



## CHRIS AKERS

Clergy

University Carillon / Oviedo

### **1. How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church?**

Our purpose is to be a movement of God in the Wesleyan Tradition, not a new institution, that will foster and usher in revival.

### **2. In your opinion, what is the most important thing the General Conference needs to accomplish to be considered as a success?**

- Seek the face of God in order to create a movement, not an institution, that's dependent upon the Holy Spirit.
- Be led by the Holy Spirit to do all in our power to avoid becoming UMC 2.0.
- Develop a mentoring culture that attracts younger clergy and youth.
- Confirm the hard work of the TLC by approving the permission giving Book of Doctrine and Discipline.

### **3. Describe some experiences that will be an advantage to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

- I have been one of the leaders in the renewal movement in Florida since 2014. I have worked side by side with the SEJ and General Conference renewal leaders thus creating know, like and trust.
- Over these last 10 years I have built countless relationships with Clergy and Lay throughout our connection, most of which are in the GMC. I will be able to use these relationships to build consensus and support.
- As a founding member and Treasurer of the Florida WCA Chapter I have spoken at and worked with countless number of Florida churches seeking disaffiliation. Knowing the concerns and hopes of laity and churches through-out the Conference, I will be able to represent them well.
- In 2020, I served on the Global WCA's Connectional Funding Taskforce that established a funding model for what would become the GMC.
- I served incognito on the Florida Transitional Conference Advisory Team (TCAT) which formed the Florida Conference of the GMC.
- Currently serve on the Florida Conference GMC's Finance Committee.
- Currently serve as the leader of the SEJ Chapter of the WCA and serve on the Global WCA Council. I'm acutely aware to the needs in our Central Conferences who hope one day to find a home in the GMC. As a delegate to the GMC General Conference I will work to provide a home for them in the GMC.
- I am serving on the GMC's Commission on Finance, Administration, Pensions, and Benefits giving me a greater knowledge of the general church's financial issues.

### **4. Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Coming out of a Charismatic UMC Church (Bayshore) and attending Asbury (Wilmore) I had to fight to get into the UMC. I've ended up having to work, just as hard, to get out of the UMC. I use that same passionate spirit to reach folks for Jesus. My 35 plus years of pastoral ministry has been fruitful and fulfilling in growing the church and reaching people for Jesus. I'm unashamed of my faith and traditional values. Lost people matter to God so they matter for me.



## Ryan Beavers

Clergy

Georgianna / Merritt Island

### **1. How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church?**

I believe our purpose as the Global Methodist Church is to offer the world an anchored and orthodox expression of the Kingdom of God that happens to have a Wesleyan "accent." I used the word anchor very purposefully because I believe it is necessary as a Christian movement in the 21st century to feel and be aware of the world around us, but not to completely lose ourselves in it. I see it as our calling to be a vital and confident voice into our world, precisely because we keep a steady and firm tether to scripture and communion with the Holy Spirit.

### **2. In your opinion, what is the most important thing the General Conference needs to accomplish to be considered as a success?**

It would be my hope that we would leave General Conference with a firm grasp on our core values as a movement; and that that clarity would enable churches to clearly say "yes" to causes within that vision, as well as to gracefully say "no" to things outside of our values.

To the nuts and bolts of the question, I would hope that each pastor, layperson, and church could have the confidence of a clearly articulated structure, a Book of Doctrines and Disciplines that is properly approved, and vital infrastructure and leaders in place to allow for success and faithfulness for years to come.

### **3. Describe some experiences that will be an advantage to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

I have served in multiple staff churches for over 17 years, the last 6.5 as a pastor. I am well versed and comfortable in the inner workings and needs of the local church. In these churches I have helped cast vision, been a part of consulting processes, steered needed change, and helped enable these churches to look beyond just Sundays, but also to their organizational longevity.

