

2026 GENERAL CONFERENCE

LAITY **CANDIDATE** **GUIDE**



TRINITY
CONFERENCE
Global Methodist Church

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

John Agee

TX | The Woodlands

Retired Global Financial Executive—ExxonMobil

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

The Global Methodist Church is an unashamed, traditional, scripturally-based Wesleyan denomination whose purpose is to spread the Gospel of Christ Jesus and scriptural holiness throughout the world. The GMC seeks to accomplish this through the power of the Holy Spirit working through the local church, local pastors and local laity.

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

I have three years experience as a traditionally-minded General Conference delegate from the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church before withdrawing to join the GMC. I worked for a number of years with the Texas regional chapter of the Wesleyan Covenant Association, and served on the WCA's Global Council as Treasurer and as a member of the Executive Committee through the end of 2024. I am blessed to know many GMC GC delegates from around the world and continue to work with them on local church initiatives. My corporate background provided cross-cultural working experiences around the globe, and lends itself to participating effectively in the legislative processes. I am a newly elected member of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for Evangelism, a lay founded, pan-Wesleyan organization that seeks to promote and encourage evangelism across the Wesleyan tradition.

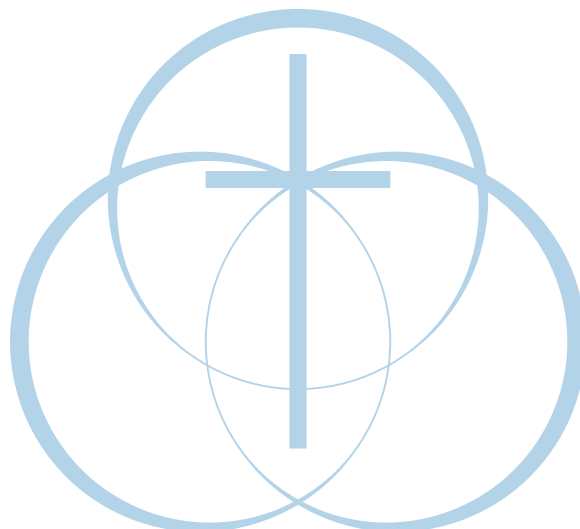
In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?

The GMC, as a new denomination, should seek to finalize organizational matters while resisting the tendency to add more structure above the local church, and to add volume to the Book of Doctrines and Discipline. I believe the focus should be on finding ways to strengthen the local church, to equip laity and clergy to plant churches and multiply, and to ensure pastoral training and theological education. The structure and role of the episcopacy will require attention.

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

I came to faith in Christ Jesus through the mission field, and the mission field remains the place where I feel the Holy Spirit most closely. Although mission work takes many forms, I believe it is all inherently about spreading the Gospel. About eight years ago, the small group I was in formed a lay ministry in Honduras focused on reconciliation and empowerment with the impoverished local evangelical churches as the key focus. We seek to establish long term relationships through a ministry of presence and encouragement, and then partner with local pastors and laity to strengthen their church, expand their temples, broaden discipleship and increase outreach. We started in one village and are now blessed to be working in thirty communities. Many people have been brought into saving grace through the work of these local churches.

Most recently, I have been elected to the Board of the Foundation for Evangelism, an organization dedicated to spreading evangelism across the Wesleyan tradition.





2

David Amend

TX | Houston, Central

Sr. Executive VP of Houston Energy LP

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

I believe the purpose of the Global Methodist Church is the return to its traditional core and values. Also by continuing to follow the teachings, understanding and general rules of John Wesley, I feel that his teachings transcends all boundaries of the world.

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

Being a Methodist for the past 47 years I've had the honor and privilege to serve and/or chair every committee within the church. With this experience and understanding, I feel that I can help contribute as a delegate to the General Conference.

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

Continuing to focus on building a vibrant world community based on a Christian faith practice. Also, to restore and foster strong faith values in a time of church decline.

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

I would say that my passion for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ derives from striving to live a life of faithfulness, kindness, humility and continuing to build a relationship with God.



3

Mary Barron

LA | Broussard, Redeeming Grace

Former Early Education Preschool Director and Legal Secretary

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

I believe the Global Methodist Church exists to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world. It is a denomination that firmly believes that Christ loved everyone and commanded us to “Love One Another” as He loved us. In unity we will be of one mind and one heart for God. As people of God the GMC strives to spread scriptural holiness and be a beacon of hope and light to all nations.

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

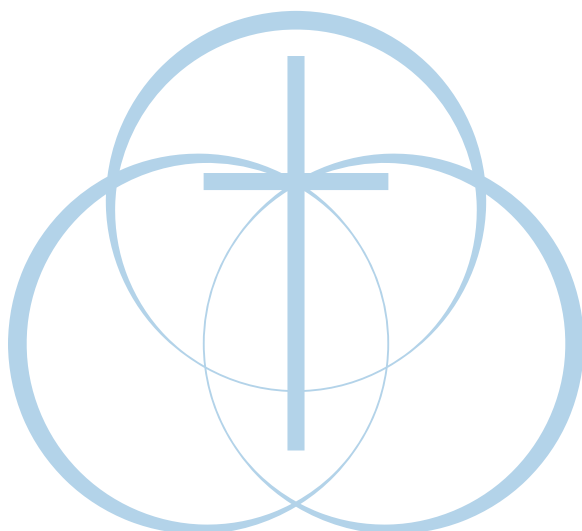
I am a “Cradle Methodist” and was raised to be involved in church. I was always involved in Sunday School and MYF in my youth. I enjoyed singing in youth and adult choirs. I’ve held various offices and duties in all churches that I have been a member of. I was director of Covenant UMC’s Preschool and MDO programs for over twenty years. I taught Sunday School and was director of Bible School during the years when my children were growing up. I organized and taught an adult Sunday School class at Faith Community UMC. Believing that Bible Study and prayer are foundations of church growth, I started a Ladies Bible Study many years ago at Faith Community. I am currently leading the Ladies Bible Study at Redeeming Grace GMC. I serve as the Administrative Council Chair at Redeeming Grace. I have been privileged to be a delegate to the Trinity Annual Conference for three years. I was so honored to be chosen as a delegate to the GMC Convening General Conference held in Costa Rica in 2024. I consider that as a highlight of my life. The Holy Spirit’s presence was palpable. I served on the Ministry and Local Church Committee and the Education subcommittee. I learned more than I ever knew that I needed to know and am so grateful for that! I am currently the Trinity Conference Prayer Rep for the Pelican Area of Louisiana. Whatever task I am asked to perform I dedicate myself and my time to accomplishing to the very best of my ability.

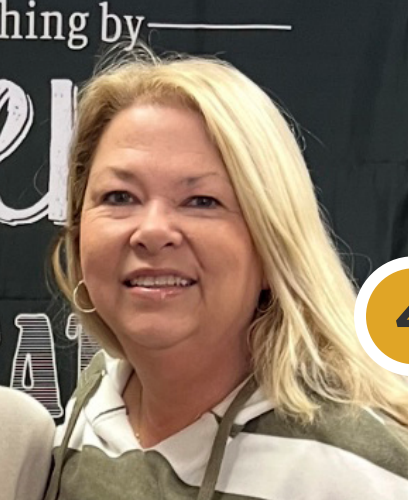
In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?

I firmly believe the GMC is off to a wonderful start in working to unify churches around the world to spread God's word. Networking with churches in other nations, holding the General Conference in different countries, sharing worldwide prayer requests, planting new churches, appreciating our various styles of worship and electing bishops from different countries have already brought unity to our denomination. I believe we should continue on the path we're on as we strive to be "one" and share Scriptural Holiness with all peoples. Striving to be not "of the world", but true to God's Word should be the goal of every Christian denomination and I see the GMC holding fast to that belief. We also know that our work on Earth is not "done".

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

I have gleaned so much from being involved in the GMC. My daily walk with the Lord has been strengthened in innumerable ways. I am more determined than ever to try to be the person that God wants me to be and I strive for that every day. I want to be remembered as a person that loved our Lord and spread that love to others. Having a heart for Jesus keeps me on a path and journey that I believe God has set me on. I ask God daily to show me what he wants me to do. I falter, I ask for forgiveness and am so grateful to know Him and be granted grace. Thanks be to God.





4

Carol Brightwell

TX | Beckville

Healthcare and Education

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

Bringing Jesus to the community. Serving God through serving others. This past Trinity conference proves without a doubt how God is moving mountains.

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

Worked in healthcare 30 years and education for for 21 years. The relationships formed are forever engraved in my heart.

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

Clarifying its theological positions, establishing operational structures, and defining its mission and vision.

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

Bringing the community together is a high priority. Learning to share the gospel is something we could all use.



5

John Campbell

TX | Katy, Resurrection

Engineering Software Product Manager

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

The Global Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ, and its strength is recognizing that it needs to help local churches accomplish that mission. My commitment to the Global Methodist Church (GMC) stems from its spirit-filled movement dedicated to achieving this purpose across various dimensions of our lives and relationships.

Within local GMCs, members deepen their relationship with Christ through avenues like Bible study, service opportunities, fellowship, and a call to make disciples. These congregations also extend the love of God outside of the walls of the church, welcoming the least, the last, and the lost through support, prayer, invitations to worship and learn, and acts of Christian service.

On a global scale, the GMC provides a connectional framework, enabling congregations to collaborate in impacting communities worldwide. This interconnected approach leverages our collective gifts, time, talents, and love to make disciples beyond our local communities.

The Global Methodist Church stands as an effective discipling home that deepens personal relationships with Christ to strengthen the communal work of the Body of Christ.

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

I served on the delegation in 2024 and provided valuable contributions via my organizational and leadership skills. I helped apply technological solutions to some of our challenges and I fostered a team spirit to help us do the work we were called to do. I am proud of the thorough preparation that the Trinity conference delegation brings to the General Conference. It allows us to take on and execute leadership at the denominational level. I understand and welcome the responsibility of being a Trinity delegate.

