



PRE-CONFERENCE JOURNAL

EVEN  
GREATER  
THINGS

TRINITY ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

GLOBAL  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH



SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA



## LEADERSHIP

**Bishop Scott Jones**  
General Superintendent  
Global Methodist Church

**Rev. Jim Welch**  
President Pro Tempore  
Trinity Conference

**Rev. Vivian Kinnear**  
Operations Officer  
Trinity Conference

**Rev. Dr. Robert Hayes, Jr.**  
Bishop Emeritus  
Global Methodist Church

**Rev. Jason Burnham**  
Executive Officer  
Trinity Conference

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## WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Following the establishment of the Global Methodist Church in May of 2022, I am astonished at what's been accomplished in two short years! By August of that year, through the efforts of our transitional conference advisory team (TCAT), we put together a volunteer staff and started planning for the formation of a transitional conference. Our convening conference offered a deeply spiritual experience for hundreds of delegates and visitors. Since that time, we have grown into a conference that extends over three states, with hundreds of churches and pastors, and thousands of committed members.



We are continuing to grow, with churches and pastors joining us weekly. The Trinity Conference is now one of the largest conferences in the connection, and provides leadership for the entire church. And of most importance, I get reports weekly of dozens of people receiving baptism as they confess Jesus as Savior and Lord! What a remarkable work the Lord is doing in our midst!

I firmly believe that the Lord has called us “for such a time as this,” and is equipping us for the challenges and opportunities of proclaiming the good news to increasingly secular people. I do trust that the Lord is calling us to accomplish “even greater things” as we head toward our convening General Conference in Costa Rica this September.

While this Pre-Conference Journal provides reports on the work we need to do at conference, I pray that we might use our time in Shreveport as an occasion to refresh our Spirits and strengthen our walk by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace,



Rev. Jim Welch  
President Pro Tempore

# LAY LEADERSHIP GREETING

## A New Thing Springing Forth!

*Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? —Isaiah 43:19*

Coming together as a trio of Conference Lay Leaders from three former Conferences within three different States is an invigorating experience when the frontiers of Christian opportunities are thrown wide open. Our Connectional Council has made it clear that the intention of the Trinity Conference is to be local church centered in a laity-led movement. We decided for that reason that the primary goal as the Trinity Conference Lay Leaders is to establish a connection from the Conference to equip and empower local congregations through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We are planning a Laity Gathering at Annual Conference as a vehicle for orientation and information, as well as for building relationships among congregations in order to learn from each other. Our agenda will include (among other things) joyous singing, a scripture reading, a message from Bishop Scott Jones, and a leadership panel to answer questions posed by you and others. Information about General Conference and introduction of the Delegation is also planned. Our foci are envisioning a Spirit-filled future; producing a nimble, mission-generated structure; and enhancing laity roles for mutual leadership with clergy. Obviously, we can't do this without a great deal of interaction with you; without relying totally on God's guidance; and without lots of diligent, inspired work. Our prayer is that you will say, "yes," when called upon to offer your talents, insight, and witness or simply step up as you are called by God.

We are confident that is happening already as evidenced by the 100 individuals who are engaged in various ministerial education trainings through the Conference, in those who are leading their congregations already as Supply Pastors or Certified Lay Ministers, and in the 61 individuals who volunteered to run for the General Conference delegation. It was evident in the biographical summaries that there are many capable people around us and that we have an abundance of riches in the pews. This is an exciting time to be part of a new iteration of our Wesleyan heritage in pursuit of making disciples for Jesus Christ. We are very excited to be part of it.

The Lord is indeed doing a new thing among us and we are privileged to be invited. Our prayer is that you will join us in our faith adventure, as people formed for his purpose and glory, to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. We envision even greater things as we march forward in his Holy Name so the world will know He is our Savior.

Your Conference Lay Leaders,



Mr. Oscar Garza  
Texas



Dr. Sarah Kreutziger  
Louisiana



Mr. Carl Brothers  
Arkansas



# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## Thursday, June 20

- 11:00a.m. Exhibitor Set-Up | Bain Hall
- 11:00a.m. Ordinand Check-In | Hunter 101
- 12:00p.m. Ordinand Preparation & Lunch | E&A Media Room and Sanctuary
- 1:00p.m. General Check-In & Registration | Hunter 101
- 1:00p.m. Prayer Rooms Open | Dawson Building 3rd Floor Rooms 314 & 319
- 1:30 p.m. Group Photos for Ordinands, Bishop, Exec. Staff, Presiding Elders | Sanctuary
- 2:30p.m. Laity Gathering | Sanctuary
- 3:00p.m. Clergy Session | Emmett Hook Center
- 3:00p.m. Clergy Spouse Meeting | Couch Chapel Parlor
- 4:30p.m. Dinner Break (*on your own*)
- 7:00p.m. Opening Worship | Sanctuary (*overflow in Emmett Hook Center*)

## Friday, June 21

- 7:00a.m. General Check-In & Registration | Hunter 101
- 8:00a.m. Prayer Rooms Open | Dawson Building 3rd Floor Rooms 314 & 319
- 8:00a.m. Morning Devotional | Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Break
- 8:45 a.m. Ministry Session | Sanctuary (*overflow in Emmett Hook Center*)
- 12:00p.m. Lunch for All (*see various locations on next page*)
- 1:45 p.m. Move to Workshops / Youth Activity
- 2:00p.m. Youth Activities with NextGen Team / Youth Area 201
- 2:00p.m. Workshops Session #1
  - A: Growing Small Group Using Churchwide-Studies | Sanctuary
  - B: Holy Spirit Awake: A Unique Prayer Experience | Couch Chapel
  - C: NextGen Student Ministry Panel | Emmett Hook Center
  - D: So the World Will Know: General Conference Preview | Hunter Building | Bain Hall
- 3:15 p.m. Transfer to Next Workshop
- 3:30p.m. Workshops Session #2
  - A: Growing Small Group Using Churchwide-Studies | Sanctuary
  - B: Holy Spirit Awake: A Unique Prayer Experience | Couch Chapel
  - C: NextGen Student Ministry Panel | Emmett Hook Center
  - D: So the World Will Know: General Conference Preview | Hunter Building | Bain Hall
- 4:45 p.m. Dinner Break (*on your own*)
- 7:00p.m. Evening Worship (*overflow in Emmett Hook Center*)





*Schedule, Continued*

**Saturday, June 22**

- 8:00 a.m. Music Rehearsal | Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Ordinand Arrival | Sanctuary 1st Floor Rooms S102–S103
- 8:30 a.m. Clergy Arrival | Hunter 101 & 102
- 9:00 a.m. Doors Open for General Seating | Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Prelude Music | Sanctuary
- 9:55 a.m. Ordinand Processional | Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Ordination Service | Sanctuary (*overflow in Emmett Hook Center*)

## FRIDAY LUNCH LOCATIONS

- 12:00 p.m. Main General Lunch Areas | Bain Hall, Hunter 101-102
- General Lunch Area | E&A Kitchen, 1st Floor
- General Lunch Area – ADA | E&A Storer, 1st Floor
- General Lunch Area | E&A Media Room 3rd Floor
- Internship Work Team | E&A Room 313
- Female Clergy Bands | E&A Room 317
- Male Clergy Bands | E&A Room 312
- Missions Meet & Greet Lunch | E&A Room 314
- African American Ministries | E&A Room 315
- Hispanic Ministries | E&A Room 316
- NextGen Clergy & Laity Youth Lunch | Hunter Youth Area 201
- Celebration Women’s Ministry | Couch Chapel Parlor



*First Methodist Church, Shreveport, Louisiana*



# PREACHER BIOGRAPHIES

**Gospel Worship**  
Thursday, June 20 | 7:00 P.M.

**Dr. Robert Childress | Senior Pastor**  
Covenant Glen Methodist Church | Rosharon, Texas



Robert Childress, a native Houstonian, received an A.A. Degree in General Studies from Lon Morris College in 1985 and his B.A. Degree in History / Sociology from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1987. He obtained his Masters Degree in Divinity from Perkins School of Theology in 1991. In 1997, Robert Childress received his Doctorate Degree in Ministry from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. He started pastoring in 1985. He served the Lovelady circuit, Calvert circuit, Marlin – Davis Chapel and Covenant Glen. He has been serving Covenant Glen since 1990 to present.

