

MAY 2025

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2026 General Conference Delegate Nominees

by Rev. Ross Reinhiller,

Upper Midwest Conference Vice Superintendent

The Nominations have been submitted, and the list of possible delegates for election to General Conference 2026 is below. We will be voting on the delegates on Saturday, June 14th at our Annual Conference. We will also be taking Nominations from the floor at Annual Conference.

As a conference, the Upper Midwest needs 5 laity delegates, 5 clergy delegates, 1 lay alternate delegate, and 1 clergy alternate delegate. These delegates are required to attend the General Conference and participate in pre-conference meetings. (Cont.)

(Cont.) We are also encouraged to have reserve delegates who are willing to attend the conference, but are not required unless called upon to take the place of a delegate or alternate. We would like to have at least 3 lay and 3 clergy reserves. Below are the laity



nomi-



nees:



Jamal Boma

Maban Global Methodist
Des Moines, IA

Daniel Evans

Living Faith Global Methodist
Church, Papillion, NE

Becky Hereen

1st Methodist Church
Marshalltown, IA

Mathew Kerns

Marion Methodist Church,
Marion, IA



Dave Mendyk

Trumbull Global
Methodist Church
Hastings, NE



Clarence Mittleider

Marion/Dicky Church
Fargo, NE



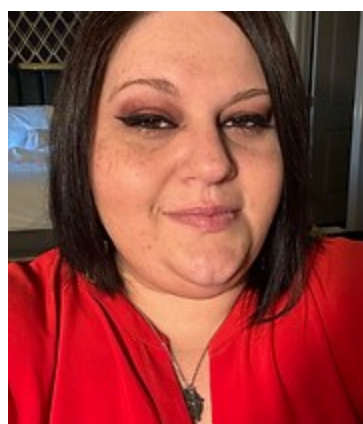
Norma Morrison

New Hope Global
Methodist Church
Muscatine, IA



Darcy Rubinking

Clarinda Methodist Church
Corning, IA



Andrea Schadel

Valentine Methodist
Church, Valentine, NE



Dayle Wily

Trinity Methodist Church
Cavalier, North Dakota



Dee Willoughby

First Methodist Church
Clinton, IA

Clergy Nominees



Luann Benge

Ida Grove Methodist
Church, Ida Grove, IA



Rey Colon

Tulare United Church
Tulare, South Dakota



Darla Hadrick

Selby Methodist Church
Selby, South Dakota



Corey Jenkins

Bowman Methodist
Church, Bowman,



Jeff Kelley

Memorial Methodist
Church, McCook, Ne



Zach Kingery

Clarinda, IA



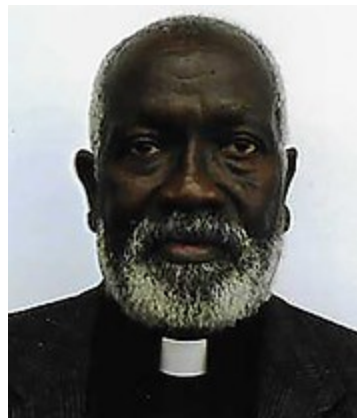
Jonathan Lee

Christ Community Church
Maple Grove, Minn



Michael McInnis

Le Mars Global Church
Le Mars, IA



Juwle Nagbe

Napolean-Streeter Charge
Streeter, North Dakota



James Parks

Marion Methodist,
Marion, IA



Jacob Schadel

Valentine Methodist Church
Valentine, NE



Sedar Shako

Harris & Lake Park
Churches, Lake Park, IA



Travis Stevak

Grace Methodist Church
Marcus, IA



Hui Angie Vertz

Hazen Methodist Church
Hazen, IA

Laity Nominees Biographies

Jamal Boma: I was a team leader at production worker for 4 years. And active members of Mabaan Global Methodist church in Des Moines Iowa. The journey was easy being a Christ followed. There are ups and downs but I am determined to serve my God. That's what I chose. Daniel Evans: I am the leader of A Few Good Men and Women International. We are a nondenominational, spirit filled ministry of men and women who are obedient to God. Our focus is expanding God's Kingdom by preaching and teaching the gospel to the nations. Mark 16:15 and Matthew 28:19-20. We also support orphans, poor, homeless, and those in prison. Crusades, altar calls, and individual prayers result in many surrendering their minds, hearts, and souls to Jesus. I give all credit to Jesus, The Holy Spirit and our Father. There are many miracles, many are healed, demons cast out, and multiplication of food and Bibles for the new believers. The Holy Spirit have led us in selecting nations, running conferences and crusades in Liberia, Kenya twice, Uganda, India, Pakistan, USA, and Rwanda. I have been a Methodist for many years. I love the Global Methodists. I was saved and baptized in The Holy Spirit at my Walk to Emmaus. God call me to be a pastor, while I was taking classes in the UMC Lay Ministering Classes at Simpson College. The Holy Spirit has encouraged me to go to Living Faith GMC and teach on Evangelism. So my wife and I joined Living Faith GMC, and I am currently leading a Bible class on evangelism. Then, we will lead others to Christ and start a new Global Methodist Church in the Omaha area.

Becky Heeren: My name is Becky Heeren. I'm a layperson from Toledo, Iowa. I'm a retired mental health therapist and have 4 grown children and 3 grandchildren. It would be an honor to serve at the 2026 General Conference. I have been a delegate to a couple of General Conferences in the past, as well as several Global Legislative Assemblies with the Wesleyan Covenant Association. I am familiar with the reading, studying, and many hours of prayer delegates need in order to be prepared to serve well. I enjoyed serving as a reserve delegate to the convening General Conference in 2024. Our Upper Midwest Conference is blessed with many talented and faithful members. Currently, I am the Conference Coordinator for Women's Ministries in the Upper Midwest (REJOICE!) We're working on connecting and resourcing women around the Conference to engage in ministries uniquely suited to women. I believe the Global Methodist Church has an opportunity to empower women (and all laity) in meaningful ways and would love to be a voice at the table where these ministries are crafted and perfected. These are exciting, yet challenging times. With God's help, the GMC is building on a firm foundation.

Matthew Kearns: I have been privileged to serve Marion Methodist as a committee member, lead Bible studies, and am currently elected as one of our Lay Delegates to the Annual Conference. I have served other churches as a supply pastor while they were seeking a replacement as well. I am also working with the conference's Men's Ministry and the committee overseeing the Certified Lay Ministry program, while looking to be commissioned as a CLM in June 2025. After taking many steps on the road to the GMC here, representing my church and conference at the GMC General Conference feels like a natural progression. I am anxious and encouraged to meet with the world-wide delegates, in effort to continue the work started in the inaugural General Conference. Only the Lord knows where this movement will go and I am excited to continue down this path.

Dave Mendyk: I am currently serving three small Churches as a Certified Lay Minister and have taken the online courses for CLM offered by the Upper Midwest Annual Conference. I attended the convening General Conference in Costa Rica and was blessed to be a part of those decisions made there. I have been a Lay Speaker since 1991 in the former denomination. I believe in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and hope to encourage others to ask for these Gifts. I am now seventy years old, and married to a retired Clergy Woman of the GMC for twenty-one years. I care about the future of our Global Methodist Church; that it continue as a movement, rather than fall into the rut of an institution.

