader

Witness

Conference Treasurer/Finance & Administration

- Budget

Missions Team Report



The Missions Team was launched just over a year ago and has spent this year setting a firm foundation for our work in the future. Our work is based on Acts 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (the 10/40 Window).” Our new logo highlights this focus.

We have an active closed Facebook group where individuals and churches can find conference mission information and connect with each other to learn how other churches are in mission. Search Facebook for Upper Midwest GMC - Missions and ask to join.

We approved Blessman International (www.blessmaninternational.org)

as our first conference-endorsed mission organization, a good match for our Conference partnership with South Africa. In November 2025 fifteen lay and clergy served children and youth through many projects with Blessman International in Limpopo Province, South Africa for our first conference-sponsored mission trip. A second trip is scheduled for November 12-24, 2026. You can find information to sign up on the Blessman International website, in the conference email newsletter, or in our Facebook group.

Our biggest project is our challenge to all local churches in our conference to raise money to dig 3 wells with Blessman International at 3 preschools or day care centers in South Africa. We are confident the needed \$37,500 will be raised and God will be glorified as we celebrate digging these 3 wells for our third birthday as a Conference!

The Global Methodist Church Kingdom Advancement Commission has developed an Acts 1:8 certification to recognize churches who are in mission across the globe. Our Missions Team will be highlighting details of how your church can work toward this goal.

Current members include Rey Colon, Daniel Evans, Patty Gillette, Beth Hansen, Becky Heeren (Secretary), Norma Morrison (Chair), James Parks, Roxann Petzold, Ross Reinhillier, Annalise Santillan (Vice-Chair), Pam Travis, and Mike Waldrop.

For questions or if you are passionate about missions and would like to join our team, email us at missions@uppermidwestgmc.org as we “empower global Methodists to advance the Kingdom!”

South Africa Report

The Upper Midwest Conference continues its relationship with the South African Conference. Our commitment continues with our tithing of our Conference budget going to support the ongoing administrative work of the South African Conference. We are fulfilling the steps developed in our Memorandum of Understanding with their Conference. The purpose of our support is not to develop a relationship of dependency but to share resources that jump start the South African Conference as they develop independent and local support.

We are blessed as we continue developing our personal relationships with the South African Conference. This year, Mr Luvo Thwethwa and Ms. Pretty Najmejona, leaders in the South African Conference are our special guests. Their presence with us is a blessing. They are here to share the exciting work of God in their Conference.

Finally, we have entered a Memorandum of Understanding with our South African Conference friends and Blessman International. This working relationship allows us to build on the strengths of all three partners. Blessman International's mission work, especially in outreach feeding programs, well drilling and agricultural innovation are shared with the South African Conference. Blessman International is the bridge for local churches in our Conference to support the emerging work in the South African Conference.

We are grateful to God for such strong partners and look forward to the blessings of God that he is bestowing on all of us through this partnership.

Prayer & Intercession Team Report

""When you call Me and come and pray to Me, I will listen to you." (Jer. 29:12)

The Conference prayer team meets twice a month: every first Monday is for the Conference Team, and every third Monday is for the Iowa district. Praise God, we have a new member on our prayer team, the Lay Leader from the Western States Conference.

We have a total of 16 members from Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and the Western States Conference. I thank God for the eight faithful members who have been a team since the very beginning of the Conference Prayer Team 2024.

Our team has been taking on extended prayer ministry throughout the year beyond our regular monthly prayer meeting by making a video for the Annual Conference, serving during the Annual Conference, writing a prayer for the Holy Week and Advent season, leading our prayer time, writing a prayer as we respond to disasters and concerns of the nation on behalf of the Conference for the Facebook, and writing articles for the monthly Conference Newsletter. In the January 2026 article, the Conference Prayer team asks the churches to make PRAYER their New Year's Resolution for 2026. And we offered some prayer points so we can pray together throughout 2026 in one heart, one mind, and one spirit. For April, instead of writing an article, the team wrote heartfelt prayers for our Conference and its leaders, for the Pastors, for military personnel and their families, for their protection, and for our county and its leaders and its future. We hope people can use the prayers.

Let us keep praying together. 1) For our beloved country, as we celebrate its 250th anniversary, America and its churches may rededicate themselves to the Almighty and be the light of the world for Jesus. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord (Ps 33:12). 2) God's wisdom and outpouring of the Holy Spirit for the leaders of our nation, our Conference leaders and staff, and presiding elders, pastors, the church, and the workers for the harvest locally and globally. 3) God's guidance upon the GMC, its leaders, and the upcoming General Conference in South Africa, and for an election for the bishops. 4) Pastors who search for the church to serve, and the churches look for pastors. 5) Protection and guidance for our nation and its leaders, all our military personnel, and reinforcement, police, and surround them with a divine shield of safety. 6) Intentional outreach efforts of the church locally and globally. 7) Outpouring of the Holy Spirit and prayer movement that leads to the revival of individuals and churches so that we may live the life that is worthy of His calling for His glory. 8) Pray for ourselves and our families that we may be thankful always, rely on God, not our understanding, and we may have a victory in all our daily battles in the name of Jesus and enjoy the shalom of Jesus. 10) Prayer for the persecuted Churches, 11) Follow the World Prayer Map. (Rev. Dr. Christina Sung, Conference Prayer & Intercession Team Leader)

Ethnic Ministry Team Report

I am deeply grateful for the Upper Midwest Annual Conference's continued faithfulness in its commitment to ethnic ministry. We remain the only Annual Conference in the Global Methodist Church with a dedicated Committee on Ethnic Ministry. This is not merely a structural distinction—it is a reflection of the heart of the gospel.

The good news of Jesus Christ is for all people, in all places, at all times. In a world often divided by culture, language, race, and nationality, the gospel proclaims a greater truth: every person is created in the image of God and redeemed through Christ. As Scripture reminds us, *"Christ is all, and is in all"* (Colossians 3:11). Our ministry flows from this conviction—that we are one body, called to live in unity while honoring the diversity of God's kingdom.

Our Ongoing Mission

Throughout 2026, the Committee on Ethnic Ministry has continued to meet regularly, seeking to strengthen the conference's witness and effectiveness in reaching all people. Our work remains grounded in six key priorities:

1. Building Relationships

Across our large and diverse conference, we are intentionally fostering relationships among pastors, leaders, and congregations. Trust and unity begin with knowing one another well, and we continue to create spaces for connection, encouragement, and shared ministry.

2. Sharing Leadership

We are committed to expanding ethnic representation in conference leadership. Ethnic leaders are actively serving on key committees, offering valuable perspectives that enrich our collective discernment and decision-making.

3. Supporting Ethnic Churches and Pastors

We continue to walk alongside ethnic pastors and congregations, especially those facing challenges related to appointments, finances, or ministry resources. Recent conversations have highlighted that cultural preferences within local churches can still create barriers in the appointment process. In response, we are strengthening support systems and advocating for greater awareness and fairness.

4. Partnership Churches

We are encouraging partnerships between congregations to strengthen ministry and provide mutual support. These relationships foster encouragement, shared resources, and long-term sustainability for ethnic churches.

5. Education

Education remains essential to our mission. We are equipping churches and leaders with tools to understand and engage diverse communities faithfully. This includes guidance on ministry structure, leadership development, and cultural awareness—always grounded in Christ's centrality.

6. Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural (CR/CC) Training

One of our most significant developments is the continued expansion of Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural training. This initiative equips pastors and congregations with theological foundations and practical tools to navigate cultural differences with grace. Our goal is not simply inclusion, but transformation—learning to love, lead, and worship together as one body in Christ.

Key Developments in 2026

In addition to our ongoing priorities, several important initiatives have taken shape this year:

- **Multi-Ethnic Fellowship Growth** We are encouraged by the growing fellowship among ethnic pastors across the United States. These gatherings provide prayer, encouragement, and unity in shared mission. Plans are underway to strengthen communication through a dedicated Facebook group and regular gatherings.
- **Ethnic Ministry Newsletter** We have launched both conference-wide and internal newsletters to improve communication, visibility, and connection. Each month, we highlight the ministries of ethnic pastors, sharing their stories, challenges, and testimonies of God's work.
- **Pastor Care and Support Initiatives** The committee is developing a Pastor Well-being Support Fund to respond to real and urgent needs among ethnic pastors and their families. This includes support for medical crises, financial hardship, and ministry-related challenges. Our vision is to reflect the love of Christ by caring for one another as one spiritual family.

Annual Conference Ethnic Gathering We continue to organize gatherings during Annual Conference that include worship, testimonies, and prayer. These moments strengthen unity and celebrate the diversity of God's work among us.

Looking Ahead

We recognize that challenges remain. Appointment processes, cultural barriers, and resource limitations continue to affect ethnic pastors and congregations. However, we are encouraged by the work God is doing among us.

Ethnic ministry is not about division—it is about the church more fully reflecting the kingdom of God. As we move forward, we remain committed to being a conference that welcomes, supports, and empowers all people to serve Christ. May we continue to grow as one body—united in mission, diverse in expression, and faithful to the gospel.

Blessings,
Rev. Jonathan Lee
Chair, The Ethnic Ministry Team

Multiplication Team Report

Every Church Plants

Mission & Vision

The Multiplication Team operates with authorization of the Annual Conference to “*encourage and facilitate the planting of new churches, including the authorization of sponsorship by existing congregations, and to charter such new congregations*” (¶¶ 439.17, 450, 709.3), and has the overall goal of seeing all healthy congregations in the conference actively participating in multiplication.

Our Mission is to see our communities have Bible believing, Spirit-led congregations committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ and spreading scriptural holiness across the globe.

Our Vision: Every church is instrumental and every leader effective in making disciples who make disciples who are actively on mission for Jesus.

Because of the mission and vision our goal is simple: **Every church plants.**

In order to have healthy congregations of all sizes participating in church planting and multiplication by the year 2030 key areas of focus have been identified:

- discernment through fasting and prayer
- renewed missionary zeal for the gospel
- paradigm shift in the expression of church by adopting an essential ecclesiology
- reorienting from pastoral dependency to the ‘pastorhood’ of all believers
- deliverance from dead discipleship practices.

Plainly stated, the Multiplication Team exists to encourage and facilitate new faith communities, church planting and multiplication across the Upper Midwest Conference. This means helping all our congregations, regardless of size, move toward faithful participation in the Great Commission so we will become a Conference where Every Church Plants.

But “Every Church Plants” is not a single model. It is a shared identity and direction: disciples making disciples who make disciples, leaders who raise up and send leaders, and churches who plant churches.

Key Progress and Updates

From vision statement to “operating system.”

The team has aligned around a focused aim: turning the Every Church Plants vision into a clear, repeatable process. This requires contextual tools, training pathways, consistent follow-through, and key partnerships

that move congregations toward health, evangelism, discipling, sending, and planting.

Shifting Culture with Resources and Rhythm

We are building momentum toward change through repeatable conference-wide rhythms that keep the Every Church Plants vision in front of clergy and laity and translate it into simple local church language. These rhythms are part of how we are shaping a common culture of discipleship, leadership apprenticeship, and sending:

Multiplication Articles + Multiplication Minute – Ongoing communication that reinforces key themes (health → mission → multiplication), shares practical local-church application, and builds a growing resource bank to equip congregations. *Check out these resources and get connected at: Uppermidwestgmc.org/multiplication*

Presiding Elder Multiplier Equipping – A strategic shift in 2026 has been moving from broad inspiration to scalable field-level training through Presiding Elders, with quarterly equipping built into cabinet meeting structures for consistency and follow-through.

NextGen Pipeline: “The Call” – In March, Rev. Zach Kingery co-led with Rev. Mike Morgan a prototype NextGen retreat titled “The Call,” designed to encourage teenagers to encounter, discern, and respond to God’s calling. Approximately twenty High School age students engaged in teaching, small-group discussion, vocational and marketplace testimonies, and spiritual gifts exploration. This is a culture-shaping rhythm because it strengthens the long-term leadership pipeline for ministry, mission, and multiplication - and it is intended to be refined and replicated across the Conference.

