



# 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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## NEW PROBLEMS

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*by Rev. James Parks, Upper Midwest President Pro Tem*

Being an eight-month-old organization now, there are always new problems. New situations to consider. New solutions to find. Some problems I saw coming. Some caught me by surprise. And some problems I hoped for.

Along with working with our conference, I am finishing my time of pastoral leadership at Christ Church in Davenport, Iowa. Next month, my wife and I will become co-pastors of Marion Methodist in Marion, Iowa. The Monday after Annual Conference we had our final Leadership Council meeting with the leaders of Christ Church. Three of them were at Annual Conference and they gave a report. They shared about their experience and what impacted them. Then came the problem. They wondered; how can we get more people from Christ Church to attend Annual Conference next year?

The preaching and teaching were amazing. The sharing of ministry and mission was impactful. The whole conference being led by prayer and the Holy Spirit was moving. And our lay people want more to experience it.

It was the vision of the Sessions Committee to make Annual Conference, not just another business meeting (although some business does need to be done), but instead for it to be a place for spiritual refreshment and renewal. I think the word for that is revival. We want Annual Conference to revive us and the vision to be a conference where every church is

instrumental, and every leader is effective in sharing the saving and transforming Good News of Jesus Christ.

In this new church year in front of us, I hope you have been revived by the Spirit of God. We are a new wineskin, like Jesus mentioned in Matthew 9. We are being filled with his new wine as the Spirit leads us. May we help more people receive the new life Jesus offers.

In CHRIST,  
Rev. James E. Parks



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## ANNUAL CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS

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*by Rev. Ross Reinhiller, Vice President Pro Tem*

Reflecting on our first Annual Conference, I am amazed at all God is doing in and through the Upper Midwest Provisional Conference. From the platform, I looked out over the room of faithful believers sitting around the tables or worshipping shoulder to shoulder. The willingness to pray, share, and witness warmed the heart of God.

The commitment to providing a place for God's lost children is the theme I took away from the Conference. How is this theme played out?

The Conference modeled the source of its relationship and resources. The Conference was and is bathed in prayer. Every day and every evening prayer was the first and last thing we did. All that we do or plan to do is at the will of our Heavenly Father. As we act in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we submit ourselves to him. We do not presume to tell God what to bless but humbly ask the Spirit to guide us to do the things God longs to bless.

The Conference continued the commitment to minimum connectional asking of the local churches. We commit funding to both our Multiplication ministry and the relationship with South Africa, but the reaching of people within the boundaries of the Conference and the equipping of the South African Conference will come from personal relationship of Upper Midwest churches to new church plants and the support of South African churches and leadership. Because of the low percent of connectional offerings, advanced giving is possible for the local church.

What a great opportunity God grants us! We live into the will of God!

Rev. Ross Reinhiller

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## GENERAL CONVENING CONFERENCE

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### 2024 Global Methodist Church Convening General Conference

September 20–26, 2024

San Jose, Costa Rica at the [Costa Rica Convention Center](#)

We are excited to gather clergy and laity from around the world for this historic event, where we will come together to share in fellowship, worship, and decision-making as we shape the future of our denomination.

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### A Faithful Future

The General Conference aims to:

- Facilitate dialogue on critical issues.
- Provide spiritual renewal.
- Foster collaboration among attendees.
- Ensure transparent governance.

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**News & Updates about the Convening Conference**

[Blog Posts/Articles Relevant to the Conference](#)

[Convening Conference Website](#)

[Upper Midwest Information about General Conference](#)

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## Upper Midwest Delegation



*Back row: Rev. Mike Morgan, Rev. Jonathan Lee, Rev. Rey Colon, Rev. Henry Jenkins, Rev. Corey Jenkins, Dave Mendyk,  
Jerry Rozeboom, Rev. Jeff Kelley*

*Front row: Rev. James Parks, Jodi Cataldo, Rev. Val Reinhiller, Norma Morrison, Andrea Schadel, Clarence Mittleider, Rev.  
Zach Kingery*

*Not Picture: Rev. Thom Bowsher, Glen Flint, Rev. Andrew Happ, Gabriel Holen, Holly Reich, Jon Reich, Darcy Rubenking,  
Rev. Travis Stevik*

At Annual Conference we elected our delegation for the General Conference, September 20–26, 2024 in San Jose, Costa Rica. We have 6 delegates of each clergy and laity. We also have 2 alternates and 3 reserves of each who are a part of the delegation. (Alternates will travel with the group, and reserves will not.) This group will represent the Upper Midwest Conference as our new denomination officially sets our doctrines and disciplines. Please keep these individuals and this group in your prayers as they learn, discuss, and discern God's guidance.