I am currently the head of the Trinity Conference New Church Starts committee and part of a large church start. I work with fascinating, talented, passionate people and we encourage and facilitate the exciting yet difficult task of starting new churches. My experiences at general and annual conference include meeting delegates from around the world. This helps me understand the many ways to start churches and empower local congregations to live into their calling.

I serve as a leader among laity at my local church. We need the laity to own the success of the GMC and step up in a different way than in the past. I serve on our local Board of Stewards, and I am consistently encouraging my fellow lay members to follow their passions, start new ministries, learn something new, and step out of their comfort zone. If laity do not run the ministries and help the least the last and lost, then who will? Our clergy are but a small percentage of our church population. I would like our General Conference to feel the urgency to have the laity lead this denomination at all levels to do God's work.

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

To be a success, the General Conference needs to have one foot planted firmly in our Wesleyan roots while the other one steps into the fertile ground of discipling Millennial and Gen Z seekers. Unless we take this step, the GMC does not have a future. I have a special interest in the denominations call to harmonize the doctrines of faith and the impact that can have on providing a spiritual compass for the next generation.

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

I am a maximizer. A maximizer strives to make good things great, get the most out of people, transform the ordinary, and focus on strengths not weaknesses. When I sponsor a pilgrim on a Walk to Emmaus, I'm not just thinking about their transformative experience, I'm also thinking about the five people they will sponsor in the future and the transformation that will have! When I lead a Disciple Bible study, I'm not just thinking about the insights we are experiencing together, I'm also thinking about what ministry these students are going to dive into with new passion. I'm about starting the snowball rolling down the hill and watching it grow in size and momentum.

I want people in my circle to experience the love of Christ and I want to expand my circle so that more can experience it. I am especially concerned about the lack of faith amongst young people. It is difficult enough to get started in career and relationships, but it is even harder when you don't have a faith to lean on and to provide perspective and encourage you along the way. We know the GMC needs to find a way to reach the younger generations to thrive and grow both those people and the churches that can lead them to Christ.



6

John Dawson

**AR | Camden, Westside
Forester**

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

The Global Methodist Church exists to provide traditional Methodists a pathway to renewing their heritage and Wesleyan roots through scriptural holiness, historical doctrine and discipline previously found in Methodism, and an awakening within the church of the Holy Spirit. The Global Methodist Church is a conservative movement setting its' foundation and making a stand on spreading scriptural holiness and the love of Jesus Christ throughout the world by emphasizing baptism and the holy sacraments as a means of grace provided by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The Global Methodist Church exists to encourage all to witness boldly, love extravagantly, and worship passionately so that the world will know of God's glory and goodness.

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

I am a lifelong Methodist, having served as a lay leader for 25+ years, Past-President of the Administrative Council, delegate to Annual Conference multiple years, and a lay speaker in the Methodist Church. It has been a privilege to be involved in the upstart of the Global Methodist Church in my community and to be at the forefront of this movement.

In 2024, I was honored to be elected as a Lay Delegate to General Conference in Costa Rica. Admittedly, I was talked into applying for this role. I knew little about GC and the importance of what the delegation was tasked with - developing our path forward with each other. Through months of meetings, discussions, and, ultimately, GC in Costa Rica, I have learned so much. The humbling task of developing our denominations discipleship and doctrine for generations to come still resonates within my soul as one of the greatest achievements of serving Christ I have ever been a part of. The work behind GC was, without a doubt, very challenging, but during this time, we all developed wonderful life-long relationships. I was blessed to develop a relationship with a fellow delegate from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Africa and another lay delegate from Panama. As these relationships have blossomed, our local church has been able to assist the development of the GMC in these countries through missional support.

Through my relationships built during GC, I have been blessed to serve our Trinity Conference on the Superintendent-Staff Relations Committee (SSRC) and helping develop the groundwork for the newly formed role of Equipping Elder.

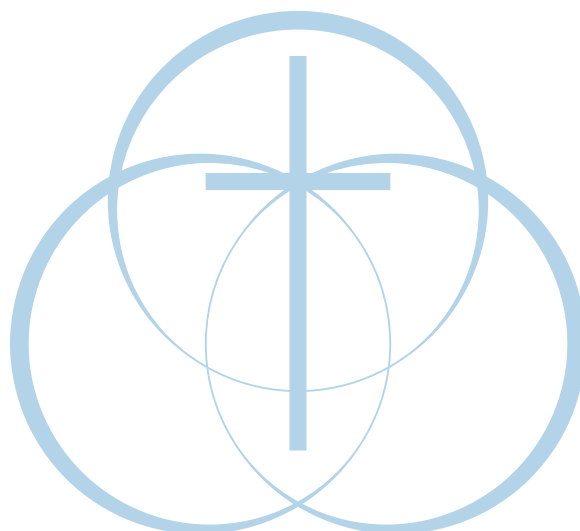
In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?

The General Conference of the Global Methodist Church needs to continue emphasizing the importance of relationships throughout our church. This includes our relationships with brothers and sisters from across the globe, the unique structures and traditions within those people groups, and teaching the biblical support of maintaining scriptural principles within those congregations. Keeping our bureaucracy small and less intrusive on the local congregation while maintaining a support structure enabling those same congregations to flourish is vital to the success and growth of our denomination.

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

Jeremiah 17:7-8 “But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when He comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

I identify with this scripture so well being a Forester and working in the forests of South Arkansas. This scripture tells us about our foundation, establishing the rock-solid strength in Jesus Christ, and the nutrients needed for growth in our sanctification and spiritual walk with God. We simply have nothing to fear or worry about; we just need to keep spreading God’s holiness throughout the land.





7

David Eikner

TX | Tyler, Marvin

Retired Financial Services Executive

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

We are to love God and love our neighbors, as Jesus said. As Wesleyan Christians, we should practice scriptural holiness as we strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

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

As a lifelong Methodist, I have been blessed to be able to serve the church in many capacities.

- At my local church, I have served as chairperson of Administrative Council, SPRC, Finance Committee, and a Facilities Study Task Force for a \$5.4 million renovation. Currently, I am Lay Leader for our congregation.
- At the Annual Conference level, I have served on the Board of Ministries, Pensions Committee and as chairperson of the Health Benefits Committee. Currently, I am a member of the Conference Council.
- In 2024, I was honored to be elected as a Lay Delegate to our Convening General Conference in Costa Rica.

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

The 2024 General Conference was focused primarily on ratification of our Book of Doctrines and Discipline, our Constitution and electing six temporary Bishops. The 2026 Conference will need to consider the total number of Bishops needed, whether any changes to the BoDD are necessary, and adaptation of our Social Principles.

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

Jesus admonished all who call themselves a Christian in Matthew 28 “to go and make disciples of all nations”. Through local, national, and international mission projects, I have been privileged to share the good news of Jesus’ transformative love in many places and in many ways. Every time I have made myself available to “Go in Jesus name,” I have been abundantly blessed.

**8**

Elizabeth Fink

AR | Stuttgart, First
Student, Asbury Seminary

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

For me, the Global Methodist Church exists to offer individuals and congregations a spiritual home rooted in core Christian beliefs, with a clear and simple focus: to invite others to know the gracious, merciful, and loving savior Jesus Christ. Our aim is to fill our churches with people who know they are beloved sons and daughters of God as well as becoming a people who understand what they believe and why. The GMC is intentionally mission-focused and active, deeply committed to sharing the gospel, making disciples, and serving others. We place a strong emphasis on church planting and developing partnerships in areas around the world where the church is growing and where people are especially hungry for God. We value the voices of these communities and want them to help shape our identity as we pursue a more global and collaborative approach to church leadership. In a world marked by moral confusion and spiritual hunger, the GMC seeks to be a faithful witness. It's not just about preserving a tradition, but it is about seeing lives and communities transformed by the hope we have in Christ.

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

Since 2016, I've had the privilege of serving as a delegate from Arkansas at several general conferences. During that time, I've participated on various legislative committees, including Conferences, Higher Education, Judicial Administration, and Global Ministries. In 2024, I was also part of a team that assisted with securing visas for those traveling to the general conference in Costa Rica. While there, I was responsible for managing Zoom access to ensure remote delegates could fully participate.

These experiences have helped me understand the rhythm, dedication, and flexibility required to serve effectively as a delegate. It can be exhausting—but also deeply rewarding. I would be honored to serve again, this time not as a staff member but fully in the role of a delegate—ready to engage the petition process and contribute to the important work ahead during these formative years of the Global Methodist Church.

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

I think one of the biggest things the General Conference of the Global Methodist Church needs to focus on is staying rooted in clear, biblical theology while also building systems that actually work—systems that are sustainable, globally inclusive, and focused on mission. Since we're still in the early stages of forming this denomination, the choices we make now are going to shape who we become for years to come.

It is important that our beliefs and practices hold true to Scripture and the historic teachings of the Church, but we also need to make sure we are communicating those things to the world in ways that are thoughtful and make sense in different cultural settings.

And finally, we've got to keep mission and discipleship at the heart of it all. If we get too caught up in structure or politics, we risk missing the point. The Church exists to share Jesus, serve others, plant new communities of faith, and raise up new leaders. That has to stay central.

If we can hold onto solid theology while being globally-minded and mission-driven, I really believe the Global Methodist Church can be a strong, faithful witness in the world.

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

Sharing the gospel is something I'm genuinely passionate about—it's not just something I feel called to do, it's something I want to do. I have experienced the grace and love of Jesus in really personal ways, especially through times of pain, confusion, and transition. That's what drives me to help others meet Him too—not just hear about Him, but actually know Him.

I've had some really meaningful opportunities—whether that's been through leading small groups, walking alongside people in discipleship relationships, or just being available when someone needs to talk or ask honest questions. I do not think it always has to be formal or flashy; most often it is just showing up, actively listening, and pointing people back to Jesus in the everyday moments.

