GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH
UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

Update NEWSLETTER

October 2026

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History Makers

by Rev. Ross Reinhiller, Upper Midwest Conference Vice Superintendent

October 14-15th the Presiding Elders and a representative of each district completed the International Leadership Institutes History Makers Journey. Bishops Webb and Greenway lead us in the studies. The purpose of History Makers equips leaders in spreading the Gospel. On the surface you would think that every pastor and Christ follower would already know and be committed to the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ. Knowing and be committed is not the issue for the church, how to do it is.

Women's Ministry in the Upper Midwest



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

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

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2026 was awesome! It is going to take a few months to process and share so many amazing experiences with you.

This month, I want to let you know of legislative actions taken that directly impact women and families. I served in the Social Witness legislative group. We engaged in hours of deep, meaningful dialog as we discerned how to lovingly communicate the beliefs of the Global Methodist Church to an increasingly hostile and secular world. The Holy Spirit moved through our discussions, which were respectful and productive. In the end, we were able to outline fifteen simple affirmations intended to inspire, not regulate, as they point us to living as Christ's salt and light around the globe. The affirmations we dealt with involved the sanctity of life, assisted suicide, workers' rights, the biblical understanding of marriage, and God's intentional design for sexual wholeness and gender identity. The beautiful sentiment stated in this last affirmation says, "While affirming a scriptural view of sexuality and gender, we welcome all to experience the redemptive grace of Jesus. We are committed to being a safe place of refuge, hospitality, and healing for any who may have experienced brokenness in their sexual lives."

You can read a more detailed summary of the Social Witness legislation written by our Committee Chairperson, Chappell Temple, for the September 15th edition of Firebrand.

Our Word to the World: Revisiting the GMC Social Witness — Firebrand Magazine

I am happy to discuss further or answer questions you might have. Just reach out to me!

[Rejoice Women's Ministry on Facebook]

UPPER MIDWEST ANNOUNCEMENTS



We Are Excited to Announce! Bishop Mark Webb

We are excited to share that Bishop Mark Webb has been assigned to serve Area 3 in the Global Methodist Church, which includes our Upper Midwest Conference. We look forward to being blessed by his leadership for the next 6 years.

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

Global Methodist Church
General Conference
RECAP

2026 General Conference Recap

Led by the Upper Midwest Conference delegation

This will be a time of singing, prayer, and sharing as our delegates reflect on their experiences at General Conference. All are invited to join us!

Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Marion Methodist Church

5050 REC Dr., Marion, IA

Can't make it in person? We've got you covered! The event will also be livestreamed on our Conference YouTube channel.

We hope you'll join us, whether in person or online!

Watch on the Conference YouTube Channel Here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCelUq0W7V_b9fGnG_MEMo0w



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Choir & Worship Team Invitation
2027 Annual Conference

The Upper Midwest Conference is inviting clergy and laity to help lead worship at our 2027 Annual Conference in Sioux City, Iowa! Whether you enjoy singing in a choir or have gifts as a musician or worship leader, we would love for you to participate.

Conference Choir

Love to sing? Express your interest in joining the conference choir by completing the **Choir Interest Form**. Please respond by December 15, 2026, to assist with planning. Additional sign-ups will be accepted during Annual Conference registration.

Worship Team Auditions

We are seeking additional vocalists, musicians, and worship leaders to join our existing worship team. Interested individuals should complete the **Worship Team Audition Form** and submit a video showcasing their gifts. Audition deadline: December 15, 2026. Selected participants will be notified by January 1, 2027.

Prayerfully consider sharing your gifts as we gather to worship Jesus together!



Disaster Response Opportunities:

Hurricane Isaias Update

The Alabama Emerald Coast Conference of The Global Methodist Church received the brunt damage from Hurricane Isaias making landfall on their shores. There was over 200,000 people without power in the area, multiple trees down, roofs damaged, and there is substantial flooding on the coast. They will need teams to come in and help survivors with this effort. One thing they request is "Please do not self deploy!!"

They are working with emergency management personnel and emergency operation centers in both Alabama and Florida. They know where people in need are located and they have set up their base camps in those areas.

The disaster response team of the AEC Conference, under the direction of Ron Toole their Conference Disaster Response Coordinator of the Global Methodist Church, had deployed as of Saturday, October 10. By October 12, the AEC disaster team was ready to receive volunteers, supplies and donations. They currently have over 1500 cleaning buckets and over 700 tarps and rolls inbound. All they lack is volunteers to help do the work. So if you have teams that can do debris removal, typing and Muck out they can use them. Here is the link to go and register your teams so we can decide where best to send them and they can help that the survivor is the best.

