GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH
UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE
Special Edition Newsletter

This Special Edition is dedicated to the 2026 General Conference of the Global Methodist Church. As you read, I hope you hear the work of the Holy Spirit guiding the formation of our denomination. It will be worth your time. You will be blessed!

Pastor James Parks, Conference Superintendent

What's In This Issue:

- The Global Methodist Church Adopts Articles of Faith in 2026!
- First Full-Time Assembly of Bishops Elected
- Upper Midwest and South Africa Delegations Meet
- Upper Midwest General Conference Recap Video
- "Greater Than I Imagined", Superintendent James Parks Reflection
- Reflections from our 2026 General Conference Delegates
- More Media from 2026 General Conference: Videos, Pictures and Facebook Posts

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The Global Methodist Church Adopts

Articles of Faith in 2026!



A HISTORIC MOMENT FOR THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH ✨

With overwhelming support, the 2026 General Conference OFFICIALLY ADOPTED the Articles of Faith, affirming our Wesleyan heritage and establishing a shared expression of the faith that unites us in Jesus Christ.

Together, these Articles speak to who we are, what we believe, and the faith we carry forward as one global connection.

May we hold fast to this faith, walk together in the power of the Holy Spirit, and faithfully proclaim Jesus Christ to a world in need of His grace. 🙏🌎

View the Articles of Faith Here: https://6x7ieqbbb.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001jzzBgg7Xz3ML8IGg7pE6ZYZnH-Zigs7dGmgc3NWUNoqTdNSRytXvqOxmrKlMu5qAQGYLbgcdjo4pZBeSR1GU8St-V4jtQlx4yfIMyku6BnBRpX7qNg1Tc7hw_2k_UWk6CG1-GN_qSRk6kP4iAMXi355gr5xA9ZxsJyro1By17p96-2pV7NkbaD0-zibNJ-iR38rBLxY3MQdU7bN-8FbIHq-wy7hSXEPxXQXKlzBkqvw=&c=2wUHXx0hkRBgTqS58hhmTGQBKGitCSIQBqYUvFR7n77n5lETKlP91w==&ch=30WQmeXZDaf0qenJDquYP36_2FD2-PAhRxAZ6JP1qYMenrG8TQ5zMw==

Global Methodist Church Elects Its First Full-Time Assembly of Bishops



One of the most anticipated elements of General Conference was the episcopal elections. Following months of discernment, prayer and nominations, delegates gathered in the ballroom of the Sandton Convention Centre to elect the bishops that would lead our denomination and guide our churches for the next six years.

Watch the recap video from the elections to get a glimpse of the process.

