



Guest Preaching and Local Church Invitations for Part-Time Conference Staff

Dear Heartland Churches and Leaders,

One of the great strengths of our connection is the opportunity for our churches and leaders to build relationships with one another, share in ministry together, and encourage one another in our shared mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe.

From time to time, local churches may wish to invite members of our Conference staff to preach, teach, or participate in special ministry events. We are grateful for these invitations and want to encourage opportunities for our Conference leaders to be present in our local churches whenever their schedules and responsibilities allow.

Two of our Conference leaders who may receive these invitations are Rev. Rick Just, Dean of the Cabinet, and Rev. Cali Eck, Director of Connectional Ministries. Both Rick and Cali serve the Heartland Annual Conference in part-time roles. When these positions were established, our Conference leadership intentionally determined that guest preaching and other local church invitations would not be required responsibilities of their Conference employment. This recognizes both the part-time nature of their positions and the significant geographic area of the Heartland Annual Conference.

Therefore, while the Conference celebrates and encourages opportunities for Rick and Cali to preach and minister in our local churches, these invitations are considered invitations from the local church rather than official Conference staff assignments. Because the Heartland encompasses a large four-state area, the Conference budget is not able to cover the travel expenses associated with individual invitations to preach or participate in local church events.

When a local church invites Rick or Cali to preach, teach, or participate in a special event outside of their regular Conference responsibilities, we ask the inviting church to:

- Cover reasonable travel expenses associated with the invitation, including mileage or other necessary transportation and, when needed, lodging; and
- Consider providing an appropriate honorarium in appreciation for the time, preparation, and ministry involved.

We do not want these guidelines to discourage invitations. Quite the opposite—we are grateful when our churches desire to connect with Conference leaders, and we believe these relationships strengthen our connectional life together. This policy simply provides clarity regarding the nature of these part-time Conference roles and allows our staff members to respond to invitations without personally having to navigate conversations about expenses or compensation.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry and for the many ways you support one another and the shared mission of the Heartland Annual Conference. I am grateful for the connectional spirit that continues to grow among us and for every opportunity we have to encourage one another in the work God has entrusted to us.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jordan S. McFall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jordan McFall
Conference Superintendent
Heartland Annual Conference