

Upper Midwest GMC Newsletter

Tenth Edition - January 5, 2024

Connecting for passionate worship, extravagant love, and bold witness



What To Expect During The Appointment Process

By: James Parks

Since the days of John Wesley, our Methodist heritage has used the appointment system to coordinate the leadership of our local churches. The Global Methodist Church will continue to use an appointment system for connecting churches and pastors. This means pastors will be sent to minister in a community by a bishop. However, the Global Methodist Church is making some modifications to how appointments take place in order to give the local church more voice and more responsibility in the search for a new pastor.

Because these modifications will be new to local churches, this article is to help you better know what to expect.

Pastors will no longer be appointed one year at a time. Instead, pastors are appointed until the local church or the pastor senses a new season in ministry is needed. Either the local church or the pastor can contact their presiding elder to begin the discussion of a pastoral change.

Once this happens, Phase 1 begins. **Phase 1** is completing profiles. The local church needs a profile on the ministry God is doing and where they believe God

is leading them. The local church should also work on a profile of their surrounding community to consider the people God is calling them to reach. At the same time, pastors who will be moving appointments should have their profile of gifts and graces also updated. This phase is complete when the presiding elder meets with the pastor-parish relations committee to understand their profile.

Phase 2 starts with the presiding elder sharing the church and community profiles with the conference cabinet. The cabinet is made up of the president pro tem, vice president pro tem, and other presiding elders of the conference. The cabinet then will prayerfully discuss the local church and available pastoral options, which may also include pastors from outside the conference. The ideal would be for the cabinet to find 2 or 3 possible matches. Our current reality as a new denomination means, realistically, we will have 1 or 2 possible matches. Phase 2 concludes with a preview meeting with the pastor-parish relations committee, presiding elder, and possible pastoral match. If there are multiple possible matches, then there will be

multiple previews. Hopefully the same day. This is not an interview. It is a preview to see how God might work by connecting this local church and this pastor.

Phase 3 is the final step. **Phase 3** is the discernment process of what match is to be made. If the cabinet and local church agree on the best match, then the details of compensation, benefits, and dates will be determined. Then, the appointment will be set by the bishop. If there is disagreement on the best match, then conversations will continue. A return to Phase 2 may happen.

This whole process could take at the least a few months but also could take 5 or 6 months, depending on the availability of pastors and the clarity of a local church knowing who they are and who God is calling them to be.

With any modifications to old systems there will be learning and frustration. As

a conference, it will take time to adjust to this new system and learn how each role works for the greater good of God's Kingdom.

Our Conference Cabinet is committed to growing in this modified appointment system so that it might help us be fruitful for God's Kingdom. This includes a strong commitment to equitable opportunities for all churches to be blessed by the variety of talented, gifted, and called pastors of the Global Methodist Church. These called pastors are female and male and come from different races, cultures, and backgrounds. This variety brings beauty and strength to the body of Christ. We do not have a guarantee in our appointments; however, we will strive for the Holy Spirit to lead our conversations so that together, we will serve and lift up the name of Jesus.

How can local churches be prepared for a change in pastoral leadership?

Regularly consider who God has called you to be as a church in your local community. You may not be able to be everything, but what ministry has God specifically called your body of believers to? Churches also should continue to be open to how God will use them to reach their neighborhood and community.

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. This mission takes laity and clergy serving together for the growth of God's Kingdom.

If you have questions or want more information on this process, please reach out to your presiding elder to learn more (as they also are learning).

Happy New Year!...

By: James Parks

I love this time of year. We get to look back and celebrate all that God did in the previous year. 2023 brought some new things for many churches. It also brought a new Global Methodist Provisional Conference to the Upper Midwest. This conference formed, pulling five previous conferences together to form one. For me, 2023 was about expanding the connection of the church in this new Global Methodist Church. I have been meeting and getting to know many new people from all over the Midwest.

Now, we get to look ahead to 2024! What new thing will God be doing? How will we see God's faithfulness?

