



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE



2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE JOURNAL

June 13-15, 2025

Sioux City, IA Convention Center

Last Modified: 06/05/2025



Upper Midwest Annual Conference

June 13-15, 2025

Sioux City, IA Convention Center

Bishop Mark Webb

General Superintendent of the Global Methodist Church

Rev. James Parks

Superintendent of the Upper Midwest Conference

Rev. Ross Reinhiller

Vice Superintendent of the Upper Midwest Conference

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Welcome to the Upper Midwest Annual Conference

The Path Before Us



Welcome to the Upper Midwest Annual Conference

Our theme this year, “The Path Before Us: Walking in Faith Together,” invites us to reflect on the journey we are taking as a community of believers. As a young and growing conference, we are still finding our way—navigating change and setting the tone for the future.

At our last annual conference, we were a provisional conference under a transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline. Since then, we have become an official annual conference, and the Book of Doctrine and Discipline was approved at the 2024 General Conference. This is an exciting milestone, and now we shift our focus to what lies ahead.

This year, we embrace the call to walk in faith together. As we gather face-to-face, we have the opportunity to deepen relationships, to listen and share, and to witness how God is working in each of our lives and in the life of our conference. Together, we will strengthen our walk with Christ and one another.

My hope and prayer for our time together is that we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, as we walk with Him in faith. The prophet Jeremiah reminds us: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls” (Jeremiah 6:16). We will continue to find many crossroads, and we must not be distracted. Let’s remain open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we seek the path God has prepared for us.

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

Rev. James E. Parks

Superintendent

Upper Midwest Conference

Our Mission and Vision

The Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church

Our Global Mission:

The Global Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe.

Our Global Vision:

Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the Global Methodist Church envisions multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the earth who flourish in scriptural holiness as we worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

Our Conference Mission:

To lovingly walk alongside laity and clergy as they make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness around the globe.

Our Conference Vision:

Every church is instrumental, and every leader is effective in sharing the saving and transforming Good News of Jesus Christ.

Our Purpose:

The Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church exists to create a culture of discipleship and mission by supporting local churches and clergy by shepherding, connecting, and equipping local congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Shepherding churches, clergy, and laity by providing grace-filled accountability and support to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Connecting to facilitate life-giving relationships with churches and clergy that are collaborative and mutually beneficial so that we are united in our mission.

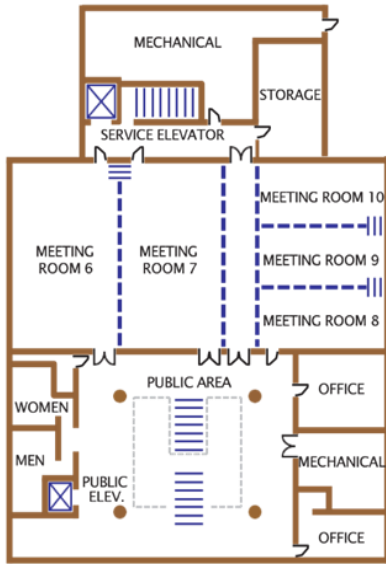


Convention Center Site Map

Address: 801 4th Street | Sioux City, Iowa 51101

Email: info@siouxcityconventioncenter.com

Phone: 712-279-4800

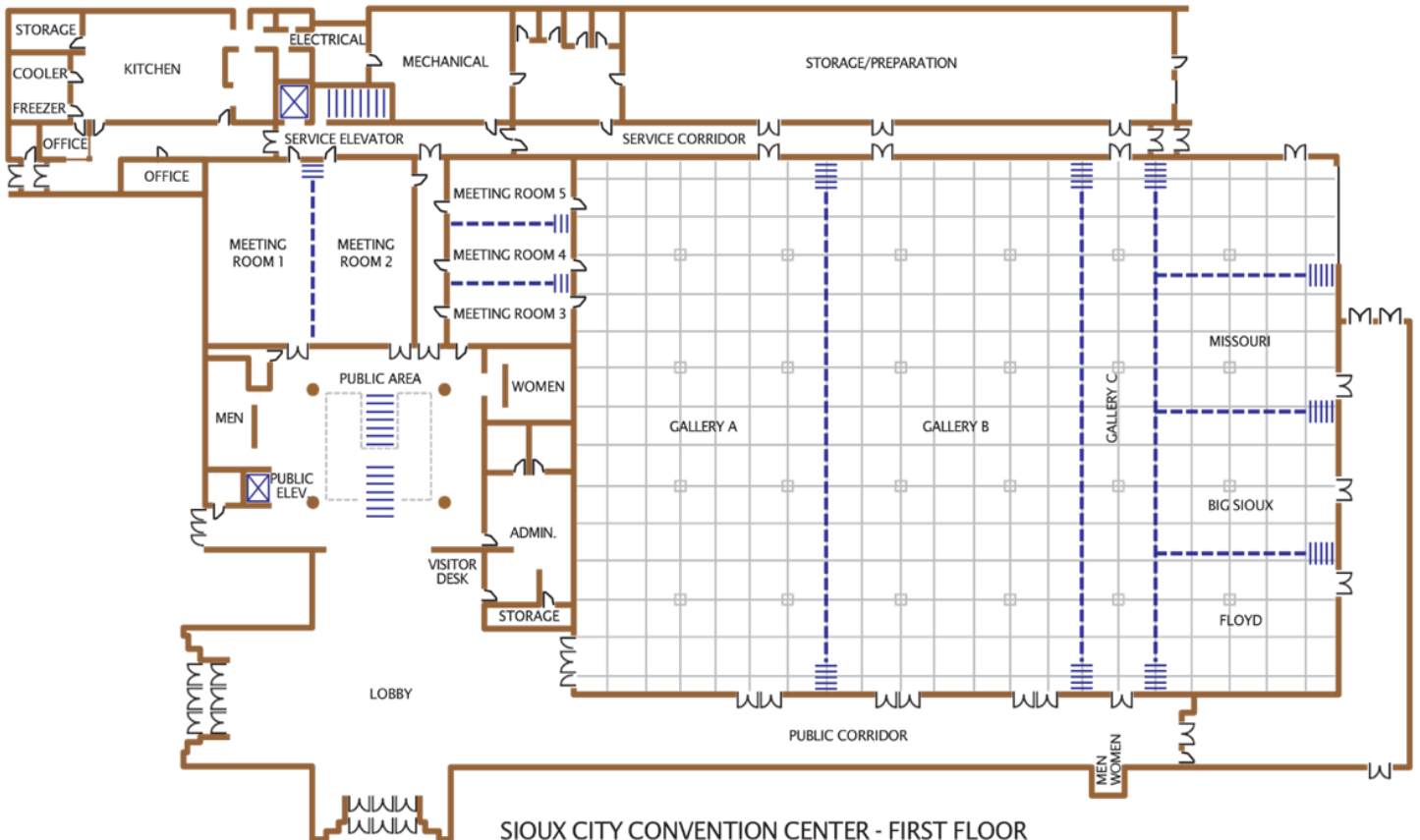


SIOUX CITY CONVENTION CENTER SECOND FLOOR



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
 UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

2025 Annual Conference | June 13 - 15, 2025



SIOUX CITY CONVENTION CENTER - FIRST FLOOR

Annual Conference Schedule

Friday, June 13th

9:30 AM	BOARD OF MINISTRY MEETING	Upper-Level Rooms 6/7
12:30 PM	CHECK IN OPENS	Main Room
1:00 PM	ORDINANDS MEETING WITH THE BISHOP	Upper-Level Rooms 6/7
1:30 PM	EARLY BIRD BREAKOUT SESSIONS	
	Church Financial Information	Main Level Room 1
	Effective and Efficient Church Administration	Main Level Room 2
	Women's Ministry	Main Level Room 3
	Church Websites	Main Level Room 4
	Men's Ministry	Main Level Room 5
	Children's Ministry in a Small Church	Upper-Level Room 8
3:00 PM	CLERGY SESSION	Upper-Level Rooms 6/7
3:00 PM	LAITY SESSION	Main Room
4:30 PM	DINNER ON YOUR OWN	
6:30 PM	WELCOME and OPENING WORSHIP with Speaker: Rev. James Parks	Main Room
8:00 PM	FELLOWSHIP TIME with SNACKS PROVIDED	Main Room
8:30 PM	YOUNG ADULTS/TEENS GATHERING	Main Level Room 1
9:30 PM	DISPLAYS/VENDORS CLOSE	Lobby

Saturday, June 14th

	BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN or ATTEND A BREAKFAST MEETING	
7:30 AM	ETHNIC MINISTRY TEAM BREAKFAST	Main Level Room 2
7:30 AM	BREAKFAST MEETINGS (Open to Everyone)	
	Certified Lay Ministry	Main Level Rooms 3/4
	Asbury Seminary & Friends	Upper-Level Room 6/7
7:30 AM	JETHRO PROJECT GATHERING (Open to Everyone)	Upper-Level Room 8
8:30 AM	CHECK IN OPENS	Main Room
8:30 AM	DISPLAYS/VENDORS OPEN	Lobby
9:00 AM	MORNING WORSHIP with Speaker: Bishop Mark Webb	Main Room
10:30 AM	BREAK with SNACKS PROVIDED	Main Room
10:45 AM	CONFERENCE BUSINESS	Main Room
12:30 PM	LUNCH PROVIDED	Main Room
1:30 PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS	
	Dirt Roads Network	Main Level Room 1
	Kidmin Upgrade: Practical Ways to Reach Kids Today	Main Level Room 2
	Disaster Response Training	Main Level Room 3/4/5
	Creating a Culture of Welcome	Upper-Level Room 6
	Blessman International/South Africa	Upper-Level Room 7
	Methodist History/Theology	Upper-Level Room 8
3:00 PM	CONFERENCE BUSINESS	Main Room
4:20 PM	MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE	Main Room
4:30 PM	DINNER ON YOUR OWN	
6:30 PM	EVENING WORSHIP PRAISE and PRAYER	Main Room
8:00 PM	ORDINATION REHEARSAL	Main Room
8:00 PM	FELLOWSHIP TIME with SNACKS PROVIDED	Main Room
8:00 PM	GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATION MEETING	Main Level Room 3
8:30 PM	YOUNG ADULTS/TEENS GATHERING	Main Level Room 1
9:30 PM	DISPLAYS/VENDORS CLOSE	Lobby

Sunday, June 15th

	BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN	
8:20 AM	CLERGY GATHER BEFORE ORDINATION FOR PROCESSION	Main Level Room 1/2
9:00 AM	ORDINATION SERVICE – Bishop Mark J. Webb Presiding	Main Room

Leadership Bios

Bishop Mark J. Webb

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH



Bio: Mark J. Webb currently serves as a bishop in The Global Methodist Church.

He was elected a bishop in The United Methodist Church and consecrated on July 20, 2012, at the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference. Mark served as the episcopal leader of the Upper New York Area of the United Methodist Church from September 1, 2012, until December 31, 2022. On January 2, 2023, he was received as an elder and bishop in The Global Methodist Church.

Mark holds a M. Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Shippensburg University. He also holds a graduate certificate in nonprofit management from the University of Connecticut.

He served pastorates at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Mechanicsburg, Pa. from 1994-2007, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Wormleysburg, Pa. from 1991-1994, and Linglestown United Methodist Church from 1989-1991. He served as District Superintendent of the York District of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church from 2007-2012.

Mark currently serves as a Trustee of United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio

He received the Harry Denman Evangelism Award in 2002 and in 2018, was named as one of the top 100 leaders by the John C. Maxwell Transformational Leadership Award.

Mark encourages clergy and laity to work together in the development of discipleship pathways that will point people to Jesus Christ and bear fruit for the kingdom of God. He has a passion for Christ-following leadership development, new faith communities and ensuring existing congregations grow in vitality and fulfill the mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly and witness boldly".

He is a native of Williamsport, Pa., and is married to Jodi. Mark and Jodi live in Lititz, PA and have two sons, Tyler, who is married to Lyndsay and Benjamin, who is married to Mary. They have one granddaughter, Lydia Tatum Webb.

Leadership Bios

Rev. James Parks

SUPERINTENDENT
UPPER MIDWEST PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH



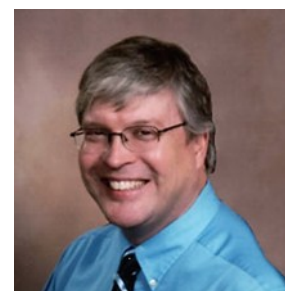
Bio: James Parks serves half-time as our Conference Superintendent of the Upper Midwest Conference. He is also appointed as co-lead pastor with his wife, Helen, at Marion Methodist Church in Marion, Iowa. His main focus in the local church is preaching and teaching. They have two children.

A graduate of Iowa Wesleyan College with a degree in Business/Computer Science. He then received his M. Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary. He is in his third appointment over the 21 years of local church ministry.

James enjoys learning about leadership development. He will often share what he is hearing in the Carey Nieuwhof Leadership Podcast or Working Genius Podcast with Patrick Lencioni. Or books he is growing from like The Geek Way by Andrew McAfee or Free to Be Holy by Matt O'Reilly.

Rev. Ross Reinhiller

VICE SUPERINTENDENT
UPPER MIDWEST PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH



Bio: Ross Reinhiller serves as the part time Vice Superintendent of the Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church. Ross and Valerie Reinhiller also serve as pastors of Faith Methodist Church in Williston, North Dakota, and direct Out in Faith Ministries. Out in Faith is an outreach ministry working with issues of homelessness, poverty and hunger in the Bakken Oil Field communities.

Ross is a graduate of Dickinson State University (Dickinson, North Dakota) with a Bachelor of Science in education, Ross also holds a M. Div. and D. Min. degree from Asbury Theological Seminary (Wilmore, Kentucky). Ross is a Beeson Pastor of Asbury Theological Seminary class of 1999.

Ross and Valerie have two daughters, Jayne, who is married to Nick, and Anne.

