

# WHATSAPP COMMUNITY BEST PRACTICES & FAQs

## Welcome to the General Conference 2026 WhatsApp Community!

This community has been created to help delegates and alternates communicate, receive updates, and collaborate before and during the General Conference. Our prayer is that this space reflects the spirit of Christian conferencing by encouraging respectful, gracious, and productive communication among members from around the world.

### Official Communications

This WhatsApp Community is intended to **supplement** official General Conference communications. Delegates and alternates should continue to monitor the **Delegate & Reserve Newsletter**, the General Conference event app, and email for important announcements, deadlines, and official information.

Please email [communications@globalmethodist.org](mailto:communications@globalmethodist.org) if you need immediate assistance or have questions that require a prompt response. While Community Administrators will do their best to assist, responses within WhatsApp may not be immediate.

### Purpose of the Community

Please use this WhatsApp Community for:

- Official General Conference announcements and updates.
- Questions related to General Conference preparation.
- Sharing official conference resources and information.
- Collaboration among delegates and alternates.
- Practical information to help participants prepare for and participate in General Conference.

Please help us keep conversations focused on the work of General Conference. While friendships and connections are encouraged, this community is intended for General Conference-related communication.

### Remember: We Are a Global Church

General Conference brings together delegates from many countries, cultures, languages, and communication styles.

As you interact with others:

- Extend grace and assume positive intent.
- Be patient and extend grace when communicating with people who speak a different language than you. WhatsApp's translation features can be a helpful tool for understanding one another.
- Recognize that humor, idioms, and cultural expressions may not always translate.
- Listen respectfully, especially when viewpoints differ.
- Help create an environment where every delegate feels welcomed, heard, and valued.
- Remember that we are united in Christ even when our perspectives differ.

Our diversity strengthens the Church and enriches our work together.

## Safety & Security

For your protection:

- The Global Methodist Church will never request donations, gifts, financial assistance, gift cards, cryptocurrency, banking information, passwords, or verification codes through WhatsApp.
- Soliciting money or donations from members of this community is not permitted.
- Use caution if you receive unexpected requests, even if they appear to come from someone you know.
- Never share sensitive personal or financial information through WhatsApp.
- If something seems suspicious, do not respond or send money. Instead, notify a Community Administrator.

## Private Conversations

Delegates and alternates are welcome to communicate with one another through private WhatsApp chats if they mutually choose to do so.

Please respect one another's privacy, boundaries, and preferences regarding direct messaging. The Global Methodist Church is not responsible for conversations that occur outside of the official community.

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## Communication Best Practices

Help make this community useful for everyone.

### Stay on Topic

Keep discussions focused on General Conference preparation and conference-related matters.

### Search Before Asking

Many questions may have already been answered. Before posting a new question, consider searching the community.

**How to search:**

- Tap the **three dots** in the upper-right corner of the community.
- Select **Search**.
- Type a keyword or phrase to find previous conversations.

### Keep Messages Clear

Short, concise messages are easier to read and translate for our international members.

### Use the Reply Feature

When responding to a specific message, use WhatsApp's **Reply** feature to help everyone follow the conversation.

**How to reply:**

Swipe right on the message you want to respond to, then type your reply. Depending on your device, you may also be able to touch and hold the message and select **Reply**.

### Use Reactions

A 👍, ❤️, 🙏, or similar reaction is often a great way to acknowledge a message without creating unnecessary notifications.

**How to react:**

- Touch and hold the message you want to respond to.
- Select the emoji you'd like from the menu that appears.

### Limit Forwarded Messages

Only forward information that is relevant and from reliable sources.

### Verify Information

Before sharing information, ensure it is accurate. When possible, reference official General Conference communications.

### Be Mindful of Time Zones

Delegates are participating from around the world. Please be patient and do not expect immediate responses.

### Avoid Duplicate Questions

If someone has already asked your question, consider following that conversation rather than starting a new one.

## Protect Privacy

Please do not share screenshots, contact information, or private conversations outside this community without permission from those involved.

## Use @Mentions Sparingly

Use @mentions only when you need the attention of a specific person or Community Administrator. Avoid mentioning everyone unless absolutely necessary, as notifications are sent across multiple countries and time zones.

## Language & Translation

Don't hesitate to communicate in the language you're most comfortable using. WhatsApp offers translation features that can help participants understand one another, allowing our global community to communicate more effectively.

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## Sharing Files and Media

### When sharing files:

- Share only General Conference-related documents and resources.
- Keep file sizes reasonable whenever possible.
- Avoid posting duplicate documents or repeatedly sharing the same files.

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## Community Timeline

This WhatsApp Community has been created to support delegates and alternates as they prepare for and participate in the 2026 General Conference.

To help keep information current, protect member privacy, and maintain the community's purpose, this community is intended to be temporary. Unless otherwise communicated, it will

remain active through **Friday, September 18, 2026**, after which it will be closed by the General Conference administrators.

Please save any contact information you wish to keep before the community closes, as members and messages may no longer be accessible once the community has been archived and removed.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Will official conference information only be shared through WhatsApp?

No. WhatsApp is a supplemental communication tool. Official communications will continue to be shared through the General Conference event app, email, and other designated Global Methodist Church communication channels.

### Can I invite others to join?

No. Membership is managed by General Conference administrators to ensure that only approved delegates and alternates participate.

### What if I accidentally post something in the wrong chat?

No problem. Simply delete the message if appropriate or post a brief clarification. We all make mistakes.

### Can I message another delegate privately?

Yes. Private conversations are permitted between participants who mutually choose to communicate. Please use wisdom, courtesy, and respect in all interactions.

### Who should I contact if I have technical questions?

Please contact one of the Community Administrators in the app for assistance.

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## Community Expectations

This WhatsApp Community is intended to foster collaboration, respectful dialogue, and meaningful connection among delegates and alternates as they prepare for the 2026 General Conference.

Community Administrators are here to help maintain a welcoming, productive, and secure environment for everyone. Please keep conversations focused on General Conference, engage with one another graciously, and help cultivate a Christ-centered spirit of Christian conferencing.

Unless a message is shared by an authorized General Conference Administrator or is clearly identified as an official Global Methodist Church communication, the views, opinions,

interpretations, and comments expressed by individual participants are their own and do not necessarily represent the official positions, policies, or theological interpretations of the Global Methodist Church.

Messages that are unrelated to General Conference, inappropriate, disrespectful, or inconsistent with these guidelines may be removed. Repeated disregard for these expectations may result in removal from the community.

**Thank you for helping create a welcoming, secure, and Christ-centered community as we prepare together for the 2026 General Conference.**