Clarence Mittleider: This something that I feel called to do as I was an Alternate to the conference in Costa Rica and learned a lot about what to do and what was involved in being a delegate. The experience there was life changing for me as when I came back, I signed up to go take seminary classes. I also felt the Lord calling me to do more in December when I retired from my job. In January I took a three-point charge and am serving the churches and I was also asked to be on the Leadership and Development Committee of the Upper Midwest Conference where I am the Vice Chair. I think I would be very good as a delegate as I have a passion for serving God and believe strongly in the mission and the stance of the Global Methodist Church and am willing to share that with people and stand for its belief. Also, with experience of being at the convening conference I am able to understand what is going on and have connections that are valuable. I am looking forward to serving the conference in whatever way I can and no matter what I will be praying for all the delegates.

Norma Morrison: One year ago God gave me a clear purpose for this season of my life: the Global Methodist Church and South Africa. Soon after, I was elected head of the Upper Midwest delegation to General Conference in Costa Rica where I also served on the Petitions and Agenda Committees. I was elected by the General Conference to serve on the Commission

on General Conference for 2026 where I now also serve on the Legislation sub-committee and as Chair of the Agenda sub-committee. In November I was privileged to represent the laity and the Upper Midwest Conference on a relationship-building trip to South Africa, our partner Conference. I spoke in the Laity Session and made many connections while there. This winter I was a short-term missionary with Blessman International in South Africa, helping with the initial work of setting up a child sponsorship program. In my local church I serve on the Leadership Board and am SPRC Chair, as well as being active in Sunday School, Bible study, prayer team, and teaching VBS. In the Upper Midwest Conference I am on the Women's Ministry Team and the newly-formed Missions Team. I am passionate about these callings God has given me. I have the background (5time General Conference delegate), time, and stamina for the many hours required to make educated decisions to ensure the GMC is truly a Wesleyan global Church. I would be honored to represent you as a delegate! To God be the glory!

Darcy Rubenking: My name is Darcy Rubenking. I am a pastor's wife; a retired physician assistant and I am active in our Clarinda Methodist Church. I teach Pre K - 2nd grade Sunday School and I am active in our women's group. I have been a delegate at the UMC General Conference of 2012, 2016 and 2019. I was an alternate laity delegate for the first Global Methodist Church General Conference in Costa Rica. I understand the commitment of time and effort that it takes to be a delegate at a General Conference. I have been helping to launch the women's ministry of the Global Methodist Church, and I feel it is important that the conference have representation of women. I loved seeing the birth of the Global Methodist Church at the first general conference and the trust and love that bloomed during the conference. It is important that the Global Methodist Church continues to be Wesleyan, Biblical and have strong Christian values. We need to concentrate on being the church Jesus wants us to be and not mire in politics. It is important that the petitions that are passed further the kingdom of God and grow the Global Methodist Church. We are called to be salt and light to a sinful world and our Global Methodist Doctrine needs to reflect this.

Andrea Schadel: My name is Andrea Schadel and I am on the Deacon track with the Global Methodist Church in Valentine Nebraska. I am passionate about serving on the judicial committee for the formation of the Global Methodist Church. I served as a delegate in Costa Rica in 2024 and would like to finish the work that we started there. I would be honored to represent the Upper Midwest Conference in 2026.

Dayle Wiley: My name is Dayle Wiley, and I am a life-long Methodist. I was part of the team that led my current church, Trinity Methodist in Cavalier, North Dakota, through the disaffiliation process and in joining the Global Methodist Church. I strongly believe that the Word of God should always be the guide for churches and individual Christians. sharing the Word of

Following and faithfully sharing the Word of God allows us as Christians to stay relevant in the world, not by confirming to the world, but by working to transform it. I have been the delegate to Annual Conference for the last nine years at my church and have witnessed first-hand many of the changes that ultimately led my church to take the path of disaffiliation and join the Global Methodist Church. During this time, I have seen the commitment and focus on the Word of God that the African churches have faithfully demonstrated, and I feel deeply called to fellowship and worship with our African brothers and sisters. At my current church, I have served in the following roles: Certified Lay Servant, Trustee, Chair of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, Ad Board Member, Adult Sunday School Teacher, and Lay Leader.

Dee Willoughby: I am the Lay Leader for First Methodist Church. I led our church (without a pastor) through the disaffiliation process from UMC and then to join the GMC. All four of our children attended K-12 at Unity Christian School. I served as board chair, foundation chair, etc. I own and operate a domestic manufacturing business that has been in business since 1906, selling customers such as Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart, Ace, True Value, Menards, and Do it Best. I went to Costa Rica as a visitor for the convening GMC Conference and enjoyed the 9 days of watching a historic event. I have just recently taken on the position of Chairman for the Finance and Administration Committee for the GMC Upper Midwest Conference. I am also available to travel to South Africa on the dates listed for the conference.

Clergy Nominees Biographies

Luann Benge: My name is Luann Benge. I am a life-long Christian and follower of Jesus Christ. I have been married to my husband, Carl, for 24 years and we have two children, Sarah and Lydia. As an elder in the Global Methodist Church, I currently serve as the pastor at the Ida Grove Methodist Church in Ida Grove, Iowa. In my role as pastor, I am passionate about preaching, teaching, and discipleship. I thoroughly enjoy walking alongside the good folks at Ida Grove Methodist Church as we live out our calling to make disciples who will become disciple makers for Jesus Christ. I am also your current Vice Chairperson of the Board of Ministry, as well as your Conference Relations Chairperson. Additionally, I serve as the Presiding Elder for the Northwest Iowa District of the Upper Midwest Conference. I am honored to serve our conference in these roles because I get to walk alongside our brothers and sisters in this conference as well as in the Global Methodist Church as a whole. I would love to represent our conference as a delegate for the 2026 Global Methodist Church General Conference. As a leader in our conference, I am so excited about what I see God doing through and in the Global Methodist Church. I want to do all I can to help us continue to connect with our Wesleyan heritage as we move forward into who God has called us to be as Global Methodists.

Rey Colon: Born and raised in Puerto Rico but adopted via marriage by South Dakota. I have been a pastor for a number of years and have always felt called to be a leader. I believe that God has given me vision and communication skills to serve as a shepherd. I had the honor of serving as clergy delegate to the Convening Conference in 2024 in Costa Rica. This experience gave me hope for the denomination's future. It also provided me with a better understanding of what the GMC stands for and what it hopes to accomplish.

Darla Hadrick: My father was a pastor in the Methodist Church and so I was raised learning to love Jesus and everything about Jesus. Throughout my young life and into adult hood, my father taught me that Scripture is God's Divine Word and no man had any authority to change God's Word. I really did not fully understand what he meant until I grew older and saw how others would either remove, change, falsely interpret, or ignore the Word of God as written in Holy Scripture. Those acts broke my heart as I finally understood what my father was teaching me all along. We will only have a novel and not a solid foundation for which to stand upon for our salvation. We must follow the Word of God as written because that is what Jesus Christ did when he walked the earth. If selected as a delegate, it would be an honor to use Scripture to form our doctrines and disciplines so that the next generations will not have to experience shifting sand but rather a solid rock foundation. Currently I serve as a Presiding Elder in the SD West district. My leadership includes (former life);

training new recruits in law enforcement, leading the reserve deputy unit and leading the shift of deputies. In ministry, I have started and lead Stephen Ministries, and various committees. As a pastor, I have had to make hard decisions by not allowing behavior to continue which met with resistance and people leaving the church. Afterwards the church grew and became healthier. More importantly, I have learned to lead from the wisdom and guidance of the promptings of the Holy Spirit and to set aside my desires.

