

SNYDER'S CHURCH

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A Wesleyan Covenant Association Church

It's All About Jesus! - Mark 1:17 - Matthew 28:19

The Bible: IS The Word Of God – Jesus: IS The Only Way To Salvation

Prayer: IS Essential – Evangelism: IS Our Mission



A Global
Methodist Church

December 2023

THE SEASON OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2023

Advent is the season of preparation for the birth of Christ. We begin on Sunday December 3rd and for each of the Sunday mornings we will light the Advent Wreath. Advent candles are a part of Christian traditions that serve as a reminder to us that Jesus came into our dark world as the Light of the World. Each candle will represent something different. Hope, Faith, Joy, Peace and then Love on Christmas Eve. Sharon Graham has secured the services of several to help with this annual tradition. Special Scriptures and Sermons will be part of the Advent journey. You are encouraged to be part of the journey with us.

There are other events/happenings in this Advent journey you will want to be part of as well.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SENIORS – Instead of exchanging Christmas cards with the church family this year, we will be collecting cards for the 3 Perry County Nursing Homes between November 26th and December 10th. The cards will be delivered the week after Sunday the 10th. The residents love to get mail and many of them do not have any family members, so our cards are a special treat. There will be 3 bins set up in the Narthex, one for each location. Please address the cards to “Resident” and make sure you sign your name from you and Snyder’s Church Family. Approximate numbers are: Kinkora, 82; Stonebridge 60, Perry Village 83. These numbers may vary and will be posted in the church bulletin.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – Sunday December 17th we will celebrate the birth of Jesus with our annual Children’s Christmas program, this year called “The Manger.” Some practices are held in Sunday School hour, plus extra practices may be added. Looking forward to us getting together to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Following the program we will enjoy a completely covered dish luncheon. Ham, drink and place settings will be provided plus a visit from Santa. Just bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share. Also this is a really great time to invite someone to join us on this great day of celebration.

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL AND CANDLELIGHT SERVICE at 6:30 PM on Sunday evening December 24th. A special service is planned. Pastor Bill will lead the service this year. Special music will feature our choir. The service concludes with the candle-lighting and singing Silent Night. This special service is a great opportunity to invite family and others to share with us.

Bill Pipp, Pastor
142 Emerson Drive, Carlisle, PA 17015-9185
Phone: 717-579-5306 717-350-2287

Jeff Brewster, Assistant Pastor
647 Newport Road, Duncannon, PA 17020
Phone: 717-834-9712

PASTOR JEFF will preach at our Worship Service on Sunday December 31st as part of our on-going and regular having him share in the Worship experiences with us. We are indeed blessed and honored to have Jeff share with us.

2024 TITHE/OFFERING ENVELOPES

Sandy Graeff, our Financial Secretary, has prepared the packets of Tithe and Offering envelopes for 2024 and is distributing them in Worship Services. Several of our church family use the envelopes that are provided in the monthly newsletter also. If you need envelopes and/or have questions, please feel free to contact Sandy.

A SPECIAL NEED REQUEST AND YOU CAN HELP!

Bev Zeigler has made us aware of a special need. Mary Smoker has not been supported by the Amish community because of her decision to help a stranger in need of a liver donation. She is, as Bev says a hero and we don't want her to feel abandoned. Her information is:

Mary Smoker
69 Covered Bridge Road
Newbury, PA 17240

JoAnn McMillen needed a liver and Mary came forward for JoAnn. Many people know JoAnn. She has been to our church several times and shared her ministry and singing, a very talented woman. Many other churches have also benefited from her ministry. Her mother and Cliff Zeigler's mother were sisters. She is in recovery in Pittsburgh for several more weeks. She had a successful liver transplant. Please send her a card also:

JoAnn McMillen
5308 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Please pray for both Mary and JoAnn and please send them special cards this week for sure! Wouldn't it be truly nice that after JoAnn's healing that we ask her and Mary to come and share their story and faith with us at Snyder's Church!

