

## What's In This Issue:

**February 2025**

- Let's Grow Global in 2025 by Rev. James Parks
- ANNOUNCING! Women's Ministry in the Upper Midwest
- Prayer Team Update: The Privilege of Prayer
- Global Methodist Day at the Iowa State Capital
- 2024 Giving Statements: Important Information
- Let's Celebrate: 2024 End of Year Statistics
- Serving In Our Conference: The Upper Midwest Needs You!
- Save the Date for 2025 Annual Conference!
- New Appointments and Assignments
- Church Resources Available: Branded Resources for Your Congregation
- Join the Conversation: Global Methodist Church Connectional Conversation



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## Let's Grow Global in 2025!

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*by Rev. James Parks, Upper Midwest Conference Superintendent*

One of our priorities for 2025 is to Grow Global. As followers of Christ, our faith is not just personal—it's deeply communal. While community certainly includes our local neighborhoods and the people around us, it's also so much more.

Our denomination is less than three years old, and we're still discovering what it means to be part of a world-wide body of believers. Many of us have focused on leading our local churches through this new thing God is doing, with much of our attention on our immediate communities. Now, as we step into a new year, it's time to lift our eyes and look beyond our local context.

Growing global means serving not only those in our towns, cities, and counties but also our brothers and sisters across the globe. As a conference, we've decided to focus our global efforts on partnering with the church in South Africa.

I'm excited to share some ways you and your congregation can be part of this partnership:

### 1. Pray

Prayer is the foundation of everything we do. Will you join me in praying regularly for our brothers and sisters in South Africa? I'm inspired by Jesus' prayer in John 17:20-21:

*"I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."*

Let's pray for unity through the Holy Spirit, that our partnership will strengthen the global church and lead more people to faith in Jesus. Ask the Spirit to guide your prayers and join me in lifting up South Africa consistently.

### 2. Pray and Give

As you pray, consider how God might be calling you and your congregation to support this partnership financially. At our Annual Conference, we'll finalize a specific plan of support that will include:

- Financial contributions to their annual conference.
- Resources for leadership training and equipping laity.
- Support for local church pastors, many of whom in South Africa serve without a salary.

Would your church consider adding a line item to your budget for this partnership? Or perhaps hosting an annual fundraiser or taking up a special offering? Begin praying now about how you can play a role, so you're ready to respond as the Spirit leads.

### 3. Pray and Go

We're thrilled to announce our first mission trip opportunity through the Upper Midwest Conference partnership with South Africa. From November 6-18, 2025, we'll send a team to South Africa in collaboration with Blessman International. The cost is \$2,550 plus airfare and there will be an informational Zoom meeting on Saturday, April 5 at 10:00am to ask questions and get more information. In the meantime, take a look at this short mission trip overview video.



You can watch the video on YouTube by following this link: <https://youtu.be/cqzEAT6WFgE>



Start praying now about whether you might be called to join this trip. Pray for discernment and for the team to be blessed as they connect with and serve the people of South Africa. If you're interested, let us know at [contact@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:contact@uppermidwestgmc.org)

## A Global Perspective

Last year, I had the incredible privilege of spending time in South Africa. I was reminded of how vast and magnificent our God is and how dependent we are on Him. That experience reinforced how God calls us to be a blessing to others, near and far.



This year, let's embrace a global mindset. Together, we can celebrate God's reach and work around the world—and join in that work with prayerful hearts, generous spirits, and willing hands.

## Let's Grow Global in 2025!

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## ANNOUNCING!

### Women's Ministry in the Upper Midwest

After many months of prayer, conversations with women all across the Global Methodist Church, and more prayer, the Transitional Leadership Council (TLC) of the Global Methodist Church approved on 12/13/24 a proposal for Women's Ministries. I am pleased to share this good news, and to invite all women to join in this new movement of God in the Upper Midwest Conference.

We've already taken some steps by leading break-outs at the Convening Conference in Watertown, and hosting Pastor Carla Johnson in our break-out at the Annual Conference in 2024. Of course, we are planning another gathering for 2025!

### What would you like to do?

Each Conference has been permitted to select a name for our Women's Ministries. God has blessed us on this journey and He has much more in store for us.

We chose **"Rejoice!"**

Stay tuned for more details. Our goals are to connect and resource Women's Ministries across the Upper Midwest GMC. We are eager to hear your questions, dreams, hopes, and success stories of women's ministries in your setting.

We'd love to hear from you!

