



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.



THANK YOU!

by Rev. James Parks, Upper Midwest President Pro Tem

Thank you Upper Midwest! Halfway through 2024 and we have nearly 80% of our 187 churches participating in connectional giving. We ask our churches to give 2% of their funds towards our conference ministry together. We have had over \$210,000 given so far this year. Your generosity will help us continue to lay the foundation for the future.

As we keep our connectional funding low, we will need to offer other opportunities to give toward significant ministries around our conference. I am calling this **covenantal giving**. It is giving above the connectional giving request. **My hope is that churches will consider directing another 1% or 2% of their budget to ministries through the conference that stir the passion of the congregation.** We want to keep a majority of funds local for the church, and yet giving those funds away to ministries of significance is fulfilling. We will keep these options to a small number of ministries. These are the ministries we see as vital at this time of development as a conference.

If your church would consider these areas for covenantal giving it would be a blessing to work together to support these initiatives.

- South Africa Global Methodist Conference –Support the newly forming Global Methodist Conference in South Africa. (Read more below!)
- Disaster Relief – We are creating a network of connection across our conference, so that we can respond when disasters happen.
- General Conference Expenses – We are sending our conference delegation to Costa Rica for the Convening General Conference in September.
- New Churches – A majority of expenses we want to cover for new churches is for coaching and mentors to develop the pastors and leaders of these churches.
- Ethnic Ministry – This ministry will offer coaching and mentoring for pastors and churches working in cross-cultural ministries.

Consider if your church, or you personally, want to support any of these important ministries as we work together to grow God’s kingdom. Please reach out if you have any questions about this.

In CHRIST,

Rev. James E. Parks

[Give to these Ministries](#)



PARTNERING WITH SOUTH AFRICA

by Rev. Ross Reinhiller, Vice President Pro Tem

“...to the ends of the earth.” - Acts 1:8

One of the most exciting ways we serve our Lord is through our partnership with the South African Conference of the Global Methodist Church. Our unity reaches the “ends of the earth”! There are no two farther away places than the Upper Midwest

and South Africa, in continents, hemispheres; yet, in the Spirit and the call of Christ, we are one. Here is an update on the happenings with our partnership.

South Africa Conference invites us as guests to their Annual Conference in Johannesburg, November 13-23rd. Bishop Webb accepted the invitation on our behalf and set the number of guests to accompany him as four. James, our President, and I will accompany Bishop Webb and there is room for two more. Because of the limited funding, the trip will mostly be self-funded.

Because of the limited number of official guests, I have asked Blessman Ministries to put together a South African Mission experience coinciding with the Annual Conference trip. This will be open to folks from the Upper Midwest and Florida Conferences who want the opportunity to see first-hand the work within South Africa. The planning is in the beginning stages, but the estimated cost of the trip is \$4000-4500. More information will follow but if you are interested, [let me know](#).

Finally, the Global Methodist Church will provide an ambassador to help us coordinate our partnership with the South African Conference. The ambassador will work with Stewart Mqobongo, President Pro Tempore of South Africa, Elie Diko, Conference Administrator of South Africa and us to assess both the immediate needs of our Conferences and help develop a plan of ongoing mutual relational care and support.

God is doing great things as the “ends of the earth” work together to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to all points in between.

Rev. Ross Reinhiller

GENERAL CONVENING CONFERENCE



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.

["Like" the Event on Facebook](#)

News & Updates about the Convening Conference

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

[Convening Conference Website](#)

[Upper Midwest Information about General Conference](#)

Opportunity to Give

2024 Convening General Conference Delegation Expenses



We continue 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.

[Give to Delegation Fund](#)

Volunteers Needed

We especially need more volunteers who have Expertise (and ideally but not necessarily formal training) as:

- Parliamentarians
- Bilingual fluencies (English plus French, KiSwahili, Korean, Portuguese, and/or Spanish) a great need!
- Basic medical, CPR, and/or first-aid training
- Past experience as Methodist conference pages
- Experience in and a heart for intercessory prayer ministry
- Backgrounds in security or law enforcement

But we also need more willing, capable applicants without any of the above. It is helpful when applicants are flexible and say they are willing to serve in multiple alternative volunteer roles.

To learn more about the opportunities, the selection process, other important information, click the links below. Applications will be reviewed based on the remaining volunteer needs. Volunteers are responsible for their own expenses, including travel, food, and hotel.

[Volunteer Roles Explained](#)

[Volunteer Info & Application](#)

Upper Midwest Delegation Update



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

Greetings from your General Conference delegation! We have been meeting every two weeks to prepare for this exciting Convening Conference of the Global Methodist Church! Much of our time so far has focused on getting to know each other, logistics of travel, hotels, and roommates, and a general understanding of legislation, parliamentary procedure, and how each day will unfold. We nominated two people to serve on Administrative Committees at General Conference.

We have received the 252 pieces of legislation, so reading and study have become our priority. One topic we will discuss in depth is how the episcopacy (especially Bishops) will function. There are two detailed proposals on this plus several other petitions.

Please pray for this Convening Conference; for the many details that need to come together and for the delegation, specifically for our commitment, discernment, and understanding of the critical legislation that will be before us. Our greatest desire is that all we do will be pleasing to God and bring Him honor and glory!

Please look at the links (above) for being a volunteer (deadline ASAP) and serving on a commission for the GM Church (deadline extended to August 6). Prayerfully discern if God is calling you or someone you know. Share widely! If you have comments, questions, or concerns [please email us by clicking this link](#). We are especially interested in what you might like us to know.

Norma Morrison – Delegation Chair

UPPER MIDWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Annual Conference 2025

June 12-14, 2025

Sioux City, IA

Sioux City Convention Center

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

UPPER MIDWEST ANNOUNCEMENTS



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 of our newly ordained clergy from Annual Conference 2024.

[Upper Midwest Facebook Page](#)

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 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 nebraskagathering@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

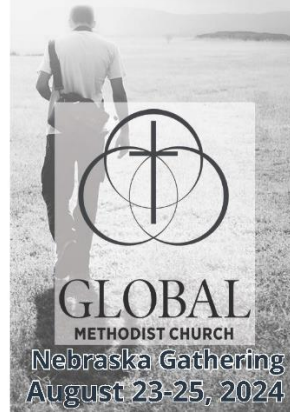
Lodging Options:

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!

LESSONS FROM THE WILDERNESS



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 Reinhill 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:

Everday 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

[Subscribe Here](#)

Important Dates to Remember



August 23-25, 2024

Nebraska Global Methodist
Movement Gathering

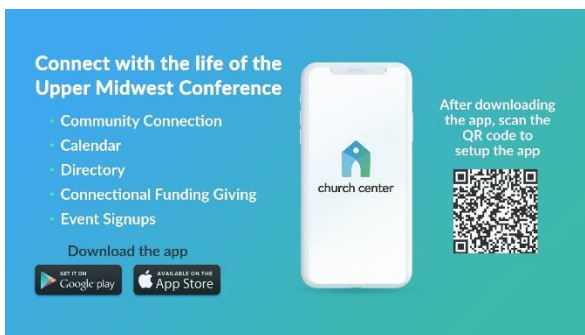
September 20-26, 2024

Global Methodist Church
Convening General Conference

June 12-14, 2025

Annual Conference

Connect with the Upper Midwest



What Is the Church Center App?

Church Center App is a [website](#) and mobile app that you can use to

“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.

explore, engage, and stay connected
with the Upper Midwest Conference.

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GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

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Mitchell, SD 57301

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