SPECIAL THANK-YOU

As of November 14th the word from the Ladies Aide Society is that the Bazaar that was held by the ladies has made \$3,200....so far so good! God truly is good and we so much appreciate everything that was done to make this Annual event the wonderful experience that it was.

Have you also noticed that the "big tree" near the sheds has been taken down and the wood has been made available to help those who need it. Also have you noticed the wonderful ramp of concrete in front of the front door that makes access to our facilities so much easier and safer! We thank all of the Trustees and others who helped with these projects.....we are truly blessed and appreciate all of these efforts. The sheds are/will be removed and a new bigger one will be added sometime in the spring.

The Journey to the GM Church's Convening General Conference

By Walter B. Fenton

October 18, 2023



Global Methodists in the Allegheny West Provisional Annual Conference gather for their convening conference, and with GM Members all around the world, they look forward to the GM Church's convening General Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica, September 20-26, 2024.

“Honestly, planning the Church’s first General Conference is like being the first people to ride a very long rollercoaster with huge highs, big drops, and lots of twists and turns. It’s very exciting and a joy to ride it sometimes, but then there are other

moments when you wonder why you volunteered to be the first to climb aboard,” said the Rev. Beth Ann Cook, the Chairwoman of the Global Methodist Church’s Transitional Commission on the Convening General Conference and Lead Pastor at St. Paul’s Methodist Church in Poseyville, Indiana.

Cook leads the 21-member Commission with a tall task: plan the GM Church’s first General Conference while the denomination is growing rapidly, still organizing in places all around the world, and do it on a short time schedule.

English

Formed earlier this year by the GM Church's Transitional Leadership Council, the Commission includes members from Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Slovakia, the United States, and Zimbabwe. Bishop Mark Webb serves on the Commission as the episcopal representative.

Recently, the Commission's work allowed the TLC, the body governing the GM Church while it is in transition, to [announce that San Jose, Costa Rica, will serve as the host city for the denomination's convening General Conference](#) that will run from September 20 – 26, 2024.

A specially designated sub-committee of the Commission has selected a number of hotels near the convention center in San Jose to house Conference delegates and a host of others who will serve in various ways at the gathering. The TLC has entered into contracts with the hotels and will provide information about booking the blocks of rooms it has secured as the Conference grows closer. The TLC will also share with all Global Methodist members ways they can attend the Conference in person or watch it online.

“Most of us don't plan multi-day events for hundreds of people from all over the world,” said Ms. Cara Nicklas, the TLC's Chairwoman and an attorney based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. “It's a testament to the Commission members' diligence and hard work that in a matter of months they secured a location in a wonderful city with a national government willing to help us expeditiously secure travel visas for all the Conference's delegates.”

But securing a location and dates are just two of the many steps the Commission must take as it leads the Church to Costa Rica. Cook shared a long list of details still ahead. Among other things, the Commission must recommend to the TLC an agenda, a budget, a legislative process, a means of allocating delegates, and provision for all Conference materials to be available in several different languages. Professional translators will be onsite so all delegates can fully participate in the proceedings.

“We have eight committees assigned to specific tasks, and they're all making good progress,” said Cook. “But of course everything has to come together when we get to Costa Rica, so we convene a meeting of all the Commission members every other week. Given that we're all volunteers and live in at least a dozen different time zones, it's amazing what has been accomplished so far.

Members are honored to serve, but we all know we have much more to do.”

English

We Have....

Pastor Joe Wright of Kansas was asked to lead the Kansas State Senate in prayer. They were expecting the usual formal prayer to open the session but that is not what happened. The pastor used the moment a confessional and prophetic opportunity. As he prayed there were some senators who got up and walked out but Paul Harvey got a hold of the prayer and read it on his program he got more requests for copies of it than any other thing he had ever done.

Here's what he prayed:

"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask Your forgiveness and to seek Your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good," but that's exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values. We confess that:

We have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it pluralism.

We have worshipped other gods and called it multi-culturalism.

We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have neglected the needy and called it self-preservation.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and called it a choice.

