



The Beauty of HOLINESS

A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE. A HOLY CALLING.



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

General
Conference 2026

DELEGATE ORIENTATION

November 17, 2025



Delegate Orientation Program

SCOTT PATTISON

(GREAT LAKES)

Delegate preparation

Delegation best practices

TOM LAMBRECHT

(GC SECRETARY)

Delegate allocation

Delegation responsibilities

BECCI WOOD

(GC PROJECT MANAGER)

Logistics

Travel Arrangements

SCOTT PATTISON
Head of Delegation
Conference Superintendent, Great Lakes Annual
Conference



Know & Remember



**You are among friends
who share the same goal in
mind, and have similar stories
and experiences of how we got
here**

Spiritual Preparation

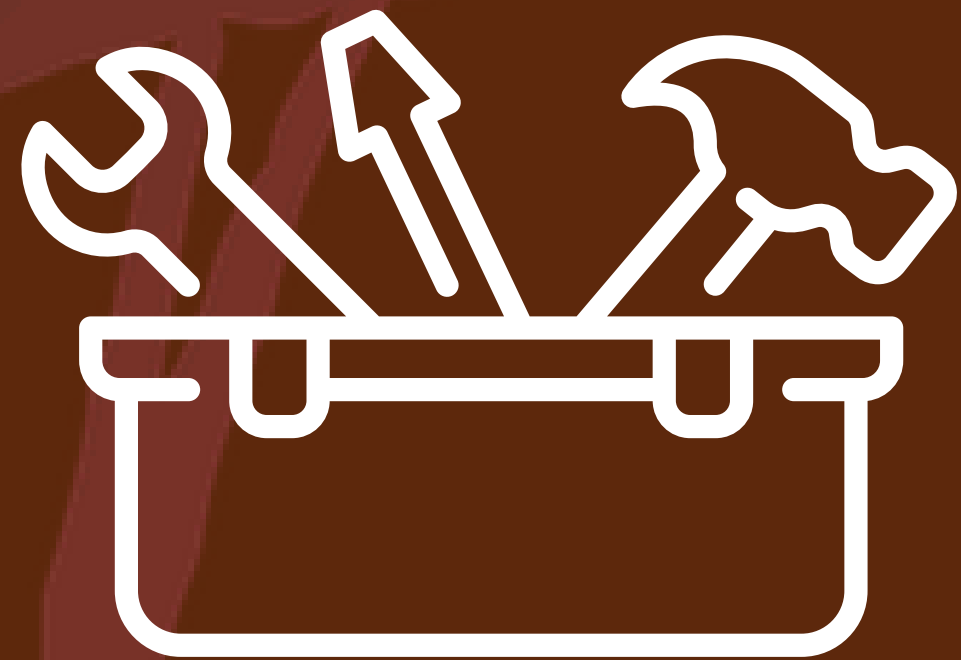
This is a Spiritual Call

We must first prepare ourselves spiritually

**Engage in Spiritual Disciplines, Worship,
Christian Community, etc.**



Pragmatic Aspects in the Life of the Delegation



Beauty of Holiness 2026
website

Best practices: view these as tools
in a toolbox

Selecting Leadership of Your Delegation



Include both Laity and Clergy

Decide the roles needed and the method of selection

Chair

Vice-Chair

Secretary

Use Forms of Technology



Microsoft Teams

Google Workspace

WhatsApp

Meeting Schedule



Find times that work for most, if not all

Schedule regular meeting times up to the General Conference

Know your targets and meet accordingly

Meet Regularly

Organize the Delegation

e.g. nominations to
committees, councils, and
commissions, participation in
the episcopal election
process, etc.

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website

Know the “Why” of each
selection

Helpful Hints



Pay attention to the practical!

Start now building healthy habits and routines – both spiritually & physically

Sleep, diet, and exercise matter

Bring Comfortable Clothing

Hydrate regularly (bring water bottles)

Helpful Thoughts

Additional training and onboarding, including Connectional Conversations and Parliamentary Process training, for all legislative committees.

