

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.



NEW QUESTIONS

by Rev. James Parks, Upper Midwest President Pro Tem

The question I used to ask myself about Annual Conference was do I really have to go? Annual Conference was full of motions and amendments. Pages of information I was supposed to have read and understood. And in the end, I was one little vote and felt I had very little voice. So, I did not care about most of the petitions, therefore I did not invest my time and energy into it.

The best part of Annual Conference was getting away to eat with friends. I would get to hear what God was doing in their churches and in their lives. I appreciated hearing the new things they were trying in order to disciple people in their community. I was challenged to grow in those moments and open myself up to where the Holy Spirit was guiding me.

My hope for our Upper Midwest Annual Conference is that we can become more of the second situation than the first. We will have some business to attend to as the body of Christ together. However, I hope a majority of our time is spent pouring into one another as we are being filled by the Holy Spirit.

I hope you will come prepared to handle the tasks before us. Selecting a delegation to send to General Conference will be a priority for us. The Leadership Council will recommend a slate to the body.

Another priority is to grow in connecting to each other. We are having lunch together on Friday as a way to help us build a community that encompasses the seven states of our conference.

We will have some work to do together in filling the tubs for disaster relief and hearing about opportunities to start new churches and connect with our brothers and sisters across the ocean in the South Africa Conference of the Global Methodist Church.

As we plan for all of this, I have received emails and phone calls with a different question than, "Do I really have to be there?" I have been asked by people outside our denomination and people who are not voting members from their churches, "Can I come to Annual Conference?" When I hear that question, a smile comes to my face and I say, of course. Anyone who wants to gather with God's people and be filled by the Spirit is welcome to join us.

Come prepared for the Spirit of God to inspire, challenge, and encourage us as the Global Methodist Church in the Upper Midwest Conference grows in being filled by disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly

In CHRIST,
Rev. James E. Parks

UPPER MIDWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

being *Filled*



June 13-15, 2024

Sioux City, Iowa Convention Center

[View Full Schedule](#)

Register NOW!

[Register Here](#)

Cost:

\$90 per person

\$45 Livestream Only



Refreshments Needed for Annual Conference

We are looking for churches and individuals to sign up to bring cookies or bars for conference refreshments. We are hoping for 100 dozen labeled cookies/bars and are requesting people bring them to Annual Conference ready to be served!

Remember to wrap and label cookies and bars

If you would like to bring refreshments to share, please sign up by updating the sentence below with your information and text the sentence to (605) 299-1142.

“(Your name) will bring (amount) and (type)”

being *Filled*

Annual Conference
Breakout Sessions



Annual Conference Breakout Sessions

Friday, June 14 • 3:30pm • Various Meeting Rooms

Blessman International

Presenter: Jim Blessman

Join Dr. Jim Blessman of Blessman International as we discuss how to engage in **global missions**. Since 2001, Doc has been ministering to the impoverished children of the Limpopo province of South Africa. Today, Blessman International strives to meet the desperate physical needs the children in this region have, to gain the opportunity to speak to their great spiritual need for Jesus Christ. Learn how water well projects, hygiene and sanitation programs, and a robust feeding program in Southern Africa are reaching tens of thousands of children with the good news and impacting eternity for the Kingdom of God.

Main Level Room 1

Dirt Roads Network

Leading Leaders in the Midwest

Presenters: Steve McVey & Zach Kingery

Understanding how your leadership team and congregation sees the world plays a major role in working together to advance the Kingdom of God. Join Rev. Steve McVey, founder of Dirt Roads Network, and Rev. Zach Kingery, Elder in the Upper Midwest GMC, in a conversational breakout on general comparisons between agrarian and business mindsets.

Upper Level Room 7

Ethnic Ministry

Empowering Ethnic Ministry: Case Studies and Coaching Strategies

Presenters: Erik Shin and Patrick Munyakazi and Mike Morgan

This session will explore practical case studies and innovative coaching strategies aimed at empowering ethnic pastors and churches. Attendees will gain insights into successful approaches for cross-cultural and cross-racial ministry and learn about the transformative impact of targeted coaching initiatives.

Main Level Rooms 3/4/5

Finance Benefits
Information and Questions

Presenter: *Jeff Pospisil*

Do you have questions concerning the financial obligations of being a church in the Global Methodist denomination? Are you wondering about how churches and pastors will be affected by the upcoming move to GuideStone for pension and health benefits? In this session, we will cover these questions as well as do our best to answer any other church finance question you may have.

Upper Level Room 6

How Kids Learn

Presenter: *Group Publishing*

What makes a lesson great? Is it the teacher? the topic? the supplies? Or might it be the kids themselves? When you discover how kids learn best, every lesson becomes impactful and memorable. Explore Jesus' teaching, specifically the parable of the sower, to develop a more effective approach to leading kids. You'll discover how to help kids not just hear but truly understand God's Word. Plus, unlock secrets of the brain that lead to long-term memory.

Main Level Room 2

Women's Ministry

Exploring New Beginnings

Presenter: *Carla Johnson*

*Isaiah 43:19 (NLT) "For I am about to do something new.
See, I have already begun!"*

Ladies, come and join us as we explore how to begin! We will journey through some beginnings in the Word of God. We will talk about beginnings in our own lives, beginnings in our churches and beginnings in the GMC.

We look forward to spending time with you!

Upper Level Rooms 8/9/10

Fill the Tubs for Disaster Relief

Help Support Our Annual Conference Mission Effort!

We hope your church can join the Upper Midwest Challenge for Disaster Relief to **Fill the Tubs!** GMC congregations are encouraged to collect donations for Just Help One Disaster Response and bring the needed items to Annual Conference. GMC Districts are divided into 4 challenge areas: Minnesota and Montana, Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota and Nebraska.