Corey Jenkins: I was a delegate to the Convening General Conference in Costa Rica, and I served on the Constitution Committee. It's always been my hope and prayer that I can be a part of building the Kingdom of God in the world. By having a voice at the General Conference level, I would, in part, be stepping into the calling God has on my life. Also, by the time General Conference comes around again, it will be in 2032, and, God willing, I will be approaching Senior Status and it would be time for younger voices to lead us. But for now, I would hope for one more opportunity to serve God in the world, and in our denomination.

Jeff Kelley: Having served the church as an elder for 40 years and being a delegate to the past general conference in Costa Rica, I believe I bring a sense of wisdom and understanding of the church and its mission for the future. I would be humbled and honored to serve as a delegate once again.

Zach Kingery: I am 37 years old with a wife and three children, an ordained elder in the GMC, and currently reside in Clarinda Iowa. I grew up in a Wesleyan church in rural Kansas. Since 2009 I have served in youth ministry, pastoral ministry, and as a laity in adult discipleship in churches with numerically large and small congregations across the Midwest. I have been clergy in the UMC to GMC since 2016. I am committed to orthodox Wesleyan theology and desire to see lives transformed for the Gospel and nations reformed through the spread of Scriptural holiness. As a clergy person called to rural and normative sized churches it is my hope to see the Methodist movement once again planting or revitalizing churches in all areas, empowering our congregations to advance the Kingdom of God. I lead the Upper Midwest Conference Multiplication team and am a Network Director with Dirt Roads Network which is a parachurch organization within the Wesleyan/Methodist tradition that works with clergy, congregations, and church plants. In both roles I place a vital importance on active discipleship and the development of spiritual leaders to see an Ephesians 4 APEST expression at the local level in order to see the Church multiply. As a delegate I will represent our rural congregations, be an advocate for Clergy who serve in normative sized churches across the US and the globe, and also place an important emphasis on active discipleship and multiplication practices that lead to healthy, fruitful congregations.

Jonathan Lee: Serving as a 2024 Global Methodist Church's General Conference delegate has been a profound honor. I feel called to continue offering my service out of a deep love for the Church and a strong commitment to its mission, unity, and global witness. As someone deeply engaged in multi-ethnic ministry, I am passionate about helping the Church reflect the beauty of Christ's international and diverse body. My leadership roles within the GMC reflect this commitment. I currently serve as Co-leader of the Multi-Ethnic Fellowship, President of the Korean Orthodox Pastors' Association (KOPA), Presiding Elder in the Minnesota area, and Chair of the Ethnic Ministry Team at the Upper Midwest Annual Conference. These roles have allowed me to foster cross-cultural relationships and advocate for inclusive leadership development. I have also served as a member of the Commission on Higher Education, the Committee on Global Education—which works to reduce theological and educational gaps across regions—and the Nomination Committee for the 2024 General Conference, where I helped discern Spirit-led leaders from diverse backgrounds. With a global perspective and a heart for unity in diversity, I believe the GMC is uniquely positioned to model the Church as a worldwide family. I am committed to helping shape a future where theological faithfulness, cultural inclusion, and mutual learning across nations and ethnicities are foundational to our identity. I would be grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the Church in this season of growth and transformation.

Michael McInnis: I served in ministry for 40 years across four denominations: the Free Methodist Church, United Methodist Church, Evangelical Covenant Church and now the Global Methodist Church. I graduated from Asbury Seminary and served churches in Nebraska, Kansas and Minnesota. Currently I'm part of the Jethro Project, mentor churches and pastors in the GMC in northwest Iowa. I have been involved in three church plants and two church building projects. The churches I served experienced numerical and financial growth. I served for eight years on the Nebraska Conference Board of Ordained ministry in the UMC and served with Walk to Emmaus ministry, including on the Nebraska board as state Spiritual Director for three years. Personally, I have been married to Kathy Jo for over 42 years, and attribute much of my ministry fruitfulness to her partnership, gifts and support. We have four adult children (two single sons and two married daughters) and nine grandchildren - so far! I feel called to offer myself to serve on the Midwest Conference delegation to General Conference at this time primarily because I bring those years of experience and fruitful ministry in the local church (the primary place of ministry and witness in the church). I have a deep interest in the future of the GMC, and continue to study our Wesleyan history and theology to apply it to my service in the church today. Being retired, I have the time to invest in preparing for and attending this General Conference.

Juwle Nagbe: My name is Juwle Nagbe, ordained in June of 2029 at the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Disaffiliated in 2023 to join the Global Methodist Church. I was approved as an Elder in the Global Methodist Church on the 11th. day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four by the Bishop Mark J. Webb. Currently, I am pastoring the Napoleon-Streeter Global Methodist Churches in North Dakota. I am originally from the West African Country of Liberia. I became a citizen of the United State of July 11, 2023. I am married to Martha W. Nagbe and we have had four children one of whom passed away in April of 2022. I look forward to attending the next General Conference of the Global Methodist Church. God bless!

James Parks: My name is James Parks, and I've had the privilege of serving as a pastor for over 20 years. In August, I began my third pastoral appointment. I am now co-lead pastor—alongside my wife, Helen—at Marion Methodist Church in Marion, Iowa. This congregation holds deep personal significance for me as the church where I was baptized, confirmed, and called into ministry. In addition to local church leadership, I also serve as the Conference Superintendent of the Upper Midwest Conference. In this role, I work closely with our Vice-Superintendent and Bishop to help shape a conference culture that serves and resources local churches. Balancing both local and conference ministry has grounded me in the daily realities of congregational life while keeping my vision focused on where God is leading our wider movement. I was honored to be part of our delegation to the Convening General Conference. Participating in the formation of our Book of Doctrine and Discipline was a powerful and hopeful experience. Since then, I've been committed to aligning our conference with these guiding principles while championing the freedom of every church to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Outside of ministry, I'm a big fan of Caitlin Clark, Patrick Lencioni's Working Genius framework, and Timothy Keller's Gospel in Life podcast.

Jacob Schadel: My name is Jake Schadel and I am a Presiding Elder in North Central Nebraska. I served on the WCA and was on the Advisory team as we set up our conference here in the Upper Midwest. I have a passion for the Global Methodist Church and its expression in our conference. I would love the opportunity to represent the Spirit led people of the Upper Midwest at General Conference in 2026.

Sedar Shako: Rev. Sedar Shako, from the Democratic Republic of Congo, serves in the North-west district of Iowa. I am passionate about serving as a delegate for the General Conference in Africa, where I can explain to others the benefits of being involved in the Global Methodist Church. I also speak some of their languages, which will help me answer their questions, as many African clergy members do not speak English. As a native of Africa, I know how to respond to various inquiries, including in French, Swahili, Kikongo, Otetela, Tshiluba, and Lingala. In the Bible, when Jacob arrived in Egypt, Joseph played a crucial role as a mediator between Pharaoh and his family because he knew the language. He instructed his brothers on what to say to Pharaoh when he asked them and prepared Pharaoh with good words to communicate with them (Genesis 46:31, 34). Sometimes, those in Africa do not fully understand the GMC mission and vision. Why did we leave the UMC? After leaving the UMC, what is the GMC's goal? I can explain this to many of them in their languages and slang. I want to be elected to this General Conference as a delegate because I can communicate effectively, and those who have served with me in the UMC will be encouraged to serve and spread the word of God. Last week, we welcomed six new members to our church in Lake Park, and in Harris, we have three members who will attend church on Easter Sunday.