The GMC thus far has consistently upheld the idea that the institution will exist for the local church, and not the other way around. That being the case, I can bring many years of experience both at contemporary and traditional churches to bear on my perspectives in what will be a more "denominational" setting of General Conference.

### **4. Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

I simply believe that Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. I believe that His life, death, and resurrection offered us a model of just what it should look like to live in the Kingdom of God. I also believe that, for current believers and for the local church, that Kingdom can start now. So I long to see others experience the same grace and love and inspiration for living in a new way that I have.



**CR**  
**IG BLOCHER**  
University Carillon / Oviedo

# 1. How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church?

Our purpose ought to be to:

Revive and promote that early spirit of renewal spread by the early Methodists.

Establish an orthodox Wesleyan movement built for future generations.

Trust, seek, and expect the power of the Holy Spirit - now - in the lives of every member and in our churches.

Settle for nothing less holiness that brings glory God and gives the world a compelling picture of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## 2. In your opinion, what is the most important thing the General Conference needs to accomplish to be considered as a success?

While there is crucial operational work that must to be done, and important structural decisions to be made like the structure and role of bishops in our new denomination, none of this is as important as gathering with humble and contrite hearts, and dedicating our new movement to the glory of God for the sake of the Gospel. We must be of one spirit, this will be the enduring legacy of the convening General Conference.

## 3. Describe some experiences that will be an advantage to your work as a General Conference delegate.

As a 35 year old, with by God's grace 30+ more years of vocational ministry left, my desire to serve as a delegate to General Conference is rooted in my heart for building a movement that outlasts us; that seeks, disciples, and supports future generations. We have made it through disaffiliation praise be to God. Our next challenge will be addressing the reality that our movement remains markedly older than the national average. We must focus on reaching the next generation. It would be prudent for this goal be reflected in the composition of our delegation.

I am serving as the current vice-chair of the Florida GMC Board of Ministry, with primary task of helping develop and refine our new ordination process for this first and future classes of ordinands.

I served as a member of the Florida TCAT as we worked toward becoming a provisional annual conference and was one of the first clergy to officially transfer into Florida Global Methodism as one of the six officers listed on the initial incorporation documents.

I participated in a year long WCA sponsored 'Exponential' learning cohort with Methodist leaders from across the country including a handful that are now serving as President Pro Temp or as Presiding Elders in their respective conferences. We gathered to learn from some of the most effective disciple making churches around the country that we might recover our roots of multiplication as a forming denomination.

I have been formed by a family has been shaped by the renewal/revival side of Methodism. My (almost 93 year old) grandfather came to faith at the 1950 Asbury revival, and my uncle recently led his church into the new formed Allegheny West conference of the GMC. I am here today because of generations of faithful evangelical Methodists and want the same for my children.

## 4. Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I have experienced a profound transformation of my identity, purpose, and life by the grace of God through the church. I want everyone to have the opportunity to experience the same new life God invites us into. The local church remains the primary medium the Gospel of Jesus is shared. It is in the context of the church that people are invited into repentance and experience the fullness of the Gospel through sanctification. Our work as a denomination is to support congregations in this work. Through the highs and the challenges, I am excited every single day in my context to pursue this cause. God has primarily used me to help mentor younger leaders, and clarify purpose, direction, and strategy through the church. I believe fruitfulness is widest as we call, equip, and release our people to use the unique gifts God has given them. It is to this work that I believe God has gifted and called me. Thank you for your consideration. Best of all, God is with us!

# BRENT BYERMAN

Clergy (retired)  
Tampa, Florida

## **1. How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church?**

The return to true Wesleyan Methodism including

- being a church of one book impacting both belief and practice
- covenant accountability on church, district, and conference levels
- a healthy balance of both truth and grace
- larger financial investment in local church and community rather than conference and national agencies

## **2. In your opinion, what is the most important thing the General Conference needs to accomplish to be considered as a success?**

Develop a support system where clergy and congregations can support and strengthen each other in mission, discipleship, prayer, mentoring and fellowship. We had this in my early days of the UMC and it got lost along the way.

