



GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

Update

August 2026

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Pray for Our Delegation

by Rev. Ross Reinhiller, Upper Midwest Conference Vice Superintendent

In a few weeks our delegation from the Upper Midwest Conference will travel to South Africa for the first General Conference of the Global Methodist Church. The Global Methodists, at this Conference must answer an important question: Are we a Global movement of the Spirit of God or are we an institution symbolically global but a western institution whose main concern is self-perpetuation. The way this Conference conducts business and enacts legislation will answer the question.

A movement is organic; it flows from a local need. Resources are allocated and energy expended to meet that need. The Global Methodist Church proclaims the local need in every place, and every nation, and every people is salvation for all people and the growth in holiness of every disciple. The local church fulfills its purpose when it submits to the Holy Spirit and proclaims the Lordship of Jesus Christ and fosters discipleship among its friends and members. There is nothing in our purpose that is self-preserving or self-serving. A movement is directed energy and a dynamic flow from our God to God's world.

An institution allocates its energy and resources to self-preservation. It defines and refines image more than outcome. The local church fulfills its purpose when it satisfies the need of the institution. The church is a good Global Methodist church when it can clearly articulate the vision of the denomination even when it does nothing to make that vision a reality. A good denomination may believe in spreading Scriptural Holiness throughout the land and never actually do it.

Our job is to pray for our delegation. Pray that with every decision they make they will ask the question: Does this decision empower the local church so that it may fulfill the mission or does this decision preserve the institution without advancing the call of Christ or the mandate of the Gospel?

God bless our delegates! Empower them with your wisdom and Spirit that all your lost children may be found and all Christ followers are disciples!



1927 Goes Public September 27: Join the Barn Raising

by Rev. Zach Kingery, Conference Multiplication Team Leader

For generations, a barn raising brought a community together to help a family build something they could not easily build alone. Everyone brought what they could - labor, tools, materials, experience, and encouragement - and together they prepared for the work and harvest ahead.

That concept gave rise to the Barn Raising Initiative - a practical way to live into our vision for the Upper Midwest to be a Conference where Every Church Plants.

When a church plant is preparing for launch, we want the congregations of the Upper Midwest Conference to gather around her through prayer, giving, resources, practical skills, volunteers, and ongoing partnership.

Our first Barn Raising is for 1927: A Church of the City of Des Moines, which will launch on September 27 at the Franklin Events Center in Des Moines.

1927 began simply and organically - in living rooms, garages, and rented spaces - with people, a calling, and trust that God would provide. Now they are on The Road to 9/27, praying, serving their neighborhood, preparing leaders, and getting ready for public worship.

This is where we can join them.

Raising a barn takes a community - and so does launching a church. As part of the Barn Raising Initiative there is a registry of specific needs for 1927's launch and ongoing ministry, including sound equipment, Bibles, communion and hospitality supplies, safety equipment, outreach resources, and weeks of rent for its worship venue.

<https://1927church.org/registry>

What can you bring to this Barn Raising?

Share this information with your bible study, mission group, church leadership, and congregation so you can discern how you will join in seeing 1927 equipped to bring in the harvest in Des Moines.

Pray. Pray for Pastor Cam Scott and the 1927 team, their neighborhood, the people they will meet, and their September 27 launch.

Give. Look through the registry as a congregation, Sunday school class, small group, or individual and help meet a specific need.

Partner. Consider an ongoing relationship with 1927 through prayer, encouragement, financial support, volunteers, practical skills, or shared ministry.

The Barn Raising is about more than meeting launch needs. It is a way for all of us - together - to help establish a new congregation and take a tangible part in church planting together.

View the Barn Raising Registry and participate: <https://1927church.org/registry>

Follow The Road to 9/27: <https://1927church.org/road-to-927>

Learn More about 1927: <https://1927church.org/>

Together, we can help establish a congregation that makes disciples, develops leaders, serves its community, and sends laborers into Christ's harvest.

Because in the Upper Midwest, *Every Church Plants.*



Ethnic Ministry in the Upper Midwest

Rev. Sedar Shako, Pastor of Harris and Lake Park Church

My name is Rev. Sedar Shako. I serve Jesus at the Harris and Lake Park Global Methodist Church. I am married to Marcelline Shako, and we have four daughters. Our oldest, Rachel, was in Africa before joining us in the USA. Mado, our second daughter, recently graduated from Dordt College and is currently seeking employment. Rebecca joined the Navy, graduated this year, and is now working as a nurse while pursuing her career. Our youngest, Davina, is a freshman and assists me with many aspects of ministry in Lake Park and Harris.