Watch Here:
https://youtu.be/MSp_tZzysLk?si=4Jg4LjMDgjfXC1TM

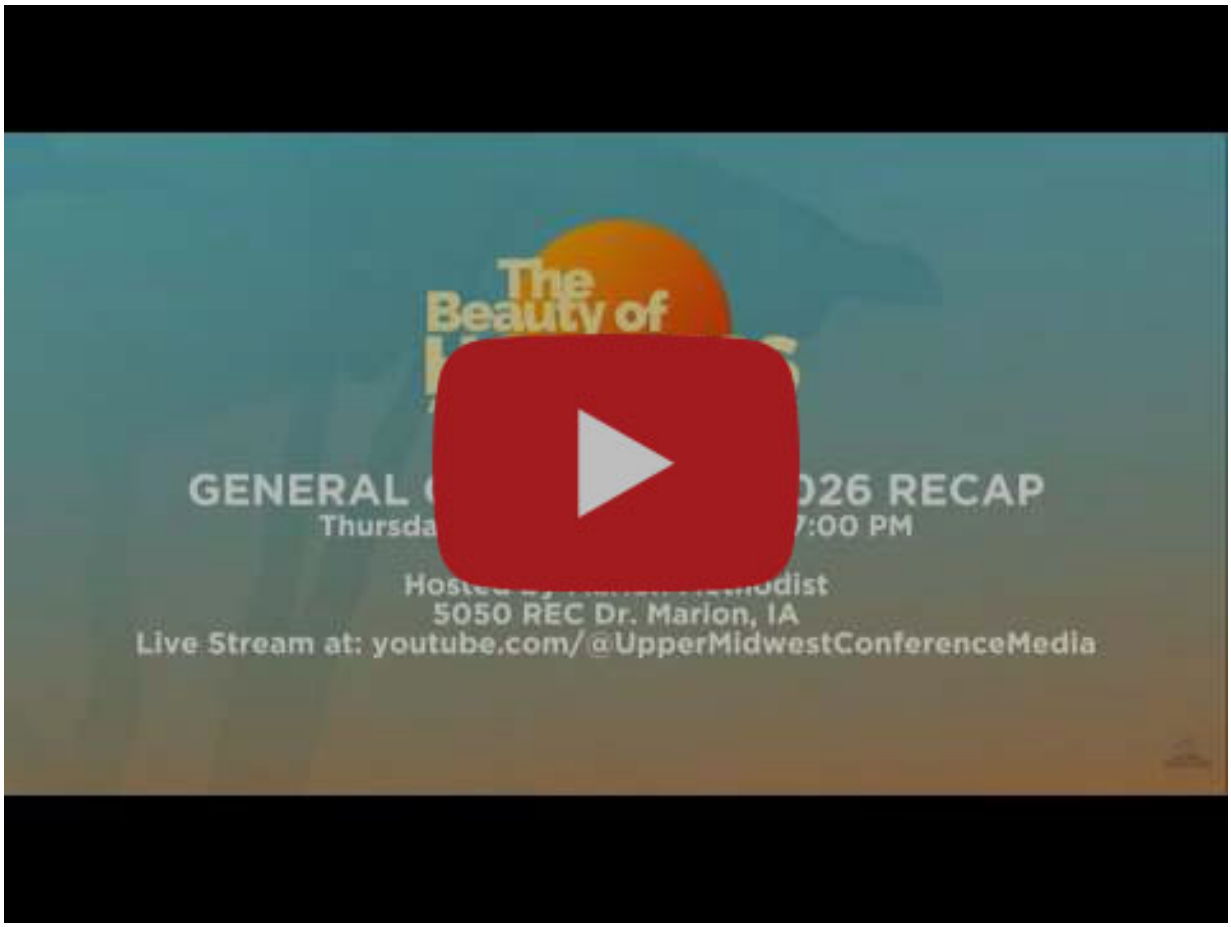
Join us in praying for our new Assembly of Bishops as they transition into their roles starting November 1, 2026.

Upper Midwest & South Africa Delegations Meet



Our group photo of the Upper Midwest Delegation with the Delegation from our sister Conference of South Africa. It was wonderful to talk with them face to face.

General Conference Recap Video



In Case You Missed It!

On Thursday, October 29th at Marion Methodist the Upper Midwest Conference offered a Recap of the 2026 Global Methodist Church General Conference.

Be sure to check out the Recap video and download a copy of the Strategic Plan to follow along while watching the Recap.

Watch the Recap Here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEpgd3iOqtk

Download the Strategic Plan Here:
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1-wywx0mX_OV_uPSnX8p0vagACX3pJYb0/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100970485739737900477&rtpof=true&sd=true

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2026 General Conference Reflection
"Greater Than I Imagined"

by **Rev. James Parks, Conference Superintendent**



Pictured: James and Helen Parks at 2026 General Conference

On November 1, 2026, our Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church will celebrate its third anniversary. It is amazing to think that we are only three years into our existence. And in those three years, we have already held two General Conferences to help establish the foundation of the Global Methodist Church.

As I reflect on our most recent General Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, I find myself even more excited about the future of our denomination than I was when it first began.