## **3. Describe some experiences that will be an advantage to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

- My faith was birthed in the days of the Charismatic Movement in a Methodist congregation in Florida
- I just recently retired Dec 31, 2023 after 43 1/2 years as a Methodist clergy
- In August 2024 my wife Mary (my partner in life and ministry) and I will celebrate 50 years of marriage

## **4. Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

It is simply about a relationship with Jesus and letting his light shine. In the preaching, the teaching, the pastoral visits, the funerals, the weddings, the Sacraments, the fellowship dinners and the church meetings my hope is that folks see Jesus in me and be drawn more to Him.



## STEVE EZRA

Clergy

First Methodist Church /  
Zephyrhills

### **1. How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church?**

We hold in common a purpose and mission with all other Christian traditions: Make disciples of Jesus Christ. I understand the unique purpose of the Global Methodist Church as continuing within a long line of churches and traditions to honor our Methodist heritage but doing so as a new denomination with greater clarity around core beliefs and practices, and with greater accountability to one another in how we do our life together.

### **2. In your opinion, what is the most important thing the General Conference needs to accomplish to be considered as a success?**

The General Conference needs to discern and affirm a way of organizing our life together as Global Methodists that (1) is faithful to orthodox Christianity; (2) is connectional in nature; (3) develops the smallest bureaucratic footprint necessary; (4) ensures great flexibility for local churches to serve their communities; and (5) provides a clear pathway and process for holding one another accountable to what we believe and how we should live.

### **3. Describe some experiences that will be an advantage to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

My Doctor of Ministry project at Fuller Theological Seminary focused on discipleship systems for local churches, so I've done a lot of research on church ministry systems and processes. (Key idea: Systems produce exactly what they were designed to produce, so if you're not getting the output you want, look at the system as well as the inputs.) I was a member of C12 Group for almost ten years, which offered me a high level of training and coaching in leadership and administration from a business perspective. These experiences, along with my experience in re-engineering ministry systems in large churches, will be advantageous to the work of a founding General Conference.

### **4. Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

From the moment I invited Christ into my life at the age of 16 at a youth group lock-in, I've had a passion for helping people to know just how much God loves them and wants to be in a personal relationship with them. Every person needs the love, forgiveness, grace, and mercy of God to be a reality in his or her life. The gift of salvation and the presence and power of God's Spirit is available to everyone, anywhere, regardless of who they are or what they've done. This is the Gospel, and when hearts are changed, then lives are changed, and those changed lives overflow into the lives of others. Truly Good News!





**DENVIL  
FARLEY**

Clergy  
Port Charlotte Global  
Methodist Church

**1. How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church?**

I see the Global Methodist Church as an opportunity to spread scriptural holiness throughout the land as the early Methodists set out to do. It is a movement focused on being led by the Holy Spirit and the Holy Scriptures that is intentional about sharing the good news of Jesus. We have a treasure in earthen vessels, and a great commission that calls us to share it. We are a revivalist, evangelistic, and mission focused movement and I am excited for what God will do through us.

**2. In your opinion, what is the most important thing the General Conference needs to accomplish to be considered as a success?**

This General Conference has the opportunity to set the course for the immediate future. The most important thing, therefore, is to pray and listen for God's voice so that we might follow His path forward. As the movement grows and leadership expands, having this foundation in prayer, and a clarity in mission are vital. I think we also need to ensure that proper guardrails are in place so that we might keep our focus on the mission of the church and not allow secondary things to take on more importance than they should. It will be important to set in place how the mission will be emphasized, supported, and taught through each level of our structure (conferences, bishops, presiding elders, local church, membership) and then how the mission defines our connection and affiliation with other movements (denominations) within the Christian faith and ministry partners (seminaries, mission organizations, etc...). I think we also need to be aware that everything that needs to happen will not happen at General Conference and that as we build, grow, and learn together, there will be more structural work to do. This is why having that solid foundation about who we are and what we are about brought to bear on each part of our structure is necessary for this first gathering.

