



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

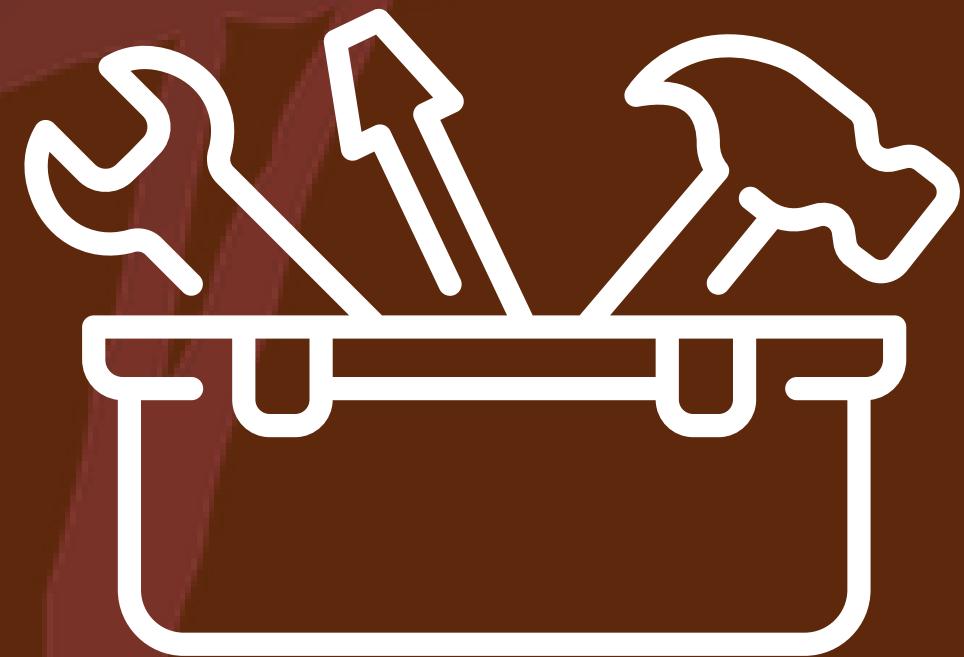
Spiritual Preparation

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.

