

Heartland Cabinet Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

On behalf of the Heartland Annual Conference Cabinet, I'd like to thank you all for the privilege and honor of serving as Presiding Elders within our rather large, geographical region. We currently serve over the 15 districts (plus Canada as a church plant) in our conference.

We meet via Zoom the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 am. We continue to discuss open churches, pastor availability, appointment concerns, opportunities to identify new pastors, raising up District Lay Leaders and Prayer Leaders, and the upcoming church conferences. We also are reading and discussing the *Hero Maker* book together each month.

We were able to meet in person August 4-5 at New Covenant Church, one of our missional churches, in the Delano District of Wichita. We are grateful to Pastor Cathy Holley and her congregation who were so hospitable to us during our meetings. Some of the cabinet stayed and assisted in the ILI training that took place from August 6-8. We are excited to meet again in person on October 20 and 21 at Asbury Church in Wichita. – Rick Just

Committee Roster:

District	Presiding Elder
Colorado District	Cherie Cobb
Oklahoma City District	Lisa Beavers
NW Kansas District	Ted Stapleton
Southern Oklahoma District	David Daniel
SW Kansas District	Elizabeth Winger-Young
North Central KS District	Joshua Johnson
Flint Hills District	Kelly Sipes
SW Missouri District	Kent Garfield
West Central KS District	(Open)
South Central KS District	Mike Keating
NE Missouri District	Brad Dush
SE Missouri District	Carl Palmer
Western Oklahoma District	Amanda Peterson
Tulsa District	Ray Crawford
Wichita District	Rick Just



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Finance and Administrative Committee Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

The Finance and Administrative Committee meets monthly to faithfully steward the resources and administrative life of the Heartland Conference. We are deeply encouraged by the generosity of our congregations and grateful for the continued strength of giving across our connection. Financial reports are available at heartlandgmc.org.

Missional Support

We give thanks for our ongoing partnerships with ministries in **Ethiopia** and **Zimbabwe**, where your giving continues to make a tangible difference. Quarterly support is sent to Ethiopia to strengthen local church ministries and leadership development, while we also remain committed to supporting our missional partners in Zimbabwe. These partnerships embody our shared call to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

Financial Overview

The financial position of the conference remains strong, with healthy balances and consistent stewardship. Connectional giving continues to reflect the faithfulness of our churches and their shared commitment to the mission of the Gospel.

A special note of gratitude is extended for the generous gift from the **Virgil E. and Mildred I. Fussell Estate**. These funds have been transferred to the **Mississippi Foundation** to ensure proper management and long-term growth. In accordance with the wishes of the donors, the committee is working to establish a scholarship fund that will provide educational support aligned with the mission and values of the estate and our annual conference.

Administrative Progress

The committee continues to develop and refine key forms and administrative policies to better serve our churches and clergy. These include updates to clergy compensation guidelines, vacation and family leave policies, parsonage inspection forms, and moving procedures. Once finalized, these materials will be available through the conference website and distributed through presiding elders as needed.

Connectional Giving Reminder

As we enter the final quarter of the year, we encourage every church to review its **connectional giving** for the current year. The *Book of Doctrines and Disciplines* directs



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all churches to submit their connectional giving **monthly or in advance** throughout the year. If your congregation has historically made a single annual payment, please begin submitting those contributions earlier in the year so that we remain in full alignment with the *Book of Doctrines and Disciplines*.

Looking Ahead

We are a **kingdom-minded conference**, united in purpose and partnered together to build the Kingdom of God. As we continue to steward resources, strengthen policies, and support mission both near and far, we do so with gratitude and hope for what God will continue to do through the Heartland.

Committee Roster:

Brad Kirk
Joel Maneval
Kathe Ramsey
Richard Croll
DA Bennett
Ann Grammon
Carl Palmer
Tyler Huffed
Wendelyn Perceful
Wally Jones
Holly Joy
Robert Brandt
Carrie Clifford
Samuel Lufiyele

Lay Leader Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

The ministry of the laity in the Heartland is alive! As our collective ministry to make disciples of Jesus Christ is moving forward and growing, there are so many moving parts it is difficult to pare down for this report! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

The Certified Lay Ministry basics course online remains at capacity at every enrollment. The CLM committee is working on dates and locations for in-person classes as well! Watch the Heartland newsletter for future announcements.

