

# NE GMC News

Nebraska Global Methodist Movement Newsletter

October, 2023



**GLOBAL**  
METHODIST CHURCH

## Upper Midwest Global Methodist Convening Conference

November 2-4, Thursday eve.  
All day Friday, Saturday morning

Cornerstone Church  
1350 11th St NE  
Watertown, SD

Make plans now to attend! Go to  
<http://uppermidwestgmc.org> for  
the schedule of the conference and  
hotel information.



Thursday evening  
Opening worship speaker  
President Pro-Tempore,  
James Parks , Davenport, Iowa

Friday Morning  
Worship speaker,  
Vice President  
Pro-Tempore  
Ross Reinhiller  
Williston, ND



Bishop Mark Webb will be officiating the  
Ordination Service Saturday morning.

Those being ordained from Nebraska are  
Bonnie Linton-Hendrick, Jake Schadel, Bob  
Wynn, Shanon Williams, & Bill Williams  
(with the possibility of two more).





## **What an incredibly exciting time for the Nebraska Global Methodist Church!**

**By Pastor Jake Schadel**

The wheels of history are spinning, the spirit of God is moving, and God's church is on the march! I once read a book by C.S. Lewis where he described the church as a gleaming army, fierce and bold with banners furling in the wind, undaunted and unshakeable. What an inspiring image! What a gift to be a member of Christ's Body, when functioning as it was designed bent on overtaking the very gates hell!

Of course, the great call to make disciples requires organizing, planning, and strategy. I don't know about the rest of you, but for the last year or so the concept of "connection" has felt like something on the horizon, something we are reaching for but so far unable to grasp. All of that is coming to an end. Next month, on November 2-4 in Watertown South Dakota the church in all her splendor is gathering. It is finally time for the churches of the Upper Midwest to come together and pray for a movement of the Holy Spirit in our time. On top of that we have divided the state of Nebraska into four districts and appointed Presiding Elders over each district. Our hope and prayer is that this will make the work of finding pastors, connecting, and fellowshiping much easier.

It is such a rare opportunity to not only see a denomination at its inception but to actually take part in shaping and forming it and praying for it and working for it.

Our desire in the Upper Midwest is that we would see a conference that exists solely to support the work of the local church. I have been given a very unique opportunity to be a part of the conversations that are already shaping this conference and denomination, and I have to tell you that it will be unlike anything we could have imagined.

First of all, streamlined and fit for ministry at all levels. I have been astonished at how much work and thought and prayer have gone into conference leadership to make sure that the Administrative side is working at a bare bones level. Imagine a conference that rather than paying a District Superintendent a six-figure income, expects that work to be done by clergy and actually reimburses the local church for their time.

Or how about a conference that can operate on only 1% apportionments so that local churches can keep their money and use it in a way that is missional and helpful in their context of ministry.

Or how about seven states working together, sharing resources, and joining hands for youth ministry, evangelism, church planting, leadership training, and revitalization! I could go on and on.

My point today, Nebraskans, is that our patience and our hard work and our prayer is coming to fruition. A theologically sound church is what we all desired. God answered that prayer with the GMC and is adding to it daily. Not only sound theology, but fiscally responsible, truly cooperative, and a laser like focus on mission and fruitful ministry that seeks to save the lost and to deepen our level of discipleship. (continued on next page)

(continued article)

I know that there are some congregations in Nebraska that are still getting organized after the disaffiliation. Some of our churches need pastors still, some congregations need buildings, some pastors need churches. I strongly believe those issues will be resolved soon. I believe it because I believe that the GMC is God ordained, and I believe that God will provide everything we need to be a fruitful and effective church in Nebraska and beyond!

I would strongly encourage anyone that is interested in helping to shape the future of our church to attend the gathering in Watertown in November. Let's have a strong turnout of Nebraskans, let's tell the conference and the world know that we are that church C.S. Lewis described, a gleaming army, fierce and bold, with banners flying ready to march on the world, and overcome even the gates of hell itself. See you in South Dakota friends!

-Pastor Jake Schadel

# Upper Midwest Global Methodist Convening Conference

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Watertown, SD

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## District #3 North Central Nebraska Southern South Dakota

### Nebraska

Atkinson Methodist

Bassett Methodist

Burwell– Calamus Trinity Methodist

Cody Methodist

Jamison Methodist

O'Neill Methodist

Springview Methodist

Taylor Calvary Church

Valentine Methodist

### South Dakota

Gedes Methodist

Winner Methodist



Pastor Jake Schadel  
Valentine Methodist  
Church

Presiding Elder District #3



Pastor Corey Jenkins  
Sidney Faith Methodist  
Presiding Elder Dist. # 1

## District #1 Western Nebraska

Benkelman  
Chappell Methodist  
Clinton Methodist  
Culbertson Methodist  
Elsie Methodist  
Garden Prairie  
Imperial Methodist  
Lewellen Methodist

Lodgepole Methodist  
Max  
McCook Memorial Methodist  
Ogallala Faith GMC  
Oshkosh Methodist  
Sidney Faith Methodist  
Trenton Methodist  
Wauneta Methodist