I've seen fruit in small, steady ways—friends beginning to pray again, students wrestling through Scripture, or someone realizing they're loved and forgiven. That kind of transformation keeps me going. I want to be someone who helps make the gospel accessible and full of hope.



9

Jan Floro

TX | Conroe, First
Church Growth Consultant

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

At General Conference 2024, we adopted our denominational mission statement, “The Global Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe.” Therefore, Matthew 28:19–20 is the purpose of the Global Methodist Church. Our role is to fully live into the Great Commission by intentionally unifying, equipping, deploying, and holding accountable both clergy and laity to GO and make disciples of Jesus Christ, who then GO and make disciples of Jesus Christ...and I would add...with a sense of urgency.

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

I was greatly humbled to be a delegate to the 2024 General Conference, and I share some of my experiences for you to prayerfully consider how I will bring value to the work of the 2026 General Conference.

My spiritual gifts are discernment and shepherding. I am often defined by others as a good listener, organizer, motivator, team builder, and one that does not shy away from asking the tough questions.

As a delegate to the 2024 Convening General Conference, I served on the Ministry & Local Church Committee. I learned a lot about the structure and function of General Conference from this commitment to the long hours and hard work during the months of pre-Conference preparation and all of the work once we were on-site. In 2026, I look forward to completing more of the work we began in 2024.

As a laity volunteer, I currently serve as a Trinity Conference Prayer Co-Director. This start-up ministry began in 2023, and we continue to develop prayer ministry as the foundation of all that we do across the Conference.

I left corporate employment to follow a Calling to serve as laity in the local church. Each church staff position was a “start-up” ministry, and I quickly learned that I am motivated by a blank canvas where God is set free to be God.

I previously consulted as Welcoming Ministry trainer with the Vibrant Church Initiative (VCI) and also served on the Board of Ordained Ministry and on the District Leadership Team. In 2007, I opened a small company to coach congregations in strategic planning for spiritual and numerical growth. I have worked with all size congregations, across denominations, and in rural and suburban areas and I continue to learn from each one.

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

We will need to boldly define the desired end result for General Conference 2026. We began the great work to build a framework at the 2024 Convening Conference and there was much that we knew would need to be redefined or further developed in 2026. This continuation to define and further develop our denomination's framework will be vitally important for our future. It will be important to remain focused to "keep the main thing, the main thing." Stay true to the Word. Stay true to the Calling.

May we truly "experience" the Holy Spirit at work in, and through this General Conference. May we each personally receive the abundant presence of the Holy Spirit until it overflows through us in an upper room experience. This spiritual filling and overflowing will lead us to focus on building Christ's Kingdom through sharing the Holy Word of grace and salvation to make disciples across every community, every congregation, every Conference, every nation.

We will focus on what it truly means to be a Global Church with the urgency and unquenchable quest to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

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

I reflect on Mark 16:19–20 which says, "After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it." NOW is time that we rise up, go, and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now is the time to stop waiting for people to come to our churches and for us to go to the people. It is our privilege and responsibility to share the good news of grace and salvation offered through our redeemer and Savior, Jesus Christ. Psalms 145:4 tell us, "One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts." God shows up in different ways across the generations. How will I show up for God? I hope to always stay weary when thinking about who is not in a relationship with Christ because I did not slow down and take the time to listen to them and to share a personal testimony with them. I want my legacy to be one that I shared the love and grace of Jesus Christ with everyone around me. One more for Jesus.



10

Patricia “Trish” Garcia-Monet

TX | Missouri City, The Harvest

Market Research / Insights

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

My understanding of the purpose and role of the Global Methodist Church is to provide a community through which people learn about the love of Jesus Christ, deepen a relationship with Him and are equipped to share that love with others. The learning, deepening of relationship, and equipping are accomplished through study, prayer, service and most imperatively the act of abiding in him with others—doing Christian life together.

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

In my personality and through life’s journey, God has provided me with gifts well-suited to delegate work: skill in creating community among diverse people, thoughtful level-headedness in discussing challenging topics, and experience in the Methodist Church and Church leadership.

I recognized my gift of community building while in college. Bringing groups together and creating a space where all felt welcome and heard garnered me Princeton University’s first Latina President of the Undergraduate Student Government.

In various roles since, I lead thoughtfully and create/ed spaces where voices can be heard. I currently serve on the Strategy Committee for the Trinity Conference of the GMC. Other past/current positions: President of Association of Latino Princeton Alumni, Princeton’s Executive Committee, Fort Bend County Spanish Language Advisory, Director of Operations ADP’s Hispanic BRG, Board Member of non-profits, Boy & Girl Scout leader, Leadership Board The Harvest, UMC and GMC delegate.

In addition to my experience building community and ability to engage in challenging discussions, I have a history of dedication to and leadership of the Methodist Church which gives me a distinct perspective. My grandfather was a Methodist pastor, other family members have been pastors and/or worship leaders. In college, I was in the Gospel Ensemble and called the AME home. I have been a member of The Harvest since 2008, seeing it move from having no building to having two. I have lead various ministries, missions, and small groups over the years – taking the opportunity to attend churches in various cities and countries along the way. I have served on and as Chair of the Leadership Board for the past 5 years. I have experience with various Methodist churches as well as an acute understanding of the nuances church members are looking (and hoping) for as we unite as the GMC.

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

In its quick life, the GMC has received a lot of attention. And while many are enthusiastic and eager to join into what feels like a revival, there have also—not unexpectedly—been those who have approached with more caution and even criticism.

To encourage those looking for revival and push back against some of the critics, the General Conference needs to show itself—in both word and deed—as a diverse denomination focused on showing the love of Jesus Christ. It needs to reflect this in its priorities, practices and through its finances.

While I have no doubt the General Conference will be filled with amazing devotionals and worship, it also needs to be focused on creating practices that will reflect the spirit from which the denomination was formed. The Conference needs to provide clear and understandable guidance that reflects supporting local churches as they build community that fosters learning about the love of Jesus Christ, deepening a relationship with Him and sharing that love with others.

The General Conference needs to be clear on what the priorities will be and how they will encourage financial stability for both the denomination and its local churches. The General Conference needs to make it clear how local churches will support the denomination and how in turn, the local churches will be supported.

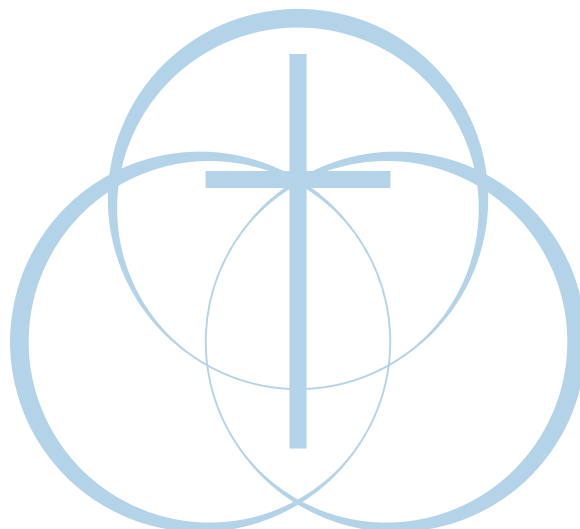
Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

During my daughter's birth, I passed away on the operating table. I approached Heaven and experienced a love that fulfills the yearning for connection that we all share. The voice that called me back to Life equipped me with a renewed voice for sharing the Gospel.

God coupled my innate approachability and ease with relationship building with the honed skills of writing and public speaking. He changed my testimony from words on a page to building relationships that allow me to share a glimpse of Heaven. I've shared with church members, small groups, the Walk to Emmaus and other retreats; obediently with strangers on elevators, in waiting rooms, on trains and on planes.

I have seen fruit come from the sharing of this experience, from the small role that I am blessed to play in the process of changing hearts. I have seen strong believers grow more encouraged; new believers fortified; believers who were questioning gain a renewed faith; non-believers start to consider the possibility of the truth in the Word...and peace come to those who have lost a loved one and wondered if the Word were true. Sometimes the impact is immediate. Sometimes it seems but one step in the person's faith journey. But I know that as I continue to abide in Him, fruit will continue to come.

Throughout this journey, I have come to listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit when sharing my story. I've been shown a glimpse of Heaven. It allows me to put things in perspective but also to stand in confidence when speaking about the love of Jesus Christ. It has taught me to listen for His voice and be obedient to it—to His glory in allowing me to play a role in the fruit of furthering the community of faith.





11

Oscar Garza

TX | Humble, Atascocita
Conference Lay Leader

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 is to spread scriptural holiness and make disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the world. This is not limited to any particular continent or country, but it applies to all continents and to all countries. I believe this can be accomplished with a strong partnership between laity and clergy. I believe the laity of the Trinity Conference are called by God to create and grow a denomination with a foundation that begins with strong local churches. I believe that we are the catalyst to renew the Wesleyan movement.

The Global Methodist Church is an advocate of the truth as told to us by the bible. This truth will attract more and more people who looking for a strong connection to Jesus Christ. I believe God is calling the Global Methodist Church to go into the world and bring Jesus Christ to the people. As one of the largest conferences in the Global Methodist Church, we in the Trinity Conference have a tremendous obligation and opportunity.

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

I believe my experience as co-leader of the Trinity Conference 2024 General Conference delegation will serve me well for the 2026 General Conference. This position allowed me to assist other delegates (especially those who have not been a General Conference delegate in our former denomination) as to the process of committee selection and legislative committee processes.

My experience as a business leader and attorney prepared me for the work of the 2024 General Conference as I served on the Judicial Legislative Committee and currently serve on an ad hoc judicial committee that intends to make recommendations to the 2026 General Conference on judicial matters.

I believe many of my experiences in the corporate world transalte to a benefit for the work of General Conference. Leadership, organizational skills, coalition

building, and legal understanding are attributes that I possess and are crucial for leading an important delegation such as the Trinity Conference delegation.

