

**2026 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

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# **CLERGY CANDIDATE GUIDE**



**TRINITY  
CONFERENCE**  
Global Methodist Church

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A FAMILY OF CHURCHES IN  
TEXAS, LOUISIANA, AND ARKANSAS

# A CALL TO SPIRIT-LED DISCERNMENT

Serving as a delegate to the 2026 General Conference of the Global Methodist Church in Johannesburg, South Africa is both a sacred trust and a profound opportunity to help shape the future of our denomination.

As I reflect on this next step in our journey, I am filled with deep gratitude for the caliber of leaders across the Trinity Conference—laity and pastors who serve faithfully to advance the ministry of Christ in local communities every day. The strength and vitality of the Trinity Conference is a direct result of your commitment to our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe.

I pray our hearts will be aligned with God's purposes as we prepare to elect delegates who will represent us with humility, wisdom, and spiritual maturity. Let us seek voices from across our geographic regions and life experiences on September 6; women and men who reflect the unity, giftedness, and Spirit-led conviction that define our growing movement. May the fruit of this process be a faithful representation of our body, marked by expectance and joy in what God is building among us.

Peace,



Rev. Jason Burnham  
Conference Superintendent



1

**Clark Atkins**  
AR | Siloam Springs  
*Active Elder*

### **How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

The purpose and the mission of the Global Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe. Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the Global Methodist Church envisions multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the earth who flourish in scriptural holiness as we worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. Rooted in the Wesleyan tradition, the GMC seeks to be a global, Spirit-filled, and biblically grounded movement, committed to the authority of Scripture, the Lordship of Jesus, and the transforming power of grace.

Its role in the world is to offer a clear, compassionate, and courageous witness to the gospel, especially in a time when moral clarity and theological conviction are often blurred. The GMC aims to equip local churches to be centers of mission and spiritual formation—raising up leaders, planting new congregations, and engaging communities with acts of mercy, compassion, and evangelism. It also seeks to be a connectional church that values accountability, shared mission, and the empowerment of both laity and clergy.

In short, the Global Methodist Church exists to be a faithful expression of the church universal—anchored in truth, alive in the Spirit, and sent into the world with love.

### **Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

First, as a delegate to the 2024 Convening General Conference and now in my service as Chair of the Connectional Commission on Conferences, I bring a breadth of experience that aligns with the needs of the wider church. As such I am very familiar with the pressing issues that face us as a growing movement and as a denomination that is moving out of its infancy and into adolescence. This will be valuable as we continue the work begun in 2024 at the convening conference.

Second, my work as a Presiding Elder in the Trinity Annual Conference has prepared me to understand the practical realities faced by local churches—having provided oversight to nearly forty congregations, led numerous appointive processes, and coached churches through adaptive leadership transitions. These experiences give me a grounded perspective on how church structures can either empower or hinder local ministry.

Third, serving as Senior Pastor in growing congregations equips me to evaluate church needs and opportunities across diverse contexts—key to the work as both a delegate to general conference and in my work on the Commission on Conferences, which must ensure that the conference structure of the Global Methodist Church is both missionally effective and organizationally sound.

Fourth, my background as Cabinet Representative of the Trinity Conference Board of Ministry coupled with my service as Recording Secretary of the Trinity Conference and Conference Secretary of my former annual conference along with membership and leadership of various boards and committees, has honed my ability to manage complex systems, collaborate across diverse viewpoints, and communicate clearly—skills essential to deliberative work at the General Church level.

Finally, in every leadership role—from local churches to conference boards—I have worked to build consensus, develop people, and keep the mission of the church at the center.

### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

First, I am excited! As Chair of the Commission on Conferences I have had a front row seat witnessing all the people and church bodies from around the world that wish to join us in the Holy Spirit empowered movement we call the Global Methodist Church. It is truly inspiring!

With that said, in my opinion, the most important thing the 2026 General Conference of the Global Methodist Church needs to address is building a strong, sustainable framework for connectional accountability and missional alignment. As a new denomination, we have a unique opportunity to learn from the past and establish structures that empower local churches while ensuring shared commitment to our doctrine, mission, and values. This includes finalizing a fair and effective process for the creation, evaluation, and support of annual conferences globally, ensuring that all parts of the church—regardless of geography—have the tools and relationships needed to flourish. It also means refining systems for clergy credentialing, leadership development, and church planting, so that the right leaders are equipped and deployed for the right contexts.

Additionally, General Conference must clarify the church's stance on theological essentials. In a world increasingly divided, the GMC must offer a compelling witness to the truth of Scripture and the power of grace—speaking with both clarity and compassion.

Finally, the General Conference must take steps to support global mission and discipleship by encouraging contextual ministry, strengthening partnerships across continents, and resourcing churches of all sizes. If we get the structure and the spirit of our church right now, we will be well-positioned to fulfill our mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe.

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Over the past decade, I've been deeply committed to helping churches catch a fresh vision of what God can do—and then guiding them to live into that vision with boldness and faith. In every appointment I've held, worship attendance has grown by at least 10%, and we've celebrated new professions of faith each year. At First Church Siloam Springs, over half the congregation is engaged in small groups, and we've launched five new discipleship bands in the past year alone.

We recently completed a \$2.2-million renovation of our 103-year-old building, transforming it into a vibrant ministry center. This space now houses thriving children and youth ministries and a partnership with a nonprofit offering adult literacy, GED, and ESL classes—reflecting our call to be a church for the community, not just in the community.

As Presiding Elder, I work with nearly forty churches across western Arkansas, leading pastoral appointments, coaching congregations through strategic planning, and serving on the Trinity Conference Cabinet. My administrative and leadership background—including years of experience in higher education, large and small church settings, and denominational leadership—has given me the skills to navigate complex systems while staying rooted in our mission.

I believe the Global Methodist Church has a historic opportunity to build something faithful, Spirit-led, and missionally focused. I'm honored to serve in this movement and prayerfully seek to offer my gifts in service to the broader church.



2

**Jim Bass**

TX | Friendswood

*Active Elder*

### **How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

The GMC's stated purpose as a biblical, orthodox, and evangelical expression of the Methodist movement today is to accomplish a twofold mission: to disciple followers of Jesus Christ and to promote scriptural holiness.

First, we are tasked with making disciples as we go into all the world, baptizing and teaching everything the Lord has commanded us. This encourages us to be outward-focused, evangelistic, and to carry a renewed passion for those who are lost without Christ.

We are called not only to go and share the good news but also to make disciples of Jesus Christ. A disciple is someone who follows and learns. Part of the Great Commission involves instructing others on what it truly means to follow Jesus. To do this effectively, we must continually base our teaching on biblical truth, orthodox doctrine, and our Methodist distinctives.

The second part of our twofold mission is to promote scriptural holiness globally. Disciple-making involves helping people apply these truths so they grow in holiness of heart and life. It's not just about a list of dos and don'ts, but about becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus who earnestly seek to imitate Him in all aspects of life during the process of sanctification.

To fulfill our mission, I believe the GMC must prioritize these not only at the general and annual conference levels, but more importantly, in every local church, where disciples are made and people grow and flourish in holiness.

Only then will we become the renewed Methodist movement that both we and the Lord desire us to be.

### **Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

I have served as the Senior Pastor at Friendswood for the past 20 years, bringing experience in leading a larger church through teaching, casting vision, working with staff teams, directing capital campaigns, managing building programs and

expansions, transitioning to a new governance model, and addressing numerous challenges as we continue to grow in fulfilling our mission. Most recently, I led FMC to finally retire the remaining \$1.4M debt by the end of the year (from \$5.4M when I arrived at Friendswood).

One of the GMC's visions is to reclaim Wesley's model of transformative discipleship by banding together in covenantal small groups to "watch over each other in love." For the past six years, I have led Friendswood Methodist in prioritizing small groups modeled after Wesley's Class meetings. Friendswood has developed a vital small group ministry, with over thirty groups and more than ten Covenant Band Groups, which has led to a deepening of faith among our members, enabling them to become more like Christ. This emphasis has changed our church.

In 2024, I served as a delegate to the Convening General Conference in Costa Rica, where I was a member of the Constitution and Legislative Committee. I was involved in helping to perfect the draft constitution and writing the current mission and vision statement adopted by the General Conference.

My experiences provide a valuable perspective as we deliberate together in Johannesburg.

### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

We must resist the temptation to legislate based on past experiences and instead focus on building a strong foundation for the future of our renewed Methodist movement.

We still have gaps in the process of pastoral appointments, especially regarding when a new pastor is needed at a church. We need to establish a clear, grace-filled process for both the church and the pastor.

GC2026 formed a committee to revise the Articles of Religion, Confessions, and General Rules for adoption. This task is as important as adopting the new Constitution and mission statement at GC2024, because it will support our efforts in teaching faith and doctrine, as well as in making disciples.

The current judicial system is a patchwork that needs to be reworked, which we were not able to do at GC2024.

We need to adopt a Book of Worship with official liturgies for the church that reflect orthodox and evangelical Methodism.

We need to clarify our Wesleyan understanding and practice of church membership, which involves active participation, not just being listed on church rolls. It should be easier to place members on an inactive roll and automatically remove them if they are not restored within a certain period.

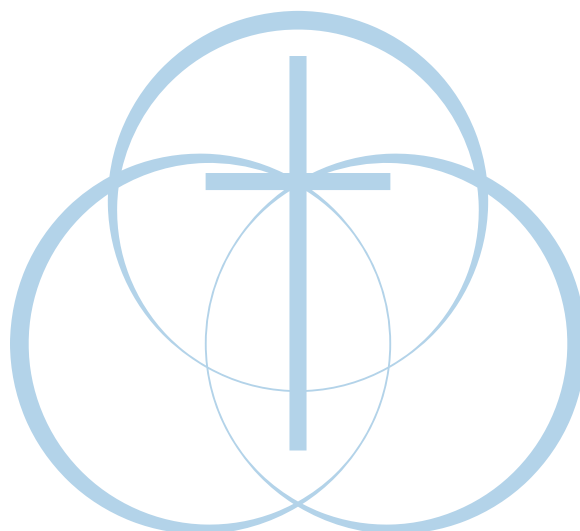
Finally, the adopted constitution was described as “wet cement” to enable international conferences to have an equal voice in finalizing it. I aim to serve as a delegate in 2026 to help complete our constitution and establish a strong foundation for our church in the years ahead.

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

I came to Christ as an unchurched teenager at the age of fifteen. That conversion transformed my life and the purpose God has for me. I was led to a local Methodist church where I got involved in the youth group, grew in my faith, and discerned my calling to pastoral ministry.

I understand the impact Jesus has on people’s lives and have always guided the churches I served to focus on those who don’t yet know Jesus, to grow in discipleship, and to pursue holiness of heart and life. My goal is for people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, and I have seen churches under my leadership grow in both membership and spiritual depth.

I am passionate about preaching and teaching the scriptures and our doctrine, applying them to our daily lives. I’ve taught a pastor-led Bible study for years, going through different books of the Bible that’ve impacted many in my church, both in their knowledge of and living out scriptures.







3

## John Robert Black

LA | Lake Charles, Living Water

*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

I absolutely love the Global Methodist Church and wholeheartedly support our mission, vision, and core values! If given the honor of being a delegate, I will invest my time and efforts to further the established direction of our movement.

Historically, Wesleyan theology has fueled awakenings and revivals, and our call to spread Scriptural holiness around the world is just as urgent today. I celebrate the GMC's comprehensive approach to global ministry, particularly the following Wesleyan distinctives:

- Proclaiming salvation and grace through Jesus Christ to all people
- Engaging in compassionate mission and outreach
- Combating social ills and injustices
- Staying grounded in orthodox theology and Biblical doctrine
- Commitment to relationship-based ministry over transactional models

Together, these denominational distinctives create the possibility of vibrant and sustainable global partnerships within the GMC.

I also believe strongly in the GMC's vision for church planting and multiplication, and feel we are uniquely positioned for growth and expansion. Unburdened by outdated structures and antiquated bureaucracies, the GMC possesses the ability to be creative, strategic, and resourceful. Our "newness" gives us a fresh opportunity to cultivate meaningful relationships, wisely steward resources, and prioritize effective ministries for maximum Kingdom impact.

### Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.

The Lord provided multiple paths of service that have created a wholistic view of our Conference, creating the necessary experiences needed to be a thorough delegate. I joyfully serve in the following capacities:

- **Connecting Elder, Southwest Louisiana:** Supporting pastors and churches in our region

- **Lead-Team Member & Instructor, School of Ministry:** Helping prepare both clergy and laity for service within the GMC
- **Instructor, Pastoral Studies Program at Truett Seminary:**
  - Designed and taught Mission and Evangelism in Spring 2025 (four students from this course were ordained deacon and one ordained elder at Annual Conference)
  - Scheduled to teach Systematic Theology in 2026 and Mission/Evangelism in 2027
- **Member, Conference Finance Team:** Participate in discerning wise stewardship practices, resource allocation, and financial transparency for our Conference
- **Leader, International Ministries Team:**
  - Under direction of the IMT, helped launch our Panama partnership, assess greatest areas of need, engaged in theological teaching/training, and established meaningful relationships with Panamanian leaders
  - Conducted field research and taught workshops on GMC History, Doctrine, and Theology, as well as Spiritual Formation during a Latin America mission conference in Panama
  - Coordinated educational programming at Asbury Seminary (21 pastoral candidates in Panama currently in this program)
  - Helped establish initial communication with Trinity Conference Hispanic leaders and Panama leaders
  - Will serve in August with the Church Multiplication staff from the Woodlands GMC at a training event in Panama (over 50 currently registered to attend)

### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

The most important contribution I would make as a delegate is being a team player. I have no agenda and will work with our delegation to build consensus. I have deep admiration for our Conference leaders and wish to add my voice to the clear move of God we're experiencing.

The Convening Conference in Costa Rica laid a foundation that I believe General Conference 2026 should solidify and reinforce. The delegates did such great work that I don't believe there are any major problems to be addressed.

Costa Rica created a healthy ethos for the role of bishops, perhaps the most challenging piece of legislation. Our episcopal leaders have been able to educate, inspire, organize, and spread the GMC globally, while Conference Superintendents have been empowered to steward and shepherd the Conference, a model of leadership which is already bearing tremendous fruit.

I believe we need to maintain our commitment to graceful accountability for all leadership positions, and I will gladly submit to personal and pastoral accountability measures and standards/processes.

While growth will create new positions, we need to maintain a streamlined structure of leadership. I believe this is best accomplished by preventing lifelong bishops, keeping as many denominational leaders as possible simultaneously serving in a local church, empowering laity, committing to financial transparency, and limiting boards/commissions in size and authority.

Since our inception, great emphasis has been made to prioritize relational ministry over transactional ministry, which I fully embrace. I also feel a continual effort to host general conferences throughout the world is a positive commitment I hope we maintain.

Lastly, I believe there will be considerable attention given to our social statements. While I believe wholeheartedly in maintaining unwavering conviction and clarity, I feel we should draft our statements from what we are for rather than against.

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

General Conference delegates should have verifiable passion and consistent fruit in their areas of ministry. I love Jesus and prayerfully attempt to align my life and ministry with passion and joy serving Him.

- I serve a new church (Living Water GMC) in Lake Charles, Louisiana, that we launched in July 2023. Despite worshipping at 1:00 at a local Church of the Nazarene, the Lord is blessing the ministry, and the future is bright!
  - Key highlights since our launch: 239 members, 13 baptisms, 3 professions of faith, 25 elementary-aged children and 22 teenage youth regularly in worship
  - Two mission trips to Honduras
  - Church member named to Conference Strategic Planning Team
- **Local outreach initiatives:** Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed ministry for local children, pastoral presence in local prison, host annual Fall Fest and Spring Fling, and completed numerous local mission projects, including major home repair
- **Financial foundation:** Purchased 4.1 acres of land (paid in full, valued at \$800,000), \$100,000 in operating funds, \$407,000 in savings, \$26,000 designated for missions, \$347,000 in building fund, \$1.1M pledged toward new sanctuary (to begin construction August 2025; completion estimated December 2026). These fruits reflect our commitment to evangelism, discipleship, generosity, and long-term vision.

Thank you for considering me as a delegate. I would be honored to serve, offering my time, prayers, and energy to honor the Lord and participate in our sacred work.



4

## Jason Burnham

Trinity Conference Extension

*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

Quite simply, we exist to make disciples of Jesus and spread scriptural holiness across the globe. While rising pressures to follow any number of cultural ideologies or public personalities exist, the people of the Global Methodist Church have made a clear decision to boldly and unapologetically follow Jesus; to be holy as He is holy. In so doing, we receive and respond to Christ's commission by witnessing to His grace and love through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are called to share this good news far and wide, so the world will know and follow Jesus.

### Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.

**Co-Head of the '24 Trinity Conference Delegation:** Established the culture and organization of our delegation that embraced collaboration, articulated clear values, advanced legislative priorities (including some petitions I authored), and established space for Trinity leadership to serve the body.

**Global Episcopacy Committee Vice-Chair:** Serving the denomination with a committee that develops systems of support and accountability for the Assembly of Bishops.

**Conference Superintendent and former Executive Officer of the Trinity Conference:** Developing the structure of the conference in alignment with the Book of Doctrine and Discipline has been an immersive engagement with the document the General Conference is entrusted to steward. Working in partnership with the co-lay leaders has been a great blessing that prepares me to partner with the whole of the delegation. Establishing global partnerships has created opportunities to build kinship with sisters and brothers that we will be working alongside at General Conference.

### **Credentialing Committee Vice-Chair of '24 General Conference Commission:**

Working with leaders from across the Global Methodist world to plan for the work of the General Conference allowed me to build relationships across the connection that are essential in legislative work.

### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

First and foremost, we must continue to embrace the Spirit-filled movement that was the embodied experience of the Convening General Conference.

#### **Legislative Work**

- **Episcopacy, Ministry and Local Church, Connectional Organization, and Conferences** – Refine gaps and clarify lingering questions from what was faithfully discerned at the '24 General Conference.
- **Judicial** – Construction of judicial processes and procedures that are aligned with Global Methodist ecclesiology and not borrowed and misappropriated from a United Methodist ecclesiology.
- **Social Witness** – Maintain the faithful biblical articulation of the our social witness to ensure we are not conforming to the patterns of the world. Diligently hold to a focused presentation so that we don't drone on in platitudes that disconnect the document from application in our churches. Intentionally present a witness that can be appropriated across the diversity of our global context.