Here is the link for individuals that want to deploy and don't have a team and the AEC disaster team will place individuals with somebody else to build a team:
https://form.jotform.com/262814857140156

And here's the link for complete teams to deploy into the AEC conference. They ask that groups please fill this form out ahead of time so the AEC disaster team can go ahead and plan on putting teams in an area that they are qualified to work:
https://form.jotform.com/262794425353059

Financial Support can be completed in two ways:

1. First go to this link in Shelby Giving and in the Form Select Hurricane Isaias. **https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Form/6de44159-83da-4a28-a005-698020e27550** Shelby Giving allows people to give a one- time gift or a recurring and it will take Credit Card or ACH.
2. Second, if you are sending a Check please mail it to: Alabama Emerald Coast Conference, 9164 Eastchase Parkway #416, Montgomery, AL 36117 Please note in the memo area Hurricane Isaias.

Help Needed in Connersville, Indiana

The community of Connersville, Indiana, has experienced significant flooding, leaving approximately 250 homes in need of repair.

The Great Lakes Conference of the Global Methodist Church is seeking church teams who are willing and able to assist with recovery efforts. Housing and worksites have already been arranged for volunteers.

If your church has a team prepared to help with carpentry, drywall, or electrical work, please consider lending a hand to our neighbors in need.

For more information or to volunteer, contact the Great Lakes Conference Disaster Response Coordinator at (812) 244-9271.

Please join us in praying for the families affected by the flooding and for those working to help this community recover.

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For more information about Disaster Response in the Upper Midwest check out our website!

https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/disaster-response

2026 Charge Conference Forms Are Now Available!

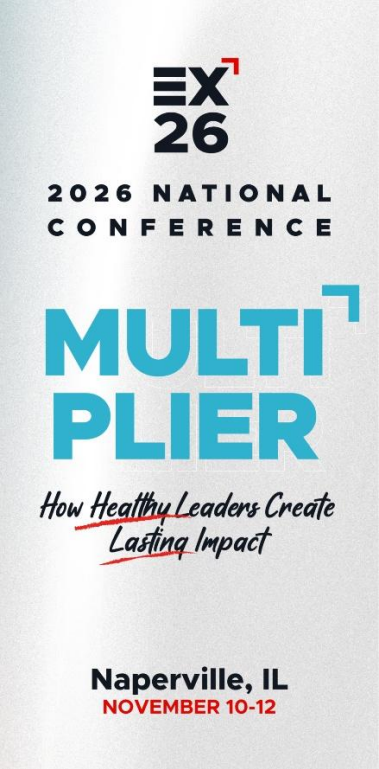


Good News! The forms for this year's Charge Conference are now available online. You can find them at: **https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/charge-conference**

Please download the forms you need, and **SINCE IT IS A YEAR OF GENERAL CONFERENCE AND WE WANT TO VERIFY ALL INFORMATION, PLEASE FILL IN ALL FORMS COMPLETELY** and submit them within a week after your Charge Conference. Schedule your Charge Conference with your Presiding Elder by the end of November. If you have any questions or need assistance, your Presiding Elder can assist you.

Thank you for your leadership and faithful service as we prepare for this important work together.

In CHRIST, James Parks



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.

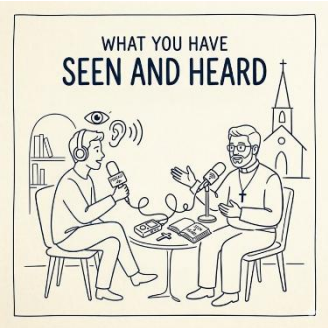
The Multiplication Team will purchase the tickets together in order to receive a bulk discount. **Email us before September 30 so we can reserve a ticket in your name.**

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!



Bold Witness: Rev. Dr. Travis Stevick

Our most recent **Bold Witness** highlights Rev. Dr. Travis Stevick and his video interview series, *What You Have Seen and Heard*. Through conversations with clergy and lay leaders from across the denomination, Travis is helping build connections across churches, states, and conference lines while sharing the many ways God is moving in our midst. We encourage you to follow Travis, watch his interviews, and start conversations of your own!

Do you have a Bold Witness to share? We want to hear how God is working in your church, ministry, or community! Whether it's a new ministry, a life transformed, or a congregation making a difference, your story could encourage others across the Upper Midwest Conference.

Submit a Bold Witness Here: https://form.jotform.com/242467999461171



CONGRATULATIONS!

New Appointments, Assignments, and Moving to Senior Status



Tom Smithson

Appointed **to Clarinda, IA**



Tracy Winters

Appointed **to Life Connection in LeMars, IA**

GLOBAL METHODIST ANNOUNCEMENTS



Beyond These Walls Conference

Registration is Open! The biannual gathering, inspiring and equipping church leaders in best-of-the-best mission practices, is just around the corner. Be sure to register by **November 1, 2026**, to take advantage of early bird pricing.