Beauty of Holiness 2026
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

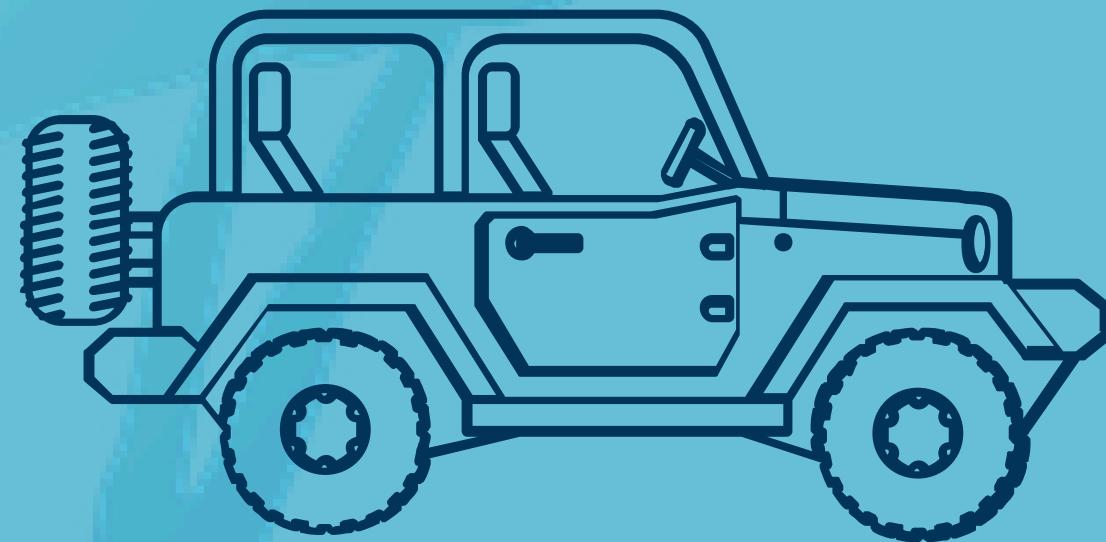


U.S. Delegates



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

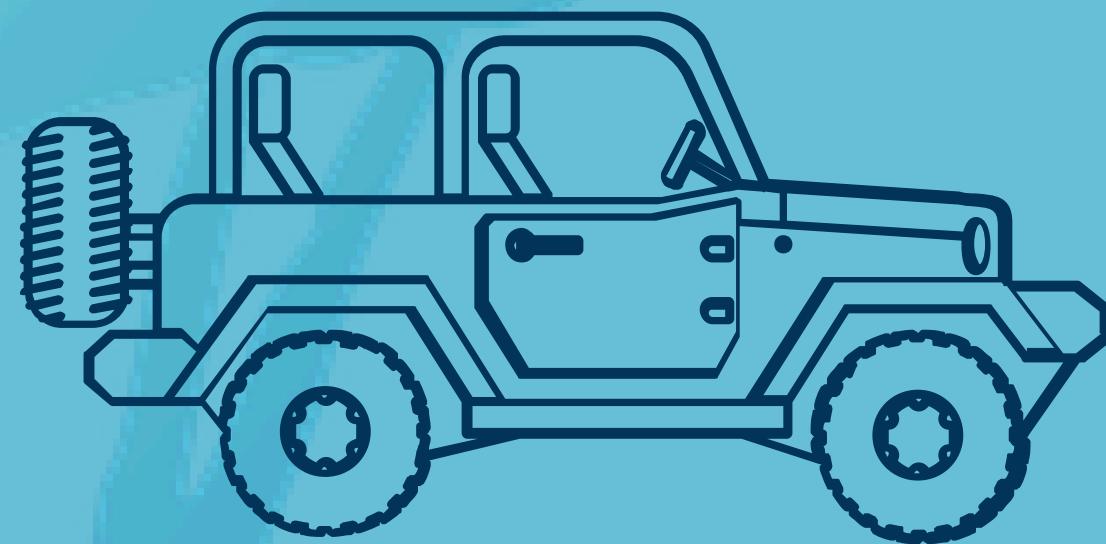


Delegates Outside the U.S.

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.

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programming options:
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Mission Experience
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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.

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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 28TH

