

## What's In This Issue:

February 2025

- Methodist Together Retreat: A Jethro Project Update
- Mission Trip to South Africa
- Women's Ministry in the Upper Midwest Conference
- Save the Date for 2025 Annual Conference
- Financial Update: February 2025 Treasurer's Report
- Serving In Our Conference: The Upper Midwest Needs You!
- NEW Events and Calendar Pages Added to Our Website
- NEW Email Addresses for Our Teams/ Committees/Ministries



## Let's Be Methodist Together

The Iowa North West Clergy gathered at Grace Methodist in Marcus, IA January 30-31st for a retreat entitled "Let's Be Methodist Together." Led by the Jethro Project (a consortium of Senior Members) the retreat had the dual purpose of growing relationships between the clergy and diving into our Methodist roots (holiness, mission, Constitution) so we can live and teach Methodism more effectively.

There were many blessings. Clergy were allowed to "be in Christ" in worship and groups with no responsibility to lead. Laity from various churches served the pastors so they could immerse themselves in the experience. Hospitality and worship music were provided by Marcus. Men and women from the Lake Park, Harris, Sioux City Wesley, and Ida Grove congregations cooked, drove to Marcus, and served meals and snacks and were invited to "see" how we are working together as a new denomination.

The pastors were encouraged to connect their congregations in tangible ways and are now working together with a timeline to discern what that project, mission or program will be.

If your district would like us to lead a similar retreat please reach out. The Jethro project is desiring to have more "Senior Members" join our ministry. To find out more, contact Mike Morgan [wesleyclubiowa@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyclubiowa@gmail.com).

*Clergy discuss  
the Mission  
statement of  
the Church*



*"Jethro Project's"  
Steve Todd and Mike  
McInnes teaching  
"Make the Mission  
Your Culture"*



## MISSION TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA



### South Africa Mission Trip

One of our priorities for 2025 is to Grow Global. As followers of Christ, our faith is not just personal—it's deeply communal. Growing global means serving not only those in our towns, cities, and counties but also our brothers and sisters across the globe. As a conference, we've decided to focus our global efforts on partnering with the church in South Africa.

We're thrilled to announce our first mission trip opportunity through the Upper Midwest Conference partnership with South Africa. From **November 6-18, 2025**, we'll send a team to South Africa in collaboration with Blessman International. The cost is \$2,550 plus airfare and there will be an **Informational Zoom meeting on Saturday, April 5 at 10:00am to ask questions and get more information.**

Start praying now about whether you might be called to join this trip. Pray for discernment and for the team to be blessed as they connect with and serve the people of South Africa. If you're interested, email us at [contact@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:contact@uppermidwestgmc.org) and let us know.



To learn about joining Blessman International on a mission trip to beautiful South Africa check out this video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqzEAT6WFgE>



### Women's Ministry in the Upper Midwest

After many months of prayer, conversations with women all across the Global Methodist Church, and more prayer, the Transitional Leadership Council (TLC) of the Global Methodist Church approved on 12/13/24 a proposal for Women's Ministries. I am pleased to share this good news, and to invite all women to join in this new movement of God in the Upper Midwest Conference.

We've already taken some steps by leading break-outs at the Convening Conference in Watertown, and hosting Pastor Carla Johnson in our break-out at the Annual Conference in 2024. Of course, we are planning another gathering for 2025!

#### What would you like to do?

Each Conference has been permitted to select a name for our Women's Ministries. God has blessed us on this journey and He has much more in store for us.

We chose **“Rejoice!”**

Stay tuned for more details. Our goals are to connect and resource Women’s Ministries across the Upper Midwest GMC. We are eager to hear 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](mailto:womensministry@uppermidwestgmc.org)

**“We rejoice in whom God has made us!”**

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## UPPER MIDWEST ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### **2025 Annual Conference**

**Friday - Sunday, June 13 - 15, 2025**

at the Convention Center in Sioux City, IA

#### **Registration - NOW OPEN!**

Registration is now open for the 2025 Annual Conference in Sioux City!

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

#### **Young Adult/Youth Discount**

For this year's conference, we will be offering a \$40 Discount Code available for our young adult and youth participants. If you are 40 years old or younger, apply the Code (YA40) before you complete your registration to receive the \$40 discount.

#### **Here is the link for more details and to secure your spot:**

<https://uppermidwestgmc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2764326>

#### **Hotel Accommodations**

We are thrilled to announce that we’ve partnered with a selection of fantastic local hotels to offer you exclusive discounted rates for June.

