

# Clergy Candidates for General Conference Delegate

## Emily Allen

### Bemus Point GMC | Wilmore, KY

I feel called to be a representative voice of young clergy in the GMC at the convening General Conference. I care deeply about the future of the GMC and am filled with hope as we launch into what is ahead. I would like to be a part of the GMC seeking to follow where Christ is leading. As a current seminary student, I am in constant conversation with my peers about hopes for the Church. I have much experience with working on a team and believe that my gifts include collaboration, listening well, asking good questions, and administrative and detail skills. I desire to see the best in others and examine all issues with Spirit-filled deliberation.

I currently serve as the Coordinator of Worship for Asbury Seminary, where I plan three weekly Chapel services, host guest speakers, lead a team of 15 student interns, and collaborate with other departments to plan major events for the Seminary. I am also very active in my local seminary church, where I am a life group leader and a regular participant in various elements of worship leadership.

Past leadership experiences in the UMC include being a delegate to Annual Conference for nine years, serving on the Division on Ministries with Young People (part of the General Board of Discipleship) as the Northeastern Jurisdiction Youth representative for four years, and serving as the Co-Chair of the Upper New York Conference Council on Youth Ministries for one year.

## Emily Buonocore

### Dover Bethany GMC | Dover, PA

The primary reason I feel called to offer my services as a delegate to the first General Conference of the GMC is to help create a structure that will encourage and aid future generations in their call to serve God and build His church. I am a pastor's child and grew up in the United Methodist Church serving in leadership positions in local church and camp ministries since I was twelve. I have been in the ordination process first in the UMC and now in the GMC starting in 2017. I praise God that I will be ordained an elder this April at the Northeast Annual Conference. However, for myself and many other ordination candidates, it has been a disheartening and complicated road. I hope that my know-

ledge and experience can be used as a delegate to help establish structures and procedures that are clear and uniform across the denomination. I pray that the new structure can enable the current and next generation to explore their calling and grow their relationship with Jesus Christ without being overburdened and confused by the ordination process or how the church, as a whole, functions.

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## Salvatore Buonocore

**Dover Bethany GMC | Dover, PA**

Raised by my grandmother, I felt called to ministry around 10th grade in which I began my ministry by leading my youth group in both song and devotionals. A few times my senior year I got to fill in and preach for our pastor. At Asbury College I was the class chaplain for 2 years and lead weekly prayer meetings. I went out each year with the men's glee club and also led a few ministry teams that went out from the college to other churches. While at Asbury Seminary, I pastored near Shakertown, Kentucky for 4 years. I also served a year as the general chairman of the Ichthus music festival. I met my wife who is from northern Kentucky while at college. We have 3 children. My son is a

worship pastor, my daughter is a GMC pastor and my youngest daughter works with special needs children. I was ordained deacon and then elder in the United Methodist Church. I have served 2 churches in the central area of Pennsylvania. My 1st appointment was for 22 years and I am currently in my 13th year of my 2nd appointment. Our latest challenge is to plant a daughter church within the next year. The local church is where my calling has been which has resulted in 2 long pastorates totaling some 34+ years. My passion is to make sure the needs of the local church are served by the hierarchy and not the other way around. It is in the local church where evangelism is shared, disciples are grown and holiness is pursued. I want to see our new denomination rooted and grounded in support of the local church. This passion and experience is what I would bring to our delegation team.



## Jae Chang

**Heavenly Vision Korean Community Church |  
Clarksville, MD**

My main ministry concern is how to overcome conflict in the church to pursue renewal and reconciliation, how to heal and help the people - those who are in conflict and division in the multi-ethnic society and racism, hunger, economic war, conflicts of the world - in the power of Holy Spirit. I would like to give thanks to the living God who led me to Global Methodist church to do my best in carrying out God's pastoral ministry during the past 25 years. Also, I am very thankful for those who made many commitments and prayers.

Our church has suffered 2 large conflicts and a schism during past years, however it has been very peaceful and a gracious situation since I have been appointed to this church. The church has overcome arduous conflicts and is constantly moving forward to a fruitful future thanks to the Almighty God.

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## **Todd Christine**

### **Grace Church of Hanover | Hanover, PA**

After much consideration and prayer, I believe God is calling me to serve our new denomination as a delegate to General Conference. I have never served as a delegate beyond a lay person to my local annual conference. Until now, I have never felt the push to stand up and offer myself for this service. There is a fire burning within me!

