



GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

Update

April, 2026

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Go and Share!

Rev. Ross Reinhiller, Upper Midwest Conference Vice Superintendent

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!

Isaiah 52:7



As we live into the Easter story, and I am amazed at the activity. There is always somebody coming or going and usually it involves an encounter with the risen Lord! Whether it is walking to the tomb, scurrying back to your boss, or telling your friends that Jesus is alive, there is all this activity.

(continued on next page)

People meet Jesus in gardens, on the open road, in locked rooms and by seashores, but every time Jesus takes time with his friends explaining what happened and why it is important. The climax of these meetings and all the activity is the commission: go tell, go baptize, go teach. In every case somebody goes and shares.

We are the recipients of this activity. Though separated by two millennium from the events, still we receive because somebody somewhere encountered the living Lord, and their life was transformed. Sin is forgiven and the beginnings of the heavenly life spark in the soul! This truth moves the Easter story from the pages of history to the headline news of today.

As we received so we share. There is a world of people who are yet to hear, to respond, to be transformed by Jesus. We become the women at the tomb, the disciple on the road, the breakfast eater on the lakeshore. We receive the commission to go to a world that longs for the beautiful feet that brings them good news!

Happy Easter!



You Reproduce Who You Are

Rev. Zach Kingery, Multiplication Team Leader

Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you. - 1 Timothy 4:16 NLT

In [January](#), we established that multiplication begins with health.

In [February](#), we saw that healthy disciples live as everyday missionaries.

In [March](#), we recognized that healthy churches are sending churches.

With that foundation built, we must move beyond theory and take intentional steps. Because here is the reality: **We do not reproduce what we say - we reproduce who we are.**

If leaders are spiritually dry, disciples will struggle to thrive.

If leaders are inward-focused, congregations will follow (even if they grow numerically).

And if leaders are unhealthy, the church will reflect it.

But when leaders are healthy - deeply rooted in Christ - everything changes.

The Health That Fuels Multiplication

Spiritual leadership is not just about gifting or competency - it is about formation. At the GMC rally at Exponential, Patrick O'Connell (Director of Practice at Exponential) identified healthy leadership as a key fuel for multiplication.

Healthy leaders are formed in four key areas:

1. Spiritual Health

Are we abiding in Christ?

Multiplication does not begin with strategy - it begins with intimacy with Jesus. A leader's first responsibility is to stay connected to the vine.

2. Relational Health

Are we walking in honest, Christ-centered relationships?

We are not meant to lead alone. Isolation distorts. Healthy leaders walk in trust, accountability, and unity with others on mission.

3. Mental (& Emotional) Health

Are we living with clarity, humility, and teachability?

Leaders who are reactive, defensive, or exhausted cannot discern the voice of the Spirit clearly. Healthy leaders are self-aware, grounded, and growing.

4. Physical Health

Are we stewarding the body God has given us?

Our physical lives impact our leadership more than we often admit. Sustainable ministry requires sustainable rhythms.

It Begins With You

Multiplication is not “out there,” it begins with you and your relationship with Jesus.

As we ask:

- Who are we sending?
- Who are we discipling?

We must also ask:

- Am I healthy?
- Are we, as leaders, healthy together?

Healthy leaders form healthy disciples who form healthy churches. And healthy churches multiply.

A Call to Leadership

As you continue asking the questions from the January - March articles, also ask your leadership team:

- Where are we spiritually, relationally, emotionally, and physically?
- What is one area where we need to grow in health?
- What step of obedience is the Holy Spirit prompting us to take?