He has served on many community and church related boards and agencies such as the Fort Bend Child Advocacy Advisory Council, Texas Southern University Board of Regents, God, Family and Country Committee and Wiley College Board of Trustees.

Dr. Childress is the founder and leader of The Liberation Project Inc, a church base community development corporation that developed a Youth Drug Prevention and Intervention Program funded by the State of Texas that provides life skills training for at risk children and youth in the Fort Bend area. The Liberation Project also developed the Glen Park subdivision, which made home ownership possible for 113 families in the Fifth St. area of Missouri City.

Dr. Childress is happily married to Doris Childress since 1986 and is the father of two daughters Mackenzie Faith and Morgan Hope.

**Morning Devotional**  
Friday, June 21 | 8:00 A.M.

**Dr. Steven Bell | Senior Pastor**  
First Methodist Church | Shreveport, Louisiana

Steven is a native of Northwest Louisiana, being raised in the small town of Coushatta. He loves to be outdoors: hunting (especially waterfowl), running, hiking, camping, and fishing. By far, Steven's favorite activity is to hang out with his three girls (his wife, Meredith, and two daughters, Ann and Lia), his dogs Sam and Ivy, and spend time with friends. He is an ordained elder in the Global Methodist Church, and earned his doctorate in Church Leadership from Perkins School of Theology/SMU in Dallas, Texas. He enjoys writing, and has published 5 books. He is also a commissioned officer in the United States Army Reserve, and serves as a chaplain for the 451st Civil Affairs Battalion based out of Houston, Texas. Steven and his family currently make their home in Shreveport, Louisiana, where he serves as the Senior Pastor of First Methodist Church of Shreveport.



**Contemporary Worship**  
Friday, June 21 | 7:00 P.M.

**Rev. Susan Kent | The Woodlands Hills Pastor**  
First Methodist Church | Conroe, Texas

Susan is an author, pastor and church planter from The Woodlands, TX. Her passion is to equip others through discipleship and mentor others in their walk with God. This spring she launched The Woodlands Hills Community Church, a campus of First Methodist Conroe. Prior to joining the FMC family, Susan served for 13 years at The Woodlands Methodist Church and held many different positions from seminary intern to Executive Pastor of G.R.O.W. Ministries. She received her M. Div from Asbury Theological Seminary and is currently pursuing a D. Min from Truett Theological Seminary as part of the Wesley House. Recently, Susan authored a Lenten devotional book and study called Altar'd.



Susan is married to Robert and they have four grown children (Caden, Cayley, Emma, and Noah) as well as a son-in-law (Brian), all of whom live close and enjoy spending time together. She loves college football, traveling, scuba diving, and laughing! In Susan's words, "My life has included many twists and turns, but it is through those experiences that I've encountered the mercy of Christ's grace and have been equipped by the Holy Spirit."

**Ordination Worship**  
Saturday, June 22 | 10:00 A.M.

**Bishop Scott Jones**  
General Superintendent | Global Methodist Church



Scott Jameson Jones is a bishop of The Global Methodist Church. He was born in 1954 in Nashville, Tennessee and was raised in Tennessee, Illinois, Indiana and Colorado. He graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in Denver, Colorado, the University of Kansas (B.A. in Philosophy), and Perkins School of Theology of Southern Methodist University (Master of Theology). In May of 1992 he received a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Southern Methodist University. His dissertation research was focused on Wesley Studies and the history of biblical interpretation.

Scott was ordained deacon in the Kansas East Conference of The United Methodist Church in 1978 and ordained elder in 1987 in the North Texas Conference. On July 16, 2004 he was elected a bishop of The United Methodist Church and consecrated on July 17, 2004 at the South Central Jurisdictional Conference. He served the Kansas Area 2004-2012, the Great Plains Area 2012-2016 and the Houston Area 2016-2022. On January 9, 2023 he was received as an elder and bishop in The Global Methodist Church.

He is the author or co-author of eleven books. His most recent books are *The Once and Future Wesleyan Movement* (2016), *Ask: Faith Questions in a Skeptical Age* (with his son Arthur D. Jones) and *The Wesleyan Way, Staying at the Table: The Gift of Unity for United Methodists* (2008).

Scott is married to Mary Lou Reece, who recently retired from being president of Reece Construction Company. They have three children and seven grandchildren.



# WORKSHOPS

**Friday, June 21 | 2:00 + 3:30 p.m.**

*Each of the four workshops listed here will be offered at 2:00 p.m. and repeated at 3:30 p.m.*

## **Workshop A | Sanctuary** **Growing Your Small Group Ministry Using Churchwide Studies**

### **Presenters**

**Rev. Jerry House and Jana House**

During the last 6 years, Christ Church in College Station has seen tremendous growth in participation in small groups and Sunday school classes. That growth has hinged, in large part, on the inclusion of Church-wide Studies. Jerry and Jana House have written several of the 6-8 week studies that have resulted in 800-1000 people participating in groups or classes. During this workshop, Jerry and Jana will share their experiences with church-wide studies. They will talk about how to select the right one, how to engage the congregation in them, and how to keep people engaged in groups and classes after the conclusion of the study.

### **Presenter Bio**

Rev. Jerry House Jr. is the Lead and Founding Pastor of Christ Church in College Station, Texas, a thriving congregation with over 3,700 members. He is married to Jana, and they have three grown children and one grandson.

Jana House is the Director of Adult Discipleship at Christ Church in College Station, Texas. A former educator, Jana now leads a flourishing ministry of over 80 Sunday School classes and Bible Studies.

## **Workshop B | Couch Chapel** **Holy Spirit Awake: A Unique Prayer Experience in Your Church**

### **Presenters**

**Rique Garza, Crissie Chenette, Jan Floro, Dr. John Wayne McMann**

This gathering will provide brief information on the “how to” and instead will invite you to truly encounter God in a prayer and worship experience while we pray for our churches, our Conference, and a Holy Spirit awakening in global revival for the GMC. Come experience what this might look like in your own church. The Daybreak worship team from First Methodist, Conroe and Trinity Conference regional prayer representatives, laity and clergy, will lead us through a typical prayer experience that has been a powerful weekly experience for First Methodist Conroe. Come join us as we set aside any agenda and simply worship God as we consider the invitation to make prayer a central part of our local setting. Prepare to share this awakening of the Holy Spirit with your church.

*(Presenter bios continued on next page)*



## Workshops, continued

### Workshop B | Presenter Bios

Richard “Rique” Garza is Director of Modern Worship at First Methodist Conroe and one of the Worship Leaders at GatherHouse. He is passionate about bringing people into the presence of the Lord and seeing them made whole in His presence. Rique also stewards DayBreak North at the First Methodist Conroe campus.

Crissie Chenette Co-Director, Trinity Conference Prayer Team and her husband, William, are members of Christ Church Methodist in College Station, Texas, where she serves in the prayer ministry. She has served on the prayer team at two previous churches and at the New Room Conference, and also serves on the Global Methodist Prayer Team as a Regional Prayer Director for the Trinity Conference.

Jan Floro Co-Director, Trinity Conference Prayer Team and her husband, Dennis, are members of First Methodist Conroe. Jan’s earliest memories of prayer are hearing her parents pray scripture over her at a young age. She now finds herself praying scripture over her children and grandchildren and prays that this will continue for future generations. She is a Congregational Coach helping churches grow spiritually and numerically to live out their purpose in God’s plan. Jan serves on the Global Methodist Prayer Team as a Regional Prayer Director for the Trinity Conference.