Breakout Sessions

Friday, June 13th at 1:30 PM

Finance and the Church Leader (Main Level Room 1)

Presenter: Jeff Pospisil

Do you have questions concerning the financial obligations of being a church in the Global Methodist denomination? Are you learning to work with GuideStone for pension and health benefits? In this session, we will cover these questions as well as do our best to answer any other church finance question you may have.

Effective and Efficient Church Administration (Main Level Room 2)

Presenter: Rev. Tom Shinkle

How do Trustees, Finance, Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, and other teams focus on their work and work together? This will be good for local church committee chairs to engage their ministry.

Women's Ministry: "Centered and Equipped" (Main Level Room 3)

Presenter: Pastor Melody Williams

Together we will remember our roots while we look to the future as a people of God called Global Methodists. One experience will introduce us to a Discovery Bible small group, a format that is meaningful to people with all levels of Biblical understanding. We will also learn about Sew Powerful, a ministry that empowers girls in South Africa by providing beautiful, practical purses for their hygiene supplies. We'll share patterns and display sample purses. Our session will enrich us and others with tools to bring back to our local communities to help us grow in depth and reach. Rejoice!

Church Websites (Main Level Room 4)

Presenters: Alan Campbell and Michelle Gross

Why should my church have a website? How does my church develop a website? How does my church develop a website on a budget?

Information and resources will be shared to assist you with gaining the knowledge and skills to establish an online presence. If your church does not have a website and would like to get started, attend this session.

Men's Ministry (Main Level Room 5)

Presenter: Matt Kearns

Meet to share your successes and failures in your Men's Ministry programs, discuss the needs of your local Men's Ministry programs, and identify ways your Presiding Elder or the Upper Midwest Conference can provide support.

Children's Ministry in a Small Church (Main Level Room 5)

Presenter: Pastor Brenda Goodman

Are you a small church with a small budget or no budget for Children ministry? Or maybe you are a small church with one or two families? Feeling like there are no answers for a small church. Let's talk at conference, come to the breakout session and we will work together to help lift each other up. Come and gather some simple tools that can help your children's ministry. Also, if you have something that is working, please be prepared to share it. We are all in this ministry together.

Saturday, June 14th at 1:30 PM

Dirt Roads Network Spirit & Strategy: Creating a Culture of Discernment and Active Discipleship (Main Level Room 1)

Presenter: Rev. Zach Kingery, Upper Midwest Multiplication Team & Network Director with Dirt Roads Network

What if the first step toward church multiplication wasn't strategy, but worship and discernment? This breakout explores how to form a discernment group—a small team of leaders committed to seeking God's will together for the sake of active discipleship and multiplication. Rooted in Scripture and Wesleyan tradition, you'll gain both theological grounding and practical steps for creating a Spirit-led culture in your church leadership. Through guided conversation and reflection, we'll examine how to shift from passive leadership to missional action. Whether you lead a rural church, a circuit, or a larger congregation, multiplication can begin by simply praying, "Speak Lord, your servants are listening."

Kidmin Upgrade: Practical Ways to Reach Kids: (Main Level Room 2)

Presenter: Sharon Stratmoen

Have you noticed? Kids today are dope...fire...and all the other new words they say! They're inquisitive, full of energy, tech savvy, and oh so witty and fun. Perhaps you've also observed that tried-and-true teaching techniques don't quite engage your class like they once did. In this workshop, we'll help you upgrade your teaching methodology so you can deliver Bible truths that truly sync with kids' hearts and lives. Expect practical takeaways and simple ideas that'll help you more effectively disciple the children in your care.

Disaster Response Training (Main Level Rooms 3/4/5)

Presenter: Rev. Phil Rogers, Upper Midwest Disaster Response Coordinator

The Global Methodist Church Disaster Ministries is stepping out to create and register our people who have a passion for responding in Disaster Ministries. We have developed a training program that will allow all our people no matter what Conference to share in response with a unified consistent training to ensure safety and certification so that our response can be made faster and cleaner. The training program is broken into three parts, depending on the responsibilities that you feel called to. There will also be special training for some specialized worksites and responsibilities like Chainsaw, Assessment, and Case Work. All responders are asked to participate in Training #101.

Creating a Culture of Welcome (Upper-Level Room 6)

Presenter: Rev. Ben Blanchard, Host Team Pastor at Life Church Northland Kansas City, MO

Hospitality sets the stage and creates meaningful, life-changing moments that go beyond a simple greeting. As you join us for this session on hospitality, you'll learn how it's about making people feel valued, building genuine connections and setting a high standard of excellence. The ultimate purpose of hospitality is to create an environment where guests feel welcomed and loved, so they are open to the truth of God's Word. When we go the extra mile, we show others they matter, and through that, we create space for God to move in their lives. Hospitality is a powerful tool to transform hearts and lead people toward Jesus.

Blessman International/South Africa (Upper-Level Room 7)

Presenter: Brett Hendrickson

Join us as we discuss how to engage in global missions. Since 2001, Blessman International has been ministering to the impoverished children of the Limpopo province of South Africa. Today, they strive to meet the desperate physical needs the children in this region have, to gain the opportunity to speak to their great spiritual need for Jesus Christ. Learn about the newest Global Methodist Church in South Africa, Hope Church. Hear also about child sponsorship, community development, and a robust feeding program in Southern Africa that are reaching tens of thousands of children with the good news and impacting eternity for the Kingdom of God.

Methodist History/Theology (Upper-Level Rooms 8)

Presenter: Dr. Andy Miller

Come to hear how we can remember our Wesleyan history and practices, so we can grow in living out our Wesleyan faith together. As we reach into our past for better understanding, God leads us into the future of the church.

Business Agenda

Only those with badges marked as “Voting Laity” and “Voting Clergy” may participate in voting.

All are welcome to attend.

General Conference Delegation Voting

Bishop Mark Webb

Multiplication Team

Rev. Zach Kingery

Prayer & Intercession Team

Rev. Mike Hader

Ethnic Ministry Team

Rev. Jonathan Lee

Communications Team

Alec Amosson

Jethro Project

Rev. Mike Morgan

Superintendency Committee

Rev. Jake Schadel

Leadership Development Committee

Clarence Mittleider

Disaster Response Team

Rev. Phil Rogers

Board of Ministry

Rev. Valerie Reinhiller

- Historic Questions

Chaplains Highlight

Rev. Kevin Glesner &
Rev. Steve Peters

Cabinet Report

Rev. Ross Reinhiller

Conference Treasurer/Finance & Administration

Tracie Ludeke &
Jeff Pospisil

Sessions Team

Elizabeth Pierson

Conference Standing Rules

Organizational Resolutions and Standing Rules for Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church, 2nd Session.

1. Robert's Rule of Order is the primary source of parliamentary procedure employed by the 2nd Session of the Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church.
2. The printed agenda becomes the official agenda of the Conference, with adjustments, as necessary. All requests for additional items to be placed on the agenda shall be submitted to the Conference Secretary.
3. The bar is the Main Room whether set up as tables or as an auditorium. All in attendance are invited to be seated, though only voting members both laity and clergy are given voice and vote. All votes are limited to the bar of the Conference.
4. The following persons are given both voice and vote during the business session of the Annual Conference:
 - a. Registered Lay Members of the Annual Conference who represent Global Methodist Charges or Church who are officially recorded as part of the Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church.
 - b. Registered Clergy assigned or appointed to an official Global Methodist Charge or Church. Registered Clergy who serves in an officially recognized appointment beyond the local church. Clergy who are appointed to Senior Status and are within the first seven years of that appointed status.
5. Voting on some topics is restricted by the Book of Doctrines and Discipline of the Global Methodist Church. The presiding officer will inform the body of the Annual Conference when restrictions apply to a specific vote.
6. The presiding officer may grant other persons the right of voice during the Conference.
7. During debate or addressing the Annual Conference from the floor the speaker will state their name, church and status of laity or clergy.

General Conference Delegates

Protocol for the election of General Conferenced Delegates

General Conference delegates will be elected by the 2025 Annual Conference.

- a. 5 laity delegates and 5 clergy delegates, 1 lay alternate delegate and 1 clergy alternate delegate. Reserves will be elected as well.
- b. The election of lay delegates is voted on by all laity. The election of clergy delegates is elected by the ordained clergy members of the Annual Conference.
- c. Election will be by simple majority of valid votes cast of the current ballot.
- d. First ballot candidates for election will be the persons who have submitted a valid nomination.
- e. Subsequent ballots will be cast until the full slate of delegates, alternate delegates and reserve delegates are duly elected.
 - i. The fourth ballot will consist of all candidates receiving seven or more votes cast of the third ballot.
 - ii. New candidates may be added to ballot if the candidate receives seven valid votes on the prior ballot.

2026 General Conference Delegate Nominees

LAITY DELEGATES

Jamal Boma – Mabaan Church, Des Moines, IA
Daniel Evans – Papillion Church in Papillion, NE
Becky Heeren – First Methodist Church in Marshalltown, IA
Matthew Kearns – Marion Methodist Church in Marion, IA
David Mendyk – Trumbull Church in Hastings, NE
Clarence Mittleider – Oakes/Marion/Dickey Churches in ND
Norma Morrison – New Hope Church in Muscatine, IA
Darcy Rubenking – Clarinda Church in Corning, IA
Andrea Schadel – Valentine Church in Valentine, NE
Dayle Wiley – Trinity Church in Cavalier, ND
Dee Willoughby – First Methodist Church in Clinton, IA

CLERGY DELEGATES

Luann Bengé – Ida Grove Church in Ida Grove, IA
Rey Colon – Tulare United Church in Tulare, SD
Darla Hadrick – Selby Church in Selby, SD
Corey Jenkins – Bowman Church in Bowman, ND
Jeff Kelley – Memorial Church in McCook, NE
Zach Kingery – Clarinda Community Church in Clarinda, IA
Jonathan Lee – Christ’s Community in Maple Grove MN
Michael McInnis – Le Mars Church in Le Mars, IA
Juwle Nagbe – Napoleon-Streeter Churches in ND
James Parks – Marion Methodist in Marion, IA
Jacob Schadel – Valentine Church in Valentine, NE
Sedar Shako – Harris & Lake Park in Lake Park, IA
Travis Stevick – Grace Methodist Church in Marcus, IA
Hui Angie Vertz – Hazen Church in Hazen, ND

Meet Our Delegates

As you prayerfully consider each Nominee please take a minute to find out more information about each delegate by reading their bio’s on our website: <https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/nominees> or scan the QR Code below.



**Use your Smart Device to scan the QR Code
and Meet Our Delegates!**

Multiplication Team Report

Every Church Plants

Mission & Vision

The Multiplication Team operates with authorization of the Annual Conference to “encourage and facilitate the planting of new churches, including the authorization of sponsorship by existing congregations, and to charter such new congregations” (¶¶ 439.17, 450, 709.3), and has the overall goal of seeing all healthy congregations in the conference actively participating in multiplication.

Our Mission is to see our communities have Bible believing, Spirit-led congregations committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ and spreading scriptural holiness across the globe.

Our Vision: Every church is instrumental and every leader effective in making disciples who make disciples who are actively on mission for Jesus.

Because of the mission and vision our goal is simple: **Every church plants.**

In order to have healthy congregations of all sizes participating in church planting and multiplication by the year 2030 key areas of focus have been identified:

- discernment through fasting and prayer
- renewed missionary zeal for the gospel.
- paradigm shift in the expression of church by adopting an essential ecclesiology.
- reorienting from pastoral dependency to the ‘pastorhood’ of all believers
- deliverance from dead discipleship practices.

Budget

Current Budget: \$25,000.00

Proposed Budget: \$30,000.00

+ Covenantal Giving: \$10,000.00 (pledged) = \$40,000.00

Laying the Groundwork for 2030

The heartbeat of our work is to shift the DNA of our Conference through working with our local congregations. This is not just about planting churches - it’s about developing a multiplying culture.

Shifting Culture with Resources and Rhythms

We are building momentum toward change through regular rhythms of encouragement and equipping:

- **Multiplication Minute** – A video posted to the Conference Facebook page the 1st Monday each month with multiplication concepts to be applied at the local level as well as interviews with multipliers.

- **Multiplication Articles** – Featured in the Conference Newsletter, highlighting best practices, inspiration for local church leaders, and creating a resource bank to equip your congregation as they develop missional practices.
- **Multiplier Zoom Calls** – Hosted on the 3rd Saturday at 10 AM each month, these 1 hour calls for clergy and laity encourage peer-to-peer learning, collaborative leadership, and cast the vision of multiplication.

Check out these resources and get connected at: Uppermidwestgmc.org/multiplication.

ACTION ITEMS:

For this multiplying culture to spread and resources to effectively be utilized we must be connected at a local level.

- Raise up one layperson per district to organize a Multiplication Discernment Group, working alongside the Multiplication Team to inform and activate their district.

Resourcing New Church Starts

New Church Starts are characterized as an organized community of believers who left their previous denomination and joined the movement of Global Methodists not through disaffiliation but through the start of something new. These committed believers chose to honor God and His word for “those who honor Me, I will honor” (1 Sam. 1:30) and have boldly stepped out in faith in order to follow the call of Jesus and serve Him in this world (John 12:26). *Please pray for and encourage our faithful brothers & sisters in Christ and commit to resource them as needs and opportunities arise.*

Name	Location	Leader
Cedar Valley Community Church	Charles City, IA	Kim Ragland
Cornerstone GMC	Estherville, IA	Todd Hartsock
Faithful Community Church	Corning, IA	Erin Wetzel
First Methodist Church	Tiffin, IA	Ruby Bongolan
Ogden Grace	Ogden, IA	Evelyn Lewiston
Trinity Church	Oskaloosa, IA	Chad Lierman
West Dubuque	Epworth, IA	Karl Dallefeld
Faith Methodist Church	Ogallala, NE	Jeri Soens
Harvest Church	Bismarck, ND	Andy Early
Rapid City Faith Community	Rapid City, SD	Jeff Hauser
Redeeming Grace Church	Sioux Falls, SD	Tracy Winters

In partnership with Dirt Roads Network, Renewal Training was offered to our New Church Starts to equip the pastors and leadership groups with the tools, mindset, and spiritual disciplines for long-term missional impact. The 9-session cohort met October 2024 to March 2025 and guided churches through the dynamics of spiritual discernment, spiritual leadership development, and mission-focused planning for community transformation.

