

Heartland Cabinet Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

The Heartland Conference Cabinet continues to faithfully serve the conference through prayerful leadership, collaboration, encouragement, and a shared commitment to strengthening our clergy and congregations.

The Cabinet meets monthly via Zoom on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. These meetings provide opportunities to share updates, address concerns, celebrate joys, and work together to support the ongoing ministry of the conference.

Leadership Development

Cabinet members continue to encourage and participate in ILI (International Leadership Institute) leadership training events. We recognize the importance of developing and equipping leaders who can effectively serve their congregations, communities, and the broader church.

General Conference Preparation

The Cabinet was also engaged in preparations for the upcoming General Conference gathering in Johannesburg. We recognize the significance of this gathering and the opportunities it presents for the future direction and mission of our denomination.

August In-Person Cabinet Meetings

In August, the Cabinet gathered in person at Asbury Church in Wichita for important discussions and planning. Key areas of focus included:

- Navigating pastoral vacancies and identifying available clergy to serve churches in need of leadership.
- Sharing joys, concerns, and challenges experienced throughout our districts.
- Reviewing existing Cabinet policies and addressing the need for new policies to provide clarity, consistency, and accountability.

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- Preparing for upcoming charge conferences throughout the Heartland Conference, including making updated conference packets available to assist congregations and pastors.

Spiritual and Personal Leadership Growth

Looking ahead, the Cabinet is preparing to study *The Emotionally Healthy Leader* by Peter Scazzero. Through this shared study, we hope to deepen our understanding of emotionally and spiritually healthy leadership, strengthen our relationships, and grow in our ability to lead with wisdom, humility, and grace.

We continue to be honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve alongside the faithful clergy and laity of the Heartland Conference. It is our prayer that through our collective efforts, we will continue to foster healthy leadership, vibrant congregations, and a spirit of hope and encouragement throughout the conference.

Pastor Rick Just
Dean of the Cabinet/Leadership Development

Committee Roster:

District

Colorado District
Oklahoma City District
NW Kansas District
Southern Oklahoma District
SW Kansas District
North Central KS District
Flint Hills District
SW Missouri District
West Central KS District
South Central KS District
Northeast District
SE Missouri District
Western Oklahoma District
Tulsa District
Wichita District

Presiding Elder

Cherie Cobb
Lisa Beavers
Ted Stapleton
David Daniel
Elizabeth Winger-Young
Joshua Johnson
Kelly Sipes
Kent Garfield
Craig Atkinson
Mike Keating
Brad Dush
Carl Palmer
Amanda Peterson
Ray Crawford
Isaac Chua

Finance and Administrative Committee

Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

The Finance & Administration Committee met three times this quarter: July 16, August 20, and September 17, 2026. We continue to be grateful for the faithfulness and generosity of churches across the Heartland Conference. We finished the 2025-26 fiscal year in a strong financial position, ending the year with a net surplus of approximately \$185,000. Connectional Funding finished only about 1% below what we had budgeted for the entire year, a tremendous testimony to the faithfulness of our churches and their commitment to our shared ministry. We are blessed! The new fiscal year has also begun on solid footing, with income exceeding expenditures through September.

The committee completed the designation of an additional \$50,000 to our contingency reserve, bringing that fund to its \$100,000 goal. We continue to maintain between six and twelve months of operating reserves, helping ensure the conference is prepared for unexpected needs while also putting resources to work for ministry.

In the interest of good stewardship, the committee approved moving available funds to the Mississippi Methodist Foundation so those funds can earn additional interest while remaining accessible when needed.

We have also completed updates to our clergy compensation form and instructions. The Global Methodist Church's GuideStone health insurance rates for 2027 increased by 12%, and the new costs have been incorporated into the updated compensation materials. As churches are in the midst of charge conferences, please be sure to use the newest version of the clergy compensation form if your church has not already completed its compensation work.

We remain thankful for the faithful stewardship of our churches and for the opportunity to help position the Heartland Conference for strong and fruitful ministry in the years ahead.