Dr. John Wayne McMann is the Lead Pastor at First Methodist Conroe. His story includes growing up in the church but not really following Christ until Jesus, through the local church, brought an awakening in his life. Now his passion is to help people wake up to the fullness of life in Christ. Prayer, worship, and relational discipleship are a primary focus of his ministry. At First Methodist Conroe, John Wayne was instrumental in bringing DayBreak North, a weekly prayer and worship meeting to the church where he helps to guide others to contend for the presence of God. He is married to Lauren and they have three kids; Luke, Rylie, and James.

### Workshop C | Emmett Hook Center NextGen Student Ministry Panel

#### Moderator

[Rev. Mark Swayze](#)

How do we reach the next generation with the love and grace of Jesus Christ? That question will guide this panel discussion of Student Ministry pastors and leaders from a wide variety of ministry contexts. They will discuss trends in Gen Z, strategies for engaging children and youth, and how to raise up next generation leaders in your congregation.

#### Presenter Bio

Rev. Mark Swayze is the Pastor of NextGen Ministries at The Woodlands Methodist Church in Texas. Mark spent five years as the Harvest worship leader and Director of Contemporary Worship at The Woodlands before becoming the Pastor of Students in 2019. His passion is to help students develop their gifts and calling in ministry, and often says, “If they’re not leading, they’re leaving.”

### Workshop D | Hunter Building | Bain Hall So the World Will Know: A Conversation About the Convening General Conference

#### Presenters

[Trinity Conference Delegation Members](#)

Join the Trinity Conference delegation for a discussion of the 2024 Convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church. Learn about the petitions, resolutions, and potential changes to the *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline*.





# GUIDELINES

## Guidelines for Our Life Together As a Conference

(April 30, 2024)

Following the biblical admonition in Hebrews 12:15 and elsewhere, John Wesley early on encouraged his followers to “watch over one another in love.” As the heirs of that tradition, our goal is still to peacefully work together for the common good of all in fulfilling the mission of the church. Within the annual conference, thus, these guidelines are established to spell out how we can best go about our mission while still caring for all and making a bold witness for Christ to the world.

### Section One: Establishment of the Conference

1. The Trinity Conference (hereafter referred to as the “Conference”) is established and operates under the authority of ¶610 of the *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline* of the Global Methodist Church (2022). It likewise functions as an incorporated organization recognized by the State of Texas and as a part of the global denomination governed by the *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline* of the Global Methodist Church (2022).
2. The structures and organization of the Conference shall be determined in alignment with those of the denomination as a whole. Any discrepancy between the structure and procedures of the Conference and the *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline* shall be resolved in favor of the denominational provisions outlined in that book.
3. The boundaries of the Conference shall be established by the Connectional Council of the Conference in conjunction with the Transitional Leadership Council of the Global Methodist Church. Initially, the Conference shall roughly be composed of congregations within the eastern third of Texas, and the entire states of Louisiana and Arkansas.

### Section Two: Procedures of the Annual Conference

1. The Conference shall meet at such a time and place as determined by the President Pro Tempore and the presiding Bishop. The Conference shall meet on at least an annual basis for a time of worship, education, inspiration, and conducting necessary Conference business.
2. Membership of the Conference shall consist of an equal number of active clergy and laity, representing each pastoral charge within the Conference. In addition to ordained deacons and elders under appointment, active clergy shall include transitional licensed local pastors and senior clergy as per the provisions outlined in 2.3 below.

(Guidelines continued on next page)



## Guidelines, continued

3. Following the provisions of ¶1416, clergy who have taken senior status shall retain their right to both voice and vote within the Conference if they fulfill either of the following conditions: (a) they are within seven years of the effective date of their aligning with the Global Methodist Church or the end of their last appointment, or (b) they are under appointment by the Conference for at least one-quarter time. Senior clergy not qualifying under the preceding retain voice, but not vote, at the annual conference, and they will not be counted for balancing purposes between clergy and lay delegates.
4. Conference sessions shall generally be conducted using Roberts Rules of Order, though whenever possible, the Conference shall attempt to conduct its business by consensus vote. The Conference may also choose to limit debate and speeches in favor or in opposition to a motion at the discretion of the President or chair.
5. Resolutions will be submitted prior to the Conference deadline for publication of the Pre-Conference Journal Addendum, and then they will be considered by the Conference. The submitting party or designee will present the resolution rationale. Speeches will be limited to 3 for (counting the presenter as 1) and 3 against of no more than 2 minutes in length each.
6. These Conference Guidelines may be suspended by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

### Section Three: Financial Procedures

1. The Finance and Administration Committee shall annually prepare and recommend a Conference budget for the next calendar year.
2. Individual congregations shall calculate their share of the Connectional Funding for both the Conference and the denomination as a whole as per ¶349.3 by January 30 of each calendar year based on the prior year's local church operating income. The congregation's share shall be no more than 1.5% for the general church, and no more than 5% for the annual conference.



First Methodist Church, Shreveport, Louisiana



# MINISTRY REPORTS



School of Ministry  
**TRINITY**  
**CONFERENCE**  
Global Methodist Church

## Board of Ministry | School of Ministry

By Dr. Tim Turner

*This came about from the Lord; It is marvelous in our eyes.* — Psalm 118:23

God has done a great work among us this past year in the launch of the Trinity Conference School of Ministry. From an initial, God-given vision; to a practical, Christ-led need; to an actualized, Spirit-empowered realization—God has established this great Gospel work among us, and it is very marvelous in our eyes.

### 1. What does the School of Ministry do?

**The School of Ministry equips new supply pastors, certified lay ministers, and those exploring a calling from God with basic tools in ministry.** The School of Ministry uniquely fills four specific needs in one program:

- **First**, the School **provides the education needed for a certificate in lay ministry.**
- **Second**, the School **provides initial training for Supply Pastors.** Although Supply Pastors must continue in their education through Course of Study or Seminary education (and the School of Ministry fulfills neither of these), we found in our Conference a significant number of brand-new Supply Pastors who were being assigned to churches but had never received any type of pastoral training. The Course of Study and Seminary would take much longer to receive this training than an intensive, one-week program could provide. This portion of the School of Ministry can be compared to how the UMC did Licensing School for Local Pastors.
- **Third**, the School of Ministry **provides a space to offer advanced workshops**, like the Preaching Workshop offered on May 18. These allow us to give specialized training not just to laity, but also to clergy. We have also **increased our ability as a Conference to train guest preachers** and easily deploy those guest preachers into local churches.
- **Finally**, the School of Ministry **provides a space for people to explore and respond to callings into ministry.** After the initial launch of the School with the week-long intensive format in October 2023, nearly half of the students who attended for lay ministry training decided to continue on with Seminary or Course of Study training and a pursuit of ordination. The GMC path to ordination makes Course of Study and ordination much more attainable for many people, and the platform of the School of Ministry provides a space for people to easily explore these realities. In short, the School has acted as a springboard for lay callings and pastoral callings of many varieties.