In the third quarter of 2025, the District Lay Leader team started building our connections between districts. We meet on Zoom, and now have great electronic communication, sharing district event dates, prayer requests, and praises. Your team of lay leaders is an amazing, God-ordained group. The entire Heartland is so thankful they are pressing into this ministry. Please, if you do not know who your district lay leader is, reach out to your Presiding Elder, the conference office, or me. I ask you to add them to your daily prayer list.

I was blessed to represent the laity of the Heartland at a number of meetings, events, and trips during this quarter. Along with the Conference Leadership meetings, I participated in the church planting committee meeting (in person) and missions team meetings.

However, there are two major highlights from third quarter. I was blessed to attend the Convening Annual Conference of the Zimbabwe Annual Conference in Harare. The connection between the Heartland and Zimbabwe AC's feels so natural. As we have a history of Zimbabwean ministries and church partnerships within the geographical boundaries of the Heartland, being in Harare felt simply like an extension and not a foreign country. I anxiously anticipate seeing the growing connections all across the two annual conferences. Finally, I participated in the "Oklahoma Tour" at the end of September with Bishop Jeff Greenway and CS Jordan McFall. We were honored to attend the District Meetings for the Southern Oklahoma District, the Tulsa District, and the OKC District. Not often does a lay person feel at ease in meetings and presentations of clergy. But in the Heartland, our clergy are pressing into God's vision for laity, and they are excited to learn how to pastor, guide, and encourage a lay-lead movement.

We have all heard it said a million times at this point – we are building this bridge as we're crossing it; OR we are building this plane as we're flying it. Well, my builder co-workers, it is finally feeling like we have some progress in it! Committees are taking shape, connections are being built, ministry visions are forming, and you-the people-are catching God's vision for a bigger territory for ministry and growing HIS kingdom.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for allowing me to serve as your Conference Lay Leader.

"Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request." 1 Chronicles 4:9-10



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Committee Roster:

Doug Larson
Christin Dush
Bill Brown
Kathy Koehn
Ruth Blake
John Robinson III
Mike Estes (Bucklin)
Bob Baker
Ivy Rodenberg
Christine (Chris) Calvert
Doug Hisken

Board of Ministry Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

The Board of Ministry plays a vital role in the Heartland Annual Conference by overseeing the recruitment, credentialing, and ongoing care of clergy in alignment with the mission of the Global Methodist Church (¶710.2). The Board meets monthly via Zoom for general business and coordination, and a separate monthly date is designated to conduct candidate interviews. The following summary highlights the work and progress of the Board since May.

Sacramental Authority (Supply Pastors)

Approved: 5

Ordination Candidates

To be Ordained Deacon (2026): 3

To be Ordained Elder (2026): 2

Mentoring Assignments

Approved Mentor Pairings: 9

Mentors Still Needed: 7

Elder Transfers

Transferred In: 2

Transferred Out: 1

Certified Lay Ministers

Approved CLMs: 1

Supply Pastors

Approved Supply Pastors: 2



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Committee Roster:

Chair: Jaimie Willis
Aaron Duell
Brad Dush
Cathy Holley
Dan Jones
D.R. (Buck) Linton-Hendrick
Jeff Ralston
Kent Garfield
Kevin Barron
Landon Maberry
Lyle Shipley
Mike Kilby
Patty Studer
Paul Reed
Ty Walkenshaw

Camping Ministry Oversight Committee Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

1. Purpose and Mission

The Heartland Camping Ministry Oversight Committee was created last year (2024) to equip, resource, and support local churches and leaders in offering transformational camp experiences where children, youth, and adults encounter Christ, grow in faith, and live out the mission of the Church. Our primary goal is to ensure that every camp connected to the Heartland Conference reflects the values of the Global Methodist Church, rooted in Scripture, centered in Christ, and committed to making disciples who pursue holiness of heart and life and spread Scriptural holiness in our communities.

2. Responsibilities

This committee exists to

- Provide endorsement and oversight by approving and supporting camps within the Hartland Conference that align with conference standards for safety, theology, and leadership.
- Assist camp leadership by providing resources such as policies, sharing curriculum, and best practices.
- Provide evaluation and feedback to ensure healthy and sustainable camping ministries.