Committee Roster:

Brad Kirk (Chair)

Richard Croll (Vice Chair)

Wally Jones

Carl Palmer

D.A. Bennett

Cali Eck

Wendee Perceful

Robert Brandt

Ann Grammon

Kathe Ramsey

Stella Chimutashu

Tyler Hufford

Bob Strunk

Carrie Clifford



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Ex Officio (Non-Voting):

Regina Klamm (Conference Treasurer)

Jordan McFall (Conference Superintendent)

Holly Joy (Conference Lay Leader)

Bridget Kirk (Conference Director of Operations)

Lay Leader Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

Report not yet received

Committee Roster:

Holly Joy, Chair

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

Gizel Compton

Board of Ministry Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

Report not yet received

Committee Roster:

Jaimie Willis – Chair
Paul Reed – Vice Chair
D.R. (Buck) Linton-Hendrick
Dan Jones
Dave Depoy
Aaron Duell
Cathy Holly
Kevin Barron
Victor Peterson
Ty Walkenshaw
Landon Maberry
Jeff Ralston
Lyle Shipley
Paul Reed
Mike Kilby
Brad Dush
Kent Garfield
Madison Vick – Registrar

Camping Ministry Oversight Committee Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

Nothing to report this quarter.

Committee Roster:

Chair: Cali Eck
Baylee Struble
BJ Danner
Christin Dush
Denni Palmer
John Grimm
Amanda Peterson
Tonya Roak
Amanda Roark



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Church Planting Committee Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

Nothing to report this quarter.

Committee Roster:

Chris Tiger, Chair; Jordan McFall, Conference Superintendent; Joshua Johnson, Ray Crawford; Cali Eck, Director of Connectional Ministries; Daniel Dennison; Hector Sanchez; Denni Palmer

Committee on Investigations Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

Nothing to report this quarter.

Committee Roster:



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Superintendency Committee Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

Report not yet received

Committee Roster:



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Administrative Review Committee Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

Nothing to report this quarter.

Committee Roster:

Mission Committee Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

MEETINGS AND LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

The committee met July 30 and September 24 during the third quarter (2 meetings); no meeting was held in August. A June 25 meeting preceded the quarter, bringing the June–September total to 3 meetings. In June, the outgoing chair announced a leadership transition; the July meeting oriented incoming co-chairs Michael Cobb and Rachelle Epperson to partner relationships, communications, and memorandum-of-understanding (MOU) responsibilities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CURRENT WORK

- **Partnership oversight in Zimbabwe.** Reviewed ministry progress and the conference leadership structure, while identifying concerns about property documentation, financial transparency, and accountability. The committee continued its work through church-to-church partnerships, missionary support for Jacob Moforo, and the One Child initiative.
- **Interim safeguards and agreements.** Agreed to defer a new Zimbabwe MOU until early 2027 and limit near-term assistance to basic operating expenses while conference leadership addresses governance and documentation concerns. Coordination of Jacob's missionary support and partnership agreements remains underway.
- **Mission engagement and 2027 planning.** Heard encouraging observations from visits to Zimbabwe, particularly children's and teenagers' participation in worship, and approved and paid a \$4,000 donation for bathrooms at the Miracle Valley revival site. Began coordinating 2027 teenage confirmation camps, a women's conference, and men's encounters.
- **Ethiopia partnership and funding.** Reviewed the six-month Ethiopia report and discussed a longer-term, sustainable partnership framework. On September 30, conference leadership approved a \$24,400 transfer from the Missional Partnership Fund: \$400 for Tier 1 children's and women's ministry support and \$24,000 for Jesus Film and evangelism ministry support. Additional funding awaited clarification of Great Lakes Conference contributions.
- **Conference communication and participation.** Discussed a proposed October 25 Missional Partnership Sunday offering and a General Conference highlight video. Identified improvements to committee coordination, including advance meeting agendas, timely minutes, and shared best practices with other conference missions leaders.

PRIORITIES MOVING FORWARD

Continue strengthening transparent, accountable partnerships in Zimbabwe and Ethiopia; clarify funding and MOU arrangements; coordinate missionary support and 2027 ministry



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opportunities; and improve regular communication with partner churches and committee members. Rachelle is drafting a one-page temporary MOU with Zimbabwe to cover expenses through the end of 2026, which the committee will approve at the October Missions meeting.