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Only months after coming to faith, I shared my witness to a non-believing friend, Bradley. I told him the extraordinary truth that God sent His Son to pay the price of our sin that we couldn't pay. I shared my experience of the overwhelming power of the Holy Spirit that healed my pain and brokenness. In response, Bradley professed his faith, was baptized, and joined my home church. From the point on, I have had a zeal for sharing the Gospel. Whether in preaching, pursuing the lost and hurting, planting churches, or equipping the saints across the Trinity Conference; my aim remains fixed on sharing the Good News of Jesus.



5

## David Bush

AR | El Dorado, Dumas

*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

Our purpose is to experience the grace of God in Jesus Christ and then offer Christ to the world. The Church's role is to develop a plan of discipleship and outreach. The Church is called to rescue the perishing.

### Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.

I served Arkansas in Pittsburg, Fort Worth, Portland, and St. Louis as a General Conference delegate. I also served five times as a Jurisdictional Conference delegate. I believe this experience will help me be a team player in the Trinity Conference. I have been Chair of Stewardship, Evangelism, and Discipleship of the Arkansas Conference. I served as Chair of the Northwest Arkansas Vision Team; served for eight years as a Trustee of the Foundation for Evangelism; and I enjoyed serving with Maxie Dunham, John Ed Mathison, and Jimmy Buskirk on the National Confessing Movement Board. I taught Evangelical Theology at John Brown University and Evangelism in the Southern Fried Church at Memphis Theological Seminary. I was an instructor at the License to Preach school, have done presentations at several seminaries, and preached at least once in all seventy-five counties in Arkansas. I am the President of Swamp Angel Ministries and the Church I am serving, Dumas GMC, is renovating a building for a new church start that will open as Christ Church in the coming months.

### In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?

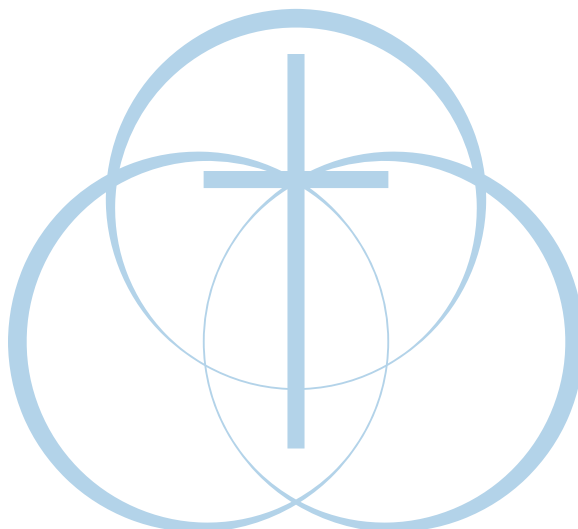
We need to firm up our Discipline. We must keep the main thing of winning others to Christ as our main focus. We must help each person to increasingly reflect the character of Christ. General Conference should call us to be warm hearted, Jesus loving, and Holy Spirit inspired people.

**Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

I went to seminary wanting to be an evangelist. I graduated seminary with the heart of an evangelist and pastor. I have served as a pastor for 48 years. I still love sharing the faith one on one and with multitudes. I still have the passion of an evangelist and preach at every opportunity.

My churches have averaged 1.3 new members per week during my 48 years in ministry.

Dumas of El Dorado has received 118 new members since July 1, 2023. We had 6 people attending when we went there. God is Good—All the Time!







6

## Jonathan Bynum

TX | Willis, First

*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

I am more convinced than ever of our unique role in the Body of Christ reaching out to the whole world with the whole gospel. As the Global Methodist Church we are called to make known the good news of Jesus Christ, spreading scriptural holiness across the world through an orthodox, biblical, Wesleyan witness. Our commitment is to lead people into the fullness of life through deliverance from sin and death, set free as disciples to enjoy the power of the Holy Spirit as we go on the adventure of where Jesus leads us.

### Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.

It was a blessing to be a part of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at our Convening General Conference. The worship was extraordinary, the discussions were faith-full, and even the disagreements were loving. That was the model of holy conferencing I want us to hold onto.

As the Vice Chair of the Board of Ministry, I have seen God at work as we live into a whole new way of carrying out our work and having the privilege to hear the testimonies of candidates of all ages who are on fire with the gospel. We are far more collegial and supportive of each other than we have ever been before. We have a cohort of BOM leaders from around the world who meet monthly to share best practices, worst case scenarios, and encouragement so we can all be more effective. We need to enhance that sense of connection for the sake of the kingdom.

In my own work, I am renewed and ministry keeps getting better and better. I have experiences as a pastor in every possible setting: rural, small town, suburban, urban, and college campus. I have experiences in mission trips reaching from the Navajo Nation to Tanzania. I have experiences sharing in the lives of individuals at the highest highs and lowest lows and, mostly, their ordinary workaday walk with Jesus. My work in the general church is always directly connected to those saints and sinners.

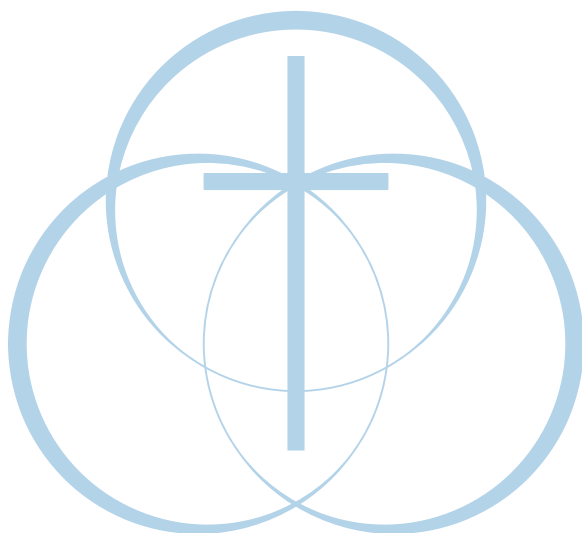


**In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

We have been test driving our GMC and found some design flaws and rattles that need to be tightened. While the Convening Conference was wonderful, we have a lot of work to do going on to perfection. Now the whole Book of Doctrines and Discipline is open to legislation. This is a key moment as we continue to shape our denominational culture. What happens in Johannesburg will establish the habits that define us for the next six years. We are still setting up guardrails that guide us but do not trap us—necessary structure without suffocating bureaucracy. Much of the work is to provide clarity. For example, with regards to ordained ministry (Part Five of the BDD), a seemingly simple word like “inactive” raises significant questions leaving Boards of Ministry unsure how to proceed. In each legislative area similar concerns are to be addressed.

**Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

My ministry is to preach and teach a Christocentric scripture. I want people to be shaped by the Living Word in small ways and in dramatic ways so they will share the gospel in small ways and in dramatic ways. My joy is when people join in a study and then tell me, “That makes so much sense to me now.” Those who encounter Methodists need to know there is happiness in holiness and holiness touches every dimension of life. I also think our global reach is important to keep a proper perspective on the broadness of kingdom of God. I love to share stories I hear from our brothers and sisters from around the world and remind the church that they are us. The Lord’s faithfulness has been evident in joyful baptisms, changed lives, miraculous healings, demonic deliverances, and tenacious devotion. Every one of the them comes as a surprise gift—grace.



**7**

## **Arturo Cadar**

**TX | Pasadena, Revive**

***Active Deacon***

### **How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

In times such as the one we're living now, where people are increasingly becoming "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power" (2 Timothy 3:4-5), the people known as Global Methodist are called to collaborate with God under the guidance, and with the power, of the Holy Spirit in the work of spreading the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ to win lost lives for Jesus and guide them to live in scriptural holiness to God's glory. In doing this, our role becomes that of disciple makers who make and send other disciples to all those parts of the world where God, knowing that people left to themselves will not come to him, has already been wooing people to himself, and preparing good works in advance for us to do.

### **Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

As part of the Trinity Conference team of delegates to the 2024 General Conference held in Costa Rica in September of 2024, and as a member of the Connectional Organization Legislative Committee, I acquired the experience that is necessary to do the work of a General Conference delegate, in the best interest of our denomination and our Book of Doctrine and Discipline. In addition, as a member of the GMC Connectional Council, I am well-experienced on how to work with other members of the Connectional Council, members of different commissions, our Bishops, and our Connectional Operations Officer. Finally, as a multilingual Hispanic American who serves as a member of the cabinet and as the Chair of the Hispanic Ministries Initiative of the Trinity Conference, I am always attentive to the task of keeping the GMC well-grounded on issues that may affect the work and the spiritual growth of Global Methodists from different countries and cultures.

### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

I believe that the General Conference needs to continue to pay close attention to further developing the distinctives that define our identity as Global Methodists, with emphasis on the Global aspect of our call to ministry. We must also continue to guard our direction as an authentic Wesleyan denomination to ensure that we don't fall on the same path of our previous lives as United Methodists. At the same time, I believe we need to start paying close attention to the quality of life of our pastors and lay leaders who for the last three years have worn many different missional hats and are beginning to show signs of tiredness and in some cases fatigue and even exhaustion. Lastly, I believe we need to rethink our structure and set aside the often extreme concerns that we have about becoming an institution. This is why we need to continue to work on our identity as a movement that thrives on collective effort and shared Wesleyan values but is not afraid to define the roles, processes and resources that are necessary to keep the movement growing and moving in a direction that will better help us to achieve our goals.

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

My passion for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ can best be evidenced by the fruit of the work that the Lord has allowed me to do through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, and my collaboration with other clergy and lay leaders over my 20 years of ministry.

The drivers of my passion for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ are:

1. The result of my gratitude for the sacrifice that Jesus had to pay for me on the cross
2. The evidence offered by the many lives that I have seen transformed in the churches and roles where I have served
3. The life in koinonia and accountability that I have experienced with fellow clergy in the mission field.



8

## Troy Conrad

AR | DeWitt

*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

The understanding of what it means to be a Wesleyan Christian is to have the right heart of worship. Our focus should always be in growing the local church through Scriptural holiness. We make disciples of Jesus Christ by this witness, not through politics or social agendas. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can spread this message of growing disciples throughout the world. Remaining true to our Biblical heritage and Wesleyan doctrines will always allow us to show the love of Jesus Christ to a fallen world.

### Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.

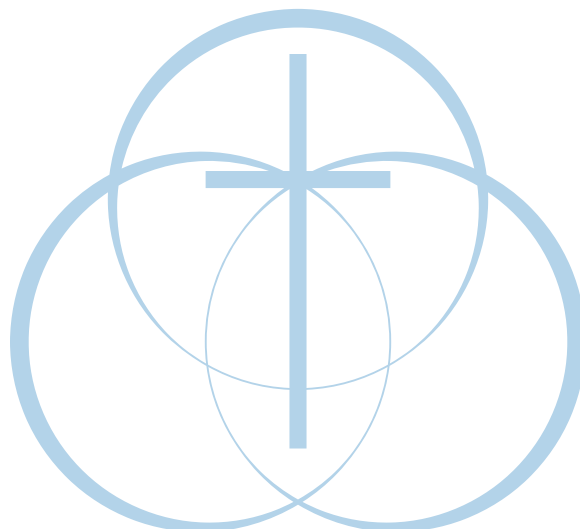
I was formally an ordained Elder in the UMC. As such, I served on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for 12 years. I was charged by the Conference to lead and author both our policies against racial discrimination and two Bible studies promoting equality. I served as a Disaster Response Trainer for UMCOR for over a decade and co-led many mission trips to Rio Bravo, Mexico for both the Conference and my district. I was a co-chair of the conference Safe Sanctuary committee that developed policies and procedures to keep our children safe. I have served on nearly every Conference and District board over the years. I have been a mentor for 72 candidates for ministry throughout the years. I currently serve as a teacher for the GMC School of Ministry.

### In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?

I strongly feel that the most pressing issue for the General Conference is the development of raising up the next generation of pastors who will lead our church. By creating a pipeline of leadership in local churches we can nurture the calling our congregations may have as they answer God's question, "Whom shall I send?"

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

My passion for sharing Jesus is to simply love the people God have given to me. It too often seems like a pastor is parachute dropped into a place and maintains a barrier between them and the congregation they serve. Every place Jesus went, He became a part of the people's lives through home visitations and sharing in their hopes, dreams and hurts. I also strongly feel that when our congregations come through our doors, they should learn something about the Bible. Too often pastors are tempted to trivialize the message of grace into feel-good stories. God's message is both easy and complicated at the same time. The way our lives are. By teaching people the lessons of God's grace and the complexities of it, we show them how God is working in every aspect of life.





9

## Pierce Drake

TX | The Woodlands

*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

From the heart, I see the Global Methodist Church as more than a denomination, it's a Spirit led movement rooted in a mission that resonates deeply with Wesleyan tradition and our shared identity as disciples of Jesus.

The GMC exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe. To me, that means we are entrusted with sharing the life changing Gospel, guiding people into the fullness of the love and power of the Spirit, and helping shape communities marked by holiness—not just morality, but deep inner transformation of the soul.

First, our purpose is anchored in disciple making. We're called to invite people into encounter with Jesus. This journey includes reaching, teaching, baptizing, serving, and walking together in accountability, rooted in the Wesleyan practices of growth and spiritual formation.

Second, spreading scriptural holiness means growing in the likeness of Jesus. Scripture teaches that God's sanctifying grace changes hearts, our desires, and our whole lives. Scripture becomes our guiding light and foundation of what the holy life is to be. This isn't about self improvement, it's about cooperating with the Holy Spirit's work of renewal in our souls, both personally and communal.

Thirdly, we are a global movement. Jesus tells us in that famous passage of John 3.16, "For God so love the world..." The heart of Jesus is for the whole of the world, and so is ours. That looks like vibrant praise, radical generosity, courageous proclamation, and cross-cultural partnership. Whether in Texas or Tanzania, we are one connectional body seeking to bring Christ's light into communities that need hope, healing, and wholeness.

This mission compels me. It shapes how I lead, preach, and invest in people—because I believe the GMC is called to be a church that embodies Christ's love everywhere, growing disciples who reflect His holiness in every context.

## Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.

As I step into the opportunity to serve as a General Conference delegate, I bring a deep love for the local church and a breadth of ministry experience across diverse contexts.

I'm a **fourth-generation Methodist pastor**, and over the years I've served in multiple states and internationally—from **Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas** to **London, England**. These experiences have shown me the beauty and strength of a truly **connectional church**, and the importance of being grounded in both local mission and global vision.

Currently, I serve on the **Staff Leadership Team at The Woodlands Methodist Church**, helping oversee the **strategic and tactical implementation** of our church's mission across four campuses. This role has given me firsthand experience in discerning vision, building systems that support growth, and aligning staff, ministries, and resources toward shared kingdom goals. I've seen what it means to lead both collaboratively and decisively in a large complex church environment. That leadership perspective is something I believe adds real value to the work of the General Conference, especially as we navigate this early but crucial season in the life of the Global Methodist Church.

In 2020, I co-launched The **Art of Holiness Podcast** with **Bishop Carolyn Moore**. We created space for deep, Spirit-led conversations that helped carry Wesleyan values into the formation of the GMC—resourcing both clergy and laity in a time of major transition.

I also had the honor of attending the **first called General Conference** as a learner. Since then, I've witnessed how those decisions brought **clarity, healing, and momentum** to our local church.

That's the lens I bring—a **pastoral heart**, a **strategic mind**, and a deep commitment to the Spirit's work in and through the Global Methodist Church.

## In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?

In my view, one of the most urgent and sacred tasks before the General Conference is to develop a deeper, more robust doctrine and authority of the sacraments—both the Table and Baptism. These holy moments are not just symbolic acts—they are means of grace, formative encounters with the living Christ. As a Wesleyan body, we must articulate clearly who has authority to preside, how these sacraments are to be practiced across cultures, and what it means to be a people shaped by the presence of Christ in these sacred spaces. Our sacramental theology will shape our spiritual depth, our pastoral practices, and our ecclesial identity for generations to come.



Alongside that, we need to continue the theological development of our doctrine of sanctification. Holiness is not a relic of our past—it is the heartbeat of who we are. In a world hungry for authenticity and transformation, we must be bold and clear about God’s power to make us new—fully, completely, and continually.

Structurally, we need to establish a viable long-term plan for the election of bishops that is both spiritually grounded and globally sustainable. We must also bring clarity to our system of oversight and accountability, so we operate as one connectional body, not a fractured network. A unified system ensures that our doctrine, discipline, and mission are lived out with consistency and integrity across the globe.

We also need a system for recognizing and electing new commissions to take up the work before us, and we must prioritize higher theological education globally so that pastors, wherever they are, are equipped with Wesleyan truth and missional passion.

Finally, we must address long-term viability and funding—including the creation of a denominational foundation to support the mission and ministry of the Church well into the future.

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Jesus radically changed my life. I don’t say that lightly. I’m still a work in progress, but by grace through faith in the resurrected Jesus, I now stand clothed in His righteousness. That’s the starting point for everything—I share the gospel because I’ve experienced its power personally. Before I’m a pastor, I’m a beloved son of King Jesus, and as His son, it’s my joy and my calling to invite others into the same relationship of grace, redemption, and hope.

I believe the Gospel is meant to be shared first and foremost in the everyday places of our lives—with our neighbors, our families, our coworkers—because Jesus’ invitation is for everyone. As a pastor, I get to carry that calling into the local church. It’s my honor to lead Covenant Church at Creekside, a campus of The Woodlands Methodist Church, and to help cultivate a community where people can encounter the living Christ.

Beyond that, I also serve as the men’s pastor across all four campuses of The Woodlands Methodist Church. In that role, I get to walk alongside men from all walks of life—calling them up, pointing them to Jesus, and helping them live as disciples in their homes, workplaces, and communities.

Some of the most sacred gospel moments happen not from a platform but around our dinner table—sharing meals, laughter, stories, and prayer. My wife and I love opening our home, breaking bread with others, and centering our lives around Jesus in the most ordinary and powerful ways.