- Participating New Church Starts:
 - First Methodist, Tiffin IA
 - Faithful Community, Corning IA
 - Redeeming Grace, Sioux Fall SD

Taking New Ground

While shifting the overall DNA of our Conference will require intentional renewal and revitalization within existing congregations, we must also remain deeply committed to birthing new beginnings.

Planting

- **Des Moines - 1927**

1927 is in its pre-launch phase as a church plant. Led by Cam Scott, 1927 has moved from exploration and initial discernment to now gathering in small groups as they continue to discern and refine the vision God has given them to take new ground and reach unreached people in the Des Moines Metro area.

As they continue moving forward, led by Holy Spirit, the time will soon come when the call will go out for widespread prayer support and resourcing.

- **Twin Cities**

A discernment group has been gathered for prayer to discern a potential plant in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota. The group gathered weekly for a dedicated hour of prayer and listening. Rev. Jonathan Lee discerned a holy burden to begin plant exploration in Brooklyn Center this summer while also beginning outreach at the University of Minnesota this fall.

Growing

- **Faith Community Church**

Launched with 20 people in July 2023 with a vision to embody faithful, Spirit-led community, Faith Community Church is a New Church Start in Rapid City that has outgrown their current gathering space, now averaging over 70+ in weekly attendance. They are currently discerning their next location to accommodate their growing congregation as they reach new people for Christ.

A building fund has been established, and we are putting out the call to every congregation in our Conference: *Will you prayerfully consider what the Lord is calling your church to give toward this Kingdom-building endeavor?* Together, we can help provide a gathering space for this vibrant congregation.

Creating A Culture of Call

As the GMC Kingdom Advancement Commission and Rev. Steve Cordle (GMC Director of Church Multiplication) cast movement wide vision and guidance, we are committed not only to following recommended pathways but also to pioneering new and forgotten ways of advancing the Kingdom. We believe our Conference can become a model where churches plant churches and the next generation of leaders is formed through grassroots disciple-making movements.

The Multiplication Team invites every pastor, church, and layperson (of all ages) to engage this movement. *The future of our mission lies not first in strategy, but in surrender - in becoming a people who live as missionaries.*

Let us press on together toward the day when **Every Church Plants**.

Respectfully submitted,
Your Multiplication Team

Prayer & Intercession Team Report

The 2024 Annual Conference defines the Role of The Conference Prayer & Intercession Team as follows: "The role of The Conference Prayer & Intercession Team is to ensure the work of the emerging Conference is thoroughly covered in prayer throughout the developmental process and beyond." The team prays for regional leadership and regional needs as well as the Global Methodist Church leadership and needs. This Conference team also prays and works together to encourage local Global Methodist Church pastors to prayerfully select a prayer point person from each local church to ensure prayer is a priority in local churches. The Conference Prayer & Intercession team encourages churches to become a "house of prayer." The team also resources local churches as needed. Most importantly, the team prays for the mission of the Upper Midwest Conference: "To lovingly walk alongside laity and clergy as they make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe."

- We have members from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota districts. We have been gathering monthly via Zoom on the first Monday at 7:30 PM (CT).
- We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the 2024 Annual Conference delegates for the Prayer Team ministry, such as "I/we never experienced the presence of God so tangibly at the Annual Conference before" and "I felt amazing peace that I was at God's house." Thanks to the prayer team members for their ministry and the Conference Planning team for including three prayer times in the Conference agenda schedule. Above all, thank God for His presence in our midst. We plan to provide a "Prayer Station" at the Conference where the delegates freely come and pray at any time. Our team will pray for those who request prayer during break times.
- Our team writes an article for the Conference's monthly newsletter to share prayer points and encourage churches to pray. We hope our articles remind churches of the importance of prayer for the spiritual lives of individuals and churches.
- We provided information for over 20 books on/about prayer on the Conference website for the church to use as a resource.
- We provide a 45-second daily prayer for all in our Conference so that we may all pray the same.
- We provided prayers for Lent, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter in 2025 for the Conference article and Facebook.
- Last year, we passed out 400 World Prayer Maps (from EveryHome.org) at the Annual Conference. The delegates wanted more, so we prepared the map to distribute again this year, hoping the churches would pray for all nations; without Jesus, the world is broken.
- We pray for all aspects of the ministries and the pastors of our Conference, the GMC, and national and international concerns. We have additional meetings to plan the prayer ministry. We also support the GMC's prayer ministry when they call special 40 days of prayers.
- We plan to survey the churches this coming year to learn the prayer ministry condition of the church so that we can effectively support and encourage the churches' prayer ministry, be connected, and work closer together as one body.

- We have been praying for the following concerns:
 - That prayer becomes an essential ministry in every church, so that our churches may truly become houses of prayer.
 - For God’s wisdom, insight, and guidance for the bishops and pastors of our Conferences.
 - For an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and for revival and renewal in all churches within our Conference, the Global Methodist Church (GMC), the United States, and around the world.
 - For the effectiveness and wellbeing of pastors, as well as clear vision and unity for our churches.
 - For God’s blessings upon our church planting ministries and youth ministries.
 - For God’s grace and mercy upon those suffering from natural disasters.
 - For the General Conference and the election of General Conference delegates.

I thank God for all the prayer team members who have faithfully served in this manner. We cannot fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission without Prayer and Intercession. As history tells us, revivals of the church and fruitful evangelism and mission happen upon prayer, so is PRAYER not what we desperately need today?

Rev. Dr. Christina Sung,

Prayer Team Leader, submitted this report.

Ethnic Ministry Team Report

I am deeply grateful for the Upper Midwest Annual Conference's ongoing faithfulness. We remain the only Annual Conference in the Global Methodist Church (GMC) to have a dedicated Committee on Ethnic Ministry. This is a testimony to our collective commitment to reflecting the beautiful diversity of God's Kingdom. I thank all the leaders for their support and empowerment of our ethnic pastors, churches, and ministries.

Our work is grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ, which transcends culture, language, and status, calling all people into one body. We proclaim, with the Apostle Paul, "Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all" (Colossians 3:11 NIV). In Christ, we are one humanity, formed by grace and united in mission, with every part of the body indispensable to the whole (Romans 12:5).

Over the past year, the Committee on Ethnic Ministry has continued to meet monthly, focusing on key areas. For 2025, we expanded our work to include six strategic priorities:

1. **Building Relationships:** Our conference spans multiple states and encompasses a diverse range of people and places. We remain committed to fostering strong personal and pastoral relationships that help unify and strengthen our community.
2. **Sharing Leadership:** Our committee continues to equip ethnic leaders to serve in wider conference leadership. Ethnic representation remains active in many committees throughout the conference. We affirm the value of including diverse voices to offer unique insight and wisdom in our decision-making processes.
3. **Supporting Ethnic Churches and Pastors:** We maintain ongoing contact with numerous ethnic churches and pastors who are discerning their future, particularly those within the UMC. We are committed to walking alongside them, offering spiritual, relational, and practical support, including help with finances and worship space.
4. **Partnership Churches:** To address financial instability among ethnic churches, we continue to encourage partnerships between ethnic congregations and more resourced churches. These partnerships can offer encouragement, shared ministry, and mutual blessing.
5. **Education:** We continue to promote awareness and understanding of how local churches can structure and adapt their ministries to reflect and reach their communities. This includes offering resources on worship styles, pastoral assignments, and leadership development. We emphasize that while diversity is a goal of the gospel, it must be pursued with discernment and not elevated above the centrality of Christ.
6. **Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural (CR/CC) Training:** In 2025, we launched a new initiative to equip churches and pastors for effective cross-racial and cross-cultural ministry. Through theological foundations, practical workshops, and relational strategies, this training is helping local churches navigate differences with grace and courage. Our goal is not just inclusion, but transformation—learning to love, lead, and worship together across ethnic and cultural lines.

We celebrate what God is doing among us and remain hopeful. Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we seek to embody the reconciling work of Christ in all we do.

Blessings,
Jonathan Lee
The Chair of the Committee on Ethnic Ministry

Communications Team Report

Team Members:

Alec Amosson, James Parks, Alan Campbell, Anne Reinhiller, Nora Mendyk, Shanna Pinkerton, William Hoffman

General Work of the Communications Team:

- Help connect people & share opportunities for ways to be involved for all clergy & lay people across the states of our conference.
- Keep local congregations, lay people, and clergy up to date about all things happening in the conference.
- Share resources from the Global Methodist Church with members of our conference.
- Celebrate the good news of ministries and churches in our conference.

How Can You Help?

- Join the team! We are looking for more people interested in helping our conference communicate effectively & openly as we continue to grow. People needed to help look at our processes, purpose, and dream of new ways to be in connection through communications.
- Share the good things happening in your local church:
 - <https://form.jotform.com/242467999461171>
- Follow & Like the Communication Channels Available:
 - Website: <https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/>
 - Twice per month Newsletter: <https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/newsletter>
 - Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560495272933>
 - YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@UpperMidwestConferenceMedia>

Jethro Project Report

Jethro, though not a prominent figure in Scripture, blessed God's people through his seasoned experience and insight. As the Upper Midwest Conference grows towards the vital organization necessary for the Kingdom building work to which it is called, some structural assistance is offered by the Senior Members of the Conference. These men and women labored for decades in the church and movement(s) that birthed the Global Methodist Church. Their passion for Christ, expertise and experience in ministry could be very valuable in these fledgling moments of our ministry when channeled towards specific things.

The "Jethro Project" presents the following report of our activity for the Conference Year 2024-2025.

1. The **Pastor and Congregation Prayer** project pairs a "Senior Member" with a District to pray daily for every pastor and their congregation in their district and directly contact each pastor periodically to listen, encourage and pray with them. Pastors have received this well and 14 of our 18 Districts are being ministered to in this way and we seek to fill the remaining 4 spots this summer.
2. Retreats led by the Jethro Project entitled "**Let's be Methodist Together**" constructed for the purpose of connecting clergy together and encouraging them to imbed "Methodism" in the DNA of their congregations. Four districts have already experienced the retreat and other districts in the conference have been invited to get this exciting and inspirational gathering on their calendars in 2025 or '26.
3. In person **seminary visits** at Indiana Wesleyan, United, Asbury and Wesley Biblical Seminary were made by a "Jethro" with the purpose of building relationships with students and staff for the purpose of recruiting new pastors to the Upper Midwest Conference.
4. "Jethroes" have ministered in many other ways this year including:
 - a. One Jethro led a 5-day revival in Ashland, NE sponsored by our GMC and five other churches in that community.
 - b. Several have written articles for the digital biweekly Conference Communication and for the Article Archives on the Conference Website.
 - c. Two are working on a program regarding Cross Cultural/Cross Racial pastoral appointments, coaching and ministries.
 - d. Most Jethro's are counseling, encouraging or coaching one or a few pastors.
 - e. Several are in conversation and/or meeting with churches considering becoming GMC.

Superintendency Committee Report

1. The Committee on Superintendency

- a. Our committee has met twice since General Conference
 - i. We have worked to establish our role and come up with a framework for how our committee will operate.
 - ii. Bishop Webb has helped us shape how our committee will function.
- b. The role of the Superintendent is defined in Paragraph 607 of the BODD
- c. The role of the committee is defined in Paragraph 710.3 of the BODD
 - i. Our framework is as follows
 1. We exist to support the Conference Superintendents by:
 - a. Making ourselves available for counsel
 - b. Supporting them through the budget
 - c. Making them aware of and talking through things that need to be addressed in our conference
 - d. Providing oversight
 - e. Consulting them about continuing education
 2. We also exist to support the conference by:
 - a. Interpreting to the conference the nature of superintendency
 - b. Consulting with Bishop Webb
 - c. Keeping our meetings confidential
 - d. Being eyes and ears in the conference and communicating to the Superintendents issues that need to be addressed
- d. We have agreed that the chair of the committee will touch base with the Superintendents monthly to address any needs and to pray
- e. Our meetings for the time being will be as needed
- f. The Superintendency Committee would like to communicate to the churches that if there are conference level issues that need to be addressed to please contact a member of the committee so that we can bring it to the Superintendents to be addressed
- g. We also ask that you would be actively praying for Ross and James personally and professionally as they continue to lead our conference with integrity, grace, and discernment.

Respectfully submitted by:

Pastor Jake Schadel (Chair of the Superintendency Committee)

Nominations & Leadership Development Report

The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee is responsible for nominating both clergy and laity to serve on annual conference committees and boards. We also provide resources and opportunities for church and leadership development.

I began serving as the committee's vice chair in January. Since then, we have met monthly to focus on aligning our committees with the requirements of the Book of Discipline. This includes working to ensure proper representation and balance between clergy and laity, as well as confirming that committee assignments comply with the guidelines regarding who can serve and for how long.

Given the size and newness of our conference—and the geographical distance between us, we are still learning who people are and what gifts they bring. That's made the process more challenging, but we're making good progress. We've also been intentional about trying to secure representation from the various states in our conference whenever possible.

In addition to filling committees, we've been reviewing term lengths and reappointment eligibility to ensure everything is consistent with the Discipline. We are also preparing descriptions for each committee that outline responsibilities and term limits. This will help potential nominees understand what they're signing up for.

Another area of focus has been planning breakout sessions for Annual Conference. These sessions are intended to train local churches in the responsibilities of various church boards and roles, equipping them for more effective ministry.

Looking ahead, after Annual Conference we plan to begin developing a resource database to support local churches. The vision is to connect churches that are thriving in specific ministry areas with others who may need support or guidance. This will take time, but we believe it will be a valuable tool for strengthening ministries across the conference.

We've also utilized a self-nomination process and reached out to individuals recommended for specific committees. We've done our best to place people where their gifts and passions align with the needs of the conference. While most positions will be voted on at Annual Conference, we expect to take a few nominations from the floor to fill in any remaining openings.