3. Highlights

Over the past year, we

- Met 3 times on Google meets
- Developed and implemented the Camping Endorsement Policy.
- Approved and promoted 4 camps across the conference that served 135 campers and 65 leaders.

4. Looking ahead

- We want to create a network of endorsed camps throughout the conference, working with local churches to develop camps in their region.
- Create a Camp Leadership Resource Hub with downloadable curriculum and forms.



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As we build a new way to empower churches to work together to create camping experiences for making disciples, we look forward to what God will do, believing that camps and retreats are powerful and effective forms of evangelism and discipleship.

Committee Roster:

Chair: Cali Depue Eck

Members:

Baylee Struble

BJ Danner

Christin Dush

Denni Palmer

John Grimm

Maria Grimm

Meghan Riegenix

Amanda Peterson

Tonya Roak

Church Planting Committee Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

The Church Planting Committee met for a two-day meeting on August 12-13 at Asbury Church in Wichita, Kansas. The purpose of the meeting was to respond to the Annual Conference motion to develop a church planting strategy for the Heartland Annual Conference. A Vision for Church Planting document was presented which focuses on the principle of churches planting churches in accordance with Biblical examples and the Wesleyan emphasis on Class meetings. Three types of church plants were addressed with documents supporting this emphasis. These models are Satellite Campuses, House Churches and Pioneer Churches. Another document was presented on funding church plants using matching funds. After thorough discussion the documents were amended and the Chair, Chris Tiger agreed to put these documents together to form one document on church planting strategy. A 26-page document has been completed which will be distributed to leadership groups in the Heartland Conference.

The need for church planting is increasingly evident as areas within the Heartland Conference are identified as having no presence of a GMC church or that there is not a strong presence of the GMC in larger cities and major county seat towns. Churches are seeing the need to expand to neighboring towns that do not have a GMC presence. Also, there are those who are being called to plant new churches in our midst. It is hoped that the strategy of planting new churches in the Heartland Conference will multiply disciples and churches.

Committee Roster:

Chris Tiger – chair
Ray Crawford
Hector Sanchez
Denni Palmer
Daniel Dennison
Joshua Johnson



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Committee on Investigations Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

With thanks to the Lord, the Committee on Investigation has had no activity and has nothing to report.

Committee Roster:

Chris Sloan
Randy Jessen
Adam Chriss
Jan Dillard
Norbert Marek
Ron Kozak
Tom Trautman

Alternates

Nathan O'Neal
Timothy Trujillo
Dana Gouge
Greg Tolle
Chris Koehn
Bob Humphrey



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Superintendency Committee Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

The Conference Superintendency Committee is working on our Conference Superintendent's evaluation at this time. We will be wrapping this process up sometime in October with Bishop Greenway.

Jesus is Lord,

Rev. Dr. David L. Daniel, Chairman, Conference Superintendent Committee

Committee Roster:

David L. Daniel
Michael Irvine
Kathryn Chittenden
Patsy Witschi
Beth McLaughlin
Tammie Lukefahr
Dennis Sillaman
Joshua Johnson

Administrative Review Committee

Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

The GMC is committed to its mission. Holding church leadership accountable is vital to achieve our goal. Accountability should be truthful, just, and fair. The Administrative Review Committee helps uphold these values and our mission.

Thankfully, the Administrative Review Committee has not met for its official purpose. It met during annual conference for training and review of its responsibilities. An overview of the accountability timeline and required notices has been produced and provided to the Committee on Investigation and Conference Leadership Committee. The remainder of this report consists of a minimal overview of the accountability procedure and review.

There are two categories of leadership failures that may be alleged: 1. Misconduct, professional and/or personal; and 2. Administrative performance, including incompetence, ineffectiveness, or unwillingness or inability to complete the task and responsibilities required. Many situations may be resolved by the local church. But some require or should involve the inclusion of conference leadership.

Administrative matters are considered in a different manner than misconduct allegations. The final step involving an administrative matter is a review by the Administrative Review Committee. Resolutions should be just, and processes should be fair. The committee does its part by reviewing the record of proceedings to assure that all people involved were given a proper form of notice, within the proper timeframes, and were given an opportunity to be heard. The review is important to help safeguard the integrity of the process and to keep the trust of every member of the GMC.