## **The Courtyard Marriott**

### **Downtown/Convention Center**

*(attached to the Convention Center)*

901 4th St, Sioux City, Iowa

Phone number: 712-202-2700

*\*NOTE: After clicking the link to make your reservation please make sure to adjust reservation calendar to your dates before reserving.*

### **Marriott Room Block Link**

[https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?](https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1722275294872&key=GRP&app=resvlink)

[id=1722275294872&key=GRP&app=resvlink](https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1722275294872&key=GRP&app=resvlink)

**Rate for king:** \$114 per night

**Rate for double queen:** \$124 per night

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## **Avid Hotel**

*(3 blocks from convention center)*

101 Court St, Sioux City, Iowa

Phone number: 1 877-666-3243

*\*NOTE: After clicking the link to make your reservation please make sure to adjust reservation calendar to your dates before reserving.*

**Rate for king:** \$130 per night

**Rate for double queen:** \$130 per night

### **Avid Hotel Room Block Link**

[https://www.ihg.com/avidhotels/hotels/us/en/find-](https://www.ihg.com/avidhotels/hotels/us/en/find-hotels/select-roomrate?fromRedi-)

[hotels/select-roomrate?](https://www.ihg.com/avidhotels/hotels/us/en/find-hotels/select-roomrate?fromRedi-)

[rect=true&qSrt=sBR&qIta=99801505&icdv=99801505&qSIH=suxav&qCiD=12&qCiMy=052025&qCoD=15&qCoMy=052025&qGrpCd=pmg&qAAR=6CBARC&qRtP=6CBARC&setPMCookies=true&qSHBrC=VA&qDest=101%20Court%20Street,%20Sioux%20City,%20IA,%](https://www.ihg.com/avidhotels/hotels/us/en/find-hotels/select-roomrate?fromRedi-rect=true&qSrt=sBR&qIta=99801505&icdv=99801505&qSIH=suxav&qCiD=12&qCiMy=052025&qCoD=15&qCoMy=052025&qGrpCd=pmg&qAAR=6CBARC&qRtP=6CBARC&setPMCookies=true&qSHBrC=VA&qDest=101%20Court%20Street,%20Sioux%20City,%20IA,%)

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## **South Sioux City Marriott Riverfront**

*(6 minutes from Convention Center)*

101 Court St, Sioux City, Iowa

Phone number: 1 877-666-3243

*\*NOTE: After clicking the link to make your reservation please make sure to adjust reservation calendar to your dates before reserving.*

### **Marriott Riverfront Room Block Link**

[https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?](https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?guestreslink2=true&id=1737571649989&key=GRP)

[guestreslink2=true&id=1737571649989&key=GRP](https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?guestreslink2=true&id=1737571649989&key=GRP)

**Rate for king:** \$199 per night

**Rate for double queen:** \$199 per night

***For more information about a hotel or making a reservation please contact the hotel directly using the phone number provided above.***

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## **Planning Annual Conference Q & A**

It feels like we just started 2025, but in a few months we will all gather again at our Upper Midwest Annual Conference in Sioux City, Iowa, on June 13-15.

Our Session Team has been busy meeting and planning for this year's conference. We wanted to share some insight into our planning, so you all know the heart and soul behind the planning of our Annual Conference.

### ***How does the Sessions Team operate?***

-Our Session Team meets once a month. Within our Session Team, the team is split into Sub-committees: hospitality/registration, Clergy/Laity Sessions, worship/prayer/main sessions, vendors/displays, gathering or breakout times, and ordination service. For the sake of planning, we distribute the different planning details to these different sub-committees. Then once a month we gather as a Sessions Team to make sure we are all on the same page and to keep moving forward with planning decisions.

***What things do we focus on as a Session Team while we are planning?***

-First of all, we allow the Holy Spirit to guide our decision making and planning. With the new formation of our Upper Midwest Annual Conference last year, we wanted Annual Conference to be a time of worship, prayer, refreshment, learning, growth, and gathering together as the church body in the Upper Midwest. Yes, we have to do business, but we wanted Annual Conference to be more than just a time we meet for business. From the worship services, prayer times, break-outs, meals, and other gatherings at Annual Conference, our goal is that everyone would leave feeling refreshed and having had a positive and filling time visiting and connecting with others across our conference.

***Why did we switch from a Thursday, Friday, Saturday to a Friday, Saturday, Sunday?***

-After prayer, discussion, and considering conversations with others at last year's conference, the Session Team wanted to have our Annual Conference be available not just for voting laity and voting clergy, but also to make it easier for other laity in the church and clergy spouses to get time off of work to be able to attend Annual Conference. We felt that if we are about resourcing the local church, we need to continue to build the laity.

-We also appreciate the idea of allowing clergy a Sunday away from leading worship. Our hope is that this will allow them to be more available to take in what God has for them at conference and not have their eyes on Sunday (which is always coming). We do know sometimes planning to be gone is more work than just doing it yourself, however, it is good to give the local church opportunities to lead on Sunday mornings. We also plan to offer a video message from Bishop Webb that churches could use if a local speaker is not available.