My focus as a General Conference delegate in 2026 is the same as in 2024; accountability of bishops, no bureaucracy and focus on our Wesleyan roots and heritage. We need a Book of Doctrines and Discipline that is simple and comprehensive at the same time. A Book that provides guidance and requires accountability. A Book that is understandable and firm.

Now that we have convened as a denomination and will have two-plus years of being a denomination, General Conference 2026 will be of utmost importance to move us into the future.

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

The most important things the General Conference needs to address is as follows:

1. An emphasis on the leadership role of laity as staff members of local churches and annual conferences.
2. Clarity of the ordination process around the globe. The term clergy is not the same around the denomination.
3. Strong emphasis on Wesleyan theology.
4. A global ministry and mission strategy without the creation of bureaucratic structures.
5. The role of youth and young people in the denomination.

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

With the Global Methodist Church, we have entered into a new way of Methodism. I am proud to be a member of the GMC and explain to others what that means. A member of the GMC begins with scriptural holiness. The bible is the truth. The bible has not and will not change for man.

I have shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the Trinity Conference, with the Tanzania Conference and with the Mega Manila Conference. I find myself to be a member of the community of believers. And as part of this community, we share our Christ journey with others so that they will either begin or continue their Christ journey.

I believe the local church is where sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ begins. Part of my Methodist journey is to learn more about John Wesley so that I can use that knowledge to help make disciples of Jesus Christ. To help others understand God's grace.



12

Filoteo Gomez Martinez

TX | Hemphill, First

School District Project Director for STOP-V

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

As a lay speaker in the Global Methodist Church, I count it a great joy and sacred privilege to be part of a movement rooted in the truth of God's Word and the mission of making disciples. The Global Methodist Church exists to glorify God by upholding the historic Christian faith, guided by Scripture, the early Church creeds, and the rich Wesleyan tradition.

At its heart, our purpose is doctrinal faithfulness. In a world often confused about truth, we boldly proclaim the authority of the Bible and the lordship of Jesus Christ. We believe in God's design for life, marriage, and holiness—not as burdens, but as gifts that lead to joy and freedom.

We are also called to evangelism and discipleship. This is where my heart comes alive. To witness lives transformed by the gospel, to help others grow in Christ, to speak words of life and grace—it fills my soul with purpose. We are not just sharing doctrine; we are offering the love and hope of Jesus.

Our church emphasizes connectionalism with accountability, meaning we walk together in unity, holding each other to the high calling of Christ. This gives me confidence that we're not alone in our journey—we're part of a Spirit-filled family committed to God's mission.

And we are truly global. The gospel is not bound by borders. I rejoice knowing that what we teach and live is touching hearts in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and beyond. We are part of something bigger than ourselves.

The role of the Global Methodist Church is to shine light in dark places, to stand firm in truth, and to joyfully share the good news of Jesus to a world in desperate need. I am humbled and honored to play a part in that mission.

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

As a General Conference delegate, I bring a variety of experiences that will contribute meaningfully to my work in representing our church. My role as a lay speaker has provided me with the opportunity to engage with diverse groups, which has sharpened my ability to communicate complex theological ideas with clarity and compassion. This skill will be essential in navigating the sensitive discussions at the General Conference, where thoughtful and effective communication is necessary to move the denomination forward.

Additionally, my active involvement in church leadership has given me practical experience in decision-making, collaboration, and problem-solving. Working closely with pastors, lay leaders, and congregational members has equipped me to understand the practical implications of policy decisions at the local level. This hands-on experience will enable me to advocate for policies that are not only theologically sound but also actionable and impactful for churches of all sizes.

Through my involvement in community outreach and mission work, I have gained a broader understanding of the church's global mission. While working in local and regional settings, I've developed a deep appreciation for how different cultural contexts shape ministry. This experience helps me recognize the importance of considering diverse perspectives when making decisions that impact the global church.

Finally, my commitment to prayer and discernment ensures I approach my role with humility and seek God's wisdom in every decision I make. My goal is to represent our church with integrity and a heart for unity, striving to contribute positively to the ongoing work of spreading the gospel.

While I am cognizant that I don't have much experience globally, I am eager to learn, grow, and contribute meaningfully to the global church's mission of sharing the word of the gospel.

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

I believe the Global Methodist Church should actively address past grievances, focusing on restorative justice and reconciliation. It is important that we acknowledge the hurts and divisions of the past in a spirit of humility and grace, seeking healing and restoration for all. As we do so, I also believe we must work toward a shared vision for the future—one that honors our commitment to Christ and each other, while fostering unity and a strong global brotherhood in the name of God Almighty. In these efforts, we are called to reflect God's love, mercy, and truth, embracing the opportunity to grow together in faith and mission.

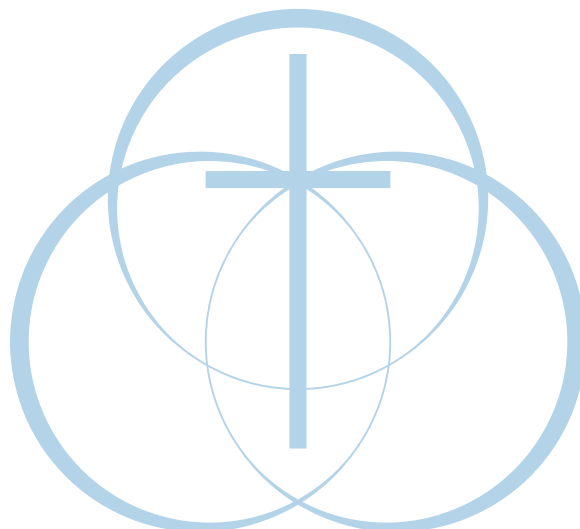
Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As a devoted member and lay speaker of our church in Hemphill, Texas, my passion for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ is central to my faith and service. I find immense joy in proclaiming the love, mercy, and truth of Christ, seeing each opportunity to serve as a chance to plant seeds of hope and transformation in the lives of others.

In Hemphill, I am blessed to be part of a church family that truly lives out Christ's calling. Whether it's through preaching, teaching, visiting the sick, or offering prayer, I view every act of service as a sacred privilege. We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community, and I am honored to serve alongside my brothers and sisters in Christ.

The fruit of this work is not through my own efforts but through the power of the Holy Spirit. I have witnessed lives changed, burdens lifted, and hearts softened through the Gospel, whether in worship services, small groups, or personal conversations. These moments remind me that it is Christ who changes hearts, not us.

My passion is simple: to know Jesus, to make Him known, and to serve Him faithfully in our church and community. In Hemphill, I see every day as a divine appointment, trusting that, though our town may be small, God's work here is mighty and His mission continues to grow through us.



**13****Melanie Goodwin**TX | Diboll, First
*Teacher***How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church and its role in the world?**

As a layperson, I understand the Global Methodist Church's purpose as primarily spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and helping people deepen their faith around the world.

For me, it's about helping individuals become strong followers of Jesus. This means encouraging them to genuinely love God and others, and empowering them to bravely share their faith. I believe we, as Global Methodists, are committed to upholding the traditional teachings of the Bible, and making those teachings central to our practices and way of life.

My understanding of our role in the world is to create a global community that supports one another in our mission. This includes planting new churches, helping existing ones thrive, and demonstrating God's love to everyone, particularly those who are hurting or vulnerable. Ultimately, I see us striving to be a clear and consistent voice for Christian beliefs and ethics in a world that can often feel confusing.

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

As a teacher, my daily experiences cultivate qualities invaluable to a Global Methodist General Conference delegate. I regularly navigate diverse perspectives within my classroom, fostering an environment where all voices are heard and respected, even amidst differing opinions. This translates directly to holy conferencing, where listening attentively and seeking common ground are paramount.

My role demands clear and concise communication, simplifying complex ideas for various learning styles. This skill will be vital in articulating theological concepts and legislative proposals effectively to delegates from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. As a teacher, I am a facilitator of learning and growth, consistently adapting strategies to meet evolving needs. This adaptability and focus on empowering others will be instrumental in contributing to a denomination committed to making disciples globally.

Finally, the patience and dedication required in teaching, coupled with a deep-seated belief in the transformative power of education and faith, align perfectly with the long-term vision and collaborative spirit necessary for shaping the future of the Global Methodist Church.

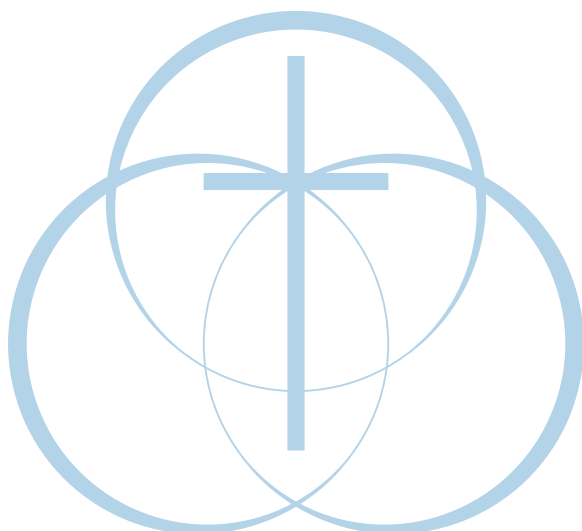
In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?

As a new denomination, we need to focus on solidifying our identity and setting a clear path forward. The most important things we need to address are defining our core beliefs and structure, establishing global unity and equity, and focusing on mission and disciple making.

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

My passion for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ stems from seeing lives transformed. It's incredibly fulfilling to witness children (and adults, but I work most often with children) grasp profound truths about God's love and grace, recognizing the hope and purpose found in Him. The "fruit" I see is multifaceted as kids start developing a deeper moral compass, showing greater compassion towards others, and experiencing inner peace that transcends their circumstances.