*(School of Ministry report continued on next page)*



## Ministry Reports, continued

School of Ministry report, continued

### 2. How is the School of Ministry structured?

- The School of Ministry requires **10 core classes and a 6-month practical mentoring** for the fulfillment of educational requirements pertinent to a Certificate in Lay Ministry.
- Currently, the School offers 11 classes and 1 advanced class led by instructors who have skills in their areas of expertise:
  - Global Methodist History, Tradition, and Polity (Dr. Chappell Temple)
  - Wesleyan Theology (Dr. Richard Heyduck)
  - Mission and Evangelism (Dr. John Robert Black)
  - Basics of Preaching (Dr. Tim Turner)
  - Self-Leadership and Soul Care in Ministry (Dr. Janice Gilbert and Rev. Verronda Flannagan)
  - Leadership in Biblical Studies (Rev. Jason Huffman)
  - Leading Spiritual Formation, Discipleship, and Catechesis (Dr. John Wayne McMann)
  - Leading Public Worship (Dr. Dan Hannon)
  - Pastoral Care (Rev. Stacey Sweet)
  - Leadership and Administration (Dr. Burt Palmer)
  - Small Group Facilitator Training (Rev. Enid Henderson)
  - Preaching Workshop (Dr. Jessica LaGrone, Rev. Kenneth Levingston, Rev. Susan Kent, Dr. Tim Turner)
- There are three main formats that students can take classes:
  - A week-long intensive where all 11 classes are offered
  - A series of 5 Saturdays where all 11 classes are offered in-person
  - A series of 5 Saturdays where all 11 classes are offered online
  - Students can also alternate between class formats they take, making their own hybrid experience of in-person and online class offerings.
- Students within the Trinity Conference are paired with ordained clergy across the Conference for 6-months of practical mentoring.
  - There are currently **34 ordained clergy serving as mentors** across the Conference. This is very exciting as we engage in a broad work of Gospel discipleship.
  - Students outside of the Trinity Conference are offered the mentoring format so that they can find a mentor local to them.
- The School of Ministry Lead Team provides leadership for the School of Ministry
  - Rev. Dr. Tim Turner, Dean
  - Rev. Stacey Sweet, Assistant Dean (Organizational Logistics)
  - Rev. Jason Huffman, Assistant Dean (Mentoring Program)
  - Rev. Ross Hyde, Registrar
- The work of the School of Ministry is **supported by the Board of Ministry** (led by Rev. Dr. Burt Palmer) and the Certified Lay Ministry oversight team (led by Rev. Ross Hyde).
  - These groups (in partnership with Presiding Elders and local churches) provide the credentialing

(School of Ministry report continued on next page)





## Ministry Reports, continued

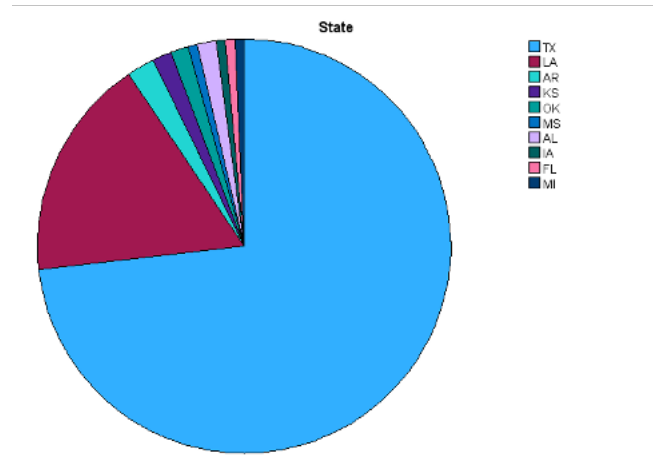
School of Ministry report, continued

aspects of certification for lay ministry.

### 3. What types of participation have we seen in the School of Ministry?

- The School of Ministry has seen **138 unique participants from 10 different states and 105 unique zip codes** since initial registration for the October 2023 intensive week.
  - The states represented include: Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Alabama, Iowa, Florida, and Missouri

| State |     |       |
|-------|-----|-------|
|       | N   | %     |
| TX    | 101 | 73.2% |
| LA    | 24  | 17.4% |
| AR    | 3   | 2.2%  |
| KS    | 2   | 1.4%  |
| OK    | 2   | 1.4%  |
| MS    | 1   | 0.7%  |
| AL    | 2   | 1.4%  |
| IA    | 1   | 0.7%  |
| FL    | 1   | 0.7%  |
| MI    | 1   | 0.7%  |



- We have seen 53.6% male students and 46.4% female students.
- Participants range in age from 26 years old to 83 years old, with most students between the ages of 40-60.
- 38 out of the 138 students have completed all 10 classes, and most of the current students have completed 2-4 classes. This means that the School of Ministry is seeing a consistent flow of new students.

### 4. What testimonies can be shared?

The School of Ministry has offered an excellent platform for not only promoting the role of the CLM in our Conference, but also for encouraging a culture of call. Many have answered callings to pastoral ministry and/or to continuing their education toward ordination. Here are some brief testimonials from students:

- “The School of Ministry made me realize the calling I had been putting off for so long....I enrolled in seminary this past January...The other part of the story is that I have been asked to become a supply pastor.”
- “I’m really impressed with Trinity Conference putting together laity training so quickly. It is encouraging. Y’all are setting a precedent for laity stepping back into their role in the church that had been somewhat stifled previously.”
- “I love attending the training sessions [for the School of Ministry]. The on-site face-to-face contact has really helped me to realize the calling I have. I have been preaching for 9 years at an independent Methodist church. After attending the school of ministry I really feel God telling me to proceed with ordination with the Global. The classes have been so encouraging, knowledgeable and Christ centered.”
- “Since the intensive training that we completed last fall I have led 5 groups of adults through three different studies...I also fill in Sunday worship service for corporate prayer and lead for affirmation

*(School of Ministry report continued on next page)*



## Ministry Reports, continued

School of Ministry report, continued

of faith. I have started the course of study through Wesley Biblical Seminary..."

- "The SOM reinforced my call from God and helped me see I was on the right track. I'm currently serving as a praise team member, and as an adult youth leader at my church, while also filling the pulpit as needed at other churches. I'm taking classes online at Wesley Biblical Seminary in Jackson, MS."
- "My time at the School of Ministry was the most enriching and meaningful experience I have had in any ministry setting...After the week at SOM, my call to Pastoral Ministry was affirmed and I felt a nudge from God to enroll in the Pastoral Studies program through Truett Seminary at Baylor University this past spring. SOM prepared me for the classes offered through this program. But the most amazing thing I gained during my time at SOM was a bond with my classmates! Being surrounded by people from all walks of life, but all on a similar path in ministry was a blessing. My cabinmates and I even formed a band during our time together and continue to meet every Tuesday."
- "The week long [School of Ministry] nourished my body, mind, and soul and the discernment I received has led me to apply to Christus Mother Frances Chaplaincy Resident Program...Throughout the week, the teaching was excellent and well timed...It exceeded simply taking a class for five days and changed my life and direction in a profound way."

### 5. Upcoming School of Ministry events:

- Saturday, August 24, 2024 at First Methodist, Shreveport, LA
  - In-Person: Mission and Evangelism AND Biblical Studies
  - Online: Global Methodist History, Tradition, and Polity AND Pastoral Care
- Saturday, September 14, 2024 at Shepherd of the Heart, Pearland, TX
  - In-Person: Leading Public Worship AND Small Group Facilitator Training AND Self and Soul Care in Ministry
  - Online: Spiritual Formation, Discipleship, and Catechesis AND Biblical Studies
- Intensive Week – October 7-11, 2024 at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center
  - All Classes Offered
- The Preaching Workshop offered on May 18, 2024 was the first movement toward advanced class topics. Moving forward, there is a desire to offer Evangelism and Missions, Leadership, and Discipleship as workshops that involve special equipping for a broader focus of ministry in the Conference (clergy and laity included).
- There is great excitement for expanding the Gospel work of the School of Ministry as other Global Methodist Conferences across the world become more established. On May 9, 2024, the School of Ministry Lead Team provided a "How To" training for other Conferences interested in launching their own School of Ministry. What an exciting way to continue expanding this platform for making disciples of Jesus Christ!

*This came about from the Lord;  
It is marvelous in our eyes." — Psalm 118:23*

This work absolutely came about from the Lord—and it is absolutely marvelous in our eyes.



## Class Meetings

By Dr. John Wayne McMann

We have had a great first year working to establish class meetings across our connection. Since we met last summer, we have hosted a very successful webinar with Dr. Kevin Watson, traveled to area gatherings to simulate class meeting experiences, and worked to understand familiarity and activity in Wesleyan discipleship in our churches. We are excited to share with Trinity Conference some resources created to equip our churches and to preview what is coming in the next year.

First, and maybe most importantly, look for our team at a table during conference so we can share with you three exciting resources. The first resource is a set of videos that we have produced for churches to use to gather interest and empower members to begin classes. Along with these videos is a one-page handout to gather interest in your church. Finally, we are revealing our Class Meeting Field Guide which will serve as a source of encouragement and assistance for class leaders. All of these resources are developed for usage in any church and styled with Trinity Conference branding. We are thrilled to offer these for free to our connection, so come see us at our table so we can learn how to assist you or glean from what you are doing!