At the heart of it all is this: Jesus changes lives. He changed mine. And now, by grace, I get to spend my life pointing others to that same hope.





10

## Natalie Faust

LA | Monroe, Lea Joyner

*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

The purpose of the GMC is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with all of God's people through the Word of God, inspired by God, through the posser of the Holy Spirit. I admire the leadership of the GMC to hold each other accountable to the authority of Holy Scripture and to love all of God's people where they are, while gently loving them into how Christ desires us to live through Him. The world needs Jesus and the truth of Scripture. Methodists have, are and will continue to be responsible for being at the forefront of discipleship, teaching, preaching and demonstrating Scriptural holiness.

### Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.

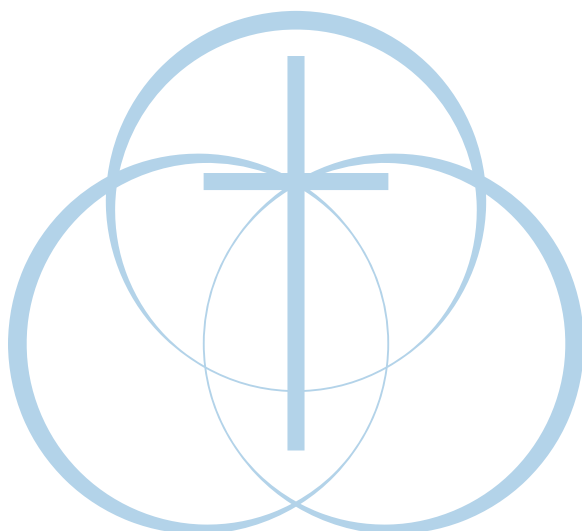
I believe that my role as a delegate to The Global Methodist's Church Covening Conference in 2024 will help provide continuity as we move forward to this First General Conference in 2026. The experience we had in Costa Rica was something that I will treasure in my heart always and I look forward to possible being able to move that forward into our next General Conference. Being a founding pastor of a new church plant that left all being in the UMC to be a part of this new expression of what it is to be a Methodist also shows what I and my church sacrificed in order to keep moving forward in the GMC. Now that I have moved into the shoes of Lea Joyner in Monroe, Louisiana, I'm continuing to live into that role of what she started as the first female pastor in Louisiana and now the first female to follow her after 40 years. I have served as a Presiding Elder in the Heartland Conference for two years, served on the Heartland Conference Board of Ministry for two years, helping to establish the processes for the Board. Before being in the GMC, I was ordained in 2014, serving as chair on two different District Committees and serving on the Board of Ministry for the Great Plains Conference for five years. Being a woman clergy person and able to represent my current church and all the churches I've served previously, to be that voice for them is such an incredible and humbling opportunity and responsibility that I hope I can do once again.

**In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

We need to continue to work on our legislation to bring more clarity into the future of our denomination. Though we made a great start in Costa Rica there is still much valuable work to be done to clarify the intentions behind some of the work. We have only just begun to do the work that has been set before us and we intentionally left much work to be done while we worked into Costa Rica. As much as I don't like to deal with finances, we need to adopt a complete budget that will reflect our desire to make disciples of Jesus Christ who spread Scriptural holiness across the globe. We need to be as lean as possible that avoids a top-down approach yet address the needed funding to be effective in ministry.

**Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

I bring many years of church experience, both participation and leadership, to the GMC. I have a preaching, teaching and leading. I have a passion for people to be restored to a right relationship with God and with others. I am a relational person and use my ability to build relationships with others to disciple and mentor men and women to grow in their faith. I have an ability to be loving and gracious, while being firm, holding persons accountable to the faith they proclaim.



**11**

## **David Goodwin**

**TX | Diboll, First**  
*Active Elder*

### **How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

From my perspective as a pastor within the Global Methodist Church, I understand our purpose as a clear and compelling call to authentically live out the Great Commission. We are here to make disciples, individuals whose lives are being actively shaped by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ. This isn't just about conversion, but about nurturing a lifelong journey of faith characterized by passionate worship, extravagant love for neighbor, and a bold, unwavering witness to the transformative power of the Gospel.

Our role in the world, therefore, is to be a vibrant and Spirit-filled movement that actively embodies this mission. We strive to be a church where the authority of Scripture is central, where the core tenets of Wesleyan theology are embraced and lived out, and where the local church is empowered as the primary engine of ministry.

We offer a theological home for those who hold a traditional understanding of Christian doctrine and ethics, providing a clear and consistent framework for faith and practice. Our role is also to be actively engaged in evangelism and church planting, reaching those who do not yet know Christ. We aim to be a lean and accountable denomination, focused on supporting local congregations in their vital work of discipleship and outreach. Ultimately, the Global Methodist Church seeks to be a beacon of hope and truth in a world desperately needing the love and light of Jesus Christ. We are called to be salt and light, impacting our communities and the world for God's Kingdom.

### **Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

With a background in the military and extensive travels across Europe and Mexico, I bring a diverse tapestry of perspectives and skills that I believe will significantly enrich my work as a General Conference delegate.

My time in the military instilled in me the values of discipline, strategic thinking, teamwork under pressure, and a deep understanding of service. Navigating complex hierarchical structures and working towards a common mission in high-stakes environments honed my ability to listen to diverse viewpoints, find common

ground, and execute decisions effectively. This experience will be invaluable when engaging in the often-challenging deliberations and voting processes of the General Conference.

My pastoral role has equipped me with the essential skills of spiritual discernment, compassionate listening, and effective communication. Guiding a congregation through joys and sorrows, navigating theological nuances, and fostering spiritual growth has strengthened my ability to understand and articulate the diverse needs and concerns within the GMC. This pastoral heart ensures that I approach discussions with empathy and a focus on the spiritual wellbeing of the entire denomination.

Furthermore, my travels in Europe and Mexico have broadened my understanding of global cultures, the historical roots of Christianity in different contexts, and the diverse expressions of faith around the world. Witnessing the resilience of the church in various cultural and political landscapes has given me a deeper appreciation for the universality of the Christian message and the importance of contextualizing our faith. This global awareness will be crucial in making decisions that impact the worldwide connection of the GMC.

In summary, my military discipline, pastoral heart, and global awareness have equipped me with the skills, perspectives, and empathy necessary to serve effectively as a General Conference delegate. I am committed to listening attentively, discerning prayerfully, and working collaboratively to contribute to the GMC worldwide.

**In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

As a Global Methodist pastor deeply invested in the future of our denomination, I believe the most crucial areas demanding the General Conference's attention, include: establishing a clear and sustainable global mission strategy, cultivating unity and healthy dialogue amidst diversity, and developing leadership pathways for the future.

While the desire for global outreach is inherent in our Wesleyan DNA, the General Conference needs to articulate a clear, adaptable, and financially sustainable strategy for mission engagement in the 21st century. This involves discerning where our resources and efforts can be most impactful, fostering genuine partnerships with local churches and leaders in various cultural contexts, and developing models for mission that are both effective and respectful of local autonomy. This strategy should move beyond simply replicating Western models and embrace innovative approaches that are relevant to diverse global communities.

The GMC has brought together individuals and congregations from diverse backgrounds. While this diversity is a strength, the General Conference must proactively foster an environment of mutual respect, understanding, and healthy dialogue. This requires establishing clear guidelines for respectful discourse on potentially divisive issues, creating opportunities for relationship building, and emphasizing our shared commitment to our core Wesleyan tenets.

The long-term health and vitality of the GMC depends on identifying, equipping, and supporting effective leaders at all levels. The General Conference needs to prioritize the development of clear and accessible pathways for leadership formation, including recruitment, training, mentorship, and ongoing support for clergy and lay leaders. This includes addressing potential shortages of pastors, fostering diverse leadership that reflects the global nature of our church, and ensuring that our leaders are equipped to navigate the challenges and opportunities of ministry in a rapidly changing world. Investing in leadership development now will be crucial for the future growth and impact of the Global Methodist Church.

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ isn't just an obligation; it's the very breath of my ministry and the wellspring of my deepest joy. My passion stems from the liberation, healing, and purpose that come through a relationship with Jesus, and this personal transformation fuels my desire for others to know that same life altering love.

This passion manifests in my preaching, as I strive to connect the timeless truths of Scripture with the everyday realities of people's lives, making the Gospel accessible, relevant, and compelling. I aim to create a space where Jesus is not just a distant figure, but as a living presence who offers hope, forgiveness, and a future.

My passion also drives me to build relationships. The Gospel is best shared through genuine connection, through listening to people's stories, understanding their struggles, and walking alongside them in their spiritual journeys. Whether it's over coffee, during a hospital visit, or engaging in community outreach, I seek opportunities to embody the love of Christ and share the reason for the hope that I have.

The fruit of this passion has been evident in various ways:

- Seeing people come to faith and experience the new life offered in Christ.
- Observing spiritual growth and transformation in others
- Fostering a culture of evangelism within my congregations
- Building bridges with those who feel marginalized or disconnected from the church

Ultimately, my passion for sharing the Gospel is rooted in the conviction that it is the most powerful and transformative message the world needs to hear. The fruit I've seen is not my own doing, but the result of God's Spirit working through imperfect efforts. It's a privilege and a profound responsibility to be a part of sharing this good news, and it's a calling I embrace with my whole heart.



12

## **Bob Hager**

Trinity Conference Extension

*Active Elder*

### **How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

The purpose is to spread scriptural holiness around the globe.

### **Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

My fifty years of experience as a pastor in the Methodist tradition. My work in retirement as a Standing Stone shepherd providing support for pastors going through a crisis.

### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

A clear expression of our doctrine and polity. The election and direction of our episcopal leadership. A plan to carry out our global mission of spreading holiness.

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

My passion is to use my spiritual gift of encouragement to pastors and churches in our conference..



**13**

## Wendy Heinemann

TX | Rosenberg

*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

The Global Methodist Church offers a Spirit-led renewal of the historic Methodist movement. Rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, it brings together individuals and congregations committed to faithfully following Him through the distinctive Methodist emphases on grace, an open table, and deep connection. With a kingdom vision, it welcomes people from every tribe and nation to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The GMC encourages vibrant, personal relationships with Christ, nurtured through small groups, bands, and classes rooted in accountability, prayer, and Scripture. It also empowers local churches to serve their communities with faithfulness and compassion. In a time of global uncertainty and spiritual hunger, the GMC continues the Wesleyan vision of spreading scriptural holiness across the world, seeking to renew hearts, lives, and communities through the transforming power of the Gospel.

### Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunities God has given me to serve His Church and to walk alongside others in ministry. As the senior pastor of a church experiencing revival and growth, I have witnessed firsthand the transforming power of the Holy Spirit and the beauty of connection. Within the Trinity Conference, I've been blessed to serve on several teams, most notably—the Strategic Planning Team, where we developed the Disciple-Multiply-Equip framework and where we will now develop goals to live into this framework; Camping and Campus Ministries, where I wrote the 2023 Shine curriculum for Lakeview; and the Rise Up Summer Camp Core Team, where I serve as Content Director, writing the 2024 Rise Up and the 2025 Not Ashamed curriculum and serving both weeks as biblical teacher to all campers. Each role has deepened my commitment to equipping others and building strong, Spirit-led communities. These experiences continue to shape my love for the local church, for NextGen ministries, and for my fellow clergy.

As a delegate to the 2024 Convening Conference in Costa Rica, I experienced the sacred responsibility of this role. Serving on the Judicial Administration Committee and now helping rewrite Section 9 and the Judicial Policies & Procedures has shown me how essential faithfulness, humility, and biblical wisdom are in shaping the future of our church. I currently facilitate a subcommittee focused on ensuring our conflict resolution processes reflect biblical teaching.

I would be honored to continue this work as a 2026 delegate. With God's help, I hope to contribute faithfully and prayerfully to the ongoing formation of a church grounded in grace, truth, and the mission of spreading scriptural holiness across the globe. It is a joy to serve—and to keep saying yes to what God is building in and through the Global Methodist Church.

### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

In my view, one of the most important tasks before the General Conference is continuing to refine and shape the Book of Doctrines and Discipline in a way that reflects the heart of Christ, strengthens the local church, and invites clarity, simplicity, and grace into our shared life. As a new denomination, we have a rare opportunity to create structures that serve people rather than burden them—streamlining processes so that pastors and churches can focus on making disciples, not navigating red tape.

This means reworking sections of the BoDD to be more user-friendly, accessible, and shaped by a Christ-like spirit. It also means continuing to clarify and confirm how we elect and assign bishops, ensure healthy accountability, and set consistent rhythms for conference timing that provide stability without over-centralizing authority.

Another critical area is helping the GMC live into Kingdom diversity. Rather than defining ourselves by lists of categories—race, gender, or status—we must root our identity in Christ alone and embrace the fullness of His body, gathered from every nation, tribe, and tongue. True unity is found not in sameness, but in shared mission and holy love.

Finally, the General Conference must remain committed to empowering the local church. Our strength as a movement lies not in top-down structures, but in Spirit-led congregations who love their neighbors, make disciples, and serve with boldness. Every decision we make should ask, “Does this equip the local church to flourish in mission?”

I believe the General Conference has a sacred role in shaping our future—and my prayer is that we do so with humility, wisdom, and deep trust in the leadership of the Holy Spirit.



### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

As a second-career pastor with a teacher's heart, my passion for sharing the Gospel flows from the life-changing power Jesus has had in my own journey. I know what it means to be met by grace, to be healed, and to be called—and I long for others to experience that same transforming love.

It brings me deep joy to walk with people as they encounter Christ in new and personal ways. Whether it's a widower who finds belonging in a prayer group, a lifelong "Martha" discovering how to sit at Jesus' feet like Mary, or a seasoned church member seeing the Gospel in the lyrics of a familiar hymn for the first time—these are the moments that speak to the fruit of the Gospel. Numbers of growth are encouraging, but the stories of transformation are what matter most.

I have a particular passion for discipleship and NextGen ministry. I believe our children, youth, and young adults are not just the future of the Church—they are the Church now. My calling is to help them know Jesus, follow Him, and step boldly into the leadership God has already placed in them. This includes creating space for honest faith conversations, offering biblical teaching that invites response, and empowering young people to serve and lead in the life of the church.

The pursuit of holiness is central to my calling. I share the Gospel not from obligation, but from gratitude—because Jesus is still changing lives, including mine. Every time I get to witness someone step closer to Him, I'm reminded of the beauty of this calling. It's a gift to serve, to teach, and to keep pointing people to the One who saves.

**14**

## **Enid Henderson**

**TX | Houston, Jones Memorial**

*Active Elder*

### **How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

I understand the Global Methodist Church as a Spirit-led, biblically grounded movement raised up to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and to disciple believers who live out the gospel with conviction and compassion. I am convinced we are called to share Christ with the world, our risen Savior who transforms hearts and communities, redeems the lost, is close to the brokenhearted and calls us into holiness. This movement means building disciples and churches that bear fruit, are spiritually alive, culturally aware, and are missionally engaged, so that we may be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Our Kingdom work together is not just about survival or structure, but rather a revival for generations to come so that the world may be transformed and God be glorified.

### **Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

By God's grace, I've served both the local church and in conference leadership, equipping me to approach the work of the General Conference with a grounded, strategic, collaborative, and Spirit-led perspective.

Within the Trinity Conference, I served on the Transitional Connectional Council, where I've witnessed firsthand the prayerful discernment and structural decisions shaping the foundation of the Trinity Conference and the Global Methodist Church. As a member of the Conference's Strategic Planning Team and Content Development Team, I contributed to the shaping of our Disciple, Multiply, and Equip framework, helping to define pathways for spiritual formation and missional growth across our conference and global connection.

My commitment to multiplying diverse voices has continued through my work as Chair of the African American Ministry Initiative, as well as my service as Presiding Elder-at-Large, where I've walked alongside pastors, laity and churches through growth opportunities, coaching, and leadership development. Along with fellow clergy, I team taught an equipping workshop "Telling Your Church's Story Online" at the 2023 Annual Conference, focused on digital evangelism and teaching churches to tell their story online. I served as a member of the ETXGMC

Name Change Task Force, and I facilitate the Small Group class for the School of Ministry, since its inception.

I bring prior experience as a delegate to the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference and as an alternate to the 2016 General Conference (TAC UMC). I served on the Council on Finance and Administration (TAC UMC), the District Leadership Team (Central South District), which sharpened my understanding of ecclesial systems, fiscal responsibility, and the importance of healthy accountability.

These experiences reflect my continual commitment to building up the Church spiritually, structurally, and relationally for Christ's mission. I hope to create space to listen deeply, speak truthfully, and lead with the future of the Church in mind.

**In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

I would offer that one of the most pertinent opportunities is to continue our work of establishing a clear, Spirit-led foundation that will unify us as a global body rooted in scriptural holiness, accountable connection, and missional alignment. This includes prayerfully discerning and creating infrastructure that reinforce biblical integrity, while allowing for contextual implementation that leads to transformation as we grow into a truly international global movement.

I believe the General Conference must also ensure that systems of leadership, ordination, and resourcing reflect both doctrinal faithfulness and diversity in voice and representation. My hope is that this General Conference sets us on a path that is not only faithful, but fruitful for generations to come.

**Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ is at the very core of who I am, who I am called to be and why I serve Jesus. I carry a deep conviction that the good news of Jesus Christ is not just to be proclaimed, but is to be embodied with equal enthusiasm, lived out with integrity, humility, and with the love of Christ. Whether preaching from the pulpit, ministering in the community, or teaching in small group settings, I seek to make Christ known in ways that are biblically sound, culturally relevant, and spiritually transformative. My heart for the gospel and God's people is unwavering.

**15**

## **David Hobson**

**LA | Shreveport, First**  
*Active Deacon*

### **How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

The Global Methodist Church is a reformation movement rooted in recasting the success of early Methodism for the 21st century. It marries Christian orthodoxy from the early church with the evangelical spirit fostered by John and Charles Wesley in England and continued by their followers in America. To that end the Church recently affirmed its historic mission to spread scriptural holiness across the globe and continues to emphasize uniquely entire sanctification as the salvific goal of the Christian life. By God's grace and the power of the Spirit, equipping the local church in this missional work is the principal task of the Global Methodist Church.

