

An Introduction to the Global Methodist Church

MISSION

Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

In our worship, we desire to surrender to and be fully devoted to one God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We are passionate about what is important to God.

Jesus calls those who follow Him to love God wholeheartedly and love their neighbors as themselves. Our desire is to demonstrate to the world the extravagant love of God in the person of Jesus Christ.

We have been entrusted with a lifesaving and transforming message that we must share with others. Our witness is bold, compelling and fearless. Our mission advances when individuals become disciples of Jesus Christ and join God’s mission to make more disciples.

VISION

Our Vision is to join God in a journey of bringing new life, reconciliation, and the presence of Christ to all people, and to helping each person reflect the character of Christ.

Through our ministries, we desire to share the whole counsel of God with all peoples and to advance the presence and fulfillment of the Kingdom of God in every part of the world and at all levels of societies and cultures. The Global Methodist Church is committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures, and the work of the Holy Spirit in conveying God’s truth and grace to all people.

We are a global church that recognizes and deploys the gifts and contributions of each part of the church, working as partners in the gospel with equal voice and leadership. Our witness to the world is marked by mutual love, concern, sharing, and a focus on those who are most vulnerable. We watch over one another in love and bear witness to the transforming power of the Good News as we humbly, but boldly, strive to serve others as ambassadors of Christ!



Our Beliefs & Governance.....	2
Methodist Distinctives.....	2
Core Confessions.....	2
Our Connection.....	3
The Leadership of Bishops.....	3
About Our Name & Logo.....	3
FAQs.....	4
Organizing For Faithfulness.....	6
Clergy Deployment	8
A Vibrant Faith.....	10
Your Church in the GMC.....	12
Top 10 Reasons for the GMC...	14

OUR BELIEFS & GOVERNANCE

Since its inception, God's Spirit has enlivened the Methodist movement. In the 1720s John and Charles Wesley and friends at Oxford University met together to deepen their Christian faith through daily, practical spiritual disciplines. Derided by others as a "new sect of Methodists" for their "methodical" ways of practicing the faith and holding one another accountable to it, the small group embraced the insult and persevered in their fellowship. And so they and the millions who followed after them have ever since been known as "the people called Methodists."

In that spirit, this *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline* of the **Global Methodist Church is intended to serve as a resource for all who wish to join in a "methodical," practical, and warm-hearted pursuit of loving God and serving others as Jesus' disciples in the world.** Beginning with confessions rooted in Scripture and shaped by the great teaching of the Church universal, the *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline* provides the essential structure for the Global Methodist Church from its official launch on May 1, 2022 until its convening General Conference twelve to eighteen months later. It is offered with the prayer that it will help guide us in a new season of the church's life as we make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

You can download and read your own copy of the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline here: <https://globalmethodist.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Transitional-Discipline.2022041271.pdf>

METHODIST DISTINCTIVES

Supported by fervent prayers, faithful discernment, and a sure hope for the future, the Global Methodist Church is a Holy Spirit inspired movement. The Global Methodist Church is for all people who wish to join in a "methodical," practical, and warm-hearted pursuit of loving God and serving others as Jesus' disciples in the world.

Through the organization and published works of John and Charles Wesley, the Methodist movement's founders, a distinctly Methodist articulation of the Christian faith and life was developed. Methodism placed particular emphasis on the universal work of grace, the new birth, and the fullness of salvation. The movement set as its mission: "to reform the nation, especially the church, and spread scriptural holiness over the land."

CORE CONFESSIONS

The Global Methodist Church professes the Christian faith, established on the confession of Jesus as Messiah, the Son of God, and resurrected Lord of heaven and earth. This confession, expressed by Simon Peter in Matthew 16:16-19 and Acts 2:32, is foundational. It declares Jesus is the unique incarnate Word of God, and He lives today, calling all to receive Him as savior, and as the one to whom all authority has been given.

This faith has been tested and proved since its proclamation by Mary Magdalene, the first witness to the resurrection. It was defended by the women and men of the early church, many of whom gave their lives as testimony. Their labor, enabled and inspired by the Holy Spirit, resulted in the canon of Scripture as the sufficient rule both for faith and practice (the Greek word *kanon* means rule). And the early church succinctly formulated its principal confessions in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds that many Christians recite together when they gather for worship.