***Why did we choose the theme this year of: "The Path Before Us: Walking Together in Faith"?***

-Last year's conference focused on us becoming a conference and the excitement of new connections and gathering for the first time. This year, in 2025, we are now looking toward the future of what God has planned for our conference. We are moving forward "walking together" in faith. God has a planned "path" for us, and as a conference we are moving forward into all God has planned.

***What caused the registration to go up from \$90 last year to \$120 per person this year?***

-2024 was our first Annual Conference, so much of the planning was guestimates. We almost covered the cost of Annual Conference with registrations and funds from the budget. The cost of the convention center went up and the cost of food has gone up. Last year we were able to bring in all our own break-time treats. This year, the convention center is under new management, and we are no longer allowed to bring in our own food: all food must be purchased through the convention center. We think this fee will help us to offer a great conference.

***When I make my hotel reservation from the hotel block link, it automatically comes up with Tuesday-Sunday, why is that?***

-When we created the hotel blocks, there is a calendar on the link to let you choose your dates you wish to stay. With the distance some people in our conference have to travel, some come into town early. We want to provide the discounted rate for the dates that work best for you to come to annual conference. If you have questions about this, the hotel has been wonderful to work with on answering questions.

***Will the Annual Conference always be held at the Sioux City, Iowa Convention Center?***

-That is up for God's leading and guidance. We first chose Sioux City, Iowa, as the central location for a majority of the churches in our conference. As a Session Team we wanted to create a stable foundation for our Annual Conference the first few years we meet. We wanted to have a few years of consistency and stability at one location as we gather together, grow, form as a conference, and get to know each other.

-We have been looking into and are discussing meeting in a church or a different location in 2026, that is still in the planning and God has not yet made it clear where our 2026 and 2027 Annual Conferences will be held, but the Session Team is open to having it wherever God leads.

**If you have questions or concerns, please send me an email, [sessions@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:sessions@uppermidwestgmc.org)**

*Blessings, Elizabeth Pierson, Session Team Chair*



## Treasurer's Report - Feb. 2025



One of our priorities as a Conference and especially as a Finance and Administration Committee is transparency. We want you to know how Conference funds are being spent. Also ¶710 of our Doctrine and Discipline says we need to let the Conference know when we make adjustments between conference gatherings. At our Conference Leadership Council meeting in January two adjustments were approved after being recommended by the Finance and Administration Committee.

**The first adjustment** was to move the Presiding Elder church stipend from \$250 per month to \$500. **Rationale:** Having lived in our budget for a year now, we see the budget can handle this increase. There has been frustration from some churches at the amount of time presiding elders are pulled away from local church ministry. This is an attempt to show we understand the time is needed and it is valuable.

**The second adjustment** was to move the Sessions' budget from \$20,000 to \$40,000. **Rationale:** Last year was our first annual conference and we were watching the costs and learning. Sessions believes we can invest more in annual conference to make it a blessing to more people. Facility costs are going from \$8,500 to \$12,700 because of new ownership (and prices) and getting all three gallery rooms instead of just two. Food costs will increase because previous owner allowed us to bring in snacks. We will now need to buy all snacks from the conference center. Also, generally speaking, everything costs more. Registration will also increase to \$120 per person, which will offset some of the increase.

As a Finance and Administration Committee we are very pleased to have an actual year of expenses and giving to see the funds we can use to support our local churches through the conference operations. We are covering our expenses and are excited for what God continues to do.

**If you have questions, please reach out to us at [finance@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:finance@uppermidwestgmc.org)**

*Traci Ludeke, Conference Treasurer*



## The Upper Midwest Conference Needs You!

**Each of us is blessed with different spiritual gifts, and we are asked to use those gifts in ways that glorify God.**

As we prepare for the 2025 Annual Conference, we have begun looking for people who are passionate about a particular area of ministry and desire to help the Upper Midwest Conference continue to grow and thrive.

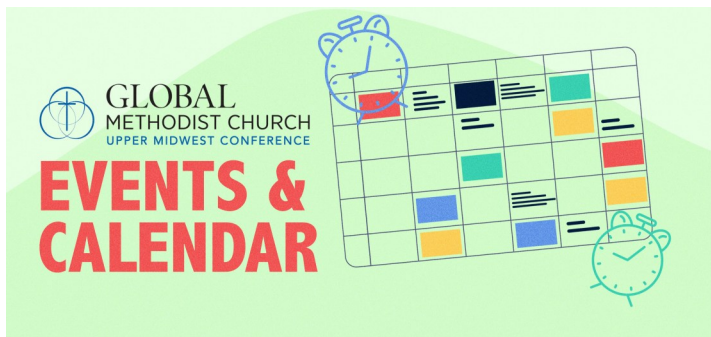
We are blessed with more than 190 churches in the conference, making it hard to know the gifts and talents of each member. Therefore, we ask you to prayerfully consider a self-nomination to serve in the conference leadership. Every committee has a 3-year term, and voted on in June at the Annual Conference.