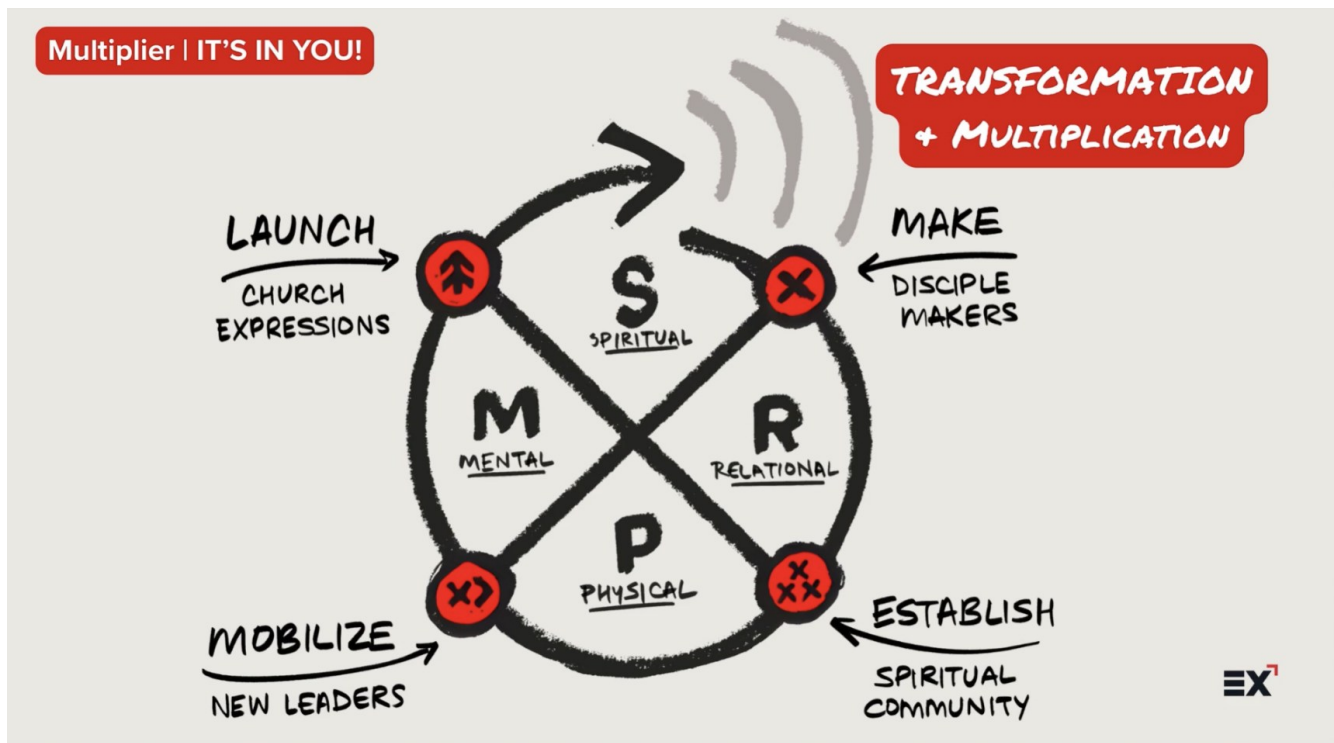
Healthy leadership does not happen by accident - it must be cultivated.

Resources like [Emotionally Healthy Leader](#) by Pete Scazzero, [A Work of Heart](#) by Reggie McNeal, and training like [Spiritual Leader Development](#) through Dirt Roads Network can help leaders intentionally grow in these areas.

As we move toward 2030, our aim is not simply more churches - but healthier ones.

Because when leaders are healthy:
disciples are formed,
churches are strengthened,
and multiplication becomes natural.

And this is how we become a Conference where Every Church Plants.





Ethnic Ministry Team: Reflecting the Gospel for All People

by Rev. Jonathan Lee,
Chair of Ethnic Ministry Team

One of the great blessings of the Upper Midwest Annual Conference is our commitment to ethnic ministry. I am deeply grateful that our conference has established a Team on Ethnic Ministry, creating meaningful space for ethnic pastors, leaders, and churches to be seen, heard, supported, and equipped. This is not simply an organizational achievement. It reflects the gospel itself.

The good news of Jesus Christ is for all people, in all places, at all times. In a world that too often divides people by language, culture, custom, race, or nationality, the gospel proclaims a greater truth: every person is made in the image of God and carries immeasurable worth. Through the cross of Christ, God is restoring what was broken and calling people into one new humanity in Jesus.