I am gifted in peacemaking and discernment.

God has blessed me with being able to think big picture and to seek to build bridges. I have served as the Vice-President of my former Susquehanna Conference Board of Trustees. I

was invited to serve as a clergy and congregational vitality advisor. I have had the opportunity to teach at multiple levels of my conference in equipping laity in the church. In my former life I have almost 15 years of construction management experience.



## **Anne McCorkle Garrett**

### **Fairview Methodist Church | Baldwin, MD**

I have been serving as staff or pastor for 23 years. Some of my staff experience was in the Episcopal and Lutheran churches. In addition to my M.Div. I earned a certificate in Ecumenism, and was a UM delegate to the National Council of Churches. I have only served troubled churches, and have turned each one around. I have enjoyed studying and teaching our Wesleyan heritage and doctrine. I am thrilled to be part of the first wave of Global Methodists, and to help to lay a good foundation for a healthy church.

My church was unanimous in its votes, one of the first out of the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

# Clergy Candidates for General Conference Delegate



## **Kari Jones**

**Connection Community Church |  
Middletown, DE**

“To be ready to respond when God interrupts.” That has been my personal mission statement for almost 30 years. From God interrupting my very satisfying career as a nurse to go into the ordained ministry, from a wonderful first appointment on staff of a large church (1992-2001) and then called along with my husband to uproot our family in order to plant a church (Connection Community Church) in Middletown, Delaware (2001-present), I’ve sought to be obedient. In pastoral ministry, I served on the Board of Ordained Ministry for 12 years, chaired the Superintendency

Committee, helped on various task forces, mentored many clergy, and in 2022, was a Reserve Delegate to Jurisdictional Conference of the UMC. In 2016, I attended the convening Conference of the Wesleyan Covenant Association in Chicago and felt like I was HOME. As part of our local WCA, our team worked diligently to help churches discern their future. Ninety-two churches disaffiliated.

I was humbled to serve on the GMC’s Northeast Transitional Conference Advisory Team (TCAT) and currently serve as a Presiding Elder and Chair of the North East Board of Ministry. It’s a new day as we move in the Spirit (Galatians 5:25)! Approving the GMC Constitution, adopting the Book of Doctrines and Discipline, and legislation regarding the episcopacy are in the forefront of decisions that need to be made. I am committed to remain centered on Wesleyan doctrine and theology based on scripture, support a leaner denominational structure that prioritizes the work of the local church, robust accountability, and a truly global church that will be multi-racial, multi-cultural, and multi-national, where we learn from one another as we live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Back in 1987, I discovered that my spiritual gifts are leadership, administration, and discernment. Since that time, I have seen them used by God throughout my life in the local church and beyond. I would be humbled to represent the NE PAC as a Clergy Delegate. I didn’t see this coming but I am responding to God’s interruption to serve Him with everything I’ve got.



## **Ho Kang**

**Community Methodist Church | Great Bend, PA**

I have served as an Elder in the UMC and became an Elder in the GMC as of July 1, 2023. I want to become a delegate, hoping to become a GMC of grace that follows the Bible of unchanging truth.

# Clergy Candidates for General Conference Delegate

## Robert Kaylor

### Aldersgate Church (not affiliated) | York, PA



I currently serve as the Chair of the General Commission on Doctrine, Discipleship, and Just Ministry for the Global Methodist Church. I previously served as member of the Global Council of the Wesleyan Covenant Association (2017-2023) and served on the Next Steps Task Force that wrote the initial WCA version of the Book of Doctrine and Discipline. I also chaired the WCA Task Force on Accountable Discipleship, which fed into both the WCA and Transitional Leadership Council versions of the Book of Doctrine and Discipline. I was the host of the WCA Podcast "Holy Conversations" and have served in numerous other ways in assisting in the creation of the Global Methodist

Church. Now recently moved back to the Northeast after 25 years in the West, where I served churches in Colorado and Utah, I believe that my experience at the ground level of creating the GMC allows me to have some deep insight into the spirit and mission of this movement. My presence on the delegation would provide historical and theological background for the work ahead, as well as personal and professional relationships with other GMC leaders across the connection. My current church, Aldersgate Church in York, PA, is still discerning its connectional future, but I am fully committed to the GMC and its mission. I was originally ordained elder in the old Central Pennsylvania Conference of the UMC in 1997, so the Northeast is my home. I would value the opportunity to represent the Northeast which, in many ways, has similar challenges to what we faced in the Western Jurisdiction of the UMC. I plan to attend the convening conference in Costa Rica at my own expense, representing the Commission on Doctrine, Discipleship, and Just Ministry, but I also believe that I have the credentials to effectively serve the Northeast delegation in its work. My spiritual gifts include leadership and teaching, and I have skill sets in writing, communication technology, and team formation.