This isn't just about imparting information; it's about nurturing spiritual growth. I find immense joy in guiding people to understand God's Word, helping them apply its principles to their daily lives, and seeing them mature into individuals who reflect Christ's character. The ultimate reward is knowing I've played a part in helping them build a foundation of faith that will sustain them throughout their lives.



**14****Trevor Guidry**

TX | Orange, Faith

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

To make disciples of Christ in all corners of the world. As Global Methodist's it is our responsibility to make Christ known to everyone we come into contact with through our words, actions, and through sharing the love of God with others. We do this by worshipping passionately, loving extravagantly, and witnessing boldly!

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

I have had the privilege of serving as a lay delegate for the Trinity/Texas Annual Conference for 8 years which has given me great experience regarding conference level systems. Through this I have been able to see the prior misuse of positional power from the UMC. I feel called to prevent decisions that could lead to such temptations for our Conference (and Global) leadership. These experiences have also helped me to learn the importance of lay leadership in the church. Working to make sure that lay people have all the resources they need to do ministry effectively is extremely important to me.

I have also been privileged to serve on the Board of Higher Education in Ministry (BHECM) in the UMC and on the Board of Directors of the Lamar University Wesley Foundation. These experiences have shown me that many young adults are desperately searching for God's love and it is our duty to find and disciple them. I am privileged to have seen first-hand that even though many of these young adults may have no idea how to spread God's love at first, when we give them a little direction they are often more passionate about doing God's work than adults who have served in the church their whole lives.

I currently have the privilege of serving on a church staff as a NextGen Director, ministering to people from ages 0-30. This has allowed me to see the passionate love of Christ that young people of all ages bring to the table and to help them develop that love and use it to spread God's love in their mission fields.

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

The issue I want to see addressed the most is: What are the Global Methodist Church doing to seek out and empower young adults to be Christian leaders? In the past we had Wesley Foundations, who's sole purpose was to find college students and turn them into disciples of Christ who would in turn disciple others. Having largely been introduced to and raised up in faith by a Wesley Foundation I cannot understate the importance of institutions like these in our mission. After all, who is going to be leading the church 20, 30, 40 years from now? These young adults that are craving God's love so desperately. It is up to the current generation to find and equip these people for leadership roles.

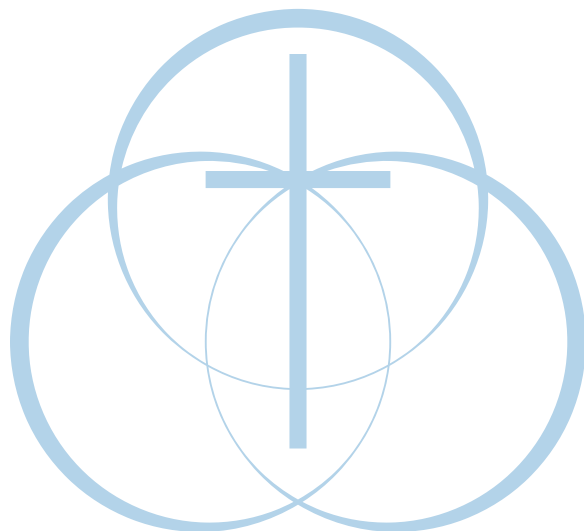
Having said this, I realize that creating dedicated ministry buildings on college campuses like the Wesley Foundation's may be unfeasible at this point in time. However, I would like to know that the Global Methodist Church is moving forward with young adult ministry in mind. What resources are we providing to churches to develop their own young adult ministries, if any? What kind of leadership training/spiritual growth opportunities are we providing for those young adults? How can young adults that are attending Global Methodist church but want to be more active in ministry help? What can our local churches do to equip young adults for ministry work? These are questions that are paramount in my mind as we continue to move forward as a Global Methodist Church... What are we doing to get young adults engaged and to then equip them for leadership in the church?

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

Having come from an unchurched background, I believe that it is our utmost duty to share the Gospel of Jesus with others. The Holy Spirit has particularly given me a calling to serving young people as these young people are the future (and present) of the church. Since stepping into my role as NextGen Director we have started programming for K-6th graders that was not previously there like weekly Wednesday night meetings to play games and have Bible lessons, weekly Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School. Our Children's Ministry went from being virtually nonexistent to having a still small, but growing weekly ministry for our children to attend and learn from. Our church has gone from not having VBS at all to hosting just over twenty children at VBS this year, plus several youth leaders to guide students from station to station. During our Pumpkin Patch season we invite schools in the area to come take a field trip and hang out at the Patch as volunteers lead them in games, storytime, and picture opportunities.

Our youth has gone from averaging just under 10 to averaging ~15 on Wednesday nights and growing. Our youth and kids had never experienced summer camp before, but have now been able to attend two years in a row, resulting in great spiritual growth for them.

I have been working to build a young adult ministry and have grown it from 0 members to 9 students in just the past 3 months through visiting our local college campus and building relationships with the students there. Discipling them has been a privilege and I am excited to see all of these ministries continue to grow.





15

Emily Hobson

LA | Shreveport, First
Pediatrician

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

The primary purpose of the Global Methodist Church (GMC) is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

As individuals, some of us are innately more comfortable with traditional evangelism than others, but as a global church, it is imperative that this be our primary goal as believers. It is why we are here! I think we have all been so blessed to experience spirit filled worship—both in person and virtually—over these past few years in the infancy of the GMC and it has been incredible! There are innumerable ways to share the love of Christ, but certainly with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, & witness. It is my prayer that this contagious joy will embolden each of us to share.

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

I am a wife, a mother, a pediatrician, and a child of God!

In 2001, I had been married to my husband for less than a year when he began his studies at Candler School of Theology. In 2022, I lived and breathed the inner workings of both the UMC and the GMC as he served as a critical member of our church's discernment task force. Louisiana had unique challenges as it related to disaffiliation. Now with 25 years of marriage behind us, I have been privileged to serve alongside my husband as he completed the requisite classes (this time at Asbury Theological Seminary) to be ordained as a deacon. I know that as a lay member there is still so much for me to learn, but I am dedicated to the task. As a mother, I have developed a fierce protectiveness for those I love. I would be working not only for my children, but for all of God's children.

As a physician, I am a lifelong learner and understand the value of hard work. I am analytical and logical, and value order and detail. I have served in medical missions as far away as Ecuador, and as close as Baton Rouge during the time of hurricane Katrina. I also helped my medical practice navigate the daily changes during the early days of the uncertainties of the Covid-19 pandemic. I believe these traits and experiences would serve me as a member of the delegation.

I have traveled extensively and sincerely love all cultures and people.

(I also sing and would love to volunteer to be a part of the worship choir as time allows).

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

As we prayerfully seek the will of God for the denomination, we must use our God-given gift of reason to continue to critically examine our doctrines and discipline. All decisions should be rooted in the inerrancy of scripture, while also holding true to our Wesleyan heritage.

Although we do not need to dwell in the past, there are valuable lessons to be learned from our experiences with our former denomination—specifically as it relates to the structure of our leadership and accountability of those leaders. It is vital that we maintain a budget that is fiscally responsible and sustainable.

We should continue to define our stance on social issues as they evolve, while leaning into grace! We need to foster a spirit of healing and connection as we reach out to churches & individuals who have disaffiliated (or would like to). We need to nurture the next generation of believers and boldly stand behind what we believe as we spread scriptural holiness throughout the land!

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

I have a deeply rooted passion for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is intentional, but at times more timid than I would like. I am at my best in the exam room or at the bedside of my patients. Some of my most precious memories as a physician have been when I have had the courage to ask a patient, “Can I pray with you?”

The older I get, the bolder I become. Disaffiliation was a visible sign to the world where each of us stood. We are so divided as a people, but we ALL need Jesus!

**16**

Bridget Ingram

TX | Caldwell

Retired R.N.

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

I understand the Global Methodist Church to be a group of people with a common calling to seek and follow Jesus Christ, to be the hands and feet of Jesus in all we do which provides evidence of a life transformed by the power of God's grace, to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world around us both locally and abroad, and to be a people that firmly believes the Holy Scriptures, being the Word of God, contain all we need for salvation and living a life of holiness.

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

I was heavily involved in the 2022 disaffiliation process for Caldwell church preparing numerous documents and communications while serving as Secretary on the Board of Stewards (BoS). Following disaffiliation, I took the lead in reviewing all of the church governing documents and made any necessary changes to comply with the Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline, consulting as needed with the legal counsel provided by GMC. During my 3-year term on the BoS, I moved to the Staff Parish Relations Committee and subsequently agreed to a consecutive 3-year term to maintain continuity during all the changes as a result of the disaffiliation and having a new pastor. I assisted the Senior Pastor in reviewing all of the current job descriptions and developed additional church policies. I recently led the BoS in the new GMC process of appointing pastors in consultation with the conference Cabinet, Presiding Elder and church congregation.

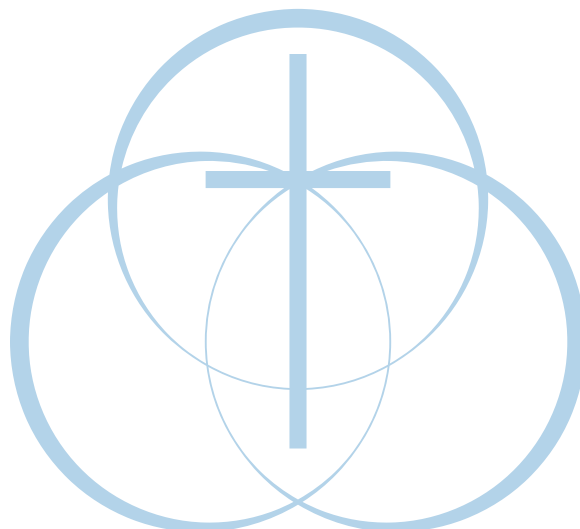
In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?