Rejoice! Becky Heeren,  
Upper Midwest Conference Coordinator for Global Methodist Women's Ministries  
[womensministry@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:womensministry@uppermidwestgmc.org)

**"We rejoice in whom God has made us!"**

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## Prayer Team Update: The Privilege of Prayer

I am Carol Beacon, a layperson who has been a member of the Conference Prayer Team since the beginning of the ministry. I joined that prayer team because I know how important prayer is for the church. If there is no prayer, there is no power. God works through the prayers of His people. It is a blessing to pray with other be-

lievers. We feel God's presence when we pray, as He promised to be present when we gathered together in His name.

Prayer is essential for the Christian. It is our connection with God, our very lifeline. The Bible is filled with examples of prayer. Daniel was a man of prayer even in the face of threats of death. Jesus prayed often. His connection with His Father was so natural and vital. Jesus would rather pray than sleep or eat. Reading about Jesus in the Gospels, one is struck by the intimacy between Jesus and His Father.

So many times, we do not feel that sense of intimacy with our Heavenly Father. We draw back, ashamed of the ways we fall short. We do not feel worthy to stand in His presence and ask for anything. However, He is so willing to give Himself to us. Why do we ask so little of Him? He is the One who owns the cattle on a thousand hills, yet we feel unsure to take from His hand.

Ephesians 2:13 says, "But now in Christ Jesus, you who were once far off have been made near by the blood of Christ. "We who are not worthy but have been made worthy by the blood of Christ. So, let us freely take what Christ's work has accomplished for us and boldly enter into His Presence with our petitions.

E.M. Bounds wrote that prayer should not be regarded as a duty but a privilege to enjoy a rare delight, always revealing new beauty. So, we should see prayer as a delight. Come boldly and delight in our Father's Presence. As John Piper writes, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." Isn't this what Jesus meant when He declared He was?

### **Zoom Prayer Meeting**

Please come and be blessed by joining our prayer meeting on the **3rd Tuesday at 7:00 PM (CT)**. Please email us at [prayer@uppermidwestgmc.ogr](mailto:prayer@uppermidwestgmc.ogr) to request the Zoom link to join us.

### **Conference Daily Prayer**

We have emphasized a Noon Prayer for our Conference for the past year. We will emphasize it for the next few months as a daily prayer, which you can pray at any time, day or night. May God bless you in a special way as you pray the Conference prayer.

*Heavenly Father, we love You because You first loved us and forgave us. Please help us to love all and forgive those who hurt us individually and collectively. Jesus, transform our broken hearts into joy and beauty as Your Temple. We pray for forgiveness, healing, and unity to flow from heaven through me and my church and reach the nations as far as the east is from the west for Your Kingdom and glory. Help us to demonstrate Your love today. Come, Holy Spirit, come! We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

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## UPPER MIDWEST ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Global Methodist Day at the Iowa State Capital

The Church Ambassador Network has been connecting pastors to state government leaders for 11 years in all three branches of state government with the goal of investing in our state leaders on a personal level, leadership level and as a partner in meeting needs in our community.

The heart of this ministry is to see the Church bring the Gospel to our modern kings and be the epicenter of solutions to needs facing our communities.

### ***THIS IS NOT A LOBBYING MINISTRY***

Our relationships with government leaders are non-partisan and Christ-centered with all meetings beginning in the Word and ending in prayer.



Our denominational day is **March 25, 2025** and we would love to have you join us. Last year a dozen Global Methodist Pastors came to bless and be blessed (pictured Andrew Happ and Patrick Munyakazi during last year's event.)

Our Global Methodist Capitol Visit will be **March 25th from 9am to 12pm** with lunch to follow. We will also enjoy some time with fellow Global Methodist pastors from across Iowa after lunch from 1pm to 3pm. We would love for you to come.

Please Register at [https://web.charityengine.net/Default.aspx?tsid=31831&sm\\_guid=ODQ2MzcyfDY0MzA4NDg0fC0xfG5vYWwhAdGhIZmFtaWx5bGVhZGVyLmNvbXw3NzYzOTM4fHwwfDB8MjQ1MDkzMzg2fDEwNTh8MHwwfHw4NDE0NTI8MA2](https://web.charityengine.net/Default.aspx?tsid=31831&sm_guid=ODQ2MzcyfDY0MzA4NDg0fC0xfG5vYWwhAdGhIZmFtaWx5bGVhZGVyLmNvbXw3NzYzOTM4fHwwfDB8MjQ1MDkzMzg2fDEwNTh8MHwwfHw4NDE0NTI8MA2)

If you have any questions, I would be glad to assist. We would love to have you join us alongside other pastors at the Capitol. Laity we ask you encourage your pastor to strongly consider participating.