Travis Stevick: After growing up outside of the church, I became a Christian in high school and have been in pastoral ministry since I was twenty-one years old. I was ordained in the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2013 and joined the Global Methodist Church in 2023 when my church disaffiliated. I have felt called to make myself available to serve as a delegate to the Convening General Conference in part to be part of the early theological development of this new denomination. I was also a Reserve Clergy Delegate for the Convening General Conference. I have a PhD in Theology from the University of St. Andrews and, in addition to serving as the pastor of a local church in Iowa, I have been teaching courses on Christian Doctrine and Wesleyan Theology through the CTM program at United Theological Seminary (an approved alternative educational pathway for ordination in the GMC). I am passionately committed to a robustly Wesleyan understanding of Christian faith and do my best to articulate such a vision in every aspect of ministry “in the trenches.” I believe that I could be an asset in helping to ensure the theological faithfulness of the Global Methodist Church at an institutional level long into the future. I am married and have two boys and am looking forward to serving in the GMC for years to come!

Hui Angie Vertz: I am applying to be a delegate for the General Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2026, motivated by a profound sense of calling and service. After experiencing the transformative power of the Spirit at last year's General Conference in Costa Rica, my heart is dedicated to serving in this capacity. My involvement as full-time prayer team last year deepened my commitment to our conference and affirmed my desire to follow Christ closely. Currently, I serve as the full-time lead pastor at Hazen Methodist Church since July 15th 2024, and am preparing for ordination as an elder on June 15th 2025. This upcoming milestone marks two years before the General Conference, allowing me to bring fresh insights and fervent spirit to the table. I am eager to contribute to our Global Methodist Church by leveraging my gifts in prayer and music. I aim to support spiritual transformation and assist worship teams in organizing impactful services, embodying the humble servant-hood that Jesus modeled for us. While I understand my full connection time may not meet the required two years, I am humbly applying to be a delegate to support our conference and denomination. I aspire to be a messenger of the Gospel, demonstrating faith and service to the world as we strive to fulfill our mission together. Thank you for considering my application as I seek to serve with passion and dedication.



Welcoming New Churches to the Upper Midwest Conference!

We are so excited to welcome Harvest Church in Bismarck, ND to the Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church. These congregations have discerned, prayed, and joined our growing denomination.

May God continue to bless the ministry at Harvest and Franklin as they enter this new season as a church. **You're invited to welcome them by sending a note of welcome or encouragement.**

Harvest Church, PO Box 416, Bismarck, ND 58502

Franklin Church, PO Box 152, Franklin, NE 68939



From Pastoral Dependency to Pastorhood of All

To see true church multiplication, we must break down the idea that ministry belongs only to “professional” pastors. When the church relies solely on clergy, growth and mission stall.

But when we embrace the biblical model of the priesthood of all believers, we step into the mission Jesus gave us: to multiply disciples. As we pursue the vision of Every Church Plants, this shift is essential. Multiplication requires the whole body of Christ to be empowered and engaged.

Multiplication Team Update, cont.

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As we pursue the vision of Every Church Plants, this shift is essential. Multiplication requires the whole body of Christ to be empowered and engaged.

What Is Pastoral Dependency?

Pastoral dependency happens when most ministry is expected from the pastor alone. This leads to burnout from the pastor and disengagement in the congregation.

Signs of dependency include:

- "That's the pastor's job."
- Few people leading ministries or discipling others.
- A culture of being served instead of serving.

This mindset stifles not just multiplication but every area of ministry. A church trapped in pastoral dependency is unlikely to raise up and develop new leaders, reach new people, or cultivate a congregation committed to accountability and discipleship. It fosters consumeristic attenders who prefer preference and comfort over the challenge of confronting sin and darkness. We cannot live in holiness or spread Scriptural holiness if our faith depends solely on pastors.

What Is the Pastorhood of All Believers?

Scripture teaches that every Christian is called to the Great Commission. 1 Peter 2:9 calls believers "a royal priesthood" chosen to proclaim God's praises. Ephesians 4 teaches that pastors (or shepherds) are to equip the saints for ministry - not to carry the full weight themselves. The APEST gifts of Eph. 4 were never meant to be one person but to be distributed throughout the body of Christ and within your congregation.

When churches embrace this:

- Disciples actively make more disciples.
- Laypeople lead and launch ministries.
- Churches grow through multiplication, not just addition.

This is about changing culture, where everyone owns the mission.

Pastors and leaders: Who are you raising up to do what you do? Every task should be shared, taught, and multiplied.

How Do We Make the Shift?

Train People to Replace You

Pastors and leaders: Who are you raising up to do what you do? Every task should be shared, taught, and multiplied.

Disciple for Multiplication

Ask: “Who am I discipling, and who will they disciple?” If you are not actively disciplining someone, start.

Empower Missional Disciples

Encourage those in the congregation to start ministries, lead groups, and even step in to planting.

Celebrate Sending

Celebrate those who take new steps of leadership at every age. What you celebrate, people will replicate.

LET’S MULTIPLY TOGETHER

To become a conference where Every Church Plants, we must shift from pastoral dependency to a culture of shared ministry and mission.

📅 Join the Monthly Multiplier Zoom Call (Third Saturday, 10 AM CST) to connect with other leaders. (Zoom link found on our [event calendar](#))

📅 Need help making this shift? The Multiplication Team is ready to speak, coach, or lead a workshop

The mission is too big for one person - it’s time for the whole church to rise.



**Download
Bishop Webb's
sermon
for June 15th
For your
congregation**

With our Annual Conference happening on a Sunday, we know many local churches need to find creative ways to have a sermon with their pastor away. Bishop Webb has prepared a video sermon that is available for churches to use in place of a live message on Sunday, June 15. We hope your local congregations are blessed by this resource.

You can access this resource on the Upper Midwest Conference YouTube Channel by clicking the button below. *Please Note: It is recommended that you please read the Scripture 2 Timothy 1:1-14 before viewing the Message.

Video Sermon Resource for June 15, 2025,
<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fuppermidwestgmc.us18.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D64124f1d5b1170491dea9f3cf%26id%3D3878dcc3ff%26e%3Dcf0d94bb0f&data=05%7C02%7C%7C688249117e7a40dbb4d108dd8d9c9716%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638822425884085310%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsI-IAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=K0OwPGaTy67n5%2B2VLtR1qnwIOEY35IPUpRhgu9LSgOI%3D&reserved=0>



2025 Annual Conference Friday - Sunday, June 13 - 15, 2025

at the Convention Center in Sioux City, IA

Here is the Annual Conference Link:

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fuppermidwestgmc.us18.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D64124f1d5b1170491dea9f3cf%26id%3D79bb474d98%26e%3Dcf0d94bb0f&data=05%7C02%7C%7C688249117e7a40dbb4d108dd8d9c9716%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638822425884105739%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsImlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=He7qFKQr6nmlpZcpMb8VPKeWOIFjFys7uN5jDSSHLM%3D&reserved=0>

Ordination Service

All are welcome to attend the Upper Midwest Provisional Conference Ordination Service on Sunday, June 15, 2025 at 9:00 am at the Convention Center in Sioux City, IA. This will be an exciting event for our ordinands and the Annual Conference.

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 8:20 am in Meeting Rooms 1/2 on the Main floor.

Daily Schedule

A detailed daily schedule is available on the Annual Conference webpage.

See link across the page.....