OUR CONNECTION

The Global Methodist Church is a connection of the willing not the constrained. In short, there is no “trust clause” as there is in some other denominations stating that a local church merely holds property and assets in trust for a general church. Instead, local Global Methodist congregations own all of their property and assets in perpetuity. And as long as a local church wants to be part of connection dedicated to making disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly it is welcome in the Global Methodist Church! The Global Methodist Church encourages congregations to be innovative and agile as they work to fulfill the church’s mission at the grassroots level. As such, the general church is structured so it serves and resources local churches. The whole church focuses on creative ways to share the timeless message of the Gospel for the world we all live in today.

THE LEADERSHIP OF BISHOPS

From apostolic times, ordained people have been set apart and entrusted with the task of defending the Apostolic faith. They have overseen and led the church in its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ, and to spread scriptural holiness across the world. Therefore, the Global Methodist Church is led, equipped, and supervised by an episcopacy modeled after that of the early centuries of Christianity and stemming from the historic line of Methodist bishops.

We share John Wesley’s conviction that bishops and elders are part of the same New Testament order. Therefore, bishops in the Global Methodist Church represent a specialized ministry rather than a separate order, and are consecrated rather than ordained to their office. The role of bishop is a sacred trust held for a defined period of time; it is not a lifelong office.

ABOUT OUR NAME & LOGO

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, proclaimed, “The world is my parish.” Ever since, the people called Methodist have committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with people all around the world. **In that spirit, faithful Methodists have been praying and working to discern God’s will for a new church rooted in Scripture and the historic and life giving teachings of the Christian faith.** Given that those called to this new denomination are from many countries, speak many languages, and yet share one faith, the name “the Global Methodist Church” seemed fully appropriate.

Methodists in Africa, Europe, Eurasia, the Philippines, and the United States have warmly embraced the name. It simultaneously states who we are and who we aspire to be: faithful Christians in the Methodist tradition dedicated to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with people all around the world.



The Global Methodist Church’s logo brings together in its three circles the one God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – who alone we worship. **The circles intersect at the center of the cross of Jesus Christ, the symbol of our deliverance from our slavery to sin and fear of death. The outer circumference of the rings represents the globe.** As a whole, the logo communicates God’s sending of the church into the world. The sky blue color reminds us that even though Global Methodists live all around the world, they are all united together in God’s great creation.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Global Methodist Church?

It is a church committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. The Global Methodist Church is filled with warm-hearted, Jesus loving, and Holy Spirit inspired people. They are grounded in Scripture and the life giving confessions of the Christian faith found in the Apostles' and the Nicene Creeds.

How does a congregation join the Global Methodist Church?

The process for local churches to join the Global Methodist Church is set forth in our article, "Advance Approval of Local Church and Clergy Membership in the Global Methodist Church" [Included below].

Will the Global Methodist Church provide a directory to local churches that are members of it?

Yes, there will be a directory in the future. However, most local UM churches seeking to disaffiliate from the UM Church are still awaiting for their UM annual conferences to approve their disaffiliation requests. Some of those local churches then plan to affiliate with the GMC. Once this sorting process is further along, the GMC website will provide a directory. Thank you very much for your interest in a directory. We ask for your patience and prayers as theologically conservative local UM churches navigate challenging transitions.

What are the core beliefs of the Global Methodist Church?

That the one God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – has created all things; that Jesus Christ, through the power of his cross and Resurrection, is the Lord and Savior of all the world; and that the Holy Spirit empowers the people of his church to worship and praise God and to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world in word and deed. *(For a full accounting of the church's core beliefs see its Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, pages 4–19.)*

Is the Global Methodist Church an ethnically and racially diverse church committed to equality for all?

Yes! As a truly global church the denomination is ethnically and racially diverse and it insists on the equal treatment of all the church's members.

Do women serve as clergy in the Global Methodist Church?

Yes! Women, like men, are called to serve in the Global Methodist Church and are entitled to serve at all levels of the Global Methodist Church.

Will local churches that join the Global Methodist Church own their property and assets, or will they hold them in trust for the general church?

According to the Global Methodist Church's *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline* local churches own all their property and assets. Since it is widely assumed that the local churches, and annual conferences and central conferences that are strongly inclined to join the Global Methodist Church do not want to be part of a denomination with a "trust clause" (i.e., where local church property is held in trust for a general church), it is almost certain the Global Methodist Church will never adopt one. Therefore, local churches in the Global Methodist Church will own all their property and assets in perpetuity.