## Mike Kerzee

### Kidder Memorial GMC | Jamestown, NY



Elder in the GMC. I served on the pre-conference team in the Mid-Tex Conference. Served as Presiding Elder in the Mid-Tex Conference. Served as Dean of the Cabinet Mid-Tex Conference. I have prayed about serving on the general conference team for quite some time. I feel led to serve, even though I am new to the North East Conference of the GMC.

I bring a few spiritual gifts to the General Conference delegation. First is prayer. The book of James reminds us to pray first. Prayer is an essential element for the members of the delegation. Second, I am team player. I work well in an environment where it is important that the delegation works well together. Third, I am committed to orthodoxy and orthopraxis in the GMC. Thank you for your consideration.

# Clergy Candidates for General Conference Delegate



## Rick LaDue

### Webster Methodist Church | Webster, NY

Prior to ordained ministry, I served as a youth pastor for almost 20 years. From 2000-2003, I was the Ichthus festival director, overseeing a festival geared towards sharing the gospel to thousands through contemporary Christian music and orthodox teaching. Since then, in the Upper New York (UNY) Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, I was district youth coordinator, DCOM secretary and co-chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry. I've served as dean of the annual Family Bible Camp in Findley Lake, NY for over a decade and I was the events coordinator for the UNY WCA. I recently completed my term on the Asbury Theological Seminary Alumni Council.

John Wesley's goal in America was to "reform the continent and to spread scriptural holiness over the land." During my two decades of youth ministry, I served in three different UMC conferences throughout the country. Because of this, I feel I have a unique perspective which would contribute to a national dialogue focused on renewal. I believe that my life experiences in missions and educational travel can contribute to the global conversation as well.

In this season of transition to the Global Methodist Church, I have found direction from the gospel of John which tells us that Jesus "...came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) As we navigate the legislative processes that determine what our denomination will become, I am committed to following Jesus' model of grace and truth. As lead pastor at the Webster Methodist Church, I have led a congregation of diverse theological perspectives with a spirit of grace into the Global Methodist Church, while remaining anchored to the truth I find in the orthodox theology of Methodism and of the Christian church itself.



## Philip Michaels

### Exeter Methodist Church | Exeter, NH

I feel led to at least offer myself up as a possibility to be a delegate. There are many others who have been around the specific Methodist eco-system that has given birth to the GMC longer than I have. But, I do feel it is important that we have a wide variety of perspectives (within a firm commitment to our mission, vision, core values and polity) represented, as well as those who bring a firm commitment to a robust Wesleyan theological perspective as we help to shepherd our fledgling denomination through the next steps in our formation as a people. As more of an "APE" on the "APEST" scale I think it's important that we are represented as well, and can give guid-

ance from that perspective (since often in the church it seems we have many more of the shepherd-teacher types in leadership than we do apostle-prophet-evangelist types; we should have a solid mix of both/all). We'll see where the Holy Spirit leads. I would be honored and delighted to be a delegate to the convening GM Conference, and if not, I look forward to supporting those who are, praying for those who go, and taking part/assisting in whatever ways I can.

# Clergy Candidates for General Conference Delegate



## Patricia Molik

**Senior Status | Ballston Spa, NY**

I am awaiting an appointment to a church in the Northeast, once NY State finalizes the process. I believe the gifts of leadership and administration would be very beneficial in attending the conference. I currently lead the GMC Women Zoom monthly gatherings, I am a Board member of the WCA Global team, the co-leader of the Northeast Jurisdiction of WCA, Board member for SLIM-net (Spirit Led Interim Ministries Network) and was previously a Board of Ordained Ministry member and the District Committee on Ministry chairperson.



