



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

Update
NEWSLETTER

September 2026

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Rejoice!

by Rev. Ross Reinhiller, Upper Midwest Conference Vice Superintendent

Welcome back from General Conference! Thank you to all our delegates and members of Upper Midwest Churches that attended!

I know we will hear from our delegation all that they experienced and accomplished. There is so many reasons to rejoice. General Conference announced that we are a family of 7250 churches spread over 50 annual conferences. We continue to grow!

The General Conference passed a unified Articles of Faith. We know who we are, what we believe and how we act in the world and mission that God gives us. We know what we share with all Christians, and we know the special gifts we bring to the greater church.

We rejoice in the election of Mark Webb as our bishop and look forward to our ongoing partnership with Florida and South Africa. We welcome Central Nigeria , Peru, and South Carolina as our Episcopal Area Three Conferences.



We are excited about our partnership with Blessman International. Our delegates experienced the drilling of the second well sponsored by our Conference. We look forward to all the ways the partnership with Blessman, South Africa Conference are going make it possible for our churches and people to partner with churches and the people of South Africa. Thank you, Lord, for your abundant goodness!

Want to see the first well sponsored by our Conference being dug?

Check out the video below on our YouTube Channel!



<https://youtu.be/tFpkhR215qc>

You can also download and share the video with your congregation, ad free, from our Vimeo Channel!

<https://vimeo.com/1226761369?fl=tl&fe=ec&share=copy>



1927 Goes Public September 27: Join the Barn Raising

by Rev. Zach Kingery, Conference Multiplication Team Leader

For generations, a barn raising brought a community together to help a family build something they could not easily build alone. Everyone brought what they could - labor, tools, materials, experience, and encouragement - and together they prepared for the work and harvest ahead.

That concept gave rise to the Barn Raising Initiative - a practical way to live into our vision for the Upper Midwest to be a Conference where Every Church Plants.

When a church plant is preparing for launch, we want the congregations of the Upper Midwest Conference to gather around her through prayer, giving, resources, practical skills, volunteers, and ongoing partnership.

Our first Barn Raising is for 1927: A Church of the City of Des Moines, which will launch on September 27 at the Franklin Events Center in Des Moines.

1927 began simply and organically - in living rooms, garages, and rented spaces - with people, a calling, and trust that God would provide. Now they are on The Road to 9/27, praying, serving their neighborhood, preparing leaders, and getting ready for public worship.

This is where we can join them.

Raising a barn takes a community - and so does launching a church. As part of the Barn Raising Initiative there is a registry of specific needs for 1927's launch and ongoing ministry, including sound equipment, Bibles, communion and hospitality supplies, safety equipment, outreach resources, and weeks of rent for its worship venue.

<https://1927church.org/registry>

What can you bring to this Barn Raising?

Share this information with your bible study, mission group, church leadership, and congregation so you can discern how you will join in seeing 1927 equipped to bring in the harvest in Des Moines.

Pray. Pray for Pastor Cam Scott and the 1927 team, their neighborhood, the people they will meet, and their September 27 launch.

Give. Look through the registry as a congregation, Sunday school class, small group, or individual and help meet a specific need.

Partner. Consider an ongoing relationship with 1927 through prayer, encouragement, financial support, volunteers, practical skills, or shared ministry.

The Barn Raising is about more than meeting launch needs. It is a way for all of us - together - to help establish a new congregation and take a tangible part in church planting together.

View the Barn Raising Registry and participate: <https://1927church.org/registry>

Follow The Road to 9/27: <https://1927church.org/road-to-927>

Learn More about 1927: <https://1927church.org/>

Together, we can help establish a congregation that makes disciples, develops leaders, serves its community, and sends laborers into Christ's harvest.

Because in the Upper Midwest, *Every Church Plants.*



Sojourners in God's Garden: Faithfulness Across the Seasons!