The items donated will be used to assemble Disaster Relief Health Kits on Friday, June 14 at Annual Conference. Scott Shipman of *Just Help One* Disaster Response will have a table at Annual Conference with details about this ministry. Financial Donations can be donated at the mini tubs at the *Just Help One* table. Learn more about this ministry at www.justhelpone.net.

**Fill the Tubs
for Disaster Relief**

JUST HELP ONE
CLEANUP RECOVERY
REBUILD
DISASTER RESPONSE

Relief Items needed

- Hand towel & Wash cloth
- Travel soap
- Travel Deodorant
- Travel Toothpaste & toothbrush
- Comb
- Travel Size Shampoo & Conditioner
- Travel Size tissues
- Financial donations to *Just Help One*

MN/MT Churches IA Churches SD/ND Churches NE Churches

Ordination Service Information

Saturday, June 15 • 9:00am • Gallery B

All are welcome to attend the Upper Midwest Provisional Conference Ordination Service on Saturday, June 15, 2024 at 9:00 am at the Convention Center in Sioux City, IA. This will be an exciting event for our ordinands and the Annual Conference.

If you are an ordained GMC Deacon or Elder and would like to process during the Ordination Service, please bring your robe and a red stole. The clergy will line-up at 8:25 am. The location of the clergy line-up will be given at Clergy Session on Friday morning.

Live-Streaming Information

Live-streaming of the Annual Conference Main Sessions will be available.

Main Sessions Schedule:

Thursday, June 13th @ 6:00 PM

Welcome & Opening Session (Speaker: Rev. James Parks)

Friday, June 14th @ 11:15 AM

Worship Session (Speaker: Rev. Carolyn Moore)

Friday, June 14th @ 6:30 PM

Evening Worship Session (Speaker: Rev. Carolyn Moore)

Saturday, June 15th @ 9:00 AM

Ordination Service (Speaker: Bishop Mark Webb)

[**Register for Live-Stream**](#)

Choir at Annual Conference Information

Planning on participating in the Choir at Annual Conference?

Take a look at the song that we will be singing and join us for practice on Friday, June 14th at 4:30 PM in Gallery B at the Convention Center.

[Song Lyrics](#)

[Song Video](#)

Dirt Roads Network Breakfast

Friday, June 14 • 7:45am

Are you a New Church Start, interested in church planting, or a leader in a church that has multiplication in its future? We'd love to connect with you on Friday morning of Annual Conference.

Come and network during breakfast with like-minded multipliers and learn about the bright future of multiplication in the Upper Midwest GMC.

Please RSVP for the Multiplication Breakfast below and complete the form. This will allow us to plan food accordingly.



DIRT ROADS
N E T W O R K

[Multiplication Breakfast RSVP](#)

UPPER MIDWEST ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nebraska Global Methodist Movement Gathering

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

Lessons From the Wilderness

We are so blessed that Bishop Mark Webb will be joining us with his thoughts on how God is leading us forward. Worship together is always awesome as we experience the Holy Spirit's move among us! Worship will be led by Melissa Soodsma throughout the day. Jacob Rocky will lead us in the evenings. Go Team Worship!

The eight breakout sessions will be inspiring and informative. You will have good information to take back to your congregations!

Time for connecting is always welcomed! We have a lot of catching up to do since we last met.

Time for recreation will be fun as well. Outdoor: Archery tag, sand volleyball, soccer, football, gaga ball, nine square, human foosball, bonfire, hiking, 9 hole disc golf course, 4 way volleyball. Indoor: Basketball, indoor pool, volleyball, carpet ball, billiards, ping pong, two 90" TVs with Nintendo Switches.



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Additional activity requiring advance scheduling and supervision: Go-karts \$150 per hour



Plan now for Friday evening, Aug 23th through Saturday noon, Aug 25th at The Crossing Retreat Center in Lexington, NE !



[Download Flyer](#)

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS



2024 Global Methodist Church Convening General Conference

September 20-26, 2024
San Jose, Costa Rica

Watch for more information in the July newsletter.

[Learn More](#)

MORE INFORMATION

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Important Dates to Remember



June 13-15, 2024

The Upper Midwest
Annual Conference

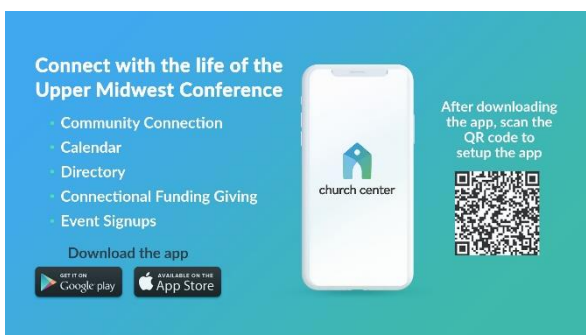
August 23-25, 2024

Nebraska Global Methodist
Movement Gathering

September 20-26, 2024

Global Methodist Church
Convening General Conference

Connect with the Upper Midwest



What Is the Church Center App?

GuideStone Insurance Changes



GuideStone®

Effective July 1, 2024 GuideStone will be the provider for GMC Retirement Plans, Medical Coverage, and Insurance Solutions. The GM Church is dedicated to

Church Center App is a [website](#) and mobile app that you can use to explore, engage, and stay connected with the Upper Midwest Conference.

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

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

[Learn More Church Center](#)

offering benefits that promote the overall wellness of both the GM Church and its clergy, now and in the years to come.

[GMC GuideStone Page](#)

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GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

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