Pastor Mike Morgan  
Global Methodist Church representative  
Church Ambassadors Network



We are pleased to inform you that your 2024 Upper Midwest Giving Statement, which serves as a record of your charitable contributions for tax purposes, was emailed to you.

We encourage you to review your statement carefully to ensure its accuracy. If you find any discrepancies, please contact the Conference office as soon as possible, and we will be happy to assist you.

***We are deeply grateful for your generosity and support throughout the year.  
Your contributions make a significant difference in the work we do together.***

If you did not see the statement in your inbox, please check your spam folder. If it's there, kindly mark it as "Not Spam" so that future communications from us will arrive directly in your inbox. If you still don't see your statement, please reach out to the Conference office at [contact@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:contact@uppermidwestgmc.org) for assistance.

**Thank you again for your continued generosity and support!**

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**As we celebrate the New Year, let us also celebrate all that God has done this past year in the Upper Midwest Conference.**

We ask that someone from each church take a few minutes to gather the information for the questions listed below and then submit it via the 2024 End of Year Statistical Form.

Please submit your church's information by **Saturday, February 15, 2025.**



**Here are the Questions on the Form:**

1. Total number of Professing Members.
2. Total number of Baptisms.
3. Total Professions of Faith.
4. Average In-person Worship Attendance of Your Primary Services (Only count those in the service).
5. Average Households Who Worship Online (Number of views over a minute the week the service was live).
6. Number of Adults Involved In Classes, Bands, Accountability Groups and Small Groups (Not total attendance, but individuals involved).
7. Average Attendance of Youth in Discipleship Ministries (Ages 12-18).
8. Average Attendance of Kids in Discipleship Ministries (Ages 0-11).
9. Number of People Serving in Missions (Mission trips, Compassion and Evangelism Ministries with a purpose of serving people not connected to the local church etc.).
10. Total Operating Income.

**This report is a time to celebrate and document all the ways God has shown up, shown out, and exceeded your expectations this past year.**

**[Access the 2024 End of Year Statistical Form Here](https://forms.gle/gM8nbwYDiCHfas7a7) https://forms.gle/gM8nbwYDiCHfas7a7**

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## The Upper Midwest Conference Needs You!

**Each of us is blessed with different spiritual gifts, and we are asked to use those gifts in ways that glorify God.**

As we prepare for the 2025 Annual Conference, we have begun looking for people who are passionate about a particular area of ministry and desire to help the Upper Midwest Conference continue to grow and thrive.

We are blessed with more than 190 churches in the conference, making it hard to know the gifts and talents of each member. Therefore, we ask you to prayerfully consider a self-nomination to serve in the conference leadership.

Every committee has a 3-year term, and voted on in June at the Annual Conference.

### **Committees, Teams and Ministries for self-nomination include:**

- Missions
- Multiplication
- Leadership-Development
- Disaster Response
- Prayer
- Finance
- Conference Communications

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve. If you feel lead to serve in one of these areas or nominate someone please fill out the self-nomination form by following the link below.

**[Self-Nomination Form](https://forms.gle/2YanuFHCWHF5fiBMA)** <https://forms.gle/2YanuFHCWHF5fiBMA>

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## 2025 Annual Conference Save the Date



**Friday - Sunday, June 13 - 15, 2025**  
at the Convention Center in Sioux City, IA

### **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.

**The Courtyard Marriott Downtown/Convention Center**

*(attached to the Convention Center)*

901 4th St, Sioux City, Iowa | Phone number: 712-202-2700

**Rate for king:** \$114 per night

**Rate for double queen:** \$124 per night

**\*NOTE:** After following the link below to make your reservation please make sure to adjust reservation calendar to your dates before reserving.

**Marriott Room Block Link** <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1722275294872&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

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**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

**\*NOTE:** After following the link below to make your reservation please make sure to adjust reservation calendar to your dates before reserving.

**Avid Hotel Room Block Link:** [https://www.ihg.com/avidhotels/hotels/us/en/find-hotels/select-roomrate?](https://www.ihg.com/avidhotels/hotels/us/en/find-hotels/select-roomrate?fromRedi-)

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**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

**\*NOTE:** After following the link below to make your reservation please make sure to adjust reservation calendar to your dates before reserving.