Will the Global Methodist Church have bishops, and if so, will they be bishops for life?

According to the Global Methodist Church's *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline* (see paragraph 516.2) bishops will only serve for defined term limits. Once they serve their terms, they will either return to ministry in a local church or to some other area of service in the general church. It is widely assumed the delegates to the Global Methodist Church's convening General Conference will endorse term limits for bishops.

Where will there be Global Methodist local churches?

Within five years of its official initiation date (May 1, 2022), we believe the Global Methodist Church will have local churches in a number of countries all around the world. Some local churches will join one-by-one, and other local churches will join in regional groups. And new churches will be planted in missional settings around the world.

Who is leading the Global Methodist Church?

Officially, the 17 member Transitional Leadership Council is leading the Global Methodist Church during its transitional phase. However, over a thousand people have had a role in giving shape to it and bringing it into existence. Clergy and lay people in Africa, Europe, Eurasia, the Philippines and the United States have sacrificially given of their time, talent, and resources to discern God's will for the formation of the Global Methodist Church. During its transitional phase, the church will be governed by the *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline*. Ultimately, duly elected delegates to the Global Methodist Church's convening General Conference will prayerfully seek God's will for the church's future. The convening General Conference will adopt a *Book of Doctrines and Discipline* to replace the transitional document.

When will the Global Methodist Church hold its convening General Conference?

The Global Methodist Church's Transitional Leadership Council will work to determine the most feasible dates for holding its convening General Conference. During a transitional period of 12 to 18 months, local churches and annual conferences everywhere, and central conferences in Africa, Europe, Eurasia, and the Philippines will have the opportunity to join the Global Methodist Church. Once local churches and conferences make their decisions, the Transitional Leadership Council will apportion delegates accordingly, and invite them to the Global Methodist Church's convening General Conference.

*Articles Providing More Detail:***Global Methodists, Methodically Organizing for a Faithful Future**

• *By Walter B. Fenton*

August 24, 2022

Less than four months from its origins, the Global Methodist Church [which launched world-wide on May 1, 2022] continues to welcome local churches into the new denomination and is now witnessing the coalescing of congregations into provisional annual conferences. Two provisional annual conferences have already formed, one in Bulgaria and another in South Georgia, U.S., five transitional conference advisory teams are exploring the creation of provisional annual conferences in their areas, and additional teams are coming together in eleven other regions.

“We’re further down the road than we thought we would be at this point” said the Rev. Keith Boyette, the Church’s Transitional Connectional Officer and its Chief Administrator. “Despite significant challenges and major roadblocks, theologically conservative United Methodist congregations are making their way to the GM Church, and they’re already connecting with others about their future together. We’re doing all we can to facilitate that kind of coordination.”

Early this year many local UM churches anticipated separation from the UM Church would happen in an amicable and orderly fashion after the denomination’s scheduled General Conference adopted the *Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation*. The *Protocol* created denomination wide standards that local churches, and even whole annual conferences, could use for parting ways from the UM Church.

However, when the UM Church decided to postpone its General Conference for a third time and pushed its convening date out to 2024, many theologically conservative United Methodists believed UM Church leaders were trying to stave off a separation likely to be much larger than they anticipated when they originally endorsed and promoted the *Protocol* in January 2020.

With the third postponement of the General Conference, the GM Church’s Transitional Leadership Council (TLC) decided to launch the new denomination on May 1, 2022, knowing the pathway for local UM churches to join it would be far more complicated. Without the *Protocol*, local churches are now trying to navigate the terms annual conferences are setting forth for their disaffiliation. In some situations, the terms are fair and amicable, while in other conferences theological conservatives find them to be unduly onerous and even punitive.

While a number of local churches have voted to disaffiliate and many others are exploring the option, they all must await the approval of their UM annual conferences. Some annual conferences have scheduled special sessions later this year or early next year to approve disaffiliation requests. Many others will not consider requests until their regularly scheduled gatherings in May or June of 2023.

“Given the often arduous pathways and sometimes confusing timelines for disaffiliation, I’m pleasantly surprised by the number of local churches that have already managed to join the GM Church,” said the Rev. Dr. Leah Hidde-Gregory, the TLC’s Chairwoman. “These local churches are pushing us forward and they’re doing a great job of resourcing and assisting others who want to join them.”