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fuppermidwestgmc.us18.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D64124f1d5b1170491dea9f3cf%26id%3D9b9fe7fd12%26e%3Dcf0d94bb0f&data=05%7C02%7C%7C688249117e7a40dbb4d108dd8d9c9716%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638822425884125830%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsImlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vFkQhgLP8Bcql2n0lxCPjqyCx5nOrvnwC84LCASpd0%3D&reserved=0>

Livestream

For those unable to join us in Sioux City, we're excited to announce that we'll be livestreaming the worship events from conference. Simply go to the Upper Midwest YouTube Channel (linked here) to join us for these special services. Different than last year, it will be at no cost.

Livestream link:

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

Ordination Service

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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 8:20 am in Meeting Rooms 1/2 on the Main floor.

Registration

Registration is open for the 2025 Annual Conference in Sioux City!

The \$120 conference fee includes Saturday lunch and light snacks.

Click below for more details and to secure your spot.

Link address for registration:

<https://uppermidwest-gmc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2764326>

Young Adult/Youth Discount

For this year's conference, we will be offering a \$40 Discount Code available for our young adult and youth participants. If you are 40 years old or younger, apply the Code (YA40) before you complete your registration to receive the \$40 discount.

Hotel Accommodations

We are thrilled to announce that we've partnered with a selection of fantastic local hotels to offer you exclusive discounted rates for June.

Avid Hotel (3 blocks from convention center)

101 Court St, Sioux City, Iowa Phone number: 1 877-666-3243

Rate for king: \$130 per night

Rate for double queen: \$130 per night

Link for Avid Hotel

<https://www.ihg.com/avidhotels/hotels/us/en/find-hotels/select-roomrate?>

South Sioux City Marriott Riverfront (6 minutes from Convention Center)

385 E 4th St, South Sioux City, NE 68776 Phone number: (402) 494-4000

Rate for king: \$199 per night

Rate for double queen: \$199 per night

Link for Marriott

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?gues-treslink2=true&id=1737571649989&key=GRP>

DoubleTree by Hilton Sioux City (A few blocks from the Convention Center)

701 Gordon Dr, Sioux City, IA 51101 Phone number: (712) 717-6670

Rate for king: \$139 per night

Rate for double queen: \$139 per night

Link for DoubleTree:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/suxgodt-gmc-12c92445-b648-48f2-b3a2-e85ca4a33044/>

The Courtyard Marriott Downtown/Convention Center (attached to the Convention Center)

****NOTE: After clicking the button below to make your reservation please make sure to adjust reservation calendar to your dates before reserving.***

OTHER HELPFUL ANNUAL CONFERENCE LINKS

Group activities Link:

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fuppermidwestgmc.us18.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D64124f1d5b1170491dea9f3cf%26id%3Dc33f9dfe13%26e%3Dcf0d94bb0f&data=05%7C02%7C%7C688249117e7a40dbb4d108dd8d9c9716%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638822425884173782%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsI-IAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOLjoiTWfPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Kftv%2FhiYI%2FWj3pDZ%2F1bkb44QBNoZLtJunQxQ%2BPz2thg%3D&reserved>

Vendors/exhibits Link:

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fuppermidwestgmc.us18.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D64124f1d5b1170491dea9f3cf%26id%3D55fe2a0009%26e%3Dcf0d94bb0f&data=05%7C02%7C%7C688249117e7a40dbb4d108dd8d9c9716%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638822425884192345%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsI-IAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOLjoiTWfPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C%7C&sdata=y17ygp1Ey4ximFwOu%2B4hwhlJcoLsXnRaGD19s8c%2FuNg%3D&reserved=0>

Breakout sessions Link:

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fuppermidwestgmc.us18.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D64124f1d5b1170491dea9f3cf%26id%3Dd7ae9cc10b%26e%3Dcf0d94bb0f&data=05%7C02%7C%7C688249117e7a40dbb4d108dd8d9c9716%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638822425884183085%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsI-IAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOLjoiTWfPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C%7C&sdata=b6nEfU%2BezslvhmWJdchwa7yxnU750%2F2hFmUK3RviQA%3D&reserved=0>

Area Restaurants Link:

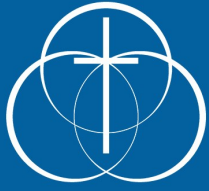
<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fuppermidwestgmc.us18.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D64124f1d5b1170491dea9f3cf%26id%3D5a5719dac2%26e%3Dcf0d94bb0f&data=05%7C02%7C%7C688249117e7a40dbb4d108dd8d9c9716%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638822425884201809%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsI-IAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOLjoiTWfPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WNoL%2FydoP6gJkevqBs7NEI8RPORY5Yse5IN6WFjpO4w%3D&reserved=0>

Planning Annual Conference Q & A

Our Session Team has been busy meeting and planning for this year's conference. We wanted to share some insight into our planning so you all know the heart and soul behind the planning of our Annual Conference.

Question and answer link:

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fuppermidwestgmc.us18.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D64124f1d5b1170491dea9f3cf%26id%3D25c23114cc%26e%3Dcf0d94bb0f&data=05%7C02%7C%7C688249117e7a40dbb4d108dd8d9c9716%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638822425884210657%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsI-IAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOLjoiTWfPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XuMDI6onF8q4ps7vloZjAJumiB90yOxHBjYQb%2BstuwM%3D&reserved=0>



Certified Lay Ministry

UPPERMIDWEST CONFERENCE OF THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH



Certified Lay Ministry (CLM) Program 2025 Summer/Fall Session

Another 6 months have passed, and the Upper Midwest Conference will be hosting the next session of training for the Certified Lay Ministry (CLM) program. This program is for professing members (for at least 2 years) who are in lay leadership with their church, leading a church as a lay person, or are called to further their calling to join in said leadership. This session will run from July - December 2025. You will learn more about your calling, understanding the church, Bible study, mission and evangelism, and more! Each class is 1 day and may include pre-work 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 2026 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 the CLM Committee here: certifiedlayministry@uppermidwestgmc.org

2025 Summer/Fall Certified Lay Ministry Classes

Classes will be one Saturday a month for six months from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM CST) and will be held via ZOOM. A link will be provided prior to each session

July 19, 2025	Understanding the Call/Spiritual Gift	Sheri Fadley
August 16, 2025	Global Methodist History, Polity and Doctrine	Wes Gabel
September 13, 2025	Conflict Resolution	TBA
October 11, 2025	Congregational Care & Ethics	TBA
November 8, 2025	Mission & Evangelism	Zach Kingery
December 6, 2025	Preaching	TBA
December 13, 2025	Basic Bible Training	TBA

Registration

Registration is free and the only cost to the student will be books.

Please download, complete and submit Registration Form

to: certifiedlayministry@uppermidwestgmc.org

Questions?