**Marriott Riverfront Room Block Link:** <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?guestreslink2=true&id=1737571649989&key=GRP>

***For more information about a hotel or making a reservation please contact the hotel directly using the phone number provided above.***



## New Appointments and Assignments



### NEW APPOINTMENT

**Tiffani Brewer**

1/1 - Prairie Chapel Marion, IA & Alburnett, IA

### NEW LAY MINISTRY ASSIGNMENT

**Andrew Bee**

2/1 - Living Hope Lisbon, IA

**View the updated list of appointments, churches, and districts in the  
Upper Midwest conference in our Index of Churches.**

Link to Index of Churches: [https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/\\_files/ugd/e430ce\\_25218afd11ff4069895a0b66ccf6df77.pdf](https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/_files/ugd/e430ce_25218afd11ff4069895a0b66ccf6df77.pdf)



### Branded Resources For Your Congregation

Now in conjunction with the Global Methodist Church, we are excited to offer some branded church resources including a **Membership Certificate, Certificate of Celebration, and a Baptism Certificate.**

These official documents from the Global Methodist Church are PDFs that you can download and digitally fill in information, or print blank and write in as needed. To ensure branding we ask that you do not edit the design of any of these documents.

***If you would like to receive any of these certificates please contact the  
Upper Midwest Conference Administrative Assistant or click below.***

**[Request Branded Resources](mailto:contact@uppermidwestgmc.org) contact@uppermidwestgmc.org**

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# GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH**

**CONNECTIONAL**  
*Conversations*

**DATE**  
FEBRUARY 13, 2025

**TIME**  
8:00 AM CT

**REGISTER NOW**

**Q&A FEATURING**

**BISHOP MARK WEBB**  
Dean, Assembly of Bishops

**REV. DR. JESSICA LAGRONE**  
Chair, Connectional Council

**REV. MIKE SCHÄFER**  
Chief Connectional Officer

**DIANNE BURNETT**  
Executive Director Communications

## Join Us for the 2nd Global Methodist Church Connectional Conversation

We're thrilled to bring you the next installment of Connectional Conversations, a unique opportunity to engage with key leaders of the Global Methodist Church.

We're excited to share that this webinar has a capacity of 3,000 participants, so no need to worry about maxing out at 100 this time—there's plenty of room for everyone to join!

We look forward to connecting with you—and enjoying a smooth, glitch-free event this time!

### Have a question you want answered?

Let us know!

Submissions will be accepted until **Noon CT on Monday, February 10, 2025**

Follow the link below to submit your question now!

**SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS HERE:** <https://6x7ieqbbb.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?>

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### Did You Miss the 1st Connectional Conversation?

The first-ever GMC Connectional Conversations, a virtual town hall was held on January 16, 2025! You can watch this recording to hear updates on the vision forward, new commissions, communication plans, and initiatives from our Assembly of Bishops to spread Scriptural Holiness.

**Watch it by following the link below.**

**January 16, 2025 Connectional Conversation:** <https://vimeo.com/1047518292>

# MORE INFORMATION

## Be the First to Know!

## Important Dates to Remember



Sign up for our Newsletter!

[Subscribe Here](https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/newsletter)

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

\*\*Note: The Deadline for Newsletter Articles/Info is the 20th of the Month prior to publication Month.  
*Ex. January 20th for February Newsletter, etc.*

**May 1-3, 2025**

Beyond These Walls

**June 13-15, 2025**

Annual Conference

\*More info about these and other events on our website [Events page](#).

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



## 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 the Noon Prayer](https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/prayer)

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

## Upper Midwest Conference Prayer Opportunities

### Scheduled Zoom Prayer Meetings

You are invited to join the Conference-wide Zoom Prayer.

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

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

[Request Link for Zoom Prayer](mailto:prayer@uppermidwestgmc.org)

[prayer@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:prayer@uppermidwestgmc.org)

## Global Methodist Church “Crossroads”

### Email Newsletter



Stay up to date on events, articles, and more from Global Methodist Church communications. Click below to subscribe to these weekly emails sharing stories and opportunities from across our new denomination.

[Subscribe Here](#)

<https://globalmethodist.org/connect/#newsletter>

## Bold Witness

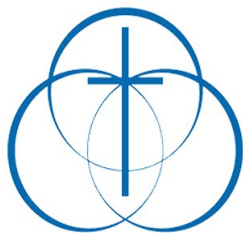


Take a minute or two and fill out this quick form to celebrate something going on in your local congregation, or in another local Global Methodist Church in your area.

Let's get excited about how God is using us in this season!

[Share Your Story](#)

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



# 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.*

416 S. Minnesota St., Mitchell, SD 57301 | 605.299.1142 | [contact@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:contact@uppermidwestgmc.org) | [uppermidwestgmc.org](http://uppermidwestgmc.org)