



GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

Monthly Newsletter

September 2024 Newsletter - Eighteenth Edition

Lovingly walk alongside laity and clergy as they make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly and witness boldly.



DEEPER NEED FOR PRAYER

by Rev. James Parks, Upper Midwest President Pro Tem

In a few short weeks, hundreds of Global Methodists will gather in San Jose, Costa Rica for our Convening General Conference. Our hope is that this event will bring unity and direction for our denomination. We continue to grow as a global denomination with new conferences from around the world joining us. This brings together many different cultures and ideas of what is most significant for us to do as the church together.

This will be my first General Conference experience. **I am most looking forward to meeting brothers and sisters in Christ from around the world and hearing how Jesus is working in their community.** I imagine that I will hear about very different circumstances and environments for ministry. At the same time, I imagine I will see

that hurting people all over the world all have the same need for a savior to transform them.

I sense as the time together nears, that there is a deeper need for prayer. The theme is “So the World Will Know”. This comes from Jesus’ prayer in [John 17](#). Read that prayer, and picture the gathering in San Jose. We will gather with many differences in hope that we can be unified in Christ, so that the world will know that God sent his son to have a relationship with every person on the earth.

In Jesus’ prayer I hear an invitation to set ourselves aside and above all give him glory and honor. This is my hope and prayer for our conference. I pray we do get the necessary work done with our Doctrines and Disciplines, but above all that Jesus would be lifted up as the one who leads us everywhere in this world.

You can join through the 40 day prayer guide found at sotheworldwillknow.org/pray. Or lift up Jesus’ prayer from John 17 each day through General Conference. However you join us in prayer, also spend your days making sure the world around you knows Jesus came from God for them.

In CHRIST,

James Parks

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](#)

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 Pictured: Glen Flint, Rev. Andrew Happ, Becky Hereen, Gabriel Holen, Bruce Kronen, Darcy Rubenking, Rev. Travis Stevik, Dee Willoughby

Greetings from your General Conference delegation! In just a few short weeks the Convening Conference of the Global Methodist Church will begin (September 20-26, 2024). We are excited to be a part of this historic time in our Church.

Most of our time this month has been spent in studying the 252 petitions that will be before us. We are now meeting weekly having good questions and discussions about this legislation. The delegates are each assigned to a legislative committee, and the alternates will observe or fill in if a delegate can not. Our reserves have been so faithful in participating in these discussions, even though they will not be present in Costa Rica. We are grateful for them!

We invite you to pray for all aspects of this Convening Conference! We especially would appreciate your prayers for us as we work to serve you well. Our delegation has changed some since first elected as several people withdrew for various reasons.

Please pray for:

- Jodi Cataldo and Rey Colon- Conferences
- Gabriel Holien and Norma Morrison- Connectional Organization
- Corey Jenkins and Mike Morgan- Constitution
- Jonathan Lee and James Parks- Episcopacy and Superintendency
- Jerry Rozeboom- Financial Administration
- Andrea Schadel- Judicial Administration
- Dave Mendyk and Valerie Reinhiller- Ministry and Local Church
- Darcy Rubenking and Clarence Mittleider- Lay Alternates
- Zach Kingery and Jeff Kelley- Clergy Alternates
- Glen Flint, Dee Willoughby and Becky Heeren- Laity Reserves
- Andrew Happ, Travis Stevick, and Bruce Kronen- Clergy Reserves

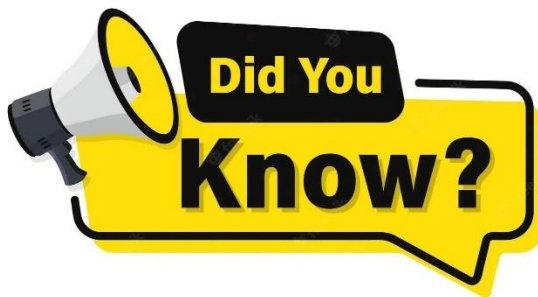
Also Jonathan Lee was appointed to serve on the Nominations Committee and Norma Morrison on the Agenda Committee.

If you have comments, questions, or concerns please email us by clicking the button below.

Thanks for your prayers!

[Email the Upper Midwest Delegation](#)

GLOBAL METHODIST ANNOUNCEMENTS



Find-A-Church

Many of you have asked how to find email addresses, websites, and more about other Global Methodist Churches in our conference.