Communication is always an issue. I recently spent a great deal of time explaining the pastoral search process and thought many times a short video from the conference level covering this topic that could be shown to the congregation might have been beneficial. This is only one topic, I'm sure there are many others that we could benefit from having a library of short video resources.

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

My first passion would be singing about my Lord. I currently serve as part of the church praise team where we lead others in worship on Sunday mornings. I have also served on the music team for several Emmaus Walks for over 15 years helping to lead others in praise and worship witnessing first-hand how God inhabits our praises.

I am also passionate about protecting our unborn children supporting ultrasound programs provided by crises pregnancy centers for over 2 decades. In the fall of 2024, our church began a partnership with a local crisis pregnancy center to launch an Embrace Grace program that brings the gospel of Jesus Christ to pregnant women during a 12-week study program of which I co-led. One of the participants from this first class accepted Jesus as her Savior.



**17**

Sarah Kreutziger

LA | Metairie, Munholland

Tulane University Associate Professor Emeritus

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

To reach the world in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, by heeding His call in Matthew 28, and for the purpose of “reforming the nation[s]...to spread Scriptural holiness across the [globe].” (John Wesley 1744)

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

My work as a delegate to the Convening General Conference in 2024 offers valuable insight into how a Wesleyan-focused, international gathering should work in contrast to the six General Conferences I attended as a delegate in a previous denomination. Having served in many church positions in my local congregation; on International agencies; as a trustee on the Foundation for Evangelism; on the Board of Visitors of Duke Seminary; and in various academic, community, and medical settings; I have broad experience in discerning what is useful and what is not in successful organizations. Additionally, being Trinity’s Co-Conference Lay Leader, along with Carl Brothers and Oscar Garza, has given me an inside look at the manifold opportunities we have to make significant progress in spreading Scriptural holiness across the globe in mission and discipleship. We have incredible leadership in our Conference and I am eager to be part of the team that is committed to evangelistic boldness and witness in this unique gift God has given us for “such a time as this.”

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

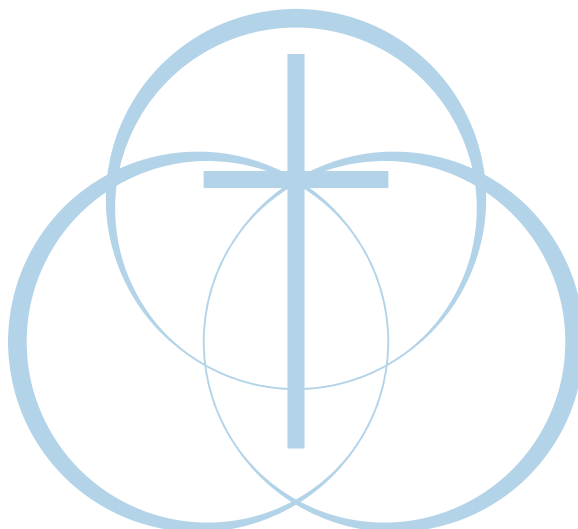
We made a great start in the Convening General Conference knowing that much more work is needed in the herculean task of riding the whirlwind of a new iteration of Wesleyan evangelism. Besides numerous administrative duties that are necessary to continue our progress, the primary goal of the next General Conference is to continue to build a foundational structure through the Book of Doctrines and Discipline that holds fundamental elements of Biblical bonds and regulations without quenching the spirit of Wesleyan revival.

The fruit of successful labor as we reach our goal will be:

1. Greater cohesion and unity as a community
2. An enhanced call to Christ-inspired mission and service
3. Visionary global partnerships
4. Spirit-filled leadership
5. Long-term financial stability
6. Flexibility in future planning and decision-making
7. Equality and opportunity for everyone: laity and clergy, young and old, new and experienced, eager and worn-out, women and men,—all called to work in joyful and collaborative partnership to make disciples of Christ.

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

God has had a strong hold on my life since I was old enough to understand that Jesus loved me unconditionally and gave His life for my salvation. I surrendered a valued, tenured university position because I felt that God was calling me to something more. That passion to share what was so freely given to me by our Savior is a vital part of my identity and mission. Over and over I have been blessed by amazing opportunities laid before me to reach out to others that I could never have imagined on my own. Some of the opening doors were in Cursillo where my husband Keith and I served repeatedly on staff and sponsored over 200 pilgrims, travel in mission to other countries to share the Gospel, published works on spirituality in academic journals, leading workshops on Christian discipleship, teaching in Sunday school, lay preaching in several venues, and now, the gift of being part of forming a new Wesleyan denomination. I am overwhelmed by His goodness and glory and covered in His grace.





18

Joe McReynolds

TX | Bellville

Cutler and Geoscientist

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

Jumping into the Global Methodist movement has been a breath of fresh air in our church in Bellville, and we have seen the spirit of God moving in our congregations across the world. I believe it is part of a spiritual awakening. The purpose of the Global Methodist Church is to continue planting seeds for this awakening centered on true seeking of Jesus. Additionally, our Wesleyan tradition informs us that remaining anchored in word of God and drawing near to God as individuals will we lead us to reach out to others as the Holy spirit leads us.

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

I do not have much experience above local church participation in the business of the conference. I can bring perspective as an active participant in my church, Choir member, Sunday school teacher, church council chairman, and lay minister to staying true to the Christ centered, Wesleyan tradition that started the Methodist church.

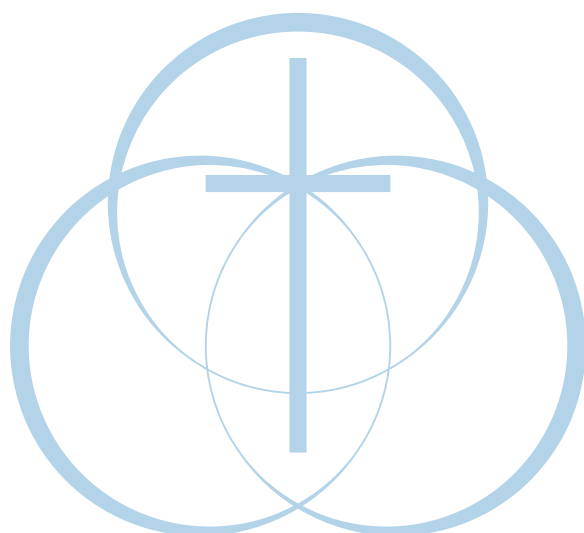
In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?

Making sure Scriptural and Wesleyan traditions remain core beliefs, and creating appropriate accountability structure for church leaders to our congregations were important reasons our church joined the Global Methodist Movement. It remains a key element to be preserved as the next General conference moves forward.

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

Many years ago, I sat in the hallway of my house waiting and watching for little kids to go to sleep and deciding if we were going to church and teach those kids about Jesus. The question was did I believe in Jesus enough to share my faith with them. My realization was if someone asked me what I believed in I could not tell them. That started a journey of getting to know God. I decided to take those

kids to school and my faith has become center to my life. God has changed and blessed my life in amazing ways. I can now tell you what I believe in, but I would rather share the good news to others in a way that God can change they're life too. Now, I trying to be in Gods plan and learn how share it as He desires. Too many people get saved and just stall, my passion is to help believers strive to grow to be complete in Christ.





19

Jann Peck

LA | St Francisville, Feliciana

Retired

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

To make Christian disciples across the globe by prayerfully sharing His Holy Word.

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

Educator, Administrator, Organizer, Leader, Christian values

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

Completing revision of the Book of Doctrine and Discipline and examining its correctness and application to real circumstances.

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

- Worship Leader
- Care and Nurture Committee
- Healing Ministry
- Prayer Warriors
- Women of JOY
- Women's Bible Study
- Choir
- FMC Interior Design Committee
- Community Faith and Fitness Class

**20****Linda Snow****TX | The Woodlands**
*Certified Lay Minister***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 to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. We believe in the Holy Scriptures which are the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be our primary rule and authority for faith, morals and service; the Nicene Creed along with the Apostles Creed; the Articles of Religion and the Confession of Faith; and the Wesleyan Way of Salvation . Our role in the world is to protect and promote the Wesleyan Way of Theology to preach the good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

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

I have never been to a General Conference and therefore my work would include praying for the Spirit to cover the conference and all those in attendance, to listen closely to discern what God has for us in that place in that time and to be completely open to the new experience.

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

The most important needs to address first are to see each country, state and district delegate as uniquely created in the image of God who no matter how different we all are, are there at the calling of our Triune God. We must look at the hearts of those assembled and pray for perfect harmony and union understanding that it is not our plans but God's plans that must be achieved.

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

My passion as a child and disciple of God is to completely surrender to His guidance and power that His will may be done through me in whatever way He chooses. The fruit of His kingdom through my service has been to free people from the prisons of their own mind that they might be loosed to enjoy the kingdom and bring it to others who seek freedom in Christ.



21

Catherine Sue Sullivan

TX | Jefferson, First
Retired Social Worker

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

I believe the Global Methodist Church is a denomination based on the Word of God contained in the Bible. We seek to live a life of “Spiritual Holiness” striving to become more Christ like in our thoughts, words and actions. We are “global” and seek to spread God’s Word to all corners of the earth. Our Book of Discipline provides a sound structure for both unity and independence, with accountability to both clergy and laity.

Our worship is spirit filled. Our convening conference was one of dignity and respect. This sets the tone of leadership in our local churches and congregations.

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

I was a delegate to our Convening Conference in Costa Rico in 2024, and served on the Episcopacy and Superintendency Committee, refining and submitting guidelines for duties, accountability, tenure and plan for area appointments.

In our previous denomination, I was delegate to 2012, 2016 and 2019 General/Jurisdictional Conferences.

I served as secretary for the Local Church Legislative Committee in 2012 and as chair of the Greetings and Courtesies Committee in 2016 and 2019.

In the South West Jurisdictional Conference, I served on the Financial Committee of the SCJ Board of Missions.

Also I have served on the General Commission on Religion and Race.