To that end we serve,

Keith Cressman, Chair

Committee Roster:

Jacob Maforo
Barron Willer, Secretary
Keith Cressman, Chair

Alternates:

Larry Lawman
John Hollon



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Mission Committee Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

The Mission Committee meets the last Thursday of each month, and we have met 8 times this year.

This year the Mission Committee has been very busy. We have added 6 new members over the course of the year and spent time learning and getting to know each other as well as our duty in helping to oversee our partnerships with the Ethiopia and Zimbabwe Annual Conferences. The team has produced and approved two Memorandum of Understandings, one with each Conference. This agreement outlines our financial and reporting covenant with each other. We have also been deep in process on how we will produce wonderful church to church relationships between the Heartland and our brothers and sisters in Africa. Your conference has also sent teams to both African nations to celebrate Annual Conferences, elect leadership, and teach doctrine and theology of the GMC.

Our big goals currently are working on a new MOU for Ethiopia, educational videos for Heartland people to know about missional partnerships and launching church to church partnerships. I was recently blessed with 2 team members who are now going to help lead the efforts in Zimbabwe and we are still praying for a some to do the same in Ethiopia. We are so humbled and honored to serve as your mission team for the Heartland. Please lift us and our partners up as we do this sacred work. Thank you!

Committee Roster:

John Hollon
Jacob Mafaro
Rachelle Epperson
Samuel Lufiyele
Josh Coats
Jeff Ault
Doug Hisken
John Wesley-Young
Joshua Johnson
Lindsay Chriss
Mike Tipton
Ymbar Palanco
Special members: Jordan McFall and Holly Joy



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Nominations and Leadership Committee Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

Meeting on the first Thursdays of the month on Zoom, the Nominations and Leadership Committee has lively conversations about who to invite to the table for leadership within the Heartland Annual Conference. Considering the needs of each committee and the gift of our large conference, we prayerfully ensure that we represent each corner of our conference in nominating clergy and laity to serve on annual conference committees and boards, but we need YOUR help! From your church pews and church boards, consider nominating a church member or pastor who you believe embodies our fresh movement of Methodism. Join us in prayerful consideration of men and women of strong faith, integrity, gifting, and passion, believing that the work of the church takes strength of heart and fortitude of mind to participate in the work of God. Persons invited to join one of our Annual Conference committees are required to be members in good standing of a Global Methodist Church or its predecessor denomination for the last two years, served in some form of local church leadership over the last two years, have a recommendation from their pastor (or presiding elder), and must be willing to be an active participant and working member.

Who would you like to see serving the Heartland Annual Conference on the Board of Ministry, Superintendency Committee, Finance & Administration Committee, Nominations & Leadership Committee, Committee on Investigation, or the Administrative Review Committee? For more information on Annual Conference committees, turn to ¶710 in the Book of Doctrine and Discipline to see the responsibilities, membership requirements, lengths of terms, etc. for each Annual Conference committee listed above.

Please consider reaching out to nominations by emailing nominations@heartlandgmc.org.

Committee Roster:

Jordan McFall, Conf. Supt. / Chair
Bill Cosby, CO laity
Nathan O'Neal, CO clergy
Nancy Sipes, KS laity
Kim Shank, KS clergy / Secretary
Denni Palmer, MO laity
Scott Griffin, MO clergy
Bill McAngus, OK laity
Steve Littrell, OK clergy / Vice-Chair

Prayer Committee Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

- The Heartland Prayer Ministry led our largest Prayer Workshop to date at Greensburg Methodist Church, with over 40 people participating in the event.
 - We added Patsy Witschi as a District Prayer Leader (W. Oklahoma) to the Ministry Team
 - We continued to meet monthly over Zoom with other members of the Conference to pray for the needs of the Heartland Conference
 - We published our first monthly Prayer Newsletter in September. Marsha Jarboe is Editor, Sara Pines is Publisher. So far, only the Ministry Team has been writing articles, but we have every intention of asking others throughout the Conference to submit articles for future newsletters.
 - Worked with members, pastors and leaders of the Colorado District to prepare for October ministry trip
 - We moved all Heartland email presence to the heartlandprayerministry@heartlandgmc.org By doing this, we are now in line with all the other ministry groups in the Annual Conference.
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Committee Roster:

Allison Woods
Susan Innes
David Player