



GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

Update

January, 2026

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Eyes Will Open, Children Will Drink

Rev. Ross Reinhiller, Upper Midwest Conference Vice Superintendent

*Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water.
So, she filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.
Genesis 21:19*

Last November we hosted the first Conference Mission Trip to South Africa. The time spent with Blessman International was packed with opportunity. Folks across our Conference from Iowa to Montana experienced and participated in ministries of mercy: feeding children and distributing food to outreach stations, caring for orphan infants, working in eye clinics, and empowering young women in hygiene so that there is consistent school attendance.

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One ministry in which the Mission team participated was the drilling of a water well at a nursery school and the instillation of an irrigation system for the school's garden. Having a reliable source of water and the extension of food security allows the nursery school to increase the number of children and by extension their families.

When the drill hit the vein and the cataclysm of water shot into the air the whole school erupted in celebration. My mind went to the story of Hagar and Ishmael's expulsion from Abraham's family. When Abraham sent his son away, he provided enough water for the start of the journey but not enough for survival. When the water was gone and the days stretched with heat, Hagar set her son aside and cried out to the Lord. God heard the cry and provided a well of water.

I wondered how many South African parents have cried out to God. Opening the eyes of those parents God showed them a well providing for their children. The means of the miracle is us. The Missions Team of our Conference is challenging us to drill at least three new water wells in South Africa. We will hear more directly from the Missions Team but for now, get ready to be the answer to many family's prayers!

Eyes will open and children will drink!



MULTIPLICATION TEAM UPDATE

Healthy Leaders for a Multiplying Conference

by Zach Kingery Multiplication Team Leader

"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples." John 15:8

As we begin a new year, many churches set goals, refine calendars, and plan initiatives. But if we are serious about becoming an Annual Conference where Every Church Plants, we must begin at a deeper level. Multiplication does not start with strategies or structures, it starts with spiritual health and spiritual health only comes from being connected to the Vine: Jesus Christ.

Healthy multiplication flows from healthy pastors, healthy leadership groups, and healthy disciple-making congregations that are evangelistic and missional at their core. Without health at these levels, churches may grow larger, but they rarely reproduce.

Across North America, committed believers, especially younger generations, are increasingly frustrated with programmatic, consumer-driven church models. National research from Discipleship.org and Exponential reveals a sobering reality: 95% of churches do not have a disciple-making culture, and 93% are not reproducing. Even more concerning, many leaders overestimate their effectiveness while relying on systems optimized for consumption rather than reproduction.

Why does this matter?

Because multiplication is the fruit of healthy reproduction, and healthy reproduction requires spiritually healthy, mission-focused leaders.

A pastor who is spiritually depleted will struggle to lead others into a life centered on Jesus and attentive to the Spirit. A leadership council focused on maintenance will rarely discern God's call to send. A church without a missional disciple-making culture unintentionally trains people to attend rather than obey.

The Right Questions Make a Difference

Health is not abstract. It can be prayerfully discerned by asking honest, mission-centered questions. As pastors and local church leaders enter 2026, consider asking these questions monthly, not to shame, but to lovingly hold one another accountable to the Great Commission:

- Who have you personally shared Christ with in the past three months, and how are you following up?
- Who are you intentionally discipling with the expectation that they will disciple someone else?
- Who are you investing in to replace your leadership role?
- What new ministries outside the walls of the church have recently been launched by laypeople?
- How soon do we believe God is calling our church to help plant another church?

These are not performance metrics. They are missional markers that help us discern whether we are maintaining ministry or actively participating in Christ's mission.

Abide and Bear Fruit

Being a healthy multiplier begins in the interior life and extends into the shared life of the church. When pastors are healthy, leadership groups discern together, and disciples are equipped to live on mission, multiplication becomes natural.

This year, invest intentionally in spiritual health. Ask honest questions. Listen for the Holy Spirit. Nail preferences and worldly comfort to the cross, and take steps of faithful obedience.

As we move toward Conference-wide health by 2030, I truly believe that God will shape us into a multiplying movement – one where Every Church Plants.





Women's Ministry in the Upper Midwest

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

***"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again:
Rejoice!" - Philippians 4:4 NIV***

HAPPY2026

We Rejoice! Another year of Women's Ministry. Another year of growing spiritually. Another year of connecting with women in the Upper Midwest. Another year of serving our Lord.

Are you interested in making 2026 your best year yet by fortifying your daily devotional time? I would like to recommend a couple of resources that have been very impactful in my journey.