In June, the TLC started recruiting GMC Organizers in various regions to act as advocates, allies, and resource persons on behalf of local UM churches trying to disaffiliate from the UM Church and join the GM Church. As the organizers talk with other clergy and laity in their regions, they are also tasked with assessing when it might be appropriate for a critical mass of local churches to explore the formation of a provisional annual conference.

“I’m very thankful for the pastors and laypeople who have stepped forward to serve as GMC Organizers,” said Boyette. “We’re all in uncharted waters as local churches and pastors in one denomination are trying to move to another one as soon as possible. Our organizers are faithful, experienced pastors and laypeople who understand our present circumstances, and are equipped to offer sound advice to local churches looking for direction.”

GMC Organizers are also working with pastors and laypeople to form Transitional Conference Advisory Teams (TCATs) in various regions. Among numerous responsibilities, TCATs work hand-in-hand with the TLC to determine when an area has a critical mass of local churches and leaders to form a provisional annual conference, set-up transitional boards and committees, and create websites and leverage social media platforms to make people aware of the potential formation of a provisional annual conference in their area.

“It’s encouraging to see how fast a number of our TCATs have moved forward. Several are on the cusp of forming provisional annual conferences,” said Hidde-Gregory. “As some UM Church annual conferences hold special sessions later this year to approve local churches seeking disaffiliation, we anticipate the number of affiliation requests will increase beginning in the fall of this year and continue to rise throughout 2023.”

At the UM Church’s special 2019 General Conference, a provision was adopted allowing local churches to disaffiliate according to specified terms through December 31, 2023. While the provision stipulated basic standards for disaffiliation, annual conferences can include additional requirements. Given the additional terms proposed by some annual conferences, it is possible some local churches will be hard-pressed to complete the disaffiliation process before the provision’s expiration date.

Boyette and Hidde-Gregory are encouraging local churches seeking to disaffiliate from the UM Church and affiliate with the GM Church to write an email to info@globalmethodist.org to contact a GMC Organizer in their area for advice and guidance. If there is not an organizer in their area, GM Church staff will assist them.

As more provisional annual conferences come into existence, local churches seeking to join the GM Church will be able to contact people in their areas for assistance and guidance. Provisional annual conferences are authorized by the TLC, fully incorporated, and during the GM Church’s transitional period will, with far fewer boards, committees, and agencies, function like annual conferences most local Methodist churches are familiar with.

“While we are a fully functioning denomination now with ordained clergy and local churches meeting on a weekly basis, we’re still at the very early stages of the GM Church’s development,” said Boyette. “And we are very excited about our future as we joyfully seek to fulfill the Great Commission Jesus gave to the church universal.”

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

Clergy Deployment in the Global Methodist Church

• By Keith Boyette

September 7, 2022

The decision on who will be the pastor of a congregation is among the most important decisions impacting the vitality, vibrancy, and fruitfulness of a local church. As the spiritual leader, the pastor has tremendous influence on a congregation's mission and its vision for fulfilling it. Because the pastor generally addresses the church family at least once a week through the sermon, she or he often sets the tone for all that occurs as the congregation serves in its given mission field. Consequently, the right clergy deployment decision can result in a new season of growth, deepening discipleship, and greater impact for the kingdom. A poor deployment decision often results in decline, conflict, and malaise.

The Holy Spirit surely empowers both local church members and appointed clergy to advance the Kingdom of God. When they work well together, churches thrive. When they do not, churches often languish. The Global Methodist Church understands the critical nature of clergy deployment decisions and so has adopted a system that is highly consultative, collaborative, and covered in prayer. The clergy deployment process is set forth in ¶¶ 509-513 of the *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline* ("TBD&D").

Historically, Methodism has embraced a "sent" system of clergy deployment. A bishop, working together with a cabinet composed of district superintendents, identifies and deploys pastors to a local congregation by appointment. When working well, such a system ensures a broad level of input and perspective on how to advance the Kingdom of God in a given community. Alternatively, some Protestant denominations use a "called" system where local church members interview and then vote to "call" a person to become their pastor. A "called" system elevates the preferences of a particular church over the broader connectional considerations in Methodist denominations.

The Global Methodist Church continues the historic, connectional Methodist practice of clergy being "sent" to local churches. Paragraph 509.2 of the *TBD&D* says, "To strengthen and empower the local church to effectively carry out its mission for Christ in the world, clergy shall be appointed by the bishop, who is empowered to make and fix all appointments in the episcopal area of which the annual conference is a part." However, the exercise of this authority to appoint and send is not done in isolation.