**3. Describe some experiences that will be an advantage to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

My first church job was a custodian. I later served as a youth pastor. Finally, I felt the call to Ordained Ministry. As a pastor I have served at a small rural church, been an Associate Pastor at a large church, and now serve at a medium sized church. I think I can understand the variety of needs for a variety of churches, but more importantly I understand people are people just in different contexts. I also believe my experiences in mission, working with people from different countries and cultures will be beneficial as a delegate. I think this work has helped me to become a good listener both to people and to God.

Currently I serve on the Board for the Methodist Children's Home (new branding coming soon) which is beneficial to understanding organizational connections and working with others to accomplish a mission in a changing world. I also am on the Board of Ministry for the Florida Conference, which helps me to better understand the requirements for clergy candidates and the needs of churches in our state.

Having led my church through the disaffiliation process, I can relate with many of the struggles that others have experienced, as well as the hope for what is to come. At my current appointment, we are also working through the rebuilding process from Hurricane Ian, so I am learning the ins and outs of insurance, government processes, and how to rebuild a church. I think more than anything I have had to learn how to trust in God, listen for His voice, and rely on the Holy Spirit to do the transformational work that only the Spirit can do.

I believe these experiences have worked together to prepare me for the work that lies ahead within the General Conference, our Annual Conference, or whatever God leads me to next.

**4. Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Jesus makes a difference! I believe that an encounter with Jesus is the only thing that is truly transformative in a person's life, and that believing in Jesus is the only way to salvation and reconciliation with the Father. Sharing the good news of Jesus, and leading others to tell the story of what Jesus has done for them, has to be the priorities of the church. At my current appointment I have been emphasizing the importance of telling our God stories so that we can normalize conversational evangelism. We are training people how to point others to the light of Jesus.

I wish I could say that I have been able to lead hundreds of people to Christ, but that hasn't happened yet. For now, the fruit of this passion is found in congregation members who come back and tell me how they overcame their fear, followed the Holy Spirit's promptings, and shared Jesus with somebody. I and others in my congregation have been better able to share Jesus with people because we recognize the importance. We have also become more in tune with listening for the Holy Spirit so that we can speak and act when God leads us to share Jesus through word and action.



## MIKE FORDHAM

Clergy

Killearn Methodist Church /  
Tallahassee

### **1. How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church?**

God has raised up the Global Methodist Church to make disciples throughout the world. These disciples will be followers of Jesus who are fully committed to Christ, growing in holiness to be more like Christ through loving God and each other as we love ourselves, and sent out by the church to spread Scriptural holiness throughout the world through witnessing to the good news of Jesus.

### **2. In your opinion, what is the most important thing the General Conference needs to accomplish to be considered as a success?**

General Conference will be a success as it affirms and establishes as a foundation of the church the truth of God as found in Scripture, affirmed in the creeds of the church, and as expressed through the works of John Wesley. The General Conference will then further be a success as it organizes the church to fulfill its mission throughout the world.

### **3. Describe some experiences that will be an advantage to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

I have served in a variety of roles in the United Methodist Church in four local churches, district (District Committees on Ordained Ministry, Mentor of Residents in Ministry, etc...), and conference (committee member of the Florida Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry for 8 years, and chair of the Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries, etc...) levels for 32 years of ministry. I am presently serving as a Presiding Elder in the Global Methodist Church.

### **4. Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

In my almost 33 years of ministry as a local pastor, one of the passions of my ministry has been to introduce people to a life-transforming, personal relationship with God through the saving work of Christ, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. I have preached, taught, organized the four churches I have served, and led churches in bringing the good news of Jesus to the world. Not only have I witnessed to Christ in the church, but I have also done so in my personal life at home and in the community wherever God has planted me to serve.