Planting and New Faith Community Developments

Des Moines: 1927 began with a group of six praying and studying the 27th Psalm. Led by Cam Scott, this growing congregation is now preparing to launch public worship in August 2026. Envisioning their church as a garden in the middle of a parking lot, 1927 is built around a simple movement of Presence → Formation → Mission, where prayer, worship, and intentional discipleship in small communities called Chapters equip believers to live as a faithful witness in everyday life.

Twin Cities: Discernment around a potential church plant location resulted in the birth of a growing college ministry at the University of Minnesota. Led by Rev. Jonathan Lee, what started as a bible study is now progressing toward the ecclesial markers of a church with believers gathering where the Word of God is faithfully preached and the people are organized for worship and discipleship. Seeing a church planted in Brooklyn Center of the Twin Cities still burns in Jonathan’s heart while he also has begun exploring how this ministry at UofM might become a multiplying model for campus discipleship and future church planting among young adults and future leaders.

Leadership Development and Culture of Call

If the Upper Midwest is to become a Conference where Every Church Plants, we must build a stronger pipeline of called and disciplined leaders.

This matters because multiplication is not primarily a funding problem or a creativity problem - it is often a leadership and discipleship pipeline problem. We are issuing the challenge that every pastor and local church identifies and develops two emerging leaders annually and we are working to equip you so that challenge can be achieved.

Budget

Current Budget: \$30,000 + \$10,000 pledge Covenantal giving

Proposed Budget: \$66,000

Looking Ahead

As we look toward 2030, the Multiplication Team will continue focusing on:

1. Health-first multiplication: keeping discipling and evangelism at the center of our ongoing efforts to be a Conference where “Every Church Plants.”
2. Training the trainers: strengthening Presiding Elder equipping and practical toolkits that pastors and leadership groups can immediately implement.
3. Equipping Clergy and Laity: leveraging strategic and effective gatherings and resources to inspire, equip, and mobilize all in our Conference willing to be disciples who make disciples who make disciples. Gatherings like Exponential Central and Global as well as cohorts such as the Exponential MLC.
4. Developing clear chartering pathway: so new works can move from early formation into stable, accountable conference life with clarity and integrity.

Contextual models for participation: helping every congregation take a next step (prayer, giving, leader development, partnership, sending, microchurch expressions, and more).

Encouraging Closing Vision

We are grateful for the faithful work already happening across the Upper Midwest and see the significant opportunity ahead. The harvest truly is plentiful. Let us be committed not only to the chores of the church but even more so to the work in the fields.

With a commitment to spiritual and functional health, to raising up leaders, and to becoming disciples who know they are missionaries to where we live, learn, work, and play, God will shape us into a Conference where Every Church Plants.

Respectfully submitted,

Upper Midwest Conference Multiplication Team

General Conference 2026 Delegation

GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATION REPORT

The General Conference Delegation elected by the Annual Conference last year has been meeting monthly to prepare for General Conference 2026 in South Africa. These meetings have included delegates, alternates, and reserves. While only delegates and alternates are officially sent by the conference to General Conference, reserves and guests may attend on their own.

One responsibility of the delegation has been the discernment of episcopal nominees. The delegation nominated one person from outside our conference, Rev. Forbes Matonga of Zimbabwe. We did not nominate anyone from within our conference this time. The delegation also elected Rev. Ross Reinhiller and Becky Heeren to serve on our Area Episcopacy Committee. They will work with leaders from the other conferences in our episcopal area to rank the top five candidates for episcopal leadership for the next six years.

Our episcopal area includes the conferences of Central Nigeria, South Carolina, Peru, Florida, South Africa, and the Upper Midwest. At General Conference, one bishop will be appointed to serve these six conferences.

The delegation has also spent significant time reviewing the Book of Doctrines and Discipline. We sought to better understand the guidance it provides and identify places where additional clarity may be helpful. A strong team worked together to develop more than twenty petitions for consideration by the delegation. After prayerful discussion and discernment, the delegation approved a number of these petitions to be submitted for consideration at General Conference.

In the months leading up to General Conference, the delegation will continue reviewing and discussing the petitions that will come before the conference.

Because this is only our second General Conference, there has been significant learning throughout the process. The delegation has worked to establish processes that may serve future delegations as well. Throughout this work, there has been a shared desire to ensure that the Book of Doctrines and Discipline serves the local church in fulfilling the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ and spreading scriptural holiness across the globe.

Please continue praying for the delegation as we complete our preparations and make plans for travel to South Africa. Above all, may God be glorified in this work.

James Parks

Head of the Upper Midwest Conference Delegation

General Conference 2026 Delegation



Upper Midwest Annual Conference 2026 General Conference Delegates

LAITY DELEGATES

Matthew Kearns – Marion Methodist Church in Marion, IA
Daniel Evans – Papillion Church in Papillion, NE
Becky Heeren – First Methodist Church in Marshalltown, IA
Norma Morrison – New Hope Church in Muscatine, IA
Andrea Schadel – Valentine Church in Valentine, NE
Lynn Rohrer – Sun River Church in Sun River, MT—Alternate

LAITY RESERVE DELEGATES

Darcy Rubenking – Clarinda Church in Corning, IA
David Mendyk – Trumbull Church in Hastings, NE
Dayle Wiley – Trinity Church in Cavalier, ND
Clarence Mittleider – Oakes/Marion/Dickey Churches in ND

CLERGY DELEGATES

James Parks – Marion Methodist in Marion, IA
Luann Bengel – Ida Grove Church in Ida Grove, IA
Zach Kingery – Clarinda Community Church in Clarinda, IA
Jonathan Lee – Christ’s Community in Maple Grove MN
Travis Stevick – Grace Methodist Church in Marcus, IA
Rey Colon – Calvary Fargo Church in Fargo, ND—Alternate

CLERGY RESERVE DELEGATES

Corey Jenkins – Bowman Church in Bowman, ND
Sedar Shako – Harris & Lake Park in Lake Park, IA
Michael McInnis – Le Mars Church in Le Mars, IA
Angie Vertz – Hazen Church in Hazen, ND
Juwle Nagbe – Napoleon-Streeter Churches in ND

Meet Our Delegates

Please take a minute to find out more information about each delegate by reading their bio’s on our website: <https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/nominees> or scan the QR Code below.



**Use your Smart Device to scan the QR Code
and Meet Our Delegates!**

Board of Ministry

It is pure joy to serve in the movement called the Global Methodist Church. The Board of Ministry is about helping people answer the call to ministry. The call to ministry as laity in the local church or the call to ministry as an ordained clergy is God-given.

The Board of Ministry is intentional about our work and mission. We are blessed with the task of building and assisting in creating a culture of call throughout the Upper Midwest Conference. We nurture people through the candidacy and ordination process. We train lay leaders in the Conference. We maintain standards for clergy effectiveness throughout a clergy member's life of service and honor the service of our clergy members at pivotal transition points. We take this task seriously. We pray and seek God's guidance as we work with each person.

The BOM offers opportunities in the Upper Midwest Conference. The two opportunities presently are:
Certified Lay Ministry School
Candidacy Mentor Training

We urge all churches and clergy to prayerfully consider God's leading and the Spirit's moving in people's lives. God has called each Christian to ministry, whether lay or ordained. If you have a call to pastoral ministry, please seek out your pastor or Presiding Elder and share your call.

Submitted by Val Reinhillier, Outgoing Chair, Upper Midwest Board of Ministry

CLERGY SESSION BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT

CERTIFIED LAY MINISTERS

1. What persons in the past year have transferred to the GMC who had previously held the status of Lay Servant Ministry certification? And from what conference in the predecessor denomination did they transfer?

Year of Transfer	Certified Lay Minister	Conference Transferring From

2. What persons have completed the certification for Certified Lay Ministry in the GMC? In what conference was their training?

Year of Completion	Certified Lay Minister	Conference Where Trained
2024	Greta Burck	Upper Midwest
2024	Phillip Grile	Upper Midwest
2024	Nancy Karnley-Clark	Upper Midwest
2024	Richard Ohm	Upper Midwest
2024	Merilee Sieck	Upper Midwest
2025	John Akakpo	Upper Midwest
2025	Marlene Booth	Upper Midwest

2025	Joseph Faubion	Upper Midwest
2025	Jerry Farber	Upper Midwest
2025	Kathleen Flaugh	Upper Midwest
2025	Marla Graham	Upper Midwest
2025	Matthew Kearns	Upper Midwest
2025	Kathy Michels	Upper Midwest
2025	Clarence Mittleider	Upper Midwest
2025	Tom Riley	Upper Midwest
2025	Lynn Rohrer	Upper Midwest
2025	Karen Siebert	Upper Midwest
2025	Holly Seifert	Upper Midwest
2025	Lynn Skalla	Upper Midwest
2025	Nicole Stengel	Upper Midwest
2025	Gregg Tallman	Upper Midwest
2025	Jamal Tongo	Upper Midwest
2026	Mike Bullard	Upper Midwest
2026	Jennifer Gustafson	Upper Midwest
2026	Tammy Haile	Upper Midwest
2026	Lisa Kenyon	Upper Midwest
2026	David Mendyk	Upper Midwest
2026	Larry Oien	Upper Midwest
2026	Heather Severance	Upper Midwest
2026	Rich Smith	Upper Midwest
2026	Ginny Tostenson	Upper Midwest
2026	David Walvoord	Upper Midwest

CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION

3. What persons have been approved as candidates for ministry?

Year of Approval	Candidates for Ministry
2025	Robert Bacon
2025	Clarence Mittleider
2024	Cameron Scott
2025	James Shroll
2025	Stephen Williams
2025	Jessica Berndt
2025	Katie Cook
2025	Amos Dulums
2025	Matthew Kearns
2025	Gonzalo Santillan

2025	Anita Adams
2026	Kim Ragland

4. What persons have transferred to the GMC as candidates for ministry? From what conference did they transfer?

Year of Transfer	Candidates for Ministry	Conference Transferring From

5. What persons have been approved as certified candidates for ordination? What year was their candidacy approved?

Year Approved	Candidates for Ordination
2025	Andrew Bee
2025	Karl Dallefeld
2025	Kristin Lupkes
2025	Zachary Rogers
2025	Andrea Schadel
2025	Michael Sells
2026	Greta Burck
2026	Tamara Haile
2026	Lisa Koester
2026	Jeremy LaBrie
2026	Richard Ohm
2026	David Walvoord

TRANSITIONAL LOCAL PASTOR

6. What persons are recognized as Transitional Local Pastors and in what year was that status recognized?

Year Recognized	Transitional Local Pastors
2024	Jared Cass
2025	Andy Early
2024	Brenda Goodman
2025	Jacob Hanson
2024	Jeff Hauser
2024	Mike Jager
2025	Barbara Krumm
2024	Shawn LaRue
2024	Marlene (Molly) Leger
2025	Byron Miller
2024	Patrick Munyakazi
2024	Adriaan Nel
2024	Mary Timmermann
2024	Cheri Van Gorp

SUPPLY PASTOR

7. What persons have been appointed as Supply Pastor? What is the current appointment? What year were they *first appointed*?

Year of First Appointment	Supply Pastors Appointed	Current Appointment
2024	Greta Burck	Kindred/Walcott, ND
2024	Michael Sells	Alice/Urbana, IA
2025	Clarence Mittleider	Marion/Dickey/Oakes, ND
2025	Andrew Bee	Lisbon, IA
2025	Robert Bacon	Maxwell IA
2025	Karl Dallefeld	Epworth, IA
2025	Lisa Koester	Gladbrook Chapel, IA
2025	Jeremy LaBrie	McCook, NE
2025	Zachary Rogers	Delhi/Manchester, IA
2025	James Shroll	Clear Lake/Gary, SD

DEACON

8. What persons are inactive Deacons? (Persons serving a non-GMC Church)

Year First Inactive	Deacons

9. What persons have moved from inactive to active status as a Deacon?

Year Moved to Active	Deacons

10. What persons are Senior Deacons?

Year Moved to Senior	Senior Deacons
2024	Loronda Schuler

11. What Deacons have taken retired/Senior status?

Year Moved to Senior	Senior Deacons

12. What persons have been approved for ordination as a permanent Deacon? What year? Do they have educational requirements remaining to complete?

