



GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

Mid-Texas Conference of the Global Methodist Church

Weekly Update: August 12, 2022

Welcome!

Disaffiliation conferences continued this week. This action will be approved by a special called disaffiliation conference to be held at Arborlawn United Methodist Church on September 17th. The following churches have completed the voting process...

Voted to Go Global at Disaffiliation Conference

- Alliance Methodist Church
- Bethel Methodist Church
- Bethesda Methodist Church
- Blooming Grove Methodist Church
- Bosqueville Methodist Church
- Chatfield Methodist Church
- Cross Plains Methodist
- Dawson Methodist Church
- Early Methodist Church
- Emhouse Methodist Church
- First Methodist, Cisco
- First Methodist, Corsicana
- First Methodist, Eastland
- First Methodist, Groesbeck
- First Methodist, Hewitt
- First Methodist, Lorena
- First Methodist, Mart
- First Methodist, Moody
- First Methodist, Temple
- First Methodist, Waco
- Foundation Methodist Church
- Frost Methodist Church
- Godley Methodist Church
- Gorman Methodist Church
- Harker Heights Methodist Church
- Lanham Methodist Church
- Lebanon Methodist Church
- Line Street Methodist Church
- Meier Settlement Methodist Church
- Moody Leon Methodist Church
- Morgan Mill Methodist Church
- New Gate Methodist Church
- Newcastle Methodist Church
- Perry Methodist Church
- Poolville Methodist Church
- Salem Crestview Methodist Church
- St. Luke Methodist Church
- St. Paul Breckenridge Methodist Church
- Techaucana Methodist Church
- Zephyr Methodist Church

Prayerfully discerning affiliation

- Bethel Waxahachie
- Blanket Methodist Church
- Bluff Dale Methodist Church
- Center City Methodist Church
- Evant Methodist Church
- First Methodist, Ballinger

- First Methodist, Breckenridge
- First Methodist, Coleman
- First Methodist, Glenrose
- Gouldbusk Methodist Church
- Greenscreek Methodist Church
- Kopperl Methodist Church
- LifePoint
- Mooreville Methodist Church
- Moshier Methodist Church
- Murray Methodist Church
- Novice Methodist Church
- Rising Star Methodist Church
- Star Methodist Church
- Tonk Valley Methodist Church
- Waco Korean Methodist Church
- Winters Methodist Church
- Wortham Methodist Church

Voted Other Affiliation

- Lighthouse Fellowship, Free Methodist

Four Churches have narrowly missed the 2/3 threshold. Please especially pray for these congregations as they determine their next disaffiliation related decisions. Additionally, there are 15 more congregations holding their disaffiliation votes in August. Please hold these congregations in prayer.

Adoption of a Catechism: What we believe matters

Leadership of the Mid-Texas conference is excited to announce that the Global Methodist Church's Transitional Leadership Council (TLC) adopted a catechism for the new denomination on Monday, August 1, 2022. The Catechism working group was led by Dr. Jason Vickers, Professor of Theology at Asbury Theological Seminary (Wilmore, Kentucky) and included a 10-member group including clergy, laypeople and teachers from around the world. Knowing what we believe and why is critical to developing deeply disciplined Christians. "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."

To review the Catechism go to: [Catechism-V2.pdf \(globalmethodist.org\)](#). 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

Save the date! Legal Workshop on October 8th

Legal assistance will be needed in finalizing local congregation incorporation papers and other documents as part of the Disaffiliation Process. Some churches have hired their own attorneys to assist in this process, others are at a loss where to begin. If your church needs assistance in this area, please save October 8th on your calendar. We will have volunteer attorneys available to aid your church for only the court and processing fees.

To reserve your church's place for this workshop, RSVP to ctcgoesglobal@gmail.com. More details and a video will follow in next week's update.

Mid-Texas Provisional Annual Conference in Formation

Persons from the North Texas, Central Texas, and Rio Texas areas sit on the *Mid-Texas Transitional Conference Advisory Leadership Team (TCAT)*. The TCAT is the legal incorporating body, forming the transitional boards for the annual conference, including the Board of Ministry. This body approves congregations and clergy seeking to join the Global Methodist Church in the Mid-Texas geographic area. They will ratify the work of the Presiding Elders in approving appointments. The names of these leaders will be made after the September 17th Central Texas UMC Disaffiliation Conference. Rev. Dr. Leah Hidde-Gregory, Mid-Texas GMC Organizer has been assigned the President Pro-Tem for the Mid-Texas Provisional Annual Conference effective November 1, 2022.



Leadership Opportunities

If there are other areas you are interested in serving in conference leadership and your church is part of the first wave of churches exiting the UMC and affiliating with the GMC, we have lay and clergy opportunities for 2023. Please email your interest to ctcgoesglobal@gmail.com. If your church intends to come to the GMC in the second or third wave, don't worry we will have an ongoing need for a growing leadership team. We will have a place for your gifts and graces.