### **Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

As a lifelong Methodist and church musician, I have served at many annual conferences, usually in a music and worship capacity but eventually as a delegate as well. I attended my first General Conference in Portland in 2016 in a musical role as our previous denomination teetered on separation. That moment fostered my daily devotion to understanding the reasons for what would be an inevitable separation, and clarified my own calling to be a part of a "reformation" movement of methodism. Eventually this calling was forged in the difficulties of disaffiliation, serving on our church's discernment taskforce and assisting our church's understanding of the critical theological and church structural concerns. That moment gave way to the remarkable energy of the new Global Methodist Church when our church joined and I was part of a large ordination class. I was fortunate to attend the convening General Conference in Costa Rica as part of the Registration and Worship teams, but I also followed closely the legislative work of the conference with interest.

While music and worship remains the more apparent way I serve the church, I have continued to find myself invited into strategic planning groups and conversations regarding church structure, theology and doctrine both at the local church level and the annual conference level. I am grateful to be considered as a delegate and engage further with similarly focused work at General Conference.

### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

The Convening General Conference had a limited scope of areas to be considered, perhaps most critically the nature and role of Bishops. Though undoubtedly these areas will continue to be refined, the entire Book of Doctrines and Discipline is now open to be addressed. The social witness section will be an important emphasis but is fraught with potential missteps both legislatively and relationally. Avoiding the reactionary political trappings of our current climate will be of principal importance. Yet gnosticism seems alive and well across the cultural spectrum and manifest itself in many of the hot-button topics of our day and cannot be ignored. The church cannot simply abdicate complex social issues to the culture or government, lest we risk sterilizing her voice in an increasingly polarized and anxious world. And yet, God's grace, love, and invitation are necessary at every turn and to every person.

I believe it is also critical to clarify doctrine down to the local church. It is good and necessary to refine our doctrinal standards, but how does the local church and congregant understand them? How do we avoid methodists falling into the traps of theological and moral ambiguity, or "moral therapeutic deism" as has often inflicted protestant mainline traditions?

A third area of clarification may be the nature and role of deacons in the church. How does this office necessarily persist in the Global Methodist movement if it is seen only—rightly or wrongly—as a stepping stone to elder? How might the educational requirements reflect the unique callings of those who pursue a lifelong calling as a deacon?

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Though of a different Christian tradition, the composer Johann Sebastian Bach rightfully is seen as one of the great composers in the history of music. But a careful and close study of his career and character reveals Bach to be among the church's greatest "musical theologians." Bach often ascribed his music with the aspiration, "Soli Deo Gloria" (to the Glory of God alone), and his music is full of constant interpretive theological and biblical insight. Music was simply the vehicle for which Bach served God and the church. I take Bach as my inspiration in this way, and embrace the manner for which church music fosters collaboration, opportunities for theological understanding, enhances memorization of scriptural and liturgical texts, and expresses the soul of both the individual and the congregation.

Among the early recovery efforts of our movement has been the hymns of Charles Wesley, which carefully condense doctrine, theology, and scripture in a profound but accessible manner. This is a passionate endeavor that I share with many of my musician and pastor friends in the Global Methodist Church. In the end for both Wesley and Bach, hymns and music begin as an exhortation of God's word, a healthy ideal which transcends musical era, genre, or style. And if Word and Spirit lead, then may the Gospel of Jesus Christ flourish as we seek to spread scriptural holiness across the globe.

**16**

## **Jerry House, Jr.**

**TX | College Station, Christ Church**

*Active Elder*

### **How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

The purpose of the GMC is to provide a denominational structure that draws strength and vitality from the Holy Spirit's work in the local church and its members. The primary objective of the GMC is to encourage and equip its congregations to reach the lost with the saving message of the Gospel, both in our neighborhoods and in the uttermost parts of the world. As the denomination continues to expand, our leadership must continue to reject the temptation to build a multi-layered bureaucracy, and instead maintain a lean and nimble structure that is able to adapt and respond quickly to the changing needs of the communities served by our churches as well as the unique challenges and opportunities across the globe. It is this "bottom-up" strategy for organizational praxis that has become the DNA of the Global Methodist Church, and as long as the ministry of the local church is the centerpiece of the denomination's missional strategy, the church will grow in both number and vitality.

I also believe that one of the most important tasks of the GMC is to guide its local churches to increase the number of people who both hear and respond to the call to vocational ministry, while at the same time, paving a clear and easily navigated path to ordination and full expressions of ministry.

### **Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

By God's grace, I've served both the local church and in conference leadership, equipping me to approach the work of the General Conference with a grounded, strategic, collaborative, and Spirit-led perspective.

Within the Trinity Conference, I served on the Transitional Connectional Council, where I've witnessed firsthand the prayerful discernment and structural decisions shaping the foundation of the Trinity Conference and the Global Methodist Church. As a member of the Conference's Strategic Planning Team and Content Development Team, I contributed to the shaping of our Disciple, Multiply, and Equip framework, helping to define pathways for spiritual formation and missional growth across our conference and global connection.



My commitment to multiplying diverse voices has continued through my work as Chair of the African American Ministry Initiative, as well as my service as Presiding Elder-at-Large, where I've walked alongside pastors, laity and churches through growth opportunities, coaching, and leadership development. Along with fellow clergy, I team taught an equipping workshop "Telling Your Church's Story Online" at the 2023 Annual Conference, focused on digital evangelism and teaching churches to tell their story online. I served as a member of the ETXGMC Name Change Task Force, and I facilitate the Small Group class for the School of Ministry, since its inception.

I bring prior experience as a delegate to the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference and as an alternate to the 2016 General Conference (TAC UMC). I served on the Council on Finance and Administration (TAC UMC), the District Leadership Team (Central South District), which sharpened my understanding of ecclesial systems, fiscal responsibility, and the importance of healthy accountability.

These experiences reflect my continual commitment to building up the Church spiritually, structurally, and relationally for Christ's mission. I hope to create space to listen deeply, speak truthfully, and lead with the future of the Church in mind.

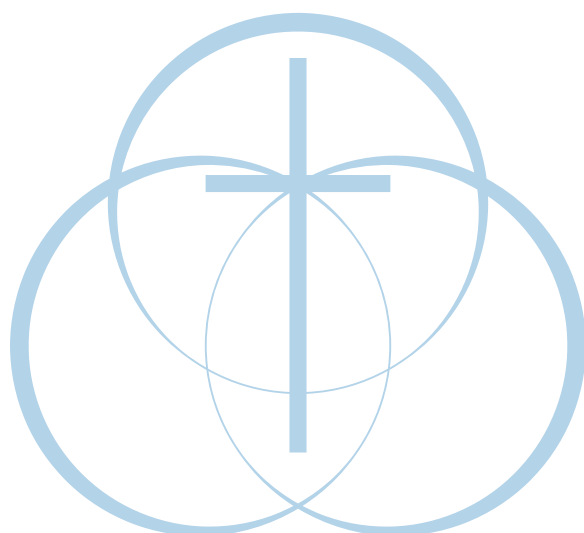
### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

The upcoming session of the General Conference must complete the work that began in Costa Rica in the fall of 2024. While the 2024 GC centered its work on organizing the work of the denomination so that the GMC could develop and mature on a proper foundation within a sound and well-defined structure, the 2026 GC will put flesh on the bones, so to speak, and refine the doctrinal statements, solidify the church's social witness, and more clearly define the organization and ministry work of the local church, conferences, and superintendency. Most important in all of this is to keep the main thing the main thing: to be a denomination grounded in theological orthodoxy that is committed to the Spirit-led and empowered practice of multiplication of disciples, leaders, and churches. If elected as a delegate, I will devote my time and energy to ensure that our denomination does just that.

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

I grew up as the son and grandson of preachers in the UMC. There was hardly a Sunday when I wasn't worshiping in a United Methodist Church somewhere. I had no idea that my faith was being formed in an environment that was strong in its affirmation of the church as an institution, but afraid to confess that all had sinned and desperately need a Savior. It wasn't until I experienced my own personal Aldersgate moment that I understood my need for Jesus and His sacrificial death on the cross.

That experience changed me. It changed my passion for reaching the lost. It changed my understanding of what the church is to be about. My heart cry as a pastor and a leader within the Global Methodist Church is to build a church that is unwaveringly passionate about reaching people with the heart-warming, soul-cleansing, and eternity-shaping Gospel. I currently serve a local congregation that is on track to have 100 baptisms in 2025, and as I write this answer, it is nurturing the call to ministry of 11 people within our congregation, almost all of them college students and young adults.







17

**Ross Hyde**

TX | Mt Pleasant, Greenhill

*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

The Global Methodist Church (GMC) as I understand its purpose is to making disciples of Jesus Christ and spreading scriptural holiness across the globe. This mission is rooted in a commitment to historic Christian orthodoxy, particularly within the Wesleyan tradition.

Its role in the world is to:

- Proclaim a theologically conservative Wesleyan faith: The GMC distinguishes itself by firmly upholding biblical authority, traditional interpretations of Christian doctrine (including on human sexuality), and the core tenets found in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, as well as the Articles of Religion and Wesley's Standard Sermons.
- Emphasize "scriptural holiness": This refers to the Wesleyan emphasis on personal and social transformation through God's grace, leading to a life of love, good works, and devotion to Christ. They aim to nurture individuals who "worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly."
- Be a truly global and connectional church: The "Global" in its name signifies its commitment to being a worldwide denomination, with equal voice and leadership from diverse regions (Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas). They seek to foster global partnerships and emphasize the Great Commission of making disciples of all nations.
- Prioritize evangelism and multiplication: The GMC is focused on actively sharing the Gospel, equipping members to make new disciples, and planting new churches to expand the Kingdom of God.

In essence, the GMC views itself as a renewed expression of Methodism, dedicated to sharing the transforming power of Jesus Christ and fostering a vibrant, biblically grounded, and globally interconnected Christian community.

### **Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

My extensive and diverse experience across various church leadership roles makes me a highly qualified and valuable delegate for the upcoming Global Methodist Church General Conference.

For 12 years, I chaired the Committee on Native American Ministries in the UMC. This role honed my skills in advocacy, cross-cultural understanding, and ensuring diverse voices are heard, an invaluable asset for the GMC's global identity. Concurrently, my 12 years as Director of Lay Servant Ministries equipped me with deep insight into empowering and equipping lay leaders for service and spiritual growth—a cornerstone of effective local church ministry. I also gained practical understanding of the unique needs and contributions of smaller congregations through my involvement with several Small Membership Church groups.

Currently, within the GMC Trinity Conference, I serve in two vital capacities: Certified Lay Ministry Oversight on the Board of Ministry and Registrar of the School of Ministry. These roles provide me with firsthand experience in the GMC's specific structures, its approach to ministry formation, and the practical implementation of its vision.

Collectively, these positions have provided me with a robust foundation in leadership, organizational structure, and effective governance. I am confident that this comprehensive experience positions me to contribute meaningfully to the General Conference's critical work in shaping the future of the Global Methodist Church.

### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

The most important thing the Global Methodist Church's 2026 General Conference needs to accomplish to be considered a success is to firmly embed its global identity and mission into a fully functioning, unified, and sustainable denominational structure.

Having already addressed its core theological commitments, the 2026 conference, scheduled for Johannesburg, South Africa, marks a crucial opportunity to solidify its global character. This means:

Establishing truly global and representative leadership: Ensuring that leadership roles across all levels (episcopacy, commissions, councils) genuinely reflect the diverse global membership, not just a dominant region. This fosters shared ownership and addresses the "Global" in its name.

Adopting practical and flexible policies for diverse contexts: While maintaining theological consistency, the conference must create a "Book of Doctrines and Discipline" that effectively guides ministry in varying cultural, legal, and economic

environments worldwide. This includes financial models that are equitable and sustainable for all parts of the church.

Empowering the mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly” on a global scale: This means moving beyond foundational organizational tasks to equip local churches and annual conferences across continents to actively fulfill this mission. Practical initiatives for evangelism, discipleship, and church planting in various global contexts should be prioritized.

Ultimately, success will be measured by the conference’s ability to transition the GMC from a new denomination to a cohesive, agile, and outwardly focused global movement for Christ.

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

My passion for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ stems from a foundational belief instilled in me by my grandfather: “If they don’t know that you care, why should they care?” This wisdom has profoundly shaped my approach, leading me to understand that demonstrating genuine care is the most effective precursor to sharing the transformative message of Christ.

This conviction fuels my belief that the Church must be visibly present and have a lasting, positive effect within its community. My heart has always been drawn to rural communities and face-to-face ministries, where the needs are often tangible and the impact deeply personal. I witnessed this lived out as I grew up, seeing how authentic care-built bridges for the Gospel.

In my ministry journey, I’ve actively applied this principle by focusing on equipping churches to embody the Body of Christ in their local settings. I’ve dedicated myself to ensuring those I serve are properly trained to reach out, feed, clothe, and lift people out of poverty. This practical, hands-on ministry—being the hands and feet of Jesus amidst the community—is the “fruit” of my passion. It allows the church to demonstrate a genuine, compassionate heart, opening doors for people to encounter not just our care, but the life-changing love of Jesus Christ Himself.



18

## Kelly Inman

TX | Kilgore, St Luke's  
*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

The purpose of the Global Methodist Church (GMC) is to be a Spirit-filled, Christ-centered, and mission-focused expression of the Church that seeks to faithfully follow Jesus and make disciples who are deeply rooted in Scripture and empowered by the Holy Spirit. At its heart, the GMC exists to multiply disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly—not just within church walls but throughout the world.

The GMC's role in the world is to be a transformative movement of the Holy Spirit. It aims to be a movement marked by scriptural holiness—offering grace and truth, calling people into deeper discipleship, and equipping them to live out their faith in everyday life.

This means planting churches, raising up leaders, sending missionaries, engaging in acts of compassion and justice, and helping people encounter the saving love of Jesus. The GMC is not just preserving tradition; it's moving forward with urgency, embracing innovation while remaining anchored in truth.

In short, the Global Methodist Church exists to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a broken world—proclaiming the gospel, caring for the vulnerable, forming faithful communities, and calling people into a life of holiness and joyful obedience to Christ.

### Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.

One of the key experiences I bring to the role of General Conference delegate is my 15-year career in education. I have served in a variety of roles across schools of different sizes and settings—as a classroom teacher and coach, coordinator of girls' athletics, and assistant principal. These roles have given me the opportunity to work with students and families from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, helping them overcome barriers and achieve their full potential. These experiences have sharpened my ability to listen, lead, collaborate, and advocate for others—skills that directly translate to effective leadership within the Church.

In addition, I hold a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership, which has equipped me with tools in organizational management, policy interpretation, and strategic visioning. These competencies will serve me well in the work of General Conference, particularly as we navigate the future of the Global Methodist Church with wisdom and care.

Equally important is my 18 years of pastoral leadership across multiple denominational settings. This breadth of ministerial experience has deepened my understanding of the Church's mission and broadened my perspective on how we serve a world in need of grace and truth. I firmly believe that this Spirit-led movement we call Global Methodism is a fresh wind of renewal in the Church, and I am honored to contribute to its shaping with both conviction and humility.

Together, these experiences in education and ministry have prepared me to engage in the work of General Conference with discernment, clarity, and a heart for Christ's mission.

**In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

In my opinion, the most important issues the Global Methodist Church's General Conference needs to address are:

- Establishing a clear and sustainable governance structure that reflects our Wesleyan values and equips the Church to function effectively across diverse contexts.
- Developing strong systems for clergy credentialing and deployment to ensure we are raising up, equipping, and supporting Spirit-filled leaders for today's mission field.
- Casting a bold vision for church planting and global mission, so that we are not just preserving tradition but actively advancing the Kingdom through vibrant local churches.

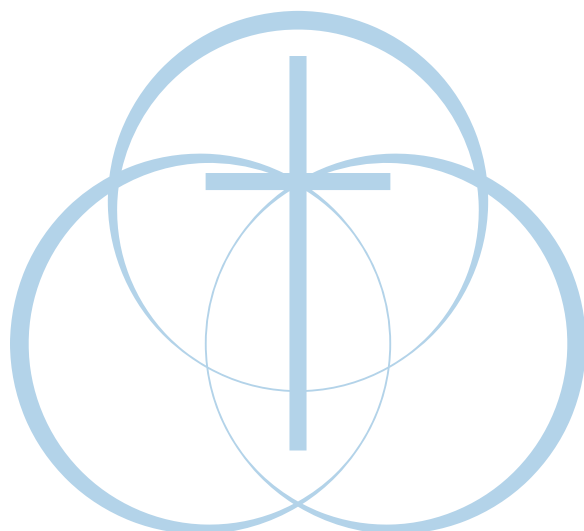
These priorities will help ensure the Global Methodist Church is faithful, fruitful, and future-focused.

**Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

My deepest passion is to see lives transformed by the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Whether preaching from the pulpit, mentoring young people, or engaging in everyday conversations, I am committed to making Christ known in ways that are authentic, compassionate, and Spirit-led. I believe the Gospel is not only a message to be proclaimed but a life to be lived—and I strive to model that in every area of ministry.

Over the years, I've had the privilege of seeing the fruit of that calling—people coming to faith, recommitting their lives to Christ, and stepping into deeper discipleship. From baptizing new believers to walking with others through seasons of doubt and growth, I've seen firsthand the power of the Gospel to redeem, restore, and renew.

Whether in the church, in schools, or in the community, my desire is to be a faithful witness—to point people to Jesus with both my words and my life.



**19****Susan Kent**TX | Conroe, First  
*Active Elder***How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

As a global church, we have an opportunity and an obligation to spread the message of God's saving grace throughout the world and equip our congregations to pursue holiness. As we look at the global nature of Christianity, we should be motivated by the reports that northern Africa and Asia have less than 20% Christian population, and even with the Americas claiming over 60% Christianity, it is evident that many of those 60% live mainly as cultural Christians. If we are to be effective as the GMC, we need to not only lead new people into a life-changing relationship with Christ, but also help our churches seek the Holy Spirit.