Currently in the Trinity Conference I am a member of the Connectional Council which oversees the budget/financial reports, new church starts, international ministries and lay leadership.

On the Board of Ordained Ministry, I have participated in interviewing candidates for ordained ministry and certified lay ministry.

Education:

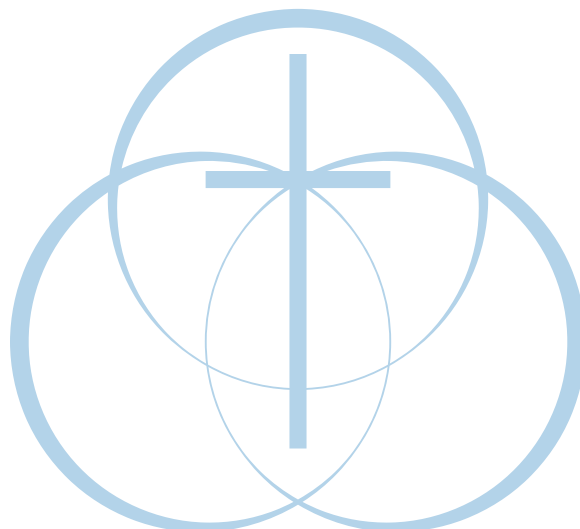
- Master of Science in Social Work from University of Texas at Arlington
- Master of Business Administration from Texas A & M at Texarkana, formerly East Texas State University

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

- Worship of our Lord and Savior
- Update and review of petitions to our Book of Discipline
- Clergy and Laity Leadership
- Election of Bishops for the next six years

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

I am a member of First Methodist Church, Jefferson and serve as leader for the Kings Kids program. I serve part time as a Certified Lay Minister at Shiloh Methodist Church leading worship twice monthly. I have served as a children's leader for Bible Study Fellowship for the past ten years. My passion is studying and teaching God's Word to young and old. I feel the presence of the Holy Spirit which enables me to do much more than I have imagined. I am passionate about serving on conference committees and learning about the formation of the Global Methodist Church



**22**

Norma Sutton

TX | Humble, First

Retired, Commercial Real Estate Management

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

The purpose and calling of the GMC is simply to bring the Gospel and the Light of Christ and Salvation to all people throughout the World, thereby making disciples. For some, that means global interactions and for most of us that means making a difference wherever we are in our everyday lives.

Concurrently, it is our purpose, both clergy and laity, to hold scripture in its rightful place as the true Word of God, to uphold the tenets of our Christian faith and Wesleyan doctrine and, above all, to proclaim the Supremacy of Almighty God. Essentially, we must stay true to the faith, to our foundations, and not allow them to be watered down.

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

While having lots of experience with other denominations, I am truly a cradle Methodist. The more I know about other worship traditions and beliefs, the stronger my love for the Wesleyan focus on grace has become.

I have served in many lay capacities within the UMC and GMC. Most recently, I have served several years as Annual Conference Delegate and as Lay Leader. At the time of disaffiliation from the UMC, I was serving as the Council Chair for our local church. Our Council accepted the challenge of a lay-lead discernment process, with huge support and time commitment from our clergy, of course. Our approach was that of educating the congregation in the true issues before us and making sure that everyone had an opportunity to vote on those issues, rather than on hearsay. We presented both sides of the issues. While we lost a few members, we were successful in maintaining loving civility throughout the process and continue relationships with those members who chose to leave.

In serving as an interviewer in the psych eval process for ordination candidates for 3 conferences, I have taken the opportunity to learn even more about Wesleyan theology and GMC doctrine. My teammate and I work in this capacity for 2 primary reasons:

1. We want to ensure that everything possible is done to protect the GMC from unnecessary unrest due to ordination of candidates who may not be ready at this time for service, and
2. We want to be sure that the GMC values the needs of its clergy, as candidates and once ordained, to uphold and support them in ways that maintain their physical and psychological health. Through this process, my excitement for the future of the GMC has grown exponentially. I am excited about the number of spirit-filled candidates we meet.

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

- Focus on international partnerships, including consistency in doctrine and discipline to ensure adherence to Wesleyan and GMC theology.
- Development of consistent standards for both clergy and lay leadership.
- Development of consistent standards of education and other requirements for potential ordinands.
- Determine means for ensuring adherence to the GMC doctrine.

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

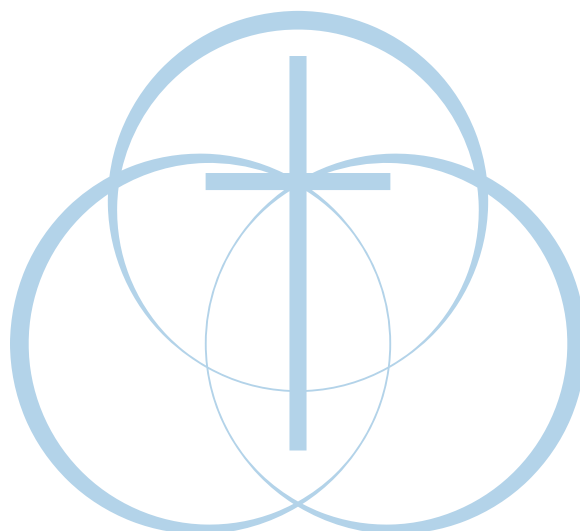
I have long found my passion in serving with children and youth, both in the local church and community. Upon “retiring” from the business world, I chose to become involved with Child Advocates, serving as a Court Appointed Guardian ad litem for children in the “system”. The needs of abused and hurting children are so vast and overwhelming, but I know that we make a difference one child at a time. Only through the grace of God am I able to continue dealing with the often horrendous circumstances involved.

My worship passion is through music and I served as lead musician in our church for many years. Moving on to allow for the talents of others, I continue to serve as support for all music ministries.

I am an agent for change in our local church. Not change for the sake of change, but change for the sake of meeting people where they are. I served as Project Manager for two major construction projects in recent years. One project involved complete renovation of our Worship Center. We elected to continue worshiping in the midst of the chaos every week. We certainly moved people out of their comfort zones and soon the complaints turned into wondering “what will

we find we get to church this week?”. It was a great experience and proved to all that change is possible and necessary for serving our community.

My newest passion is serving on the psych evaluation team, a job that I was uncertain about. I quickly realized my business leadership and supervisory experience provided the necessary interview skills, enhanced by my God-given insight into people. I cannot say enough about the excitement I feel about the variety of ordinands we interview. Their faith stories and testimonies give me great hope for the future of the GMC.



**23**

Buck Thornton

TX | Winnie, Grace

Financial Planner and Business Owner

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

The purpose of the Global Methodist Church first and foremost is to spread scriptural holiness. We will do this by continuing the legacy of John Wesley through discipleship and continuing a spirit filled revival that the Methodist World had become numb to for many years.

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

- I was a delegate at the First General Conference.
- At the UMC I was the Investment Committee Chairman for the Texas Annual Conference until I left the church.
- As a business owner, a Financial Planner, and a Lay Member that started a church plant I bring a lot of leadership expertise to the delegation.

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

We really need to consider how we can support churches and ministries globally while continuing to keep the local churches connectional funding low. The GMC and General Conference needs to continue to empower and encourage the local churches to support ministries abroad. I think the larger churches are doing this but I believe there are many ministries that need help and the GMC needs to continue to find ways to bridge that gap and give the local church the support it needs to take on these responsibilities.

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

Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ comes easy to me. I have lived the life of a man that is Blessed way beyond what I deserve, so I feel the need to share these Blessings with others and disciple. I think one of the areas I have seen the most change is in the men's ministry that I help to lead in our local church. I see men in our group that have changed their life and have become disciples similar to me. I know the results and credit belong to God, but I can't help but get excited that I had something to do with it.



24

Anna Vargas

TX | The Woodlands

Program Director, ConNext Steps Inc.

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

The purpose of the Global Methodist Church in the world is to make disciples of Jesus Christ that make disciples of Jesus Christ that make disciples of Jesus Christ and so on. Consequently, its role must not only be to equip clergy but also laity, so that they can carry the gospel to their families, communities, places of work, and, with the power of the Holy Spirit, bring revival within the church and in the world. The Global Methodist Church has a vital role in directing, guiding, and equipping the church through prayer and teaching, so that Christ can reach places where He has not been presented yet, as well as in areas where He has been forgotten.

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

Last year, I was honored to serve as a delegate at the Convening General Conference in Costa Rica. I have also supported pastors from Panama by providing translation assistance to help them both understand and be understood throughout the conference process. These experiences have deepened my understanding of cross-cultural ministry and the global nature of the church.

At Covenant, now a campus of The Woodlands Methodist Church, I helped plant the Spanish Ministry alongside my husband. I lead Bible studies and discipleship classes for women and currently serve as the Program Director for ConNEXT Steps, a nonprofit that provides holistic support to immigrants in Creekside. This nonprofit serves as the front porch of the church, connecting it to the needs and hopes of the surrounding Hispanic community.

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

In my opinion, for the General Conference to be considered a success, it must complete the work that was initiated in Costa Rica. While the Book of Doctrines and Discipline was approved at the Convening General Conference,

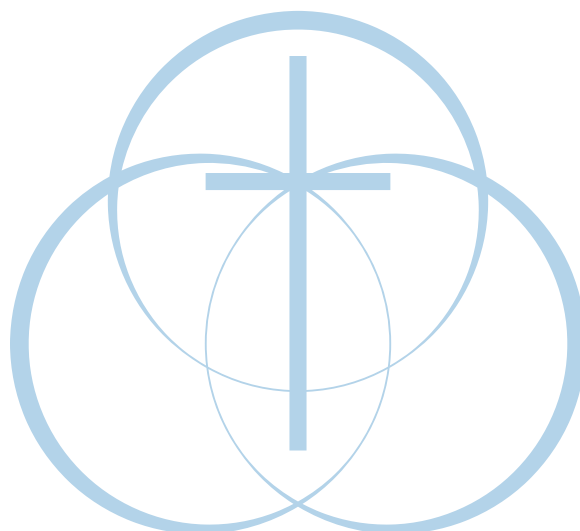
several important tasks were assigned to different committees for further development and refinement. Now, the priority should be to review and approve the work submitted by each commission, and to do the election of the full time Bishops.