Year of Approval	Permanent Deacons to be Ordained	Educational Requirements Completed? (yes/no)

13. What persons have been approved for ordination as a Deacon? What year? Do they have educational requirements remaining to complete?

Year of Approval	Deacons intending to be Ordained Elder	Educational Requirements Completed? (yes/no)
2026	Stephenie Henson	no
2026	Michael Jones	yes
2026	Erin Wetzel	no
2026	Jacob Yochum	no
2026	Jennifer Zoller	yes
2026	David Wittman	yes

ELDERS

14. What persons are inactive Elders? (Persons serving a non-GMC Church)

Year First Inactive	Elders
2024	Jani Dahlin
2024	Tim Frasher
2024	John Gaulke
2024	Kevin Gingerich
2024	Jonathan Lee
2023	Phil Schmidt
2024	Randall Taber
2025	Dallas Rostad
2026	Nicholas Grove

15. What persons have moved from inactive to active status as an Elder?

Year Moved to Active	Elders

16. What persons are Senior Elders?

Year Moved to Senior	Senior Elders
2024	John Battern
2024	James Beranek
2024	Robert Duemig
2024	Robert Dodge
2024	Mike Ellson
2024	Valera Heydenberk
2024	Jerry Heydenberk
2024	Vincent Homan
2024	Gary Hoyt

2204	Morris Hurd
2024	Norman Kelley
2024	Darwin Kopfmann
2024	Nora Mendyk
2024	Cynthia Morrison
2024	Steven Nelson
2024	Joyce Savage
2024	Richard Savage
2024	Franklin (Keith) Schadel
2024	Roger Spahr
2024	Judson Stover
2024	James Turner
2024	Marvin Winstryg
2024	Barbara McKewin
2024	Mike Morgan
2024	Eduardo LaRoche
2024	Ray Sherwood
2024	Kyle Reinhiller
2024	Jeff Thurman
2024	Michael McInnis
2024	Dean McPherson
2024	Linda Westhold
2025	Sharon Andersen
2025	Mary Howell
2025	Todd Schlitter
2025	Bill Williams
2024	Craig Peters
2025	Jerald Swanberg
2025	Mark Bateson
2025	Robert Maxwell
2025	Kevin Moore
2025	Mike Townsley

17. What Elders have taken retired/Senior status? **Vote**

Year Moved to Senior	Senior Elders
2025	Jamie Farias
2026	Arlyn Coalter
2026	Christy Ehrle
2026	Andrew Rubenking
2026	Nick Needham

18. What persons have been approved for ordination as an Elder? What year? Do they have educational requirements completed? **Vote**

Year of Approval of Elder	To be Ordained Elder	Educational Requirements Completed? (yes/no)
2026	Christy Ehrle	yes
2026	Sedar Shako	no
2026	Tracy Winters	yes

19. What persons have taken Outside and Beyond the Local Church appointments?

Year Appointment Began	Clergy Elder	Location and Agency
2023	Kevin Glesener	Vermeer Corporation, Pella, IA Lead Chaplain
2024	Carl Bengé	Ida Grove, IA – Ida Grove Fire Dept and Ida County Chaplain
2024	Thomas Carlson	Fire/Law Enforcement/Pastoral Counselor
2024	Timothy Frasher	Air Force National Guard
2024	Stephen Peters	Air Force National Guard
2024	Luke Smith	Watertown, SD – Canyon Pathways
2024	Michael Willer	Army Reserve
2024	Paul Kimball	Platte Community Youth Ministry, Platte, SD
2025	Joshua Doughty	Avera Medical Center, Marshall, MN Hospice Chaplain
2025	Zachary Kingery	Dirt Roads Network

20. What clergy formerly ordained in other denominations have been received as clergy members of the Global Methodist Church this year? **Vote**

Year first Appointed	Approved and Appointed Elders
July 1, 2026	George Pryor—Wesleyan Church
2025	Nicholas Grove—United Methodist Church

VALID CLERGY

21. What persons have been appointed Valid Deacon in the conference? What was the first year of that appointment? **Vote**

Year first Appointed	Approved and Appointed Valid Deacon
2025	Thomas Smithson
2025	Rayl Robbins
2026	Paul Rowenhorst

22. What persons have been approved and appointed as Valid Elders in the conference? What was the first year of that appointment? **Vote**

Year first Appointed	Approved and Appointed Valid Elders
2025	George Pryor

23. What clergy in good standing in other Christian denominations have been approved to serve appointments within the Upper Midwest Conference while retaining their denominational affiliation? **Vote**

Year Appointment Began	Clergy Elder	Location and Denomination
2023	Steve Anderson	Cornerstone, Watertown, SD – Evangelical Covenant
2024	John Abraham	Melrose, Argyle, IA
2025	J.D. Boatman	Faith, Libertyville, IA

TRANSFERS

24. What persons have transferred to the conference from other GMC conferences? The date of their transfer, the conference from which they transferred, and their status.

Date of Transfer	Transfers In	Status	Conference Transferring From
2025	Dennis Dutton	Deacon	Mid-Texas
2025	Tracy Winters	Deacon	Allegheny West
2026	Bruce Michael Brossman	Elder	Northeast

25. What persons have been transferred to other GMC conferences?

Date of Transfer	Transfers To	Status	Conference Transferring To
2026	Jenice Epp	Deacon	Heartland

LEAVES

26. What clergy are on Voluntary Leave? What is their status? What year did the leave begin? **Vote**

Year first on Leave	Clergy on Leave	Status
2023	Greg Ciesluk	Elder
2024	Joy Mitchell	Elder
2024	John Nadasi	Elder
2024	Emmanuel T. Naweji	Elder
2024	Christina Sung	Elder
2026	Aaron Limmo –sabbatical	Elder
2026	Andrew Happ—paternity	Elder

DISCONTINUED

27. What candidates for Ordination have been discontinued? Withdrawn or by action of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Year Discontinued	Candidates for Ordination Discontinued
2025	Tiffany Brewer—BOM action
2026	Jonathon Hennings—BOM action

28. What Deacons have had their clergy status terminated? Withdrawn or by action of the Board of Ordained Ministry? What was their status at the time of termination?

Year Terminated	Deacons	Status (Active, Inactive, Senior)

29. What Elders have had their clergy status terminated? Withdrawn or by action of the Board of Ordained Ministry? What was their status at the time of termination?

Year Terminated	Elders	Status (Active, Inactive, Senior)
2025	Jeffrey Dahlin—voluntary	Inactive
2026	Mark Britton—voluntary	Senior

30. What Deacons have died during the year?

Year Deceased	Deacon	Status (Active, Inactive, Senior)

31. What Elders have died during the year?

Year Deceased	Elders	Status (Active, Inactive, Senior)

Appointment List

IOWA EAST CENTRAL - PRESIDING ELDER: ANDREW HAPP

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Bruce Smith	Alburnett	Alburnett, IA	218	32
Michael Sells (SP)	Alice	Center Point, IA	65	46
Andrew Happ	Anchor Bible	Center Point, IA	530	316
Michael Sells (SP)	Urbana	Center Point, IA	21	14
Patrick Munyakazi	Riverview Bible	Central City, IA	60	30
Katie Cook	Coggon United Parish	Coggon, IA	52	21
Andrew Bee (SP)	Living Hope	Lisbon, IA	396	65
Becky High	Christ Community	Marion, IA	150	108
Helen Parks	Marion	Marion, IA	708	404
James Parks	Marion	Marion, IA	-	-
Bruce Smith	Prairie Chapel	Marion, IA	148	61
Guillermo Bongolan	Springville	Springville, IA	65	52
Ruby Bongolan	First	Tiffin, IA	56	40
Patrick Munyakazi	New Hope	Walker, IA	60	20

IOWA NORTH CENTRAL - PRESIDING ELDER: JEFF KODIS

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Lyndon Roesler	Armstrong	Armstrong, IA	247	65
	Faith Bible	Britt, IA	189	66
Melody Williams	Geneseo	Buckingham, IA	32	30
Craig Lutrell	First	Clarion, IA	316	141
Todd Hartsock	Cornerstone	Estherville, IA	36	NA
Ward Richards	Gifford	Gifford, IA	18	16
Gideon Gallo	Gladbrook Community	Gladbrook, IA	154	55
Lisa Koester (SP)	Chapel	Green Mountain, IA	30	28
Jeff Kodis	First	Marshalltown, IA	205	142
Rob Bacon (SP)	Maxwell	Maxwell, IA	130	34
Evelyn Lewiston	Grace Global	Ogden, IA	82	70
Ward Richards	Owasa	Owasa (Iowa Falls), IA	27	28
Todd Hartsock	Community	Swea City, IA	182	24

IOWA NORTH EAST - PRESIDING ELDER: PHIL ROGERS

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Kim Ragland (Lay)	Cedar Valley Community	Charles City, IA	24	20
Keith Pitts	First	Clinton, IA	226	100
	Community	Colesburg, IA	88	50
Zach Rogers (SP)	Delhi	Delhi, IA	159	60
Tom Shinkle	Center Grove	Dubuque, IA	44	14
Tom Shinkle	Grand View	Dubuque, IA	632	364
David Bracht-Wagner	Mt. Hope	Dunkerton	55	48
Mike Jager	Dunkerton	Dunkerton	104	14
Tom Shinkle	Wesley	East Dubuque, IL	NA	15
Byron Miller	Elwood Christian	Elwood, IA	115	40
Karl Dallefeld (SP)	West Dubuque	Epworth, IA	0	NA
Phil Rogers	Manchester	Manchester, IA	157	140
Mike Jager	Sumner	Sumner, IA	110	55
David Bracht-Wagner	Heritage	Waverly, IA	65	NA
Byron Miller	Wyoming	Wyoming, IA	40	15
Ethan Larson (Great Lakes)	Grace Global Methodist	New Albin, IA	18	NA

IOWA NORTH WEST - PRESIDING ELDER: LUANN BENGE

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Sedar Shako	Harris	Harris, IA	62	36
Luann Bengé	First	Ida Grove, IA	148	55
Sedar Shako	Lake Park	Lake Park, IA	370	53
	Life Connection	Le Mars, IA	111	56
Travis Stevick	Grace	Marcus, IA	349	114
Steve Swenson	Ocheyedan	Ocheyedan, IA	125	46
	Seney	Seney, IA	61	27
Carl Bengé	Crescent Park	Sioux City, IA	96	17
Kathy Flaugh (CLM)	Riverside	Sioux City, IA	35	25
Merlynne Smith (CLM)	St. James	Sioux City, IA	116	51
Carl Bengé	Trimble	Sioux City, IA	68	26
Scott Squires	Wesley	Sioux City, IA	390	110

IOWA SOUTH CENTRAL - PRESIDING ELDER: CHAD LIERMAN

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Rayl Robbins	Trinity	Albia, IA	87	90
Vincent Homan	Delta	Delta, IA	39	26
Aaron Limmo	Maaban	Des Moines, IA	NA	NA
Ben Wedeking	Prairie Creek	Grimes, IA	237	160
Michael Elrod	Hedrick Community	Hedrick, IA	108	61
JD Boatman (not GMC)	Faith	Libertyville, IA	51	36
Shawn LaRue	Grace	Moravia, IA	54	45
	Lacey	New Sharon, IA	46	30
Timothy Morgan	Pleasant View	Newton, IA	49	23
Steve Lamb	Prairie View	Ollie, IA	109	57
Chad Lierman	Trinity	Oskaloosa, IA	77	85
Mary Baker	Pleasant Hill Country	Prairie City, IA	30	21
Michael Elrod	Richland	Richland, IA	54	25
Nicholas Needham	The Bethel	Sigourney, IA	40	27
Vincent Homan	What Cheer	What Cheer, IA	89	69

IOWA SOUTH EAST - PRESIDING ELDER:

