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General Conference Delegates

by Rev. Ross Reinhiller, Upper Midwest Conference Vice-Superintendent

Happy New Year! We begin 2025 with many blessings: we are finding our feet as a Conference, we have a Book of Discipline, and are boldly living the call to be the presence of Jesus Christ in our local communities. This list is not exhaustive. Please add your own blessings, both personal and collective to this list.

One blessing for 2025 is the selecting of delegates to the 2026 General Conference of the Church. Seems we just completed the task for the Convening Conference in 2024 and here we are starting the process for the first General Conference of the church. The Leadership of our Conference believes we have grown in our knowledge of each other and would like to change the process of selecting delegates.

For the Convening Conference 2024, a slate of delegates, both laity and clergy were proposed. This slate encompassed regional representatives from all the States making up the Upper Midwest Conference. We as an Annual Conference affirmed the slate presented to us.

Rather than a slate of delegates presented by the Leadership Team, we are asking for nominations of people willing to serve as delegates. The nominations can originate with a person nominating themselves or a person nominated by their local church or another individual. With the endorsement of their local church, nominees are added to the ballot and will be voted on at our upcoming Annual Conference.

The first General Conference of the Global Methodist Church will take place in 2026 in Africa. The place in Africa and

the dates are yet to be determined. But a delegate must be willing to travel internationally. Besides the actual Conference, delegates are expected to serve on committees and spend a considerable amount of time studying the proposals and legislation brought to the Conference.

Prayerfully consider God's call on your life as a possible delegate.

Our timeline is:

- **January and February:** A time of prayerful discernment of nominations.
- **March:** The actual nomination made, and the Leadership Council contacted.
- **April and May:** Completing a biographical sketch that will be shared with the Annual Conference.
- **June:** The election of delegates at Annual Conference.

The number of delegates, alternates and reserves are yet to be determined.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this important ministry.



At our Annual Conference 2024 the phrase “deliverance from dead discipleship practices” was used in the Multiplication Team report when discussing the path forward toward multiplication.

Hopefully, you are reading that line and asking yourself, ***“What does that even mean?”***
Here are two quick examples:

Method over Message

When a congregation's worship services and ministry practices are more about checking boxes with no regard to effectiveness of genuine spiritual engagement then we have come to value our method more than the life transforming, soul saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If personal preference always wins in discussions concerning needed change for ministry effectiveness then our directive to die to self in order to follow Jesus has been neglected.

Mission Disconnect

Organizations will often talk about mission drift. Mission drift is when an organization begins to lose sight of our core values and drifts off course from the intended trajectory. Mission drift can typically be corrected because at least they are still moving forward in the general direction of their goal/destination.

Mission Disconnect unfortunately is when an organization still holds their core values to be true but rather than distracted or drifting they are instead sitting dead in the water. Because they have disconnected from the Great Commission they are no longer propelled by mission. No vibrancy, no urgency, and no movement. What does this look like? It looks like a congregation with all the meetings and committee people doing all the “right things” but the focus is inward, the congregation is faith-stagnant, and if the church closed tomorrow there might be one less food pantry in the community but the number of souls being saved or lost remains unchanged. And this isn't a small church problem, it is a church problem. I sat in on a round table discussion where the on-staff statistician of a 20,000 church in LA stated, “We are great at getting our people to give but most can't tell you their own testimony.”

“So what do we do about this?”

- **1st:** Gather one or two other spiritual leaders and seriously assess your congregation from a place of discernment. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of drift, disconnect, or where preferences might be stifling needed change. And if you are bold enough to ask in prayer then be sure to give space to listen and then have the conviction to respond.
- **2nd:** Start small, start now, stay consistent. Commit to continued prayer and discernment and use resources like Thom Rainer’s books *Autopsy of a Deceased Church* and *Anatomy of a Revived Church* to assist discussion.
- **3rd:** Realize this isn’t something for only the pastor(s). It takes your pastor(s) being a part of a spiritual leadership community which is actively engaging the whole of the congregation in participating in the Great Commission.

As your Multiplication Team and the Conference it is our desire to see Every Church Plant but to see this happen “it is our hope to see healthy congregations of all sizes participating in church planting by the year 2030.” The health and missional drive of your local congregation is key to us being a conference where it is our churches who are multiplying and planting churches.

Get Equipped

- Speaking Schedule
 - ◇ Is your congregation hearing the call to become multipliers? Are you interested in starting new ministries, multiplying your ministries, or becoming a church that plants? Or do you know that those seeds need to be planted in your congregation? Then reach out to the Multiplication Team about getting on the speaking schedule so we can meet with your leadership team, lead a workshop, and/or preach about multiplication and planting.

* Email: multiplicationteam@uppermidwestgmc.org

- Monthly Multiplier Zoom Call - Third Saturday, 10AM (CST)
 - ◇ Join in with other multipliers and leaders in our Conference on a monthly Zoom call where we discuss multiplication practices, encourage one another, and get inspired to see Every Church Plant.

* 3rd Saturday of the month at 10AM Central. Zoom link is on the [Conference calendar](#).