I believe it is the role of the GMC to equip and shepherd our congregation to reclaim a passion for evangelism and develop a discipleship pathway that stands on the Wesleyan traditions and is framed by the Biblical model of intergenerational relationships. We must remain connected to each other as churches, conferences, and clergy, and invest even more in the lay leadership of our churches. The GMC can also be a place to welcome in new faith communities and provide a path for believers to form a faith community. The role of the GMC is to model a deeply formed spiritual life and a hunger for the movement of the Holy Spirit.

**Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

As an alternate delegate to the convening General Conference in Costa Rica, I was able to participate in pre-conference meetings and fully participate in the conference itself. I serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry of our conference and have previously served on the dCOM and conference worship teams of our previous tribe. I am a church planter of The Woodlands Hills Community Church living out the call to expand into a new mission field. I served on the staff of The Woodlands Methodist Church for 12 years in a variety of roles including



Pastor of Local Missions, Pastor of Community Growth, and Executive Pastor of G.R.O.W. Ministries. I am a Seedbed author of the book and Lenten series, Altar'd. I've published 4 other Bible studies through TWMC, I am a speaker and workshop leader for churches in the GMC, and I am a teacher for our School of Ministry. I earned an M. Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary and I will earn a D. Min. degree from George. W. Truett Theological Seminary in 2026.

I have had the honor of personally experiencing the power of connectedness and what churches of all sizes and in all contexts face as they seek to live out our mission. I am humbled by the opportunities I have received and would be grateful for the chance to serve as a delegate.

**In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

I am very proud of the work that was done during our convening conference, including the election of our new Bishops, but I would like us to continue to consider how the global scope of our church can be best be represented in the episcopacy. I would also like to see us continue working on the candidacy process and ordination requirements. Our guiding documents should help us plan for the future and represent our global relationships.

**Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

My passion is discipleship and how it can become a more intentional framework, creating a sustainable pathway for any size church. The nature of a discipleship pathway is to equip the entire church to be outward-focused in sharing the Gospel and serving in the name of Jesus so that multiplication happens. I believe all churches value discipleship, but we often unintentionally create a staff and program-heavy ministry that can cause multiplication to be slowed or stalled instead of a “self-feeder” framework that empowers everyone. The global nature of our church is an excellent way for us to consider global approaches to equipping the church in sharing the Gospel and creating discipleship pathways that reflect context without losing Wesleyan orthodoxy. I'm excited about what I see. The Holy Spirit is truly moving in our congregations and through our congregants!

**20**

## Vivian Kinnear

Trinity Conference Extension  
*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

I understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church (GMC) is to be a vessel for the movement of God to spread Scriptural holiness across the globe proclaiming through Word and deed that Jesus Christ is Lord of all nations, tongues, and tribes. It does this through the lens of orthodox Wesleyan distinctions such as prevenient grace, justification by faith, sanctification, faith, good works, and a missional and service-oriented life to equip and train pastors and local churches, connecting them with God and one another. Its role is to usher in the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

### Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.

- As an executive pastor and a pastor of strategic development in the local church from 2004–2022 I bring wisdom and experience from the local church structure to the legislative conversations.
- As planting Operations Officer of the Trinity Conference (2022–2024), I worked closely with clergy and local churches transitioning into the GMC, learning their needs; and interfacing with the development of the Board of Ministry and the Cabinet as they came to understand the new appointive process.
- I serve as the Board Secretary for the Board of Directors of the Trinity Conference having helped produce by-laws and formation documents.
- I serve on the Trinity Conference Connectional Council, working with conference lay leaders to produce a position description for local church lay leaders, highlighting their role as a ministry partner with the senior pastor and a champion of the laity within and beyond the congregation.
- I served as a member of the Credentialing and Registration Team for the Convening General Conference helping to oversee the onsite Registration and Credentialing functions for guests and delegates. I am currently engaged in the same process for the General Conference.

- I serve as the Secretary to the Finance, Administration, Pension and Benefits Commission which is working on laying a lean foundation for the business framework of a virtual and global organization.
- I serve on the Data Management task force developing the database, ATLAS, which will soon be released for record retention and reporting needs of the local church, conferences, and general operations across the organization.
- I am currently the Director of Missional Development of the Trinity Conference helping to assess opportunities to increase the GMC witness throughout the conference by identifying where churches may be planted and assisting local churches with mission field profiles so that they have data to help them develop strategic planning for their mission fields.

### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

The most important thing the General Conference needs to address is their need to give God all the glory for the good work He has done to get us to where we are today. They need to invite the presence of the Holy Spirit into every legislative task before them and to pray for the uniting of minds and spirits. Once that work is done, the legislation that follows will flow from the outpouring of the Spirit into the body of the General Conference.

We need to first work on what we promised to work on from the convening General Conference. We need to listen to lessons learned over the last 2 years. Then we need to prayerfully consider what new business needs to be addressed for the good of the denomination. Emphasis begins with the needs of the local church and clergy, then build support from there.

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

My passion is for the Bride of Christ to be all that God has called her to be until the Bridegroom comes to claim her. This requires persevering through all adversity to carry out the Great Commission, staying true to her First Love, holding to the Holy Word, and bringing the grace and mercy of God to a hurting world in need of a Savior. We cannot forget the spiritual battle that continues, and it is the local church that equips us to put on our armor of God, to put on the belt of Truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the Word of God with prayer. The fruitfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ comes forth from the local church (and seminaries) which makes disciples who go and make disciples in their daily lives, locally and in foreign mission fields so that the world may know Jesus Christ is Lord of all. I believe that by spreading the GMC witness we now claim throughout the world, the world will come to know Him and His Salvation.



21

## Jessica LaGrone

Trinity Conference Extension  
*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

The Global Methodist Church exists to be a worldwide, faithful body of believers that spreads Scriptural holiness throughout the globe. In the Lord's Prayer we pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. At its best, the Church is the agent of that transformation, seeking to restore the world to God's purposes. This will include proclaiming the Gospel in words and actions, helping the least, last and lost, and seeking to glorify God in all that we do. While our denomination is young, we are also a part of a movement that began long ago. We are not reinventing Christianity but reclaiming the original heart of Methodism.

### Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.

I've had the great joy of being part of the leadership of the Global Methodist Church from its earliest days, serving as both a member of the Transitional Leadership Council and now as the chairperson of the Connectional Council. I also served as a delegate to the Convening Conference in Costa Rica.

My current appointment is as the Dean of Chapel at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky, where for 11 years I've pastored upcoming generations of those entering ministry. Prior to that I served pastoral appointments in Texas. Part of pastoring the next generations of those entering ministry has been the blessing of hearing their hopes and dreams for the Church. The local church has my heart, and I believe God has called me to be a bridge between generations and between the academy and local church.

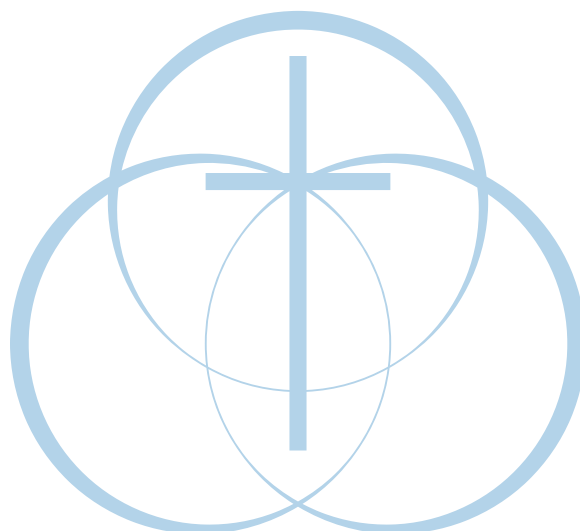
### In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?

The earliest days of the Global Methodist Church have been beyond anything we could have dreamed. We have launched with passion and purpose. I believe the General Conference needs to continue to help the Church establish ways to lean into our uniquely Wesleyan identity and encourage the continued momentum of our movement, while making sure the guardrails of doctrine

and discipline are upheld. The growth of the GMC outside the United States has been exponential, and one of the most important purposes for our General Conference will be to continue to explore what it means to be a truly global church, sharing leadership across cultures. Listening to one another's needs and cultural contexts while upholding our doctrine and heritage will be an important aspect of our global gathering.

**Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

My desire to share the Gospel is rooted in the ways I've experienced the transforming grace of Jesus Christ in my own life. I am a sinner saved by grace, and my lifelong passion has been to offer others the same living water that has quenched my own thirst. I believe the Gospel should be shared in word and deed, never forgetting either of those. Preaching is one of my primary callings, and I believe it is an important aspect of sharing the Gospel with those in the Church in order to encourage them to share with others. I've also personally witnessed the Gospel transform through personal relationship and conversation, through mentoring young people in the next generation, and through ongoing prayer and acts of the Spirit. I love our vision for the Wesleyan way of salvation, and count it as a privilege to walk alongside people no matter what stage of grace they are receiving in their own journey.



**22****Alain Leistikow**TX | Nederland, First  
*Active Elder***How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

The Global Methodist Church is the latest movement of the Holy Spirit through the expression of the Wesleyan ideals of Christianity. Its primary purpose to raise up a new generation of disciples who will actively spread scriptural holiness across the land. In defining a new generation this is not exclusive to those young of age, but encompasses all those who proclaim the name of Jesus. A movement of the Holy Spirit the GMC serves as a role model to both Christians and non-believers alike to the saving grace of Jesus on the cross.

**Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

As one who has spent more than 90% of ministerial work in youth and next gen ministries I come to the work with a freshness of perspective, and a willingness to do things differently. Tradition is a vital part of the longevity of the faith, but at times it is necessary to attempt the old ways in particularly different means. In my work in youth ministry it was an integral component of my ministry to encourage the students to participate in missional work both local, domestic, and abroad. Such a diverse collection of experiences has uniquely prepared me to be of open mind and heart for the needs of others.

Upon my transition from youth ministry into pastoral ministry I served to co-chair the re-establishment of Stephen Ministry at First Methodist of Livingston. Going through that pastoral care training has blessed me with new gifts of compassion, and mercy. With the growth of the Global Methodist movement there is a need for increased compassion and mercy on those who live contrary to the commandments of God. Walking with individuals who are suffering from sin require acts of love and support as they resolve to give up their wold ways in order to walk in the newness of Christ.

Finally, joining the ranks of senior pastor the Lord has worked mightly in my life to be diligent in pray. All things are possible with God. As so many who have come before can testify to. Rebuilding a local church requires patience,



creativity, and a willingness to collaborate. Work in the General Conference is much like that, especially now as our very future is being shaped.

**In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

First, and foremost, there must be an emphasis on NextGen ministries. These individuals are not our future but are the church of today. It is vital that General Conference resolve what NextGen looks like on a global scale. In what ways can teenagers and young adults be trained up as leaders in the church both locally and abroad? I believe that a council of youth and young adults should exist under the supervision of a conference superintendent. There are no persons better suited to meet the needs of their community than they are. As Rev. Mark Swazey puts it, “If they are not leading they are leaving.” So true is this statement.

Secondly, as we all experienced after the lockdowns of 2020, mental health support for both clergy and laity is a must. There must be established means by which the church lead by the Great Physician can provide support to its people who anguish mentally.

**Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

When we are all young and inspired by a gift preacher we believe that the entire job of a pastor is to preach on Sunday mornings. For me personally, preaching is a great joy and a powerful means of proclaiming the good news, but what I find even more fulfilling is when I have opportunities to live it out for others. A couple of weeks prior to the submission of this jotform my family and I went to eat dinner at Chipotle in Port Arthur. As we were leaving the restaurant I noticed a homeless man sitting on the curb with his dog. It was very clear that he did not eat often as he was very thin and frail. I walked my family to my truck, buckled my kids into their car seat, and proceeded to return to the man who identified himself as “Old School”. I asked Old School if I could buy him dinner which of course he gladly accepted. After completing his order I brought his to go bag to him. I used this moment to invite him to join us for worship on Sunday which he politely declined. To conclude our brief time together I offered to pray with him. As people entered and exited Chipotle they were able to witness the gospel of Jesus Christ in action. I love preaching, but what I love more is living it out in the place the Lord has planted me in.



**23**

## **Steven Lightfoot**

**TX | Splendora, First**

*Active Elder*

### **How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

As our mission statement clearly communicates, the purpose of the Global Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to spread scriptural holiness across the globe. This vital mission is accomplished by walking in step with the Holy Spirit, who guides the Church in multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ who flourish in scriptural holiness as we worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. In practice, our mission and vision expressions provide a spiritual baseline for the missional work of the Church across borders, languages, cultures, and all other human constructs that tend to separate people in the world-view, but melt away into insignificance as we focus on the Christ-view.

### **Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

Recognizing that the global mission of the GMC requires an international perspective, I submit for review my experience as a well-traveled person who has lived and worked in many countries around the world. Born in West Germany to an American mother and a British father, I grew up in Europe and experienced the world from a decidedly international view-point. I have called many places home, Germany, Austria, Spain, Portugal on the European continent; Honduras, Venezuela in Central and South America respectively. My time as an officer of Marines took me to many lands as well: Japan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq. Each place gave me insight into the differences and similarities of people, and served to form my faith walk into one that appreciated the wonderful diversity in God's creation, and the necessity of carrying out the Great Commission mandate with respect for those differences and emphasis on the universal need of all people for a relationship with Jesus Christ. When I responded to God's call and became a pastor, I understood that, even from a small church pulpit, the world is my parish and the Gospel knows no border limitations. That understanding is why our weekly outreach from First Methodist Church Splendora and Shepherd Methodist Church in east Texas touches 861 cities in 99 countries on 6 continents through our livestream and podcast.

### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

When we consider the rapid development and growth of our denomination, it is a daunting task to choose what things are most important in relation to all of the other important things. One of the things that comes to mind is the need for guidance and structure in developing international perspective and partnerships that have practical application to even the small and medium sized churches in the United States. If we are to truly engage as a global church, then we must make global ministry accessible to smaller congregations who make up a large percentage of the denomination.

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

My passion for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ became the main thing in my life when I realized, by the Holy Spirit's leading, that God was calling me to equip the saints for ministry. Paul's letter to the Ephesians came to life for me, tugging relentlessly on me until I submitted to the call. Specifically, Ephesians 4:12-16 spoke insistently to me: I was called "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." This calling, so vividly spoken by Paul, manifested in my life powerfully. I knew that I needed to administer the sacraments to the people, teach them about God's love for them through the saving grace of God made possible through the work of Jesus on the cross, in the grave and through the resurrection, which made the very righteousness of God available to each person who said "yes" to Jesus. Through my years of ministry, I have seen this calling unfold through the congregations I have served, with individual saints becoming spreaders of scriptural holiness.



24

## Ben McGehee

Trinity Conference Extension  
*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

At our last General Conference, we declared that the GMC has a dual purpose/mission:

1. To make disciples of Jesus Christ.
2. To spread scriptural holiness across the globe.

We can only accomplish this when everyone in the GMC, clergy and laity alike, are diligent to proclaim the gospel message through word and action to all people in our community, nation, and world.

Personally, I look forward to the day when the Global Methodist Church is working with the Holy Spirit to reach men and women in every community in every country on every continent on earth! Looking back over the past few years, I trust that we are well on our way to fulfilling our God-given purpose, but I also know we still have a long ways yet to go. Despite the challenges, though, I'm excited about our future!

### Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.

I have served in a variety of capacities in the Global Methodist Church, including:

1. Serving on the Trinity Conference delegation for the 2024 Convening General Conference.
2. Being elected as the Chair of the Connectional Organization Legislative Committee at GC2024.
3. Writing numerous petitions and crafting amendments to the Book of Doctrine and Discipline, many of which were approved and included in the current edition.
4. Serving as a Presiding Elder in Louisiana for over 2 years, where I helped connect pastors and churches for appointments, convened Church Conferences that allowed me to hear many of the ways God is working in our midst, and listened to the needs and celebrations from a variety of laity and clergy.

5. Serving on the Board of Ministry and Connectional Council of the Trinity Conference.
6. Working with men and women all across the Conference in a variety of different ways through my current role as the Operations Officer.
7. Working with men and women in other conferences through our partnerships with Panama and Tanzania and through the numerous ad hoc groups I participate in.
8. Prior to being part of the GMC, I worked on numerous boards in the Louisiana Conference of the UMC, including the Board of Ministry, the Audit Committee, and the Retiree Health Insurance Task Force. I also served as the President of the Wesleyan Covenant Association in Louisiana from 2019 to 2023, where I brought together hundreds of laity and clergy in support of traditional Methodism.

**In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

I have currently have a 12-page list on my computer with numerous issues (and potential fixes) for legislation at the 2026 General Conference. I expect this to double before the petition submission deadline next year!

The good news about my list, though, is I haven't found anything yet which I consider a major problem that has to be fixed to avert disaster. Instead, most of what I've identified are simply clarification and consistency issues.

I also know that many people are proposing changes to our Social Witness statement. Personally, I would like to see certain aspects changed, though my strong preference is to make sure we define what we are FOR, rather than what we are AGAINST. This is how most of the Social Witness is currently written, and I hope it stays that way.

The election of Bishops will always be an important aspect of General Conference, as we are trusting these men and women to lead us faithfully for many years to come. My prayer is that God will help us discern the right people for this time in our life of nascent Global Methodism.

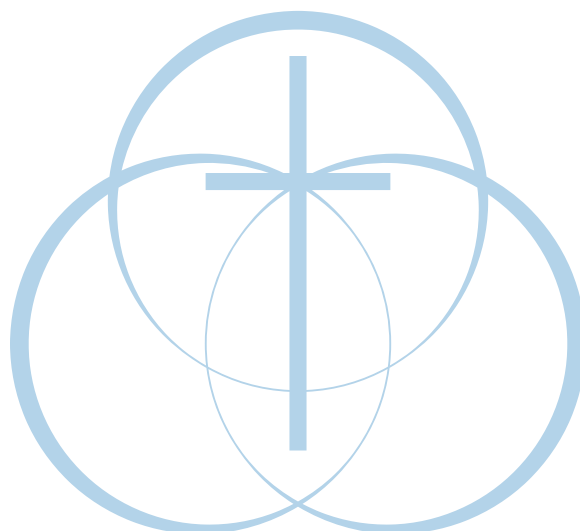
**Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

The first person I helped lead to Christ was the mom of my friend Sam, who lived next door when I was in elementary school. Sam's family was nominally Buddhist, but I invited him to join the church choir with me. This led to his mother visiting church to hear Sam sing. Along the way, she heard and accepted the gospel message. Sam then joined via Confirmation the next year.