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
John Abraham (not GMC)	Melrose	Argyle (Keokuk), IA	45	31
Kyler Meyers (Lay)	Cedar Valley	Atalissa, IA	NA	NA
Jacob Yochum	Danville	Danville, IA	101	49
Josh Swaim	Christ	Davenport, IA	415	140
	Mediapolis	Mediapolis, IA	125	71
David Wittman	New Hope	Muscatine, IA	89	45
Donald Timmermann	Sweetland	Muscatine, IA	33	30
Kyler Meyers (Lay)	Nichols	Nichols, IA	24	6
	Sperry	Sperry, IA	49	32
Mike Jones	Calvary	Walcott, IA	174	116

MINNESOTA NORTH - PRESIDING ELDER: BRUCE KRONEN

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
	Akeley	Akeley, MN	61	NA
	Ottertail	Ottertail, MN	50	20
Bruce Kronen	Pilgrim Methodist	Plymouth, MN	78	43
Wesley Johnson	Living Hope Family	Sebeka, MN	146	74
Ken Uhren	Verndale Community	Verndale, MN	28	NA
Ken Uhren	Hewitt Community	Vining, MN	63	40
	Joyful Spirit	Wadena MN	84	45

MINNESOTA SOUTH - PRESIDING ELDER: JONATHAN LEE

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Eric Shin	Korean Evangelical	Hopkins, MN	62	51
Won Guen Lee	Korean Evangelical	Hopkins, MN	-	-
Jacob Hanson	Pleasant Corners	Kasson, MN	54	12
Jacob Hanson	Grace Methodist	Kasson, MN	151	75
James Strom	Grace Fellowship	Money Crk/Houston, MN	14	10
(Tommy) Suh	Windom Methodist	Windom, MN	214	150

NEBRASKA WEST - PRESIDING ELDER: JEFF KELLEY

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Rodney Heilbrun	Grace of Benkelman	Benkelman, NE	102	35
Riaan Nel	Chappell	Chappell, NE	NA	40
Alisa Parde	Culbertson	Culbertson, NE	213	45
	Clinton	Gordon, NE	18	6
	Imperial	Imperial, NE	288	69
	Lewellen	Lewellen, NE	47	10
Riaan Nel	Lodgepole	Lodgepole, NE	61	7
	Max New Hope	Max, NE	23	17
Jeff Kelley	Garden Prairie	McCook, NE	38	23
Jeff Kelley	Memorial	McCook, NE	572	313
Jeremy LaBrie	Memorial	McCook, NE	-	-
	Faith	Ogallala, NE	56	49
	Oshkosh	Oshkosh, NE	86	38
	Faith Methodist	Sidney, NE	353	80
Alisa Parde	Trenton	Trenton, NE	29	9
	Wauneta	Wauneta, NE	119	53

NEBRASKA SOUTH CENTRAL - PRESIDING ELDER: SHANON WILLIAMS

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Joel Rathbun	Arapahoe	Arapahoe, NE	315	58
Joel Rathbun	First	Beaver City, NE	33	7
	Curtis	Curtis, NE	127	25
Shanon Williams	Elsie	Elsie, NE	83	40
Sarah Herman	Elwood	Elwood, NE	60	30
Elmo Herman	Eustis	Eustis, NE	133	56
Elmo Herman	Farnam	Farnam, NE	81	45
	Franklin	Franklin, NE	80	15
Dave Mendyk (Lay)	Giltner	Giltner, NE	16	13
	Holdrege	Holdrege, NE	369	78
Shanon Williams	Maywood	Maywood, NE	37	8
Dave Mendyk (Lay)	Phillips	Phillips, NE	31	16
Dave Mendyk (Lay)	Trumbull	Trumbull, NE	23	9
Shanon Williams	Wallace	Wallace, NE	222	52

NEBRASKA NORTH CENTRAL - PRESIDING ELDER: JAKE SCHADEL

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Bob Wynn	Atkinson	Atkinson, NE	97	38
Andrea Schadel	Bassett	Bassett, NE	139	40
Stephen Williams	Calamus Trinity	Burwell, NE	150	60
Tim Hamilton (Lay)	Hunts Chapel	Cody, NE	38	12
	Jamison	Jamison, NE	15	9
Bob Wynn	O'Neil	O'Neil, NE	156	71
Andrea Schadel	Springview	Springview, NE	105	29
Stephen Williams	Calvary	Taylor, NE	75	12
Jake Schadel	Valentine	Valentine, NE	281	98

NEBRASKA EAST/SOUTH WEST IOWA - PRESIDING ELDER: MIKE HADER

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
David St. Aubin	Ashland	Ashland, NE	104	60
Mike Hader	Barada	Barada, NE	69	64
David St. Aubin	Cedar Hill	Cedar Hill, NE	23	17
Andrew Rubenking	Community	Clarinda, IA	103	75
Erin Wetzel (SP)	Faithful Community	Corning, IA	35	30
Mike Hader	Bethel	Falls City, NE	68	39
Steve McElroy	First	Harlan, IA	402	72
George Pryor	Arising	Lenox, IA	193	53
Jim Bendorf	Louisville	Louisville, NE	251	70
	Living Faith	Omaha, NE	69	63
Steve McElroy	Monroe Chapel	Walnut, IA	46	24

NORTH DAKOTA EAST - PRESIDING ELDER: REY COLON

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Charles Olmstead	Trinity Methodist	Cavalier, ND	176	78
Clarence Mittleider	Dickey Methodist	Dickey, ND	35	20
	Calvary Fargo African	Fargo, ND	NA	15
Rey Colon	Calvary Fargo Church	Fargo, ND	261	183
Tom Smithson	Calvary Fargo Church	Fargo, ND	-	-
Greta Burck	Kindred Methodist	Kindred, ND	41	8
Clarence Mittleider	Marion Grace Methodist	Marion, ND	32	24
Clarence Mittleider	Oakes Methodist	Oakes, ND	97	38
Greta Burck	Zion Methodist	Walcott, ND	105	48

NORTH DAKOTA WEST/MONTANA - PRESIDING ELDER: COREY JENKINS

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Corey Jenkins	Bowman Methodist	Bowman, ND	109	40
Hui Angie Vertz	Hazen Methodist	Hazen, ND	2	25
Val Wagner (Lay)	Lehr Community	Lehr, ND	NA	30
Brenda Goodman	Grace Emmanuel	Medina, ND	NA	40
Juwle Nagbe	Salem Evangelical	Napoleon, ND	25	20
Juwle Nagbe	Hope Ebenezer	Streeter, ND	95	0
Brenda Goodman	Tappen Cornerstone	Tappen, ND	NA	25
	Tuttle Salem GMC	Tuttle, ND	68	30
Ross Reinhiller	Faith Methodist Church	Williston, ND	222	90
Valerie Reinhiller	Faith Methodist Church	Williston, ND	-	-
Andy Early	Harvest Church	Bismarck, ND	117	120
David Odell	Sun River	Sun River, MT	29	18
David Odell	West Side	Great Falls, MT	143	59

SOUTH DAKOTA NORTHEAST - PRESIDING ELDER: ROGER SPAHR

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Sandra Marquardt	Bigstone Tabor	Big Stone, SD	113	31
Molly Leger	Bristol Methodist	Bristol/Webster, SD	8	11
John Price	Claremont	Claremont, SD	97	41
James Shroll	Clear Lake	Clear Lake, SD	220	70
James Shroll	Gary	Gary, SD	84	45
	Kellerton	Hazel, SD	9	7
John Price	Resurrection	Hecla, SD	33	13
Steve Behrens	Hitchcock	Hitchcock, SD	181	55
Mike Brossman	Central	Milbank, SD	432	213
Sandra Marquardt	Parkview	Milbank, SD	47	16
Sandra Marquardt	Ortonville First	Ortonville, MN	53	11
Derek Runge	Tulare United	Tulare, SD	305	80
Steve Anderson (not GMC)	Cornerstone	Watertown, SD	604	848
Mark Tracy	Cornerstone	Watertown, SD	-	-

SOUTH DAKOTA NORTHEAST - PRESIDING ELDER: ROGER SPAHR

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Paul Rowenhorst	Cornerstone	Watertown, SD	-	-
Joy Tracy	Cornerstone	Watertown, SD	-	-
Molly Leger	Journey of Faith	Webster, SD	132	45

SOUTH DAKOTA SOUTHEAST - PRESIDING ELDER: JOLEEN PIETRZAK

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Joleen Pietrzak	Arlington	Arlington, SD	70	40
Rick Andrus	Elk Point United Parish	Elk Point, SD	124	95
Shawn Abbas	Geddes Community	Geddes, SD	110	45
Paul Manson	Faith Alive	Huron, SD	555	292
Jared Cass	Faith Alive	Huron, SD	-	-
	Christian Church	Olivet, SD	70	30
	Redeeming Grace	Sioux Falls, SD	68	71
Bill Hoffman	Prairie's Edge	Stickney, SD	47	NA
Cheri Van Gorp	Wessington Springs	Wessington Springs, SD	117	56

SOUTH DAKOTA WEST – PRESIDING ELDER: DARLA HADRICK

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Derek Baum	Aldersgate	Aberdeen, SD	863	590
Mike Waldrop	Aldersgate	Aberdeen, SD	-	-
Sheri Fadley	Belle Fourche	Belle Fourche, SD	77	37
Tom Summers	Cresbard	Cresbard, SD	NA	31
	Saving Grace	Eureka, SD	127	56
Darla Hadrick	Mobridge	Mobridge, SD	18	4
Thomas Carlson	Presho Grace	Presho, SD	53	25
Jeff Hauser	Faith Community	Rapid City, SD	70	80
Darla Hadrick	Selby	Selby, SD	60	28
Tom Summers	Tolstoy	Tolstoy, SD	NA	10
Anthony Coffman	Winner	Winner, SD	230	160

Ordination List

On June 21st at 9:00 AM in the Main Room of the Sioux City, IA Convention Center, our service of ordination will take place with Bishop Mark Webb presiding.

If you are an ordained Global Methodist Church Deacon or Elder and would like to process during the Ordination Service, please bring your robe and a red stole. The clergy will line up at 8:30 am in Meeting Rooms 1/2 on the Main floor.

The following candidates have been approved by the Board of Ministry of the Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church for ordination.

TO BE ORDAINED ELDER

Christy Ehrle

Sedar Shako

Tracy Winters

TO BE ORDAINED DEACON

Stephenie Henson

Michael Jones

Erin Wetzel

Jacob Yochum

Jennifer Zoller

David Wittman

Lay Leader Report

The Upper Midwest Conference continues to be blessed.

There were gatherings in Marshalltown, Iowa and Aberdeen, SD that provided times of joyful worship and spiritual renewal.

During our upcoming Layity session some of the following topics will be discussed.

- A brief overview of Leadership training from the International Leadership Institute that is currently being rolled out.
- Training resources for Lay Leaders
- For those wrestling with the question; how can my church be more easily found on the web? There will be on-site support to assist with website creation during Annual Conference.
- How can I serve?
- Additional Wesleyan instruction and application.
- This year we will highlight the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Upper Midwest Conference.
Please come prepared to share and be blessed.

Please keep our leaders and members in your prayers.

I look forward to seeing you at Conference.

Blessings,

Alan Campbell

Finance Report

Below is the 2026-2027 Conference Budget Proposal. The finances of the Upper Midwest Conference remain strong, thanks to the continued provisions from God. This blessing has provided the conference to be able to grow, support and fund several new and expanding ministries. The enclosed budget has been prayerfully prepared and reflects a balance of fiscal responsibility and faith driven vision. We remain focused on supporting local churches, clergy, and discipleship efforts to ensure every church plants.

The Statement of Financial Position also details the conference's assets, liabilities, and net equity, offering a comprehensive view of its financial standing at a specific point in time. This snapshot helps patrons understand the resources available, obligations, and overall fiscal stability, supporting informed decision-making and future planning.

The Finance Committee recognizes the importance of financial clarity in sustaining trust and unity across our connection. As always, we welcome your questions, feedback, and continued conversation about any aspect of the budget, the financial position, or future ministries.