The [Find-a-Church](#) page of the Global Methodist Church is the most up to date resource for this data.

Check it out today and see the other local congregations in your area!

[Find-A-Church](#)

UPPER MIDWEST ANNOUNCEMENTS



NEW APPOINTMENTS

Keith Pitts

Clinton First Church in Clinton, IA

Jaime Farias

Le Mars and Seney Churches in Le Mars & Seney, IA

James Parks

Marion Methodist Church in Marion, IA

Helen Parks

Marion Methodist Church in Marion, IA

Josh Swaim

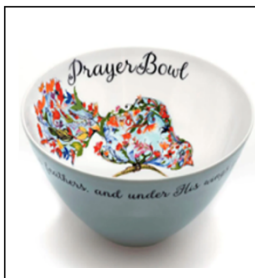
Christ Church in Davenport, IA

View the updated list of appointments, churches, and districts in the Upper Midwest conference in our [Index of Churches](#).

[Index of Churches](#)

prayer team update

How is Your Prayer Bowl?



Prayer Bowls

(Upper MW Conf Prayer & Intercession Team)

Rev. 5:8; "And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."

Before COVID, I was blessed to pray with the German Christians in Berlin, Germany, who meet regularly to pray for North Korea, which is [the most dangerous place in the world for Christians](#) (Global Christian Relief). At the prayer meeting, God confronted me to pray diligently for His Kingdom through Petra, a German prayer leader who challenged us to pray fervently for the freedom of North Korea by sharing her dream. In her dream, God showed two golden prayer bowls; one bowl was full with the North Koreans' prayers, while the other was only half full with the South Koreans' prayers. God said that He was waiting for the South Korean bowl to be filled with prayers. Her dream reminded me of the Golden Bowls in Rev. 5:8 (see above). I repented right there and also on behalf of the Christians in South Korea because the North Koreans have been suffering under the hostile government because of our shortage and lack of prayers. **Who else suffers around us and overseas because of our lack of prayer?** How does your prayer bowl look? Is it full or half empty?

I am Christina Sung, the Upper Midwest Conference Prayer & Intercession Team Leader, with 16 team members representing five districts who pray together

monthly. **Our goal is to encourage and support local Churches and pastors to select a prayer point person, begin/continue prayer meetings, and ensure that praying is an essential ministry of the church**, so it will be called a "House of Prayer" where God loves to dwell and manifest (Isa. 56:7, Mt 21:13), and pray for the fulfillment of the mission of the GM Church "to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly and witness boldly." Thank God we have an ongoing prayer meeting in Nebraska and just started another monthly Zoom prayer meeting in Iowa. If you want to pray with us, [just let me know](#).

How does your church's prayer bowl condition look? Is it overflowing? Business as usual will not work. **When we work, we work, but when we pray, God works.** Would you join our team and pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to be even greater than He did in America in 1858 and Wales in 1904?

Rev. Dr. Christina Sung, the Upper Midwest Conference Prayer & Intercession Team Leader

Email Christina: revcsung@gmail.com



Why 'Every Church Plants?'

We are a Conference that is comprised primarily of rural and small town congregations, so why should we have a focus on planting and multiplication?

My argument for why we must have that focus is simply that: we are a Conference of rural and normative sized congregations.

I will support my argument for, and vision of, all of our congregations participating in planting by asking a few questions.

- Do you know of people in nearby areas that do not have an active relationship with Jesus?
- Do you know of an area in our Conference that does not have a Bible believing, life giving, eternity transforming Methodist church?
- (This one is a two part question) Are there people in your community that are unreached for the Gospel? And will the way you currently 'do church' reach them, bring them to a saving faith in Christ, and disciple them as they go on to perfection and are made perfect in love?

If you can answer yes to any of these questions then perhaps you can understand why multiplication is needed in our Conference. **We must be a people who make disciples that make disciples that make disciples.** We have been given the holy calling by Jesus himself to do this!

I can quote you the stats, I can share with you the articles, I can point you to the overwhelming arguments as to why we must be starting new ministries, raising up new kinds of leaders, sending out our best to reach the least, last, and lost; HOWEVER, none of those things can give you that compassion in your gut ([Matt. 9:35-38](#)), that fire in your bones ([Jer. 20:9](#)), or open your eyes to the power our God can unleash through us and within us ([2 Kings 6:17](#), [Eph. 3:20](#)).