We learned from end-of-year reporting that nearly 250 churches in Trinity Conference do not have any groups like the class meeting and we want to foster opportunities for everyone to begin this journey. In the coming year, our team will focus on three primary goals. First, we will establish a better understanding of churches participating in classes (especially in Arkansas and Louisiana). Next, we will identify practitioners and experienced churches to serve as connections throughout the conference for partnership with churches exploring classes. Finally, we will create opportunities for strategic single-day retreats to continue equipping leaders across the connection.

Friends of the Trinity Conference, it is hard to describe the miraculous transformation we are hearing about across the connection and even throughout the denomination in Wesleyan discipleship. God is moving in miraculous ways; especially when we empower churches, specifically laity, to make disciples through transformational relationships. We look forward to serving you in the next year.

## NextGen Ministries

By Rev. Guy Williams

The NextGen Team of the Conference exists to support ministries targeted to the “next generation” and acts as advocates for the full involvement of young people in the Church. This team aims to equip churches in the Conference for ministries to young people and coordinates NextGen ministry support and discipleship opportunities within the Conference.

Since the Conference launch in February 2023, the Conference NextGen Team has worked hard to figure out what, exactly, it means to have a NextGen Team and how best the team could function for the support of local churches in the Conference.

- Phase 1 (February 2023-July 2023) – Visioning: The Team spent much time at the launch of our Conference determining what the NextGen Team could accomplish. This launched a few early initiatives:





## Ministry Reports, continued

NextGen Ministries report, continued

- o The formation of a Youth Camp Steering Committee
  - o Initial work at developing a NextGen Connect network
  - o Initial plans for Marriage and Family ministries
  - o Initial planning for Youth and Children Ministry trainings
- Phase 2 (July 2023-January 2024) – Initiating Plans: After our first regular Conference in July 2023, the NextGen Team began initiating various plans and clarifying the purpose of the team to equip the Conference for NextGen ministry.
    - o The Youth Camp Steering Committee developed and launched robust plans for Youth Camp 2024
    - o A Pastoral Internship Program was planned and announced in January 2024 for the summer of 2024
    - o Youth Ministry training (Elevate) was scheduled for May 2024, with subsequent planning from a sub-team
- Phase 3 (January 2024-present) – Sharpening Vision into Sustainable Action: After January 2024, the team reassessed its purpose and capacity, sharpening the vision and action of the team to reflect the report below. The main goal of the team moving forward is to create a functional and sustainable team that is fruitful for the NextGen Ministries needs of the Conference churches. Here are some aims moving forward:
    - o Focusing on more robust equipping and networking opportunities for Children’s Ministry
    - o Continuing efforts at Youth Ministry training and networking
    - o Offering confirmation resource recommendations and retreat opportunities
    - o Continuing to offer Trinity Conference Youth Camp, improving on learning from Youth Camp 2024
    - o Continuing the Pastoral Internship Program
    - o Exploring and developing new opportunities for College Ministry with an emphasis on models that are adaptable to churches of various sizes
    - o Continuing to develop opportunities for Marriage and Family Ministries

## International Ministries

By Rev. John Thornsbury

*For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” — Romans 10:12-15 (NIV)*

Over the past year the International Ministries Team has been diligently working to determine the best course of action through partnering with other Annual Conferences outside the United States. The team has been evaluating and consulting with individuals from a number of international conferences to determine their progress in the process to become a Global Methodist Annual Conference.

The team determined for 2024 the best course of action was to accept grant applications from two such areas/conferences – Tanzania and Panama. These two areas/conferences were awarded a grant that

*(International Ministries report continued on next page)*



## Ministry Reports, continued

*International Ministries report, continued*

provided funds to assist in the development and administrative needs of the new conferences. Tanzania received a \$13,250.00 grant and Panama received a \$6,750 grant to be used for the initial administrative needs for the development of the annual conference.

As of April, Tanzania Provisional Annual Conference President Pro Tem Rev. Upendo Likondi and Panama Provisional Annual Conference President Pro Tem Rev. Luciano Pereira da Silva has received the first grants and have begun the process of establishing conferences of the Global Methodist Church. In regards to Tanzania, the funds from the first grant are being used toward the continued construction and establishment of official office of the Tanzania Provisional Annual Conference of the GMC which is a national requirement for the church to be officially recognized in the country. On April 12th the Transitional Leadership Council of the Global Methodist Church recognized Tanzania as a Provisional Annual Conference. We are excited to see how God will use this resource to not only establish the Global Methodist Church in Tanzania but also to see the gospel of Jesus Christ preached in both word and deed.

In regards to Panama, the funds from the first grant are being used toward the establishment and development of the Panama Provision Conference of the Global Methodist Church. Towards those efforts on April 18th, 2024 the Panamanian government recognized the Global Methodist Church as an official denomination in the country. Currently there are three churches and Rev. Pereria da Silva will be overseeing the church planning efforts not only in Panama but throughout out the region. We are excited to see how God will use these resources to establish new Global Methodist Churches in Panama where the gospel of Jesus Christ will be preached in both word and deed.

The team has been working diligently with these two wonderful servants and the conferences as we moved through the grant process. In the coming months we will have exciting and wonderful news as we move forward in developing formal partnerships. The team will be working on the specific covenant partnership agreement, guidelines for local churches who would like to enter into a formal partnership with churches and or pastors, and specific on ramp training for churches who are partnering with our international brothers and sisters for the first time. These efforts will continue to help build strong relational partnerships between congregations in the Trinity Provisional Annual Conference and the Panama & Tanzania Provisional Annual Conferences as we together we proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

## Hispanic Church Initiatives

*By Rev. Arturo Cadar*

Since we last met in Annual Conference, we have been working steadily to position our Hispanic Church Initiative for continued growth in the expansive mission field of the Trinity Conference. To that end, we are grateful for the continued support that we have received from our conference and from an increasing number of Hispanic Church Initiative supporters who clearly understand the value and the blessing of being in ministry with a segment of our population who today, more than ever, needs to hear the message of the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ.

In the Conference year of 2023 to 2024, the Hispanic Church Initiative set out to accomplish two specific goals that will solidify the long-term viability of our Hispanic Churches and Ministries.

**Mapping our mission field** to identify well-established congregations that have demonstrated a strong desire to reach the Hispanic communities that surround them, and have the willingness and resources to launch a new Hispanic Ministry in their respective communities.

*(Hispanic Church Initiatives report continued on next page)*



## Ministry Reports, continued

*Hispanic Church Initiatives report, continued*

### **Aligning resources to advance the credentialing process of Hispanic CLMs and Ordained Clergy.**

We have a lot to celebrate this year.

First we want to celebrate Rev. Yudeisy Estrada, and Rev. Leo Lozano, both, Associate Pastors at Revive Church Pasadena who will be ordained this Saturday as Deacons in the best Conference of the Global Methodist Church.

We are also celebrating our participation in the development of a Pastoral Studies Program in Spanish at Truett Seminary, where two of our Hispanic Elders will be teaching in the Fall.

At a more local level, together with our Board of Ministry, we are getting ready to work on the translation of all School of Ministry materials to Spanish in order to launch our first School of Ministry Classes in the Spring of 2025.

Friends, the world continues to grow within the boundaries of our Conference, and that is a huge blessing for the work that God has entrusted to us. While we have much to celebrate, and much to be thankful for, we also recognize that there are still a number of challenges that we need to address if we are going to take advantage of the great growth opportunity that the Global Methodist Church has with Hispanic-Americans. We don't want to keep adding to the number of GMC churches across our nation who are no longer thriving because they have waited too long to welcome their new neighbors, so if you're church is situated in a transitioning community where Hispanics are making up at least 30% of the population, please contact Rev. Artie Cadar to discuss the possibility of launching a new Hispanic ministry in your mission field. The time to invest in proactive, feet on the ground evangelism, and in transitioning neighborhood outreach with Hispanic-Americans is now.

Once again, thanks for your continued support for the Hispanic Church Initiative of the Trinity Conference. May the Lord help us and guide us as he completes the work that He already started with Hispanics and other ethnicities in the Trinity Conference and the Global Methodist Church.