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

UPPER MIDWEST ANNOUNCEMENTS



2024
GIVING STATEMENT
UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

We are pleased to inform you that your **2024 Upper Midwest Giving Statement**, which serves as a record of your charitable contributions for tax purposes, will be emailed to you by **January 31st**.

We encourage you to review your statement carefully to ensure its accuracy. If you find any discrepancies, please contact the Conference office as soon as possible, and we will be happy to assist you.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity and support throughout the year. Your contributions make a significant difference in the work we do together.

If you do not see the statement in your inbox by January 31st, please check your spam folder. If it's there, kindly mark it as "Not Spam" so that future communications from us will arrive directly in your inbox. If you still don't see your statement, please reach out to the Conference office at contact@uppermidwestgmc.org for assistance.

Thank you again for your continued generosity and support!

As we celebrate the New Year, let us also celebrate all that God has done this past year in the Upper Midwest Conference.

We ask that someone from each church take a few minutes to gather the information for the questions listed below and then submit it via the 2024 End of Year Statistical Form using the button below.

Please submit your church's information by **Saturday, February 15, 2025.**



Here are the Questions on the Form:

1. Total number of Professing Members.
2. Total number of Baptisms.
3. Total Professions of Faith.
4. Average In-person Worship Attendance of Your Primary Services (Only count those in the service).
5. Average Households Who Worship Online (Number of views over a minute the week the service was live).
6. Number of Adults Involved In Classes, Bands, Accountability Groups and Small Groups (Not total attendance, but individuals involved).
7. Average Attendance of Youth in Discipleship Ministries (Ages 12-18).
8. Average Attendance of Kids in Discipleship Ministries (Ages 0-11).
9. Number of People Serving in Missions (Mission trips, Compassion and Evangelism Ministries with a purpose of serving people not connected to the local church etc.).
10. Total Operating Income.

This report is a time to celebrate and document all the ways God has shown up, shown out, and exceeded your expectations this past year.

[Access the 2024 End of Year Statistical Form Here](https://forms.gle/gM8nbwYDiCHfas7a7) https://forms.gle/gM8nbwYDiCHfas7a7



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 by clicking the button.

[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

2025 Annual Conference Save the Date



Friday - Sunday, June 13 - 15, 2025

at the Convention Center in Sioux City, IA

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

Rate for king: \$114 per night

Rate for double queen: \$124 per night

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

Avid Hotel

(3 blocks from convention center)

101 Court St, Sioux City, Iowa

Phone number: 1 877-666-3243

Rate for king: \$130 per night

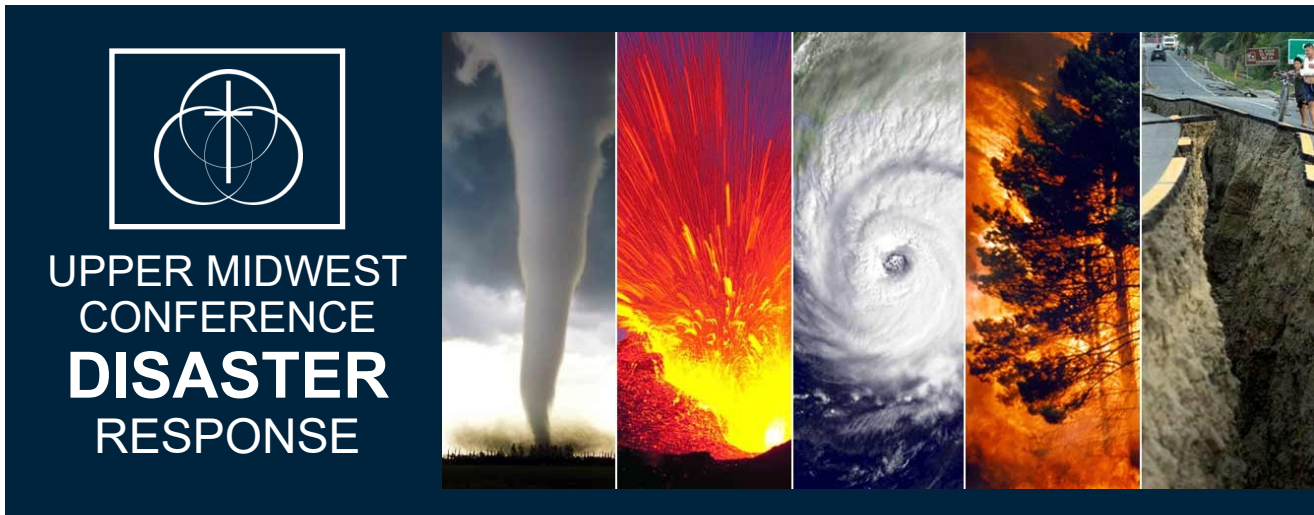
Rate for double queen: \$130 per night

[Avid Hotel Room Block Link](https://www.ihg.com/avidhotels/hotels/us/en/find-hotels/select-roomrate?fromRedirect=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,%20US&srb_u=1&qChAge=&qRmFiltr=)