## Thadius Sales

**Calgary Methodist Church | Dillsburg, PA**

When I was attending the 2022 New Room Conference, I came in with a great level of zeal and passion. I had, only a few months prior, decided to end my candidacy for ordination in the United Methodist Church and look towards serving in the Global Methodist Church. I was coming into New Room with excitement, passion, and some eagerness to see if my church was going to disaffiliate and align itself with the GMC. I would describe that time with this phrase, "My soul was ripe for the picking."

A common theme at this conference, with the newly formed GMC on everyone's mind, was a desire to highlight and lift up young leaders. I knew that I had the passion, energy, and giftings to lead, and I couldn't sit around and watch any longer. For so long I was hearing about how "young people want this" and "young people think like that." Nothing that these "young people" were saying or thinking aligned at all with what I believed, and frankly I had never been asked! I knew, especially after the UMC 2019 General Conference, that I needed to be a young voice that was leading. I felt that my spiritual gifts of wisdom, compassion, knowledge, and discernment were ready to be used more fully. I quickly found myself working as an application reviewer for the Transitional Leadership Council and for many months worked closely with numerous churches and clergy who were joining the GMC, all the while studying and learning the intricacies of the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline. Soon after I was asked to join the Transitional Commission on Communications and the Transitional Conference Advisory Team (TCAT). Because of my work as a reviewer, I found myself assisting in many areas of the TCAT, chairing the Nominations Committee, becoming the Global Methodist Representative for Central and Eastern Pennsylvania, and eventually stepping into the role of Presiding Elder of the Northern York/Adams District as well as serving as the Board of Ministry Registrar.

In the midst of all of this, I have been leading a growing, Christ-centered church full-time, Calvary Methodist Church in Dillsburg, PA. Through these last few years, I have heard a consistent affirmation from others that I have the capabilities to lead well. This whole time I have wanted to ensure that the denomination that we get the chance to build and form is not simply UMC 2.0, but something that honors God beyond all imagination. I firmly believe that the affirmation from others and this deep desire to form a Christ-centered denomination is what propels me to serve as a delegate to the Convening General Conference.

# Clergy Candidates for General Conference Delegate



## **Brian Sandell**

**Second Avenue GMC | Altoona, PA**

I have been blessed to be the Pastor of Second Avenue Global Methodist since 2016. My family and I moved to Altoona that year not knowing a soul and not knowing what we were getting ourselves into, but God showed up and He has continued to show up. My gifts of outreach, collaboration, visioning, connecting God's word to culture, and hospitality I'm sure will bless our delegation and the church as a whole. I have been blessed to sit on three community boards in the Altoona, PA. I have served in pastoral leadership and have led youth groups for the past decade, and I'm excited to see where God is leading our church. Thank you for considering me to serve on your behalf to General Conference.



## **Joseph Saunders**

**Cressey Road Christian Church | Gorham, ME**

I humbly ask for your support and trust as you consider who will be our delegates to General Conference in September of 2024. I am a fourth-generation pastor, but more importantly, I am a Christian, and I believe that means being a follower and servant of Christ. It has been my honor to serve as senior pastor of four churches and coordinating pastor of two others, all within the rocky mission field of New England. Currently, I serve as the pastor of Cressey Road Christian Church in Gorham, ME. Prior to serving in local church ministry, I served for 20 years in the military, both in the Air Force and Army, retiring in 2002, and thereupon entering the Lord's service full-

time. In the Spring of 2023, I was invited to be part of the Transitional Conference Advisory Team (TCAT) and served until it concluded its work in December of 2023. With the TCAT, I was involved in the Appointments Team, Prayer Steering Team, and Culture Statement Development Team. During this period, I was also asked to be the point of contact for the GMC in New England and to answer questions or to help people find the answer in this area of the Northeast Region. As of January 1, and the start of the Provisional Annual Conference, I have been serving as the Presiding Elder of the New England South and the New England West Districts. This new opportunity is challenging, but so blessed! Churches and pastors are being welcomed into the GMC and new churches are being planted! The need and the HOPE for New England can be summed up in the words of Jesus in Matthew 9:37 & 38, "Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'" The Spiritual Gifts most evident in my life are Pastor, Evangelist, and Teaching. Through my time in the military, God had also given me much experience in conflict resolution, which was very helpful in pastoral ministry, especially in these last few years. It is my hope and prayer that I can faithfully and adequately represent the Northeast Conference and the New England Districts at the Global Methodist Church's first General Conference in September! Truly, God is creating and doing a new thing!

