



GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

Special Edition Newsletter

June 2026

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Welcome to the Upper Midwest Annual Conference

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

Our theme this year, “The Path Before Us: A Spirit-Filled Life,” reminds us that as we move forward together, we can only go where the Holy Spirit leads. God is calling us to be filled daily with the Holy Spirit so that we may be His witnesses in our communities and around the world.

This year, we will celebrate what God has been doing throughout our conference while also looking ahead to the priorities and opportunities God is placing before us. Our theme verse is Galatians 5:25: “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

We are not called into a holy huddle where we simply gather together. We are sent by the Spirit into the world to share the love, grace, and hope of Jesus Christ. As we walk together in faith, we trust that the Spirit will continue to guide, equip, and empower us for the work ahead.

My hope and prayer for our time together is that we will grow deeper in our walk with the Spirit. May we be renewed and refreshed as we pray, worship, and learn together. Then, may we return to our churches and communities ready to share what the Spirit is doing among us.

Paul’s letter to the Galatians reminds us of the freedom we have in Christ to live fully and faithfully. We are invited once again to lay aside the things that hinder us and to take up the gifts of the Spirit for the sake of God’s Kingdom.

May God bless our time together, and may He make it fruitful for His Kingdom.

Rev. James E. Parks
Superintendent
Upper Midwest Conference

ANNUAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION



THE PATH BEFORE US:

A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

▲ GALATIANS 5:25 ▲

June 19-21, 2026

Sioux City, IA Convention Center

2026 Annual Conference

Friday – Sunday, June 19-21, 2026

at the Sioux City Convention Center in Sioux City, IA

Check out our **Annual Conference Website Pages** for more information.
Updated information is being added daily!

[Annual Conference Website Pages](#)



You Are Invited!

Rev. James Parks, Upper Midwest Conference Superintendent

Be Sure to Register TODAY!

for the 2026 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.

Young Adult/Youth Discount

For this year's conference, a \$60 discount code is available for young adult and youth participants. If you are 40 years old or younger, apply the code YA40 before completing your registration to receive the \$60 discount.

Annual Conference Registration

Leadership Encounter

What is Leadership Encounter?

Not a “required” extra day of annual conference! Not a workshop, strategy session, or meeting! NOPE!

Leadership Encounter has been designed by a half dozen pastors from several states in the Upper Midwest Conference in response to the concern raised by many in our 7-state Conference: **“We just don’t know each other yet!”**

Growing our Conference and her ministries will happen at the speed of relationship, and relationship takes time, so the **Leadership Encounter** was conceived to enhance relationship growth. The timing is pragmatic. Global Methodists from Rushmore to the Mississippi plan to be in Sioux City in June; thus, the days preceding Annual Conference seemed the most economical regarding time and cost.

The event is designed for Pastors and lay persons to come together to “know and be known” to each other, make connections across the Upper Midwest Conference, be in fellowship, laugh, pray, worship, and praise God for who and what we are.

Wesley Global Methodist Church in Sioux City will graciously host. On Wednesday, June 17th, the doors will open at 6:30 PM with the program beginning promptly at 7 PM. Thursday, June 18th, doors will open at 9 AM. Programming for lay and clergy will begin at 9:30 AM and continue through our *free to you* lunch, after which we ask lay people to excuse themselves as the clergy will gather for a special afternoon session from 1:30 to 4:30 for clergy connection.

Please sign up for the Leadership Encounter when you register for Annual Conference.

Annual Conference Hospitality Volunteer

Help welcome and support attendees at Annual Conference by greeting guests, offering directions, and assisting as needed. A friendly presence and willing heart make all the difference—no experience required.

Contact Elizabeth Pierson to volunteer.

Elizabeth can be contacted at sessions@uppermidwestgmc.org

Your Group Can Host a Special Gathering Here's How

If you or your team want to host a special gathering at Annual Conference this year, let us know, and we will reserve a meeting room for you! You, your team, or district handle the details, and we will promote it for you.

Meeting time options:

- Thursday, Friday, or Saturday evening (districts, conference/ministry teams, etc.) can meet off-site at a restaurant or at the convention center. If meeting at the convention center for dinner, all food has to be ordered through the convention center, and you have to have contacted the Conference Planning Team at least a month before Annual conference for food ordering.
- Saturday morning gatherings. (You can simply meet, or you can offer a breakfast gathering with food ordered through the convention center and paid for by your team) You can also arrange to meet off-site and let us know where you are meeting, and we will promote that.

Contact Elizabeth Pierson to get your gathering on the schedule.

Elizabeth can be contacted at sessions@uppermidwestgmc.org or by calling 218-371-8352

Annual Conference Journal

The 2026 Annual Conference Journal, featuring ministry updates, reports, and other important conference information is NOW AVAILABLE! Visit the link below to access the journal and learn more about the ministries, initiatives, and work taking place across the Upper Midwest Conference.

2026 Annual Conference Journal

Check Out the Daily Schedule!

Want to see what's planned for Annual Conference? The daily schedule is already available on the website. Take a look to explore worship services, breakout sessions, business meetings, fellowship opportunities, and more as you prepare for this year's gathering.