An Update from the North Texas Conference

The disaffiliation process for the North Texas Conference is quite different from the requirements in Central Texas Conference. If a church chooses to use the suggested annual conference process, the first deadline to begin the disaffiliation is August 15, 2022. As of this week we are aware of more than 40 churches that have started the disaffiliation process. God is certainly making way for these churches! Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Zero Pension Liability in the Central Texas Conference

We celebrate the Announcement on Friday July 29th from the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Mid-Texas GMC leadership is very grateful to the faithful negotiating partners we had with conference leadership. After a quarterly valuation of pension liability and adjustments made by Wespath, along with the annual conference action to utilize reserves to offset costs, the Pension liability was reduced to \$0. To God be the Glory! There will still be exit costs to the local church. You must pay last year's apportionments and this year's apportionments in full along with other legal expenses. Join us as we give God praise and thank our Brothers and Sisters in the Central Texas Conference.

Save the date! Connect Clergy Retreat October 10-12, 2022



Clergy of North Texas and Central Texas Conferences moving towards the Global Methodist Church, you are invited to a special retreat at Lakeview Camp and Retreat Center which is situated on 270-acres of beautiful natural landscaping between historic downtown Waxahachie and Maypearl, less than an hour south of most DFW metroplex locations. Our goal is to make a vital connection to Jesus, each another, and His creation. We hope this retreat helps create a healthy culture of connection, encouragement, and accountability as we are led by the Holy Spirit forward into the new church God is building. We will enjoy times of worship, prayer, fellowship, and many recreational opportunities will be offered. Special guests will be joining us as well.

Registration will open on Tuesday August 16th. [Click here to register!](#)

Disciple Making Movement Training

Central Texas has the great privilege of being able to host Dr. Aila Tasse, Director of Lifeway Missions International and Disciple Making Movement Leader in East Africa. To learn more about Dr. Aila, [click here to read his bio](#) at Lifeway Missions International's website.

On Thursday, August 25th from 11am-2pm, Dr. Aila will be presenting on the strategy of Disciple Making Movements as a fruitful way to reach whole people groups! The meeting will be held at Bosqueville United Methodist Church on Rock Creek Road. My heart longs to see disciple-making and multiplication like we see in Acts. They are seeing this in East Africa through movements right now! I ask myself -- why not here? why not now? why not through us? If your heart has the same cry, please join us! A box lunch will be provided with an RSVP. Space is limited to 75 participants. There is no charge for the lunch or the Seminar.

To RSVP, [click here and select lunch preferences](#). Also, please feel free to pass this invitation on to other pastors/church leaders/disciple makers who you believe may have a similar heart's cry!

Church Planting Initiative

The GMC recently announced a strategic multiplication alliance with The River Network. The River Network is led by a team composed of church multiplication specialists from various tribes in the Wesleyan theological family. They have years of experience in assessing, training, mentoring, coaching, and deploying church planting teams globally. Working with The River Network, the Global Methodist Church will respond to the immediate opportunity to plant new churches in communities where there is no theologically conservative Methodist presence as well as respond to circumstances where there are groups of Christ-followers who are leaving existing churches because of theological division and conflict.

The Network will focus on the following:

- Cultivating a mindset and culture of multiplying disciples, leaders, and churches.
- Training, equipping, and assessing laity and clergy who are called to be church planters.
- Mentoring and coaching church planting teams as they are deployed.
- Serving as a “midwife” for the birth of new churches, including creating an environment that inspire new planters. With encouragement and training the Global Methodist Church is convinced there are people ready to step away from local churches where they no longer feel welcome in order to plant new churches in their communities.

If you are interested in connecting with this aspect of the ministry of the Global Methodist Church – whether because you have a calling to be involved in planting a church or because you and others see the need for a new church in your community, I invite you to email The River Network at info@therivernetwork.org.

Connectional Funding in the Global Methodist Church Set at 2% in Transitional Time

The Transitional Leadership Council (TLC) established the percentage of local church annual operating income that will be used in calculating connectional funding contributions for general church and annual conference operations. A recent article, Connectional Funding in the Global Methodist Church, provided important information about this topic. While paragraph 349.4 of the Transitional Book of



Doctrines and Discipline establishes ceilings above which connectional funding percentages cannot go, the TLC had not set those percentages until now. Local churches are being asked to contribute one percent of their annual operating income for general church connectional funding, 33 percent less than the ceiling of 1.5 percent. In addition, local churches are asked to contribute one percent of their annual operating income for annual conference connectional funding, substantially less than the five percent ceiling set by the *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline*. Annual operating income is determined by the local church treasurer and ¶ 349.1-3 defines that process. As the TLC has previously announced, local churches may apply for relief from these connectional funding percentages during the period prior to the convening General Conference. The Council is mindful of the burden many local churches are bearing as they pay significant disaffiliation fees to the UMC Church in order to align with the Global Methodist Church. The TLC plans to grant such applications liberally and permit local churches to decide the amount they are able to contribute for connectional funding.