You are not alone; we are in this together!

Consider putting 1/6 of the total cost of sending your delegation back each year to fund General Conference 2032

BECCI WOOD
General Conference
Event Project Manager



Registration

Registration is being made available in phases. This allows for us to handle matters that may arise more individually without overwhelming our Registration Concierge and our travel partner, Uniglobe.

OCTOBER 31, 2025, PHASE 1

Bishops, General Conference Commission, GMC Staff

NOVEMBER 19, 2025, PHASE 2

GCC Sub-Teams, Council of Appeals, Key Assigned Volunteers, Continued registration for Phase 1

DECEMBER 10, 2025, PHASE 3

Delegates, Bishop Emeriti, Conference Superintendents, Continued registration for Phases 1 & 2

JANUARY 14, 2026, PHASE 4

Volunteers, Exhibitors, Sponsors, Honored Guests, Continued registration for Phases 1, 2, & 3

FEBRUARY 11, 2026, PHASE 5

Open to Public, Continue registration for Phases 1, 2, 3, & 4

U.S. DELEGATES

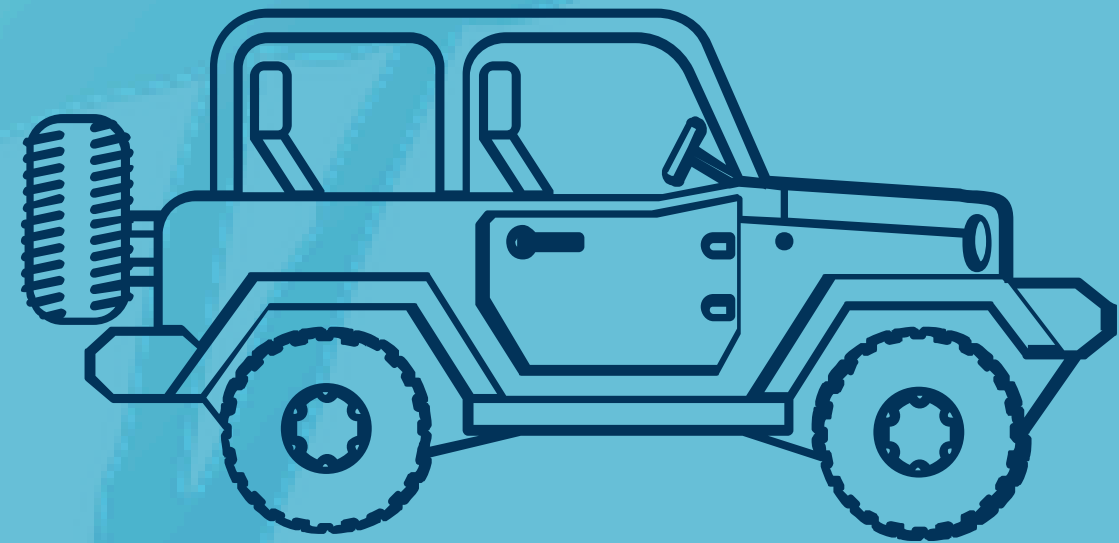


U.S. Delegates



You MUST have a current passport (Expiration date must NOT be before December 31, 2026) to register.

Programming Options



**Participate in extra
programming options:**

GC26 Choir

Mission Experience

Educational Opportunities Tour

Booking Form

Please do NOT complete this Booking Form until you have taken time to think through your travel plans.

For example, if you are planning to do any mission work pre or post GC26 with a conference partner in Africa, you will need to indicate this in your Booking Form

Flight Changes

Any changes to the initial flight(s) made will be the financial responsibility of the individual making the changes.



U.S. Arrival & Departure Dates



US Delegates are scheduled to arrive on Thursday, August 28 with a departure on Sunday, September 6.

Airport Transfers



Airport Transfers will be arranged for those using our travel partner, Uniglobe for their travel.