Lastly, I want to thank the entire committee for their hard work and dedication. This process has not been without challenges, especially as we navigate the requirements of the Discipline and adjust accordingly. For example, although I was initially asked to serve as chair, the Discipline states that the Conference Superintendent must serve in that role. So, James Parks is our official chair, and I continue to assist him however I can, knowing he already carries many responsibilities.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Annual Conference. If you have ideas, know someone who would be a good fit for committee service, or have a successful ministry you'd be willing to share with others, please reach out to me. We'd love to include those stories in the resource network we're building.

Thank you all for your willingness to serve the Lord and His Church.

Clarence Mittleider | clarencemittleider@gmail.com | 701-552-2093

Conference Leadership Council

The Conference Leadership Council shall meet for the purpose of communication and coordination of ministry among the boards and committees. ¶710.1

Spiritual Gifts and Skills: Administration/Leadership, Wisdom, Faith, Helping/Serving

Role	Name	Status
Conference Superintendent	James Parks	Clergy
Conference Vice Superintendent	Ross Reinhiller	Clergy
Secretary		
Board of Ministry Chair	Valerie Reinhiller	Clergy
Superintendency Committee Chair	Jake Schadel	Clergy
F & A Committee Chair	Dee Willoughby	Laity
Sessions Committee Chair	Elizabeth Pierson	Laity
Missions Team	Norma Morrison	Laity
Conference Lay Leader	Alan Campbell	Laity
Prayer & Intercession Chair	Christina Sung	Clergy
Multiplication Team	Zachery Kingery	Clergy
Ethnic Ministry Committee	Jonathan Lee	Clergy
Nominations & Leadership Develop.	Clarence Mittleider	Laity
Conference Communications	Alex Amosson	Laity
Disaster Response Chair	Phil Rogers	Clergy
Jethro Project Director	Mike Morgan	Clergy
At Large	David Odell	Clergy
At Large	Lyn Isom	Laity
At Large	Jenice Epp	Clergy

Board of Ministry

The Board of Ministry. The board of ministry shall be responsible for overseeing the recruiting and credentialing of clergy for the furtherance of the mission of the Global Methodist Church. (¶¶ 506-510, 514-517, 519, 521) The Board shall also be responsible for overseeing all clergy changes in conference relations. (¶¶ 518, 520) ¶710.2

Name	Status
CHAIR: Valerie Reinhiller	Clergy
VICE CHAIR: Luann Bengé	Clergy
SECRETARY: Debbie Brown	Laity
ETHNIC MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE:	
Conference Superintendent: James Parks	Clergy
Vice Superintendent: Ross Reinhiller	Clergy
Alison McElroy (2030)	Laity
Corey Jenkins (2030)	Clergy
Darla Hadrack (2030)	Clergy
Jeff Kelley (2030)	Clergy
Joleen Pietrzak (2030)	Clergy

Kathy Fitzgerald (2030)	Laity	
Luann Bengé (2030)	Clergy	
Norman Kelley (2030)	Clergy	
Jeff Kodis (2030)	Clergy	
Sarah Herman (2030)	Clergy	
Travis Stevick (2030)	Clergy	
Wes Johnson (2030)	Clergy	

Superintendency Committee

Superintendency Committee. The superintendency committee shall be responsible to support the conference superintendent in the oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Global Methodist Church, with special reference to the area where the conference superintendent has residential responsibility. ¶710.3

Spiritual Gifts & Skills: Discernment of Spirits, Pastoring, Wisdom, Encouragement, Mercy, conflict management.

Name	Status	
CHAIR: Jake Schadel (2030)	Clergy	
VICE CHAIR: Thom Bowsher (2029)	Clergy	
LAY LEADER: Alan Campbell (2028)	Laity	
ETHNIC MINISTRY REP: Emmanuel Naweji (2030)	Clergy	
Conference Superintendent: James Parks	Clergy	
Conference Vice Superintendent: Ross Reinhiller	Clergy	
Sheri Fadley (2029)	Clergy	
Lyn Isom (2029)	Laity	
Debbie Brown (2028)	Laity	
Steve Carpenter (2030)	Laity	
Guillermo “Bong” Bongolan (2028)	Clergy	
(2029)	Laity	

Finance and Administration Committee

Finance and Administration Committee. The finance and administration committee shall be responsible to develop, maintain, and administer a comprehensive and coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies, budgets, procedures, and management services for the annual conference. ¶710.4

Spiritual Gifts and skills: Giving, Administration/Leadership, Wisdom, Faith, business management experience.

Name	Status	
CHAIR: Dee Willoughby (2030)	Laity	
VICE CHAIR:		
PRESIDING ELDER: Phil Rogers	Clergy	
CONFERENCE TREASURER: Tracie Ludeke	Laity	
CONFERENCE BOOKKEEPER: Jeff Pospisil	Laity	
SECRETARY: Alona Burtz (2029)	Laity	
Conference Superintendent: James Parks	Clergy	
Patrick Munyakazi (2028)	Clergy	

Lexie Ludeke (2028)	Laity	
Randy Fleming (2029)	Laity	
Roxann Petzold (2028)	Laity	
John Gaulke (2029)	Clergy	
(2029)	Clergy	
(2030)	Clergy	
(2030)	Clergy	

Nominations and Leadership Development Committee

Nominations and Leadership Committee. The nominations and leadership committee shall be responsible for nominating clergy and laity to serve on annual conference committees and boards. ¶710.5

Spiritual Gifts and skills: Administration/Leadership, Discernment of Spirits, Knowledge, Wisdom, Encouragement, human resources professionals, life coaches

Name	Status	
CHAIR: James Parks	Clergy	
VICE CHAIR: Clarence Mittleider (2030)	Laity	
PRESIDING ELDER: Jonathan Lee	Clergy	
SECRETARY: Andy Young (2030)	Laity	
Brenda Goodman (2030)	Clergy	
Tiffani Brewer (2030)	Clergy	
Merilee Sieck (2030)	Laity	
LeAnn Rowse (2030)	Laity	

Committee on Investigation

Committee on Investigation. The committee on investigation shall be responsible for considering judicial complaints against clergy as set out in Part Nine: Judicial Administration of this Book of Doctrines and Discipline and specifically ¶910.2. ¶710.6

Spiritual Gifts & Skills: Discernment of Spirits, Knowledge, Wisdom, conflict resolution, investigative background, detail oriented.

Name	Status	
CHAIR: Josh Swaim (2027)	Clergy	
Conference Superintendent: James Parks	Clergy	
Vice Superintendent: Ross Reinhiller	Clergy	
Dale Fadley (2026)	Laity	
Derek Runge (2026)	Clergy	
Bob Wynn (2026)	Clergy	
Linda Carpenter (2026)	Laity	
Shawn LaRue (2027)	Clergy	
Steve Garrington (2027)	Laity	
Alternates:		
Steve Behrens (2027)	Clergy	
Rick Frederickson (2027)	Laity	
Paul Manson (2028)	Clergy	
Todd Holman (2028)	Clergy	

Mike Willer (2028)	Clergy	
Roxann Petzold (2028)	Laity	
(2028)	Laity	

Administrative Review Committee

The administrative review committee (§ 906.2) shall be responsible for ensuring that the disciplinary procedures for resolving a substantiated administrative complaint are properly followed as required by Judicial Practices and Procedures 5.2 and fair process (§ 905). **¶710.7**

Spiritual Gifts & Skills: Discernment of Spirits, Knowledge, Wisdom, Administration/Leadership, legal background.

Name	Status	
CHAIR: Mike McInnis (2026)	Clergy	
VICE CHAIR/SECRETARY: Mark Tracy (2027)	Clergy	
Conference Superintendent: James Parks	Clergy	
Conference Vice Superintendent: Ross Reinhiller	Clergy	
Alternates:		
Jenice Epp (2028)	Clergy	
Jeff Thurman (2027)	Clergy	
Todd Schlitter (2028)	Clergy	

Sessions Committee

The sessions committee shall be responsible for planning and managing all aspects of the annual conference session and any other events/gatherings assigned to it by the Bishop or Conference Superintendent.

Name	Status	
CHAIR: Elizabeth Pierson	Laity	
ETHNIC MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE: Patrick Munyakazi	Clergy	
Conference Superintendent: James Parks	Clergy	
Ben Wedeking	Clergy	
Brenda Dotseth	Laity	
David Odell	Clergy	
Andrea Schadel	Laity	
Helen Parks	Clergy	
Merilee Sieck	Clergy	
Joel Rathbun	Clergy	
Joleen Pietrzak	Clergy	
Phil Schmidt	Clergy	
Sarah Jenkins	Laity	
Val Reinhiller	Clergy	

Ethnic Ministry Team

Our work is grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ, which transcends culture, language, and status, calling all people into one body. We work to include these six strategic priorities: Building Relationships, Sharing Leadership, Supporting Ethnic Churches and Pastors, Partnership with Churches, Education and Cross-Racial/Cross Cultural training.

Name	Status
CHAIR: Jonathan Lee	Clergy
VICE CHAIR: Aaron Limo	Clergy
SECRETARY:	
Vice Superintendent: Ross Reinhiller	Clergy
Christina Sung	Clergy
Gideon Gallo	Clergy
Henry Jenkins	Clergy
Patrick Munyakazi	Clergy
Emmanuel Naweji	Clergy
Hui Angie Vertz	Clergy
Eric Shin	Clergy

Conference Prayer & Intercession Team

The role of The Conference Prayer & Intercession Team is to ensure the work of the emerging Conference is thoroughly covered in prayer throughout the developmental process and beyond." The team prays for regional leadership and regional needs as well as the Global Methodist Church leadership and needs. This Conference team also prays and works together to encourage local Global Methodist Church pastors to prayerfully select a prayer point person from each local church to ensure prayer is a priority in local churches. The Conference Prayer & Intercession team encourages churches to become a "house of prayer." The team also resources local churches as needed. Most importantly, the team prays for the mission of the Upper Midwest Conference: "To lovingly walk alongside laity and clergy as they make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe."

District Name	Status	Prayer Coordinator
Conference Prayer Coordinator:	Clergy	Christina Sung
Conference Lay Leader:	Laity	Alan Campbell
Iowa:		
East Central	Laity	Jen Zoller
North Central	Laity	Carol Bacon
North East	TBD	TBD
North West	Clergy	Carl Benge & Sedar Shako
South Central	TBD	TBD
South East	TBD	TBD
Minnesota:		
North	TBD	TBD
South	Clergy	Eric Shin
Montana:		
Montana	TBD	TBD

Nebraska:		
Nebraska West	TBD	TBD
Nebraska South Central	TBD	TBD
Nebraska North Central	TBD	TBD
Nebraska East/Iowa South West	Clergy	Mike Hader
North Dakota:		
East	Laity	Heather Severance
West	Laity	Barb Nash
South Dakota:		
Northeast	Clergy	Sandra Marquardt
Southeast	TBD	TBD
West	TBD	TBD
Wyoming:		
Wyoming	TBD	TBD

Multiplication Team

The Multiplication Team operates with authorization of the Annual Conference to “encourage and facilitate the planting of new churches, including the authorization of sponsorship by existing congregations, and to charter such new congregations” (¶¶ 439.17, 450, 709.3), and has the overall goal of seeing all healthy congregations in the conference actively participating in multiplication.

Name	Status	
CHAIR: Zachery Kingery	Clergy	
SECRETARY:		
Conference Superintendent: James Parks	Clergy	
Conference Vice Superintendent: Ross Reinhiller	Clergy	
Gary Hoyt	Senior Clergy	
Derek Baum	Clergy	
Emmanuel Naweji	Clergy	
Phil Rogers	Clergy	

Communication Team

Help connect people and share opportunities for ways to be involved for all clergy & lay people across the states of our conference. Keep local congregations, lay people, and clergy up to date about all things happening in the conference. Share resources from the Global Methodist Church with members of our conference. Celebrate the good news of ministries and churches in our conference.

Name	Status	
CHAIR: Alec Amosson	Laity	
Superintendent: James Parks	Clergy	
Alan Campbell	Laity	
Bill Hoffman	Clergy	
Nora Mendyk	Senior Clergy	
Shanna Pinkerton	Laity	
Anne Reinhiller	Laity	

Missions Team

This team is to serve the conference in mission. They will gather information on opportunities to serve outside the conference and inside the conference. They will also help facilitate our partnership with the South Africa Conference.

Name	Status	
CHAIR: Norma Morrison	Laity	
VICE-CHAIR: Annalise Santillan	Laity	
SECRETARY: Becky Heeren	Laity	
Conference Superintendent: James Parks	Clergy	
Conference Vice Superintendent: Ross Reinhiller	Clergy	
Daniel Evans	Laity	
Eric Shin	Clergy	
Mike Waldrop	Clergy	
Rey Colon	Clergy	

Districts

District Name	Number of Churches	
Iowa:		
Iowa East Central	13	
Iowa North Central	13	
Iowa North East	16	
Iowa North West	12	
Iowa South Central	15	
Iowa South East	10	
Minnesota:		
Minnesota North	7	
Minnesota South	3	
Montana:		
Montana	2	
Nebraska:		
Nebraska West	15	
Nebraska South Central	14	
Nebraska North Central	9	
Nebraska East/Iowa South West	11	
North Dakota:		
North Dakota East	8	
North Dakota West	10	
South Dakota:		
South Dakota Northeast	14	
South Dakota Southeast	9	
West SD	11	
Wyoming:	0	
Total	192	

Board of Ministry

The Board of Ministry (BOM) is intentional about our work and mission. We are blessed with the task of building and assisting in creating a culture of call throughout the Upper Midwest Conference. We nurture people through the candidacy and ordination process. We train lay leaders in the Conference. We maintain standards for clergy effectiveness throughout a clergy member's life of service and honor the service of our clergy members at pivotal transition points. We take this task seriously. We pray and seek God's guidance as we work with each person.