Convinced that the Holy Spirit works in the hearts and mind of all its people, the GM Church strongly believes successful clergy deployments occur after a season of consultation and collaboration between a bishop, his or her cabinet (composed of "presiding elders" in the GM Church), and a local church's pastor-parish relations committee. As ¶ 510 of the *TBD&D* provides, "Consultation is the process whereby the bishop and/or presiding elder confers with the pastor and pastor-parish relations committee, taking into consideration the criteria of ¶ 511, clergy performance evaluation, needs of the appointment under consideration, and mission of the Church" at large. "Consultation is both a continuing process and a more intense involvement during the period of change in appointment. The process of consultation is mandatory in every annual conference." The process is "mandatory" because the GM Church believes local church members, bishops, presiding elders, and pastors all need to hold one another accountable to prayerfully, faithfully, and diligently making such an important decision in the life of a local church.

Ideally, a presiding elder will engage a local church in ongoing conversation about its clergy deployment needs. When a change in clergy occurs, a presiding elder and a bishop will engage in more intense consultation inviting the local church into substantive dialogue about the congregation's pastoral needs. In

this process, various candidates for clergy deployment will be identified. Consultation includes collaborating with the pastor-parish committee in identifying the qualities, abilities, strengths, and weaknesses of each candidate for deployment. In most instances, collaboration will result in agreement between the bishop and the pastor-parish relations committee on the deployment decision and then the appointment will be made.

For a variety of reasons, complete agreement on a deployment decision may not be achieved in every situation. If complete agreement is not achieved, ¶ 510 states, “The [pastor-parish relations] committee must be given the opportunity to give input on the suitability of a proposed appointment and to raise any concerns it might have. When a committee raises substantive and missional concerns about the suitability of an appointment, such concerns must be addressed by the bishop and cabinet in considering whether to make the appointment. The bishop and cabinet must provide a rationale for their decision to the committee if they make the appointment.”

To date, a number of clergy deployment decisions have been made as local churches have aligned with the Global Methodist Church. In most instances, pastors and congregations have moved together to the GM Church. Where pastors have retired or not moved with a local church, the GM Church’s Transitional Leadership Council has consulted and collaborated with church lay members, ensuring that the newly appointed clergy person was a mutually agreed upon candidate. As provisional annual conferences commence operations in the coming months, this practice will be continued.

A transition in clergy leadership for a local church should be a time of celebration – giving thanks for a pastorate just concluded and rejoicing in the new opportunities being embraced. In the GM Church, we are committed to achieving the best possible clergy deployment decision for each local congregation.

The Rev. Keith Boyette is the Transitional Connectional Officer of the Global Methodist Church, its chief executive and administrative officer.

Photo by Diane Helentjaris on Unsplash.

Embracing a Rich and Vibrant Faith

• *By Walter B. Fenton*

August 10, 2022



The Global Methodist Church's Transitional Leadership Council (TLC) adopted a [catechism](#) for the new denomination on Monday, August 1, 2022.

"In these challenging times, the desperate need for a high level of catechesis – the teaching and learning of the Christian faith – is extremely important for those longing to be obedient disciples of Jesus Christ," said Bishop Emeritus Mike Lowry, a member of the TLC and a leader in the Global Methodist Church. "I am confident people of all ages and stages of faith development

will benefit from the catechism we have adopted. It is a gift to the whole Church, and all of us will be strengthened through both a heart and head commitment in reclaiming the life giving confessions of our faith."

[A Wesleyan Covenant Association task force began work on the catechism in December 2020](#). Led by Dr. Jason Vickers, Professor of Theology at Asbury Theological Seminary (Wilmore, Kentucky), the 10 member group included clergy, laypeople and teachers from around the world.

"It was a delight and privilege to chair the task force on a new catechism for the Global Methodist Church," said Vickers. "I especially want to commend the work of Dr. Phil Tallon and the Rev. Teddy Ray, who served as the two principal authors of the document. I also want to highlight the invaluable contribution made by Drs. Bill Arnold (Asbury Theological Seminary), David de Silva (Ashland Theological Seminary, Ashland, Ohio), Sue Nicholson (Asbury University, Wilmore Kentucky), and David Watson (United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio). Together, they provided the supporting biblical references for all of the major doctrines covered in the catechism. Our collective prayer is that future generations of Methodists will benefit theologically, spiritually, and morally from a deep engagement with these materials."