Rev. Hui Angie Vertz, Prayer Team Member

In *The Cost of Discipleship* (1937), Dietrich Bonhoeffer observed that "Jesus calls us not to a new religion, but to new life." My name is Rev. Angie Vertz, and I serve at Hazen Methodist Church in Hazen, North Dakota—a

wonderful, close-knit rural community of 2,200 people.

Before coming here, I served in Kansas and Nebraska after graduating from Saint Paul School of Theology. As a single mother of three grown children, and today I live with my fourth "child"—a spunky longhair Chihuahua. Moving to snow-blowing territory was an adjustment, but God's creation is breathtaking in every season. Short summers and long winters are filled with starlight, autumn colors, and vibrant sunsets declaring His grace. Wherever we land, we abide under His watchful eye, trusting Him to adapt our spirits—and internal thermostats!—to His choosing.

As a South Korean native living in America for nearly 37 years, I see myself as an ethnic pastor and a lifelong sojourner passing through this world. Serving as the first Asian-Korean female pastor in a town rich in German-Russian and Irish-German heritage is a unique pairing! Yet, just as a garden thrives on distinct flowers, God does not blend us into a bland melting pot. Instead, He weaves our diverse stories into a vibrant tapestry—a new creation in Christ.

Here in Hazen, our small congregation possesses 'the heart of God and the heart of the church.' In every endeavor, our ministry thrives—equipping the next generation through our Wednesday after-school program and youth confirmation, while blessing empty-nesters with monthly luncheons. Every Wednesday night, our prayer service fires up, sending petitions to His throne.

Coming from a high-energy "let's get it done" mindset, I've had to learn the holy art of pacing. Learning to slow down—and trusting His timing rather than blaming myself for unexpected outcomes—has brought deep peace. Ministry is not about rushing down a smooth silk road; it is about steady faithfulness through every storm.

Jesus reminds us in Luke 5:37–38 that "new wine must be poured into new wineskins." We cannot let our churches become static museums; we must be a Spirit-filled, living movement. Embracing this grace has given me fresh joy for life's simple adventures! I even added car camping to my bucket list. I've been researching gear, eager to sit under the open Dakota sky and marvel at the morning star shining brightest right before sunrise.

As Paul encourages us in Galatians 6:9, "Let us not become weary in doing good..." Let us keep walking together with joy, dressed in the full armor of God. How about you, dear reader? How is your sojourn going, and what new wonders is God inviting you to discover along the road?

UPPER MIDWEST ANNOUNCEMENTS



We Are Excited to Announce! Bishop Mark Webb

We are excited to share that Bishop Mark Webb has been assigned to serve Area 3 in the Global Methodist Church, which includes our Upper Midwest Conference. We look forward to being blessed by his leadership for the next 6 years.



General Conference 2026

The 2026 Global Methodist Church General Conference has come to a close in Johannesburg, South Africa!

Throughout the conference, delegates and leaders from around the world (including our delegation from the Upper Midwest) gathered for worship, prayer, conversation, and important decisions about the future of our denomination. It was a powerful picture of our global Church—people from many nations and cultures united by our shared faith in Jesus Christ and our mission to make disciples.

There is much to celebrate and much more to share! In the coming month, we'll highlight some of the important moments our delegation experienced and how this General Conference influenced our churches here in the Upper Midwest.

To see more now, visit the Global Methodist Church website or our Facebook page. And stay tuned—there will be much more to come next month!

2026 Charge Conference Forms Are Now Available!

[LOGIN](#)[LEADERSHIP](#)[MINISTRIES](#)[RESOURCES](#)[NEWS & EVENTS](#)[GIVE](#)[CONTACT](#)

Church/Charge Conference

2026 Annual Church/Charge Conference Forms Now Available!

Visit the links below to download the Church/Charge Conference fillable pdf forms.

NOTE: After clicking on the links below and before adding your information, PLEASE make sure you download the file to your device and add your information to the downloaded file.