As Paul writes in Colossians 3:11, *“Here there is no Gentile or Jew... but Christ is all, and is in all.”* In Christ, we are invited into a church that honors the gifts and graces of all people and lives as one body, belonging to one another.

The Ethnic Ministry Team has been meeting regularly with a clear purpose: to help our conference become more faithful, more welcoming, and more effective in reaching all people with the love of Christ. Our work has focused on five important areas.

- First, we are building relationships across our large annual conference. Trust and partnership begin with knowing one another well.
- Second, we are sharing leadership by encouraging ethnic representation on conference committees. This gives more people the opportunity to serve and strengthens our common life through diverse perspectives and experiences.
- Third, we are supporting ethnic churches and pastors, especially those facing challenges related to finances, status, or worship space. We want pastors and congregations to know they do not have to walk alone.
- Fourth, we are encouraging partnerships between congregations. These relationships can provide practical support, encouragement, and a stronger foundation for ministry.
- Fifth, we are promoting education so that churches and leaders understand how they can faithfully structure ministry to reach ethnic communities in their local contexts.

In addition, we are excited to begin sharing the ministries of our ethnic pastors each month in this newsletter. These articles will highlight their churches, communities, challenges, joys, and the ways God is at work through their ministries. We hope this will help our annual conference better know, celebrate, and pray for one another as we serve together in Christ.

Ethnic ministry is not about division. It is about the church more fully reflecting the kingdom of God. As we continue this work together, may we be a conference where all people are welcomed, equipped, and empowered for the glory of Christ.



Women's Ministry in the Upper Midwest

by Becky Heeren, Women's Ministry Team Leader

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

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

We've been sharing some stories from the Conference Mission Trip to South Africa, written by Upper Midwest women. The April story comes from Darcy Rubenking. Enjoy!

"In November, I was privileged to go to South Africa on a mission trip to Blessman International. Jim Blessman grew up and graduated in a small town about 10 minutes from my hometown. He wanted to be a physician from age 14. He became a physician, but long hours and commitment cost him his marriage. Through Promise Keepers and his second wife, God called him into the mission field. Through no fault of his own, God closed the doors on his physician practice and opened his life for full time ministry.

During our time in South Africa, we washed children's feet and gave shoes; we provided eye screening and glasses; we gave young girls reusable menstrual supplies and a way to stay in school; we helped feed children in an after-school program; we visited preschools, an orphanage, schools, and churches where we played with and prayed with children. We watched water wells be drilled, helped plant drip irrigation gardens, and saw the changes in sanitary bathroom facilities. No matter what we were doing, Jim always reminded us that the children's first need was Jesus Christ.

Some of my favorite memories include dancing, singing, and playing with the children at church and at the after-school program. I cherish the time I was able to pray with several children after church, to hear their concerns and to take their concerns to God. It was an awesome experience, and I would encourage anyone to go on a mission trip with Blessman International." - Darcy Rubenking

Want to hear more stories and get connected? Check out Rejoice! Women's Ministry on Facebook (link below). We need all of you to help make this a place to show what God is doing through your women's group. Share announcements and photos of your events. Post discussion topics, your favorite Bible verses or songs, questions about how to improve your women's ministry, etc. Check back often to see what other women are doing around the Conference.

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

Rejoice!

Becky Heeren,

Upper Midwest Conference Coordinator for Global Methodist Women's Ministries

womensministry@uppermidwestgmc.org

"We rejoice in whom God has made us!"

Check out our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1011329353896024>



Building a Culture of Call

For a number of years leaders of our denomination have been declaring the Global Methodist Church a “new expression” of Methodism. Our declaration is true; we are new and enjoy that freshness! Our declaration is true which also demands great effort to multiply ministry in truly new ways.

One obvious multiplication is creating a culture of the call to grow a new generation of called spiritual leaders to lead in mission, from the pulpit and pew.