Since that time, I've had the privilege of sharing the gospel countless times through sermons, Bible studies, informal conversations, and more. As an ordained pastor, I have baptized numerous people, including many adults who made professions of faith. I have also led Confirmation at many of the churches I've served, leading dozens of youth to profess faith in Jesus as well.

In my new role as the Operations Officer, I have the joy of worshipping with numerous different churches throughout the Trinity Conference. When I am called upon to preach, it doesn't matter whether there are 15 people present or 500, my goal is always to share the Good News of salvation available by faith in Jesus Christ. I never want to leave a church with a question of what I believe or what it will take for them to be saved.

Personally, I have seen God work in my life over and over and over again, and I want the same for everyone else I meet!



**25**

## **Brad McKenzie**

**TX | Nacogdoches, Perritte**

*Active Elder*

### **How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

The Lord raised up the Global Methodist Church to be a renewal of Biblically Orthodox and Holy Spirit led missional movement committed to traditional expression of historic Methodism lived out in modern ministry engaged in making and being disciples of Jesus Christ who live fulling in scriptural holiness of heart and life through practices, communities, and a vision based in the Wesleyan way of salvation calling all people to a fully transformed life in Jesus Christ. Seeking to truly be a connectional and global expression of faith, valuing the membership and calling of all tribes, languages, and nations all over the world where our movement is a family inviting all nations to have a seat at the table of Christ, engaging together for the salvation of all people through full embodiment of the Great Commandment yielding a Holy Love seated in the heart of God for the whole globe, especially the lost. As well, we exist to partner with our sisters and brothers around the globe to raise up and equip not only clergy, but laity for work and ministry in the local church, focusing on local ministry not just conference and other existence. We value the intentional and urgent raising up and walking with our younger generations to do the work of the gospel with us, existing in tandem, not handing off to our young when we are old. This new expression of Methodism has been given the call to not create a new denomination, but to be and remain a movement of the Holy Spirit raised up to build the Kingdom of God, not the kingdom of man, as we await the coming of Jesus Christ.

### **Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

For the past 18 months, I have been privileged to travel and work with GMC conferences around the globe. I've been to the Philippines three times and participated in the Mega Manila Conference Convening Annual Conference and first regular Annual Conference, being an AC preacher, traveling with Bishop Jones and CS Dr. Luther Oconor, and making connectional and equipping visits to every major island group of this amazing nation. I have also helped to raise close to \$30,000 USD to be used towards various church planting and equipping projects in the Philippines as well as led a building and ministry team to add a parsonage and discipleship space to a small remote congregation deep in a jungle



area. Additionally, I worked with the Mega Manila conference to raise funds for a church facility project in the country of Qatar. I have visited and preached at GMC congregations in both Qatar and the UAE. I also have been working with Mega Manila conference leadership to strategize deployment of future work teams and strategic multiplication projects for church planting in the MM conference. I have developed deep connections and relationships with many pastors and lay members across the MM conference. I also serve as a member of the International Ministries Team and have traveled to Tanzania for their convening Annual Conference where I was a conference preacher and part of the team who equipped pastors for ministry. I have helped raise funds for bicycles for pastors and for the purchase of a vehicle for CS Rev. Likondi. As well, since July of 2023, I have served on the cabinet as Presiding Elder for the Piney Woods Area of the Trinity Conference. I feel all of these experiences have equipped me to be able to contribute on a general conference level.

**In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

We must continue to be a movement of the Holy Spirit and create systems and processes which engage in our mission and values and keep us from sliding into habits and practices that could get us distracted by non essential and non eternal realities and the trappings of denominationalism. I am convinced the General Conference must work to safe guard our Biblical, Orthodox commitment to the faith articulated by the New Testament church. Our commitment to being a Global family and ministry must be articulated by our global system's ability to not only grow the kingdom of God, but ensure multicultural expressions adaptable to all nations represented in our movement. While continuing to raise up clergy and laity committed to the present existence of the GMC, we must find ways to project a future, if the Lord tarries in returning, which has a life beyond this first generation. This must be founded in a commitment to seeking and saving the lost who do not know Jesus and living with the urgency that there is a real hell and a real need for all people to come to Jesus Christ.

**Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

I deeply believe in the call of Jesus to live out the Great Commandment and Great Commission. In fact, I believe we cannot live out the Great Commandment of Holy Love of God, neighbor, and self if we are not in fact leaning into and living out the call of the Great Commission. I have been blessed to preach and proclaim the Gospel and holiness of heart and life all over the globe and have seen that fruit become a reality as a pastor and evangelist. In my opinion, our movement must not only be intentional and urgent about growing and equipping churches, we must be deeply committed to engaging with the heart of God for lost people all over the world. I am committed and passionate about lost people finding Jesus and being discipled to live in the full gospel of scriptural holiness of heart and life yielding holy love of God and others. We have no greater mission in this life than to make Jesus known for the salvation of all humanity.





26

## John Wayne McMann

TX | Conroe, First  
*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

The purpose of the Global Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe. The emphasis of scriptural holiness is the distinction of our historical witness as Methodists. As we consider “the world as our parish,” we are promoting the deep promises of God that are found in Christ Jesus. We believe holiness is a gift and a promise of God. We are committed to Wesleyan discipleship that calls every person into active faith. Finally, we are expectant for the Spirit to move in our day to reach new people for Christ through evangelism and church planting.

### Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.

I was a delegate to General Conference in Costa Rica in 2024, serving in the judicial legislative committee. I am currently serving on an ad hoc judicial committee to provide comprehensive legislation petitions to the next General Conference. I am the lead pastor of a church that upholds the strongest values of our movement. We are pursuing the presence of God, we are planting a church, and we are organizing ourselves in class meetings and band groups. Also, I lead the Trinity Conference Class Meeting Team that equips local churches in Wesleyan discipleship. In my doctoral work, I had the opportunity to learn from and collaborate with leaders in the Wesleyan faith about the necessary retrieval and strengthening of core Methodist values. Finally, as a young pastor, I am dedicated and invested in striving after what God is doing in our movement.

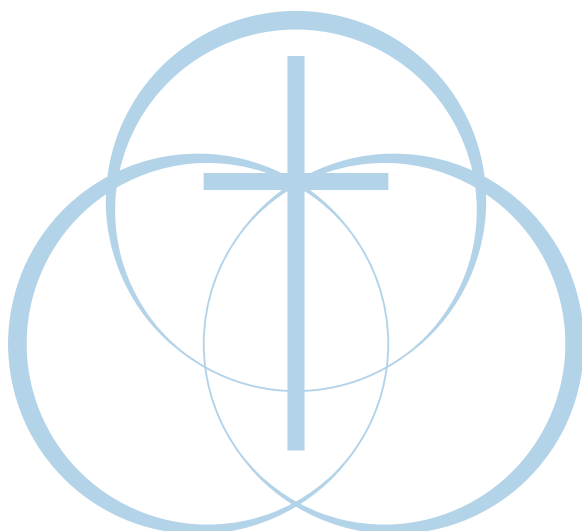
### In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?

The first focus remains uniting a global movement in worship and prayer. The unity displayed and experienced in Costa Rica must be a priority as we welcome more of the global church into the movement. We will need to come back to some areas that we were not able to address in the scope of GC Costa Rica, for example, 900 paragraphs and Judicial Processes and Procedures, to name one. There will be a lot of new work to accomplish with our social witness so that

we clearly articulate our ethical commitments through the lens of scriptural holiness. Finally, I believe we need to take a hard look at how our structures and governance promotes Wesleyan discipleship, doctrine, and practice towards our mission statement.

**Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

I have served in three congregations during my 10 years of pastoral ministry and all of these congregations experienced incredible growth. This has been a gift and movement of God, of course. However, I do take seriously this calling we have to reach new people and remind our people of how good the good news is. Our church is continually searching out opportunities to be present in the mission field by serving in non-profits, volunteering in the schools, and participating in prison ministry. We have also developed a catechism program to disciple new believers in the faith. My work in Wesleyan discipleship helps people to get out of the stands and onto the playing field in their faith. In the last eight years, I have helped to start 40+ classes and many band groups as well as encouraging other churches in this way. I believe one of the highest callings for the church and for pastors is to equip laity to be disciple-making leaders. Finally, I am helping our church to plant a new church in North Houston. We have the opportunity to reach so many and we are organizing, equipping, and sending out clergy, staff, and laity to share the Gospel of Jesus.



**27****Burt Palmer**

TX | Kingwood

*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

In John 6:28–29 Jesus is asked ““What must we do to do the works God requires?”, and He replies “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” Our purpose is first grounded in Scripture and our unwavering belief in that it is the Word of God. Anything we do will flow from what we believe.

As Global Methodists, our purpose is reflected in our Mission and Vision statements: “The Global Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe” and “Our Vision: Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the Global Methodist Church envisions multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the earth who flourish in scriptural holiness as we worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.”

Our Wesleyan distinctives can be found in John Wesley’s “Advice to a people called Methodist” (1745), “By Methodists I mean, a people who profess to pursue (in whatsoever measure they have attained) holiness of heart and life, inward and outward conformity in all things to the revealed will of God.”

I understand our purpose being grounded in the three areas. Scripture defines us. Our GMC Beliefs found in the Book of Doctrines and Disciplines ground our beliefs. John Wesley’s work guide the application of our theological understanding.

Purpose is defined as “the reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists”. We exist to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ. How we do that will be defined by who we understand that we are. From the call to repentance to witnessing to the faith we bring people to faith in Jesus Christ to the degree that we embody Paul’s words, “It is no longer I/we who live, but Christ who lives in me/us” (Gal. 2:20).

**Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

I was the GMC organizer for our Annual Conference, Chair of the Board of Ministry, serve on the GMC BOM Cohort, serve on the GMC Commission on Higher Education and Ministry, served as a delegate to the Convening General Conference and chaired a sub-committee on the Committee on Higher Education and the local Church.

As a member of the Commission on Higher Education and Ministry I chair the sub-committee on Background Checks and GC2026 Legislation. Currently, the Commission is continuing to identify our role in the legislative process as we are identifying the areas that need to be addressed, most of which are primarily in Section 5.

Our Trinity Conference Board of Ministry and programs we've created have become a model being used across the denomination. This is not reflective of the work that I do; rather, I believe it reflects my passion to involve and support laity and clergy in the work.

This work and these experiences have also helped me establish many relationships that help me connect people to each other across conferences.

**In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

I don't believe there is one most important thing GC need to address. There is much before us to work towards what I call, CONNECTIONAL SANCTIFICATION.

We have doctrinal alignment that could be perfected by reconciling our two lists of Articles of Religion

We have to build upon our trust and alignment with the Episcopal elections and set a trajectory for healthy Episcopal leadership and transitions

We have much work of clarity in the orders of ministry and better defining the status of ministers in Section 5, which is my main focus of attention

We have to continue strengthening the involvement and empowering of the laity to lead the church

And we have a larger task of reconciling/aligning a myriad of inconsistencies in our Book of Doctrines and Disciplines that we have discovered as we are living into our covenant of life together.

None of this should surprise anyone and we should celebrate how the Holy Spirit is working and helping us to work together.

### Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I love to see people come to Jesus, to discern that the Holy Spirit has been actively drawing them to the love of Jesus, even when they aren't aware of it. To hear their stories of stepping out in faith and living from the waters of their baptism and be witnesses to the world.

I love to see people respond to growing in their response to the Holy Spirit, encouraging them to live the words of the hymn, "Have thine own way, Lord!

*Have thine own way!  
Hold o'er my being  
absolute sway.  
Fill with thy Spirit  
till all shall see  
Christ only, always,  
living in me!"*

I love to see laity encouraged, equipped and engaged in transformational ministry in the local church.

I love to see laity and clergy being inspired to be the church outside the building.

I love to see laity and clergy leading in the local church and our denomination.



28

**Joshua Ray**

TX | Conroe, First  
*Active Deacon*

**How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

I understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church to be the full participation in the holy apostolic catholic Church, partnership with the Holy Spirit in the ushering in of the Kingdom of God in the world, the evangelization of all nations & peoples, and the advocacy of scriptural holiness within the body of Christ. I believe that the Global Methodist Church has the opportunity to affirm its roots in historic, credal, & orthodox Christianity while offering a Wesleyan distinctive that affirms the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of individuals & communities. The Global Methodist Church ought to stand in the crossroads of the liturgical, the evangelical, and the charismatic, while inviting people to draw from the deep well of Christian tradition while humbly open to the work of the Spirit bringing new life in our contemporary contexts.

Our primary focus should be to partake in the divine life being sanctified onto perfection, worshipping the revealed Triune God, caring for the widows & the orphans, & be witnesses to all the world of the God who invites us into new life—everlasting, abundant, & holy.

**Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

I am part of the upcoming generation of pastors. I was ordained in 2023 as a deacon in the GMC. I am currently in seminary at Truett Seminary's Wesley House of Studies.

I believe I offer a perspective of a relatively young clergy (30 years old) who has been going through the process of theological education, ordination, & gaining pastoral experience.

I am committed to the connexionalism of the Methodist tradition & I believe it is faithful to the historic & apostolic Church while being completely necessary for the present and future context of the Church. As such, I am very interested in learning the organization, systems, & processes of the GMC and would be enthusiastic to serve the Church at a conference level one day.

I am particularly passionate about the upholding of the doctrines & traditions of the Church as well as the relational nature of interparish or interparochial relations & partnerships. I believe it is necessary for our Church leaders to disciple millennials & Gen Z ministers in Church leadership.

**In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

I believe youth ministry, college-age ministry, & confirmation are important areas of focus for the General Conference.

It is important for the General Conference to respond the tension and violence that many GMC churches have faced, particularly in Africa, & strategize how to support these churches.

Further developing international partnerships between conferences is an important work for the General Conference.

I also believe the GMC needs to continue to grow our partnerships with colleges, universities, para-church ministries, & mission organizations.

Church plant training is a MUST for young clergy who are being told that they will be church planters and that this is the greatest need of the GMC. Continued support for church planters.

**Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

My passion for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ has historically stemmed from the hope it has given me in despair. My longing has been bring others to that hope that will carry them through times of uncertainty & loss. More recently, this same passion has been drawing from a deep well of joy which has been the culmination of the hope that carried me. My prayer is that those who I encounter would be witness to the joy that the Gospel brings.

These passions are paired with the urgency to share the Gospel since it is necessary for healing & new life. The Good News is for this life & for the life to come.



**29****Carmen Rickel**TX | Elkhart, First  
*Active Elder***How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

The GMC is a theologically conservative Methodist denomination that takes us back to our roots of Methodism before big bureaucracy and our own sinful nature got in the way of our mission to keep the main thing the main thing. Going back to our roots means that we are called to raise the expectations of Christian living through accountability, doctrine and devotion to Christ

We, as Methodist are called to be in community with each other and we, in the GMC, believe our community has no boundaries so we are global. As a global denomination we are called to do our best, as humanly as possible, to hear the other voices around to the globe. To understand each other's cultures, needs, gifts/graces, and struggles so we can come together as one faith community representing one set of core values based on the Word of God, the Bible.

**Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

I had the privilege of being a Page at the inaugural General Conference in Costa Rica where I was able to see the work that was being done in the work that was left to be done. Great strides we made as we officially became a formal denomination, but all knew it was just the beginning.

I have served in both small and medium size churches.

In the UMC I served as the chair for the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries (BHECM). In this position you had to know and understand the workings of the Annual Conference budget and the unique ministries of each of the thirteen different Campus Ministries we had at the time to ensure we were doing the best we could to support their ministries. As Chair of BHECM I worked with the Assistant to the Bishop and the Conference Treasurer to ensure the needs of the Campus Ministries were not overlooked.

I am very business orientated. Yes, we are a church, but we are also need to be reminded that we, as the GMC, are also a multi-million dollar business that needs to have accountability with checks and balances. Because of my business

sense I was encouraged to obtain my certification of Church Finance and Administration through Emory University a few years back and have tried my best to keep up with the current and proposed inner workings of the Trinity Conference and the GMC.

Since the formation of the GMC and our conference, I have been asking ‘why’. Why are we doing this, why are we doing that. I want to make sure we are not doing things just because they are familiar or what we know, but are beneficial for who and what we are now.

### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

We need to make sure we have a sound structure of doctrine and accountability in place. All Clergy, Laity, and churches need to be able to be held accountable to the vows each took when they choose to join the GMC. As we have seen on our recent past doctrine without accountability is useless.

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Being at General Conference in 2024 only strengthened my passion for being a voice for change and empowerment. The urgency in me to share the truth in love, to not back down and to be bold in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ has greatly intensified. My preaching changed and the urgency to get people right with God has now become a priority along with being more vocal in the community about what is true and holy.

People need to know they are loved and there is hope. It is so exciting to hear a kid at VBS say, “this is the best week ever!” It is why I volunteered to help a neighboring church with their VBS. As John Wesley said, “The world is my parish.”

I have been a regular substitute teacher in the area schools, and several times I’ve had principals come into my room and say...these kids are never this well behaved, even for their regular teacher, what are you doing?... I’m there, I’m talking to them about Jesus, I’m telling them when they are not acting like godly children, I’m loving them as Jesus does, I’m giving them a hug in the hallway and special fist bumps, and I’m praying for and with them. The only answer I have is that they see and respect the Jesus in me and they ask me about him. This is not limited to the students. I am blessed to be able to be a witness to the staff as well. For many I am their trusted counselor and confidant and they know I’m going to respond with the Gospel truth out of love for them.

We have got to be planting seed everywhere we are to bring as many people to Christ as we can.



30

## Heather Sims

TX | The Woodlands, Christ Church

*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

The Global Methodist Church is dedicated to making disciples of Jesus Christ and spreading scriptural holiness globally. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we are a movement marked by passionate worship, extravagant love, and a bold witness.