Regarding the growth of the church: Both churches are thriving by the grace of God. In line with our mission statement, we focus on reaching out to unchurched individuals by inviting them to our activities, which helps us build relationships with those who may not yet understand our vision. Through these efforts, we have welcomed visitors in both churches, some of whom have joined as members because they appreciate what we do. We have strong leaders in the youth group, and both churches are equipping the youth well with solid spiritual lessons. The youth have a lot of fun during the meetings.

According to our church's mission statement, we are committed to connecting with our community through an annual outdoor service held at Lake Park. This event has become a cherished tradition, in which we organize three services at Lake Park and one hosted by Harris by the Iowa lake. This initiative aligns with our evangelism efforts and embodies the principles laid out in the Global Methodist Church's mission statement, which is rooted in the teachings of Matthew 28:19-20 and emphasizes our commitment to making disciples for Christ.

During these outdoor services, we not only encourage participation from our congregation but also extend a warm invitation to individuals and families from the surrounding area to join us in worship. To foster a sense of community and fellowship, we provide a potluck meal, where everyone is welcome to contribute and share, creating a diverse and engaging dining experience.

In addition to our annual service, our outreach includes bi-monthly food distribution at Lake Park. On the first Thursday of each month, we mobilize our congregation to help distribute food from our pantry, ensuring we meet the needs of those who are food insecure in our community. This proactive involvement illustrates our commitment to serving others and living out our faith through action.

Each year, I meet with the outreach and worship committee to prepare for the church's mission. This year, after learning about the Ebola crisis in Africa, both churches sent support, including medicine and supplies, to an orphanage. Additionally, we are planning a mission trip to Guatemala in September with our youth group, especially those confirmed last year, to help them learn to serve God and become good disciples of Christ. Amen.



Women's Ministry In The Upper Midwest

Becky Heeren, Conference Coordinator for Global Methodist Women's Ministries

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

- Philippians 4:4 NIV

We are grateful for all of you who support Women's Ministry in your local churches and in our wonderful Upper Midwest Conference!

This month we check in again with Joy Ministry from Clarinda Methodist Church. They recently celebrated 5 years of serving the Lord with gladness. What began as a small God-given idea has led to delivering Joy to church family and others in the community.

Monthly visits with small gifts and scripture are delivered to the assisted living and care center in town and others who might need some kindness. Birthday and seasonal cards are mailed. The Joy Ministry team has enjoyed prayer vigils and movie matinees. They even have team t-shirts in their favorite color. As an outreach in the community a meal was served in the church to construction workers in town to do an addition to the high school. Hard working men in the heat or cold were welcomed into Fellowship Hall for homecooked food and had treats bagged up to take with them when it was time to return to the job.

“We set out to give Joy and we were the receivers of it when going door to door with our surprises.”

(Joy Ministry in Biblical terms: “an activity carried out by Christians to express or spread their faith --the prototype of the Great Commission” and is guided by scripture: “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” I

Thessalonians 5:11

Thank you to Joy Ministry for serving in your community and for inspiring us to do small things with great love and Joy!

Rejoice! on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1011329353896024>

Email Rejoice! womensministry@uppermidwestgmc.org

UPPER MIDWEST ANNOUNCEMENTS



MULTIPLICATION TEAM UPDATE

Plan to Attend Exponential Central 2026

by Rev. Zach Kingery, Conference Multiplication Team Leader

The Upper Midwest Multiplication Team is gathering a group to attend Exponential Central, November 10-12, 2026, at Community Christian Church in Naperville, Illinois.

Exponential is a leading multiplication-focused ministry that equips churches and leaders across denominational lines. This year's conference theme is “Multiplier: How Healthy Leaders Create Lasting Impact” with inspiring speakers like Carey Nieuwhof, J.D. Greear, Will Chung, and Derwin Gray.

Through main sessions, practical workshops, conversations with other ministry leaders, and optional pre-conference intensives, participants will be equipped and encouraged to multiply disciples, develop spiritual leaders, and reproduce churches. **Bring your church leadership, young adults, and teenagers - this is not a clergy only kind of event, it is for disciplemakers!**

Attending Exponential together is an opportunity to strengthen a culture of disciple-making and multiplication in your congregation and throughout the Upper Midwest Conference as we rediscover the multiplying DNA that has been part of the Methodist movement from its beginning.

The Multiplication Team will purchase the tickets together in order to receive a bulk discount. **Email us before September 30 so we can reserve a ticket in your name.**

Limited funds are also available to help participants with travel expenses. More information about tickets and possible travel assistance is available by contacting the Multiplication Team.