Pastors Zach Kingery and Mike Morgan, adult workers and youth from 5 GMC congregations in Iowa who feel a spiritual nudge, a deep sense of calling from the Lord unmistakably rooted deeply in their lives recently took a first step. Together, they created an event entitled “*The Call*” which was held at Anchor Bible Church in Center Point, IA March 5th and 6th.

Planned nearly entirely by students “*The Call*” weekend included worship, keynote speakers, panel discussions, seminars, prayer and discernment time aimed at helping students define the “what” to which they believe God is calling them. Twenty-two students (10th – 12th graders) representing nine churches in Iowa and one in Minnesota were encouraged to become, as God calls them; missionaries, lay persons and vocational ministers.



They are now connected in Wesleyan “bands” and will be mentored by willing pastors and laypersons eager to assist them in the discernment of their call.

While “*The Call*” was aimed at high school students in Iowa the leadership is happy to help other areas and age groups replicate or build events of this manner across the Upper Midwest Conference.



2026 Upper Midwest Annual Conference

June 19-21, 2025

at the Convention Center
in Sioux City, IA

***More details, including hotel
information on the next
page.....***



View James Parks video invitation at the following YouTube address:

[https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fuppermidwestgmc.us18.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D64124f1d5b1170491dea9f3cf%26id%3D16fb99f8b7%26e%3Dcf0d94bb0f&data=05%7C02%7C%7C58794c528b734ccff61d08de844570d4%](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fuppermidwestgmc.us18.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D64124f1d5b1170491dea9f3cf%26id%3D16fb99f8b7%26e%3Dcf0d94bb0f&data=05%7C02%7C%7C58794c528b734ccff61d08de844570d4%3D)

Registration

Registration is now open for the 2026 Annual Conference in Sioux City!

The \$120 conference fee includes Saturday lunch and light snacks.

Click below for more details and to secure your spot.

Young Adult/Youth Discount

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

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

Leadership Encounter

What is Leadership Encounter?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Annual Conference Hospitality Volunteer

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

Hotel Accommodations

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

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

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

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

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

Annual Conference Opportunities for Special Gatherings

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

Meeting time options:

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

Contact Elizabeth Pierson to get your gathering on the schedule.

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

Clergy and Spouse Appreciation Banquet

A decorative invitation for a Clergy and Spouse Appreciation Banquet. The background is a dark brown color with a repeating floral pattern in a lighter shade. The text is in a white, elegant serif font. The title 'Clergy and Spouse Appreciation Banquet' is written in a large, cursive script. Below it, the text states that The Wesley Global Methodist Church of Sioux City, IA is hosting the banquet to bless the clergy and their spouses of the Upper Midwest Conference. The date and time are 'Thursday, June 18, 2026' at '5:00 PM in our Dining Room'. A 'Please Note' section states that the dinner is complimentary but seating is limited to the first 150 registrants, and that both the clergy member and their spouse must register. A 'Register Here' section provides the URL: https://uppermidwestgmc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3550793.

Clergy and Spouse Appreciation Banquet

The Wesley Global Methodist Church of Sioux City, IA is hosting a Clergy & Spouse Appreciation Banquet as a way to bless the clergy and their spouses of the Upper Midwest Conference

Thursday, June 18, 2026
5:00 PM in our Dining Room

Please Note:
This special dinner is complimentary, but seating is limited to the first 150 registrants. Please be sure to register both the clergy member and their spouse.

Register Here:
<https://uppermidwestgmc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3550793>

Please Note:

This special dinner is complimentary, but is **limited to the first 150 registrants**. Please be sure to register both the clergy member and their spouse.

Register at:

<https://uppermidwestgmc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3550793>

MULTIPLICATION TEAM UPDATE

Updates for US Global Methodist Church Multipliers

Exponential 2026 – GMC Rally & Lunch Recap

The GMC Pre-Conference Rally at Exponential Conference was well attended and marked by strong energy and shared vision around disciple-making and multiplication. The GMC Lunch gathering created meaningful connections across conferences and reinforced the need for a unified direction in taking intentional steps toward becoming a movement focused on making disciples who make disciples. There is clear momentum building across the GMC, and these gatherings helped strengthen relationships and vision moving forward.