## DEBORAH GALTERE

Clergy

Amazing Grace Sublime  
Garcia Global Methodist  
Church / Port St Lucie

### **1. How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church?**

The purpose of the Global Methodist Church is to be a vibrant and vocal witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We express this purpose in staying faithful to Scripture and striving to live our lives in Christian perfection. As we share our mission as the Global Methodist Church this holiness is expressed as a holiness of heart and life - one in which we share into our local communities and into all the world. Our purpose is to bear fruitful witness to God's love, mercy and grace.

### **2. In your opinion, what is the most important thing the General Conference needs to accomplish to be considered as a success?**

To be considered a success would be this gathering of people of like hearts and minds, grounded in the theology and ecclesiology of the Wesley brothers, stay true to scriptural holiness and formulate a continuing common vision to further the Kingdom of God.

### **3. Describe some experiences that will be an advantage to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

I served as a missionary, pastor, educator, and chaplain during my years of ministry serving in the Caribbean, South Africa/Botswana and Florida (USA). I was pastor to rural Batswana, Basara and Zulu communities in South Africa/Botswana in Word and Sacrament, and established cross-cultural ministries and helped to establish mini libraries, school classrooms, playgrounds, community gardens and other development projects, including new church starts in rural areas. Trained and participated in the Truth and Reconciliation meetings in South Africa after President Mandela was elected. Ministered in refugee camps during the Mozambique civil war and helped in medical missions and in training indigenous missionaries to minister to the refugees and facilitated and taught in Bible School/Seminary extension classes to 4 different tribal groups. In Jamaica, West Indies I served two circuits and was Circuit Superintendent. In returning to USA, I served as clergy to two churches, eventually serving in extension ministry as Senior Chaplain for Vitas Healthcare. Now pastoring a new church start in Port St Lucie. I believe my diverse background in ministry and my theological training in which I concentrated on Missiology would be as asset as a delegate.

### **4. Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Mission and outreach has been the focus of my life and ministry from the mid 1970's. Overseas, I had opportunity to pastor churches, establish new faith communities, facilitate community development projects to help people, establish bible school/seminary training to hundreds of individuals in both South Africa/Botswana and the Caribbean. The fruit of each of those individual projects and those hundreds of students now serving in various capacities throughout the world as pastors, missionaries, Christian educators, children of God are the fruit of my ministry. In the USA, after returning from years overseas, I served in two churches before transferring to extension ministry as a hospice chaplain. I had discovered in my visits to nursing homes and assisted living facilities whole communities of mature Christians who were often unable to travel to a church for worship and Christian fellowship. I helped to establish a non-profit called Community Chaplains Association in which myself and 3 other retired clergy brought Sunday worship, Word and Sacrament, Bible study and Christian fellowship to 6 facilities in Palm Beach County. When I officially retired as an itinerant clergy, I never expected to facilitate a new church start at age 70 but God has a plan and I think a sense of humor. I have the great blessing now to be helping a new church plant in Port St Lucie, FL - Amazing Grace Sublime Garcia Global Methodist Church with Clergy Supply Pastor Maria Bonilla, as she completes her theological training. My passion to share God's Word, Sacrament, and love has not dimmed through my many years of ministry; if anything, it continues to grow and I hope and believe will continue to bear fruit into the future. A minister of God's Word never truly retires - I believe God just redirects their steps in new opportunities.



**RONALD DeGENARO, JR.**  
Clergy  
St. John Methodist Church /  
Sebring

**1. How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church?**

I understand that the purpose of the GMC is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world. Methodism has had at its core two values, evangelism and discipleship. Evangelism that calls individuals to trust God for salvation that rests in the work of Jesus Christ. We have hope because of His life, death, and resurrection. Discipleship means that we are called to be a part of a community of believers that encourages and holds each member accountable for the living out of the common faith that bears witness to the efficacy of the Gospel.