Good News! The forms for this year's Charge Conference are now available online. You can find them at: <https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/charge-conference>

Please download the forms you need, and **SINCE IT IS A YEAR OF GENERAL CONFERENCE AND WE WANT TO VERIFY ALL INFORMATION, PLEASE FILL IN ALL FORMS COMPLETELY** and submit them within a week after your Charge Conference. Schedule your Charge Conference with your Presiding Elder by the end of November. If you have any questions or need assistance, your Presiding Elder can assist you.

Thank you for your leadership and faithful service as we prepare for this important work together.

In CHRIST, James Parks

EXPONENTIAL⁷

Plan to Attend Exponential Central 2026

by Rev. Zach Kingery, Conference Multiplication Team Leader

The Upper Midwest Multiplication Team is gathering a group to attend Exponential Central, November 10-12, 2026, at Community Christian Church in Naperville, Illinois.

Exponential is a leading multiplication-focused ministry that equips churches and leaders across denominational lines. This year's conference theme is "Multiplier: How Healthy Leaders Create Lasting Impact" with inspiring speakers like Carey Nieuwhof, J.D. Greear, Will Chung, and Derwin Gray.

Through main sessions, practical workshops, conversations with other ministry leaders, and optional pre-conference intensives, participants will be equipped and encouraged to multiply disciples, develop spiritual leaders, and reproduce churches. **Bring your church leadership, young adults, and teenagers - this is not a clergy only kind of event, it is for disciplemakers!**

Attending Exponential together is an opportunity to strengthen a culture of disciple-making and multiplication in your congregation and throughout the Upper Midwest Conference as we rediscover the multiplying DNA that has been part of the Methodist movement from its beginning.

The Multiplication Team will purchase the tickets together in order to receive a bulk discount. **Email us before September 30 so we can reserve a ticket in your name.**

Limited funds are also available to help participants with travel expenses. More information about tickets and possible travel assistance is available by contacting the Multiplication Team.

To join the Upper Midwest group or request more information, email multiplicationteam@uppermidwestgmc.org

Conference information and the complete schedule are available at exponential.org/central-2026

We would love to have you join us in Naperville!



Join the Upper Midwest Directory

Want to be a part of or access the Directory? Send us an email to: contact@uppermidwestgmc.org and let us know. We will then send you an invitation to access the Directory in the Church Center *online app or through the mobile

app* where you can:

- Make your contact information available for those in our Conference to see. (You select what to share).
- View the contact information for those who have made their contact information available.

***Accessing the Directory - 2 ways: (You will be asked to log in to view the Directory).**

1. Using the online app via a web browser at:
uppermidwestgmc.churchcenter.com/home
Click on “More” and then click “Directory” to access.
2. Using your mobile device (phone, iPad, etc).

***Getting the Mobile App and Setting it Up:**

1. Go to the App Store or Play Store and search for “Church Center App” and download to your mobile device.
2. When setting up your Church Center App on your mobile device, use this link:
<https://uppermidwestgmc.churchcenter.com/setup> or be sure to search for the Upper Midwest GMChurch using the zip code 52302.

To Log In:

Enter your phone number or email address (we must have one of these already on file).

If you are not able to log in with either of these please contact us at:
contact@uppermidwestgmc.org and we will be happy to help you.

Pictures taken at Annual Conference 2026 have now been added to our Online Directory! Take a look today and see the updated photos of clergy and lay members from across our conference.



Certified Lay Ministry Information

The Upper Midwest Conference's Certified Lay Ministry (CLM) program has open enrollment to join at any time during the year. This program is for professing members (for at least 2 years) who are in lay leadership within their church, leading a church as a lay person, or are called to further their calling to join in leadership.

You will learn more about your calling, understanding the church, Bible study, mission, evangelism, and more! Each class is 1 day and may include pre-work before or homework after the conclusion of the class. Upon completion of the coursework and other requirements, you would be commissioned as a CLM at the next Upper Midwest Annual Conference.

You'll find more information about the program and the registration form here:

<https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/certified-lay-ministry>

If you have any further questions, please reach out to the CLM Committee here:

certifiedlayministry@uppermidwestgmc.org



Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky

Ignited by Scripture. Fueled by the Spirit. Sent to Proclaim!