Tallon, Dean of the Houston Baptist University School of Christian Thought and Associate Professor of Theology (Houston, Texas) and Rev. Ray, a Methodist pastor and second year student at Yale University Law School (New Haven, Connecticut), drafted the initial version of the catechism. Vickers tapped Tallon and Ray to prepare the draft based on their prior experience writing catechisms and their published works on the subject. Eventually, more than 300 clergy and laity reviewed, commented upon, edited, and ultimately approved the catechism the task force produced.

"I was pleased to be invited to participate on the catechism task force, and I am proud of the work we accomplished," said Lisa Buffum, the Director of Online Education for the Institute for Discipleship at BeADisciple.com. "The task force was rightly comprised of knowledgeable academic scholars who allowed this layperson to feel right at home among them. I urge every congregation in the Global Methodist Church to utilize this document to educate its members on the essential theological and doctrinal principles of our faith as we live and serve the Lord in Kingdom-community together."

Once the WCA task force completed their work on the catechism they delivered it to the Wesleyan Covenant Association's 37 member Global Council for its study and review. After reading and engaging in robust discussions about the catechism, council members approved it and directed the council's Doctrine and Practice Committee to review it for consistency and to add Bible citations supporting all the major teachings addressed in it. Once the Scripture passages were added, the catechism was sent to over 250 delegates planning to attend [the WCA's 2022](#)

Global Legislative Assembly held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5, where the delegates overwhelmingly commended it to the Global Methodist Church's TLC for its adoption.

"The catechism we have adopted is a well vetted piece of work. It will be a great encouragement to churches that want to know what the Global Methodist Church stands for, and more importantly, what we will stand upon," said Krystl Gauld, a TLC member and Executive Director at FaithCare, Inc. in Reading, Pennsylvania. "There is so much confusion and conflicting theology out there – preying on our children, inappropriately influencing the way we carry on with relationships, and attempting to misguide even the simplest things in our lives. Our faith is a relationship, and people want to know that they are being faithful to God and that they are doing things that will make him smile down on their lives. The catechism allows people to learn about Jesus and why, because of him, we do and believe certain things as Global Methodists. That knowledge will empower all of us to live faithfully in a relationship with God and other people."

In adopting the catechism, the TLC members encouraged the new denomination's local churches to regularly use the catechism in classes for children, as a resource for confirmation classes, and with adults as they prepare to be received as new members in the Global Methodist Church. Some said they would strongly encourage local churches to walk all their members through the catechism, so they are conversant with it, and to unite the people of the new denomination during its critical formational season.

"A foundational catechism for a denominational family is not only a good idea; it's essential," said the Rev. Jessica LaGrone, a TLC member and Dean of the Chapel at Asbury Theological Seminary. "For us to start out from the beginning in the Global Methodist Church in agreement around our most basic beliefs sets our feet together on the right path. One of my favorite lines in the introduction of our catechesis proclaims that its purpose is to help those in our connection to 'understand, recall, profess, and enjoy the church's essential teachings.' The proclamation that right doctrine is something that we enjoy is a powerful one, and one that is to be celebrated."

The TLC is exploring ways to make the catechism available to local Global Methodist churches in various formats as soon as possible. It hopes to offer it in different languages and to make it as affordable as possible so local churches can secure copies for all their members.

"I trust every congregation that joins the Global Methodist Church will use this new catechism," said Cara Nicklas, a laywoman, attorney, and a member of both the TLC and the WCA's Global Council. "If we are to be the church we aspire to be, it is essential that laypeople understand the faith we confess, joyfully and obediently live it out in their daily lives, and know how to warmly and winsomely share it with people. It is a great joy to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. And what a privilege it is to share the Gospel message with others, seeing their lives transformed by Jesus as well. I am confident the Global Methodist Church can be a beautiful, vibrant, and growing branch of the church universal if laypeople will dedicate themselves to learning and regularly sharing the faith in creative and thoughtful ways. The new catechism will help all of us do just that!"

The TLC is encouraging the development of additional resources to be used in conjunction with the catechism; however, the TLC recommends the following resources available through Seedbed:

["The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith"](#) by Phil Tallon

["The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way"](#) by Phil Tallon and Justus Hunter

["Foundations of the Christian Faith"](#) by Timothy C. Tennent

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

Photo by Ben White on Unsplash.