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fromRedi-](https://www.ihg.com/avidhotels/hotels/us/en/find-hotels/select-roomrate?fromRedirect=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,%20US&srb_u=1&qChAge=&qRmFiltr=)

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,%20US&srb_u=1&qChAge=&qRmFiltr=

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



This morning, I was watching the news about the fires raging in southern California and the devastation it has wrought. So many people whose lives have been disrupted into chaos. Last week I was on a Zoom call with all the Disaster Relief Coordinators from the Global Methodist Church Conferences throughout the US. Our conversation, prayer, and concern was dominated by the storms and flooding that have happened recently in the southeast, predominantly in North Carolina and Georgia. So many lives have been disrupted into chaos. I had to remind the group that we are still recovering from epic floods and some tornado damage in the Upper Midwest Conference as well. It truly seems overwhelming when you consider all the people, homes, and businesses that have been negatively affected. How do we respond to all these great needs in the name of Jesus?

We as individual churches must be ok with giving ourselves permission to make choices. Perhaps we cannot do all things, but what if we focused our energy on doing one thing well? I am reminded of the scripture in Matthew chapter 9. Jesus was approached by a synagogue leader whose daughter was very ill, perhaps dying. Jesus agrees to go at once and heal this grieving father's little girl. But there were others in the crowd who had sought out Jesus to receive the blessings of their own healings for their illnesses.

Matthew 9:20-21

20 Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. 21 She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

Jesus, told of this little girl's illness leading to her death, made her His priority and was prepared to walk past this other long-suffering woman in haste to reach her bedside. Yet in an act of great faith, the long-suffering woman reached out- if only I could touch the hem of his cloak, it would be enough to heal me... Jesus turned to this woman and saw her- truly looked at one who would have been considered unclean due to her affliction.

Matthew 9:22b

"Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment.

In prayer we may not understand why Jesus does not just reach out and stop the winds, water, and fires that are hurting this world... In faith we know He has stopped a storm before. But with prayer and purpose we can respond in faith like the suffering woman and reach out to touch His cloak. We can participate in the healing of these lives affected by chaos in this generation. Administratively the Conference does not have funds set aside for "rainy days." But as a conference of Methodists, we have a heart and history of response to those in need of Jesus' healing presence in their lives.

So, I ask all our churches to choose and focus on where the Holy Spirit is leading them with their response.

For In Conference Disasters please support:

[Samaritan's Purse](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) <http://www.samaritanspurse.org>

[Convoy of Hope](https://convoyofhope.org) <https://convoyofhope.org>

For Hurricane And Flooding In The Southeast:

[Samaritan's Purse](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) <http://www.samaritanspurse.org>

[Convoy of Hope](https://convoyofhope.org) <https://convoyofhope.org>

[Faith Responders](https://thefaithresponders.org/home) (A new GMC ministry) <https://thefaithresponders.org/home>

For Wild Fires In Southern California:

[The Salvation Army](https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/) <https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/>

[The Red Cross](https://give-sc.salvationarmy.org/give) <https://give-sc.salvationarmy.org/give>

If you have people ready to physically respond to one of these disaster areas but are not sure how to connect, or if financing is an issue, then please let the Conference [Disaster Response Team](#) (disasterresponse@uppermidwestgmc.org) know and we will try to connect these needs with responses for the Kingdom Glory.

Peace,

Pastor Phil Rogers

Manchester Methodist Church

Presiding Elder/ Conference Disaster Response Coordinator

Iowa Northeast District

Upper Midwest Conference

Global Methodist Church



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

CHURCH RESOURCES

AVAILABLE



Branded Resources For Your Congregation

Now in conjunction with the Global Methodist Church, we are excited to offer some branded church resources including a **Membership Certificate**, **Certificate of Celebration**, and a **Baptism Certificate**. These official documents from the Global Methodist Church are PDFs that

you can download and digitally fill in information, or print blank and write in as needed. To ensure branding we ask that you do not edit the design of any of these documents.

If you would like to receive any of these certificates please contact the Upper Midwest Conference Administrative Assistant or click below.

[Request Branded Resources](#)

contact@uppermidwestgmc.org

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW ADDRESS FOR FINANCIAL GIVING



SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

**GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH -
FINANCIALS**

PO BOX 1360 | KING GEORGE, VA 22485

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

New Mailing Address for Donations and Connectional Funding Payments

Please note our new address for General Church Connectional Funding and mailed-in financial contributions:

Global Methodist Church - Financials

P.O. Box 1360

King George, VA 22485

Thank you for your continued generosity and support in spreading scriptural holiness across the globe!

MORE INFORMATION

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.

Important Dates to Remember



May 1-3, 2025

Beyond These Walls

June 13-15, 2025

Annual Conference

*More info about these and other events on our website [Events page](#).

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



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](https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/prayer)

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

Upper Midwest Conference Prayer Opportunities

Scheduled Zoom Prayer Meetings

You are invited to join the Conference-wide Zoom Prayer.

Monthly on the 3rd Tuesday

at 7:00 PM (CST)

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

[Request Link for Zoom Prayer](mailto:prayer@uppermidwestgmc.org)

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>

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.

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

[Share Your Story](#)

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



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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