Please contact our Certified Lay Ministry Team

certifiedlayministry@uppermidwestgmc.org

Syllabi and Resources: *More Coming Soon*

Understanding the Call/Spiritual Gifts

Questionnaire

Identifying Your Calling

Brief Descriptions of Spiritual Gifts

Identifying Your Spiritual Gifts

Global Methodist History, Polity, and

Doctrine

CHAPTER 1 - Gabel Dissertation

CHAPTER 2 - Gabel Dissertation

Wesley on Baptism

(see next page for more information about this course)

2025 Upper Midwest GMC Lay Ministry School

COURSE TITLE: GLOBAL METHODIST HISTORY, POLITY AND THEOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: The Rev. Dr. Wesley Gabel

COURSE SCHEDULE: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Saturday, August 16, 2025 **COURSE LENGTH:** 6 lecture and discussion hours plus four hours of reading/writing

COURSE OVERVIEW: Preparing followers of Jesus Christ to serve in the Global Methodist Church as Certified Lay Ministers with a practical understanding of the gift of full salvation that we can both embrace and share with others. • Students will learn how the history, polity, and theology of the Global Methodist Church stewards this important work of Christ. • Students will learn the basics of Wesleyan theology, which are shared in the broader Christian community, and distinctives that are part of the divine calling of Methodism. • Students will also be offered resources to further their learning.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to: 1. Define key terms that express aspects of God's saving work in Christ. 2. Give a compelling reason for why God has established the Global Methodist Church to serve his purposes. 3. Describe some of the distinctive teachings and practices of the Global Methodist Church and the reasons for them. 4. Express why Wesleyan theology relies on 66 books of the Protestant Bible as unique revelation from God that equips God's people for living in a confused and conflicted world. 5. Describe some of the means of grace through which God transforms people into the likeness of Christ. 6. Identify and address some of the doctrinal differences from Wesleyan theology Certified Lay Ministers will encounter in their parish and community. 7. Apply Wesleyan theology in ministering to broken, lost, and hurting people. 8. Acquire resources (people, audio/video, written) to grow understanding and partnership with Christ in ministry.

PRE-COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. **REQUIRED:** Read The Global Methodist Church's Book of Doctrines and Discipline. Available at: <https://globalmethodist.org/what-we-believe>. [PURPOSE: to familiarize yourself with the theology and polity of the GMC]
2. **REQUIRED:** Read and have a copy of The Catechism of the Global Methodist Church with you for reference during our sessions. [PURPOSE: to discuss the basic and non-negotiable beliefs of the Global Methodist Church]
3. **REQUIRED:** Ask a GMC pastor how the Methodist Distinctive teaching on holiness are practiced in your church. Be prepared to share your answer. [PURPOSE: to provide perspective on Wesleyan thought regarding Salvation]

4. REQUIRED: Read “Chapter 1: A Theology of Church Growth,” and “Chapter 2: A Theology of Church Life,” from the 2001 doctoral dissertation by the instructor (see attachments)

[PURPOSE: to provide students a framework of thought to begin discussions on Wesleyan theology, polity, and doctrine]

5. REQUIRED: Email the instructor (by August 9th) with at least one question from your assigned readings, your discussion with the pastor, or from the topic of GMC history, polity, and theology. [PURPOSE: to prepare a means to address concerns of the students in our sessions]

6. RECOMMENDED: Read John Wesley’s treatise on Baptism (see attachment) [PURPOSE: to witness how Methodism addresses the prominent sacramental view of salvation]

7. RECOMMENDED: Read *Perfect Love: Recovering Entire Sanctification—the Lost Power of the Methodist Movement* by Kevin M. Watson

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES: This course combines lectures and readings with discussion and personal sharing. More than the information presented, personal relationships formed in these sessions, and continued beyond them, are part of the equipping and empowering work of the Holy Spirit for ministry.

COURSE OUTLINE:

1. Wesleyan Theology: Beginnings - Creation and the Fall
2. Wesleyan Theology: Redemption - God’s Pursuit of Estranged and Condemned Children
3. Wesleyan Theology: Revelation – The Word Spoken, Written, and Incarnate
4. Wesleyan Theology: Salvation – The Work of God.
5. GMC History and Distinctive Theology
6. GMC History and Distinctive Polity
7. Doctrinal Questions, Concerns, and Clarity

COURSE SESSIONS:

9:00-10:15 AM: Wesleyan Theology: Beginnings & Redemption Break

10:30-11:45: Wesleyan Theology: Revelation & Salvation Lunch Break

1:00-2:15 PM: GMC History & Distinctive Theology and Polity Break

14:30-15:45: Doctrine & Polity Questions Break 16:00-

17:00: Doctrinal Concerns and Clarity

RECOMMENDED READING:

Perfect Love: Recovering Entire Sanctification—the Lost Power of the Methodist Movement by Kevin M. Watson

Power Evangelism and Power Healing by John Wimber

Revival Fires by Wesley Deuwel

Doctrine, Spirit, and Discipline by Kevin Watson

SELECTED RESOURCES: *Church History in Plain Language* by Bruce L. Shelley
Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith by Henry H. Knight II & F. Douglas Powe, Jr, *Discipleship Resources Essential Bible Study Tools for Ministry* by David R. Bauer
Customs and Culture: The Communication of the Christian Faith by Eugene A. Nida *The Question of Canon: Challenging the Status Quo in the New Testament Debate* by Michael J. Krueger
The Apostolic Congregation by George Hunter

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:

Wesley Gabel is married, has four children, three grandchildren and lives in suburban Minneapolis. He received a BA from South Dakota State University (1977), a MDiv from Asbury Theological Seminary (1981), and a DMin from Fuller Theological Seminary (2001). He retired in 2022 after 41 years of service in Minnesota United Methodist churches, where he served in rural, county seat, and urban churches that involved mixed races and cultures. In addition to leading various non-profit organizations, he founded an ecumenical ministry that united churches of various denominations and ethnicities in evangelism, prayer, and service of the poor.

MISSION AND EVANGELISM

Instructor Information:

Course Syllabus Instructor: Rev. Zach Kingery

Phone: 605-838-6303

Email: zach@dirtyroadsnetwork.com

Course Description/Overview: This course will examine the theology and practices of evangelism as an expression of the Missio Dei within a Wesleyan Methodist paradigm.

Objectives

- Reflect on and articulate a Wesleyan and primitive Christian heritage of evangelism.
- Develop a theology of evangelism grounded in Scripture, the Gospel, and the mission of God.
- Conceptualize contextual strategies and models of evangelism.

Required Resources

Bible

Nothing to Do but to Save Souls: John Wesley's Charge to His Preachers Author: Robert Emerson Coleman ISBN-13: 9780310754817

The Spirit of Methodism: Missionary Zeal and the Gift of an Evangelist Author: Philip R. Meadows
The Asbury Journal 74/1: 8-38 © 2019 Asbury Theological Seminary PDF Download:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e-RblhTcqGpzMz-A3dDufUHajfayUUqc/view?usp=sharing>

Assignments

● Read *Nothing to Do but to Save Souls* and provide a reflection while answering the following questions related to the text:

1. What is the main premise (thesis) of the book?
2. What insights does Coleman give you on Wesleyan evangelism?
3. How can these insights help you understand our mission and conceptualize an approach to evangelism?

- Read the PDF *The Spirit of Methodism* and provide a summary of the text. Write down any areas where you agree or disagree. Write a conclusion answering “What does this mean for me, my ministry, and the Church?”

Additional Information: Each assignment should be no more than 4000 words and no less than 500 words. Both assignments are due no later than Tuesday, November. 04, 2025 via email.

More Certified Lay Ministry Information

UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

Certified Lay Minister Certification Process Checklist

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone/s: _____

E-mail: _____

Church Membership: _____

Certification—¶402. TBOD _____ P

Professing member of a local Global Methodist Church (or its predecessor) for at least two years. _____

Satisfactory completion of a course in lay ministry, approved by the Commission on Higher Education and Ministry, covering the church’s doctrine, history, polity, and basic Bible knowledge as follows:

_____ Global Methodist History, Polity, Theology

_____ Congregational Care and Ethics

_____ Mission and Evangelism

_____ Understanding the Call; Spiritual Gifts

_____ Basic Bible Training

_____ Satisfactory completion of at least one advanced course in lay ministry, approved by the Commission on Higher Education and Ministry, on an area of ministry (e.g., preaching worship, leading, caring ministry, etc.) Coursework or training in other settings may be counted to meet this requirement at the discretion of the board of ministry.