Advance Approval of Local Church and Clergy Membership in the Global Methodist Church

• *By Keith Boyette*

August 31, 2022

Since the Global Methodist Church launched on May 1, 2022, we have received member congregations in Eurasia, the Philippines, and the United States. Other congregations in Africa, Latin America, and Asia are in the process of becoming members. Hundreds of clergy have been received into membership, some of whom were previously licensed local pastors but who are now ordained as deacons or elders. Provisional annual conferences have formed and are operating in Bulgaria and South Georgia in the United States. Others are on the verge of beginning operations before the end of the year. We are registering the denomination in a number of countries around the world.

The new denomination is [tax-exempt](#) in the U.S. and has clergy enrolled in its [retirement plan](#) and able to participate in a [life and disability insurance program](#) immediately and a health insurance program as of January 1, 2023. The GM Church has appointed clergy to serve local churches, including deploying clergy to churches that needed a pastor. It has also planted local churches.

The list of accomplishments, all for the glory of God, grows by the day. Yet some persist in saying the GM Church is only a website or that it is not yet formed. Nothing could be further from the truth.

When the denomination began operations on May 1, we knew the process of clergy and churches aligning with the GM Church would take time. In fact, we anticipated clergy and churches would align in waves with the first wave being relatively small. The complex, cumbersome, and expensive process navigated by churches withdrawing from The United Methodist Church meant many churches would not be free to align until their annual conferences held regular or special sessions to approve their withdrawals. Now, some of those special UM annual conferences are being convened late this summer and later this fall.

In the coming months, thousands of local churches will be approved for withdrawal from the UM Church. And we are confident a significant percentage of them will align with the GM Church, adding a wave of new members.

Our staff, led by the Rev. Angela Pleasants, Clergy and Church Relations Director, is currently processing hundreds of applications from clergy and churches to be approved as members of the GM Church. The process of applying is simple and straight-forward. There are no costs associated with becoming a member congregation of the new denomination. And when a local church does join, it is not subject to any trust clause and no denominational liens are placed on the church's property (see ¶ 902 of the [Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline](#)).

Current UM churches and clergy do not have to wait until completion of the UM withdrawal process to apply for membership in the GM Church. The Transitional Leadership Council (TLC) of the GM Church will approve your membership application as a church or clergy in advance of your withdrawal from the UM Church with an effective date that coincides with the date of withdrawal. By being approved in advance, you will be certain that your membership has been approved and immediately benefit from your new alignment.

Local churches can adopt a motion to become a member of the GM Church at the same congregational meeting where a vote is taken to disaffiliate from the UM Church. In order to request alignment with the denomination, the persons present and voting at the congregational meeting must adopt the following motion:

“I move that _____ Church become a member congregation of the Global Methodist Church, that it affirms and endorses the doctrinal standards (Part One), Social Witness (Part Two), and church governance of the Global Methodist Church as set forth in its Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, and agrees to be accountable to such standards, witness, and governance. Our leadership and trustees are authorized to take all actions necessary to implement this motion.”

The presiding officer and secretary of the congregational meeting then forwards the signed minutes of the meeting to info@globalmethodist.org. Usually, the TLC votes to approve the membership of a congregation within two weeks of submission of its minutes.

Importantly, these minutes can be submitted as soon as the vote to align occurs and the TLC will approve the local church’s membership to be effective as of the local church’s withdrawal from the UM Church.

Likewise, persons desiring to be clergy members of the GM Church may file their application well in advance of the date on which they desire such membership to be effective. The TLC, upon completion of the review process, will approve the application and recognize the person as an ordained pastor in the GM Church. A subsequent effective date can be specified by the clergy person to ensure that a transition occurs consistent with the local church they are serving and that is also aligning with the GM Church.

We strongly encourage both local churches and pastors to take advantage of applying for advance approval of both the church and clergy membership to facilitate a smooth transition into the GM Church.

The process of leaving the UM Church is governed by secular law and the procedures adopted by the UM Church. However, those procedures, including the decisions of the Judicial Council of the UM Church, have nothing to do with the process of clergy and local churches joining the GM Church.

We are excited about the many local churches around the world that are on their way to the GM Church. We rejoice with those that are already members of the GM Church, and who are joyfully making disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

The Rev. Keith Boyette is the Transitional Connectional Officer of the Global Methodist Church, its chief executive and administrative officer.