## **African American Ministry Initiatives**

*By Rev. Kenneth Levingston*

The African American Initiative of the Trinity Annual Conference is deeply committed to providing African American clergy, laity and local congregations with tools and resources to become fruitful and vibrant witnesses of the power of faith in Jesus Christ to save souls, transform lives, and pass our faith forward. Here are specific ways in which we have done this work since our last conference.

1. Lay and Clergy Development – New Room Conference, September 2023
2. Clergy Recruitment – IC-3 Conference, Houston TX, April 23 – 25
3. Clergy Leadership Development – Supporting clergy candidates for ordination via the School of Ministry and Seminary.
4. Mentoring, advising, and supporting the work of local churches.
5. Providing an African American voice, perspective and leadership to the work of the Trinity Conference at all levels
6. Supporting and Leading Opening Worship at the 2024 Trinity Annual Conference
7. Building community with a gathering of African American Clergy and Laity with Bishop Robert Hayes Jr. at the 2024 Annual Conference.

We invite African American clergy and laity to join in the work God is doing to save and transform our communities.





## New Church Starts

By John Campbell

The New Church Starts Team, composed of both lay and clergy representatives from across the conference, has successfully developed new grant and training processes in the first half of 2024.

With an allocated budget of \$200,000 for the year, we have established a straightforward grant application process. Details of this process, including application guidelines and submission details, are now available on our conference website under Resources [trinitygmc.org/new-church-starts](http://trinitygmc.org/new-church-starts) The team convenes monthly to evaluate submitted applications. As of our April meeting, we are pleased to report the awarding of grants to the following:

- Wesleyan Methodist Church of Crockett, TX
- Resurrection Methodist Church of Houma, LA
- Living Water Church of Lake Charles, LA
- The Woodland Hills Community Church (a new campus of First Methodist, Conroe, TX)

It is planned for these grants to be distributed in two phases: an initial amount followed by a pending sum, the latter contingent upon overall availability of funds and scheduled for disbursement in September. Currently, grants are capped at an initial amount of \$30,000.

A significant recent development was the introduction of the Planters Field Training Academy, generously developed and sponsored by The Woodlands Methodist Church. The Academy's portal, [plantersfield.org](http://plantersfield.org) offers unprecedented remote learning content and workshops designed to equip both laity and clergy involved in new church initiatives. Attendance at this training is now a prerequisite for all grant recipients, with fees covered by the New Church Starts budget.

With the rollout of our enhanced conference web page, the refinement of the grant process, and the provision of superior training resources, our team is now strategically positioned to augment support for new church plants. Our focus moving forward will be on furnishing additional resources to aid these plants in their mission to cultivate Disciples for Christ within their local ministries.

John Campbell (Chair, Laity)  
David Goran (Clergy)  
Deborah Todd (Laity)

Jason Burnham (Ex-Officio, Clergy)  
Matt Neely (Clergy)

Stephen Goldsmith (Clergy)  
Jeff Olive (Clergy)



# BUDGET REPORT

## Overview

By Rev. Mike Tyson

The year 2023 is our first full year as an Annual Conference and it was a good one for us as it relates to the finances of the Trinity Conference. Budgets at the most basic level are simply guidelines for what we as a Conference will receive as income and spend on ministries, personnel and operating expenses. In 2023 our approved budget estimated a total revenue to the Conference of \$762,000. The actual total revenue to the Conference was \$866,988.40. We exceeded our income estimate by just under 114%. This overage was the result of a number of churches becoming a part of the Trinity Conference that were not expected to join us prior to our Annual Conference last year. Our total expenses from our operating activities were budgeted to be \$595,445 for the year 2023. Our actual expenditures were \$620,269 or 4% over our estimated expenditures. Some of this overage is due to expenditures the Connectional Council chose to approve after recognizing the increased level of income that we were receiving. The bottom-line result is that on an operating basis the Trinity Conference had \$246,719 in excess revenue over expenses. After donor designated income and outflows the bottom line for our Conference for 2023 was \$241,321 excess of revenue over expenses.

Our Balance sheet as of December 31, 2023 showed cash in the bank of \$264,546, total assets of \$277,693 and no long term liabilities. The only liabilities on our balance sheet are payroll liabilities that are simply a result of timing differences in payments.

In short, 2023 was a terrific year for the Trinity Annual Conference.

2024 is off to a similar start with our income projected to be about 14% above our 2024 approved budget of \$1,673,749 for a total income of \$1,860,738. Through the first quarter of 2024 our expenses are tracking within 2% of our budgeted amounts. The Conference staff are doing an excellent job of managing expenses and we fully anticipate all areas to remain within the limits of the budget. Recall that earlier I referenced a budget as a guideline. With that understanding, as we have come to understand our income expectations better and better, the Finance and Administration Committee did not feel the need to revise the 2024 budget. As a guideline our approved 2024 budget will serve to guide our expenditures. 2024 is shaping up to be another strong year for the Trinity Annual Conference. As we get more and more operating history under our belt, we will find that our actual results will be closer to our budgeted expectations. There are only even greater things yet to come for our Conference and our new Denomination.

*(See Financial Statements on the following pages.)*



# Eastern Texas Conference

## Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2023

|   | TOTAL               |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                 |                     |
| Current Assets                                |                     |
| Bank Accounts                                 |                     |
| 1001 Amegy Checking (7435)                    | 0.00                |
| 1001.DD Donor Designated                      |                     |
| 1001.DD006 New Church Starts Fund             | 100.00              |
| 1001.DD007 Church Camp Fund                   | 7,200.00            |
| <b>Total 1001.DD Donor Designated</b>         | <b>7,300.00</b>     |
| 1001.GF Unrestricted                          | 264,546.87          |
| <b>Total 1001 Amegy Checking (7435)</b>       | <b>271,846.87</b>   |
| <b>Total Bank Accounts</b>                    | <b>\$271,846.87</b> |
| Other Current Assets                          |                     |
| 1450 Prepaid expenses                         | 321.71              |
| <b>Total Other Current Assets</b>             | <b>\$321.71</b>     |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>                   | <b>\$272,168.58</b> |
| Other Assets                                  |                     |
| 1800 Intangible Assets                        |                     |
| 1810 Domain Purchase                          | 5,525.00            |
| <b>Total 1800 Intangible Assets</b>           | <b>5,525.00</b>     |
| <b>Total Other Assets</b>                     | <b>\$5,525.00</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                           | <b>\$277,693.58</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>                 |                     |
| Liabilities                                   |                     |
| Current Liabilities                           |                     |
| Other Current Liabilities                     |                     |
| 2100 Payroll Liabilities Payable              |                     |
| 2130 Payroll Tax Payable                      | 6,092.37            |
| <b>Total 2100 Payroll Liabilities Payable</b> | <b>6,092.37</b>     |
| 2300 Future Clergy Retreat Funds              | 700.11              |
| 2350 Legal Assistance Payable                 | 6,900.00            |
| <b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>        | <b>\$13,692.48</b>  |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>              | <b>\$13,692.48</b>  |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                      | <b>\$13,692.48</b>  |
| Equity  |                     |
| 3010 Net Assets                               | 15,379.20           |
| 3400 Donor Designated Net Assets              |                     |
| 3410 Camp Fund                                | 7,200.00            |
| 3480 New Church Starts Fund                   | 100.00              |
| <b>Total 3400 Donor Designated Net Assets</b> | <b>7,300.00</b>     |





# Eastern Texas Conference

## Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2023

|                                     | TOTAL               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Net Revenue                         | 241,321.90          |
| Total Equity                        | \$264,001.10        |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b> | <b>\$277,693.58</b> |