**2. In your opinion, what is the most important thing the General Conference needs to accomplish to be considered as a success?**

In my opinion, the most important thing that the General Conference needs to accomplish in order to be considered a success is it must look forward to the future of our new denomination in a positive manner. We should not dwell on the past, but set our sights on adopting and refining our discipline and defining our missional strategies for the church in general. We should lay out a plan for sustainable growth in numbers of churches and individuals who bear witness to Jesus Christ.

**3. Describe some experiences that will be an advantage to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

I was a pastor for over thirty years in the UMC and a pastor in the Christian and Missionary Alliance before that for almost three years. I served on District Committees and leadership teams in both denominations. I have served on District Committees on Ministry for twenty-two years and I currently serve on the Florida Board of Ordained Ministry.

**4. Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

I live to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the years of ministry I have set a priority on preaching for commitment to follow Jesus. I have attempted to model the Christian life to the community in which I live. I look for personal opportunities to share the Gospel one on one. I was very involved in the Celebrate Jesus Missions in The Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church and even served on the board. Each church that I have served grew in disciples. I pray each day that I may bear witness to our Lord. I marvel at how He can use even me to further His kingdom.



## NAKO KELLUM

Clergy

Faith Methodist Church /  
Hudson

### **1. How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church?**

I understand the purpose of the GMC is to pursue the original mission the Early Methodist had -"to spread the Scriptural holiness over the land." I understand this to be that we as individuals and the church to be transformed into the image of Jesus in our thoughts, hearts, and deeds by the power of Holy Spirit when we surrendered to Him. It is not for us to be a "pretty display", but so that Jesus is presented to the world through us. Our purpose is to continue the mission Jesus has started in the world, bringing the Good News as his representatives. His representatives need to reflect His character and his method.

### **2. In your opinion, what is the most important thing the General Conference needs to accomplish to be considered as a success?**

One of the most important decisions we need to make is upon episcopacy. We need to decide bishops' roles, how we nominate and elect bishops, and how they are kept accountable. I consider it a success, if we can organize ourselves to hold each other accountable, at the same time, leave room for ourselves to continue to be a "movement". I hope we can keep it simple, and not add layers of bureaucracy.

### **3. Describe some experiences that will be an advantage to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

I had a wonderful blessing to work in WCA's "Next Step Group", which wrote blue print for the current Transitional Book of Doctrines and Disciplines. I still remember the day we accomplish the task, when all of us who were involved were full of hope and gratitude.

I was a GMC organizer in Florida since October 2022, sharing information about the GMC to individuals and churches, until I became a Conference Administrator in October 2023 when we become Florida Provisional Annual Conference.

### **4. Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

I came from a non-Christian background, and growing up, I had no idea who God is. When I first heard the Gospel and believed in Jesus, I thought, "Why did anybody ever shared this with me?" I have heart for people who are like me, who had no idea that there is God who loves them enough to give His only Son Jesus. God has brought me opportunities to share the Gospel through relationships. I have to be attentive to the Holy Spirit in what to do in these occasions. I try to use the words that are easy to understand for people who have never heard the Gospel. Recent example is my nephew who is 12 years old. When the family was visiting us, he started asking questions about God, and I shared with him about how God created him and he is precious to Him. He wanted to read the Bible, so I gave him a copy as well. I cannot take credit for it, because God drops opportunity like this, and I try to listen to Him.

**MONTREIUL MILORD**

Clergy

Faith Community Church /

Immokalee

**1. How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church?**

The purpose of the GMC is to reach out to the whole world by fulfilling the mandate of the Great Commission.

**2. In your opinion, what is the most important thing the General Conference needs to accomplish to be considered as a success?**

Set up leaders, establish new church planting . (Leadership training)  
Reach out to the different ethnic groups  
Recruit spiritual leaders (lay and clergy)

**3. Describe some experiences that will be an advantage to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

Teaching and evangelizing  
Establishing a network among ministers

**4. Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Desire to reach to the younger generation by opening church doors to attend vibrant worship services.