The BOM offers opportunities in the Upper Midwest Conference. The two opportunities presently are:

Certified Lay Ministry School (currently we have over 40 students enrolled)

Candidacy Mentor Training (we are looking for more clergy mentors)

We urge all churches and clergy to prayerfully consider God's leading and the Spirit's moving in people's lives. God has called each Christian to ministry, whether lay or ordained. If you have a call to pastoral ministry, please seek out your pastor or Presiding Elder and share your call.

Submitted by Val Reinhillier, Chair, Upper Midwest Board of Ministry

CLERGY SESSION BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT

CERTIFIED LAY MINISTERS

1. What persons in the past year have transferred to the GMC who had previously held the status of Lay Servant Ministry certification? And from what conference in the predecessor denomination did they transfer?

Year of Transfer	Certified Lay Minister	Conference Transferring From
2024	Bruce Baker	IA
2024	Mary Baker	IA
2024	Betty Janke	Dakotas
2024	Rebecca Krause	Dakotas
2024	Karmen Jamison	IA
2024	Merlyne Smith	IA

2. What persons have completed the certification for Certified Lay Ministry in the GMC? In what conference was their training?

Year of Completion	Certified Lay Minister	Conference Where Trained
2024	Greta Burck	Upper Midwest
2024	Phillip Grile	Upper Midwest
2024	Nola Horvey	Upper Midwest
2024	Nancy Karnley-Clark	Upper Midwest
2024	Richard Ohm	Upper Midwest
2024	Merilee Sieck	Upper Midwest
2025	John Akakpo	Upper Midwest
2025	Marlene Booth	Upper Midwest
2025	Joseph Faubion	Upper Midwest
2025	Jerry Farber	Upper Midwest
2025	Kathleen Flaugh	Upper Midwest
2025	Marla Graham	Upper Midwest
2025	Matthew Kearns	Upper Midwest
2025	Kathy Michels	Upper Midwest
2025	Clarence Mittleider	Upper Midwest
2025	Tom Riley	Upper Midwest
2025	Lynn Rohrer	Upper Midwest
2025	Holly Seifert	Upper Midwest
2025	Lynn Skalla	Upper Midwest
2025	Nicole Stengel	Upper Midwest
2025	Gregg Tallman	Upper Midwest
2025	Jamal Tongo	Upper Midwest

CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION

3. What persons have been approved as candidates for ministry?

Year of Approval	Candidates for Ministry
2024	Greta Burck
2024	Stephenie Henson
2024	Kristin Lupkes
2024	Andrea Schadel
2024	Michael Sells
2024	Erin Wetzel
2024	Deann Ganzley

2025	Robert Bacon
2025	Andrew Bee
2025	Peter Buschmann
2025	Karl Dallefeld
2025	Jonathon Hennings
2025	Lisa Koester
2025	Jeremy LaBrie
2025	Clarence Mittleider
2025	Rich Ohm
2025	Zachary Rogers
2025	Cameron Scott
2025	James Shroll
2025	David Walvoord
2025	Stephen Williams

4. What persons have transferred to the GMC as candidates for ministry? From what conference did they transfer?

Year of Transfer	Candidates for Ministry	Conference Transferring From

5. What persons have completed the candidacy for ordination? What year was their candidacy approved?

Year Approved	Candidates for Ordination

TRANSITIONAL LOCAL PASTOR

6. What persons are recognized as Transitional Local Pastors and in what year was that status recognized?

Year Recognized	Transitional Local Pastors
2024	Tiffani Brewer
2024	Jared Cass
2025	Andy Early
2024	Brenda Goodman
2024	Jeff Hauser
2024	Mike Jager
2024	Michael Jones
2025	Barbara Krumm
2024	Shawn LaRue

2024	Marlene (Molly) Leger
2025	Byron Miller
2024	Patrick Munyakazi
2024	Adriaan Nel
2024	Bobbie Postal
2024	James Sweers
2024	Mary Timmermann
2024	Cheri Van Gorp
2025	Richard Webster
2024	David Wittmann
2024	Jacob Yochum
2024	Jennifer Zoller

SUPPLY PASTOR

7. What persons have been appointed as Supply Pastor? What is the current appointment? What year were they *first appointed*?

Year of First Appointment	Supply Pastors Appointed	Current Appointment
2024	Greta Burck	Kindred/Walcott, ND
2024	Michael Sells	Alice/Urbana, IA
2024	Erin Wetzel	Corning, IA
2025	Clarence Mittleider	Marion/Dickey/Oakes, ND
2025	James Shroll	Clear Lake/Gary, SD
2025	Robert Bacon	Maxwell IA
2025	Karl Dallefeld	Epworth, IA
2025	Lisa Koester	Green Mountain Chapel, IA
2025	Zachary Rogers	Delhi/Manchester, IA

DEACON

8. What persons are inactive Deacons?

Year First Inactive	Deacons

9. What persons have moved from inactive to active status as a Deacon?

Year Moved to Active	Deacons

10. What persons are Senior Deacons?

Year Moved to Senior	Senior Deacons
2024	Loronda Schuler

11. What Deacons have taken retired/Senior status?

Year Moved to Senior	Senior Deacons

12. What persons have been approved for ordination as a permanent Deacon? What year? Do they have educational requirements remaining to complete?

Year of Approval	Permanent Deacons to be Ordained	Educational Requirements Completed? (yes/no)

13. What persons have been approved for ordination as a permanent Deacon? What year? Do they have educational requirements remaining to complete?

Year of Approval	Deacons intending to be Ordained Elder	Educational Requirements Completed? (yes/no)
2024	Sedar Shako	yes
2024	Jenice Epp	yes

ELDERS

14. What persons are inactive Elders? (Persons serving a non-GMC Church)

Year First Inactive	Elders
2024	Jani Dahlin
2024	Jeff Dahlin
2024	Tim Frasher
2024	John Gaulke
2024	Kevin Gingerich
2024	Eduardo LaRoche
2024	Jonathan Lee
2023	Phil Schmidt
2024	Randall Taber

15. What persons have moved from inactive to active status as an Elder?

Year Moved to Active	Elders
2025	Juwle Nagbe

16. What persons are Senior Elders?

Year Moved to Senior	Senior Elders
2024	John Battern
2024	James Beranek
2024	Robert Duemig
2024	Robert Dodge
2024	Mike Ellson
2024	Valera Heydenberk
2024	Jerry Heydenberk
2024	Vincent Homan
2024	Gary Hoyt
2204	Morris Hurd
2024	Norman Kelley
2024	Darwin Kopfmann
2024	Nora Mendyk
2024	Cynthia Morrison
2024	Steven Nelson
2024	Joyce Savage
2024	Richard Savage
2024	Franklin (Keith) Schadel
2024	Roger Spahr
2024	Judson Stover
2024	James Turner
2024	Marvin Winstryg
2025	Mary Howell

17. What Elders have taken retired/Senior status?

Year Moved to Senior	Senior Elders
2024	Jamie Farias
2024	Barbara McKewin
2024	Mike Morgan
2024	Ray Sherwood

2024	Kyle Reinhiller
2024	Jeff Thurman
2025	Sharon Andersen
2025	Mark Britton
2025	Todd Schlitter
2025	Bill Williams

18. What persons have been approved for ordination as an Elder? What year? Do they have educational requirements completed?

Year of Approval of Elder	To be Ordained Elder	Educational Requirements Completed? (yes/no)
2025	Anthony Coffman	yes
2025	Michael Hader	yes
2025	Paul Kimball	yes
2025	Alisa Parde	yes
2025	Hyun (Tommy) Suh	yes
2025	Angie Vertz	yes

19. What persons have taken Outside and Beyond the Local Church appointments?

Year Appointment Began	Clergy Elder	Location and Agency
2024	Carl Benge	Ida Grove, IA – Ida Grove Fire Dept and Ida County Chaplain
2024	Thomas Carlson	Fire/Law Enforcement/Pastoral Counselor
2024	Timothy Frasher	Air Force National Guard
2024	Stephen Peters	Air Force National Guard
2024	Luke Smith	Watertown, SD – Canyon Pathways
2024	Michael Willer	Army Reserve
2024	Paul Kimball	Platte Community Youth Ministry, Platte, SD

VALID CLERGY

20. What persons have been appointed Valid Deacon in the conference? What was the first year of that appointment?

Year first Appointed	Approved and Appointed Valid Deacon
2025	Thomas Smithson
2025	Rayl Robbins

21. What persons have been approved and appointed as Valid Elders in the conference? What was the first year of that appointment?

Year first Ap- pointed	Approved and Appointed Valid Elders

22. What clergy in good standing in other Christian denominations have been approved to serve appointments within the Upper Midwest Conference while retaining their denominational affiliation?

Year Appoint- ment Began	Clergy Elder	Location and Denomination
2023	Steve Anderson	Cornerstone, Watertown, SD – Evangelical Covenant

TRANSFERS

23. What persons have transferred to the conference? The date of their transfer, the conference from which they transferred, and their status.

Date of Transfer	Transfers In	Status	Conference Transferring From
7/1/24	Sarah Fisher	Elder	North Carolina
5/1/25	Hyun (Tommy) Suh	TBOE	Virginia

24. What persons have been transferred to other GMC conferences?

Date of Transfer	Transfers To	Status	Conference Transferring To
2024	Buck Linton-Hendrick	Elder	Heartland
2025	Gwen Mader	Elder	Western States
2025	Gary McDonough	Elder	Western States

LEAVES

25. What persons have been transferred to other GMC conferences?

Year first on Leave	Clergy on Leave	Status
2023	Greg Ciesluk	Elder
2024	Joy Mitchell	Elder
2024	John Nadasi	Elder
2024	Emmanuel T. Naweji	Elder
2024	Christina Sung	Elder

DISCONTINUED

26. What candidates for Ordination have been discontinued? Withdrawn or by action of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Year Discontinued	Candidates for Ordination Discontinued
2025	Deann Ganzley (Withdrew)
2025	Donna Johnson (BOM action)

27. What Deacons have had their clergy status terminated? Withdrawn or by action of the Board of Ordained Ministry? What was their status at the time of termination?

Year Terminated	Deacons	Status (Active, Inactive, Senior)

28. What Elders have had their clergy status terminated? Withdrawn or by action of the Board of Ordained Ministry? What was their status at the time of termination?

Year Terminated	Elders	Status (Active, Inactive, Senior)

29. What Deacons have died during the year?

Year Deceased	Deacon	Status (Active, Inactive, Senior)

30. What Elders have died during the year?

Year Deceased	Elders	Status (Active, Inactive, Senior)
2024	William "Don" Morrison	Senior

Appointment List

IOWA EAST CENTRAL - PRESIDING ELDER: ANDREW HAPP

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Tiffani Brewer	Alburnett	Alburnett, IA	218	32
Michael Sells	Alice	Center Point, IA	65	46
Andrew Happ	Anchor Bible	Center Point, IA	500	282
Michael Sells	Urbana	Center Point, IA	21	14
Patrick Munyakazi	Riverview Bible	Central City, IA	60	30
Sharon Andersen	Coggon United Parish	Coggon, IA	56	20
Andrew Bee	Living Hope	Lisbon, IA	396	65
Becky High	Christ Community	Marion, IA	150	108
Helen Parks	Marion	Marion, IA	699	394
James Parks	Marion	Marion, IA	-	-
Tiffani Brewer	Prairie Chapel	Marion, IA	148	61
Guillermo Bongolan	Springville	Springville, IA	48	48
Ruby Bongolan	First	Tiffin, IA	56	40
Patrick Munyakazi	New Hope	Walker, IA	138	35

IOWA NORTH CENTRAL - PRESIDING ELDER: JEFF KODIS

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Lyndon Roesler	Armstrong	Armstrong, IA	247	60
Todd Holman	Faith Bible	Britt, IA	191	71
Melody Williams	Geneseo	Buckingham, IA	34	28
Craig Lutrell	First	Clarion, IA	298	162
Todd Hartsock	Cornerstone	Estherville, IA	36	NA
Ward Richards	Gifford	Gifford, IA	18	8
Gideon Gallo	Gladbrook	Gladbrook, IA	155	70
Lisa Koester	Chapel	Green Mountain, IA	26	20
Jeff Kodis	First	Marshalltown, IA	225	112
Rob Bacon (Lay)	Maxwell	Maxwell, IA	132	35
Evelyn Lewiston	Grace Global	Ogden, IA	87	80
Ward Richards	Owasa	Owasa (Iowa Falls), IA	31	23
Todd Hartsock	Community	Swea City, IA	155	25

IOWA NORTH EAST - PRESIDING ELDER: PHIL ROGERS

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Kim Ragland	Cedar Valley Community	Charles City, IA	24	20
Keith Pitts	First	Clinton, IA	209	72
Pete Buschman (Lay)	Community	Colesburg, IA	88	50
Zach Rogers	Delhi	Delhi, IA	163	66
Tom Shinkle	Center Grove	Dubuque, IA	44	14
Tom Shinkle	Grand View	Dubuque, IA	616	353
David Bracht-Wagner	Mt. Hope	Dunkerton	76	29
David Bracht-Wagner	Dunkerton	Dunkerton	106	17
Tom Shinkle	Wesley	East Dubuque, IL	NA	15
Byron Miller	Elwood Christian	Elwood, IA	61	30
Karl Dallefeld	West Dubuque	Epworth, IA	0	NA
Phil Rogers	Manchester	Manchester, IA	142	175
Mike Jager	Sumner	Sumner, IA	265	44
John Hennings	Heritage	Waverly, IA	65	NA
Byron Miller	Wyoming	Wyoming, IA	40	10
Ethan Larson (Great Lakes)	Grace Global Methodist	New Albin, IA	18	NA

IOWA NORTH WEST - PRESIDING ELDER: LUANN BENGE

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Sedar Shako	Harris	Harris, IA	72	35
Luann Bengé	First	Ida Grove, IA	146	65
Sedar Shako	Lake Park	Lake Park, IA	120	45
Jaime Farias	Le Mars	Le Mars, IA	112	55
Travis Stevick	Grace	Marcus, IA	344	110
Steve Swenson	Ocheyedan	Ocheyedan, IA	126	45
Jaime Farias	Seney	Seney, IA	61	29
Carl Bengé	Crescent Park	Sioux City, IA	120	45
Kathy Flaugh (Lay)	Riverside	Sioux City, IA	50	50
Merlynné Smith (Lay)	St. James	Sioux City, IA	116	54
Carl Bengé	Trimble	Sioux City, IA	71	25
Scott Squires	Wesley	Sioux City, IA	367	83