_____ Course completed and date of completion

_____ National background check.

_____ Written recommendation by the pastor and endorsement by majority vote of the pastor-parish relations committee and charge conference.

_____ Interview and approval by the annual conference board of ministry.

Recommended for certification by Upper Midwest BOM: _____ Yes _____ No

If no, state *reaso(s)*: _____

Date: _____ BOM Chair: _____

Recertification—¶402. TBOD (Required every 3 years)

_____ Submitted an annual report to charge conference and annual conference board of ministry outlining what ministry had been done during the year and giving evidence of satisfactory performance.

_____ Endorsement by majority vote of the charge conference annually.

_____ Year One _____ Year Two _____ Year Three _____

Written recommendation for renewal by the pastor. _____

Obtained recommendation for recertification from presiding elder. _____

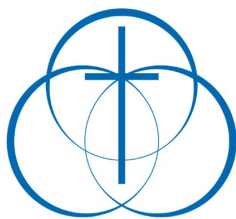
Completion of an additional national background check every three years. _____

Satisfactory completion of at least one additional course in lay ministry, approved by the Commission on Higher Education and Ministry, in the last three years.

_____ Interviewed with BOM for recommendation of recertification. Recommended for recertification by Upper Midwest BOM: _____ Yes _____ No

If no, state reason(s): _____

Date: _____ BOM Chair: _____



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

CERTIFIED LAY MINISTER
Upper Midwest Board of Ministry
RECOMMENDATION FORM
For Certification

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Name of Church: _____
Church Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
District: _____
Work Phone: _____
Church Phone: _____
Email: _____

Recommendation of Pastor and Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

We recommend this person to be certified as a lay minister. Date: _____

Signed: _____ (Pastor)

Recommendation of Charge Conference

The charge conference of _____ Church
recommends _____ be certified as a lay
minister.

Date: _____

Signed: _____ (Chair of the Church Council/
Administrative Board)

Date: _____

Signed: _____ (Presiding Elder)

NOTE: If recommendations cannot be made, please do not sign the form, but indicate reasons why you do not recommend this person be certified as a CLM.

COMMENTS:



CERTIFIED LAY MINISTER

Upper Midwest Board of Ministry

RECOMMENDATION FORM

For Re-Certification

Name: _____

Address: _____

City State/Zip: _____

Name of Church _____

Church Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

District: _____ Work Phone: _____

Church Phone: _____ Email: _____

District: _____

Recommendation of Pastor and Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

We recommend this person to be re-certified as a lay minister. Date: _____

Signed: _____ (Pastor)

Recommendation of Charge Conference

The charge conference of _____ Church
recommends _____ be re-certified as a
lay minister. Date: _____

Signed: _____ (Chair of the Church Council/
Administrative Board)

Date: _____

Signed: _____ (Presiding Elder)

NOTE: If recommendations cannot be made, please do not sign the form, but indicate reasons why you do not recommend this person be certified as a CLM.

COMMENTS:



UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

Certified Lay Minister Transfer from the UMC

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone/s: _____ E-mail: _____

Church Membership: _____

District: _____

Certification as a CLM in The Global Methodist Church—¶402.4.c. TBOD

_____ Certification as a lay minister in The United Methodist or predecessor Church denomination.

_____ Satisfactory completion of a course in lay ministry (¶402.2.b.TBOD), approved by the Commission on Higher Education and Ministry, covering the church's doctrine, history, polity, and basic Bible knowledge as follows:

_____ Global Methodist History, Polity, Theology

_____ Congregational Care and Ethics

_____ Mission and Evangelism

_____ Understanding the Call; Spiritual Gifts

_____ Basic Bible Training

_____ Satisfactory completion of at least one advanced course in lay ministry, (¶402.2.c.TBOD), approved by the Commission on Higher Education and Ministry, on an area of ministry (e.g., preaching worship, leading, caring ministry, etc.) Coursework or training in other settings may be counted to meet this requirement at the discretion of the board of ministry. _____

(Course completed and date of completion)

_____ Subscribe to the doctrinal standards and Social Witness of the GMC Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline.

_____ Agree to abide by the GMC discipline.

_____ Interview and approval by the annual conference board of ministry.

Subsequent renewal in that new annual conference is in accordance with ¶402.3. Those not meeting the requirements of (¶402.2.b.-c. are not certified but may work toward certification and are not required to repeat coursework they have already completed.

Recommended for certification by Upper Midwest BOM: _____ Yes _____ No

If no, state reason(s): _____

Date: _____ BOM Chair: _____

FROM THE BOOK OF DOCTRINES AND DISCIPLINES

402. CERTIFIED LAY MINISTERS 1. A certified lay minister is a professing member of a local congregation who has received special training in Wesleyan doctrine and our denominational polity, and endorsement by the church in order to serve the church as laity. This category encompasses all those who were previously named certified lay servants, certified lay speakers, certified lay ministers, deaconesses, home missionaries, and lay missionaries. Certified lay ministers may work in any area of the church's ministry, including leading, teaching, proclaiming/preaching, evangelizing, worship, and caring ministry. As laity, a certified lay minister is not subject to the approval or appointment of the bishop or presiding elder, although they may request the lay minister serve in a ministry capacity outside his or her own local church. 2. Qualifications. Persons desiring to be certified lay ministers must fulfill the following qualifications: a. Professing member of a local Global Methodist congregation (or its predecessor) for at least two years. b. Satisfactory completion of a course in lay ministry, approved by the Commission on Higher Education and Ministry, covering the church's doctrine, history, polity, and basic Bible knowledge. c. Satisfactory completion of at least one advanced course in lay ministry, approved by the Commission on Higher Education and Ministry, on an area of ministry (e.g., preaching, worship leading, caring ministry, etc.). Coursework or training in other settings may be counted to meet this requirement at the discretion of the board of ministry. d. National background check. e. Written recommendation by the pastor and endorsement by majority vote of the pastor-parish relations committee and the charge conference. f. Interview and approval by the annual conference board of ministry. A public service of commitment recognizing the certification is recommended. 3. Renewal of Certification. Certification for lay ministry may be renewed every three years by the annual conference board of ministry based on the following: a. An annual report to the charge conference and annual conference board of ministry outlining what ministry had been done during the year and giving evidence of satisfactory performance. b. Endorsement by majority vote of the charge conference annually. c. Written recommendation for renewal by the pastor. d. Completion of an additional national background check every three years e. Satisfactory completion of at least one additional advanced course in lay ministry, approved by the Commission on Higher Education and Ministry, in the last three years. 4. Conditions of service. a. A certified lay minister serves as a volunteer, but an honorarium and expenses for pulpit supply or other specialized ministries outside one's own local church are appropriate. A certified lay minister serving as a lay staff member of a church or other ministry should be equitably compensated for their work. b. Certification as a lay minister may be transferred to another annual conference if the person relocates. Subsequent renewal in that new annual conference is in accordance with ¶ 402.3. c. Persons who held active certification in a predecessor denomination shall automatically be received as certified lay ministers in the Global Methodist Church, provided that they have met the requirements of ¶ 402.2b-c through coursework in the predecessor denomination, subscribe to the doctrinal standards and Social Witness of this Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, and agree to abide by its discipline. Subsequent renewal is in accordance with ¶ 402.3. Those not meeting the requirements of ¶ 402.2b-c are not certified but may work toward certification and are not required to repeat coursework they have already completed.

Appointments, Assignments and Moving to Senior Status

LAURA GREENLEE

Moving to Senior Status June 1, 2025



Join us in Congratulating Laura Greenlee as she moves into Senior Status!