DELEGATES OUTSIDE THE US

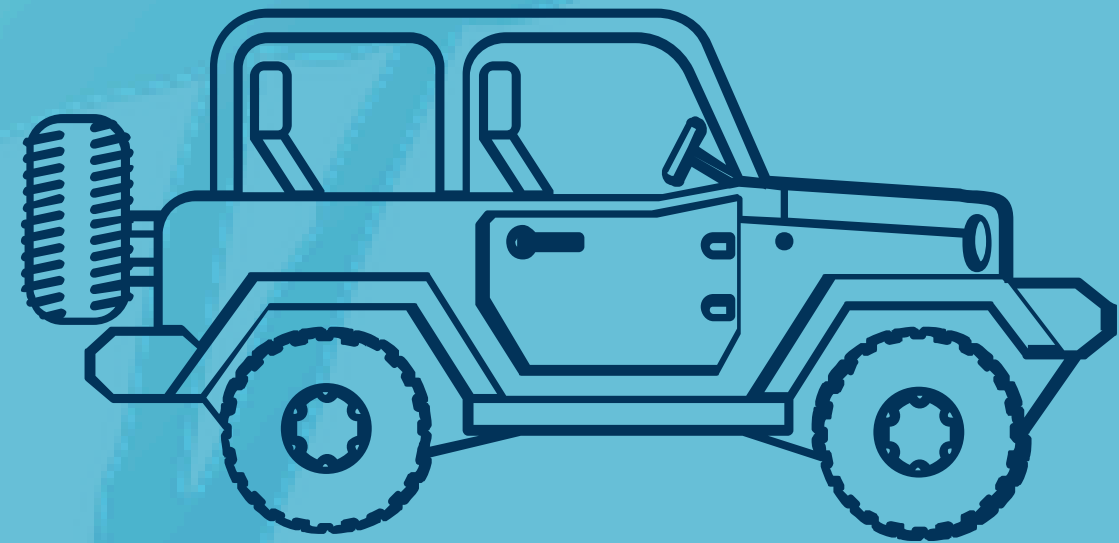


Delegates Outside the U.S.

A valid passport (expiration no earlier than December 31, 2026) or for those from South Africa, a valid SA Identification Card will be required for registration.

Delegates outside the US will have no hotel charges BUT will be required at time of Check-In to provide a credit card for incidentals.

Programming Options



**Participate in extra
programming options:**

GC26 Choir

Mission Experience

Educational Opportunities Tour

Booking Form

Booking Form where you will provide information for your travel preferences.

Please do NOT complete this Booking Form until you have taken time to think through your travel plans.

Flight Changes

Any changes to the initial flight(s) made will be the financial responsibility of the individual making the changes.



Projected Arrival Date Groups



AUGUST 26TH

GCC from 3+ time zones away
Active Bishops
GMC Staff
Key Volunteers
Registration Volunteers arriving
from 3+ time zones away

AUGUST 27TH

Remaining GCC
Council of Appeals
Other Volunteers arriving from 3+
time zones away

AUGUST 28TH

ALL Delegates+Alternates
Emeriti Bishops
Remaining Volunteers
Exhibitors

AUGUST 29TH

Invited Ecumenical Guests
Sponsors
Observers/Guests

LODGING & VENUE



Hotel Reservations

US Delegates and Alternates to arrive on August 28, 2026, for time zone acclimation, and depart on September 6, 2026. All estimated prices are based on this nine (9)-night stay.

SANDTON TOWERS

\$2,159 single occupancy/\$2,357 double occupancy

SANDTON SUN

\$2,001 single occupancy/\$2,199 double occupancy

GARDEN COURT

\$894 single occupancy/\$1,036 double occupancy

PROTEA BALALAIKA

\$923 single occupancy/\$1,081 double occupancy

RADISSON BLU GAUTRAIN

\$1,080 single occupancy/\$1,213 double occupancy

Hotel Reservations



**All delegates from outside the US will
either be assigned to the Sandton Sun
or Garden Court.**

GC26 Registration in Johannesburg at Sandton Convention Centre



On-site registration will begin with limited hours on Thursday, August 27.