Pastors, preachers, ministry leaders, and teachers, this is your invitation to step away from the noise and

return to the heart of your calling.

Hosted by the Beeson International Center for Preaching and Leading at Asbury Theological Seminary, Proclaim! Asbury Preaching Summit 2026 is a two-day gathering designed to renew your voice, deepen your preaching, and strengthen your ministry.

Learn from Bishop Bob Hayes, Rev. Dr. Steve DeNeff, Rev. Dr. Shawna Songer Gaines, and other trusted Christian leaders as we explore how to preach faithfully, communicate Scripture clearly, and serve the Church in a changing world.

Experience Scripture-centered preaching, practical breakout sessions, meaningful worship, and fellowship with fellow leaders who understand both the weight and the joy of proclamation.

👉 Learn more and register at the link: asbury.to/proclaim

👉 Print the flyer below



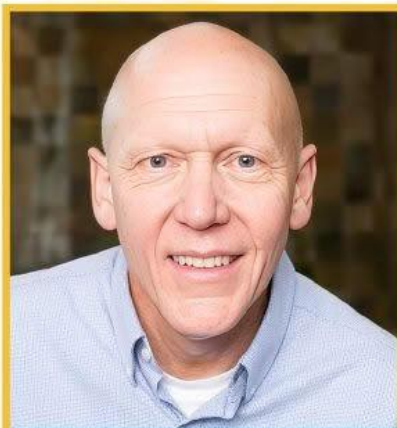
PROCLAIM!

Asbury Preaching Summit
2026

Proclaim the Word. Serve the Church.



**BISHOP
BOB HAYES**



**REV.
STEVE DENEFF**



**REV.
SHAWNA
SONGER GAINES**

WORSHIP • BIBLICAL PREACHING • PRACTICAL BREAKOUTS • RENEWAL



OCTOBER 13 - 14, 2026



ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
WILMORE, KY

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

[ASBURY.TO/PROCLAIM](https://www.asbury.to/proclaim)

CONGRATUALATIONS!

NEW Appointments, Assignments and Moving to Senior Status

Grayson McElroy, Assigned to Grace Global Church in Ogden, IA



Upcoming Women's Events

rejoice.gmc@gmail.com • [Rejoice! on Facebook](#)



Nebraska Women's Encounter

September 25-27, 2026

Lexington, NE

Women's Encounter can be described as a weekend where women encounter Christ in ways that are perhaps new or long-since felt. Through teaching, testimonies, and worship, we'll dive deep into what it means to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. You'll learn more about yourself, the body of believers around you, and most importantly, the God who created you. Get to know the sisters you have in the Lord and the community that awaits you. Whether your relationship is new or old, this weekend will be a blessing.

Learn more here: <https://www.nebraskaencounter.com/womens-encounter>



Lose the Luggage Women's Conference

October 24, 2026 | Billings, MT

The "Lose the Luggage" Women's Conference is on Saturday, October 24, in Billings, MT. The day features worship music, dynamic speakers, and encouragement for women. Contact Sarah Jenkins at Bowman Methodist Church at bmc@ndsupernet.com for more info.

GLOBAL METHODIST ANNOUNCEMENTS



Global Methodist Church Concludes Historic 2026 General Conference in Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, September 5, 2026 - With worship, prayer, and a renewed commitment to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe, the Global Methodist Church has concluded its 2026 General Conference at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Gathered under the theme “The Beauty of Holiness,” clergy and lay delegates from across the global connection spent the week worshipping together, discerning the future of the Church, considering 451 petitions, electing denominational leaders, strengthening ecumenical relationships, and celebrating the extraordinary work God has done in the four years since the Global Methodist Church officially launched.

The Global Methodist Church leaves Johannesburg considerably larger than it was when delegates left Costa Rica two years ago. Yet the calling before it remains unchanged.

To know Christ.
To become holy as He is holy.
To make disciples.
And to spread scriptural holiness across the globe.