Organize "Breakfast Club" for Middle School students.

Invite to different church activities that fit their mood.

Organize Youth Revivals.

Empower church members to invite friends, neighbors, parents, etc..



## JEREMY REBMAN

Clergy

First Methodist Church / Vero  
Beach

### **1. How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church?**

Along with many other believers, I am pleading with God for the next great spiritual awakening. The people called Methodist have been a part of awakening in the past, and I believe God has called the Global Methodist Church together at a time when spiritual awakening is sorely needed again. I believe God is not done with the Methodist movement, but in fact, calls us to our historic emphasis on Gospel preaching, loving service in the name of Jesus, and intentional discipleship.

### **2. In your opinion, what is the most important thing the General Conference needs to accomplish to be considered as a success?**

I believe we will be successful if we resist the urge toward bureaucratic creep. There will be a great temptation for us to ease back into institutionalism, with more requirements and forms and demands on local churches. The denomination must exist only to help local churches in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. Our legislation must only go so far as is necessary to ensure we hold to our doctrine and purpose.

### **3. Describe some experiences that will be an advantage to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

I believe that my experience in pastoral ministry, helping churches move forward in the ministry of Jesus Christ, is the greatest advantage I offer for the work of General Conference. I served as an associate pastor for 4 1/2 years. I served as Lead Pastor at Deer Lake in Tallahassee for 10 1/5 years. I have been serving as Senior Pastor of FMC of Vero Beach for 8 years.

My 12+ years of experience with the Board of Ordained Ministry and District Committees will be helpful as we continue to build our ordination process.

And I believe my experience serving with the Wesleyan Covenant Association, including as a delegate to the legislative sessions and as the president of our Florida Chapter, has given me insight into the heart of the movement, as well as a sensitivity to this ever-present temptation toward bureaucratic creep. We are a movement of believers, firmly committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority and inspiration of Scripture. We care deeply about the lost, and are passionate about sharing the Gospel. These core commitments must continue to be our foundation.

### **4. Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

In Acts 26:29, we read, "Paul replied, 'Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that both you and everyone here in this audience might become the same as I am, except for these chains'" (NLT). During all of his hardships for the sake of the Gospel, the Apostle Paul continues to declare knowing Jesus to be worth it. He calls knowing Jesus of "surpassing worth." My passion for evangelism comes from that surpassing worth of knowing Jesus. I love him, and I want others to know him as I do. This is what motivates my prayers, my preaching and my personal witness. Jesus is the center of my life and my pastoral ministry. Every sermon, from the New or Old Testament, is about Jesus and his Gospel. I have been privileged to be a part of non-Christian and nominally Christian people being born again. Just recently, God gave us 4 new believers to be baptized at a beach baptism event. Two more youth were baptized after making a decision for Jesus Christ in confirmation class since then. Praise God!





## JAY THERRELL

Clergy

Florida Conference of the  
Global Methodist Church /  
Jacksonville

### **1. How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church?**

John Wesley wrote 12 rules for his "helpers" (preachers). My favorite has always been number 11, "You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. And go always, not only to those that want you, but to those that want you most." That's the purpose of the Global Methodist Church: to save souls and be spent in this work. If we do that, everything else will fall into place.

### **2. In your opinion, what is the most important thing the General Conference needs to accomplish to be considered as a success?**

The General Conference needs to fill in some "holes" that were intentionally left out of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline. Those holes included a method for electing bishops, setting their term limits, and creating a constitution for the denomination. Beyond that, I would hope the General Conference works hard to prevent institutional/bureaucratic "creep." We want the GMC to remain a movement and not become a museum. One of the best ways to do that is to resist the urge to add more to the Book of Doctrines and Discipline and let our footprint get larger bit by bit.