We are thanking God for all the ways her life has touched so many
as she has faithfully served the Lord and His people.

We wish Laura God's best in this New Chapter!

GLOBAL METHODIST ANNOUNCEMENTS



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

The Beauty of Holiness
A Spirit-Filled Life. A Holy Calling.

WE'RE GOING TO JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

General Conference 2026

With great joy and gratitude, we are thrilled to announce that the

2026 General Conference of the Global Methodist Church will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from August 30 – September 5, 2026!

This marks the first time our denomination's General Conference will take place on the African continent—a powerful and visible expression of our identity as a truly global movement.

Find out more at the following web site for General Conference:

<https://globalmethodist.org/2026-general-conference-v2/>



Because We Believe in the Power of Prayer: A Call from the Assembly of Bishops

Dear Global Methodist Community,

Grace and peace to you from all of us who serve on the Assembly of Bishops. We write today with hearts full—both in celebration and in sorrow. We celebrate the incredible harvest happening across the world as Methodist-minded people find a home in the Global Methodist Church. **It is a joy to share that more than 5,000 member churches have joined the GMC**, with new inquiries and affiliations arriving daily from every corner of the globe.

At the same time, we carry a deep burden. Many in our connection are rejoicing, but others are suffering. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, “If one part suffers, every part suffers with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26). And so, we are calling our global connection to pray.

This is a time to intercede—especially for our brothers and sisters on the continent of Africa.

Many are aware of the violent clashes between Methodist factions in Nigeria. Fewer may know of the broader unrest sweeping across the continent. From **Ethiopia to the Democratic Republic of Congo, from Mozambique and Nigeria to South Sudan, Sudan, Liberia, Zimbabwe, Niger, and Rwanda**—conflict, political instability, demonstrations, terrorist activity, and civil wars persist.

While many of these struggles are not directly related to denominational matters, we know that violence breeds violence. And as followers of Christ, we are called to grieve with all who grieve.

In moments like these, prayer can feel ineffective—but we believe it is our most powerful response.

In prayer, we cry out to the One who "tore down the dividing wall of hostility" (Ephesians 2:14). We intercede because we hear Paul's warning to the Galatians: "If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other" (Galatians 5:15).

We heed Abner's ancient plea: "Must we always be fighting each other? Don't you realize that bitterness is the only result?" (2 Samuel 2:26).

Through prayer, we are aligning our hearts with the Lord's—hearts that beat for the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed. And in prayer, we have been led to repentance, crying out for God to break our hearts for what breaks His.

Because we believe in the power of prayer, we are calling all Global Methodists to Forty Days of Prayer to Pentecost, beginning Wednesday, April 30, and ending on Pentecost Sunday, June 8.

We invite churches, annual conferences, and individual believers to find meaningful ways to pray—especially for Africa—during these forty days. We encourage you to search the Scriptures, follow global news, and pray as the Spirit leads. While we've highlighted regions experiencing active violence, we invite you to broaden your intercession across the continent and beyond.

In addition, we are working with the Prayer Network and the Global Methodist Church Communications Team to organize a **virtual Prayer Gathering**, providing a moment for our entire connection to gather online and pray as one body. We will share more details soon.

Thank you for joining us on this journey of prayer as we walk toward Pentecost.

Together, we believe the Spirit will move in powerful ways. And when we look back, we will be able to say with the saints: "Thus far, the Lord has helped us" (1 Samuel 7:12).

Until there is peace on earth,

The Assembly of Bishops

The Global Methodist Church



The Kingdom of God is at Hand

By Dr. Wes Griffin

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the Gospel.” Jesus then calls His first disciples, drives out an unclean spirit, and heals many people of various diseases. Today, we are called to join Christ in the work of advancing the Kingdom of God around the world.

At the General Conference in Costa Rica, the Global Methodist Church formalized a Commission to focus on evangelism, church multiplication, mission mobilization, unreached people groups, and disaster response. Today, this commission is known as the Commission on Kingdom Advancement, whose purpose is to mobilize the Global Methodist Church to advance the Kingdom of God as we “make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness around the globe.”

May is Kingdom Advancement Month

May is designated as Kingdom Advancement month, and for the next four weeks, we will celebrate the incredible achievements of the Global Methodist Church, and we will also share the excellent resources that are available to you as part of our global movement. The Global Methodist Church is to be a missional movement of people who are multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the earth who flourish in scriptural holiness as we worship passionately, love extravagantly and witness boldly.

The Whole Counsel of God for All the Peoples of the World

The Global Methodist Church mobilizes the gifts and contributions of each part of the church, working as partners in the Gospel with equal voice and leadership. We are committed to spreading the Gospel where the Gospel is needed the most. One focus is the unreached people groups of the world where over 3 billion people live in more than 7000 people groups. We are committed to reaching the whole world for Christ.



Five Priorities

Five priorities define our unique witness to the world:

- **Baptisms:** Baptisms as a result of effectively reaching people with the Gospel
- **New Churches:** New churches planted as a result of church multiplication
- **Missions Mobilization:** Acts 1.8 congregations as a result of mission mobilization
- **Unreached People Groups:** Apostolic engagement as a result of outreach to Unreached People Groups
- **Disaster Response:** Vulnerable people served as a result of compassionate disaster response

Bishop Mark Webb explains, “The GMC was birthed through a unified, global commitment to spread the Gospel. Local churches and annual conferences are at the center of our world-wide ministry, and the Kingdom Advancement Commission exists to serve the denomination to help us discover, develop and deploy the gifts of all our members around the world so the Great Commission will be achieved.”

The Global Methodist Church officially began operations on May 1, 2022. Today, we are a growing global movement with almost **5000 congregations** in **24 Nations** organized through almost **40 annual conferences** with more annual conferences being developed.

The words of Jesus are just as relevant today as when He spoke them, “The Kingdom of God is at hand!”

As Global Methodists, will you commit to do your part to advance the Kingdom of God?

Dr. Wes Griffin is the Chair of the Kingdom Advancement Commission. He leads a global, world-class team of leaders who are focused on mobilizing the Global Methodist Church for missional excellence. Formerly, Wes led an organization for 25 years that equipped over 400,000 leaders in more than 150 nations. He was also the founding dean of the Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary after the collapse of the Soviet Union.



[New Article Archive Page](#)

Have you missed a past article in the newsletter or wanted to go back and read an update again? Now You Can! We have added a page on the Upper Midwest Global Methodist Church website for these past articles and more. Click the link below to go back and read news updates & inspiration from our conference leaders.

Link to Archive Page:

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Appointments, Assignments and Moving to Senior Status



MORE INFORMATION

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



Global Methodist Church
“Across the Globe” Newsletter

Link for ‘Across the Globe’:

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

Important Dates



June 13–15, 2025
[Annual Conference](#)

September 17–19, 2025
New Room Conference

September 22–26, 2025
Bishop Webb visits the Upper Midwest

September 25–27, 2025
Nebraska GMC Gathering

November 6–18, 2025
Mission Trip to South Africa

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!

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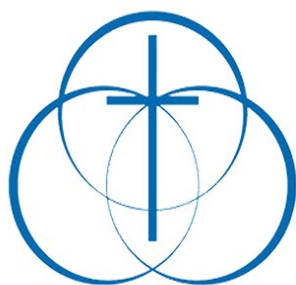


Scheduled Zoom Prayer Meetings

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)prayer@uppermidwestgmc.org



GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

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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