Living In the Overflow: The Top-10 Reasons To Become GMC vs. Going Independent

By Steve Wellman

New Hope Church, Goldsboro, NC

10. "Running From or Running To?" As a church is in the process of disaffiliating, it's vital to determine what is the ultimate goal. Are we running from something or toward something? Rarely does constructive and creative energy flow to the fullest when we are running from something. Our highest and best comes forth when we are devoted to a worthy aim. The GMC isn't a denomination built merely to escape the UMC. Instead, this is a community with a grand vision to impact the world with a Great Awakening for the 21st century. Now is the time to align ourselves with an impact that extends beyond our four walls and reaches the entire world.

9. "No Church Is An Island" Thomas Merton captured the idea, "No man is an island." He showed how it is impossible to become everything we are meant to be in isolation. If this is true for individuals, it is especially true for the Christian community. The GMC aims to ignite our attention toward the glorious embrace of a call that contributes to the grand scheme of God's kingdom.

8. "Clarity In the Midst Of Confusion" We live in a world swirling in moral confusion. The GMC represents a community with a sure focus. It doesn't promote situational ethics or contextual doctrines. There is renewed confidence in expressing something that brings definite light to a culture of increasing shadows.

7. "The More Excellent Way" John Wesley observed how God's affection is uniquely expressed through "Holy Love." If we are holy without love, then we are rigid and dogmatic. If we attempt to show love while neglecting holiness, then we promote license and moral chaos. Holy Love is the "more excellent way" Paul proclaims as the spiritual character which provokes a good kind of envy from the watching world. Such a community is in the world but not of the world and joyfully relishes the identity to be set apart to stand apart.

6. "Expanding Horizons" Even though our individual churches represent a local community, John Wesley passionately proclaimed, "The world is my parish." A Wesleyan church that considers itself independent isn't genuinely representing the Wesleyan spirit. To be Wesleyan in the truest sense requires a perspective that sees God's kingdom as including all nations. United in the truest sense means we share a connection to doctrinal purity with Christians around the entire globe. Though we speak a different language, we are inseparably joined as brothers and sisters in a magnificent mission.

5. "Elevating Accountability" No denomination, including the GMC, is perfect. However, the GMC is devoted in one accord to developing a community that creates protective measures designed to encourage elevating accountability on every level. Leaders are accountable to congregations. Leaders are accountable to one another. Congregations are accountable to leaders. Congregations are accountable to one another. Those who are devoted to shared purpose thrive on transparency and up-building. A church that exists independently is at risk of lapsing into one-dimensional means of assessment.

4. "The Fountain of Youth" As churches mobilize to do what is necessary to take possession of the future, there is awareness of new energy some haven't expressed for many years. People are tapping into vigor and drive, which need more than the anti-climactic conclusion of existing as an isolated congregation. The mobilization we've seen that has erupted new found energy needs mission. It needs the youthful joy of contributing to a Great Awakening. It needs the sense of making an impact that will outlive us and shape the next generation. It needs the supreme purpose of building something which will leave a historical legacy.

3. "Contagious Captivation" As excitement spreads nationally and globally, there is something contagious when we are pulled into a captivating magnetic force field. To come in on the seedbed of something monumental does more than create a ripple. It produces an engulfing wave whereby all the contributing parts are made bigger and better by the supreme sum.

2. "Reviving The Wonder" One of the most notable features of the GMC in its formation has been the international devotion to fervent prayer. It is a community committed to a thriving dependency on divine intervention. Those who step into this movement had better enter with both eyes open. The people on every level communicate in the most unwavering terms how nothing less than reliance on God's mighty hand will enable us to succeed. Everything about this community is thirsting for God's glory through signs and wonders. Daniel Jennings's incredible work, "The Supernatural Occurrences of John Wesley," shows it was nothing less than a reliance on God's mighty hand that ignited Methodism's origins. There is an uncontainable excitement to represent a community that is thirsting for that new outpouring in our day for a such a time as this.

1. "Drinking From the Fuller Flow" Is your independent church capable of the enormous task of equipping, edifying, and empowering disciples for the Great Commission? That's a tall order for even the largest of churches, much less a smaller church with fewer resources to draw upon. The GMC has a strategy that enables a community to become stronger together than we would be if left to our own devices. If left to ourselves, the most we have to draw upon is limited at best. If there is a fuller flow from which to drink, there's no convincing reason to settle for anything less.