As General Conference 2026 comes to a close, the Global Methodist Church gives thanks for all God has done — and goes forward trusting that the One who called this Church into being will remain faithful in the work still ahead.

Read the Full Press Release Here: <https://mailchi.mp/uppermidwestgmc/2026-general-conference-concludes-12827465?e=7d6d67e475>



Experience New Room Conference 2026

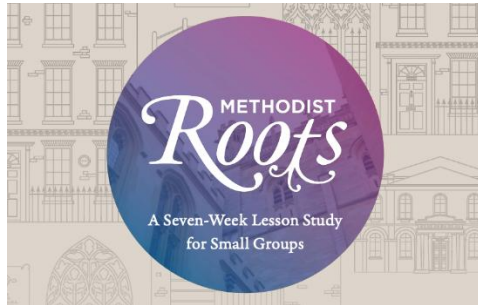
Looking for encouragement, practical discipleship, and a fresh encounter with God? Join thousands of believers for **New Room Conference 2026**, September 30–October 2 at Frazer Church in **Montgomery, Alabama**. This year's gathering features inspiring worship, dynamic teaching, practical labs, and speakers including J.D. Walt, Andy Crouch, Amy Orr-Ewing, Luann Riley, and many others—all centered on helping followers of Jesus grow deeper in faith and mission.

Can't make the trip? You can still participate through the **New Room Livestream**. Individuals, discipleship bands, small groups, and churches can watch together from anywhere. Livestream registration includes the main sessions, select labs, a pre-conference session, and on-demand

access to conference recordings after the event. New Room offers an opportunity to be refreshed, equipped, and encouraged.

Learn more and register here: <https://seedbed.com/newroomconference2026/>

New Room Livestream: <https://seedbed.com/nrc26-livestream/>



Methodist Roots: Assembly of Bishops Teaching Series

Methodism at its best is nothing more and nothing less than vital Christianity. As John Wesley said, it is the religion of the Bible, the religion of the early church, and the religion of the Church of England. We as Global Methodists want to embrace the best of our heritage and tradition. But that means we need to both remember it and understand it.

In Methodist Roots, a special teaching series with our Assembly of Bishops, you'll discover the history of Methodism and understand how key features of the faith influence the church today.

Start by watching the Methodist Roots video. This video was filmed in the United Kingdom and features significant Wesleyan sites that connect us to our Methodist heritage. After watching the video, use this study guide to dive deeper into the topics with your church, small group, or in your personal devotional time. Throughout the series, you'll also learn about important and sacred places that serve as a reminder of God's faithfulness and calling. Each week, you'll experience snippets of these significant sites – from Wesley's Chapel in London to Charles Wesley's home in Bristol.

Watch Methodist Roots: <https://www.globalmethodist.org/methodist-roots>

Download the Study Guide: https://irp.cdn-website.com/1876eae9/files/uploaded/ENGLISH_2026-08-07_MethodistRoots_StudyGuide_v2.pdf

MORE INFORMATION

Be the First to Know!



Sign up for our Upper Midwest Newsletter

Subscribe here:

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

****Note:** The Deadline for Newsletter Articles/Info is the 20th of the Month.



Global Methodist Church “Across the Globe” Newsletter

Subscribe here: <https://globalmethodist.org/connect/>

Don't miss out on the latest updates, inspiration, and more—delivered straight to your inbox. Sign up now!

Important Dates



November 12-24, 2026

Conference Mission Trip to South Africa

View the Full Upper Midwest Conference Calendar here:

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

Share Your Story



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 here: <https://form.jotform.com/242467999461171> and we'll highlight these stories on social media for our Upper Midwest Conference.

Upper Midwest 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 Us and Let's Find Out!



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 at 7:00 PM (CST)

Join the Noon Prayer or Request the Link to the Zoom Prayer Meeting here:

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

Check Us Out, find More Information or Contact us:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560495272933>

Website: <https://uppermidwestgmc.org/>

Email: contact@uppermidwestgmc.org

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeIUq0W7V_b9fGnG_MEMo0w



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

PO Box 113 | Enon, OH 45323

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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