IOWA SOUTH CENTRAL - PRESIDING ELDER: CHAD LIERMAN

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Rayl Robbins	Trinity	Albia, IA	80	90
Vincent Homan	Delta	Delta, IA	39	22
Aaron Limmo	Maaban	Des Moines, IA	NA	NA
Ben Wedeking	Prairie Creek	Grimes, IA	241	153
Michael Elrod	Hedrick Community	Hedrick, IA	117	60
JD Boatman (not GMC)	Faith	Libertyville, IA	45	36
Shawn LaRue	Grace	Moravia, IA	42	35
Rick Baarda	Lacey	New Sharon, IA	40	28
Timothy Morgan	Pleasant View	Newton, IA	49	23
Steve Lamb	Prairie View	Ollie, IA	111	69
Chad Lierman	Trinity	Oskaloosa, IA	77	80
Mary Baker	Pleasant Hill Country	Prairie City, IA	30	22
Michael Elrod	Richland	Richland, IA	54	25
Nicholas Needham	The Bethel	Sigourney, IA	40	28
Vincent Homan	What Cheer	What Cheer, IA	86	70

IOWA SOUTH EAST - PRESIDING ELDER: BRUCE SMITH

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
John Abraham	Melrose	Argyle (Keokuk), IA	44	37
Kyler Meyers (Lay)	Cedar Valley	Atalissa, IA	NA	NA
Jacob Yochum	Danville	Danville, IA	100	40
Josh Swaim	Christ	Davenport, IA	300	140
Bruce Smith	Mediapolis	Mediapolis, IA	125	71
Tracey Burgus	Mediapolis	Mediapolis, IA	-	-
David Wittman	New Hope	Muscatine, IA	80	48
Donald Timmermann	Sweetland	Muscatine, IA	40	22
Kyler Meyers (Lay)	Nichols	Nichols, IA	24	8
Bruce Smith	Sperry	Sperry, IA	49	32
Tracey Burgus (Deacon)	Sperry	Sperry, IA	-	-
Mike Jones	Clavary	Walcott, IA	250	89

MINNESOTA NORTH - PRESIDING ELDER: BRUCE KRONEN

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Dallas Rostad	Akeley	Akeley, MN	61	NA
Ricardo Alcoser	Ottertail	Ottertail, MN	50	20
Bruce Kronen	Pilgrim Methodist	Plymouth, MN	78	43
Wesley Johnson	Living Hope Family	Sebeka, MN	153	74
Ken Uhren	Verndale Community	Verndale, MN	28	NA
Ken Uhren	Hewitt Community	Vining, MN	63	40
Ricardo Alcoser	Joyful Spirit	Wadena MN	82	40

MINNESOTA SOUTH - PRESIDING ELDER: JONATHAN LEE

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Eric Shin	Korean Evangelical	Hopkins, MN	77	55
Won Guen Lee	Korean Evangelical	Hopkins, MN	-	-
James Strom	Grace Fellowship	Money Crk/Houston, MN	NA	NA
(Tommy) Suh	Windom Methodist	Windom, MN	218	149

MONTANA - PRESIDING ELDER: DAVID ODELL

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
David Odell	Sun River	Sun River, MT	29	19
David Odell	West Side	Great Falls, MT	146	63

NEBRASKA WEST - PRESIDING ELDER: COREY JENKINS

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
	Grace of Benkelman	Benkelman, NE	101	30
Riaan Nel	Chappell	Chappell, NE	NA	40
Alisa Parde	Culbertson	Culbertson, NE	215	40
	Clinton	Gordon, NE	18	6
	Imperial	Imperial, NE	288	69
	Lewellen	Lewellen, NE	NA	8
Riaan Nel	Lodgepole	Lodgepole, NE	61	7
	Max New Hope	Max, NE	23	17
Jeff Kelley	Garden Prairie	McCook, NE	34	21
Jeff Kelley	Memorial	McCook, NE	558	303
	Faith	Ogallala, NE	57	45
	Oshkosh	Oshkosh, NE	88	30
	Faith Methodist	Sidney, NE	347	102
Alisa Parde	Trenton	Trenton, NE	33	8
	Wauneta	Wauneta, NE	119	6

NEBRASKA SOUTH CENTRAL - PRESIDING ELDER: SHANON WILLIAMS

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Joel Rathbun	Arapahoe	Arapahoe, NE	319	51
Joel Rathbun	First	Beaver City, NE	35	12
	Curtis	Curtis, NE	123	30
Shannon Williams	Elsie	Elsie, NE	84	30
Sarah Herman	Elwood	Elwood, NE	68	51
Elmo Herman	Eustis	Eustis, NE	134	54
Elmo Herman	Farnam	Farnam, NE	84	50
	Franklin	Franklin, NE	NA	NA
Dave Mendyk (Lay)	Giltner	Giltner, NE	20	13
Sarah Fisher	Holdrege	Holdrege, NE	368	87
Shanon Williams	Maywood	Maywood, NE	41	10
Dave Mendyk (Lay)	Phillips	Phillips, NE	25	16
Dave Mendyk (Lay)	Trumbull	Trumbull, NE	24	10
Shannon Williams	Wallace	Wallace, NE	224	52

NEBRASKA NORTH CENTRAL - PRESIDING ELDER: JAKE SCHADEL

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Bob Wynn	Atkinson	Atkinson, NE	99	38
Jenice Epp	Bassett	Bassett, NE	140	42
Stephen Williams	Calamus Trinity	Burwell, NE	151	52
Tim Hamilton (Lay)	Hunts Chapel	Cody, NE	40	12
	Jamison	Jamison, NE	20	12
Bob Wynn	O'Neil	O'Neil, NE	182	67
Jenice Epp	Springview	Springview, NE	105	29
Stephen Williams	Calvary	Taylor, NE	80	19
Jake Schadel	Valentine	Valentine, NE	185	91

NEBRASKA EAST/SOUTH WEST IOWA - PRESIDING ELDER: STEVE MCELROY

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
	Ashland	Ashland, NE	104	60
Mike Hader	Barada	Barada, NE	68	58
	Cedar Hill	Cedar Hill, NE	23	15
Andrew Rubenking	Community	Clarinda, IA	80	57
Erin Wetzel	Faith Community	Corning, IA	27	30
Mike Hader	Bethel	Falls City, NE	69	39
Steve McElroy	First	Harlan, IA	396	78
	Arising	Lenox, IA	206	51
Jim Bendorf	Louisville	Louisville, NE	260	70
	Living Faith	Omaha, NE	69	63
Steve McElroy	Monroe Chapel	Walnut, IA	47	19

NORTH DAKOTA EAST - PRESIDING ELDER: HENRY JENKINS

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Charles Olmstead	Trinity Methodist	Cavalier, ND	179	73
Clarence Mittleider	Dickey Methodist	Dickey, ND	25	40
Wilfred Showers (Lay)	Calvary Fargo African	Fargo, ND	NA	15
Rey Colon	Calvary Fargo Church	Fargo, ND	312	196
Greta Burck	Kindred Methodist	Kindred, ND	41	8
Clarence Mittleider	Marion Grace Methodist	Marion, ND	30	40
Clarence Mittleider	Oakes Methodist	Oakes, ND	99	45
Greta Burck	Zion Methodist	Walcott, ND	105	48

NORTH DAKOTA WEST - PRESIDING ELDER: VALERIE REINHILLER

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Corey Jenkins	Bowman Methodist	Bowman, ND	NA	40
Hui Angie Vertz	Hazen Methodist	Hazen, ND	95	30
Val Wagner (Lay)	Lehr Community	Lehr, ND	NA	30
Brenda Goodman	Grace Emmanuel	Medina, ND	NA	40
Juwle Nagbe	Salem Evangelical	Napoleon, ND	NA	NA
Juwle Nagbe	Hope Ebenezer	Streeter, ND	NA	NA
Brenda Goodman	Tappen Cornerstone	Tappen, ND	NA	25
	Tuttle Salem GMC	Tuttle, ND	74	30
Ross Reinhiller	Faith Methodist Church	Williston, ND	216	85
Valerie Reinhiller	Faith Methodist Church	Williston, ND	-	-
Andy Early	Harvest Church	Bismarck, ND	72	112

SOUTH DAKOTA NORTHEAST - PRESIDING ELDER: ROGER SPAHR

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Sandra Marquardt	Bigstone Tabor	Big Stone, SD	112	30
Molly Leger	Bristol Methodist	Bristol/Webster, SD	145	10
Rodney Ulmer	Claremont	Claremont, SD	97	41
James Shroll	Clear Lake	Clear Lake, SD	220	70
James Shroll	Gary	Gary, SD	115	41
	Kellerton	Hazel, SD	9	12
Rodney Ulmer	Resurrection	Hecla, SD	33	13
Steve Behrens	Hitchcock	Hitchcock, SD	174	58
Thomas Bowsher	Central	Milbank, SD	442	223
Sandra Marquardt	Parkview	Milbank, SD	47	15
Sandra Marquardt	Ortonville First	Ortonville, MN	55	11
	Tulare United	Tulare, SD	227	76
Steve Anderson (not GMC)	Cornerstone	Watertown, SD	588	799
Mark Tracy	Cornerstone	Watertown, SD	-	-
Joy Tracy	Cornerstone	Watertown, SD	-	-
Luke Smith	Cornerstone	Watertown, SD	-	-
Molly Leger	Journey of Faith	Webster, SD	145	35

SOUTH DAKOTA SOUTHEAST - PRESIDING ELDER: JOLEEN PIETRZAK

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Joleen Pietrzak	Arlington	Arlington, SD	80	45
Rick Andrus	Elk Point United Parish	Elk Point, SD	119	90
Shawn Abbas	Geddes Community	Geddes, SD	110	45
Paul Manson	Faith Alive	Huron, SD	909	261
Jared Cass	Faith Alive	Huron, SD	-	-
Derek Runge	Kimball Protestant Parish	Kimball, SD	24	70
Arlyn Coalter	Christian Church	Olivet, SD	70	30
Tracy Winters	Redeeming Grace	Sioux Falls, SD	62	82
Bill Hoffman	Prairie's Edge	Stickney, SD	47	NA
Cheri Van Gorp	Wessington Springs	Wessington Springs, SD	116	52

SOUTH DAKOTA WEST – PRESIDING ELDER: DARLA HADRICK

Pastor	Church	Location	Membership	Attendance
Derek Baum	Aldersgate	Aberdeen, SD	870	573
Mike Waldrop	Aldersgate	Aberdeen, SD	-	-
Sheri Fadley	Belle Fourche	Belle Fourche, SD	36	7
Tom Sumers	Cresbard	Cresbard, SD	NA	21
	Saving Grace	Eureka, SD	NA	54
Thomas Carlson	Kennebec	Kennebec, SD	10	21
Darla Hadrick	Mobridge	Mobridge, SD	12	6
Thomas Carlson	Presho Grace	Presho, SD	40	25
Jeff Hauser	Faith Community	Rapid City, SD	NA	NA
Darla Hadrick	Selby	Selby, SD	35	20
Tom Sumers	Tolstoy	Tolstoy, SD	NA	10
Anthony Coffman	Winner	Winner, SD	175	150

Ordination List

On June 15th at 9:00 AM in the Main Room of the Sioux City, IA Convention Center, our service of ordination will take place with Bishop Mark Webb presiding.

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.

The following candidates have been approved by the Board of Ministry of the Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church for ordination.

TO BE ORDAINED ELDER

Anthony Coffman

Michael Hader

Paul Kimball

Alisa Parde

Hyun (Tommy) Suh

Angie Vertz

Cabinet Report

Many of our presiding elders have now had a year of experience. Presiding elders are appointed annually and may not serve more than 12 years in aggregate. (§608 Book of Doctrine and Discipline). Their task is to shepherd, connect, and equip the pastors and churches in their district, while most also serve local churches. They have been working this past year on clarifying our consultative appointment process and leading churches through our first charge conferences.

We continue to evaluate adjustments to be made to help us be effective as a conference. We want to celebrate three presiding elders who will finish serving in that role this month: Henry Jenkins, David Odell and Val Reinhiller. They have served well.

New appointments to the cabinet will be Rey Colon and Jeff Kelley. The reason for only two additions is because we are reducing our districts by one. The Montana-Wyoming District will be divided and connected to other districts. Montana will connect with North Dakota West. Wyoming will connect to South Dakota West.

The other adjustment being made to districts is the naming of the Nebraska districts. They were numbered, but the cabinet thought direction names help people know where the district is. So, the new names are Nebraska West, North Central, South Central, and East.

Please continue to pray for your presiding elders as many of them serve their local church and the conference in this vital ministry.

Cabinet Realignment to be approved at Annual Conference

Presiding Elder	Start Date	End Date	District
Luann Benge	1/1/2024		North West Iowa
Rey Colon	7/1/2025		North Dakota East
Darla Handrick	1/1/2024		South Dakota West/Wyoming
Andrew Happ	7/1/2024		East Central Iowa
Corey Jenkins	1/1/2024		North Dakota West/Montana
Henry Jenkins	1/1/2024	6/1/2025	
Jeff Kelley	7/1/2025		Nebraska West
Jeff Kodis	1/1/2024		North Central Iowa
Bruce Kronen	1/1/2024		Minnesota North
Jonathan Lee	1/1/2024		Minnesota South
Chad Lierman	1/1/2024		South Central Iowa
Steve McElroy	1/1/2024		South West Iowa/Nebraska East
David Odell	1/1/2024	6/30/25	
Joleen Pietrzak	1/1/2024		South Dakota Southeast
Val Reinhiller	1/1/2024	6/30/25	
Phil Rogers	1/1/2024		North East Iowa
Jacob Schadel	1/1/2024		Nebraska North Central
Bruce Smith	7/1/2024		South East Iowa
Roger Spahr	1/1/2024		South Dakota Northeast
Shanon Williams	1/1/2024		Nebraska South Central

South Africa Report

Our Purpose: To grow as disciples, making communities that spread scriptural holiness around the world.