One place I will be looking is at our Annual Conference June 13-15 in Sioux City, Iowa. I used to attend Annual Conference because it was required, and I got to see some good friends. Now, I am looking forward to Annual Conference as an opportunity to be encouraged, challenged, and connected more deeply with God and my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. My hope is that Annual Conference becomes a vital part of my growth as a disciple of Jesus.

With that in mind, I wanted to ask you, what you would like us to focus on during Annual Conference? We will have teaching times and workshop opportunities that can be designed to help us better share the love and grace of Jesus. We could focus on personal spiritual development and deepening our

prayer life, starting a hospitality ministry, or visioning for God's dream for the local church. The topics are endless.

So, we want to hear from you. Click on the button at the bottom of this page to submit



your ideas for Annual Conference. Of course, we will worship together and center everything on Christ. How is he calling you to grow in 2024? And how can we help?

 <p>Upper Midwest Global Methodist</p>	<p>ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMING SOON!</p> <p><i>Save these Dates: June 13-15, 2024</i></p> <p>We Want to Know! So we are taking a survey. <i>What topics would you like to focus on at our Annual Conference?</i></p> <p>Submit Your Response</p>
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Reserve your Hotel Room at the Group Rate for the Upper Midwest Annual Conference [CLICK HERE](#)

Connect with the life of the Upper Midwest Conference

- Community Connection
- Calendar
- Directory
- Connectional Funding Giving
- Event Signups

Download the app



After downloading the app, scan the QR code to setup the app



What Is the Church Center App?

Church Center App is a [website](#) and mobile app that you can use to explore, engage, and stay connected with the Upper Midwest Conference.

How do I get the Church Center App?

Use the Google Play (Android) and App Store (iPhone) buttons above to connect directly to the download pages. You will need to access these from the device you are downloading to. Once you have downloaded the app, scan the QR code with your camera and follow the link to easily setup the app.

What Can I do in the Church Center App?

Here a few things you can do in the Church Center App:

- You can access information about your groups.
- Access the Conference Directory and add your information to the Directory.
- View the Conference Calendar.
- Register for Conference Events. (Like the Upper Midwest Annual Conference Coming in June 2024)

Conference **prayer**

James and Ross will pray for each pastor and church starting in January 2024. We will pray for 4 churches each week, which should get us through everyone by the end of November. Shanna will reach out ahead of time for specific prayer requests. We will also add a prayer request form on our Upper Midwest GMC website.

Surrendering to God's Purposes

By: Keith Boyette

Over my years of ministry, I have marked each new year by participating in Wesley's Covenant Service. During the service, the congregation is invited to pray:

Lord, make me what you will.
I put myself fully into your hands:
put me to doing, put me to suffering,
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and with a willing heart
give it all to your pleasure and disposal.



Embracing the prayer is always a sobering experience for me. I do desire to be totally submitted to God's plan, purpose, and will, but the juxtaposition in the prayer is stark. Am I really OK if I suffer, am laid aside, empty, and have nothing? Yet, I still pray the prayer with sincerity, authenticity, and transparency because I am not my own. My life is a gift from God. I belong unequivocally to Him. By God's grace, I want to be totally surrendered to Him so that He can do with me as He pleases for His glory and the advance of His kingdom.

Over the years, I have found that it is not sufficient to just say the prayer at the new year. It has become part of my regular devotional life. It never loses its power. The prayer has had special meaning and significance to me since we launched the Global Methodist Church on May 1, 2022. I have been acutely aware that the work in which we are engaged does not belong to us and is not brought to fruition by us.

No one can doubt that the powerful hand of our God has been upon the GM Church. Who would have anticipated that as 2023 closed we would have received 4,281 churches with more than 700 additional congregations having applied and awaiting approval or that 4,400 clergy persons would have aligned with the GM Church with more than 800 additional clergy awaiting acceptance? Who would have predicted that we would have established 16 regional bodies in the U.S. and that three more would continue to organize in this new year or that, outside the U.S., we would have established eight regional bodies and be about to launch an additional 15? In the midst of such work, who would have expected that that we would be preparing for our convening General Conference in Costa Rica, September 20-26, 2024? Yet this and so much more has occurred with an incredibly lean general church staff consisting of 12 employees and two bishops. Literally

thousands of persons, lay and clergy, have given sacrificially to work in often unseen ways to be instruments of the Holy Spirit to bring all of this to pass.

