



GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

Update

March, 2026

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Let Hosanna Ring

Rev. Ross Reinhiller, Upper Midwest Conference Vice Superintendent



Valerie and I are blessed to serve the same church twice. We came to Williston as our first appointment together in the North Dakota Conference. It is the town and church where we started our family in the 1990's.

On Palm Sunday in 1996, my folks came up from Bowman, North Dakota, to worship with us. My mother's voice is beautiful, and she shared it with our congregation. She sang an old Palm Sunday anthem which built to a crescendo on the words, "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosannnnna!" It was beautiful!

As soon as the worship service was over, we quickly packed up and headed out to one of our outer points, a little Methodist church in Bainville, Montana. My mother was in the passenger seat next to me, and my two-year-old daughter, Jayne, was in her car seat behind me. As we traveled along, all the sudden from the car seat we heard, "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosannnnna!" sung just like her grandmother.

(continued on next page)

There have been many Palm Sundays in my time as a minister, but on that car ride, Jesus' words, "Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise." (Matthew 21:16) were made real. Jesus is meant to be celebrated. He is our conquering king, the Savior of the world, and even babes proclaim it!

May this Holy Week and every week be a time of celebration! Let Hosanna ring from our hearts and lips so all will know the Savior! Happy Easter! Christ is alive, we sing his praise!



Everyday Missionaries Require Sending Churches

Rev. Zach Kingery, Multiplication Team Leader

Last month, we focused on this truth: healthy disciples are everyday missionaries. If you haven't already, read it here: <https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/post/healthy-diciples-are-everyday-missionaries>

We were reminded that spiritual health is not measured by Sunday attendance, but by whether disciples are being formed to live sent: walking in holiness and making disciples where God is sending and/or has already placed them.

This month, we take the next logical step in understanding what it means to be a spiritually healthy, missional people as Methodists. *For healthy disciples to live sent, it requires healthy churches to have the mindset and structure to send.*

Spiritually healthy churches are sending churches, and a sending church values the Kingdom far more than its own castle. This means your congregation matters. Not because of tradition or family history or a place to play out religious preferences; it matters because God has placed it where it is for a purpose - for He has saved you for a purpose! "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10

A sending church values Kingdom expansion over institutional preservation. It is a congregation that is spiritually discerning, missionally alert, and courageously releasing. A church of this kind celebrates sending as much as it celebrates saving, because how will one hear the Gospel if no one is sent to share it? (Rom. 10:13-15)

So, we must ask different questions.

Instead of:

- How do we grow attendance?
- How do we get more participation in our programs?

We must ask:

- Who are we sending?
- Who are we equipping to lead?
- How can we better help the congregation hear the Holy Spirit? And how might we propel them as they obey Him? (This last question can be difficult because it requires spiritual leadership who surrender preference and control to the Lord.)

If our scorecards only track attendance, participation, and budgets, we will naturally prioritize gathering (and, ultimately, control). But what if we measured obedience, disciple-making, leaders raised up, and people sent? (continued on next page)

Friends, look at the world. God isn't intimidated or worried – He sees a harvest that is ripe! In fact, Jesus saves and sanctifies us and sends us out into the fields. However, if we continue to allow our methods to placate the passive and keep His workers comfortable and contained in the barn, the harvest will rot.

I encourage you to gather your leadership and ask: What does our scorecard look like? What is one step of obedience the Holy Spirit is prompting us to take?

As we move toward 2030, our aim should not be to simply grow the attendance of the congregations but have healthier ones – congregations where everyday missionaries are formed and where healthy churches send them boldly. Because a Conference where every disciple makes a disciple is a Conference where churches will plant churches – a Conference where Every Church Plants.

If your congregation is ready to make a shift, the Multiplication Team is here to help! Email: multiplicationteam@uppermidwestgmc.org



Women's Ministry in the Upper Midwest

by Becky Heeren, Women's Ministry Team Leader

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

Philippians 4:4 NIV

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

Over the next few months, we are excited to share some stories from the Conference Mission Trip to South Africa, written by Upper Midwest women. The March story comes from Rev. Val Reinhiller. Enjoy!