### **3. Describe some experiences that will be an advantage to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

I was humbled to be one of the three authors of the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline along with Tom Lambrecht and Chappell Temple. I know the book well and where its "holes" are. I've also had the humbling privilege to lead the Florida Conference of the GMC. Every day I work hard to keep our conference lean, nimble, and missional. Lastly, in my former work with the Wesleyan Covenant Association, I had the blessing to build many relationships around the globe giving me a unique perspective on the true global nature of our church.

### **4. Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Jesus is the Hope of the World. He is the ultimate solution to all problems. There is not a thing wrong in our world that cannot be fixed by people choosing to follow Jesus. I have had the privilege of serving Jesus in the local church where we had well over 250 professions of faith. I've also had the privilege of teaching pastors and laity how to effectively share the Good News of Christ. Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ is our primary mission, and I'm so grateful that Jesus has chosen "even me" to be a part of it.



## MAX WILKINS

Clergy

First Methodist Norcross

(GA) / GMC

### **1. How do you understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church?**

I understand the purpose of the Global Methodist Church to be the multiplication of healthy discipling churches in the Wesleyan Christian tradition, with a commitment to orthodox faith and sound biblical teaching. And to see these healthy discipling faith communities joining Jesus in His mission and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom.

### **2. In your opinion, what is the most important thing the General Conference needs to accomplish to be considered as a success?**

To consider how we might spur one another on to love and good works, encouraging one another, and all the more as we see the Day approaching. It is my hope that the GC will see a Spirit-led enthusiasm and resurgence of optimism around our mission, while bringing a sense of unity and order to our doctrines and disciplines.

### **3. Describe some experiences that will be an advantage to your work as a General Conference delegate.**

I have served on several commissions and task forces in the WCA (from its inception) and in the GMC in preparation for this General Conference. I currently serve on the Transitional Commission on Evangelism, Mission and Church Planting and additionally am a member of three separate work groups preparing for GC.

I was ordained in 1986 and have served as a successful church planter, and a senior pastor within the UMC, but also as the teaching pastor of a large multi-site church, and the senior pastor of a large inter-denominational church. In the last decade I have served as President/CEO of TMS Global (formerly The Mission Society for United Methodists), and have been engaged with Methodist leaders around the world. I taught "Creative Biblical Communication," "Strategic Leadership for Church Planters in the 21st Century," and "Ministry Practicum" at a large Bible College in Hawaii. And I completed a post-Doctoral degree in Organizational Leadership at the Said School of Business at Oxford University in Oxford, England. All of these experiences have given me a passion for the work of helping to bring a healthy Wesleyan denomination into being, and a somewhat unique skillset and set of experiences that should enable me to serve well and usefully at the GC.

### **4. Describe your passion and fruit for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Quite simply, it's all about Jesus. I am a Jesus centric sort of person. I want the abundant life that Jesus said He came to give us, and I believe to the depths of my being that seeking first the Kingdom of God (by fixing our eyes on Jesus, the King of that Kingdom) and His righteousness is the key to that abundant life. But doing so requires joining Jesus in His mission in the world. And that mission (as Jesus clearly stated in Matthew 28:18-20) is to make disciples of all the nations. The churches I have served have been characterized by evangelistic fervor. (The church we planted in Boynton Beach, FL in 1990 - Faith UMC - was featured in George Barna's book "Evangelism That Works". When I asked Barna why he included us, an insignificant church with an insignificant and largely unknown pastor, in his book, he replied, "Do you know how hard we have worked to try to find a UMC that was successfully bringing large numbers of unbelievers to faith?" I share this, honestly, with sadness. But also to say that, from the beginning, joining Jesus in His mission to make disciples has been the core emphasis of my ministry. And the last 10 years have afforded me the wonderful opportunity to not only share in that work around the world, but also to be part of equipping thousands of other women and men to be a part of that work. I can honestly say that being a part of the work of making disciples for the transformation of the world is the primary passion of my life.