I was born 57 years ago in Broken Bow, NE, graduated high school in 1984, and college in 1989. I received my call into ministry at the age of 11, accepted my call into ministry in 1996, graduated from Chadron State College [BS in Education] in 1989, went to Asbury Theological Seminary the fall of 1999, and graduated in the spring of 2002. In between college and seminary, I worked at an Arby's restaurant, taught music in public school, joined the Army National Guard, married the love of my life, managed 4 different Hardee's restaurants, and worked in steel fabrication and engineering. {whew...!}

Sarah and I have been married for 34 years as of September 2023, and yet we were not blessed with children of our own. She is my love and my joy, and it's my job, if you will, to make sure she knows she's a solid #2 in my life (after Jesus, that is – her words, not mine...!)

It's a toss-up between cooking and riding my motorcycle which is my non-church passion, but since I can cook year-round and can't ride the bike that much, I would say cooking has become a lifetime "ministry" passion! Most moms can't get their sons IN the kitchen, but my mom couldn't get me OUT of the kitchen.

So, the year I started 6<sup>th</sup> grade, I was given the duty at home to have supper on the table when mom & dad got home @ 5:30 – thus starting 45+ years of cooking for as many as I can get to gather at the table! When asked about my favorite thing to cook, it's Chicken Noodle Soup, and I have totally lost track of the multiple gallons of soup I've made just to give away when someone I know has even a touch of the sniffles! You shoulda seen the output during Covid...!

Outside the church, my main hobbies in addition to cooking and riding, are music (I kinda play guitar), leatherworking, crocheting, hunting and fishing. I am an avid reader, and in addition to the Bible and my collection of Wesley sermons, I tend to gravitate towards fantasy fiction such as Asimov, Pratchett, Herbert, Lewis, Brooks, Donaldson, King, and Tolkien.

As with the other new Presiding Elders in the state, I still have my own congregation here in Sidney to attend to, complete with preaching, teaching, and other pastor "stuff!" So, although the hours will be rather limited that I can devote to this new level of district work I look forward to working hard with pastors and churches as we all continue to help build the kingdom of God here in western Nebraska!

Grace and peace, especially peace,  
Pastor Corey Jenkins





Pastor Shanon Williams

Wallace & Maywood

Presiding Elder District #2

Greetings, I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Shanon L Williams, wife of Bill, step-Mom to Brian and mother-in-love to his beautiful wife Leigh. I am a grandma to four wonderful kids and most recently became a great grandma to a precious little girl. I am also a daughter, sister, and aunt. My husband Bill (who is also clergy) and I recently moved home to the ranch near Wallace and Dickens, Nebraska to help my mom with all those work demands. Bill serves the Elsie Global Methodist Church and I serve Wallace and Maywood Global Methodist Churches.

I am passionate about faith, family, photography, and serving other people. I started working in the health care field after graduating college and worked in hospitals, nursing homes, and pharmacies until I answered the call to ministry later in life. I have served in ministry since 2003, becoming clergy in 2010.

## District #2 Southern Nebraska

Arapahoe Methodist

Arcadia Methodist

Beaver City Methodist

Bertrand Methodist

Curtis Methodist

Elwood Methodist

Eustis Methodist

Farnum Methodist

Giltner Global Methodist

Holdrege Methodist

Maywood Methodist

Phillips Methodist

Trumbull Global Methodist

Wallace Methodist

I gained my theological education through Course of Study at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. I am excited to be ordained as an elder in the Global Methodist Church at the Upper Midwest GM convening conference in November.

I was completely surprised when asked to prayerfully consider being a Presiding Elder in Nebraska. I almost had a Moses moment where I came up with every excuse not to do this. However, with prayerful consideration, I've said yes to this new role. I am humbled by this opportunity to serve in this leadership capacity as God leads and guides. I admit I will be learning along the way; but I look forward to building relationships with clergy, laity, and churches as we walk side by side in ministry.

Churches in District 2, I am gathering your contact information and will be contacting all of you soon to check in, to encourage, to see how you are doing. I look forward to hearing how God is at work.

Grace and Peace,  
Shanon L. Williams,  
Presiding Elder, Nebraska District 2

## District #4 Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa

### Nebraska Churches:

Ashland Methodist

Barada Methodist

Cedar Hill Methodist

Falls City Methodist

Living Faith Methodist

Louisville Methodist

### Iowa Churches

Clarinda Methodist

Corning Methodist

Harlan Methodist

Lenox Methodist

Monroe Chapel Methodist



Pastor Steve McElroy  
Harlan Methodist Church, IA  
Presiding Elder District #4

Years in Ministry: 21

Education: Iowa State University, BA, Saint Paul School of Theology, MDIV

Family: My wife, Alison, is a preschool teacher in Harlan, Iowa, where we live. Our son, Grayson, is a youth pastor in Altoona, Iowa. Our daughter, Rileigh, is a project manager with an advertising and marketing firm in Des Moines. Both live in Ankeny, Iowa with their respective spouses, Amie and Paul.