To learn more about General Conference you can visit our website and check out [the Convening General Conference page](#).

If you have questions or want to reach out to the delegation you can email them at [GCDelegates@uppermidwestgmc.org](mailto:GCDelegates@uppermidwestgmc.org).

**We are also continuing to raise funds to cover the cost of our delegation traveling to represent us.** It is an estimated \$5,000 per person to fly to Costa Rica and be there for a week. If you or your church would like to support this effort, you can give electronically [here](#) and designate it to General Conference.

Or you can mail a check to Upper Midwest GMChurch, 416 S Minnesota St., Mitchell, SD 57301.

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## UPPER MIDWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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**Did you miss a session?**

Videos of the different sessions from our 2024 Annual Conference are available on our website. Feel free to share these with others from your local church who would like to be informed and inspired.

[Annual Conference Videos](#)

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## Annual Conference 2025

June 12-14, 2025

Sioux City, IA

Sioux City Convention Center

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

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## UPPER MIDWEST ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Follow us on Facebook**  
Upper Midwest Global Methodist Church

### New Facebook Page

Upper Midwest Global Methodist Church

We are excited to announce that we have launched a Facebook Page for our conference.

We would love for you to **visit, like, follow, and share this page with others**. Our Facebook Page will be used to share upcoming events, updates, and ministry highlights from across our states.

Check out [our recent post](#) with pictures from Annual Conference 2024 and share your own pictures in the comments!

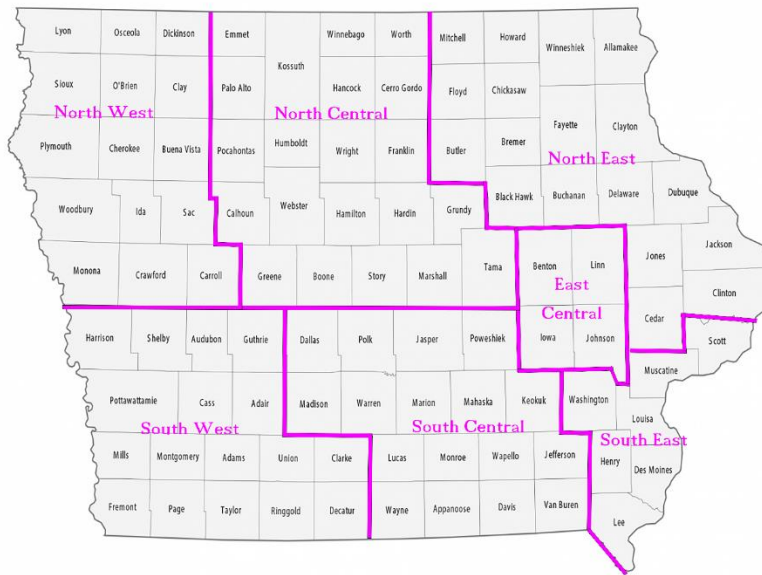
[Upper Midwest Facebook Page](#)



## Welcome Our Newly Ordained Deacons and Elders!

*From left to right: Todd Hartsock, John Bergh, Eduardo LaRoche, Ross Reinhiller (Vice-President pro tem), Ward Richards Jr., Gary McDonough, Michael Stevens, Timothy Morgan, Helen Parks, Vernon Olson, James Parks (President pro tem), James Strom, Bishop Mark Webb, Steve Swenson, Jenice Epp, and Sedar Shako*

Congratulations to these faithful men and women who continue to serve God in our local churches.



## New Iowa District

We Are Growing! We have seen additional churches join our conference and therefore needed to add a new district in Iowa. The Cabinet brought a motion to the annual conference to increase the districts in Iowa by one and adding a NEW Iowa district was approved. This District addition and restructuring of Iowa will take effect July 1, 2024. Rev. Bruce Smith has been appointed as Presiding Elder of the new Iowa South East District. This will give us 18 presiding elders for the conference.

Please continue to pray for your presiding elders as many of them serve their local church and the conference in this vital ministry.

You can check out the map of the new Iowa structure above and view the [Index of Churches listed by districts](#) on the home page of the Upper Midwest website.