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

I am passionate about making disciples of Jesus Christ. There is immense joy in presenting the gospel to people who don't know Jesus or who are familiar with Him but lack a personal relationship with Him. I facilitate Bible studies and discipleship classes among Latino women in my church and community.

In 2020, I began leading a discipleship class by Zoom for women in my church. It started with just three women, and from those three, the group grew to include women in Venezuela, Mexico, and Colombia, as they invited friends and family to hear the good news of the gospel. These gatherings eventually became in-person Bible studies, which have continued consistently ever since. Many women have given their lives to Jesus or recommitted their faith, and they continue to bring others along.

Through my role as Program Director and community connector at ConNEXT Steps, I've had the opportunity to reach many immigrants in our area who often feel alone and far from God. Our programs provide not only education and support, but also an invitation to experience the love and transformation of Christ. Little by little, participants from these programs are attending Bible studies and joining our Sunday worship services at the church. I have witnessed women and families transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit and the gospel of Jesus Christ.



**25**

Frankie Watson

TX | Houston, Jones Memorial

Retired Public Servant

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

I understand the Global Methodist Church to be a Holy Spirit-inspired movement. I understand and know the Global Methodist Church to be committed to teaching, preaching, and demonstrating the Lordship of Jesus Christ. I understand it to be a vehicle and an example of inspiration and authority led by the Scriptures for the whole world. I understand the Global Methodist Church will emphasize the work of the Holy Spirit in conveying God's truth and grace to all people around the world.

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

As a lifelong Methodist and while in the Texas Annual Conference, I served as the Southwest District Lay Leader, on the TAC Leadership Team, and as a representative of laity, was on the TAC Clergy Excellence Committee. I serve in the African American Ministry Initiative of the Global Methodist Church because I am a lifelong member of BMCR. I served four years as the President of the Black Methodist Church Renewal Chapter and two years as the Southwest District Secretary. I currently serve as the Trinity Conference Women's Ministry Chairperson. Still, I've served as the original local, Southwest District Chair and a COSROW Council on Status and Role of Women organization member. I founded the Celebration Women's Ministry in my local church. In the GMC, I have served two terms as the local church delegate from Jones Memorial The Higher Way Church and once as the Convening Conference Delegate for the GMC. I have served three years on the Board of Ordained Ministry in the TAC and now two years on the GMC Board of Ordained Ministry.

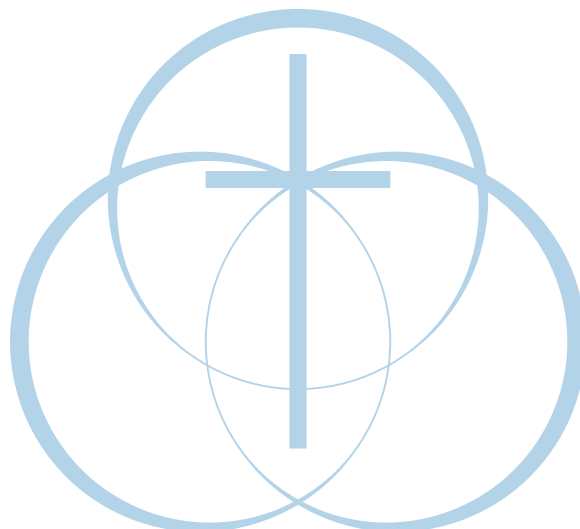
In your opinion, what are the most important things the General Conference needs to address?

The most important thing the General Conference needs to address is to intentionally multiply disciples of all ethnicities of Jesus Christ who want

to become oriented to scriptural holiness as they worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. I see the effort in reaching out to all ethnicities, which is admirable. If the church is to grow exponentially and meet the needs of all peoples, there should be an intentionality in reaching more African Americans, who are visible and want to serve our God from the USA. I believe GMC should share the whole counsel of God with all peoples and advance the presence and fulfillment of the Kingdom of God in every part of the world and at all levels of societies and cultures.

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

My whole life has been to serve our Lord and Saviour, I have received certifications in ministries such as the Benedictine Oblate-Sisters and Oblates of St Scholastica Monastery-Boerne, Texas; Spiritual Director, CHARIS (2) year Methodist Program; Lay Speaker, graduate of the Upper Room Spiritual Formation Academy #27-San Antonio, and served two years at the Texas Medical Center-Methodist Hospital Chaplain. My career as a Public Service Administrator for the State of Texas fulfilled my desire to serve the Lord as well as be employed. My career began as a teacher and then on as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, a Supervisor, a Manager, an Administrative Director, and a Regional Director serving thirteen counties in the Gulf Coast for providing and managing employment needs for persons with disabilities. I love the Lord and have lived my life to show him every day.





26

Schieketha Williams

TX | Houston, Jones Memorial
Pharmacist Director

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

Our mission in life, and in short, the mission of GMC, is to glorify God. The Great Commission, codified in Matthew 28, tells us what we must do, not what we should do. The Great Commission tells us that it is our mission to make disciples of all men by baptizing and teaching in the name of Jesus Christ. When you understand your mission/purpose in life, the mission on the GMC easily aligns.

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

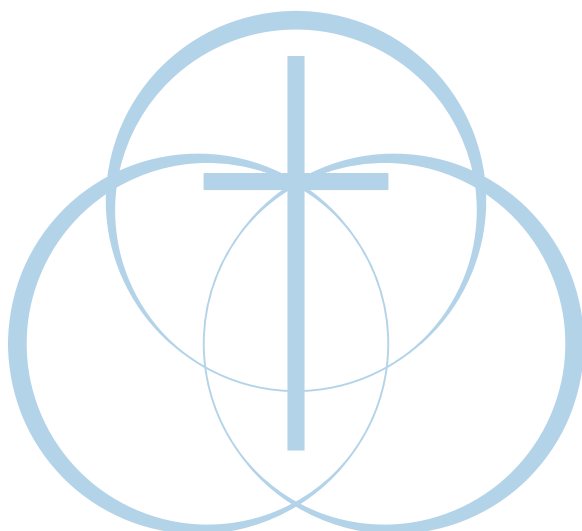
To me, God's word is like Jeremiah 20:9, a fire shut up in my bones, that I have to spread. For me, it does not matter whether I am at work, in an elevator, or at the grocery store. Whenever I think about the goodness of God, I want to shout it out and tell others. Wherever, I'm needed, I want to go. Throughout my Christian journey, I have been active in several ministries. I was the president of the Singles' Ministry. I have served on the Usher Board. I presently host a small group Womens' Bible Study, and I volunteer to help teach the Bible study at the Womens' shelter every month. I have participated in the Emmaus Wall, which is three day spiritual retreat. I'm also the facilitator of the Adult Sunday School at Jones Memorial Methodist Church. All of these experiences have brought tremendous value to my life.

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

The General Conference must preach and teach God's word, without deviation, from Genesis to Revelations. The General Conference must stay truthful to the word of God, regardless of pressures of the world. We live in this world, but are not of this world. We should set an example as Children of the Lord.

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

I want the world to know that eternal salvation is offered to everyone. It does not matter what you have gone through, as nothing is too hard for God. I want people to know that God creates happy ending; if it's not happy, it's not yet the end. Jesus Christ has given us a perfect example of how we should live: live one another, help one another, and show compassion and kindness. This is what governs my life. When you live by the word of God, God will take care of you. That was my mother's favor saying.





27

Kristie Wright

TX | Texarkana, Hardy Memorial

Retired from non-profit leadership and practicing law

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

The Global Methodist Church exists to live out the Great Commission. As a community of individuals committed to the truth of scripture who believe in the value of John Wesley's approach to theology, Global Methodists are passionate about sharing the love of Christ with everyone, trusting that the Holy Spirit will bless our efforts to win souls for the Kingdom.

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

My past and current church involvement as well as my previous work history combine to equip me to bring unique skills as a General Conference Delegate.

Church involvement: For as long as I can remember, I have served in various leadership roles at my home church, serving on nearly every major committee over the years, teaching Sunday School, and generally working where I'm needed. At the Conference level, I have served as the Lay Delegate to Annual Conference for my church since 2019 (both in the GMC and previous denomination). I also currently serve on the Nominations Committee for the Trinity Conference and am the Area Prayer Representative for the Red River Area.

Work history: Prior to retirement, I practiced law for 18 years. My legal training and experience has equipped me with an analytical mind and the ability to process information both at high levels and with a significant degree of detail. In 2012, I felt God calling me out of law into something that produced more eternal fruit. For the next 12 years, I was blessed to lead our local Christian pro-life non-profit. The skills I developed in my second career include administration and financial oversight; and, most importantly, the ability to approach situations with a ministry mindset--remaining mindful that at the heart of any work we do are people who are fighting battles they cannot win without Christ.

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

The 2024 General Conference accomplished the monumental task of creating a new denomination. The 2026 Conference will celebrate the growth of the GMC and address issues that have resulted from this growth. We need to establish strong guidelines and policies that will allow the church to continue to expand and strengthen, without compromising the values and concerns that birthed the GMC.

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

As I have matured in my faith, I have become more and more aware of and committed to our call to make disciples. To me, this means equipping current believers to grow deeper in our faith, empowering us to make sharing the love of Christ with others a natural part of our Christian walk. In the past, feeding ourselves seemed to be the focus of the church. While this is important, the directive that Christ gave us was to bring others to Him. This is what I want to live into. For me, this begins with investing in hurting people, building relationship and trust. The most precious personal fruit I can claim are the children who now share my pew as a result of the relationship I developed over time with their mom, and the continued growth I see in all of them.