Rooted in a Wesleyan understanding, we believe in God's universal love and His plan to restore humanity to perfect relationship with the Trinity. We are saved from sin and evil by grace alone, a grace offered equally to all. This grace awakens us to relationship with God. Through the cross, God offered Himself to save us, making all who believe co-heirs of His kingdom. We affirm that all need salvation, all can be saved, all can know they are saved, and all can be saved to the uttermost.

As Global Methodists, we believe that living out our call happens best within Christian community, specifically through accountable discipleship. This approach aims to create, develop, and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ through small groups where individuals are invited, challenged, supported, and held accountable to embody Christ's practices, character, and mission.

While expressing our purpose uniquely in the world, we joyfully embrace the universal body of Christ, recognize Trinitarian baptisms, welcome all to communion, and partner in ministry with all believers.

### Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.

Currently, I serve as the Senior Pastor at Christ Church Methodist in The Woodlands, Texas. This vibrant and expanding congregation embodies the resilience of so many Global Methodists who navigated the challenges of Covid and disaffiliation. Now, they are experiencing a powerful revival fueled by dedicated prayer, faithful discipleship, and a commitment to following the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Beyond my leadership within this thriving local church, I actively contribute to the wider Global Methodist movement:

- as a delegate at the inaugural General Conference in Costa Rica.
- as an elected member of the Global Episcopacy Committee.
- as chair the Conference Personnel Committee within my annual conference.
- in pursuing my Doctor of Ministry degree at Truett Theological Seminary.

Furthermore, the Lord has blessed me with diverse ministry experiences across churches of all sizes, within two different Annual Conferences, and in a variety of roles, including Director of a Campus Ministry, Associate Pastor, Interim Pastor, Co-Pastor, Sole Pastor, and Senior Pastor. I have also served on various teams within my former denomination, such as conference trustees, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), and the Board of Ordained Ministry.

My vision is for an organizational structure that prioritizes resourcing and empowering local churches, enabling them to unleash the full potential of God's people for lives characterized by faithful and joy-filled discipleship, rather than one driven by self-preservation or hierarchical control.

### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

The upcoming 2026 General Conference will be a pivotal moment for our still newly formed Global Methodist Church. I believe the following areas will benefit from our attention:

#### **1. Governance, Structure, and Doctrinal Standards:**

- **Constitutional Review and Ratification:** While a constitution was approved at the convening General Conference in 2024, the 2026 conference offers an opportunity for review, amendments, and a more permanent establishment of the church's foundational document.
- **Defining the Episcopal Role:** With bishops serving in transition, the conference must define the long-term roles, responsibilities, and term-limits of bishops within the connectional structure.
- **Doctrinal Standards:** the Articles of Religion & Confession of Faith will likely be reviewed and potentially combined to adopt a new doctrinal standard. The conference may also need to address any remaining tensions between the historical documents, clarify the future role and authority of the original Articles, and ensure these foundational texts are accessible and understandable for the global church. This process will be crucial for shaping the GMC's theological identity.
- **Structuring Annual Conferences Globally:** As the denomination expands internationally, establishing clear guidelines and adaptable processes for forming and organizing annual conferences in diverse cultural contexts

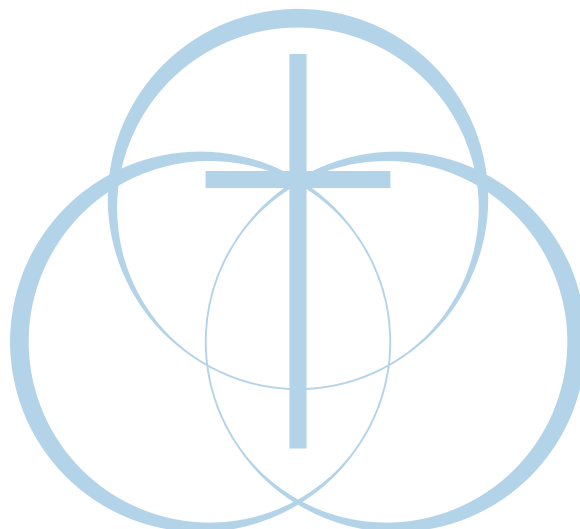
will be essential. This also includes allowing conferences the flexibility to define and deploy Presiding Elders in ways that best suit their local context.

## 2. Ministry Pathways, Practices & Fostering Growth:

- **Developing Clergy Formation Pathways:** The conference needs to establish accessible pathways for clergy candidacy, theological education, ordination, and ongoing professional development that are relevant and adaptable across a global context. This includes strategically endorsing and partnering with theological institutions.
- **Articulating a Global Mission Strategy:** Defining a comprehensive global mission strategy for evangelism, church planting, and addressing human needs effectively worldwide.
- **Creating Welcoming Integration Processes:** Establishing clear processes for churches and individuals from diverse backgrounds to join the GMC.

### Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am passionate about my faith, and introducing others to the joy of the Lord is what keeps me up at night. I am excited to serve the Lord through the Global Methodist Church as I believe that the message and strategy of the GMC can effectively welcome and advance the kingdom of God today. Holding scripture as authoritative, living out my faith in banded discipleship, and being a part of a larger community of faith to establish guardrails have been the lifeblood of my own discipleship and the ministries I lead because this is where lives are changed; joy is found, and lives are unleashed the Kingdom.





31

## Dorothy Smith-Hubbard

TX | Houston, Jones Memorial

*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

A covering for churches, leaders, laity and networks with other organisations providing spiritual support with a foundation established upon the rock of Jesus Christ! Seeking to empower the body of Christ to make disciples of Jesus Christ!

### Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.

Having experienced the teaching and Wesleyan Principles of discipleship and becoming equipped at Asbury Theological Seminary, along with submitting to Pastors that have provided opportunities with to to serve and glorify God. I bring an attitude of gratitude and willingness to serve.

### In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?

Intercession and prayer, unity in working together as a team to make disciples of Jesus Christ!

### Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

With an incredible desire to evangelize in love without condescension and in long suffering and patience as I wait to see the manifestation of prayers to be effective and my commitment to serve, teach and pray reaches those with whom the Spirit of God desires me to touch.



**32**

## **Polly Standing**

**TX | Franklin**

*Active Elder*

### **How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

It is a movement of the Holy Spirit that seeks to bind together churches and disciples; followers of Jesus Christ, who uphold the authority of the Bible and desire to see its truth shared throughout the world enabling individuals to come to know and receive the saving grace of God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. That same Holy Spirit empowers believers to be bold in their witness, strong in their commitment of discipleship, passionate in their desire for acts of mercy and justice, and compassionate for God's people found next store to them as well as in all places around the world as collectively we disciples fulfill our mission to make disciples and to spread scriptural holiness.

The Global Methodist Church allows us to work together to make a difference in the world. It provides support and accountability and at the local level it is the means for followers of Christ to continue learning and deepening their relationship with God as they watch over each other in love.

### **Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

I have served at a variety of churches through the years; both as an associate and as a lead pastor. In those churches I have worked with our Administrative, Finance, Trustees, and SPRC committees to establish policies and procedure to aid the administration of the church.

I have served as an Early Responder with a certification in Disaster Chaplaincy Training. And I have served as the Chair of the Robertson County Long-Term Recovery Team, which I was asked by City officials to lead following the Tornado that hit our area. Since there was no such committee, I formed the committee from the ground up. Creating policies and procedures and the action plan for recovery.

I have many years of experience with our next gen (Youth) and have worked with older individuals as well as children's ministry program. I am currently serving as Presiding Elder of the Brazos Area, which is

made up of small, medium, large, and enormous size churches. All these opportunities have allowed me to listen to the hopes and dreams of faithful disciples of all ages. This provides me with a broad view of the needs of our congregational members.

I have served secularly to help work through party platform resolutions that are put for at the State level. Giving me experience with focusing in on a particular aspect of a larger document. Much the same as the delegate to the General Conference are asked to do.

I am committed to doing the work necessary to be knowledgeable about the issues in order to be prepared to accomplish the task needed at General Conference.

**In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

I believe each issue that is present at General Conference in 2026 needs to be true to our Lord's calling to make disciples and our own declaration to stay faithful to the authority of scripture. Furthermore, I believe all structural changes should continue to support the ground up movement that was embraced at the outset of our denominational formation and seek to streamline the organization to empower the local conferences and congregations. Any adjustments to the Social Witness should be Biblically sound, lovingly formed, and filled with accountability, mercy and justice. I believe our Bishops should be Spiritual leaders, who pray diligently for the people of the church all around the world and call us to makes disciples of Jesus Christ while fulfilling their own call as a disciple of Jesus Christ. In all our work God should be glorified.

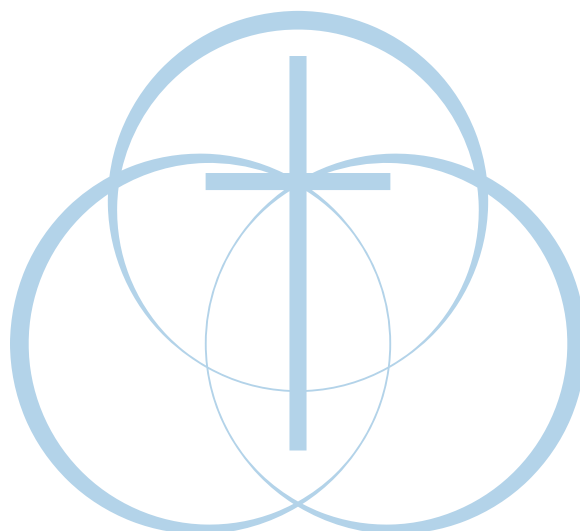
**Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

I wrote my own personal mission after receiving my call many years ago. It reads: "Having heard and answered God's call to ministry my mission is to love God and seek His presence, His will, and His wisdom so that He might be glorified. As a response to God's love for me, His redemption of my soul, and my decision to answer His call, I will proclaim the Good News in a creative and energetic manner which communicates God's love for all people, be a witness of Christ with integrity, accountability, and humility both in word and deed, nurture and educate believers, provide opportunities for both believers and non-believers to experience God, love His people and draw them toward God through worship, administration of sacraments, community outreach, and the scriptures."

As a result of living my mission, I have had the honor of baptizing infants and adults, encouraged and mentored several as they answered their call, seen

churches grow in size and filling of the Spirit. I have seen members take on new opportunities to serve both inside and outside the church making a difference in their community. I have walked beside people through personal trials and illnesses. I have seen marriages restored, healings poured out and prayers answered all through the power of God and for God's glory.

Throughout this journey I have found God working in my own life to continue to develop the "Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) in me. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. I have more growth to go but the Lord promises to continue to work inside me to equip me for that of which he asks of me. I am still striving to move on toward perfection as John Wesley encouraged all of us to do.



**33**

## Chappell Temple

TX | Trinity Conference Extension

*Active Elder*

### How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?

As our mission statement suggests, the Global Methodist Church exists to bring others to know the love of God and to spread scriptural holiness all across the globe. Our hope is not to build an institution, but a movement of God's people that can transform the world, empowered by the Holy Spirit and our Wesleyan understanding of grace.

### Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.

For the past decade, I have worked towards the formation of the Global Methodist Church, helping to write both the Transitional and current 2024 Book of Doctrines and Discipline, as well to identify approved educational pathways and seminaries for training our clergy. Within the Trinity Conference, I have been a presiding elder and served on the connectional commission. I am presently the manager of the Pastoral Studies Program at Truett Seminary, working with more than 160 incredible folks moving towards ordination, as well as teaching in the M.Div. program in the areas of Wesleyan studies, church history, polity, and pastoral care.

In a former life, I served as a delegate to four UMC General Conferences (twice as the lead clergy) as well as seven jurisdictional meetings. I started fifty years ago in youth ministry, served as a missionary in Eastern Europe, as president of Lon Morris College, and over the years in nine different congregations, most recently Christ Church Sugar Land. I would like to return to the upcoming GMC General Conference to finish out some of the work I have done in terms of establishing our new church's life together. If honored with election, the 2026 GC will be my "last rodeo" serving in that capacity, though I hope never to tire or retire of doing the work of Christ in this world.

**In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

Thus far, the Global Methodist Church has been wildly successful in creating a new and faithful expression of Wesleyan Christianity. Most of our corporate structures are now in place, but the 2026 General Conference will need to solidify our understandings of the episcopacy, including the election of new leaders, the emerging redefinition of itineracy in a setting allowing more congregational autonomy, and a refashioned connectionism that reflects genuine partnerships forged in love and shared witness between congregations and conferences around the world. In 2026, we will also look at setting our Wesleyan Social Witness into a more permanent form not subject to constant changes from conference to conference. As the principal writer of the 14 social witness statements, I will be keen to see how that develops as that section of the BDAD was not open for discussion or amendment in Costa Rica. And we will hopefully be able to do something which the UMC was never able to accomplish in its life, namely, to reconcile the Articles of Religion and the Confession of Faith, a task that should be easier given our doctrinal consensus.

**Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

As Andre Crouch long ago expressed, I believe that “Jesus is the answer for the world today; above Him there’s no other, Jesus is the Way.” I have been blessed to have opportunities to share that message with many over the years, and doubly blessed to see folks come to faith for themselves. In a world full of divisions and demonic distractions, there is nothing more important than for churches and for individuals to faithfully teach and preach the gospel of reconciliation and peace.

**34**

## **Tim Turner**

**TX | San Augustine**

*Active Elder*

### **How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

The Global Methodist Church exists to fulfill the historic Methodist vision: “to spread scriptural holiness across the globe.” As a 30-year-old clergy member who has served in multiple capacities within our connection, I have seen this purpose across various contexts, witnessing our pursuit of holiness through a “unity of the Spirit” despite differences.

#### **My Experience with Our Global Purpose:**

- Member of the 2024 Convening General Conference Delegation
- Developer of pastor training curriculum for Tanzania School of Ministry
- Currently learning Swahili for ongoing missionary partnerships with Tanzania
- Founder and Dean of the Trinity Conference School of Ministry
- Connecting Elder in the Piney Woods Area
- Adjunct Instructor at Baylor Truett (Ministry of the Holy Spirit)
- Adjunct Instructor at Ashland Theological Seminary (Church Administration & Finance)

These various experiences have given me hope as young clergy that the GMC’s purpose extends beyond institutional maintenance towards true Kingdom advancement.

As a pastor of two rural East Texas churches, I’ve also seen how the purpose of the GMC encourages “scriptural holiness” in a transforming way within local communities. Our GMC passion for evangelism and discipleship has revitalized the churches that I serve, and I have enjoyed visiting churches across our Trinity Conference connection to support this GMC vision of Gospel-centric, healthy congregations who pursue scriptural holiness.

The GMC’s purpose in our world is to reclaim the essential doctrine of Christian perfection, where our faith in Christ is authentically demonstrated through a holy life. This emphasis on genuine transformation by God’s grace provides exactly what our world needs, especially among younger generations seeking substance over superficiality. Also, in our global vision of “scriptural holiness,” the GMC exists



to build global connections that transcend cultural barriers while developing indigenous leadership that raises up the next generation. Praise God that this has already been demonstrated in these early days of the GMC!

**Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

At 30 years old, I represent young clergy voices critical to the future of our GMC movement and bring energetic, long-term vision for sustainability. Further, my unique experiences across multiple dimensions of ministry will bring significant value to my work as a delegate:

**Experience with the Global Methodist Church's Formation:**

- Served in the 2024 Convening General Conference delegation, helping establish foundational polity and gaining knowledge of delegation commitments
- Currently serve on the General Commission Credentialing & Registration Team for the 2026 General Conference, learning insider knowledge of procedural processes
- Serving on the Trinity Conference Board of Ministry, participating in formational efforts in shaping credentialing and training processes and procedures within the GMC

**Valuable Global Ministry Experience:**

- Developed pastor training curriculum for the Tanzania School of Ministry, providing insight into international ministerial education needs
- Built relationships with Methodist leaders across multiple countries, enabling me to also represent a more global perspective
- Learning Swahili for ongoing missionary partnerships, demonstrating commitment to cross-cultural ministry

**Leadership and Administration Experience:**

- Dean of the Trinity Conference School of Ministry, overseeing education for lay ministers and understanding the needs of lay ministry across the connection
- Connecting Elder in the Piney Woods Area, representing and supporting pastors and congregations across a rural area of our Trinity Conference
- Pastor of two rural East Texas congregations, bringing practical parish ministry perspective

**Educational Training:**

- My educational background demonstrates an ability to analyze both doctrinal and organizational matters with depth and breadth while communicating clearly.

- B.S. Theological Studies | M.A. Communication & Organizational Leadership | M.Div. Asbury Theological Seminary | D.Min. Asbury Theological Seminary | Ph.D. Student in Organizational Leadership (Indiana Wesleyan University)
- Adjunct instructor at Baylor Truett (Ministry of the Holy Spirit) and Ashland Theological Seminary (Church Administration & Finance)

My combination of a young, global perspective, administrative experience, educational training, and pastoral ministry has prepared me to address the multifaceted issues that will come before General Conference.

### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

As the Global Methodist Church develops beyond its initial formation, the General Conference must address several critical priorities:

#### **1. Spiritual Leadership Development Pipeline**

We must address the urgent need for developing the next generation of clergy and lay leaders. This includes creating accessible pathways for theological education and ministry training that are both doctrinally sound and culturally relevant across global contexts. As someone who trains both clergy and laity in various global contexts, I see firsthand how critical it is to establish consistent standards while honoring cultural contexts.

#### **2. True Connectionalism in a Global Church**

The General Conference needs to address how we function as a genuinely global denomination rather than an American church with international branches. This requires thoughtful, regular examination of representation, resource allocation, and decision-making processes that empower indigenous leadership while maintaining our essential Wesleyan identity. The presence of the General Conference in Africa, the global distribution of General Conference delegates, and the renewal of itinerate bishops each promote true global connectionalism in various ways; however, the General Conference will need to continue establishing these types of structural patterns so that we continue as a truly global church in sustainable ways.

#### **3. Financial Sustainability and Stewardship**

The General Conference must address long-term financial sustainability that ensures appropriate support for our global mission while maintaining an equitable system of connectional funding that does not overburden local churches and does not take away from local missions. We have made healthy initial strides in this direction; however, we must now consider long-term sustainability of the global mission beyond initial formation.