"I had the God-given privilege of being part of the South Africa Mission Team in November 2025. When I was growing up, I never dreamed I would go to South Africa. It was an exciting trip.

Before we left the USA, I was excited to see the landscape and animals of South Africa. When we arrived, I became very excited to meet the people of South Africa. We met people of all ages. I held and fed a little six-month-old boy at the orphanage, as well as a 1½ year old girl I wanted to bring home. I visited with ladies who were in their 20s, 30s, 40s, and up. It was a joy to meet elementary children, middle school, and high school youth.

We were at Sterkrivier School for a few events. Hope Christian Church (a Global Methodist Church) is housed on their compound. During the various events and worship services, I saw the faith and witness of several high school girls. A few led the worship service, and others assisted with music. Following the last worship service, we attended with the youth, my husband, Ross, and I had the honor of praying with several girls. The girls requested prayer for themselves as they completed their finals (if they did not pass their finals, they would not be able to come back for the next school term). A few of the girls were seniors and graduating the next week, and their next steps in life were prayer concerns. Six of the girls we prayed with believed God was calling them into ministry. It was exciting to pray with them as they discern their calling and prepare for ministry.

God is working in mighty ways!

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God is working in mighty ways!

Our REJOICE! Women’s Ministry is on Facebook! Go to Facebook and look up **Rejoice! Women’s Ministry – Upper Midwest GMC** – it is a private page so you will need to ask to join. We will review and accept you.

We need all of you to help make this a place to show what God is doing through your women’s group. Share announcements and photos of your events. Post discussion topics, your favorite Bible verses or songs, questions about how to improve your women’s ministry, etc. Check back often to see what other women are doing around the Conference.

May we help promote YOUR events? Just [send us](mailto:womensministry@uppermidwestgmc.org) your details at: womensministry@uppermidwestgmc.org

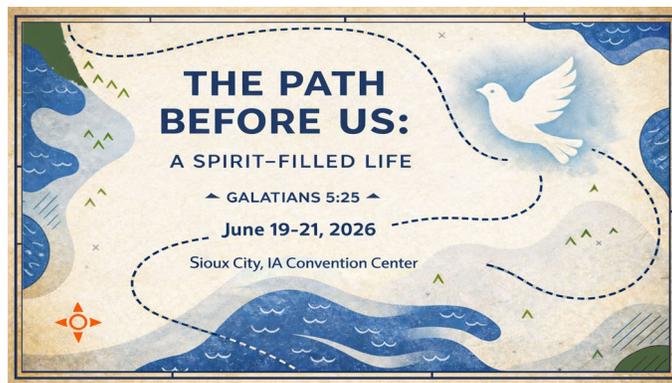
Our goals are to connect and resource Women’s Ministries across the Upper Midwest GMC. We are eager to engage with your questions, dreams, hopes, and success stories of women’s ministries in your setting. We’d love to hear from you!

**2026 Upper Midwest
Annual Conference**

June 19-21, 2025

at the Convention Center
in Sioux City, IA

**More details, including hotel
information, coming in
March.**



View James Parks video invitation at the following YouTube address:

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fuppermidwestgmc.us18.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D64124f1d5b1170491dea9f3cf%26id%3D16fb99f8b7%26e%3Dcf0d94bb0f&data=05%7C02%7C%7C58794c528b734ccff61d08de844570d4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C639093630951450565%7CUnknown%7C>

Registration – NOW OPEN

Registration is now open 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.

Registration: go to: <https://uppermidwestgmc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3465716>

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. 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.