ALL Delegates+Alternates
Emeriti Bishops
Remaining Volunteers
Exhibitors

AUGUST 29TH

Invited Ecumenical Guests
Sponsors
Observers/Guests

AUGUST 27TH

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

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



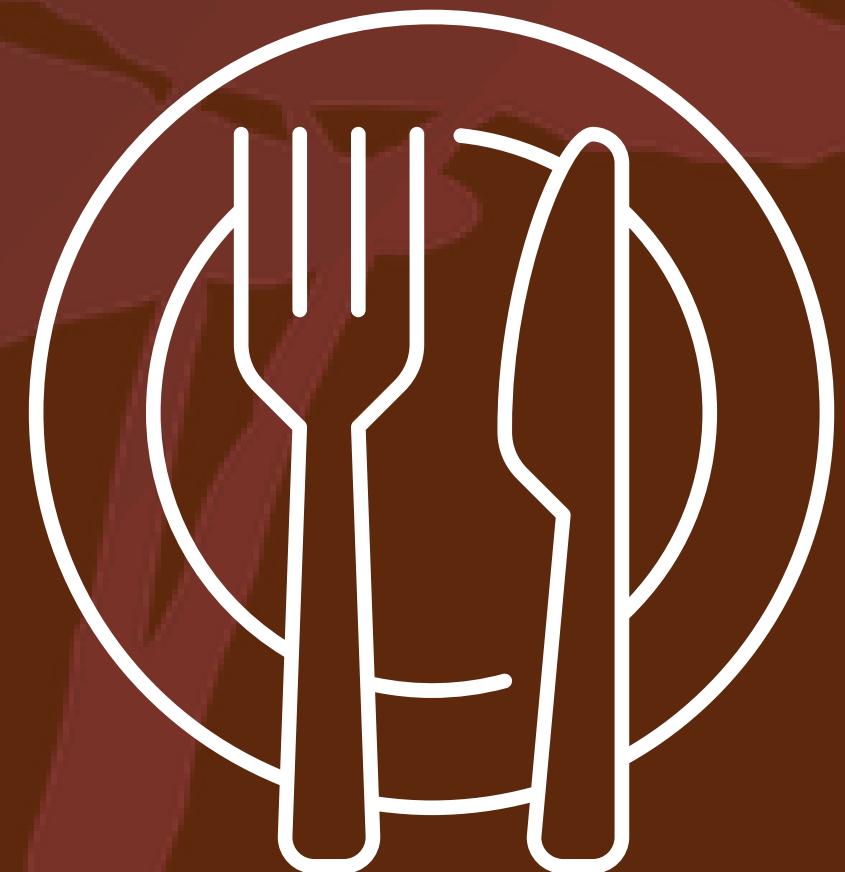
Time Zone: GMT +2

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)

Ecumenical Relationships
Commission (¶ 813.1)

Conferences Commission
(¶ 814.2)

Global Episcopacy Committee
(¶ 605.1)

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

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

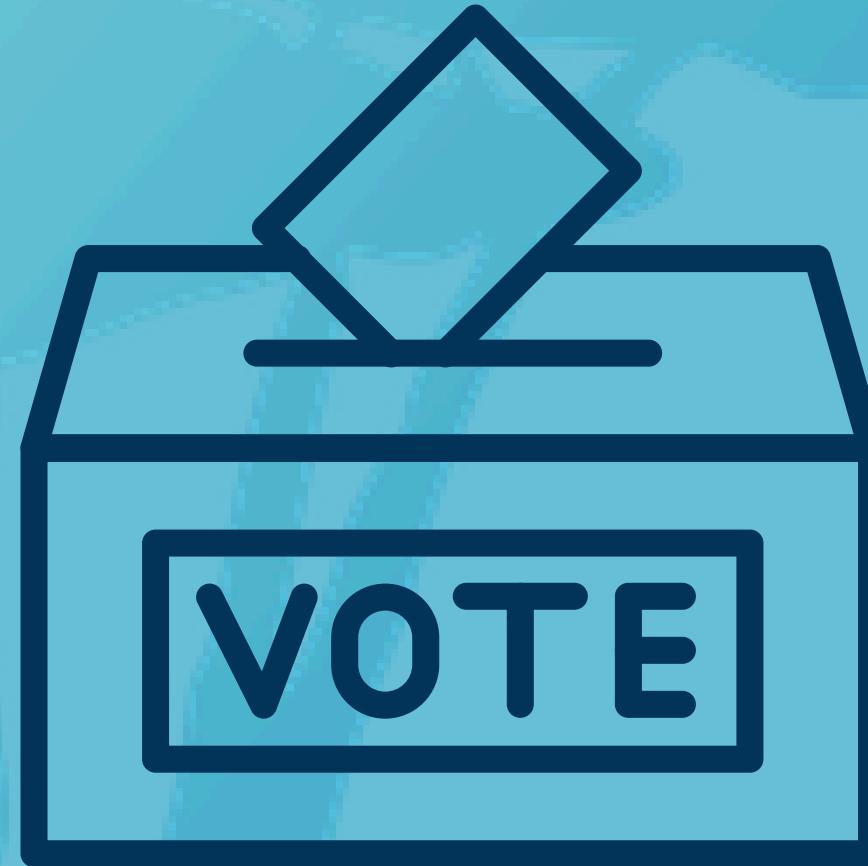
Each legislative committee will meet virtually from June 15-30

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

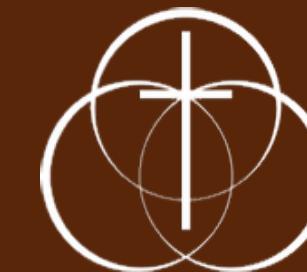
Day 8 – Sunday (September 6)

- Finish take-down, departures



Thank you!

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