


The Beauty of HOLINESS

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GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH GENERAL CONFERENCE 2026

Saturday, September 5

DAILY JOURNAL — SUPPLEMENT

Plenary Session · Bishop Consecration Service
Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg

Three committee items omitted from the Saturday Daily Journal. Each is reported here in full. Committee actions and votes are as recorded by the committees themselves.

MINISTRY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE — REPORT ON PETITION 1413

Petition 1413 (Report page 231). The committee reports as follows.

Melissa Padgett, Toby Chastain, Bridget Douglas, Brian Ebel and the report's author met Tuesday night to review and compare the existing language in ¶509 and the petition as it stands amended at the committee's adjournment Monday evening, 31 August.

The amended Petition 1413 appears to be the best attempt both to honor the ministry of the Deacon — enabling them to serve the church with sacramental authority under the supervision of an elder — and not to impede the ministry of the Deacon. The committee does not feel that further work on this petition would produce a more effective petition.

Earlier last year there was an established Task Force that did not complete work around this very issue. The work of developing a better understanding of the practice and theology of a Deacon in the Wesleyan Global Methodist context remains unfinished.

RECOMMENDATION

We, the Ministry Legislative Committee, recommend that the 2026 General Conference create a task force to evaluate and clarify our theology of ordination in the Global Methodist Church.

The Task Force would be created by March 1, 2027, which allows time after the beginning of the additional newly elected Bishops and members of Commission who assume office November 1, 2026.

The purpose would be to develop a clear, biblically based, Wesleyan Global Methodist theology of:

- The theology of the call to ministry
- The orders of ordained ministry
- The meaning of Ordination
- The appointive ministry of the Global Methodist Church
- Sacramental authority of the ordained

To provide continuity of theology and the practice of ministry, the Task Force would be comprised of the following:

- Chaired by an active Bishop, as elected from within the Assembly of Bishops that assume office on November 1, 2026;
- three members from the Doctrine and Just Ministry Commission, as named from DJMC members who begin service on November 1, 2026;
- three members from the Commission on Ministry and Higher Education, as named from the MHEC;
- and three members at large selected by the Connectional Council, who will be named after the MHEC and DJMC members are named.
- Some members should be deacons.

The work of the Task Force should be completed and a written report should be available no later than 24 months prior to the next General Conference of The Global Methodist Church.

SUPERINTENDENCY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE — NEW RESOLUTION

KENNY OTT RESOLUTION

September 1, 2026

WHEREAS, the Global Methodist Church exists as a truly global and connectional body working to advance the mission of God in a multitude of countries and contexts and,

WHEREAS, one of the challenges of Global identity is the difference in cultures and language as it relates to the meaning of terms within the polity of our denomination and,

WHEREAS, in multiple contexts around the world in which the Global Methodist Church is active, the term “Superintendent” has political, militaristic, or other connotations outside of the scope of our polity and,

WHEREAS, these other connotations or definitions, particularly as it relates to Conference Superintendents, makes the work of working with those outside of the church difficult or nearly impossible and,

WHEREAS, we seek to be a movement that is united in our practice but nimble and reasonable in the practice thereof across the globe, now therefore,

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the General Conference of the Global Methodist Church directs the Assembly of Bishops to undertake the work of finding an appropriate term or terms for Conference Superintendents, other than Bishop or any version thereof, that might be used in contexts in which the term “Conference Superintendents” creates a barrier to the ability of Conference Superintendents to fulfill the duties and responsibilities as outlined in the Book of Doctrines and Disciplines. The request of the Assembly of Bishops should include, but is not limited to:

- Soliciting information from Conference Superintendents across the globe as to the challenges or barriers that are created using the term “Conference Superintendent.”
- Facilitate conversation with Conference Superintendents in affected areas as to culturally appropriate language that could be pragmatically substituted in areas as necessary.
- Engage in conversations with leaders, government officials, or other necessary persons to educate local leadership within the bounds of effected Annual Conferences on the polity of the GMC, specifically as it relates to the function and role of Conference Superintendents, or any other terminology deemed appropriate through this process.
- Submit to the Connectional Council the information gathered, work completed, and recommendation for language that would allow for cultural flexibility related to language and the term “Conference Superintendent” for the purpose of submitting enabling language to the 2032 General Conference. In the time between the 2026 and 2032 General Conference, the Connectional Council is asked to approve these localized operational terms as developed by the Assembly of Bishops.

Motioner: Kenny Ott Second: Matthew Kearns Vote: Yes 33 / No 0 / Abstain 0

SUPERINTENDENCY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE — NEW PETITION

MATTHEW KEARN PETITION

September 1, 2026

Petition number pending assignment. This is a new petition of the Superintendency Legislative Committee; no number had been assigned at the time of printing.

Rationale:

With Petition #1335 approved as amended by the Superintendency Legislative Committee, this paragraph becomes obsolete and should be removed as to avoid any confusion when presented to the conference for final vote.

Motion: Amend paragraph 610.5.a by striking the whole paragraph

~~a. Each annual conference superintendency committee shall be responsible for working with the bishop, the conference superintendent, and the presiding elders to ensure compliance with the commitment to open itineracy and the equitable and fair consideration of diverse pastors during the appointment process~~

Mover: Matthew Kearns Second: Joshua Johnson Vote: Yes 32 / No 2 / Abstain 1



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