Hotel Accommodations

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

Courtyard by Marriott 1-712-292-6893 Ask for Global Methodist Annual Conference Discount

Hilton Garden Inn Riverfront 1-712-261-6878 Ask for Global Methodist Annual Conference Discount

DoubleTree by Hilton 1-877-402-1980 Ask for Global Methodist Annual Conference Discount

Marriott Riverfront 1-402-284-4476 Ask for Global Methodist Annual Conference Discount



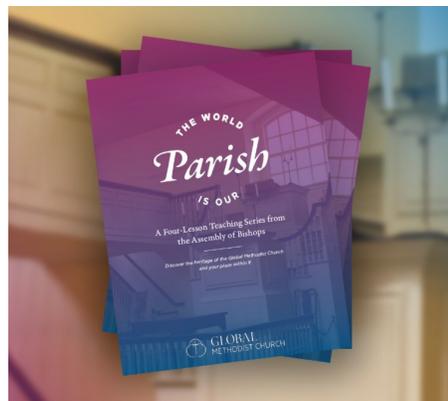
John Wesley famously declared, “**the world is my parish.**” What began as a conviction about preaching became a movement shaped by mission, connection, and love for the whole Church of Jesus Christ.

We invite you to join us for ***The World Is Our Parish***, a four-lesson video series from the Global Methodist Church and the Assembly of Bishops that explores how Methodism became a global movement and what that legacy means for us today.

Filmed at historic Wesleyan sites in the United Kingdom, each lesson connects our shared history to our present calling as Spirit-filled, globally-minded disciples.

Check out these four videos on the Global Methodist Church YouTube page.

<https://www.youtube.com/@globalmethodistchurch/videos>



The World Is Our Parish Study Guide

Download the free study guide that accompanies this video series, making it easy to follow along with your church, small group, Sunday school class or in your personal devotional time. Each week includes Scripture, reflection questions, and prayer to help you engage deeply with the theme.

https://irp.cdn-website.com/1876eae9/files/uploaded/2026-01-20_TheWorldisOurParish_StudyGuide_v2.pdf

Whether you watch on your own or with others, we pray this series renews your vision for God’s work across the world—and your place within it.



General Conference Website

As we look ahead to the 2026 Global Methodist Church General Conference, you won't want to miss the latest updates and resources being shared!

The **Beauty of Holiness 2026** website is your go-to destination for news, event details, registration information, and insights to help you prepare for this historic gathering of Methodists from around the world.

Visit www.beautyofholiness2026.org to stay informed, get inspired, and join the movement of spreading scriptural holiness across the globe.

Prayer for General Conference 2026

Please pray the following prayer points for the 2026 General Conference gathering of the Global Methodist Church:

EVERY MEETING conversation, decision, and thought of the current commissions will be led by the Holy Spirit, as they prepare diligently and faithfully for the upcoming General Conference.

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come.” –John 16:13

GOD WOULD LEAD equip, and empower those He is calling to volunteer in various areas during the General Conference. He would also provide the necessary resources and provision for them to travel to Johannesburg and faithfully answer His call.

“Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.” –Hebrews 13:20–21

Please go to the following address to access March/April Prayer Guide for General Conference:

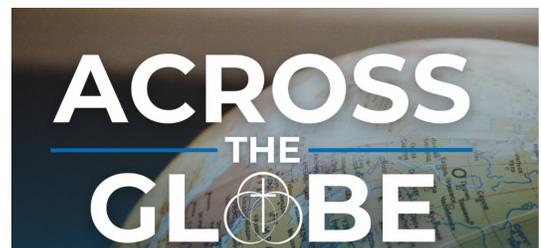
https://irp.cdn-website.com4829cd2f/files/uploaded/2026-02-04_MarApr_PrayerGuides_English.pdf

MORE INFORMATION



Sign up for our Upper Midwest Newsletter

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



Global Methodist Church

“Across the Globe” Newsletter Subscribe at: <https://www.globalmethodist.org/connect>



June 19–21, 2026

Upper Midwest Annual Conference

August 30–September 5, 2026

General Conference, Johannesburg, S Africa

Full Calendar can be viewed at: <https://uppermidwestgmc.churchcenter.com/calendar?view=list>



We want to celebrate the great things happening throughout our conference. Whether it's happening in Districts, Conference-Wide, or in Local Churches - share how the Holy Spirit is moving in ministry around you. Fill out this simple form, and we'll highlight these stories on social media for our Upper Midwest Conference. Fill out the following form: <https://form.jotform.com/242467999461171>

Upper Midwest Prayer Opportunities



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

**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?

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



**GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE**

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