Committee Roster:

Jordan McFall, Jeff Ault, Lindsay Chriss, Sam Lufiyele, Keith Johnson, Doug Hisken, John Wesley-Young, Josh Coats, Michael Cobb, Kent Garfield, Jacob Maforo, Mike Tipton, Holly Joy, Rachelle Epperson

Nominations and Leadership Committee

Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

Meetings this quarter:

Thursday, July 2, 2026 / 4:30 p.m. Central Time / Zoom

Thursday, August 6, 2026 / 4:30 p.m. Central Time / Zoom

Thursday, September 24, 2026 / 4:30 p.m. Central Time / Zoom

Action Items

Board of Ministry: The 3rd quarter of 2026 began with no open positions on the Board of Ministry. In September, two board members resigned from their positions on the board. The quarter ended with the Nominations and Leadership Committee (NLC) working to identify replacements to complete those terms.

Superintendency Committee: The 3rd quarter of 2026 began with one open lay position on the committee. In September, another lay person resigned their position on the committee. At the end of the quarter, the NLC was working to identify two replacements to complete two open terms.

Finance & Administration Committee: The 3rd quarter of 2026 began with one open clergy position on the committee. The quarter ended with the NLC working to identify a replacement for the position.

Nominations & Leadership Committee: The 3rd quarter of 2026 began with one open lay position and one open clergy position on the NLC. Both positions were filled during the quarter and the quarter ended with no open positions on the committee.

Committee on Investigation: The 3rd quarter of 2026 began with one open lay alternate position and one open clergy alternate position. The one lay position was filled during the quarter. The quarter ended with the NLC working to identify a replacement for the open clergy position.

Administrative Review Committee: There were no changes on the committee during the 3rd quarter of 2026.

The NLC continues to receive forms electronically from both laity and clergy volunteering to serve on Annual Conference boards and committees. Once electronic form submissions are received, members of the NLC screen the applicants, seeking the recommendation of Pastors and Presiding Elders and seeking to place applicants on boards and committees based on their qualifications, calling, gifts, and graces. The NLC currently receives four to



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one more volunteer forms from clergy than laity and is in hopes that laity volunteers will increase in the future, as there will be many open positions to fill in 2027.

Committee Roster:

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

Prayer Committee Quarterly Report

Committee Updates:

To the Heartland Annual Conference,

As we have said before, it is a privilege to serve the Lord and the Heartland Conference as leaders of the Heartland Prayer Ministry. We continue to fix our eyes on the Lord Jesus, and on our goal, and theme of *“Seeking Ways to Help Churches Become Houses of Prayer (Matthew 21:13).”*

We are grateful for the District Prayer Leaders, who work diligently in their districts to support prayer among their churches. It has been exciting to welcome new District Prayer Leaders over the summer: Co-leader for the Wichita District, Kimberly Imel; Co-leaders for the South Central District (KS), Peggy Ellison and Deb Bell; and Co-leader Krista Peterson for the Colorado District. What a true blessing each one of these Prayer Leaders are to their Districts as well as to the Heartland Prayer Ministry!

It was a joy to hold a summer time Prayer Workshop in Parker, Colorado at the new StarStone Fellowship building. We are so grateful for Presiding Elder Cherie Cobb’s leadership, as well as StarStone’s congregation who welcomed us and others in the Colorado District so we could share about what Prayer can do in the lives of individuals and churches. It was such a wonderful time in the power of the Holy Spirit!

In late August, both Pastor Susan Innes and I were privileged to be part of the Heartland Delegation to General Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa. There is not enough room here to share about everything, but both of us were members of the Altar Prayer Team, which was made up of men and women who were delegates, alternate delegates, or who were otherwise occupied during the bulk of the General Conference, but who wanted to help pray with people during times of Worship and Altar Calls. We both had opportunities to pray with people during these times (and others), which is always an honor and blessing. Thank you for praying for us while we were there.

As always, we continue the day in/day out work of this ministry: contacting churches and their prayer leaders, praying with/for people; meeting monthly over Zoom to pray for the Heartland, etc. We long for the day when every single one of our churches will be powerfully moved by the Holy Spirit to pray cry out for Awakening in their churches, communities and this Conference. Come Holy Spirit!

Allison M. Woods
Co-Director with Rev. David Player



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On Behalf of the Heartland Prayer Ministry Team

Committee Roster:

Karen Colton	Cathy Melton	Allison Woods
Susan Innes	Sara Pines	David Player
Marsha Jarboe	Irene Potts	
Mathew Jones	Annell Thompson	
Carly Larson	Priscilla Tiger	
Teresa McNaught	Patsy Witschi	