



MS-West TN Provisional Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I am excited to announce that the Cabinet of the Mississippi-West Tennessee Provisional Annual Conference has voted unanimously to begin the process of launching Global Methodist campus ministries on every college and university campus in Mississippi and West Tennessee.

At our Special-Called Annual Conference in June, I reported that we were working on a Covenant Ministry Partner Agreement that would create partnerships, where possible, between our Annual Conference and like-minded ministries from other denominations and parachurch organizations. While this is still our goal with non-GMC ministries, the landscape involving college ministry has shifted over the past several weeks. Let me offer some facts that will lend perspective to our Cabinet's decision:

- This past spring, our Conference Finance Committee recommended working with United Methodist Church campus ministries to provide financial support to these organizations and give GMC congregations assurance that their funds would be well spent. Work on the proposed Covenant Ministry Partner Agreement (CMPA) began immediately.
- Work on the proposed CMPA continued despite significant changes to the UMC Book of Discipline at their April-May General Conference.
- Work on the proposed CPMA continued after the Mississippi Annual Conference of the UMC voted against a proposal by the MS Conference Higher Education Campus Ministry Committee that would have made a GMC/UMC campus ministry partnership possible. After heated discussion, it was decided that directors of UMC Wesley Foundations must be United Methodist, and their boards must be comprised of a supermajority of the same. This vote occurred during Business Session 4 of the Mississippi Annual Conference of the UMC, held on June 21, 2024.
- In July, one of our Conference leaders received a call from a cabinet-level official from the Mississippi UMC Conference office stating:
 - 1) The Wesley Foundations are United Methodist ministries.
 - 2) GMC leaders are to have no contact or communication with any of the UMC Wesley Foundation directors.
 - 3) Wesley Foundation directors will be instructed to refrain from contacting any GMC leaders.
 - 4) GMC churches are still welcome to support Mississippi UMC Wesley Foundations financially.

*Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately,
love extravagantly, and witness boldly.*

We desired to partner with UMC campus ministries where possible, as we understand that many of our Global Methodist Congregations have long-standing relationships with UMC Wesley Foundations. Unfortunately, this is no longer a realistic or viable option. We encourage every church in our Conference to support the development of Global Methodist campus ministries throughout Mississippi and West Tennessee. Let us join together as a Conference to raise up new GMC campus ministries that will breathe life and grace into a hurting, broken world.

Bishop Scott Jones is very excited about this direction and has encouraged us to have a Global Methodist presence on every college campus in our Conference. Campus ministry is vital work, and we are committed to reaching college students with the saving grace of Jesus Christ. If God is calling you to serve in our campus ministries, please email Courtney Kimmel, Director of Communication and Special Projects, at ckimmel@ms-wtngmc.org.

We will be releasing additional news related to campus ministry as it develops, but we also ask for your prayers. Pray for those who will be leading this work. Pray for God to raise up exceptional leadership for our new campus ministries. Pray that God will bless us with the honor of helping young people come to faith in Christ.

I appreciate your dedication to Christ and this new Methodist movement God is raising up.

Blessings,



Rev. Dr. Timothy Prather
President Pro Tem

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love extravagantly, and witness boldly.*

Learn more about the
Mississippi - West
Tennessee GMC
Conference at our website!

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Contact us at info@ms-wtngmc.org for more information.