Tracie Ludeke
Conference Treasurer

Proposed Budget for 2026-2027

Revenue	Actual Expenses Thru 5.15.2026	2025-2026 Budget	2026-2027 Budget	
4000 Donations				
4010 From individuals	\$1,997	\$9,000	\$ 1,500	
4020 From Churches	\$630	\$0	\$ 500	
4099 Interest	\$942	\$0	\$ 6,000	
4190 Connectional Funding	\$396,660	\$450,000	\$ 464,202	
GMC Member Churches - No Connectional Funds, To Date			\$ 18,500	
5801 Registrations	\$28,473	\$29,500	\$ 29,500	
Provisional Funding			\$ 22,618	
Total Revenue	\$428,702	\$488,500	\$ 542,820	
Expenses				% OF TOTAL EXP.
5010 Leadership Council				
5015 Travel	\$44	\$4,000	\$ 3,000	
5020 Other Expenses		\$1,000	\$ -	
Total 5010 Leadership Council	\$44	\$5,000	\$ 3,000	0.6%
5050 Superintendent				
5051 Superintendent	\$61,680	\$67,000	\$ 70,685	
5052 Vice Superintendent	\$52,436	\$57,000	\$ 60,135	
5055 Administrative Support (32 hours)	\$27,368	\$36,000	\$ 41,600	
Fin. And Admin. - Bookkeeping (8 hours)			\$ 10,400	
5056 Bookkeeping Services	\$594	\$16,000	\$ -	
5060 Travel Reimbursement	\$7,225	\$2,000	\$ 10,000	
5070 Office Expenses	\$707	\$1,000	\$ 1,000	
5080 Website & Online Services	\$852	\$0	\$ -	
5099 Other Expenses	-\$2,553	\$5,000	\$ 5,000	
XXXX Professional Development/Cont. Ed			\$ 4,000	
Total 5050 Superintendent	\$148,308	\$184,000	\$ 202,820	37.4%
5100 Cabinet/Presiding Elders				
5105 Coaching	\$240		\$ -	
5110 Travel Reimbursement	\$2,430	\$2,200	\$ 2,200	
5115 Events	\$25,674		\$ -	
5120 Other Expenses	\$4,657	\$1,000	\$ -	
XXXX Training Conferences			\$ 12,500	
XXXX Next Gen	\$2,545		\$ -	
Total 5100 Cabinet/Presiding Elders	\$35,546	\$3,200	\$ 14,700	2.7%
5150 Districts				
5151 Church Stipends	\$92,000	\$102,000	\$ 102,000	
5160 Travel Reimbursement	\$12,399	\$15,000	\$ 15,000	
5165 Jethro Project	\$3,210	\$14,950	\$ 10,000	
5170 Other Expenses	\$0		\$ -	
Total 5150 Provisional Districts	\$107,609	\$131,950	\$ 127,000	23.4%
5200 Board of Ministry				

Proposed Budget for 2026-2027

5215 Travel	\$1,527	\$4,000	\$ 4,000	
5220 Evaluations & Background Checks	\$8,062	\$12,000	\$ 10,000	
5230 Clergy Training	\$0	\$6,000	\$ 6,000	
5240 Ordination Supplies	\$672	\$2,000	\$ 2,000	
Total 5200 Board of Ministry	\$10,260	\$24,000	\$ 22,000	4.1%
5300 Committee on Superintendency				
5310 Travel Reimbursement	\$0	\$800	\$ -	
5320 Other Expenses	\$0	\$200	\$ -	
Total 5300 Committee on Superintendency	\$0	\$1,000	\$ -	0.0%
5400 Finance & Administration				
5410 Travel	\$0	\$500	\$ 500	
5420 Legal & Tax	\$1,149	\$200	\$ 1,500	
5430 Postage & Supplies	\$372	\$300	\$ 300	
5440 Bookkeeper	\$302		\$ 1,000	
5460 Bank Charges	\$2,420	\$2,000	\$ 2,000	
5470 Insurance	\$683	\$2,000	\$ 2,500	
Total 5400 Finance & Administration	\$4,926	\$5,000	\$ 7,800	1.4%
5500 Nominations & Leadership Development				
5510 Travel Reimbursement	\$0	\$800	\$ -	
5520 Other Expenses	\$0	\$200	\$ -	
Total 5500 Nominations & Leadership Devel.	\$0	\$1,000	\$ -	0.0%
5600 Committee on Investigation				
5610 Travel Reimbursement	\$0	\$400	\$ -	
5620 Other Expenses	\$0	\$100	\$ -	
Total 5600 Committee on Investigation	\$0	\$500	\$ -	0.0%
5700 Administrative Review Committee				
5710 Travel Reimbursement	\$0	\$400	\$ -	
5720 Other Expenses	\$0	\$100	\$ -	
Total 5700 Administrative Review Committee	\$0	\$500	\$ -	0.0%
5800 Sessions Committee				
5810 Speakers	\$708	\$5,000	\$ 5,000	
5820 Facility Rental (Local Church)	\$2,260	\$40,000	\$ 10,000	
5825 Hospitality	\$0	\$5,000	\$ 5,000	
5830 Supplies and Materials	\$0	\$2,000	\$ 2,000	
5840 Worship	\$701	\$2,500	\$ 2,500	
Total 5800 Sessions Committee	\$3,668	\$54,500	\$ 24,500	4.5%
5900 General Conference				
5910 General Conference Savings		\$20,000	\$ 10,000	
5920 Travel Expenses	\$29,207			
Total 5900 General Conference	\$29,207	\$20,000	\$ 10,000	1.8%
6000 Prayer & Intercession Team				
6010 Travel Reimbursement	\$0	\$800	\$ 1,000	
Prayer Retreat			\$ 2,000	
6020 Other Expenses	\$329	\$200	\$ -	
Total 6000 Prayer & Intercession Team	\$329	\$1,000	\$ 3,000	0.6%

Proposed Budget for 2026-2027

6100 Ethnic Ministry Team				
6110 Travel Reimbursement	\$0	\$4,000	\$	4,000
6120 Other Expenses	\$0	\$1,000	\$	1,000
Total 6100 Ethnic Ministry Team	\$0	\$5,000	\$	5,000 0.9%
6200 Multiplication Team				
6205 Church Coaching	\$0	\$2,000	\$	5,000
6210 Travel Reimbursement	\$3,064	\$4,000	\$	5,000
6220 Other Expenses	\$22,129		\$	-
6221 MOU Dirt Roads Network	\$10,000	\$24,000	\$	24,000
6221 Four Learning Cohorts DRN			\$	20,000
6222 Multiplier Trip -Exponential	\$1,166	\$3,000	\$	3,000
6223 Promotional Material		\$4,000	\$	4,000
6224 Regional Gatherings		\$3,000	\$	5,000
Total 6200 Multiplication Team	\$36,359	\$40,000	\$	66,000 12.2%
6330 Disaster				
5310 Travel Reimbursement	\$0	\$3,500	\$	2,000
5320 Other Expenses	\$0	\$1,500	\$	1,000
Total 6330 Disaster	\$0	\$5,000	\$	3,000 0.6%
6400 Missions				
5310 Travel Reimbursement	\$412		\$	-
Attendance at GMC Mission Conf. & Ann. Conf.			\$	4,000
5000 South Africa Partnership Tithe	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$	46,000
5320 Other Expenses	\$0	\$2,000	\$	-
Total 6400 Missions	\$30,412	\$42,000	\$	50,000 9.2%
6500 Communications				
6540 Website & Online Services	\$222	\$1,000	\$	1,000
6520 Marketing	\$0	\$500	\$	1,000
6510 Branding		\$500	\$	1,000
6550 Other expenses	\$238	\$1,000	\$	-
Total 6500 Communications	\$460	\$3,000	\$	3,000 0.6%
6600 Women's Ministries				
6610 Travel Reimbursements	\$0	\$100	\$	100
6620 Other Expenses	\$0	\$400	\$	400
Total 6600 Women's Ministries	\$0	\$500	\$	500 0.1%
6700 Men's Ministries				
6610 Travel Reimbursements	\$0	\$100	\$	100
6620 Other Expenses	\$0	\$400	\$	400
Total 6700 Men's Ministries	\$0	\$500	\$	500 0.1%
Total Expenditures	\$430,455	\$527,650	\$	\$542,820 100.0%

Statement of Financial Position

Upper Midwest Global Methodist Church

Statement of Financial Position Comparison

As of May 21, 2026

	TOTAL	
	AS OF MAY 21, 2026	AS OF MAY 21, 2025 (PY)
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
1010 FNBO Checking	0.00	229,911.37
1015 US Bank Checking	218,519.82	
1020 Anedot	0.00	0.00
1050 FNBO Savings	0.40	65,976.17
1055 US Bank Savings	66,393.93	
Total for Bank Accounts	\$284,914.15	\$295,887.54
Other Current Assets		
1200 Payments to deposit	0.00	0.00
1250 Prepaid expenses	2,953.00	7,410.67
QuickBooks Tax Holding Account	366.75	
Total for Other Current Assets	\$3,319.75	\$7,410.67
Total for Current Assets	\$288,233.90	\$303,298.21
Total for Assets	\$288,233.90	\$303,298.21
Liabilities and Equity		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
2000 Accounts Payable (A/P)	1,829.20	0.00
Total for Accounts Payable	\$1,829.20	\$0.00
Credit Cards		
	\$995.53	\$3,844.77
Other Current Liabilities		
2100 Deferred Revenue	0.00	26,020.00
2300 Designated Funds Payable		
2310 Disaster Base Camp	10,000.00	
2320 Next Generation Fund	7,455.00	
2330 ILI Training	25,791.60	
Total for 2300 Designated Funds Payable	\$43,246.60	
Direct Deposit Payable		
	0.00	
Payroll Liabilities		
	\$1,456.16	
Total for Other Current Liabilities	\$44,702.76	\$26,020.00
Total for Current Liabilities	\$47,527.49	\$29,864.77
Total for Liabilities	\$47,527.49	\$29,864.77

Statement of Financial Position

Upper Midwest Global Methodist Church

Statement of Financial Position Comparison

As of May 21, 2026

	TOTAL	
	AS OF MAY 21, 2026	AS OF MAY 21, 2025 (PY)
Equity		
3000 Opening balance equity	0.00	
3100 Donor Restricted Funds	\$0.00	
3105 Other Designations	8,586.90	7,736.90
3110 Salary Support	0.00	0.00
3115 Love Offering	0.00	0.00
3120 Ethnic Ministries	2,367.00	2,367.00
3122 South Africa Partnership	16,517.62	3,770.35
3130 Dirt Road's Network	200.00	200.00
3140 General Conference	13,727.85	13,727.85
3600 Disaster Response		
3601 Disaster Response Fund	9,452.70	4,023.00
3602 Greenfield Tornado	0.00	0.00
3603 Flooding	0.00	7,368.96
Total for 3600 Disaster Response	\$9,452.70	\$11,391.96
Total for 3100 Donor Restricted Funds	\$50,852.07	\$39,194.06
3300 New Churches	\$29,607.09	\$29,607.09
3900 Beginning balance General Fund	206,696.68	99,630.74
Net Income	-46,449.43	105,001.55
Total for Equity	\$240,706.41	\$273,433.44
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$288,233.90	\$303,298.21

Nominations & Leadership Development Report

The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee is responsible for nominating clergy and laity to serve on annual conference committees and boards. And we are also to provide resources and opportunities for church and leadership development.

We have been meeting monthly as a committee, looking at ways we can help the conference churches do ministry more efficiently, as a conference. The challenge is finding those churches that are doing things well and letting the rest of the conference know how they are doing it. One of the things we are voting on in the budget is to take advantage of Zack Kingery to help us teach and instruct pastors and congregations on planting and growing churches. If you know of a resource that is available or that would be good, please reach out to us.

Another task for the committee was lining up breakout sessions for the annual conference, finding the right sessions, and then leading them.