First: **The Wake-Up Call**. From our friends at Seedbed, this is a challenging and inspiring daily meeting with Jesus. You can read the email, listen online, or watch it on YouTube. I love the rhythm of daily consecration to God followed by thoughtful consideration of a scripture, including journal prompts, and even hymn singing! Sign up at:

https://seedbed.com/wakupcall?mc_cid=59bf407053&mc_eid=08f76cf8a8

Second: **The Bible Recap**. Read the entire Bible this year, in a chronological format. Each day you will read about 3-4 chapters (either read on the app, or listen as it is read to you, or read from your own Bible). This is followed by a recap shared by Tara Leigh Cobble. She makes complicated texts easier to understand, and always points to learning more about God, because He's where the JOY is!

Let me know what you think of these resources. Also, I would love to hear what daily devotional materials you love! This is the *YEAR* that the Lord has made. Let us REJOICE! and be glad in it.

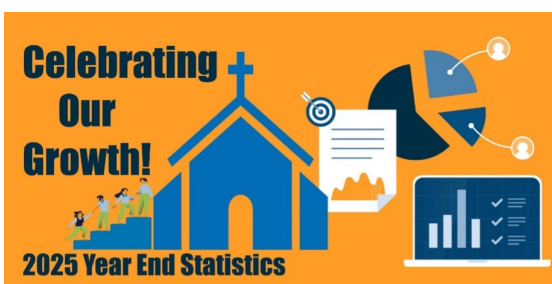
Our REJOICE! Women's Ministry is on Facebook! Go to Facebook and look up **Rejoice! Women's Ministry – Upper Midwest GMC** – it is a private page so you will need to ask to join. We will review and accept you.

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](#) your details! 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!

**Join 'Rejoice Women's Ministry' on Facebook or
Rejoice.gmc@gmail.com**

UPPER MIDWEST ANNOUNCEMENTS



Year End Statistics

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 on next page and then submit it via the 2025 End of Year Statistical Form.

Here are the Questions on the Form:

1. Total number of Professing Members.
2. Total number of Baptisms (Baptisms in 2025, not counting remembrances of baptism).
3. Total Professions of Faith (New members who joined not by transfer from another church).
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.

You may find this form at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftnifiTfxA8Q2g0YZ1gS2yG6pAiQ_l2HpdekNUe3aXSP8w/viewform



We Have A New Mailing Address!

Our new mailing address for the
Upper Midwest Conference
including
Connectional Funding payments is:

**Upper Midwest Conference
PO Box 113
Enon, OH 45323**

Please begin using this address effective immediately and bear with us as payments sent recently to the old address may be delayed in processing and clearing your bank due to mail forwarding.

**Please make sure the Treasurer of your Church
has this important information.**



UPPER MIDWEST ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 Summer Camp Opportunities

Iowa

Summer Games University,
Grinnell, Iowa

<https://sgu.camp/>

June 29 – July 3, 2026

Students who have finished 6th through
12th grades

North Dakota

Prairie Bible Camp, Lehr, North Dakota

<https://prairiebiblecamp.wixsite.com/pbc4him>

<https://www.facebook.com/prairiebible.camp>

Contact Kara Scherbens-

ke : karascherbenske@gmail.com

South Dakota

Cedar Canyon Youth Camp, Rapid City,
South Dakota

[https://www.northwestdistrict.org/event-
details/cedar-canyon-youth-camp](https://www.northwestdistrict.org/event-details/cedar-canyon-youth-camp)

7-12th grade students

Byron Bible Camp, Huron, South Dakota

<https://byronbiblecamp.com/>

Iowa

Camp Bear Creek in Wyoming, Iowa

<https://bearcreek.camp/>

Grades 1 – 12

Minnesota

Red Rock Camp, Painesville, Minnesota

<https://Redrockcamp.org>

Nebraska

Comeca Camp & Retreat Center Cozad,
Nebraska

<https://comeca.camp/>

The Crossing Retreat Center,
Lexington, Nebraska

<https://www.crossingretreat.org/>

Covenant Cedars Bible Camp,
Hordville, Nebraska

<https://www.cedars.org/>

Bethel Bible Camp, Wellfleet, Nebraska

<https://www.bethelbiblecamp.org/>



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 the Prayer Guide for General Conference:

https://mcusercontent.com/64124f1d5b1170491dea9f3cf/files/7d191308-696a-5a5f-5715-2e1abb7f2e89/Sept_Oct_General_Conf_Prayer_Guide.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>



February 16, 2026
End of Year Stats Needed By

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>

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.

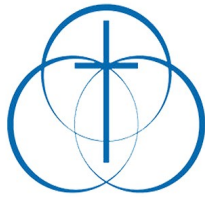
The Upper Midwest Conference Daily Noon Prayer

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

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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