The Upper Midwest Conference partners with the South African Conference of the Global Methodist Church to fulfill our purpose and celebrate the mandate of the Global Methodist Church's commitment of making disciples at home and around the world. The Upper Midwest Conference in our last Conference year has:

1. Faithfully tithed our operational budget to our partnership. The Lord's tithe enables the South African Conference to organize and develop the rudimentary administrative framework necessary for the efficient fulfillment of the Global Methodist mandate. Our support along with the support of the Florida Conference provides for the fundamental resources for developing a Conference office.
2. Developed personal relationships with the South African Conference by sending representatives to the South African Convening Conference last November. Rev. James Parks and Mrs. Norma Morrison were special guests of the South African Conference visiting the work of the church from the shores of the Indian to the shores of the Atlantic Oceans.
3. Engaged in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between our conference, Florida Conference, and the South African Conference. This covenantal agreement sets forth the framework of how our partnership will work. It guides our expectations and amplifies our areas of mutual help and fellowship. The Memorandum of Understanding fosters our mutual trust and commitment.

The Upper Midwest Conference is committed to supporting our partnership with South Africa in our 2025/26 Conference year through this Memorandum of Understanding:

Memorandum of Understanding

Between the Florida and Upper Midwest Annual Conferences

& South Africa Annual Conference

June 14, 2025

INTRODUCTION

The Florida Annual Conference, the Upper Midwest Annual Conference, and the South Africa Annual Conference express a mutual desire to enter into a Covenant Agreement dedicated to sustainably fulfilling our mission of making faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) recognizes the sacred privilege and responsibility we share as Christ's Church in the world and will serve as a foundation for the future creation of the Covenant Agreement.

BACKGROUND

The Global Methodist Church in Florida, the Upper Midwest, and South Africa are blessed with committed and passionate leaders who prioritize spiritual growth, discipleship, and service. Our churches

have a history of active involvement in local communities, addressing social needs, and fostering meaningful relationships. Our congregations are composed of individuals with diverse talents and skills, enabling effective ministry and outreach efforts.

We aspire to nurture a relationship at the conference, district, and local church/circuit levels to better understand and address the challenges we face, keep one another in prayer, and provide encouragement and support.

Details of the Florida Annual Conference:

- Churches: 147
- Pastors: 196
- Presiding Elders: 5
- Districts: 5

Details of the Upper Midwest Annual Conference:

- Churches: 193
- Pastors: 186
- Presiding Elders: 17
- Districts: 17

Details of the South Africa Annual Conference:

- Churches: 100+
- Circuits: 34
- Pastors: 42
- Presiding Elders: 8
- Districts: 8

All three conferences are embracing new structures and ways of being the Church as we serve Jesus as part of the Global Methodist Church. As a denomination, we are consciously deciding to provide vision, leadership, and support toward sustainability to the local church while remaining lean regarding costs.

In response to the numerous connectional partnerships emerging between newly established U.S. Annual Conferences and non-U.S. Annual Conferences, the General Church has established the GMC Commission on Evangelism, Church Multiplication, Mission Mobilization, and Disaster Response. As a result, the Partnership Ambassadors Team was created to assist conferences in establishing partnerships that are mutual, respectful, and aimed at self-sustainable administrative structures. The goal is to support the church's commitment to making faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in generous, missionally healthy ways.

We recognize that completing a Covenant Agreement depends upon continued shared experiences and information between our conferences, along with best-practice input from the Partnership Ambassadors Team.

IMMEDIATE SITUATION

The South Africa Annual Conference faces financial constraints that limit its ability to fund ministry growth initiatives, maintain facilities, and support missions.

The Florida and Upper Midwest Annual Conferences are in their second year of existence and continue to establish policies and procedures.

ACTIONS & PLANS TO DATE

Relationship Development:

- A delegation from the Florida and Upper Midwest Annual Conferences visited South Africa in November 2024.
- The Florida and Upper Midwest Annual Conferences are both planning conference-wide mission trips to Blessman International (Mokopani, Limpopo, South Africa) in the coming year.

We believe that we benefit from deep and meaningful relationships. Clergy and laity from both Annual Conferences can learn from one another and deepen their faith by coming together as the Body of Christ.

Financial Support:

For 2024-2025, the Florida and Upper Midwest Annual Conferences allocated grants for start-up costs for the South Africa Annual Conference of \$50,000 (Florida) and \$40,000 (Upper Midwest).

These grants were given to the Global Methodist Church denominational office. The denominational office wired the funds directly to the South Africa Annual Conference.

Based on the budget submitted by the South Africa Annual Conference, the Florida and Upper Midwest Annual Conferences will tithe off of their connectional funding. Grants will be wired directly to the South Africa Annual Conference quarterly. Accurate financial statements must be provided each quarter before the next quarter's grant is wired:

- Salary for the Conference Superintendent
- Salary for the Conference Operations Officer
- Salary for the Presiding Elders
- Costs for Office Support
- Costs for Office Rent, Supplies, and Utilities
- Costs for Insurance and Transportation

The Florida and Upper Midwest Conferences will not provide support for pastors' salaries; however, as part of the covenant development process, we will consider other benefits, such as partnerships between local churches in the three annual conferences that could include sponsoring part of the pay for a South African pastor.

The goal of our transitional partnership is to help the South Africa Annual Conference become self-sustaining. (This is the goal for all non-U.S. annual conferences with partners in the United States.) Toward this end, the transitional administrative assistance will reduce by 20% each year through 2029-30.

GMC South Africa – Commitment and Contribution

As part of our dedication to the ongoing partnership between GMC South Africa, the Florida Conference, and the Upper Midwest Conference, we affirm the following commitments:

1. **Quarterly Financial Reporting**
 - o We commit to providing quarterly financial reports related to the funding received, ensuring transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship.
2. **Ministerial Exchange and Collaboration**
 - o We will make our clergy personnel available for ministerial exchange and collaboration with the Florida and Upper Midwest Conferences to foster mutual growth, learning, and spiritual enrichment.
3. **Church Business and Operational Skills Exchange**
 - o We welcome the opportunity to engage in an exchange of church administration and operational skills among the three conferences to strengthen governance and ministry effectiveness.
4. **Children’s Ministry with an Intentional Focus**
 - o We aim to invest in the solid establishment of children’s ministries with a global and intentional focus. However, we would appreciate support from our partner conferences to help drive and implement this mission.
5. **Project Accountability**
 - o We are committed to maintaining full accountability in every project we undertake, including planning, execution, and reporting.
6. **Church Growth and Development**
 - o We will actively work towards planting and growing churches within our conference, contributing to the broader mission of the Global Methodist Church and the goals of the General Conference.
7. **Circuit and Local Church Partnership Missions**
 - o We express our desire to see the realization of circuit-level and local church partnership missions between our conferences, strengthening the grassroots impact of our collective ministry.
8. **Education and Training**
 - o We are committed to the continuous education and development of our pastoral trainees, ordained pastors, and administrative personnel, ensuring that all are well-equipped to serve effectively.

Next Steps

- **Educational Opportunities for South African Pastors:**
 - o Develop a coaching ministry for South African pastors led by the Rev. Tim Carson of the Florida Conference.
 - o Explore opportunities to train South African pastors through seminaries in Africa.
 - o Explore providing South African pastors with a laptop computer or tablet so that training can occur via Zoom.
 - o Topics for leadership development (as stated by South African pastors) are:
 - Improved management skills

- Counseling
 - How to use Zoom and other technology
 - Communicating effectively with congregations
 - Helping local churches to be financially sustainable
 - Conflict resolution
 - Empowering laity
 - Doctrine of the Global Methodist Church
 - Strategic planning for local churches
 - Determining the needs of a church to match the correct pastor and gifts
 - Building a stronger clergy culture among pastors
 - Building partnerships with schools and the community
 - Church planting
 - Starting a health clinic
 - Recruiting younger clergy
 - Evangelism
 - Rural, urban, and suburban ministry effectiveness
- **Relationship Building:** Continue to strengthen our partnership through regular communication via Zoom and WhatsApp.
 - **Covenant Agreement Development:** Continue working on the Covenant Agreement to include conversations regarding these topics and more:
 - Missions Opportunities utilizing Blessman International
 - Training local churches to use Celebrate Recovery or a similar ministry (Blessman International uses Celebrate Recovery in both churches its sponsors)
 - Micro-Finance
 - Cell phone/data for pastors

This Memorandum of Understanding signifies our commitment to work collaboratively in advancing our shared mission. We look forward to deepening our relationship and exploring new ways to support each other in making faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Signatories

To be signed by the authorized representatives of the Florida Annual Conference, Upper Midwest Annual Conference, and South Africa Annual Conference.

The Rev. Jay Therrell
Superintendent, Florida Conference

The Rev. James Parks
Superintendent, Upper Midwest Conference

The Rev. Buyisile Mqobongo
Superintendent, South Africa Conference

Finance Report

Below is the 2025 Conference Budget Report. This report reflects our continued commitment to stewarding the resources entrusted to us with integrity, transparency, and a focus on the mission and ministry of the Global Methodist Church in the Upper Midwest. After a full year of connectional giving and information from our year end statistics, we are recommending a proposed budget of \$459,000 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Some highlights of the budget include approval, in February by the Leadership Council, to double the stipend from \$250 to \$500 monthly to the churches providing a Presiding Elder. The time commitment for the Presiding Elders was more than originally anticipated. An increase for Board of Ministry for background evaluations and clergy training. Also, we are partnering with Dirt Road Network with the multiplication team for church planting. Finally, we've added 5 new ministry teams budget lines for the coming year: Communications, Disaster, Missions, Women's Ministries and Foundation.

In addition to the budget, we have included a **Statement of Financial Position** to provide a clear and accurate snapshot of the conference's financial health as of the most recent fiscal year-end. This statement outlines our assets, liabilities, and net assets, offering valuable context to support your understanding of the budget and our financial trajectory. We believe this transparency helps reinforce our shared accountability and strengthens the foundation upon which we build ministry together. You will see in this statement that we have received \$97,000.00 more than we spent in the last year. These funds will be used to give us some margin for responding when God calls. Our goal is to have some reserve funds, but also to use the majority of our resources for God's kingdom work.

As we look to the future, the Conference Finance Committee and leadership have also begun initial conversations around the formation of a **Conference Foundation**. The purpose of this foundation would be to support long-term financial sustainability and to open new avenues for ministry funding, including legacy giving, endowment development, and donor engagement. We believe that forming a foundation will help equip the conference to more fully resource local churches, new church starts, and mission initiatives for generations to come. More information and recommendations on this initiative will be shared as the exploration continues.

The enclosed budget has been prayerfully prepared with these long-term goals in mind, alongside our commitment to present needs. It reflects a balance of fiscal responsibility and faith-driven vision. We remain focused on supporting local churches, clergy, discipleship efforts, church planting, and the administrative functions necessary to sustain our shared ministry.

We recognize the importance of financial clarity in sustaining trust and unity across our connection. As always, we welcome your questions, feedback, and continued dialogue about any aspect of the budget, the financial position, or our future plans.

Tracie Ludeke,
Conference Treasurer

Proposed Budget for 2025-2026

	Actual July-April 2024-2025	Approved Budget July-June 2024-2025	Proposed Budget July-June 2025-2026
REVENUE			
Donations	\$4,871.33	\$26,800.00	\$9,000.00
Connectional Funding	\$341,227.82	\$360,000.00	\$450,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$346,099.15	\$386,800.00	\$459,000.00
EXPENDITURES			
Tithe	\$23,850.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
Leadership Council			
Travel	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Total Leadership Council	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Superintendent			
Superintendent	\$55,833.30	\$67,000.00	\$67,000.00
Vice Superintendent	\$47,500.00	\$57,000.00	\$57,000.00
Administrative Support	\$30,540.00	\$36,000.00	\$36,000.00
Bookkeeping Services	\$0.00	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00
Travel Reimbursement	\$467.23	\$1,600.00	\$2,000.00
Office Expenses	\$459.70	\$3,200.00	\$1,000.00
Website & Online Services	\$1,294.71	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$3,815.56	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Total Superintendent	\$139,910.50	\$181,800.00	\$184,000.00
Cabinet/Presiding Elders			
Travel Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00
Other Expenses	\$772.54	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Total Cabinet/Presiding Elders	\$772.54	\$2,200.00	\$3,200.00
Districts			
Church Stipends	\$48,000.00	\$39,000.00	\$102,000.00
Travel Reimbursement	\$11,856.43	\$4,880.00	\$15,000.00
Jethro Project	\$2,542.06	\$7,000.00	\$14,950.00
Total Provisional Districts	\$62,398.49	\$50,880.00	\$131,950.00
Board of Ministry			
Travel	\$0.00	\$11,500.00	\$4,000.00
Evaluations & Background Checks	-\$736.95	\$6,500.00	\$12,000.00
Clergy Training		\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Ordination Supplies	\$251.40	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Total Board of Ministry	-\$485.55	\$26,000.00	\$24,000.00
Committee on Superintendency			
Travel Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$800.00

Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Total Committee on Superintendency	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Finance & Administration			
Travel	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Legal & Tax	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Postage & Supplies	\$15.44	\$300.00	\$300.00
Bank Charges	\$2,501.13	\$1,900.00	\$2,000.00
Insurance	\$1,593.67	\$1,700.00	\$2,000.00
Total Finance & Administration	\$4,110.24	\$4,600.00	\$5,000.00
Nominations & Leadership Development			
Travel Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Total Nominations & Leadership Development	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Committee on Investigation			
Travel Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Total Committee on Investigation	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Administrative Review Committee			
Travel Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Total Administrative Review Committee	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Sessions Committee			
Registrations (*income)	(\$31,545.00)	(\$25,000.00)	(\$29,500.00)
Speakers	\$2,072.40	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Facility Rental	\$39,641.55	\$37,500.00	\$40,000.00
Hospitality	\$4,793.72	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
Supplies and Materials	\$1,463.10	\$2,500.00	\$2,000.00
Worship	\$3,167.65	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Total Sessions Committee	\$19,593.42	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
General Conference			
Transfer from Designated Fund	-\$21,335.15		
General Conference Savings		\$0.00	\$20,000.00
Travel Expenses	\$32,799.35		
Total General Conference	\$11,464.20	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
Prayer & Intercession Team			
Travel Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Total Prayer & Intercession Team	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Ethnic Ministry Team			
Travel Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00

Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Total Ethnic Ministry Team	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Multiplication Team			
Fundraising (*income)	\$0.00		(\$10,000.00)
Church Coaching	\$6,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$2,000.00
Travel Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Other Expenses		\$1,000.00	
*Promotional Material	\$0.00		\$4,000.00
*Regional Gatherings	\$0.00		\$3,000.00
*Multiplier Trip - Exponential	\$0.00		\$3,000.00
* MOU w/ Dirt Roads Network	\$0.00		\$24,000.00
Total Multiplication Team	\$6,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$30,000.00
Communications			
Travel Reimbursement			\$0.00
Other Expenses			\$1,000.00
Website & Online Services			\$1,000.00
Marketing			\$500.00
Branding			\$500.00
Total Communications	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Disaster			
Travel Reimbursement			\$3,500.00
Other Expenses			\$1,500.00
Total Disaster	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Missions			
Travel Reimbursement			
Other Expenses			\$2,000.00
Total Missions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Women's Ministries			
Travel Reimbursement			\$100.00
Other Expenses			\$400.00
Total Women's Ministries	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Foundation			
Other expenses			\$1,000.00
Total Foundation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$267,613.84	\$369,480.00	\$448,650.00

Statement of Financial Position

	AS OF APR 30, 2025	AS OF APR 30, 2024 (PY)	CHANGE
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Bank Accounts			
1010 Main Checking	216,584.28	221,744.48	-5,160.20
1020 Anedot	0.00	144.90	-144.90
1050 Savings	65,976.17		65,976.17
Total Bank Accounts	\$282,560.45	\$221,889.38	\$60,671.07
Other Current Assets			
1250 Prepaid expenses	7,638.33	0.00	7,638.33
Total Other Current Assets	\$7,638.33	\$0.00	\$7,638.33
Total Current Assets	\$290,198.78	\$221,889.38	\$68,309.40
TOTAL ASSETS	\$290,198.78	\$221,889.38	\$68,309.40
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Credit Cards			
2001 Credit Card - James	0.00	245.40	-245.40
2002 Credit Card - Ross	147.80		147.80
2003 Credit Card - Shanna	37.06	7.84	29.22
2004 Credit Card - Jeff	190.10	0.00	190.10
Total Credit Cards	\$374.96	\$253.24	\$121.72
Other Current Liabilities			
2100 Deferred Revenue	26,420.00		26,420.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$26,420.00	\$0.00	\$26,420.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$26,794.96	\$253.24	\$26,541.72
Total Liabilities	\$26,794.96	\$253.24	\$26,541.72
Equity			
3100 Donor Restricted Funds			
3120 Ethnic Ministries	2,367.00	2,367.00	0.00
3122 South Africa Partnership	2,400.45		2,400.45
3130 Dirt Road's Network	200.00	76,076.44	-75,876.44
3140 General Conference	13,727.85		13,727.85
3300 New Churches	29,607.09	8,222.09	21,385.00
3600 Disaster Response			
3601 Disaster Response Fund	4,023.00		4,023.00
3603 Flooding	7,368.96		7,368.96
Total 3600 Disaster Response	11,391.96		11,391.96
3899 Other Designations	7,000.00	7,385.00	-385.00
Total 3100 Donor Restricted Funds	66,694.35	94,050.53	-27,356.18
3900 Beginning balance General Fund	99,630.74	20,248.55	79,382.19
Net Revenue	97,078.73	107,337.06	-10,258.33
Total Equity	\$263,403.82	\$221,636.14	\$41,767.68
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$290,198.78	\$221,889.38	\$68,309.40

Lay Leader Report

It is a privilege and blessing to serve in the Lay Leader role. Laity is vital in the life of the church. Our conference is geographically wide and dispersed. By the power of the Holy Spirit, and faithful prayer, laity and clergy are overcoming obstacles and serving for God's glory.

There are opportunities to help create connections within and across churches throughout the conference.

- Gain a deeper understanding of our Wesleyan heritage and practice. There are two sessions scheduled at Conference, designed to boost understanding and enable us to reclaim our Traditions
- Serve on a prayer team in your church. If none exist, start one in partnership with clergy. If you are unfamiliar with the requirements, or want help, there are Conference prayer team members ready to pray and support you.
- Church websites – There are 74 churches with websites and 130 without. A pilot project is underway to increase website adoption. An early bird breakout session is scheduled to share information and provide attendees with the knowledge needed to be successful.

These will be ongoing efforts throughout the year. Please prayerfully consider the various opportunities to deepen spiritual growth and strengthen congregational development. We look forward to seeing you at Conference.

Alan Campbell

Sessions Team Report

The Session Team works together to plan and coordinate the Annual Conference every year. We meet once a month, starting at the end of the summer, and work all winter and spring to plan the Annual Conference. Our 14-person team divides the planning responsibilities among sub-committees: worship/main sessions/breakouts, hospitality/registration, vendors/displays, clergy/laity sessions, and the ordination service.

As we plan, we keep in mind these following goals:

- First and foremost, that we would do what God wants, not what we want. We discern, pray, and seek God's direction and guidance as we plan.
- That the Annual Conference would be a time we can come together as a conference to do our business, but also make connections, have fellowship, and build relationships with others across our conference.
- We understand and know that pastors and laity need times of rest and being filled. We want Annual Conference to be a time you look forward to each year to be filled and leave feeling rested and ready to continue to do the ministry God has you doing.
- That worship and prayer times at Annual Conference would be a time where there is communion with God, worship as the Church body, and you are spiritually refreshed.
- When people leave the Annual Conference, our hope is that they leave with tangible ideas and resources to take back to implement in their local congregations. We want the local church to grow, thrive, and have healthy ministries. We strive to support making that growth happen as best we can.

Our Session team also works with the Communication Team on timelines of when to get information out to everyone on a timely basis.

We are a new conference and getting established. Our Session Team wanted to have some consistency for a few years in where we hold Annual Conference, then to branch out to possible other locations.

We also decided to try meeting on a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to better help and open the opportunity for more laity, clergy spouses, young adults, and teens to attend.

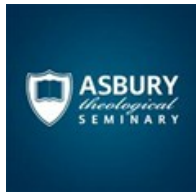
Next year in 2026, we will be meeting again here in Sioux City, Iowa at the convention center on Friday, June 19, Saturday, June 20, and Sunday, June 21.

If you have questions, concerns, ideas, or want to help at Annual Conference in the future, please contact the Session Team at sessions@uppermidwestgmc.org

Conference Exhibitors

Please support our Vendors in the Lobby!

Friday 12:30 pm - 9:30 PM | Saturday 8:30 am - 9:30 PM



Asbury Theological Seminary is a community called to prepare theologically educated, sanctified, Spirit-filled men and women to evangelize and to spread scriptural holiness throughout the world through the love of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God the Father.

For more information: <https://asburyseminary.edu/>



We exist to bring South African children and their families the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ through faith formation and locally sustainable programs.

For more information: www.blessmaninternational.org



Chosen People Ministries exists to pray for, evangelize, disciple, and serve Jewish people everywhere and to help fellow believers do the same.

For more information: www.chosenpeople.com



The Church Ambassador Network exists to connect the shepherds of the church with the shepherds of government. Pastors are uniquely equipped to point our government leaders to Christ, fill the Capitol with the Lord's teaching, and partner with government leaders to solve the problems facing our communities.

For more information: <https://thefamilyleader.com/church-ambassador-network/>



Compassion International works to end child poverty by connecting vulnerable children with local churches who care for them by fighting malnutrition, delivering medical care and sharing the hope of the gospel, which changes everything.

For more information: <https://www.compassion.com/>



Connecting and equipping rural churches in small towns and communities across America.

For more information: www.dirtroadsnetwork.com



Exodus51 purchases families out of slavery and connects them to jobs, housing, education, and church. We free slaves.

For more information: <https://www.exodus51.org/>



Thousands of children die every week because they drink contaminated water, and over 4 billion people currently face eternity separated from God. **At Filter of Hope, we believe:** No one should have to live without clean drinking water. Everyone deserves the opportunity to know Christ personally.

For more information: <https://filterofhope.org/>

Conference Exhibitors

Please support our Vendors in the Lobby!

Friday 12:30 pm - 9:30 PM | Saturday 8:30 am - 9:30 PM



The goal of Grace3 Ministries is to help all believers in Jesus Christ to live the abundant, grace filled life Jesus came to give.

For more information: www.grace3.org



We believe it's worth the additional effort to craft experiences that engage the senses, trigger emotions, and create light bulb moments. Our role is to create experiences that prepare people's hearts for the Holy Spirit to do transformational work.

For more information: www.group.com



For you and for us, financial security and resilience are not the ultimate goal — it's a means to an end. It gives you the freedom to answer God's calling, provide for your family and bless the next generation of believers. Our vision is that every servant of Christ finishes well.

For more information: www.guidestone.org



We provide time, space, and Biblical teaching so people encounter and follow Christ. Let us help you meet the needs of your group or ministry by providing facilities and excellent service in planning retreats for: Families, Men, Women, Youth, Children, Churches and Leaders.

For more information: www.ipoint.org



John Wesley Global Methodist Men's Scholarship Endowment Fund. Scholarship Opportunity for Global Methodist Seminary Students!

For more information email: auctioneer_32@msn.com



Our Mission: To challenge people to have a deep desire to reflect Jesus in their everyday life by promoting faith, hope, and love to the world, while recognizing their life as a mobile worship service (Romans 12:1).

For more information: www.justhelpone.net



Experience the OKWU Difference. OKWU students are uniquely equipped to be Servant Leaders. Here you can build the strong foundation needed for a lifetime journey on the Kingdom Path.

For more information: <https://www.okwu.edu/>



One Mission Society multiplies disciples, churches, leaders, and missionaries in **83 countries**, serving with more than **1,700 cross-cultural missionaries and national workers** and **75,000 volunteers**.

For more information: <https://onemissionsociety.org/>

Conference Exhibitors

Please support our Vendors in the Lobby!

Friday 12:30 pm - 9:30 PM | Saturday 8:30 am - 9:30 PM



**Pilgrims
United
Tours**
SINCE 1992

Walking the path of Jesus, exploring the history and heritage of the Holy land, deepening your knowledge and beliefs in the bible, Journeys that can never be forgotten.

For more information: <https://www.pilgrimsunited.com/>



After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said "Go and do likewise." That is the mission of Samaritan's Purse—to follow the example of Christ by helping those in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel.

For more information: <https://samaritanspurse.org/>



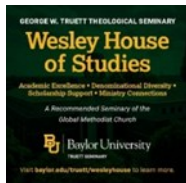
We are sowing for a great awakening. Seedbed gathers, connects, and resources the people of God to encounter Jesus in their hearts, homes, churches, and cities.

For more information: www.seedbed.com



The mission of Summer Games is to engage students in their relationships with Jesus, other Christians, and local community to achieve full participation in the Church.

For more information: www.sgu.camp



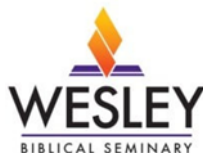
The Wesley House of Studies at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary seeks to form and equip Christ-centered, Spirit-led students to serve churches and other institutions in the Wesleyan tradition.

For more information: <https://truettseminary.baylor.edu/programs-centers/wesley-house-studies>



Our Mission: United prepares faithful and fruitful Christian leaders to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We Are Committed to: Historic Faith, Scriptural Holiness and Church Renewal.

For more information: <https://united.edu/>



Wesley Biblical Seminary develops trusted leaders for faithful churches. For 50 years WBS has combined an uncompromising commitment to the full truth and authority of Scripture with a deep commitment to Wesleyan theology. Serve where you are while developing life-changing relationships with professors and other students. Special scholarships are available to GMC pastors!

For more information: www.wbs.edu



The Center for Wesleyan Studies is a community of Wesleyan clergy, scholars, students, and church leaders. Faithful to the Wesleyan tradition, the Center for Wesleyan Studies at ILT's Christ School of Theology seeks to form and equip Spirit-led clergy and emerging servants of Christ. *Biblical. Missional. Global. Affordable.*

For more information: <https://cst.ilt.edu/dev/cws/>.

Conference Exhibitors



Pack Your Bags and GO with EO! A Faith Based Christian travel ministry that has been delivering Christian journeys of a lifetime for over 50 years.

For more information: <https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/#eotours>



We know what's important to you. Because it's important to us, too. That's why we've designed a wide range of insurance products and services to help you take care of your administrative needs, so you can focus on doing what you do best—furthering God's Kingdom.

For more information: <https://www.lightwell.com/>



The mission of Safe Water International Ministries (SWIM) is to love humankind by encouraging participation as ambassadors of Jesus Christ, providing for their physical needs, focusing on safe drinking water, and sharing the Living Water of Jesus Christ worldwide. For more information: <https://swimforhim.org/>

*So then, just as you
received Christ Jesus
as Lord, continue
to live your lives
in him.
Colossians 2:6*

Live For Him Ministries was founded in 2023 in order to further the scope and reach of training and equipping disciples in Africa. Our mission is to support and equip others to communicate and live out the good news of Christ.

For more information: <https://live4himministries.org/about-us>

Please Support Our Vendors! Vendors are located in the Lobby.

Friday 12:30 PM - 9:30 PM | Saturday 8:30 AM - 9:30 PM

Be Sure to Check Out Our Vendors Websites As Well.