On-site Registration Hours will be communicated as they are determined.

Dress & Attire



Dress comfortably!

Other Details



Time Zone: GMT +2

Tipping: in restaurants, good service 10-15%; other services like Room Service, Housecleaning, ... 10%



Per Diems: for delegates outside of the US, a daily per diem will be given to you at time of onsite registration. The daily per diem is recommended at \$65/day

Meals Provided



Breakfasts are provided everyday in each hotel

Lunches will be provided daily at the Convention Center August 30-September 5

Evening Dinners will be provided on Sunday, August 30, Monday, August 31 and Wednesday, September 2

TOM LAMBRECHT
General Conference
Secretary



Delegate Allocation

Based on number of churches and FTEs in each conference

Increased from 330 to 400 (+/- 5 percent)

New allocation in February, based on the numbers in effect on December 31, 2025

Legislative process team, General Conference Commission, Connectional Council approval

Deadline for final approval is March 3

Security



Very safe environment

Access to the convention center controlled on our floors

Access to various areas on our floors, including the delegate seating area, will also be controlled

Wrist bands (like hospital wrist bands)

GC Administrative Committees

Made up of GC delegates
nominated by each delegation

Note: those nominated must have been delegates to the 2024 General Conference

Deadline for nominations is
February 2



Elected by the Connectional Council

Agenda Committee (8) – at GC

Credentials Committee (8) – at GC

Journal Committee (3) – at and after GC

Nominations Committee (8) – before GC

Reference Committee (8) – before and at GC

(No Courtesies Committee)

General Church Commissions and Councils

Made up of GMC members
nominated by each delegation

**Deadline for
nominations is
March 3**

Up to 16 nominees per annual
conference, at least half lay

Designate one or two commissions
for each

Nominees submit 100-word bio
(gifts/experience/qualifications)

General Church Commission

Nominations Committee
formulates a slate for each
commission or council

Consider geographical, racial/ethnic, gender,
and age diversity

Prioritize members' gifts and experience

**Deadline for
publishing the slate
is May 1**

Everyone nominated for a commission or
council will be printed in the Pre-Conference
Workbook and the first Daily Journal, with
those recommended by the Nominations
Committee having an asterisk

Elected by majority vote by the General
Conference

Councils & Commissions to be Elected

Connectional Council (¶ 807.2)

**Evangelism, Missions, and Church
Planting Commission (¶ 808.1)
(Kingdom Advancement)**

**Discipleship, Doctrine, and Just
Ministry Commission (¶ 809.1)**

**Ministry and Higher Education
Commission (¶ 810.1)**

**Finance, Administration, Pensions,
and Benefits Commission (¶ 811.1)**

Councils & Commissions to be Elected

**General Conference Commission
(¶ 812.1)**

**Global Episcopacy Committee
(¶ 605.1)**

**Ecumenical Relationships
Commission (¶ 813.1)**

**Connectional Council on Appeals
(and alternates) (¶ 920)**

**Conferences Commission
(¶ 814.2)**

Episcopal Elections

All information requested by
March 15

Two members elected to Area
Episcopacy Committee

Will lead the process of determining what each
episcopal area consists of and interviewing
prospective bishops

List of top ten annual conferences
for your episcopal area

Nominees for the Office of Bishop

Up to one nominee from your annual conference

Up to one nominee from outside your annual conference

Not necessary to nominate anyone

Legislative Committees

All petitions divided into eight legislative **committees**

35-65 delegates in each

Each delegate chooses top three preferences in order

Deadline for submitting preferences is May 1

Delegates are assigned based on preference, expertise, and geographical and lay/clergy balance