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem.

We have abused power and called it political savvy.

We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the airwaves with profanity and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts today; try us and see if there be some wicked way in us; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent here by the people of Kansas, and who have been ordained by You, to govern this great state. Grant them Your wisdom to rule and may their decisions direct us to the center of Your will....Amen."

For more than two centuries Methodist denominations of various stripes (and there are [many](#)) have held general conferences. For Methodists, a general conference is not just a gathering, it is a critical time of Christian discernment set in the context of prayer, worship, and the frequent celebration of Holy Communion. The conferences are often referred to as *holy conferencing*, where *faithful, but frail and fallible* church members gather to discern God's will for a church.

Typically, annual conferences (subsidiary bodies of a Methodist denomination) elect delegates to represent their regions at a general conference. When the terms “general” and “conference” are connected with a particular Methodist denomination, they are always capitalized, hence the General Conference of the Global Methodist Church. Composed of an equal number of clergy and laity delegates, representing Church members from around the world, the GM Church's General Conference is the only body empowered to speak authoritatively on its behalf with respect to its core confessions of faith and its governing structure.

“We're all sinners in need of God's redeeming, and I'm confident the delegates that will be elected to the GM Church's convening General Church know that,” said Bishop Mark J. Webb, who, with Bishop Scott J. Jones, will preside at Conference sessions and lead in worship. “General Conferences, at their best, are a wonderful act of the Church's faith. We believe that despite our sinful natures, God still chooses to work through us, to inspire us, and then equip us to go forth and fulfill the mission of His Church. I believe the GM Church's convening General Conference will be a holy and hopeful time as sisters and brothers from around the world pray and discern together God's will for this new Methodist movement.”

To stay informed about the GM Church's 2024 convening General Conference, [subscribe to Crossroads](#). You can learn more about the Global Methodist Church by exploring its [website](#).

The Rev. Walter Fenton is the Global Methodist Church's Deputy Connectional Officer.

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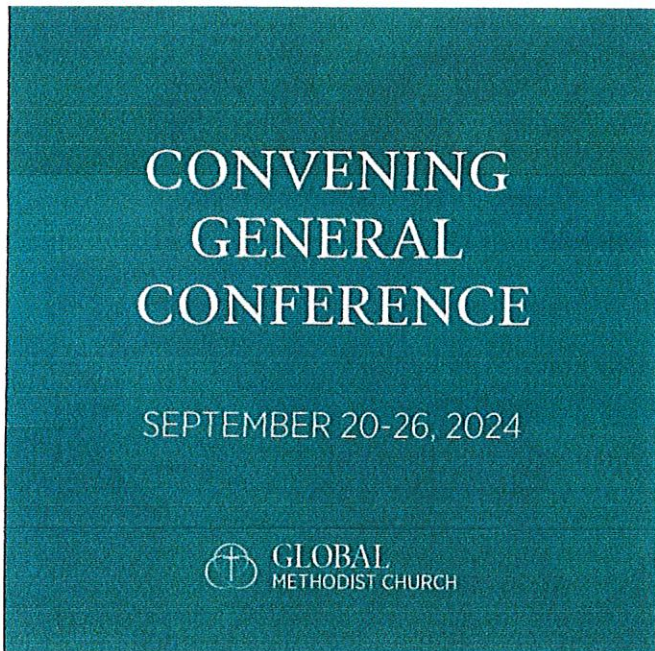
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English

GM Church Continues Preparing for Its Convening General Conference

By Walter B. Fenton

October 25, 2023



Plans for the Global Methodist Church's convening General Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica, September 20 – 26, 2024, are gathering pace.

The GM Church's Transitional Leadership Council has announced that petitions for consideration at the Conference must be received by May 23, 2024. GM Church members, whether clergy or lay, can submit petitions, but their individual petitions must be signed by at least ten other lay or clergy

members. (To learn more about submitting a petition see paragraph 607.I-6 in the *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline*.)