Register Here: https://us.list-manage.com/T_ooW543Nel?e=c034ddcc43&c2id=8dcdb9f0f4348ecfaa578bda30e36f7d

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Understanding Your 2027 Benefits Webinar

Friday, October 23, 8:30 a.m. Central

GuideStone®

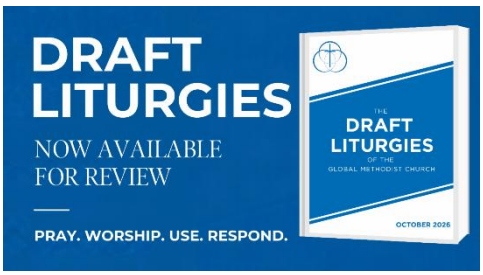
WEBINAR REGISTRATION

Join us for an informational webinar with Matt Conover, Executive Director of Finance for the Global Methodist Church, and representatives from GuideStone.
Together, they will review the 2027 insurance plans, discuss important updates and changes, and answer your questions to help you make informed decisions about your coverage.

If you're unable to attend live, we encourage you to register anyway. All registrants will receive a recording of the webinar to watch at their convenience.

Have questions?

If you have any questions or need to speak to someone on our Benefits Team, please email us at **benefits@globalmethodist.org**.



Draft Liturgies of the Global Methodist Church

The Global Methodist Church is excited to release the Draft Liturgies of the Global Methodist Church as a means of honoring Christ in our mission to spread scriptural holiness across the globe. Today officially begins a three-month review period to collect feedback from the general church. A final editing process will begin on January 1 with publication in 2027.

Feedback will be accepted through December 31, 2026.

Learn More Here: https://www.globalmethodist.org/draft-liturgies

Access the Draft Liturgies Here:
https://6x7ieqbbb.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001jKB9g5mLPFdYlQqfrBGhBrdPrnuueReRTHJSYJ45QLsKNeutRwLR5Q-XJPVU4Hqv7BAjguLmJALnjG-hpsjX9L8U1neuBcUzz1UQTCahYikPZzs6QUcRAmQbAsrLVkA_Yv_7QxDGN9KAGXqFVNqlwsbkpczsfDmcCUcw5eTwXeFojnJsTe9F2g==&c=CekBKUt6YILlPAhs9StNj9p-HG0B4s_bCha18_rduhsl_8GDPoijuQ==&ch=yN3xXUMWMJeaU5ZZthxVY0mtUyC8Dvmtzyc0LSAn0aP0YmGr80sJyg==

Submit Your Feedback Here:
https://6x7ieqbbb.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001jKB9g5mLPFdYlQqfrBGhBrdPrnuueReRTHJSYJ45QLsKNeutRwLR5Q-XJPVU4Hqv2byrZwkWfjGncDd1itiz4IlC7SrZVwaznQ7015CvK-HhNiow_FP7EFWPxxe-nOBqhqM1wvBEkH0uOn8HXNUMaslCX6Xezc3SgBRnPRXgjK4=&c=CekBKUt6YILlPAhs9StNj9p-HG0B4s_bCha18_rduhsl_8GDPoijuQ==&ch=yN3xXUMWMJeaU5ZZthxVY0mtUyC8Dvmtzyc0LSAn0aP0YmGr80sJyg==



Subscribe to "Across the Globe: The Podcast"

Stay connected by tuning in to "Across the Globe: The Podcast"—a space to unify, inform, and tell the stories of God's work through the Global Methodist Church. Each episode is designed to encourage, equip, and connect us as one body as we continue to grow together.
If you haven't tuned in yet, these are conversations you don't want to miss.

Be sure to like, subscribe, and follow so you never miss an episode—and share with your community to help others stay connected.

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Listen on Spotify: https://open.spotify.com/show/3zMFszV1HytFvW0PY2OJ0L?si=ae98e7fbb3574022

Watch on YouTube: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxzmHW4eeft7_8lsR70XJQZYaxn7VHZYE&si=IIRjNeBJFBHXESRE

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



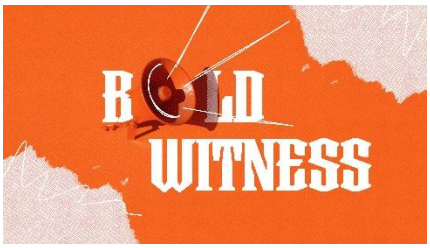
November 12-24, 2026

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/UCelUq0W7V_b9fGnG_MEMo0w

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH
UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

PO Box 113 I Enon, OH 45323

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

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