# Clergy Candidates for General Conference Delegate



## **Matthew Sichel**

**Grace Church of Hanover | Manchester, MD**

I have been active in the renewal movement of the UMC since the 2004 General Conference, and I organized the WCA Chapter in the Baltimore-Washington Conference from a very disorganized Baltimore- Washington evangelical fellowship that had long given up hope of renewal in the UMC. I have served as the secretary of the Baltimore-Washington WCA Chapter since its founding.

I was elected as an alternate delegate to the 2016/2019 UMC General Conference, and was the only evangelical elected in the very liberal Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference. I was in St. Louis in 2019 and participated heavily with the Reform and Renew-

al Coalition efforts. Because of this, I have relationships with most of the leadership of the Reform and Renewal Coalition, which is now the leadership in the Global Methodist Church.

I was asked to serve on the TCAT for the Northeastern region as one of the leaders from the Baltimore- Washington renewal movement. I served as the TCAT recording secretary for the formation of the Provisional Annual Conference, and now I serve as our Northeastern Annual Conference Secretary. I also currently serve on the Translation Team for the Commission on General Conference of the GMC.

I have been working toward the renewal of Methodism for most of my adult life. I've had the experience necessary to serve as a delegate because of my service as an active and vocal delegate in the UMC. I am very familiar with legislation and the way that business is conducted at the General Conference, and I know the issues which will need to be addressed to form a new denomination. My education in church history and historical theology gives me a strong understanding of polity, doctrine, and theology for the formation of a new denomination.

Lastly, but most importantly, I have a strong and sure relationship with Jesus Christ. I will seek to put his will and his Kingdom at the front end of everything that I do in the formation of our new denomination. I believe that if we are faithful to Christ and his Word, that the Global Methodist Church will be a powerful witness to help the world see salvation in Jesus Christ. This is my highest goal. I hope to bring all of these gifts and experiences to my work as a Delegate to the Convening General Conference.



## **Steven Taylor**

**Northeast PAC | Panama, NY**

I'm currently blessed to serve as the President Pro Tem of the Northeast PAC, and have served the GMC since the beginning of the Transitional Leadership Council in March 2020. My spiritual gifts of leadership, administration, and teaching, along with discernment have been used by God to lead the local church, the region, and the denomination for the past 20 years. Connecting and collaborating with GM churches and pastors across the world has allowed me to gain a global vision of the GMC. Now serving as the President Pro Tem of the Northeast, I am connecting our region with the world as we connect with each other. As we move to solidify the work of the TLC and fully establish the GMC, I am

hopeful for this new movement of God through the Methodist Church and am looking forward to celebrating all that's been accomplished for the Kingdom through it.

# Clergy Candidates for General Conference Delegate



## **Rob Townsend, Hockessin, DE** **Moore's Chapel | Elkton, MD**

I feel called to offer myself as a delegate to General Conference because of what God has done in and through me over the last 26 years of ministry. I have served rural churches, a 3 point charge, a town church, an inner city church and a suburban church. I have served on the cabinet in the UMC as a District Superintendent and as the Director of Connectional Ministry. I have served as the Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry and as a Delegate to Jurisdictional and General Conferences in the UMC. I co-founded the Peninsula-Delaware chapter of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and served on its Board. This past year, as I transitioned to the GMC, I have served on the Transitional Conference Advisory

Team, chaired the Appointments Team and currently serve as a Presiding Elder of the Northern Maryland District and Dean of the Cabinet. Through all of these ministries, I have experienced the good and bad of serving. I have learned that leading can only be done from a profound posture of discipleship. We can not get far without being connected to Scripture, prayer, accountability and a vigorous seeking after the Lord. It would be my honor to represent the clergy of the Northeast and to put my knowledge and experiences in our region to work at the convening General Conference.



## **Faith Wilkerson** **Cedar Grove Methodist | North Beach, MD**

My past leadership experience includes serving on the Transitional Leadership Council in the formation of the Northeast GMC as well as serving on the Board of Directors for the launch of our conference. I feel prompted to offer myself as a delegate after prayer this morning. I have never served as a delegate to a general conference, although I worked on the communications staff for the West Ohio Conference in 2000 as a news reporter during the UMC General Conference in 2000.

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