Legislative Process Team recommends assignments

General Conference Commission approves assignments by June 1

Legislative Committee Summer Meeting

Each legislative committee will meet virtually from June 15-30

Elect officers (chair, vice-chair, secretary – subcommittee chairs)

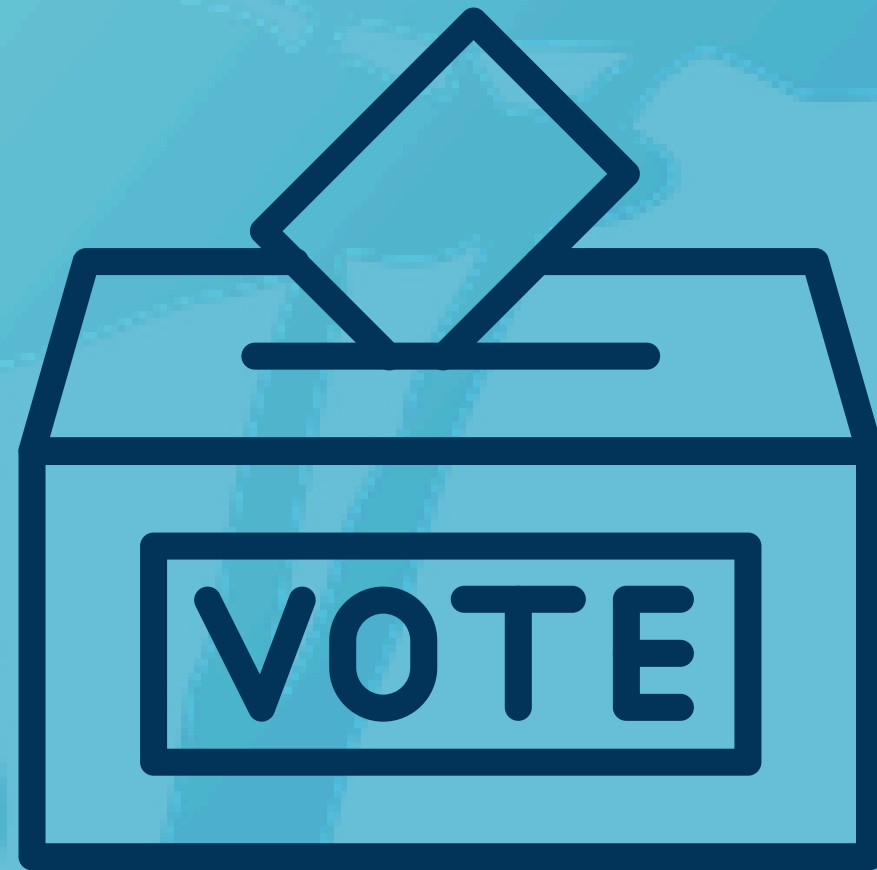
Receive training in parliamentary procedure and our rules

Legislative Committee

officers training July 1-15

Officers can begin organizing the committee's work

Voting Devices



**Use the same voting devices as 2024
Training** during the first plenary
Software upgrades deal with glitches
experienced in 2024

Conference Schedule

Day 1 – Sunday (August 30)

- Opening worship
- Plenary – including renominating ballot for interim bishops and Episcopal Address
- Legislative Committees

Day 2 – Monday (August 31)

- Opening worship – including concert of prayer
- Legislative Committees

Day 3 – Tuesday (September 1)

- Morning plenary
- Legislative Committees finish work

Conference Schedule

Day 4 – Wednesday (September 2)

- Plenary – including first bishop elections
- Africa Culture Night

Day 5 – Thursday (September 3)

- Plenary – including continued bishop elections
- Celebration for retiring and newly-elected bishops

Day 6 – Friday (September 4)

- Plenary – including beginning commission elections

Conference Schedule

Day 7 – Saturday (September 5)

- Plenary – finish elections and all other business
- Consecration Service for bishops

Day 8 – Sunday (September 6)

- Finish take-down, departures

Thank you!

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