To join the Upper Midwest group or request more information, email multiplicationteam@uppermidwestgmc.org

Conference information and the complete schedule are available at exponential.org/central-2026

We would love to have you join us in Naperville!



Join the Upper Midwest Directory

Want to be a part of or access the Directory? Send us an email to: contact@uppermidwestgmc.org and let us know. We will then send you an invitation to access the Directory in the Church Center *online app or through the

mobile app* where you can:

- Make your contact information available for those in our Conference to see. (You select what to share).
- View the contact information for those who have made their contact information available.

***Accessing the Directory - 2 ways: (You will be asked to log in to view the Directory).**

1. Using the online app via a web browser at:
uppermidwestgmc.churchcenter.com/home
Click on “More” and then click “Directory” to access.
2. Using your mobile device (phone, iPad, etc).

***Getting the Mobile App and Setting it Up:**

1. Go to the App Store or Play Store and search for “Church Center App” and download to your mobile device.
2. When setting up your Church Center App on your mobile device, use this link:
<https://uppermidwestgmc.churchcenter.com/setup> or be sure to search for the Upper Midwest GMChurch using the zip code 52302.

To Log In:

Enter your phone number or email address (we must have one of these already on file). If you are not able to log in with either of these please contact us at: contact@uppermidwestgmc.org and we will be happy to help you.



Certified Lay Ministry Information

The Upper Midwest Conference's Certified Lay Ministry (CLM) program has open enrollment to join at any time during the year. This program is for professing members (for at least 2 years) who are in lay leadership within their church, leading a church as a lay person, or are called to further their calling to join in leadership.

You will learn more about your calling, understanding the church, Bible study, mission, evangelism, and more! Each class is 1 day and may include pre-work before or homework after the conclusion of the class. Upon completion of the coursework and other requirements, you would be commissioned as a CLM at the next Upper Midwest Annual Conference.

You'll find more information about the program and the registration form here:

<https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/certified-lay-ministry>

If you have any further questions, please reach out to the CLM Committee here:

certifiedlayministry@uppermidwestgmc.org

NEW Appointments, Assignments and Moving to Senior Status

Stephenie Henson, Appointed to Prairie Creek in Grimes, IA

Ryan Sloan, Assigned to Mediapolis and Sperry, IA



On our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/uppermidwestgmc/>

We've been highlighting stories of God moving through the churches and people in the Upper Midwest Conference.

We want to share these stories here too so all can read and be inspired by how God is working. Do you have a Bold Witness to share? Fill out the short form and let us know!



BOLD WITNESS | Showing Up After the Storm

Originally posted on Facebook - August 14, 2026

After a severe storm brought significant damage to Highmore, area churches stepped up to serve.

Presho Methodist Church and Selby Methodist Church sent chaplains to support residents and walk alongside those facing loss and recovery. Saving Grace Community Church in Eureka baked dozens of cookies for workers, volunteers, and residents.

Sometimes a Bold Witness is simply showing up — offering care, encouragement, and the love of Jesus when it's needed most.



GLOBAL METHODIST ANNOUNCEMENTS



General Conference Information

The 2026 Global Methodist Church General Conference is just around the corner August 30-September 5, 2026, and you won't want to miss it! Join the General Conference Live Stream and experience it from afar. Sessions will be

live streamed on the Global Methodist Church YouTube channel. Tune in here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@globalmethodistchurch/streams>

 The Beauty of Holiness 2026 website is your go-to destination for news, event details, registration information, and insights to help you prepare for this historic gathering of Methodists from around the world.

Visit www.beautyofholiness2026.org to stay informed, get inspired, and join the movement of spreading scriptural holiness across the globe.

Prayer for General Conference 2026

40 Days of Prayer July 15th - August 23rd

Prayer has always been at the center of how God moves among His people. Scripture reminds us, “If my people, who are called by my name, humble themselves, pray and seek my face... then I will hear from heaven” (2 Chronicles 7:14). We believe that as we humble ourselves together in prayer, God will guide, renew, and strengthen His Church. We also see in the early church that before important decisions were made, believers gathered in prayer. “They all were continually united in prayer” (Acts 1:14). This is our hope as well — that long before General Conference begins, we will already be united in spirit, seeking God's heart together.