Pray for that power, that sight, that fire and compassion so that our Methodist movement can once again be powerfully fueled by the Holy Spirit. And when you pray in this way, also discern the future the Lord has for you and your congregation and how you might start something new (or old) so we can give glory to our Father as we see disciples make disciples who make disciples.

Every Church Plants. And yes, that means you.

Also, if you answered yes to any of those questions and you felt prompted by Holy Spirit to do something about it [please reach out!](#) I would love to talk with you, encourage you, and see you equipped to follow the Spirit's leading.

Rev. Zach Kingery, Multiplication Team

[Email Rev. Zach Kingery](#)



Nebraska Global Methodist Movement Gathering

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

Our Nebraska Global Methodist Movement Gathering went beyond our expectations.

Our speakers, Bishop Mark Webb, Vice President Pro Tempore, Ross Reinhiller and Presiding Elder, Jake Schadel all challenged us to learn from our wilderness experiences and let God propel us forward out of the wilderness into the Promised Land. We each have our own 'wilderness experience' and will be propelled into the Promised Land to which God has assigned us. They urged us to daily commit to follow ever closely God's leading. This applies to us personally and to our Global Methodist Churches of which we are a part.

The combination of worship, speakers, choice of breakout sessions, meals, and free time all lent itself to making new friends and celebrating old friendships. Rev. Zach Kingery represented Dirt Roads Ministry. Wendi Lane represented Blessman International. Daniel Evans represented A Few Good Men and Women International. Cathy Saner facilitated the Prayer Room along with Kandi Young. They are a great prayer team!

We witnessed some 'divine appointments' where the Holy Spirit weaved His presence among us. We are confident God is calling us into the future to advance His movement among us in Nebraska.

We felt very blessed to have Bishop Webb and Ross Reinhiller support us by their presence with us.

- Pastor Nora Mendyk



Certified Lay Ministry

UPPERMIDWEST CONFERENCE OF THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH



Laities have long been the stronghold of Methodism and essential to the Wesleyan movement. John Wesley recognized early the gifts of the laity and called them out raising up new leaders as exhorters, class leaders, and lay preachers. Today Certified Lay Ministers serve in a variety of capacities such as providing pulpit supply, conducting public worship, providing congregational care, serving as church administrator, leading small groups, assisting in program leadership, serving as a lay leader, developing new faith communities and even serving in lead pastoral leadership under the supervision of a clergy person.

The Global Methodist Church also recognizes the importance of a lay led movement. Therefore, the GMC has made certified lay ministry a priority in its foundational stages of ministry and provided this vital leadership path for lay people.

Being certified as a lay minister lets others know that you have committed to a journey of spiritual and educational growth and want to serve Jesus Christ in an extraordinary way.

Beginning on December 7, we will be holding the next session of a virtual lay ministry school which will fulfill all the educational requirements for certification. Our 2024-2025 Winter/Spring school will be held via ZOOM and a link will be provided prior to each class session. Classes will be one Saturday a month for six months from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CDT.

[Registration Form](#)

Registration is open from September 1-November 15, 2024

Registration forms should be returned to:

Jodi Cataldo

CLM/LayMinistry School Director

Upper Midwest Region of the GMChurch

3920 S. Terry Ave., Apt. 36

Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Jodi.cataldo@gmail.com

[More Information](#)



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.

[Upper Midwest Facebook Page](#)

MORE INFORMATION

Be the First to Know!



Important Dates to Remember



Sign up for our Newsletter

[Subscribe Here](#)

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

September 20-26, 2024

Global Methodist Church
Convening General Conference

June 12-14, 2025

Annual Conference

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

What Is the Church Center App?

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 \(Android\)](#)

“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](#)

Prayer Update



Please find the [Upper Midwest Conference Noon Prayer](#) introduced at the Annual Conference and [GMChurch 40-day Prayer](#) on the Conference website under "Prayer."

Can you imagine what would happen in the spiritual realm if we prayed the same prayer together at noon daily?

[Upper Midwest Noon Prayer](#)

[GMChurch 40-Day Prayer](#)

Sharing Good News



We want to hear from **you!** There are good ministries and exciting events happening all over our conference - and we want you to share them with us so we can spread the good news.

Take a minute or two and fill out this quick form to celebrate something going on in your local congregation, or in another local GM Church in your area.

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

[Share Your Story](#)



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

Our mailing address is:
416 S. Minnesota St. Mitchell, SD 57301