We also have new nominations to vote on at the conference. Since we are still a very new conference, we asked most people to stay on for those who could succeed themselves. We have also set up the rotation so that not everyone goes off the committees at the same time. We have our recommendations to vote on at the conference. If there is anyone you think would be the right fit to serve on a committee, please let us know, because we are always in need of someone as people go off a committee

Thanks, Clarence Mittleider

Email: clarencemittleider@gmail.com

Phone: 701-552-2093

Conference Leadership Council

The Conference Leadership Council shall meet for the purpose of communication and coordination of ministry among the boards and committees. ¶710.1

Spiritual Gifts and Skills: Administration/Leadership, Wisdom, Faith, Helping/Serving

Role	Name	Status
Conference Superintendent	Rev. James Parks	Clergy
Conference Vice Superintendent	Rev. Ross Reinhiller	Clergy
Secretary	Shanna Pinkerton	Laity
Board of Ministry Chair	Rev. Luann Bengé	Clergy
Superintendency Committee Chair	Rev. Sheri Fadley	Clergy
Conference Treasurer	Tracie Ludeke	Laity
F & A Committee Chair	Dee Willoughby	Laity
Planning Team Chair	Elizabeth Pierson	Laity
Conference Lay Leader	Alan Campbell	Laity
Prayer & Intercession Chair	Rev. Christina Sung	Clergy
Multiplication Team	Rev. Zachery Kingery	Clergy
Ethnic Ministry Committee	Rev. Jonathan Lee	Clergy
Nominations & Leadership Develop.	Clarence Mittleider	Laity
Conference Communications	Alex Amosson	Laity
Jethro Project Director	Rev. Mike Morgan	Clergy
Disaster Response Chair	Rev. Phil Rogers	Clergy
Missions Team	Norma Morrison	Laity
At Large	Rev. David Odell	Clergy
At Large	Lyn Isom	Laity

Board of Ministry

The Board of Ministry. The board of ministry shall be responsible for overseeing the recruiting and credentialing of clergy for the furtherance of the mission of the Global Methodist Church. (¶¶ 506-510, 514-517, 519, 521) The Board shall also be responsible for overseeing all clergy changes in conference relations. (¶¶ 518, 520) ¶710.2

Name	Status
CHAIR: Rev. Luann Bengé (2030)	Clergy
VICE CHAIR: Rev. Valerie Reinhiller (2030)	Clergy
SECRETARY: Debbie Brown (2031)	Laity
REGISTRAR: Rev. Norm Kelley (2030)	Clergy
Conference Superintendent: Rev. James Parks	Clergy
Vice Superintendent: Rev. Ross Reinhiller	Clergy
Ethnic Ministry Representative: Rev. Angie Vertz	Clergy
CLM Ministry Representative: Rev. Sarah Herman	Clergy
Rev. Corey Jenkins (2030)	Clergy
Rev. Jeff Kelley (2030)	Clergy
Rev. Joleen Pietrzak (2030)	Clergy
Rev. Jef Kodis (2030)	Clergy
Rev. Sarah Herman (2030)	Clergy

Rev. Travis Stevick (2030)	Clergy
Rev. Wes Johnson (2030)	Clergy
Alison McElroy (2031)	Laity
Rev. Darla Hadrick (2031)	Clergy
Rev. Tom Summers (2031)	Clergy
Rev. Tony Coffman (2032) - Providing Election	Clergy
Becky Heeren (2032) - Providing Election	Laity
David Mendyk (2032) - Providing Election	Laity
Rev. Juwle Nagbe (2032) - Providing Election	Clergy
Rev. Mark Tracy (2032) - Providing Election	Clergy
Rev. Angie Vertz (2032) - Providing Election	Clergy

Superintendency Committee

Superintendency Committee. The superintendency committee shall be responsible to support the conference superintendent in the oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Global Methodist Church, with special reference to the area where the conference superintendent has residential responsibility. ¶710.3

Spiritual Gifts & Skills: Discernment of Spirits, Pastoring, Wisdom, Encouragement, Mercy, conflict management.

Name	Status
CHAIR: Rev. Sheri Fadley (2029)	Clergy
VICE CHAIR: Rev. Thom Bowsher (2029)	Clergy
SECRETARY: Lynn Rohrer (2029)	Laity
LAY LEADER: Alan Campbell (2028)	Laity
Conference Superintendent: Rev. James Parks	Clergy
Conference Vice Superintendent: Rev. Ross Reinhiller	Clergy
Ethnic Ministry Representative: Rev. Emmanuel Naweji (2030)	Clergy
Steve Carpenter (2030)	Laity
Rev. Scott Squires (2030)	Clergy
Lyn Isom (2029)	Laity
Debbie Brown (2028)	Laity
Rev. Guillermo "Bong" Bongolan (2028)	Clergy

Finance and Administration Committee

Finance and Administration Committee. The finance and administration committee shall be responsible to develop, maintain, and administer a comprehensive and coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies, budgets, procedures, and management services for the annual conference. ¶710.4

Spiritual Gifts and skills: Giving, Administration/Leadership, Wisdom, Faith, business management experience.

Name	Status
CHAIR: Dee Willoughby (2030)	Laity
VICE CHAIR:	
PRESIDING ELDER: Rev. Phil Rogers	Clergy
CONFERENCE TREASURER: Tracie Ludeke	Laity
CONFERENCE BOOKKEEPER: Shanna Pinkerton	Laity
SECRETARY: Alona Burtz (2029)	Laity
Conference Superintendent: Rev. James Parks	Clergy

Rev. Patrick Munyakazi (2028)	Clergy
Lexie Ludeke (2028)	Laity
Roxann Petzold (2028)	Laity
Rev. John Gaulke (2029)	Clergy
(2030)	Clergy
(2030)	Clergy

Nominations and Leadership Development Committee

Nominations and Leadership Committee. The nominations and leadership committee shall be responsible for nominating clergy and laity to serve on annual conference committees and boards. ¶710.5

Spiritual Gifts and skills: Administration/Leadership, Discernment of Spirits, Knowledge, Wisdom, Encouragement, human resources professionals, life coaches

Name	Status
CHAIR: Rev. James Parks	Clergy
VICE CHAIR: Clarence Mittleider (2030)	Laity
PRESIDING ELDER: Rev. Jonathan Lee	Clergy
SECRETARY: Andy Young (2030)	Laity
Rev. Brenda Goodman (2030)	Clergy
LeAnn Rowse (2030)	Laity
Rev. Mike McInnis (2032)	Clergy

Committee on Investigation

Committee on Investigation. The committee on investigation shall be responsible for considering judicial complaints against clergy as set out in Part Nine: Judicial Administration of this Book of Doctrines and Discipline and specifically ¶910.2. ¶710.6

Spiritual Gifts & Skills: Discernment of Spirits, Knowledge, Wisdom, conflict resolution, investigative background, detail oriented.

Name	Status
CHAIR: Rev. Josh Swaim (2027)	Clergy
Conference Superintendent: Rev. James Parks	Clergy
Vice Superintendent: Rev. Ross Reinhiller	Clergy
Rev. Shawn LaRue (2027)	Clergy
Rev. Steve Behrens (2027)	Clergy
Steve Garrington (2027)	Laity
Rick Frederickson (2027)	Laity
Rev. Paul Manson (2028)	Clergy
Roxann Petzold (2028)	Laity
Alternates:	
Rev. Todd Holman (2028)	Clergy
Rev. Mike Willer (2028)	Clergy
Dayle Wiley (2028)	Laity
Rev. Bob Wynn* (2029)	Clergy

Rev. Derek Runge* (2029)	Clergy
Dale Fadley* (2029)	Laity
Linda Carpenter* (2029)	Laity

Administrative Review Committee

The administrative review committee (§ 906.2) shall be responsible for ensuring that the disciplinary procedures for resolving a substantiated administrative complaint are properly followed as required by Judicial Practices and Procedures 5.2 and fair process (§ 905). § 710.7

Spiritual Gifts & Skills: Discernment of Spirits, Knowledge, Wisdom, Administration/Leadership, legal background.

Name	Status
CHAIR: Rev. Mike McInnis (2029*)	Clergy
VICE CHAIR/SECRETARY: Mark Tracy (2027)	Clergy
Conference Superintendent: Rev. James Parks	Clergy
Conference Vice Superintendent: Rev. Ross Reinhiller	Clergy
Rev Jeff Thurman (2027)	Clergy
Rev. Josh Doughty (2028)	Clergy
Rev. Todd Schlitter (2028)	Clergy

Conference Planning Team

The planning team shall be responsible for planning and managing all aspects of the annual conference session and any other events/gatherings assigned to it by the Bishop or Conference Superintendent.

Name	Status
CHAIR: Elizabeth Pierson	Laity
Conference Superintendent: Rev. James Parks	Clergy
Rev. Ben Wedeking	Clergy
Rev. David Odell	Clergy
Rev. Helen Parks	Clergy
Alan Campbell	Laity
Rev. Valerie Reinhiller	Clergy

Ethnic Ministry Team

Our work is grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ, which transcends culture, language, and status, calling all people into one body. We work to include these six strategic priorities: Building Relationships, Sharing Leadership, Supporting Ethnic Churches and Pastors, Partnership with Churches, Education and Cross-Racial/Cross Cultural training.

Name	Status
CHAIR: Rev. Jonathan Lee	Clergy
VICE CHAIR: Rev. Aaron Limo	Clergy
SECRETARY:	
Vice Superintendent: Rev. Ross Reinhiller	Clergy
Rev. Christina Sung	Clergy
Rev. Gideon Gallo	Clergy
Rev. Hyun "Tommy" Suh	Clergy
Rev. Patrick Munyakazi	Clergy
Rev. Emmanuel Naweji	Clergy
Rev. Hui Angie Vertz	Clergy
Rev. Eric Shin	Clergy

Conference Prayer & Intercession Team

The role of The Conference Prayer & Intercession Team is to ensure the work of the emerging Conference is thoroughly covered in prayer throughout the developmental process and beyond." The team prays for regional leadership and regional needs as well as the Global Methodist Church leadership and needs. This Conference team also prays and works together to encourage local Global Methodist Church pastors to prayerfully select a prayer point person from each local church to ensure prayer is a priority in local churches. The Conference Prayer & Intercession team encourages churches to become a "house of prayer." The team also resources local churches as needed. Most importantly, the team prays for the mission of the Upper Midwest Conference: "To lovingly walk alongside laity and clergy as they make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe."

District Name	Status	Prayer Coordinator
Conference Prayer Coordinator:	Clergy	Rev. Christina Sung
Conference Lay Leader:	Laity	Alan Campbell
Iowa:		
East Central	Laity	Jen Zoller
North Central	Laity	Carol Bacon
North East	TBD	TBD
North West	Clergy	Rev. Carl Bengé & Rev. Sedar Shako
South Central	TBD	TBD
South East	TBD	TBD
Minnesota:		
North	Clergy	Rev. Mark Bateson
South	Clergy	Rev. Jonathan Lee
Montana:		
Montana	TBD	TBD

Nebraska:		
Nebraska West	Laity	Julie Hornicek
Nebraska South Central	Laity	TBD
Nebraska North Central	Laity	Julie Hoefs, Darleen Mulligan
Nebraska East/Iowa South West	Clergy	Rev. Mike Hader
North Dakota:		
East	Laity	Heather Severance
West	Laity	Barb Nash
South Dakota:		
Northeast	Clergy	Rev. Sandra Marquardt
Southeast	TBD	TBD
West	TBD	TBD
Wyoming:		
Wyoming	TBD	TBD

Multiplication Team

The Multiplication Team operates with authorization of the Annual Conference to “encourage and facilitate the planting of new churches, including the authorization of sponsorship by existing congregations, and to charter such new congregations” (¶¶ 439.17, 450, 709.3), and has the overall goal of seeing all healthy congregations in the conference actively participating in multiplication.

Name	Status
CHAIR: Rev. Zachery Kingery	Clergy
SECRETARY:	
Conference Superintendent: Rev. James Parks	Clergy
Conference Vice Superintendent: Rev. Ross Reinhiller	Clergy
Rev. Jacob Schadel	Clergy
Rev. Derek Baum	Clergy
Rev. Emmanuel Naweji	Clergy
Rev. Phil Rogers	Clergy
Linda Peyton	Laity
Tim Atwood	Laity

Communication Team

Help connect people and share opportunities for ways to be involved for all clergy & lay people across the states of our conference. Keep local congregations, lay people, and clergy up to date about all things happening in the conference. Share resources from the Global Methodist Church with members of our conference. Celebrate the good news of ministries and churches in our conference.