During this season of prayer, you will join with a multitude of brothers and sisters across the Global Methodist Church, praying each day together. Though we may be separated by distance, we are united in purpose. And we hold onto this promise: “The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect” (James 5:16). We have collected 40 prayers from people all across the world who sense God calling them to be part of this movement of the Holy Spirit through the Global Methodist Church. It is our hope that you will not only use this 40 Days of Prayer Guide personally, but also share it with friends, family, and fellow believers. As we prepare to gather for General Conference 2026, we pray that our hearts will already be united — covered in prayer before we ever arrive.

May these 40 days draw you closer to the Lord. May they unite us as one body. And may the Holy Spirit move in powerful ways as we prepare for what God has ahead.

Download the 40 Days of Prayer Guide here: <https://irp.cdn-website.com/4829cd2f/files/uploaded/GenCon2026-40Day+Prayer+Guide-EN-FORMATTED.pdf>

14 Days of Prayer August 24th - September 6th

John Wesley is often quoted as saying that “God does nothing but in answer to believing prayer.” How crucial and vital it is, then, for us to lay a strong foundation of prayer cover during the Global Methodist Church's General Conference. What a historic and significant gathering this will be as GMC church leaders from all over the globe come together in

Johannesburg, South Africa. How we need the Holy Spirit to empower and lead all who attend. Yet, according to Wesley, it all begins with prayer.

Therefore, we have prepared this 14-day Prayer Guide to encourage you to pray and to help you focus your prayers. It is our prayer that the Spirit will use this guide, along with the daily scriptures for each day, to inspire you to pray and to direct you when you are not sure how to pray. You are encouraged to read the scriptures from your preferred translation, and the adjoining prayers, out loud, if possible. We are confident that this will allow the Holy Spirit to direct you further as you join others from around the globe in praying for the 2026 General Conference.

~ Dr Stephen Seamands on behalf of the GM Church Prayer Network

Download the 14 Days of Prayer Guide here: <https://irp.cdn-website.com/4829cd2f/files/uploaded/14DayPrayerGuide-ENGLISH-GC26.pdf>



Experience New Room Conference 2026

Looking for encouragement, practical discipleship, and a fresh encounter with God? Join thousands of believers for New Room Conference 2026, September 30–October 2 at Frazer Church in Montgomery, Alabama. This year's gathering features inspiring worship, dynamic teaching, practical labs, and speakers including J.D. Walt, Andy Crouch, Amy Orr-Ewing, Luann Riley, and many others—all centered on helping followers of Jesus grow deeper in faith and mission.

Can't make the trip? You can still participate through the New Room Livestream. Individuals, discipleship bands, small groups, and churches can watch together from anywhere. Livestream registration includes the main sessions, select labs, a pre-conference session, and on-demand access to conference recordings after the event. New Room offers an opportunity to be refreshed, equipped, and encouraged.

Learn more here: <https://seedbed.com/newroomconference2026/>

MORE INFORMATION

Be the First to Know!



Sign up for our Upper Midwest Newsletter

Subscribe here:

<https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/newsletter>

****Note:** The Deadline for Newsletter Articles/Info is the 20th of the Month.



Global Methodist Church “Across the Globe” Newsletter

Subscribe here: <https://globalmethodist.org/connect/>

Don't miss out on the latest updates, inspiration, and more—delivered straight to your inbox. Sign up now!

Important Dates



August 30-September 5, 2026

General Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa

November 12-24, 2026

Conference Mission Trip to South Africa

View the Full Upper Midwest Conference Calendar here:

<https://uppermidwestgmc.churchcenter.com/calendar?view=list>

Share Your Story



We want to celebrate the great things happening throughout our conference. Whether it's happening in Districts, Conference-Wide, or in Local Churches - share how the Holy Spirit is moving in ministry around you.

Fill out this simple form here: <https://form.jotform.com/242467999461171> and we'll highlight these stories on social media for our Upper Midwest Conference.

Upper Midwest Prayer Opportunities



The Upper Midwest Conference Daily Noon Prayer

Can you imagine what would happen in the spiritual realm if we prayed the same prayer together at noon daily?

Join Us and Let's Find Out!



Scheduled Zoom Prayer Meetings

Please click the button below and let us know that you would like to join and we will send you the link.

Monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 PM (CST)

Join the Noon Prayer or Request the Link to the Zoom Prayer Meeting here:

<https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/prayer>

Check Us Out, find More Information or Contact us:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560495272933>

Website: <https://uppermidwestgmc.org/>

Email: contact@uppermidwestgmc.org

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeIUq0W7V_b9fGnG_MEMo0w



Lovingly walk alongside laity and clergy as they make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly and witness boldly.