# Eastern Texas Annual Conference - GMC

## Statement of Activity

January - December 2023

|  | TOTAL               |
|--|---------------------|
| Revenue                                      |                     |
| 4000 Contributed Income                      |                     |
| 4100 Donor Contributions to ETXGMC           | 9,730.00            |
| 4900 Other Income                            | 1,000.00            |
| <b>Total 4000 Contributed Income</b>         | <b>10,730.00</b>    |
| 5000 Connectional Funding                    |                     |
| 5123 Church Connectional Funding - 2023      | 858,444.88          |
| 5123x 2023 Connectional Funding Unpaid       | -2,186.48           |
| <b>Total 5000 Connectional Funding</b>       | <b>856,258.40</b>   |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                         | <b>\$866,988.40</b> |
| GROSS PROFIT                                 | <b>\$866,988.40</b> |
| Expenditures                                 |                     |
| 6000 Ministry Expenses                       |                     |
| 6100 Connectional Expenses                   |                     |
| 6110 Presiding Elder Stipends                | 53,383.34           |
| 6120 Board of Ministry.                      |                     |
| 6122 Board of Ministry Receipts              | -7,195.00           |
| 6124 Board of Ministry Expenses              | 13,999.17           |
| 6126 Board of Ministry Expenses - NEC        | 4,755.00            |
| <b>Total 6120 Board of Ministry.</b>         | <b>11,559.17</b>    |
| <b>Total 6100 Connectional Expenses</b>      | <b>64,942.51</b>    |
| 6300 Travel, Lodging, and Meals              |                     |
| 6320 Airfare                                 | 3,581.18            |
| 6330 Hotels                                  | 9,126.50            |
| 6340 Car Rental and Taxis                    | 406.60              |
| 6350 Mileage and Tolls                       | 23,589.65           |
| 6360 Meals                                   | 8,219.41            |
| <b>Total 6300 Travel, Lodging, and Meals</b> | <b>44,923.34</b>    |
| 6600 ETXGMC Events                           |                     |
| 6610 Conferences                             |                     |
| 6612 Conference Receipts                     | -49,369.08          |
| 6615 Conference Expenses                     | 106,815.23          |
| <b>Total 6610 Conferences</b>                | <b>57,446.15</b>    |
| 6620 Continuing Education Conferences        | 1,376.17            |
| <b>Total 6600 ETXGMC Events</b>              | <b>58,822.32</b>    |



# Eastern Texas Annual Conference - GMC

## Statement of Activity

January - December 2023

|   | TOTAL             |
|---|-------------------|
| 6700 Equipping                                      |                   |
| 6710 African-American Initiative                    | 5,071.21          |
| 6720 Camping / Campus Initiative                    | 16,000.00         |
| 6730 Hispanic Initiative                            | 5,419.02          |
| 6740 Next Gen Initiative                            | 595.00            |
| 6760 International Ministries Team                  | 18,618.19         |
| 6770 Discipleship Ministries                        | 350.00            |
| <b>Total 6700 Equipping</b>                         | <b>46,053.42</b>  |
| <b>Total 6000 Ministry Expenses</b>                 | <b>214,741.59</b> |
| 7000 Personnel Expense                              |                   |
| 7200 Payroll Expenses                               |                   |
| 7210 Salaries & Wages                               | 233,893.29        |
| 7220 Pension  | 11,573.82         |
| 7230 Clergy Housing Allowance                       | 75,792.47         |
| 7240 Accountable Reimbursements                     | 2,000.00          |
| 7250 Life & Disability Insurance                    | 132.67            |
| 7260 Clergy SECA Allowance                          | 14,820.00         |
| 7270 Health Insurance                               | 19,565.00         |
| 7280 Employer Payroll Taxes                         | 5,247.50          |
| <b>Total 7200 Payroll Expenses</b>                  | <b>363,024.75</b> |
| 7500 Contract Services                              |                   |
| 7520 Legal Services                                 | 375.00            |
| 7560 Communication Consultant                       | 18,750.00         |
| <b>Total 7500 Contract Services</b>                 | <b>19,125.00</b>  |
| <b>Total 7000 Personnel Expense</b>                 | <b>382,149.75</b> |
| 8000 Supporting Expenses                            |                   |
| 8100 Office Expenses                                |                   |
| 8110 Supplies                                       | 2,004.87          |
| 8125 Software & Technology                          | 4,484.77          |
| 8130 Hospitality                                    | 1,512.19          |
| 8140 Shipping & Postage                             | 736.68            |
| 8145 Communications General                         | 1,270.09          |
| 8170 Printing & Photocopying                        | 324.16            |
| 8175 Advertising & Marketing                        | 6,256.91          |
| 8180 Bank Fees, Supplies & Service Charges          | 126.82            |
| 8190 Other Administrative Expenses                  | 25.68             |
| <b>Total 8100 Office Expenses</b>                   | <b>16,742.17</b>  |
| 8200 Facility & Equipment Expenses                  |                   |
| 8230 Cleaning                                       | 350.00            |
| 8280 Amortization Expenses                          | 30.00             |
| <b>Total 8200 Facility &amp; Equipment Expenses</b> | <b>380.00</b>     |





# Eastern Texas Annual Conference - GMC

## Statement of Activity

January - December 2023

|  | TOTAL               |
|--|---------------------|
| 8500 Other Expenses                              |                     |
| 8520 Insurance                                   |                     |
| 8521 Liability Insurance                         | 6,255.77            |
| <b>Total 8520 Insurance</b>                      | <b>6,255.77</b>     |
| <b>Total 8500 Other Expenses</b>                 | <b>6,255.77</b>     |
| <b>Total 8000 Supporting Expenses</b>            | <b>23,377.94</b>    |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>                        | <b>\$620,269.28</b> |
| NET OPERATING REVENUE                            | <b>\$246,719.12</b> |
| Other Revenue                                    |                     |
| 9100 Non-Operating Income                        |                     |
| 9110 Clergy Retreat Receipts                     | 16,425.39           |
| <b>Total 9100 Non-Operating Income</b>           | <b>16,425.39</b>    |
| 9200 Donor Designated Gifts                      |                     |
| 9210 Camp Donations                              | 7,200.00            |
| 9250 Fund for New Church Starts                  | 100.00              |
| 9280 Donor Designated - 2022 New Church Starts   | 4,949.40            |
| 9299 Funds Income Transfer Account               | -12,249.40          |
| <b>Total 9200 Donor Designated Gifts</b>         | <b>0.00</b>         |
| <b>Total Other Revenue</b>                       | <b>\$16,425.39</b>  |
| Other Expenditures                               |                     |
| 9600 Non-Operating Expense                       |                     |
| 9610 Clergy Retreat Expenses                     | 16,425.39           |
| <b>Total 9600 Non-Operating Expenses</b>         | <b>16,425.39</b>    |
| 9700 Expenses from Donor Designated              |                     |
| 9780 Payments to 2022 New Church Starts          | 4,949.40            |
| 9785 Donation to WCA, WAVE 2                     | 5,397.22            |
| 9799 Fund Expense Transfer Account               | -4,949.40           |
| <b>Total 9700 Expenses from Donor Designated</b> | <b>5,397.22</b>     |
| <b>Total Other Expenditures</b>                  | <b>\$21,822.61</b>  |
| NET OTHER REVENUE                                | <b>\$ -5,397.22</b> |
| NET REVENUE                                      | <b>\$241,321.90</b> |



# MEETING MINUTES

*Bishop Scott Jones called a special session of the Trinity Annual Conference for the purpose of electing clergy and lay delegates to the Convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church. The Conference gathered via Zoom on Saturday, April 6, 2024. The minutes below reflect the proceedings of the meeting.*

## Minutes of Special Session of the Trinity Provisional Annual Conference Global Methodist Church

April 6, 2024 | Meeting via Zoom Webinar

*Bishop Scott Jones, Presiding Bishop  
Rev. Clark Atkins, Recording Secretary*

Bishop Scott Jones called the Conference to order at 9:00 AM CDT.

Bishop Jones offered a devotional on Ephesians 3:20-21.

Rev. Jason Burnham, Executive Officer of the Trinity Conference was invited to share with the conference to offer instructions on how to log into VPoll, the election software being used for the purpose of voting in today's conference.

Bishop Jones called for a practice vote using the VPoll software.