#### **4. Practical Wesleyan Discipleship**

We must articulate and implement a distinctive Wesleyan approach to discipleship for contemporary contexts. Our emphasis on Christian perfection must be translated into practical discipleship pathways supported at all levels of the GMC. This includes developing and promoting resources that help local churches disciple.

#### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

My passion for sharing the Gospel is rooted in experiencing its transformative power firsthand. I believe Wesley's emphasis on both personal and social holiness provides a unique evangelistic discipleship framework that addresses both individual salvation and communal transformation. This passion manifests in several ministry areas:

##### **1. Pastoral Ministry:**

As pastor of two rural East Texas churches, I've intentionally focused on inspiring and equipping members to live their faith in Christ with genuine passion. This has resulted in consistent growth in both congregations' Gospel outreach to families, children, and youth, particularly among the unchurched families of our area. Because of God's grace at work in the congregations, both churches are regularly seen as a positive presence in the community.

##### **2. Ministry Training:**

Through my roles as Dean of the Trinity Conference School of Ministry and instructor at both Baylor Truett and Ashland Theological Seminary, I've had the joy of equipping others for the work of ministry in a way that honors the full message of the Gospel and our Wesleyan theological heritage. Thanksgiving to God especially overflows when School of Ministry students report back to me how God is working through them in various communities across the connection to make even more disciples of Jesus Christ.

##### **3. Cross-Cultural Mission:**

My work developing curriculum with Tanzania pastors has equipped pastors across Tanzania with contextually appropriate ministry skills. Several church plants have resulted from this training, with new believers regularly reported and being discipled using a Wesleyan framework. God's work in Tanzania has especially been a joy of life and ministry, of which I am grateful to play a small part.

My commitment to sharing the Gospel drives everything I do as a pastor, educator, and leader. I believe the Global Methodist Church must prioritize a Gospel-centric vision of transformative evangelism and discipleship if we are to fulfill our mission.

**35****Dario Vargas**

TX | The Woodlands

*Active Elder***How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

I understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church to be deeply rooted in both the Great Commission and the Wesleyan tradition. The Church exists “to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe,” echoing John Wesley’s vision “to reform the nation, particularly the Church, and to spread scriptural holiness throughout the land.”

We are called to preach, teach, live, and share a Christlike way of life. This reflects God’s mandate to be holy and to invite others into a life of holiness.

**Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

I was born in Bogotá, Colombia. Twenty-five years ago, due to growing insecurity in my country and after surviving an attempted kidnapping, I sought opportunities to migrate and work in the United States. By God’s grace, I was offered a sales position covering Latin America, which allowed me to become familiar with many cultures across the region. Later, I responded to God’s call to preach the Good News of the Gospel.

I bring with me the lived experience of being an immigrant and, together with my wife, planting a Spanish-speaking ministry six years ago at Covenant Methodist Church in Creekside, Texas, one of the campuses of The Woodlands Methodist Church. I continue to serve as the Spanish Pastor at Covenant.

I’m also a member of our conference’s Board of Ordained Ministry and serve as a Connecting Elder for the Sam Houston area. For the past four years, I’ve served as Managing Director of ConNEXT Steps, a nonprofit organization we founded at Covenant that offers holistic support for immigrants in our community. This ministry serves as a kind of “front porch,” where newcomers find a place of welcome, support, and connection with the Church.

### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

In my view, one of the most important things the General Conference needs to address is how we truly live out our identity as a global church, not just in name but in practice. As an immigrant from Colombia who now pastors a Hispanic congregation in Texas, I've experienced both the beauty and the challenges of crossing cultures in ministry. Every week, I witness the deep spiritual hunger and practical needs of immigrant families. But I also see in them a powerful openness to God and a readiness to respond to the gospel.

We are living in a time of massive global movement. Refugees, migrants, and displaced people are arriving in our communities. This is not just a crisis. It is an opportunity for the Church to respond with hope, compassion, and truth. Through ConNEXT Steps, I've seen what can happen when the Church becomes a place of welcome, healing, and equipping for those starting over.

I believe the General Conference must focus on building structures that support this kind of ministry. That includes ensuring fair global representation, resourcing churches that serve multicultural communities, and creating space for the voices and gifts of all regions.

I hope that we will be a Church that doesn't just talk about being global, but actually lives it out together for the sake of the gospel.

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

My passion for sharing the Gospel comes from a deep sense of gratitude for what Christ has done in my life, as well as a desire to see others experience the same hope, joy, and transformation. As an immigrant from Colombia, I know what it's like to start over, to feel vulnerable, disoriented, and in need of direction. That experience has shaped the way I share the Gospel: not just as a message to be preached, but as a life to be lived and extended to others.

Over the past six years, my wife and I have planted and pastored a Spanish-speaking ministry at Covenant. We've seen God work in beautiful ways, people coming to Christ, being baptized, and taking their first steps of discipleship. These are often individuals who have never heard the Gospel clearly before, or who were carrying deep wounds from past experiences with religion or life in general.

Through ConNEXT Steps, I've had the privilege of sharing the Gospel in a holistic way. We've created spaces where immigrants can learn English, find jobs, take financial peace classes, and grow through discipleship groups. It's not uncommon for someone to first walk in looking for help with a résumé or a parenting class, and over time, encounter the love of Christ through relationships, community, and prayer.

I believe the Gospel brings healing to every area of life, and I have seen that become a reality in the lives of immigrant families finding a new beginning in Jesus.



36

**Amy Walker**  
TX | Orange, Faith  
*Active Elder*

### **How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

The Global Methodist Church has been built on the foundation of bringing us back to our Wesleyan Heritage as it was meant to be. We acknowledge God, the Father, God, the Son, and we no longer silence God, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit guides us, gives us wisdom, and helps us in our times of discernment.

We believe in reaching all parts of the world as an actual integrated community, embodying the meaning of one body of Christ (1 Cor 12). The GM Church believes in making disciples of Jesus Christ across all nations, not just in the United States. We believe in learning one another's cultures and embracing them through expressions of worship, prayer, and in the mission field. This leads us into becoming one body of Christ.

Unlike our previous denomination, we believe in giving authority back to the local churches and protecting that authority. We continue to teach and guide laity to learn of the important role(s) that they play in the continuation of making disciples of Jesus Christ. All levels of Global Methodist offices are held accountable and we strive to continue to keep these offices accountable.

I believe that we are all called to continue to hold these values and be accountable to this awakening through the formation and growth of the Global Methodist Church.

### **Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

I have spent most of my time in NextGen and College Ministry, approximately 25 years. During those times, I have helped connect the local church with the youth and young adults in various ways. I have seen the importance of the change in times and how different each generation has experienced life. Much of my experience with youth and young adults come from lower socio economic backgrounds and I have worked in cross cultural situations.

Through ministry and education with the Deaf community, the Triune God has shown me the lack of knowledge of God, just within the United States alone.



The Deaf community does not have access to the Triune God as the rest of the hearing world. Serving in Disaster Relief and training with UMCOR, I had the same experience as we went into communities to muck and gut, repair, or just pray. The fear, the unknown, and the questions of who God is was everywhere.

In college ministry through the Wesley Foundation, I had 7 years of experience in connecting churches with the outside world. I have seen the struggles with this and want to see the Global Methodist Churches not fall into the same trap of providing funds, but not willing to do the hands on work that is required.

Ultimately, Our role as Christians is crucial in getting the love of God, the Word of Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit into the entire world. I am called to be a part of this continuing work within the Global Methodist Church at the General Conference level. Through my years of experience in supporting relationships through one age group to another, cross-culturally, missionally, and through actual disasters, my strength, trust, and loyalty lies with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

**In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

One area that I believe needs to be addressed more strongly is how we will raise up youth and young adults in the faith. As churches begin to shift to embrace the Holy Spirit as we were meant to, we are seeing the disconnect with the youth. They are not in a place where they know what their presence is about, who the Holy Spirit is, and why the shift in the church. I believe we should be finding ways to address the education and raw teaching that needs to be happening in our churches across the world. This applies to our young adults as well. While I am aware that this may look different throughout our connection of the GM Church, it does need to be addressed. Where do they fit into the Global Methodist Church? You may know, I may know, but do they know?

How are we being the best shepherds, as clergy, to our laity? This is important for our laity to see their worth and the important role that they have as Christians. This will take time and I know that we are working towards this goal across the world. I would like to see this continue to strengthen in the years to come.

The GM Church needs to continue to maintain its promises and goal of not becoming a hierarchy corporation and continue to keep the Holy Spirit at the forefront of every decision that is made. When we leave the Triune God behind, any part, we will become a stagnant corporate building. I want to continue to see us grow in the name of our Lord, through the discernment of the Holy Spirit.

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

I love people from every corner of the world. I have never understood how we can look at any person and not allow ourselves to see him or her through God's eyes. It breaks my heart and saddens me when I meet someone or hear of someone who does not know Christ or denies Christ. Because of this I have always dedicated my life, since I was 13, to making sure everyone knows who Christ is. I answer when God calls me. He has placed me on the interstate between an unknown abusive husband and his wife and child. I did not want to stop. I knew the dangers, but I found myself protecting a woman and her child, while my husband lay in the hospital fighting for his life. Was I terrified? Not until afterwards when I realized what I had done to glorify the Lord. The Lord has put me between an abusive parent and child on more than one occasion, between a criminal and a business, and has asked me to guide mental health patients through their journey of life.

During one of our disasters in my area, FEMA requested for me to go into an area that had banned the government from entering. The people would meet the government with guns. At the time, the government only wanted to assist them in the communities restoration after a flood, but the people didn't trust that. Again, I was not scared because God sent me...not FEMA. Because I was allowed "passage", I was able to witness to a few families of the love of God.

My passion is for God's people always, no matter where they come from, who they are, or what they have done.

**37**

## **Jeffery Warrick**

AR | Cabot, Mt Tabor

*Active Elder*

### **How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

The mission of the Global Methodist Church is clear and compelling: to make disciples of Jesus Christ, and to spread scriptural holiness around the globe. This mission places Jesus Christ at the center of all we are, all we do and calls us to carry His saving message to every corner of the earth.

Our purpose is rooted in Scripture and energized by the Holy Spirit. We are a movement raised up by God to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ—that He lived, died, and rose again so that all people, no matter how broken or lost, might find forgiveness, freedom, and new life in Him. We long to see the transforming power of God’s grace renew both individuals and communities as we worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

The Global Methodist Church exists not for comfort or status, but to reach the least, the last, and the lost—the people the world forgets, but whom God never stops pursuing. In the spirit of John and Charles Wesley, we seek to spread scriptural holiness, meaning lives shaped by love for God and neighbor, empowered by the Spirit, and anchored in biblical truth.

In a confused and hurting world, our role is to shine the light of Christ, calling people out of darkness into His marvelous light. We equip disciples to live boldly for Christ, to plant new churches, and to extend the hope of His Kingdom into every sphere of life.

This is our purpose: to make Christ known, to grow His disciples, and to reflect His Kingdom until He comes again.

### **Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

I have served in local church ministry for 32 years, leading congregations of all sizes and worship styles—traditional and contemporary, rural and urban—all with the same purpose: to spread scriptural holiness and the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. I have served in numerous conference leadership roles and have experience crafting legislation, and writing briefs to the judicial council on questions of church law.

My journey includes planting new churches, revitalizing struggling congregations, and leading successful church mergers, always with a focus on equipping the Church to make disciples in a changing world.

As the President of the Arkansas chapter of the Wesleyan Covenant Association, I helped give voice and vision to those longing for a faithful Methodist future. I was honored to receive the Defender of the Faith Award from the Arkansas Confessing Movement, and to lead in the disaffiliation process that helped many congregations find new life in the Global Methodist Church.

In the Global Methodist Church, I led in the organization of the Arkansas areas and continue to serve as a Presiding Elder in the Trinity Conferences. I've had the privilege of working alongside numerous clergy and laity in local congregations small and large, advocating for youth ministry, supporting new church starts, and championing church revitalization efforts.

As a second generation Methodist pastor, and one half of a clergy couple, I bring a unique perspective on the shared joys and challenges of vocational life and ministry.

These experiences—rooted in both local church ministry and broader denominational leadership—have given me a deep understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing our growing Methodist movement today. I hope to bring a voice shaped by hands-on ministry, committed to the mission of making disciples and spreading scriptural holiness, and dedicated to advocating for the needs of clergy and congregations across diverse mission fields.

### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

The Global Methodist Church is a Spirit-filled, Christ-centered, mission-driven movement, grounded in scriptural truth and empowered by the Holy Spirit. The most important task before the General Conference is to structure our growing connection so that it truly reflects these values and advances our mission.

We must create a lean, effective, and accountable polity that frees local churches to make disciples and spread scriptural holiness around the world. This means resisting the pull toward bureaucracy and top-down mandates. Instead, we must develop streamlined processes, minimize institutional overhead, and give local congregations the flexibility they need to flourish. For example, our current health insurance mandate is cost-prohibitive for many churches and needs to be addressed with a more sustainable, adaptable approach.

Leadership accountability is also essential. Our bishops must serve not as institutional executives but as spiritual shepherds—non-residential leaders who equip and encourage the Church. Our doctrinal commitments must be refined for clarity and unity, deeply rooted in Holy Scripture and the historic Wesleyan way.

At the same time, we must invest boldly in the future: equipping congregations, developing new mission fields, raising up and supporting clergy, and planting new churches. The world is hungry for the hope of Christ, and the mission field before us is vast.

Above all, we must keep a Kingdom focus. This movement did not begin simply to create a new institution, but to advance the reign of Christ. Every decision should be measured by this question: does it help us proclaim the gospel, make disciples, and extend God's Kingdom in a lost and broken world?

If we remain faithful to these priorities, we will build a church that serves Christ's mission with courage, clarity, and compassion for generations to come.

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

My life and ministry are centered on sharing the saving grace of Jesus Christ. For over three decades, I have devoted myself to proclaiming the gospel in ways that reach people where they are, whether in the pews of a traditional sanctuary, the seats of a contemporary worship center, or the fields of a new church plant. My heart beats for those who do not yet know the hope of Christ.

I've witnessed God's transforming power in congregations of all sizes—large, small, rural, and suburban—as lives have been changed through the preaching of the Word, the work of the Spirit, and the love of the church in action. I've been privileged to help plant new churches where the unchurched found faith, to revitalize struggling congregations where the gospel reclaimed the mission, and to lead church mergers that brought fresh purpose to communities.

In every place, the message remains the same: Jesus Christ is Lord, Savior, and King. He invites all people—no matter how broken or far from God—to find new life in Him. My passion is to preach that truth, teach it, and live it in ways that help others encounter the love and power of Christ for themselves.

The fruit of this calling is seen in lives changed, baptisms celebrated, new leaders raised up, and congregations refocused on their mission to reach the least, the last, and the lost. Whether leading local churches, supporting new church starts, or encouraging fellow pastors as a presiding elder, my greatest joy is seeing people awakened to the truth of the gospel and the joy of following Jesus.

**38**

## **Brian Yeich**

**Trinity Conference Extension**

*Active Elder*

### **How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

The purpose of the Global Methodist Church is captured in our mission statement to “make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness around the globe.” This means that the GMC is focused on evangelizing and discipling people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus who not only experience the justifying grace of God in the forgiveness of their sins, but also the sanctifying grace of God as they pursue holiness of heart and life. John Wesley charged his preachers that they had “nothing to do but save souls” and that they were to build up those they reached in holiness. Our purpose is not “bumper sticker” theology that says, “Christians aren’t perfect, they are just forgiven.” Our purpose is to show people a vision of the life that God has for them in Jesus Christ and walk with them as they commit their lives to Jesus and become more and more like Him. As a world-wide movement, this purpose knows no bounds and yet is communicated in ways that are impactful in whatever culture or country we find ourselves.

### **Describe some experiences that will bring value to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

While I currently minister as a seminary professor, I have also served in churches both large and small as a pastor and I attempt to bring the best of the academy to the church as well as my ministry experiences to the classroom. My wife Misty and I serve as Missioners with The Inspire Movement. We partner with churches and organizations to offer support, training, and networking aimed at reconnecting discipleship and mission within their own communities. Inspire Fellowship Bands and House Fellowships encourage us to keep in step with the Holy Spirit, live as whole-life disciples of Jesus and serve as everyday missionaries. I recently traveled to Benin in West Africa to lead a group of Methodist church leaders in learning about how Fellowship Bands and House Fellowships can impact their context. I believe this combination of scholarship and real-world experience gives me a unique perspective on the church and its mission. In addition to those experiences, I currently serve as an instructor in the Trinity Conference School of Ministry and as the Scholar in Residence at Trinity Methodist Church in Ruston, LA.



### **In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?**

I believe one of the most critical things that General Conference needs to address is training for clergy and lay leaders. Moving forward, how are we going to balance the need for robust theological education with the need to keep costs manageable and avoid creating unnecessarily cumbersome systems?

I believe another critical issue is how to keep our church lean in terms of bureaucracy but also provide for the necessary leadership to pursue our mission. As we grow, how can we adapt our structure in agile ways so that leaders do not become overextended and burned out?

Another critical issue is the maintaining the global nature of the GMC. I believe one of the great strengths of our denomination is our global diversity. However, how do we continue to support growth around the world while also ensuring that these emerging churches are poised for sustainability and fruitfulness?

Finally, I believe church planting, both traditional forms and “house churches” is a critical thing for General Conference to address. How are we going to provide the “good soil” for these new churches to grow and thrive?

### **Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

I have a passion for people to become not just followers of Jesus, but fully devoted followers. From my earliest ministry experience in campus ministry to my current ministry of teaching and training church leaders in missional discipleship I have never been satisfied with evangelism that stops at a decision. I believe that discipleship begins even before a person is a Christian and continues for a lifetime. My passion, both scholarly and practically, is to reconnect evangelism and discipleship. I seek to meet people wherever they are and help them to take those next steps whether that is committing their life to Jesus for the first time or pursuing a life of perfect love. I have seen the fruit of this in our ministry with Inspire where men and women discover that there is more to the Christian life than what they have experienced in the past. I have seen this in the classroom where students who were unconvinced about the call to holiness, experienced the power of the Holy Spirit and moved toward perfect love.