Name	Status
CHAIR: Alec Amosson	Laity
Superintendent: Rev. James Parks	Clergy
Alan Campbell	Laity
Rev. Nora Mendyk	Senior Clergy
Shanna Pinkerton	Laity
Rev. Thomas Carlson	Clergy

Missions Team

This team is to serve the conference in mission. They will gather information on opportunities to serve outside the conference and inside the conference. They will also help facilitate our partnership with the South Africa Conference.

Name	Status
CHAIR: Norma Morrison	Laity
VICE-CHAIR: Annalise Santillan	Laity
SECRETARY: Becky Heeren	Laity
Conference Superintendent: Rev. James Parks	Clergy
Conference Vice Superintendent: Rev. Ross Reinhiller	Clergy
Daniel Evans	Laity
Beth Hansen	Laity
Rev. Mike Waldrop	Clergy
Rev. Rey Colon	Clergy
Pam Travis	Laity
Patty Gillette	Laity
Roxann Petzold	Laity

Districts

District Name	Number of Churches
Iowa:	
Iowa East Central	13
Iowa North Central	13
Iowa North East	16
Iowa North West	12
Iowa South Central	15
Iowa South East	10
Minnesota:	
Minnesota North	7
Minnesota South	6
Nebraska:	
Nebraska West	15
Nebraska South Central	14
Nebraska North Central	9
Nebraska East/Iowa South West	11
North Dakota:	
North Dakota East	7
North Dakota West/Montana	12
South Dakota:	
South Dakota Northeast	14
South Dakota Southeast	8
West SD/Wyoming	10
Total	192

Cabinet Report

Our task is to shepherd, connect, and equip the pastors and churches of our conference. This work is especially carried out through the appointment process and will continue to grow through our broader focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ.

This spring, the Cabinet participated in training through the International Leadership Institute's disciple-making process, *History Makers*. Each presiding elder, along with additional conference leaders, completed the first module. The second module will take place this fall. One of the strengths of this process is that those who are trained become trainers themselves, and our hope is to see this model spread throughout the conference.

This fall, Conference Vice-Superintendent Rev. Ross Reinhiller will conclude his appointment at Faith Methodist Church in Williston, North Dakota. We celebrate the ministry that has taken place there and are praying for a smooth transition in pastoral leadership for the church. Rev. Reinhiller will continue serving the conference in his role as Conference Vice-Superintendent.

Presiding Elder Rev. Bruce Smith has also received a new appointment and will be stepping away from his role as presiding elder. With one fewer presiding elder serving the conference, we would like to experiment with a new form of connection in southeast Iowa. The Southeast District will be organized into circuits of approximately five churches each. A Circuit Leader will be identified to lead each group and maintain connection with a presiding elder. One circuit will connect with the Northeast Presiding Elder, and another with the South Central Presiding Elder. We will evaluate whether this structure may also be beneficial in other areas of the conference.

Another transition among the presiding elders will take place in the Southeast South Dakota District. Rev. Joleen Pietrzak has requested time out of the presiding elder role, so adjustments will be made in this district's leadership as well.

Please continue to pray for your presiding elders as many of them serve their local church and the conference in this vital ministry.

Presiding Elder	Start Date	End Date	District
Luann Benge	01/01/2024		North West Iowa
Rey Colon	07/01/2025		North Dakota East
Mike Hader	09/01/2025		South West Iowa/Nebraska East
Darla Hadrick	01/01/2024		South Dakota West/Wyoming
Andrew Happ	07/01/2024		East Central Iowa
Corey Jenkins	01/01/2024		North Dakota West/Montana
Jeff Kelley	07/01/2025		Nebraska West
Jeff Kodis	01/01/2024		North Central Iowa
Bruce Kronen	01/01/2024		Minnesota North
Jonathan Lee	01/01/2024		Minnesota South
Chad Lierman	01/01/2024		South Central Iowa
Steve McElroy	01/01/2024	09/01/2025	South West Iowa/Nebraska East
Joleen Pietrzak	01/01/2024	06/30/2026	South Dakota Southeast
Phil Rogers	01/01/2024		North East Iowa
Jacob Schadel	01/01/2024		Nebraska North Central
Bruce Smith	07/01/2024	06/01/2026	South East Iowa
Roger Spahr	01/01/2024		South Dakota Northeast
Shanon Williams	01/01/2024		Nebraska South Central

Communications Team Report

Purpose of the Communications Team

The Upper Midwest Communications Team exists to provide clear, concise, and open communication across the Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church. The team works to consistently share conference priorities, ministries and initiatives, and help clergy and laity stay informed, encouraged, and connected. The team seeks to strengthen relationships across state lines and create opportunities for churches and individuals throughout the conference to connect, collaborate, and engage in ministry together.

Team Members

Alec Amosson, James Parks, Alan Campbell, Nora Mendyk, Shanna Pinkerton, Thomas Carlson

General Work of the Communications Team

The Communications Team currently works to:

- Help connect clergy and laity across the conference and share opportunities for involvement.
- Keep local churches, pastors, and conference members informed about conference news, ministries, and events.
- Share resources, vision, and updates from the Global Methodist Church with churches throughout the conference.
- Celebrate and highlight the ministries, churches, and stories of transformation happening throughout the Upper Midwest Conference.
- Provide direction for the conference's overall communications strategy, including communication frequency, branding, communication methods, and consistency in style and messaging.
- Support effective communication between conference leadership, local churches, and conference members.

Current Initiatives

Current areas of focus include:

- Expanding and strengthening the conference's social media presence.
- Seeking additional team members with gifts and experience in social media communication.
- Using social media and digital platforms to highlight ministry stories and the work God is doing throughout the conference.
- Working alongside the Global Methodist Church Communications Team to encourage consistent branding, logo usage, and communication standards.
- Encouraging implementation and use of the conference Communications Matrix to help streamline communication through newsletters and other conference channels.
- Connecting Upper Midwest-related Facebook groups and communication channels to the official Upper Midwest Conference Facebook Page.

Ways to Stay Connected

Conference members are encouraged to engage with the conference through the following communication channels:

- Website:
<https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/>
- Newsletter (distributed twice monthly):
<https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/newsletter>
- Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560495272933>
- YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@UpperMidwestConferenceMedia>

Share Your Ministry Stories

Churches and individuals are encouraged to share stories, ministry updates, testimonies, and events from their local churches using the following form:

<https://form.jotform.com/242467999461171>

Join the Communications Team

The Communications Team is actively seeking additional volunteers, particularly individuals interested in social media communication and digital engagement. Those interested in serving or learning more may contact:

communicationsteam@uppermidwestgmc.org

Disaster Response Team Report

The Upper Midwest Conference has been blessed in the last year that we have not had to respond to any major disasters within the Conference. There have been localized weather events and fires that local response volunteers have been able to cover. We have had some localized weather events that chainsaw teams have responded to, as well as some wild fires where livestock feed has been purchased.

Nationally we have responded with financial support to major weather events that happened in Texas and in many of the Southeast Conferences. Most of our financial support is not recorded in the Conference as we compel churches to give directly to our ministry partners who are serving in the affected regions. The Conference did receive almost \$9,000.00 that was sent to responders of the tragic flooding in Texas.

This last year has been a time of preparation in Global Methodist Church Disaster Response throughout our nation and in the world. We have streamlined processes where financial support and teams are able to be employed faster and more directly into these needed areas. To begin with the Conference Disaster Coordinators have established a pathway for communication that is available real time. This will result in individual Conference Disaster Coordinators to then communicate with their Conference churches specific needs. Disasters will be labeled under three categories. Level one- localized disaster- to be handled locally... Level two- regional disaster requesting help from regional sources. This could be from other areas within the conference to neighboring conferences. Level three is a significant event that recalls assistance from all within our connection... These disasters are beyond regional abilities and request financial and hands on support from our entire connection. In the last year we as a connection have responded in Texas and Southeast in America, Jamaica, Philippines, and several issues in Africa.

To be involved in disaster ministry as a conference we have two requests.

- 1) Pay attention to conference communications and the website to see where the needs are right now that your church might respond.
- 2) To have a special collection to build Conference Disaster Funds for immediate response to disaster areas, near and far, while communication is concluded seeking individual church response.

Peace

Pastor Phil Rogers

Manchester Methodist Church

Presiding Elder/ Conference Disaster Coordinator

Iowa Northeast District

Upper Midwest Conference

(319) 573-0589

Disaster Response Team

Phil Rogers

Dave Bracht-Wagner

Mike Jones

John Gaulke

Kim Ragland

Jethro Project Report

Jethro, though not a prominent figure in Scripture, blessed God's people through his seasoned experience and insight. As the Upper Midwest Conference grows towards the vital organization necessary for the Kingdom building work to which it is called, assistance in pastoral and congregational encouragement, support, coaching, wisdom and prayer is offered by the Senior Members of the Conference.

The "Jethro Project" presents the following report of our activity for the Conference Year 2025-2026.

1. The **Pastor and Congregation Prayer** project has paired a "Senior Member" with a District to: pray daily for every pastor and their congregation in their district and directly contact each pastor periodically to listen, encourage and pray with them. Pastors have received this well and all of our Districts are being ministered to in this way.
2. Retreats led by the Jethro Project entitled "**Let's be Methodist Together**" were held at Prairie Creek Church in Grimes, IA, Cornerstone Community in Watertown, SD and Camp Comeca near Cozad, NE. The retreat was constructed for the purpose of connecting clergy together and encouraging them to imbed "Methodism" in the DNA of their congregations. All the districts desiring the experience have been served.
3. One important outcome of the "Let's be Methodist Together" retreat was the consistent evaluation regarding our clergy not being connected with each other. This led to the request of Conference Leadership to join with us in building the event promoted at the "**Leadership Encounter**" for laity and clergy to be held prior to the Annual Conference session in Sioux City at Wesley GMC. Our prayer is that this event will be the next step in connecting our Global Methodists in Bands or other supporting groups.
4. Our first in person meeting of "Senior Members" was held one early morning during the Annual Conference session 2025. Thirty-one "Senior" or near Senior members gathered for Conversation and encouragement.
5. "Jethro's" continue to minister in ways that support the Annual Conference and the local church, including filling pulpits, teaching classes and seminars, leading consultations and offering prayer, support, wisdom and encouragement to pastors and congregations in the Upper Midwest Conference.

Strategic Planning Team Report

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

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

The Strategic Planning Team was formed at the encouragement of Bishop Webb to work alongside the Conference Superintendent in discerning the priorities of the Upper Midwest Conference. This team brings a variety of perspectives and gifts as we seek to prayerfully listen for where God is leading us next.

Through this process, the team has discerned three key priorities for our shared future:

1. Raising the next generation of leaders
 2. Developing Wesleyan leaders
- Cultivating a culture of church planting in every congregation

These priorities build on one another and are grounded in a strong foundation: empowered and equipped laity in our local churches faithfully living out God's call.

Raising the Next Generation of Leaders

To raise the next generation, we must cultivate a culture of calling within our local churches. We believe God has a call on every believer's life, and heaven rejoices whenever that call is answered. As a conference, we want to help individuals recognize and respond to that call earlier and more clearly.

This will require creating intentional pathways that connect young people to the life and ministry of the Upper Midwest Conference. One example is *The Call*, a pilot retreat for 10th–12th grade students discerning God's direction. Designed by young people for young people, this experience helped equip 22 student leaders.

Moving forward, we will continue developing pathways through camping and campus ministries to further guide and disciple these emerging leaders.

Developing Wesleyan Leaders

We remain deeply rooted in our Wesleyan heritage—being Spirit-led, Scripture-centered, and reliant on grace as we pursue holiness together. This formation happens through intentional discipleship, including small groups (bands) and active engagement in acts of mercy.