Please note: *The Daily Schedule is subject to expand/change/adjust and will be finalized closer to time of Conference. We will note when it is final. Please check back and see what else is to come.*

[Daily Schedule](#)

Opportunity to Give

During this year's Annual Conference, we will come together to support a meaningful mission project that will have a lasting impact. The Upper Midwest Conference is partnering to provide life-giving water to three daycare centers or preschools in the Limpopo province of South Africa by funding the installation of three wells.

Access to clean water transforms communities, improves health, and creates opportunities for children to learn and thrive. We invite every church and attendee to prayerfully consider how they can participate in this effort as we work together to make a difference for children and families in South Africa.

[Learn More](#)

Breakout Sessions

We're excited to offer two breakout session times this year. (Friday, June 19, and Saturday, June 20 at 1:30pm). Whether you're interested in AI, Church Administration, Benefits, Bands, Connection, Discipleship, Multiplication, Missions or more, there's something for everyone. Check out the [Breakout sessions descriptions](#) and choose the one that's right for you!

Breakout Highlights



Restaurant Church

What can the Church learn from great restaurants?

In this fun and practical workshop, participants will explore ideas like advertising, atmosphere, service, and hospitality — and consider how some of the best practices of successful restaurants might help churches think differently about the way they “do church” each week. Led by Rev. Tom Shinkle, Pastor of Grand View and Center Grove Churches in Dubuque, IA, and Wesley Church in East Dubuque, IL.

A Fundamental Shift: From Churches That Support Small Groups to Small Groups That Support the Church

What if disciple-making wasn't just another church program, but the foundation for how the church grows? In this breakout, participants will explore a simple and reproducible approach to relational, Scripture-centered discipleship that moves beyond attendance and toward multiplication. Learn practical tools for developing leaders, launching discipleship groups, and creating a culture where small groups become a driving force for mission and growth. Led by Rev. Jake Schadel, Pastor of Valentine Church in Valentine, NE.



Breakout Sessions Descriptions

Join In On a Group Gathering

Check out the special group gatherings taking place during Annual Conference. These events offer great opportunities to connect, share experiences, and build relationships with others from across the Upper Midwest Conference.

Group Activities

Video Sermon Resource for June 21, 2026

Visit our YouTube page to access a special video message from Bishop Mark J. Webb for Annual Conference Sunday, June 21, 2026. This message is being provided as a resource for churches while pastors will be attending Annual Conference, helping ensure congregations can still hear a meaningful message while their pastor is away.

Bishop Webb Video Message

Can't Make It to Annual Conference? We've Got You Covered, Join Us via Livestream!

For those unable to join us in Sioux City, we're excited to announce that we'll be livestreaming the worship events from Annual Conference. Simply go to [the Upper Midwest YouTube Channel](#) (linked here) to join us for these special services. Livestream will be at no cost.

Upper Midwest YouTube

Ordination Service

All are welcome to attend the Upper Midwest Conference Ordination Service on Sunday, June 21, 2026, 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.

Ordination Service will also be Livestreamed for those who cannot join us in person. You can access the Livestream by clicking on the Upper Midwest YouTube button above.

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.

Hotel Accommodations

A limited number of rooms are available at select local hotels with exclusive discounted rates for June.

Rooms are going FAST, be sure to reserve your room NOW!

Courtyard by Marriott

BLOCK FULL

Hilton Garden Inn Riverfront

[Reserve Your Room \(Garden\)](#)

DoubleTree by Hilton

[Reserve Your Room \(DoubleTree\)](#)

Marriott Riverfront

[Reserve Your Room \(Marriott\)](#)

Exhibits and Vendors

Make plans to visit the vendors and exhibitors who will be joining us at Annual Conference. From ministry resources to partner organizations, there will be plenty to explore. Visit the website to see the full list of exhibitors and learn who will be with us this year.

MORE INFORMATION

Be the First to Know!



Sign up for our Upper Midwest Newsletter

[Subscribe Here](#)

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



Global Methodist Church "Across the Globe" Newsletter

[Subscribe Here](#)

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

Important Dates



June 19–21, 2026

Upper Midwest Annual Conference

August 30–September 5, 2026

Share Your Story



We want to celebrate the great things happening throughout our conference. Whether it's happening in Districts,

General Conference in Johannesburg,
South Africa

November 12-24, 2026

Conference Mission Trip to South Africa

[View the Full Upper Midwest Conference](#)

[Calendar Here](#)

Conference-Wide, or in Local Churches –
share how the Holy Spirit is moving in
ministry around you. Fill out this simple
form, and we'll highlight these stories on
social media for our Upper Midwest
Conference.

[Bold Witness Form](#)

Upper Midwest Prayer Opportunities



The Upper Midwest Conference Daily Noon Prayer

Can you imagine what would happen in
the spiritual realm if we prayed the same
prayer together at noon daily?
Join Us and Let's Find Out!



Scheduled Zoom Prayer Meetings

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

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

[Join the Noon Prayer or Request the Link to the Zoom Prayer Meeting](#)





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.