Granbury Town Hall

Dr. Danny Tenney, UMC North District Superintendent and Dr. Leah Hidde-Gregory, GMC Organizer participated in a town hall on July 31st. To view the event: <https://youtu.be/OldKTs88saY>.

Pension and Health Insurance Will Be Available through Wespath for Clergy and Lay Staff

The Global Methodist Church is happy to announce it has finalized negotiations with Wespath. The latter will administer the pension, and health, life, and disability insurance plans for the new denomination. GM Church clergy who are appointed at least half-time or more to serve local churches are already making contributions to the denomination's Covenant Retirement Plan.

Under the Covenant Retirement Plan, local churches contribute five percent of the pastor's compensation (i.e., salary plus housing allowance or the benefit of a provided parsonage). In addition, the clergyperson can make a personal contribution up to the IRS maximum for 403(b) plans in any given year. In 2022, the maximum amount is \$20,500. Local churches will match up to an additional five percent of a clergy person's contributions on a percentage for percentage basis. Lay employees of local GM churches may also participate in the Covenant Retirement Plan. However, the amounts a local church and a lay employee contribute may be different from the retirement benefit provided for clergy depending on the plan options chosen by the local church. Full details on the Covenant Retirement Plan will be published on the GM Church's website in the near future.

The Global Methodist Church's health insurance plan will be available to all full- and three-quarter-time clergy under appointment to Global Methodist local churches beginning January 1, 2023. Lay employees will also be eligible to be covered by the denomination's health insurance program under certain conditions specified by the

plan. Details on life and disability insurance benefits available to clergy under appointment will also be shared in the coming weeks.

For additional questions about the benefits provided by the Global Methodist Church, please contact the GM Church's Benefits Officer, the Rev. Rick Van Giesen, at rvangiesen@globalmethodist.org or at 217-685-6223.

What about Gap Healthcare Coverage From November to January?

The effective date of Disaffiliation is November 1st and the health coverage for the GMC does not begin until January 1st. This has left some people asking about GAP Coverage for Clergy and Lay Staff. Information Directly from the Wespith website helps alleviate the fears of being without coverage. For more information about remaining on the CTCUMC plan for November and December, reach out to your Benefits Administrator or directly to Wespith.



From Wespith's website: If a local church participates in the HealthFlex Plan through its annual conference and the local church separates/disaffiliates from the UMC, what happens to the HealthFlex coverage for clergy

and lay employees of the local church? The local church's participation in HealthFlex will cease on the effective date of the separation/disaffiliation because, at that point, the church is no longer affiliated with a HealthFlex plan sponsor, i.e., its annual conference. Clergy members who remain with the separated/disaffiliated church and lay employees of the church will lose active coverage on the last day of the month in which the separation/disaffiliation is effective. Those individuals and their covered family members will be eligible for 18 months of continuation coverage. The clergy member or lay employee, as applicable, would be required to pay 100% of the cost of continuation coverage.

[How Clergy Transfer into the Global Methodist Church](#)

If your Church has Disaffiliated, Submit Paperwork Now with a November 1st Effective Date

Once your church has had their disaffiliation conference with the District Superintendent or Presiding Elder, you may submit your paperwork to the Global Methodist Church. Note this should be BEFORE you submit anything formal to your District Superintendent or the Central Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

This is the link to the instructions on how become recognized as Clergy in the Global Methodist church. <https://globalmethodist.org/how-clergy-align-with-the.../>

Once you have completed your application, you may email it to apleasants@globalmethodist.org or to info@globalmethodist.org. In your cover letter, please explain that your church will officially be released from the Central Texas Conference effective November 1, 2022 and that you are seeking to have your credentials recognized on that date in the Global Methodist Church. If you have questions, please contact ctcgoesglobal@gmail.com.

How Churches Affiliate with the Global Methodist Church

Once your church has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church formally with the United Methodist District Superintendent or Presiding Elder present, you may have the vote to approve the motion to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church. This vote should be chaired by the Administrative/Council Chair of the Congregation, after the departure of the UMC DS or Presiding Elder. It is a vote outside of the official Disaffiliation Conference.

The suggested motion provided by the Global Methodist Church is:

"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."

*This is a standing vote of professing members with a majority vote.

<https://globalmethodist.org/the-process-for.../>

Once the vote has occurred, please email the minutes from the meeting to apleasants@globalmethodist.org or info@globalmethodist.org In the cover letter, request that your congregation be recognized as of November 1, 2022.

Save the Date: Convening Mid-Tex Annual Conference

January 20-21, 2023

Don't miss this very special event Preaching, Teaching, Youth Winter Event and Bishop Mike Lowry presiding over the Ordination Service.

Resources

Searchable Doctrines and Disciples of the GMC -
<https://globalmethodist.org/what-we-believe/>

Updates from around the UMC regarding Disaffiliation -
<https://peopleneedjesus.net/2022/08/04/um-fallout-a-compendium/>