As a conference, we are setting a goal that by 2030 every church will identify two emerging leaders each year. These leaders will be invited into accessible and effective equipping processes to help them live into God's call. While some will be called to ordained ministry, many will serve as lay leaders who will shape and lead the future of our churches.

This vision will also require seasoned mentors who are willing to invest in and walk alongside these emerging leaders.

Cultivating a Culture of Multiplication

As we raise and equip leaders, we believe God will grow a healthy and multiplying body of Christ. With that growth comes the call to multiply.

We envision a conference where every church participates in church planting, through prayer, partnership, and sending. As disciples make disciples, new communities of faith will be needed where people can gather, grow, and be sent out again.

Multiplication will require deep prayer, surrender to the Holy Spirit, and strong support from our local congregations.

If you feel called to invest in these priorities, we invite you to connect with your presiding elder or conference superintendent. Together, we can step forward in faith and participate in what God is doing across the Upper Midwest Conference.

The Strategic Planning Team

Rev. Derek Baum, Adam Britton, Alan Campbell, Rev. Zach Kingery, Rev. James Parks, Andrea Schadel, Rev. Roger Spahr, Rev. Travis Stevick, Erin Wetzel.

Superintendency Committee Report

“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you but being examples to the flock.” 1Peter 5:2-3

Rev. James Parks is our Conference Superintendent who also serves the Marion Church in Marion, Iowa. Rev. Ross Reinhiller is our Conference Vice Superintendent and serves the Faith Church in Williston, ND, too. Both of our superintendents serve the conference and their respective congregations part-time. This kind of structure is rather unique in the GMC. Because of the geographical size of our conference, this leadership model seems to be working for us.

We are blessed by James’ and Ross’ servant leadership style, and their spiritual gifts and personalities complement one another creating a strong leadership team for us. In the fall of 2025, Bishop Webb taught the committee about the GMC evaluation process. We identified many strengths between the two gentlemen. We also identified growth areas that they can strengthen through continuing education and leadership experiences.

In January, Pastor Jake Schadel, who was the chair of the committee, resigned to join the Multiplication Team. Pastor Sheri Fadley became the interim chair. She has been learning a lot about conference level ministry over the past six months. The committee met twice: February and April. The current plan is for them to meet four times a year.

Each month the chair connects with James and Ross and sends out prayer prompts to the committee members to cover James and Ross and their responsibilities and their lives in Christ in prayer. Other ways the committee can fulfill their responsibilities to the conference and to James and Ross is by monitoring social media platforms to be aware of positive and negative interactions; watching their worship services; and being available to members of the Upper Midwest GMC conference for their feedback.

James and Ross are supported with administrative help by Shanna Pinkerton, who has been working part-time for the conference as well. With our conference growth, our staffing needs have changed, and the committee and our leaders believe it is necessary for Shanna to work full-time for us.

For the past three years, James and Ross have led our conference selflessly mastering the art of juggling not only responsibilities for the conference and their churches, but also for the larger GMC. Having two General Conferences in the past 3 years has added much into their already full lives with Christ. Please keep them in your prayers, asking the Holy Spirit to inspire them, to provide them with insight and wisdom, and to sustain their spirits in these demanding roles.

I also ask you to pray for the superintendency committee as we continue to grow in our understanding and ability to serve the Upper Midwest GMC conference and to support James and Ross as our leaders. We are all called to live out the Conference mission and vision statements.

It is a privilege and honor to serve the Lord and the Upper Midwest GMC Conference in this role.

In Christ’s Spirit,
Rev. Sheri Fadley

Conference Planning Team Report

The Conference Planning Team (formerly named Sessions Team) works together to plan and coordinate the Annual Conference every year. We meet once a month, starting at the end of the summer and work all Winter and Spring to plan the Annual Conference. Our 25-person team divides the planning responsibilities among sub-committees: worship/main sessions, breakouts, hospitality/registration/decorations, vendors/displays, clergy/laity sessions, and the ordination service.

As we plan, we keep in mind these following goals:

- First and foremost, that we would do what God wants, not what we want. We discern, pray, and seek God's direction and guidance as we plan.
- That the Annual Conference would be a time we can come together as a conference to do our business, but also make connections, have fellowship, grow in our relationship with God, and build relationships with others across our conference.
- We understand and know that pastors and laity need times of rest and being filled. We want Annual Conference to be a time you look forward to each year to be filled and leave feeling rested and ready to continue to do the ministry God has you doing.
- We hope that worship and prayer times at Annual Conference would be a time where there is communion with God, worship as the Church body, and you are spiritually refreshed.
- -When people leave the Annual Conference, our hope is that they leave with tangible ideas and resources to take back to implement in their local congregations. We want the local church to grow, thrive, and have healthy ministries. We strive to support that growth as best we can.

Our Conference Planning team also works with the Communication Team on timelines of when to get information out to everyone on a timely basis. And, with the Conference Leadership Development team; who plans the breakout sessions for Annual Conference.

We have been getting established the past few years now as a conference and now want to thrive and help local churches thrive and grow. Our Conference Planning Team wanted to have some consistency for a few years in where we hold Annual Conference, then to branch out to another location for a year.

So, after this year, we will have been at Sioux City for 3 years. Every 4th year we want to try a new location at a church within our conference, then come back to Sioux City for the next 3 years. Next year, in 2027, we want to recommend Aldersgate Church in Aberdeen, South Dakota as the location for 2027. With the tentative dates of Thursday, June 10, Friday, June 11, Saturday, June 12 as possible dates. Finalized dates will depend on the availability of who our Bishop is after General Conference meets this fall.

If you have questions, concerns, ideas, or want to help at Annual Conference in the future, please contact the Conference Planning Team at sessions@uppermidwestgmc.org

Conference Planning Team

Committee/Team Chair:

Elizabeth Pierson

Sub-committee Leaders

James Parks

Helen Parks

Valerie Reinhiller

David O'dell

Ben Wedeking

Elizabeth Pierson

Alan Campbell

Sub-Committees:

Worship/Main Sessions

James Parks (Co-Leader)

Ben Wedeking (Co-Leader)

Patrick Munyai

Joel Rathbun

Angie Vertz

Tracy Winters

Jamal Tongo

Dave Mendyk

Jeff Thurman

Ryan Sloan

Hospitality/Registration:

Helen Parks (leader)

Elizabeth Pierson

Andrea Schadel

Sarah Jenkins

Merilee Sieck

Kathy Jo McInnis

Ruby Bongolan

Dayle Wiley

Ordination Service

James Parks (co-leader)

Valerie Reinhiller (co-leader)

Luann Bengé

Debbie Brown

Vendors/display tables

David O'dell (Leader)

Laity Session

Alan Campbell (Conference Lay Leader)

Clergy Session

Board of Ministry

Breakouts

Conference Leadership Development Team

Help/Set-up

Joleen Pietrzak

Plus, many others who are also volunteering their time

Conference Exhibitors

Please support our Vendors in the Lobby!

Friday 12:30 PM - 9:30 PM | Saturday 8:30 AM - 9:30 PM



We exist to bring South African children and their families the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ through faith formation and locally sustainable programs.

For more information: www.blessmaninternational.org



Chosen People Ministries exists to pray for, evangelize, disciple, and serve Jewish people everywhere and to help fellow believers do the same.

For more information: www.chosenpeople.com



The Church Ambassador Network exists to connect the shepherds of the church with the shepherds of government. Pastors are uniquely equipped to point our government leaders to Christ, fill the Capitol with the Lord's teaching, and partner with government leaders to solve the problems facing our communities.

For more information: <https://thefamilyleader.com/church-ambassador-network/>



Connecting and equipping rural churches in small towns and communities across America.

For more information: www.dirtroadsnetwork.com



Pack Your Bags and GO with EO! Educational Opportunities Tours is a Christian travel ministry that has been delivering Christian journeys of a lifetime for over 50 years. Travelers have joined EO around the world on Holy Land pilgrimages, Bible land expeditions--by land and sea, Church heritage tours, retreat cruises, and cultural explorations.

For more information: <https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/#eotours>



The goal of Grace3 Ministries is to help all believers in Jesus Christ to live the abundant, grace filled life Jesus came to give.

For more information: www.grace3.org



Group Publishes resources for Vacation Bible School, Children, Youth and Adult Ministries that aim to be R.E.A.L.--Relational, Experiential, Applicable and Lifelong. We believe it's worth the additional effort to craft experiences that engage the senses, trigger emotions, and create light bulb moments. Our role is to create experiences that prepare people's hearts for the Holy Spirit to do transformational work.

For more information: www.group.com

Conference Exhibitors

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Our mission is to enhance the financial security and resilience for those who serve the Lord. For you and for us, financial security and resilience are not the ultimate goal — it's a means to an end. It gives you the freedom to answer God's calling, provide for your family and bless the next generation of believers. Our vision is that every servant of Christ finishes well. For more information: www.guidestone.org



Christ School of Theology

The Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) welcomes students of all backgrounds and denominations. As a fully-accredited college with undergraduate, graduate, and seminary programs, our focus is on learning, critical thinking, and assisting our students in fulfilling their God-given callings. For more information: www.ilt.edu



To bring hope and restoration to those impacted by disaster through compassionate response while inspiring people to reflect Jesus daily through faith, hope, and love, embracing every moment as an act of worship. For more information: www.justhelpone.net



The Missions Team is shaped by Acts 1: 8, where Jesus calls us to be His witnesses "in Jerusalem, in Judea and all Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." We see this as three levels of Mission focus: local ministries in your own community, regional or national outreach, international missions.. For more information: www.redrockcamp.org



Samaritan's Purse sends gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children in need around the world with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, more than 244 million children in more than 175 countries and territories have received an OCC Shoebox, giving them a tangible expression of God's love. For more information: <https://samaritanspurse.org/>



Seedbed exists to gather, connect and resource the people of God to sow for a Great Awakening! Awakening is the outcome of personally encountering Jesus Christ, through whom the love of God the Father is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Join us each morning for the Wake-Up Call for daily encouragement. For more information: www.seedbed.com



The mission of Summer Games is to engage students in their relationships with Jesus, other Christians, and local community to achieve full participation in the Church. For more information: www.sgu.camp

Conference Exhibitors

Please support our Vendors in the Lobby!

Friday 12:30 PM - 9:30 PM | Saturday 8:30 AM - 9:30 PM



Serving Thai People with the Love of Jesus!

For more information: www.thailandnow.in.th



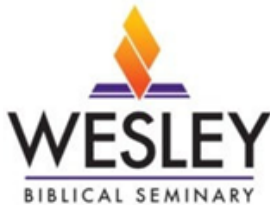
Our Mission: United prepares faithful and fruitful Christian leaders to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We Are Committed to: Historic Faith, Scriptural Holiness and Church Renewal.

For more information: <https://united.edu/>



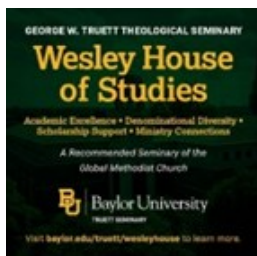
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For more information: www.uppermidwestgmc.org



Wesley Biblical Seminary develops trusted leaders for faithful churches. For 50 years WBS has combined an uncompromising commitment to the full truth and authority of Scripture with a deep commitment to Wesleyan theology. Serve where you are while developing life-changing relationships with professors and other students. Special scholarships are available to GMC pastors!

For more information: www.wbs.edu



The Wesley House of Studies at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary seeks to form and equip Christ-centered, Spirit-led students to serve churches and other institutions in the Wesleyan tradition.

For more information: <https://truettseminary.baylor.edu/programs-centers/wesley-house-studies>



Whether you are looking for Sunday School, small group, or personal growth materials, you will find thoughtful, creative, and biblically sound resources to encourage people to gather together and grow in their Christian faith.

For more information: <https://thefoundrypublishing.com>



We move forth in an effort to support the orphaned and discarded through sponsorship, to empower the dreamer through education, and to restore the broken through discipleship and permanency. We embrace the heart of Matthew 28, raising a new generation, healed from the inside out... each life becoming a ripple of change, bringing hope for generations to come.

For more information: <https://therainingseason.com>



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