Read the Full Article Here:
https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/post/greater-than-i-imagined

Reflections from Our Delegates



Our 2026 General Conference Delegation

Front Row (L-R): Jonathan Lee, Lynn Rohrer, Andrea Schadel, Luann Benge, Norma Morrison, Becky Heeren, Rey Colon, Zach Kingery
Back Row (L-R): Travis Stevick, Matthew Kearns, Bishop Mark Webb, Superintendent James Parks

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Pastor Travis Stevick

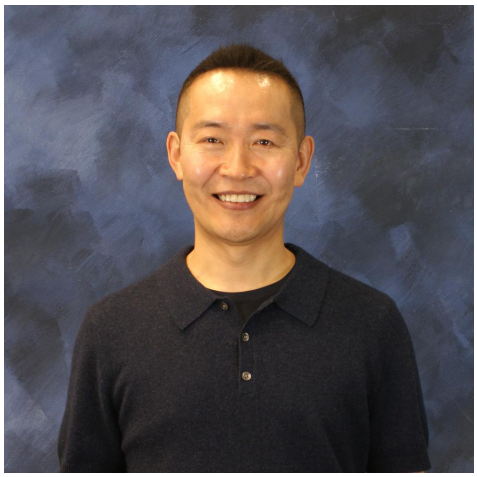
Clergy Delegate

Travis was one of our Clergy Delegates and was assigned to the Doctrine and Sacraments Legislative Committee. Watch as he shares about the newly adopted Articles of Faith.

Watch Here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/19DE4Z4E7kOP87ucSNhf1oEi4LBnHHRZR/view?usp=sharing

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Jonathan Lee



Clergy Delegate

Jonathan shares with us his reflection of witnessing how God is bringing us together as one Global family in Jesus Christ. One of his most meaningful experiences of General Conference.

Watch Here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/18Ideeri9-D8xM09AwW_-aGdVk8TLhFT0/view?usp=sharing



Norma Morrison

Lay Delegate

Read about Norma's "Mountaintop" experience at 2026 General Conference. Norma served on the General Conference Commission and as Chair of the Agenda Committee.

Read More Here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b7Hk3Q_KVL392URtrMoKgqyIHQiKjfG5/view?usp=sharing



Becky Heeren

Lay Delegate

Becky shares her reflection and experience of serving on the Social Witness Committee along with her prayer for the Global Methodist Church.

Read More Here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oXY3gl6nbPKkxRBUIUj8XG3X9SvUMQMm/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100970485739737900477&rtpof=true&sd=true



Darcy Rubenking

Reserve Lay Delegate

Watch as Darcy shares about her experiences in participating in Mission Opportunities, particulary a Medical Mission administering health screenings in impoverished areas around Johannesburg.

Watch GC26 Missions Video Here:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LoYsfEbPYvhmMYSDaQOb4lP3-wt0uY--/view?usp=sharing

Watch Darcy Here:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dPsdTDZU4fK7qGgpuyPRtdgz0anbUyBa/view?usp=sharing

More Media from 2026 General Conference



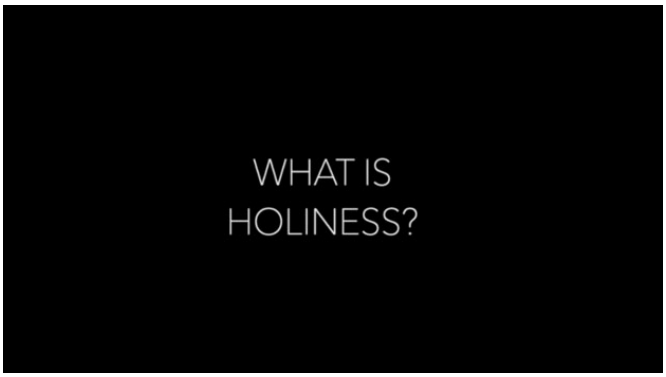
Upper Midwest Highlights

Enjoy this highlight video from our Upper Midwest Conference delegation at 2026 General Conference.

Watch Here:
https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BYeyBHS7T/

What Is Holiness? Video

The theme of this General Conference was “The Beauty of Holiness.” So, we asked leaders: What is holiness? Their answers may inspire you to draw closer to Christ



and discover the beauty of a life fully devoted to Him.

Watch Here:
https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BYeyBHS7T/



Lots and lots of Pics!

Check out some of the picture highlights from the 2026 General Conference. (Click below to access the album)

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1EmRStgd2j/



Thank You!

Our thanks to Gonzo Santillan for serving as our media boots on the ground in Johannesburg. Gonzo did a fantastic job putting videos together, capturing historical moments in pictures and keeping us here at home up to date on Facebook!

Upper Midwest Facebook Here:
https://www.facebook.com/uppermidwestgmc

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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