“We are trying to allow as much time as possible for members and groups to submit petitions,” said the Rev. Keith Boyette, the GM Church's Chief Connectional Officer. “However, we must allow time to have them collated, translated into five or six languages, printed, and then made available to all

the delegates elected to the Conference. We want to give the delegates ample opportunity to study and consider all of them before they arrive in Costa Rica.”

Launched on May 1, 2022, with a *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline*, GM Church leaders believe the delegates to the convening Conference will concentrate on high priority matters and leave other issues for future General Conferences.

Top agenda items for the convening Conference will be adopting a constitution for the Church, making numerous changes to the *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline* so it becomes *The Book of Doctrines and Discipline*, and replacing the Transitional Leadership Council and the Transitional Connectional Officer. The delegates will determine the nature of the episcopacy, organize essential commissions for the day-to-day work of the Church, and adopt a budget for the denomination. To facilitate consideration of these matters, the Transitional Leadership Council, working with the Transitional Commission on the Convening General Conference, will submit petitions addressing all of them.

“While the convening Conference will make many decisions, it is anticipated the GM Church will have to hold another General Conference in 2026 to deal with matters not addressed in 2024,” said Cara Nicklas, the Transitional Leadership Council’s Chairwoman. “As Methodists, we want to be deliberate and methodical as we move forward; we don’t want to rush ourselves into making hasty decisions. We also want to leave space for those we know will be joining us in the not-too-distant future. In the long run, we anticipate holding General Conferences every six years.”

To help facilitate the organization of the convening General Conference, the Transitional Leadership Council has approved the following legislative committees: Constitution, Conferences, Episcopacy, Judicial Administration, Connectional Organization, Financial Administration, and Ministry. As petitions are received they will be sorted and distributed to the respective committees. The Council is exploring the possibility of having legislative committees meet virtually prior to the opening day of the convening General Conference. Once elected, delegates will be assigned to legislative committees according to a method to be adopted by the Council.

“We want to create a Church that is open and fair to all its people, and most importantly enables us to fulfill its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly,” said Boyette. “As Methodists, we place a high value on connectionalism. We

truly believe God works through us when, as sisters and brothers, we humbly seek his will for the Church. To be sure, it can be messy sometimes because we are frail and fallible, but thanks be to God we are redeemed and called forth to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ!”

To stay informed about the GM Church’s 2024 convening General Conference, [subscribe to Crossroads](#). You can learn more about the Global Methodist Church by exploring its [website](#).

Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University Recognized as Recommended Educational Institution

The Transitional Leadership Council is pleased to announce that [Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University](#) (Marion, Indiana) has been approved as a recommended Educational Institution of the Global Methodist Church.

The Seminary was founded in 2009 by the Wesleyan Church and Indiana Wesleyan University. Among several degrees, students can pursue a Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Ministry. Current enrollment is approximately 550 students.

The GM Church requires candidates for ordination as deacons and elders to fulfill basic educational requirements prior to ordination. Candidates can complete the required classes through a course of study program, a bachelor’s degree program in ministry (for those residing in a majority-world context – outside the United States), a joint Bachelor of Arts and Master of Divinity program, a program for a Master of Arts or equivalent degree in the practice of ministry, or a Master of Divinity degree program.

Candidates may complete their educational requirements at any accredited educational institution. However, they are strongly encouraged to choose to complete their educational requirements at a school listed on the GM Church’s recommended educational institutions list.

GM Church recommended educational institutions are evaluated on a number of criteria, including: institutional integrity (whether an institution’s missions, values, and policies are consistent with and supportive of the mission, doctrine, and practice of the GM Church); financial health; and, alignment with the theological and ethical principles of the GM Church (i.e., an institution demonstrates English

supportive of and invested in sound preparation of clergy to serve in the GM Church; offers courses in Wesleyan doctrine, history, and discipline; and evidences a high commitment to Christian orthodoxy and the theological and ethical principles of the GM Church).

The Rev. Walter Fenton is the Global Methodist Church's Deputy Connectional Officer.