Favorite Blue Bell Ice Cream flavor was proposed with conference participants being asked to vote for the top two flavors. Homemade Vanilla was elected with 66.38% of the vote.

Bishop Jones called for the election of a Recording Secretary for this Special Session of Annual Conference.

The Connectional Council of the Trinity Conference nominated Rev. Clark Atkins to serve in this capacity.

Rev. Atkins was elected unanimously.

Bishop Jones called for a vote on adoption of Session Rules as previously submitted to Conference Delegates. Rules were adopted 368-1.

Bishop Jones called for Clergy Ballot 1

188 votes were cast with 95 being necessary for election.

Eight clergy delegates were elected on Ballot 1 as follow:

|                    |     |        |
|--------------------|-----|--------|
| Jason Burnham      | 163 | 86.7%  |
| Jessica LaGrone    | 147 | 78.19% |
| Kenneth Livingston | 142 | 75.53% |
| C. Chappell Temple | 129 | 68.62% |
| Arturo Cadar       | 114 | 60.64% |
| Ben McGehee        | 106 | 56.38% |
| Heather Sims       | 105 | 55.85% |



*Minutes, continued*

Burt Palmer            96     51.06%

Bishop Jones called for Lay Ballot 1  
173 Votes were cast with 87 being necessary for election.

Four lay delegates were elected on Ballot 1 as follow:

|                  |     |        |
|------------------|-----|--------|
| Oscar Garza      | 106 | 61.27% |
| Sarah Kreutziger | 105 | 60.69% |
| Carl Brothers    | 103 | 59.54% |
| John Campbell    | 92  | 53.18% |

Bishop Jones called for Clergy Ballot 2

193 votes were cast with 97 being necessary for election.

One clergy delegate was elected on Ballot 2 as follow:

|              |    |        |
|--------------|----|--------|
| Clark Atkins | 98 | 50.78% |
|--------------|----|--------|

Bishop Jones called for Lay Ballot 2

176 votes were cast with 89 being necessary for election.

Three lay delegates were elected on Ballot 2 as follow:

|                      |    |        |
|----------------------|----|--------|
| Anna Vargas          | 99 | 56.25% |
| Andy "Buck" Thornton | 93 | 52.84% |
| Debra Davis          | 90 | 51.14% |

Bishop Jones called for Clergy Ballot 3

191 votes were cast with 97 being necessary for election.

One clergy delegate was elected on Ballot 3 as follow:

|          |    |        |
|----------|----|--------|
| Jim Bass | 96 | 51.31% |
|----------|----|--------|

Bryan Harkness made a motion that going forward only those candidates, both clergy and lay, receiving 10% vote or greater after each ballot be read aloud. Kevin Bowser seconded the motion.

Motion Approved 314-18.

Bishop Jones called for Lay Ballot 3.

Technical challenges occurred resulting in Lay Ballot 3 being invalidated.

Bishop Jones called for a break at 10:35 AM CDT.

Bishop Jones reconvened the Conference at 10:50 AM CDT.

Technical problems persisted with the VPoll software.  
Voting resumed at 11:00 AM CDT with Lay Ballot 3.

*(Minutes continued on next page)*





*Minutes, continued*

Bishop Jones called for Lay Ballot 3

172 votes were cast with 87 being necessary for election.

Five lay delegates were elected on Ballot 3 as follow:

|                |     |        |
|----------------|-----|--------|
| John Dawson    | 110 | 63.95% |
| Frankie Watson | 105 | 61.05% |
| Vicky Johnson  | 101 | 58.72% |
| Jan Floro      | 96  | 55.81% |
| Mary Barron    | 88  | 51.16% |

Bishop Jones called for Clergy Ballot 4

183 votes were cast with 92 being necessary for election.

No delegates were elected.

Bishop Jones called for Lay Ballot 4

176 votes were cast with 89 being necessary for election.

No delegates were elected.

Bishop Jones called for Clergy Ballot 5

182 votes were cast with 92 being necessary for election.

Three clergy delegates were elected on Ballot 5 as follow:

|                   |    |        |
|-------------------|----|--------|
| Wendy Heinemann   | 99 | 54.40% |
| Jerry House Jr.   | 96 | 52.75% |
| John Wayne McMann | 95 | 52.20% |

This completed the delegation for clergy.

Guy Williams made a motion that the top 8 receiving votes on the next clergy ballot be elected as the alternates for our delegation.

Bishop Jones ruled that the motion was out of order due to the requirement that since reserve/alternate delegates may become regular delegates following a second allocation of delegates that all delegates must be elected by 50%+1.

Bishop Jones called for Lay Ballot 5

165 votes were cast with 83 being necessary for election.

One lay delegate was elected on Lay Ballot 5 as follow:

|              |     |        |
|--------------|-----|--------|
| David Eikner | 110 | 66.67% |
|--------------|-----|--------|

Bishop Jones called for Clergy Reserve/Alternate Ballot 1

*(Minutes continued on next page)*



*Minutes, continued*

179 votes were cast with 90 being necessary for election.

Five clergy reserve/alternate delegates were elected on Ballot 1 as follow:

|                |     |        |
|----------------|-----|--------|
| Mark Sorenson  | 107 | 59.78% |
| Sterling Allen | 105 | 58.66% |
| Janice Gilbert | 98  | 54.75% |
| Susan Kent     | 98  | 54.75% |
| Tim Turner     | 93  | 51.96% |

Bishop Jones called for Lay Reserve/Alternate Ballot 1

165 votes were cast with 90 being necessary for election.

One lay reserve/alternate delegate was elected on Ballot 1 as follow:

|              |    |        |
|--------------|----|--------|
| Sue Sullivan | 94 | 56.97% |
|--------------|----|--------|

Bishop Jones called for Clergy Reserve/Alternate Ballot 2

164 votes were cast with 83 being necessary for election.

One clergy reserve/alternate delegate was elected on Ballot 1 as follow:

|             |    |        |
|-------------|----|--------|
| Steven Bell | 97 | 59.15% |
|-------------|----|--------|

Bishop Jones called for Lay Reserve/Alternate Ballot 2

161 votes were cast with 81 being necessary for election.

Six lay reserve/alternate delegates were elected on Ballot 2 as follow:

|                         |     |        |
|-------------------------|-----|--------|
| Scott Johnson           | 111 | 68.94% |
| Allan Schleimer         | 100 | 62.11% |
| Howard "H. John" Fuller | 98  | 60.87% |
| Nita Clark              | 95  | 59.01% |
| Norman Neal             | 94  | 58.39% |
| Steve Lucas             | 91  | 56.52% |

Bishop Jones called for Clergy Reserve/Alternate Ballot 3

159 votes were cast with 80 being necessary for election.

One clergy reserve/alternate delegate was elected on Ballot 3 as follow:

|                 |    |        |
|-----------------|----|--------|
| Wesley Hilliard | 87 | 54.72% |
|-----------------|----|--------|

Bishop Jones called for Lay Reserve/Alternate Ballot 3

154 votes were cast with 78 being necessary for election.

One lay reserve/alternate delegate was elected on Ballot 1 as follow:

|                    |    |        |
|--------------------|----|--------|
| Marjorie Lea Bynum | 78 | 50.65% |
|--------------------|----|--------|

This completed the lay reserve/alternate delegation.

*(Minutes continued on next page)*



*Minutes, continued*

Bishop Jones called for Clergy Reserve/Alternate Ballot 4

155 votes were cast with 78 being necessary for election.

No delegates were elected.

Bishop Jones called for Clergy Reserve/Alternate Ballot 5

149 votes were cast with 75 being necessary for election.

One clergy reserve/alternate delegate was elected on Ballot 5 as follow:

Jonathan Bynum      102      68.46%

This completed the clergy reserve/alternate delegation.

Sterling Allen made a motion that we elect two additional alternate clergy and two additional alternate lay delegates. Abby Salazar seconded the motion.

Motion failed 58-204.

President Pro-Temp congratulated the conference on its election, gave brief instructions to the delegation, and offered a prayer for the delegation.

Bishop Jones adjourned the Conference at 12:25 PM CDT.