### **Committees, Teams and Ministries for self-nomination include:**

**Missions, Multiplication, Leadership-Development, Disaster Response, Prayer, Finance, Conference Communications**

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve. If you feel lead to serve in one of these areas or nominate someone please fill out the [Self-Nomination Form](https://forms.gle/2YanuFHCWHF5fiBMA) <https://forms.gle/2YanuFHCWHF5fiBMA>

If you have any questions please send us an email at [contact@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:contact@uppermidwestgmc.org)



## Stay up to date with everything happening in the Upper Midwest Conference!

Check out our new **Events Page** to explore major upcoming events, and be sure to visit our **Calendar** to stay informed about important meetings and classes offered through the Conference.

**Don't miss out—visit our website today!**

**Events Page:** <https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/events>

**Conference Calendar:** <https://uppermidwestgmc.churchcenter.com/calendar?view=list>

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## Conference Team/Committee/Ministries Email Addresses

Looking to get more involved with a team in the Upper Midwest Conference? Or do you have a question for one of our ministry areas? Keep this contact list handy—it includes official email addresses for the Upper Midwest Conference, so you can reach out anytime!

**Board of Ministry** – [boardofministry@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:boardofministry@uppermidwestgmc.org)

**Certified LayMinistry** – [certifiedlayministry@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:certifiedlayministry@uppermidwestgmc.org)

**Communications** – [communicationsteam@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:communicationsteam@uppermidwestgmc.org)

**Disaster Response** – [disasterresponse@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:disasterresponse@uppermidwestgmc.org)

**Ethnic Ministry** – [ethnicministry@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:ethnicministry@uppermidwestgmc.org)

**Finance** – [finance@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:finance@uppermidwestgmc.org)

**Multiplication** – [multiplicationteam@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:multiplicationteam@uppermidwestgmc.org)

**Prayer** – [prayer@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:prayer@uppermidwestgmc.org)

**Annual Conference Sessions** – [sessions@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:sessions@uppermidwestgmc.org)

**Women's Ministry** – [womensministry@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:womensministry@uppermidwestgmc.org)

**These email addresses are also listed on the Leadership page of our Website:**

<https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/leadership>

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## MORE INFORMATION

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### Be the First to Know!



Sign up for our Newsletter!

[Subscribe Here](https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/newsletter)

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

**\*\*Note:** The Deadline for Newsletter Articles/Info is the 20th of the Month prior to publication Month.  
*Ex. January 20th for February Newsletter, etc.*

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### Important Dates to Remember



*\*More info about these and other events on the [Events page](#) of our Website.*

<https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/events>

**May 1-3, 2025**

Beyond These Walls

**June 13-15, 2025**

Annual Conference

**September 17-19, 2025**

New Room Conference at Satellite locations around the Conference. More info coming soon!

**September 25-27, 2025**

Nebraska Gathering at Camp Comeca

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### Upper Midwest Conference Prayer Opportunities



#### The Upper Midwest Conference Daily Noon Prayer

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

[Join the Noon Prayer](#) and Let's Find Out!

<https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/prayer>



#### Scheduled Zoom Prayer Meetings

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

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

[Request Link for Zoom Prayer](#)

[prayer@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:prayer@uppermidwestgmc.org)



## Global Methodist Church “Crossroads”

### Email Newsletter



Stay up to date on events, articles, and more from Global Methodist Church communications. Click below to subscribe to these weekly emails sharing stories and opportunities from across our new denomination.

[Subscribe Here](https://globalmethodist.org/connect/#newsletter)

<https://globalmethodist.org/connect/#newsletter>

### Bold Witness



Take a minute or two and fill out this quick form to celebrate something going on in your local congregation, or in another local Global Methodist Church in your area.

[Share Your Story](https://form.jotform.com/242467999461171)

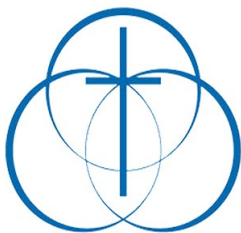
<https://form.jotform.com/242467999461171>

[Read the most recent “Bold Witness”](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560495272933)

[https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560495272933)

[id=61560495272933](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560495272933)

Let’s get excited about how God is using us in this season!



# 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.*

416 S. Minnesota St., Mitchell, SD 57301 | 605.299.1142 | [contact@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:contact@uppermidwestgmc.org) | [uppermidwestgmc.org](http://uppermidwestgmc.org)