As much as we celebrate what has already been accomplished, I am energized by what lies ahead in 2024. While we will still receive churches and clergy aligning with the GM Church, our work will focus on turning our attention unreservedly to the new thing God is doing in our midst.

Many faithful people have devoted tremendous resources and energy transitioning into the GM Church. Now is the time to shift our focus to the mission fields into which God has called our congregations. As each congregation unreservedly surrenders to God's purposes, how will we reach those who have not heard the Gospel or who have not responded to God's invitation to new life? Will we ensure that our time and financial resources are increasingly expended so that we are blessing those who are just awakening to the possibility of salvation and sanctification?

From our posture of surrender to God, will we embrace the new mission fields and people to which He is calling us? What will we do to advance the mission of the GM Church – to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly? How will we do so in our unique settings? Will we, as leaders and churches, follow Jesus as He leads us to fulfill our missional priorities:

- To ensure that every professing member is grounded in the Scriptures and the life giving confessions that are hallmarks of our faith;
- To connect every person associated with our local churches to a band, class meeting, or other transformational discipleship group where we are challenged to experience the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit;

- To multiply as we launch new churches and new opportunities for those who have not yet been reached with the Gospel;
- To expand our partnerships globally so that the blessings which exist in each part of the body of Christ can enrich other parts and we discover the beauty of a church where every nation, tribe, and tongue are honored and embraced; and
- To minister intentionally to persons who are marginalized and often overlooked, but who are loved by Jesus and who have gifts that God wishes to deploy?

us to be a distinctive people – “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” 1 Peter 2:9.

Each new year has the potential to be a new beginning. We shed the old and embrace the new. Join me as we humbly surrender to our God: “I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal.”

Rev. Keith Boyette is the Transitional Connectional Officer of the Global Methodist Church and its chief executive and administrative officer. To learn more about the Global Methodist Church, visit its website at www.globalmethodist.org.

Divisions abound in this world, but God is calling

Be Our Light for the New Year

Come, Holy Spirit,
Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us today and always.

Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.
Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier.

May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us,

A time of welcoming your graces and gifts,
A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,
A time for growing in virtue and goodness.

Come, Holy Spirit,
Be with us today and always.

- Author Unknown



NEW GMC STORE!!!!!!

It is now possible to purchase Global Methodist Merchandise through the new Global Store. Go to gmcstore.org. All profits realized from sales will be invested in the Ministerial Training Fund, a fund created to assist individuals aspiring to serve as clergy persons in the GM Church.



Costa Rica Global Methodist General Conference

San Jose, Costa Rica

September 20-26, 2024

The General Conference of the Global Methodist Church will be in San Jose, Costa Rica. It will be composed of an equal number of clergy and laity delegates, representing Church members from around the world, the GM Church's General Conference is the only body empowered to speak authoritatively on its behalf with respect to its core confessions of faith and its governing structure.

How people will be selected to be delegates will be announced soon.

A specially designated sub-committee of the Commission has selected a number of hotels near the convention center in San Jose to house Conference delegates and a host of others who will serve in various ways at the gathering.

The TLC has entered into contracts with the hotels and will provide information about booking the blocks of rooms it has secured as the Conference grows closer. The TLC will also share with all Global Methodist members ways they can attend the Conference in person or watch it online.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 1, second anniversary of birth of Global Methodist Church
- Upper Midwest Annual Conference June 13-15 Sioux City, IA
- September 20-26, 2024 Convening General Conference will be in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Dear Lord, please give me...

*Wish
You
Happy
New year*

A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;
A work to do which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer;
A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;
An understanding heart;
A sense of humor;
Time for quiet, silent meditation;
A feeling of the presence of God;
The patience to wait for the coming of these things,
With the wisdom to recognize them when they come.

- Author Unknown

More
Information



To Be On The Mailing List

Contact: Shanna Pinkerton
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To Submit A Newsletter Article

Contact:
John or Karen - kkcar56@gmail.com

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