My Circuitous Life: I grew up in Lamoni in south central Iowa. As an unchurched teenager, I asked the United Methodist pastor's daughter out on a date on October 5th 1979 (her birthday). Alison's "yes," transformed my life as I fell in love with her and with Jesus (the three of us are all still happily together today!)

Following College, I spent just short of two decades in advertising and marketing as a Creative Director and later as the President of my own firm. The last 14 years of that career was spent in Omaha, where we were members at Faith Westwood UMC. One of the clients I had was a new church that needed help creating an identity and marketing materials - Living Faith in Omaha.

When God called me into pastoral ministry on October 5th 2002 (yes, my wife's birthday, again), He was very specific and said, "You're going home." Through a series of God-orchestrated events, my first appointment as a Student Local Pastor was back in my home town of Lamoni. My family moved into the parsonage that Alison and her family lived in over 2 decades earlier when her father was the pastor and she and I were dating. I have since served county seat and suburban churches in Algona, Norwalk and now Harlan, IA

After all these years, it feels very full circle to have the opportunity to reconnect with Nebraska Methodists (especially with Living Faith!) as the Presiding Elder for District #4 (which includes Western Iowa. I'm prayerful for the adventure we are all embarking on as we faithfully seek to grow God's kingdom together.

## October is Pastor Appreciation Month

In 1992 Focus on the Family began promoting Clergy Appreciation Month as a national month of observance to celebrate clergy who play important

roles in their churches. We hear Paul's words, "Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching" (I Timothy 5:17) Take time to honor a pastor this month in word or deed.



### **Join in honoring the new Global Methodist Pastors of Nebraska listed below:**

#### Serving as full or part time pastors

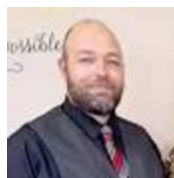
Pastor Jenice Epp - Bassett, Springview  
Pastor Jaimie Farias—Living Faith, Omaha  
Pastor Mike Hader— Falls City, Barada  
Pastor Elmo Herman— Farnam, Eustis  
Pastor Sarah Herman—Bertrand, Elwood  
Pastor Buck Linton-Hendrick-Giltner, Phillips, Trumbull  
Pastor Corey Jenkins—Sidney  
Pastor Jeff Kelley- McCook  
Family & Youth Pastor Jeremy LaBrie, McCook  
Pastor Brian Loy—Imperial  
Pastor Michael Loy —Ogallala  
Pastor Riaan Nel—Chappell, Lodgepole  
Pastor Alisa Parde—Culbertson, Trenton,  
Pastor Seung Ho Park— Lewellen, Oshkosh  
Pastor Judy Qualley— Cody  
Pastor Joel Rathbun-Arapahoe, Beaver City  
Pastor Jake Schadel— Valentine  
Pastor Shirley Taylor— Clinton Methodist  
Pastor Jeff Thurman Ashland, Cedar Hill  
Pastor Bill Williams—Elsie  
Pastor Shanon Williams—Maywood, Wallace  
Pastor Bob Wynn- Atkinson, O'Neill

#### Retired Pastors

Pastor Jerry Heydenberk  
Pastor Valera Heydenberk  
Pastor Bonnie Linton-Hendrick  
Pastor Nora Mendyk  
Pastor Terry Otto  
Pastor Keith Schadel  
Pastor Steve Todd

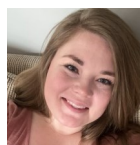


Transitional Conference Advisory Team,  
(TCAT) members representing NE



Jake Schadel, Presiding  
Elder Dist. # 3

Tracie Ludeke, Bd of Finance



Lexie Ludeke,  
Bd of Finance

Corey Jenkins, Bd of Ministry  
& Presiding elder, Dist.  
#1



Joel Rathbun- Bd of Sessions

Jeff Kelley—Bd of Ministry



Shanon Williams,  
Presiding Elder Dist. #2

## Proposal for

### 2024 General Conference

“ In light of the U. S. conferences that have imposed high barriers to disaffiliation, and in light of the fact that conferences and local churches outside the U. S. have not had an equal opportunity to disaffiliate, Good News and the Renewal and Reform Coalition will be proposing the 2024 General Conference adopt a new Par. 2553 for local church disaffiliation and a new paragraph for annual conferences outside the U. S. to disaffiliate. A significant number of U. S. churches, as well as nearly all churches outside the U. S. have been denied a fair and reasonable opportunity to disaffiliate due to conflicts in conscience. This inequity must be addressed. “

*Rev. Thomas Lambrecht, vice president  
of Good News*

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As you can see, we need to **pray daily** for our *Episcopal Leaders*, the *TLC (Transitional Leadership Council*, a 16 member body that is charged with the task of creating the Global Methodist Church with members from the US and around the world), the TCAT groups (*Transitional Conference Advisory Teams* in the various states who help form a provisional annual conference in their area.), and our *local Global Methodist Churches*.