[Download Iowa District Map](#)

[View Index of Upper Midwest Churches](#)



# Nebraska Global Methodist Movement Gathering

August 23-25, 2024 • The Crossing Retreat Center in Lexington, NE

*Lessons From the Wilderness*

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN**

See more information below & download the brochure to share with others. Visit the link below to register for this exciting event. Registration is open now and closes August 13th. This is a big Nebraska Global Methodist Movement event you do not want to miss.

*If cost is a worry for you – there are six full scholarships offered for this event. Simply email Randy Fleming at [Auctioneer\\_32@msn.com](mailto:Auctioneer_32@msn.com) to apply (name, email, phone number, age if a youth).*

**REGISTRATION**

Registration is open on June 24th and closes on August 13th.

Scan QR CODE with your smart phone camera to register!



or email us for a link at [nebraskagmcgathering@gmail.com](mailto:nebraskagmcgathering@gmail.com)

**Contact Us At:**  
**402-380-5650**



**THE CROSSING**  
RETREAT CENTER  
1006 N Airport Rd  
Lexington, NE 68850

Lodging and meals are included in the registration fee of approximately:  
\$115 - Adults  
\$101 - Youth 17-12 yrs  
\$80.50 - Youth 11- 6 yrs  
FREE - Youth 5 - 0 yrs

Lodging Options:

Hotel-style rooms with one queen and twin bunk beds (sleeps 4). Private bathroom.

Dorm-style rooms with twin bunk beds (sleeps 8-10). Shared multistall bathroom with showers.

Indoor and outdoor recreation options are available on site! - Including an indoor pool!



## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

### Friday, August 23rd

Friday begins with registration and introductions starting at 6:00pm CST. We will have Spirit-filled worship led by Melissa Soodsma, and Bishop Webb will be our Special Guest Speaker for the evening! We will round out the first day of our gathering with a Sundae Bar, games, and fellowship!

### Saturday, August 24th

Saturday will offer you a morning devotion beginning at 7:15 am with breakfast to follow. Melissa will once again lead us in worship. Our Vice-President Pro-Tempore, Ross Reinhiller will be our morning speaker. Late morning and early afternoon, you can participate in up to three breakout sessions. There will be four sessions in each time slot. Options are listed in the registration. We will have a delicious lunch and a little downtime to take in some of the camp's recreation! Jacob Rocky will lead our afternoon worship with Pastor Jake Schadel being our afternoon speaker. After dinner, there will be worship around the campfire!

### Sunday, August 25th

Sunday morning we will have another morning devotion followed by breakfast. We will then have a time of worship, commissioning, and Communion. We will have some time for fellowship before we pray together as we head home.

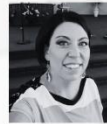
## SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER



Bishop Mark Webb will share his thoughts on how God works in and through the Global Methodist Church as God leads us forward.

### Special musical guests:

Melissa Dawn



Jacob Rocky

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Participants can choose the breakout session in which they would like to participate. One per timeslot.

### Timeslot One:

Everyday Witness

Small Groups: Why & How

A New Look at Confirmation

Effective Children's Time Ministry

### Timeslot Two:

CLM Training Requirements

Fasting...Just for John Wesley or You Too?

Community Impact of Small Groups

Movement of the Holy Spirit Personally and Congregationally

### Timeslot Three:

Role of Laity RD

Moving Outside the Walls of the Church

Primer for New Pastors

Casting a Vision for a Relational Discipleship Model

[Download Brochure](#)

[Register](#)

## MORE INFORMATION

Be the First to Know!



Sign up for our Newsletter

Important Dates to Remember



August 23-25, 2024

[Subscribe Here](#)

Nebraska Global Methodist  
Movement Gathering

**September 20-26, 2024**

Global Methodist Church  
Convening General Conference

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Connect with the Upper Midwest



Connect with the life of the Upper Midwest Conference

- Community Connection
- Calendar
- Directory
- Connectional Funding Giving
- Event Signups

Download the app

GET IT ON Google play

AVAILABLE ON THE App Store

church center

After downloading the app, scan the QR code to setup the app



GuideStone Insurance Changes



Effective July 1, 2024 GuideStone will be the provider for GMC Retirement Plans, Medical Coverage, and Insurance Solutions. The GM Church is dedicated to offering benefits that promote the overall wellness of both the GM Church and its clergy, now and in the years to come.

[Church Center \(iPhone\)](#)

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**GLOBAL**  
METHODIST CHURCH  
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