More leaders from our conference need to attend! The GMC has reserved 150 tickets. Share the info / learn more here: [GMC at Exponential Global 2027](#) or expotential.org/global-2027

Multiplier Learning Community (MLC) with Exponential

One way to continue building momentum is to have pastors, leaders, and Multiplication Team members participate in a Multiplier Learning Community (MLC) with Exponential. This MLC is a simple way to bring GMC leaders from across the US into the same room to learn and discuss how to make disciplemakers and multiply churches.

The first gathering will take place at Asbury Theological Seminary in November, and participants in this 2026–27 MLC can earn 3 credit hours at ATS. ATS credit hour info here: <https://asburychurchplanting.com/advanced-standing-credit/>

The River Network is coordinating our GMC MLC registration. [GMC MLC Info & Registration Link](#)

Next U.S. Multipliers Zoom Call

For Church Planting/Multiplication Team leaders and members, and Conference Superintendents: Our next U.S. Multipliers Zoom Call will be May 7, 2026 | 2PM ET / 1PM CT / 12PM MT / 11AM PT

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84105124896?pwd=sMWVqVJYjRP5uCkx6HZRm4JzHx4Fb.1>

Join Global Methodist Church leaders for the 2026–2027 Multiplier Learning Community.

The Multipliers Learning Communities, organized by Exponential, are peer-to-peer groups for forward-thinking church leaders. Over the past decade, they have guided hundreds of diverse faith leaders through essential paradigm shifts to help them realize their vision and purpose.

Cohorts Will Meet 3 Times From Fall To Spring

Week of:
November 2-6, 2026
Wilmore, KY

Week of:
January 25-29, 2027
Austin, TX

Week of:
April 26-30, 2027
Naperville, IL

For more information, please contact us at:
zach@dirtrroadsnetwork.com

Register at therivernetwork.org/events



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH





General Conference Website

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

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

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

Prayer for General Conference 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MORE INFORMATION



Sign up for our Upper Midwest Newsletter

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



Global Methodist Church

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

Global Methodist Church Announces Preliminary List of Episcopal Nominees for General Conference 2026

As of March 15, 2026, 28 individuals have been received as episcopal nominees by the Global Episcopacy Committee (GEC) of the Global Methodist Church.

This list reflects nominees submitted by Annual Conference delegations by the preferred deadline. Additional nominees may continue to be submitted by Annual Confer-

ences through May 15, 2026. In the spirit of transparency and to support the work of delegations, the Global Methodist Church is releasing this preliminary list to allow delegations to begin their work of prayerful discernment in advance of the Area Committees on Episcopacy (AEC) assignment plenary session scheduled for May 31, 2026.

As previously announced, **eight full-time bishops** will be elected and consecrated at **General Conference 2026**, taking place August 30 through September 6, 2026, in Johannesburg, South Africa. Those elected will serve **six-year terms** beginning **November 5, 2026**.

Access the full list at the following site: <https://www.beautyofholiness2026.org/global-methodist-church-announces-preliminary-list-of-episcopal-nominees-for-general-conference-2026>





June 19-21, 2026
Upper Midwest Annual Conference

November 12-24, 2026
Conference Mission Trip to South Africa

August 30-September 5, 2026
General Conference, Johannesburg, S Africa

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



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

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

Upper Midwest Prayer Opportunities



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

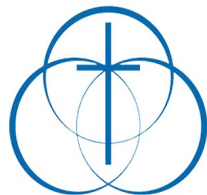
**The Upper Midwest Conference
Daily Noon Prayer**

Can you imagine what would happen in the spiritual realm if we prayed the same prayer together at noon daily?

Scheduled Zoom Prayer Meetings

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

Monthly on the 3rd Tuesday



**GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE**

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

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