



Central Region Conference

155th Annual Conference

Report Book

June 14-15, 2024

www.crcfmc.org

2024 Annual Conference Report Book
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Word of Greeting

Not that long ago we celebrated Pentecost Sunday, remembering the birth of the Church and the gift of the Holy Spirit to us all. As I've thought about that day, I've imagined how chaotic and strange it must have been. Something like wind shook the house. What looked like tongues of fire appeared over people's heads. And as the disciples went outside and began to talk, those who had come to Jerusalem from many different places heard these followers of Jesus speaking in languages that the Galileans shouldn't have known. What in the world was going on?

The Holy Spirit, as it often does, moved the people who became the Church. That first Pentecost was certainly filled with surprises, but what a surprise birthday of the Church it was! The book of Acts tells us that the followers of Jesus were motivated by this Spirit-fueled movement to leave the safety of their upper room and to preach the good news in Jerusalem. But it didn't stop there. They continued north to Anatolia, south to Egypt and Ethiopia, east to Armenia, Mesopotamia, and Persia, and west to North Africa, Greece, Italy, Spain, and Gaul. From all Judea and Samaria this gospel spread to all the earth. And today, that same empowering Spirit moves us as the Church to continue this wonderful work of God, throughout Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and beyond!

We celebrate Christmas, when Christ was born to us. We celebrate Easter, when Jesus conquered death and rose from the grave. We ought also to regularly celebrate Pentecost, when the Spirit, born in every follower of Our Lord, raised the Church not from the dead but from our comfortableness and our routines. It poured new life then and pours new life now into each of us when we are frightened, disheartened, confused, or simply hunkered down together in one place. For remember, the Spirit fell on all who were gathered... not just the professional clergy. We all are the Church. We all matter.

The Holy Spirit gives us life. It moves us to do the work of God and to bear the fruit of the Spirit every day. And though we may not visibly see the Spirit, we can certainly experience its movement in us and through us. It lives in us, inspires us when we hesitate, helps us when we falter, reassures us when we doubt, and strengthens us when we want to give up. Pentecost fulfills the prophecies of the First Testament as well as Jesus' promise to us all. The Spirit will move us to do God's work. The Spirit still does.

So don't lose heart. Don't give up. Trust that what God has begun in each of us will continue, through the Spirit. For the Church continues to grow. The work in the Central Region Conference continues to expand. And God continues to be glorified. May we all continue to follow the Spirit, as it continues to motivate us to be all God calls us to be.



Superintendent Bruce N. G. Cromwell



Tentative Agenda

FRIDAY, June 14, 2023

- 7:30 a.m. Registration
- 8:30 Worship in Song
Superintendent's Charge to the Conference
Celebration of Holy Communion
- 9:30 Organizing of Conference
Acceptance of the Standing Rules
Adoption of Agenda
Introduction of Guests
Report – Marston Memorial Historical Center
Report – The Cedars
Report – Oakdale Christian School
Report – FM Chaplaincy Program
- 10:30 Recess
- 10:45 Bishop Kaye Kolde's Address to the Conference
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 MEG Report
 • Elders Received by Transfer
 • New Elders
Partial Report of the MEG/MAC Appointments
Report - Center for Pastoral Formation
Testimonial of Consecrated Deacon
Update on Pathright Credentialing service
Report – Right Now Media
Nominating Committee Report
 • Affirmation of Teams and Personnel
Report – Central Christian College of Kansas
- Discussion on Weekly Reporting Process
- 2:15 Recess / Central Christian College Tour
- 2:30 Board of Administration Report
Stewardship Team / Finance Report



- Adoption of Stewardship Team Recommendations
- Report – FM Financial Services

Discussion on Stewardship Matters

- Shift in focus on Loan/Grant Fund
- Rising church insurance costs

Report – The Refuge Camp

Multiplying Ministries Team Report

- Prayer for Church Planting Projects

Report – International Child Care Ministries

Missions / Outreach Team Report

- Update on FM World Missions
- Update on Europe
- Update on Latin America
- Update on Cuba Mission
- Update on Africa
- Prayer / Commissioning for new Missionaries

5:00 p.m. Adjourn for evening

5:30 p.m. Connecting w/ Pizza, Snacks at Revolution-McPherson FMC

SATURDAY, June 15, 2023

8:30 a.m. Worship in Song
 Memorial Recognition
 Honoring Retirees
 New CMCs

Bishop Kaye Kolde's ordination message

Special Music – Wichita Rivercrest FM African Choir
 Service of Ordination

10:30 a.m. Recess

10:45 a.m. Miscellaneous Business
 Reading of the Appointments
 Prayer of Commissioning

11:30 a.m. Annual Conference Adjourns



Service of Holy Communion

Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient Church. We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news. Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.



Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of His suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which He gave Himself up for us He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, He took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to His disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at His heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray as Jesus taught us as His disciples to pray, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



Communion will be celebrated by means of intinction. As you come forward to receive the elements you will be handed a portion of the bread. Dip it in the cup, careful to not dip your fingers, too. Please feel free to then eat as you kneel at an altar for prayer or as you return to your seat.

The Free Methodist Church practices open communion, which means that any person who loves the Lord Jesus Christ or desires to be in relationship with Christ is welcome to the table.

If for any reason you are choosing not to celebrate the sacrament today, may you still find the food you need for your journey. May Christ Jesus be as real to you as your very breath. And may you be filled with increasing hope and joy as you go about your day.

Standing Rules

- A. *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall be the standard of parliamentary procedure (*Book of Discipline* paragraph A/408).
- B. Routine orders for the opening of Annual Conference:
1. The bar of the Conference be fixed according to the determination of the Bishop.
 2. The printed agenda, upon adoption, shall serve as a guide for Annual Conference.
 3. The Conference may have one regular sitting each day as printed in the agenda.
 4. The Conference Superintendent will be invited to a seat on the platform.
- C. The Conference shall be called to prayer on a regular basis during Annual Conference sittings. Such call is to take precedence over any business at hand.
- D. The Conference secretary may select an assistant secretary.
- E. Honorary seats shall be granted to all persons making reports to the Conference.
- F. Honorary seats shall be granted to all ministerial candidates and supply pastors. The names of those who attend shall be noted in the minutes.
- G. The names of ministers deceased during the year shall be removed from the roll and referred to the memorial service committee.
- H. All motions (except incidental motions), resolutions, recommendations, and the organization of boards and committees are to be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Annual Conference. Type-written copies are preferred.
- I. When voting by ballot, if the second ballot does not complete the election of a board/committee, the third ballot will consist of those, equivalent in number to the positions remaining to be filled plus one (1), who received the highest number of votes in the second ballot. In the third and any subsequent ballot, 50% of the ballots cast plus one (1) will be required for election.
- J. The Conference secretary shall revise the Standing Rules and Procedures annually by incorporating pertinent Conference action.
- K. Newly elected Conference officers and team members shall assume office at the close of Annual Conference unless otherwise specified.
- L. *Annual Conference Report Book (ACRB)*

1. The Conference will utilize an annual report book to facilitate action and provide information.
2. The Conference office will provide for the publishing and distribution of an annual report book prior to Annual Conference. It will be distributed to all pastors and delegates and will include the following:
 - a. Local delegates' and pastors' reports
 - b. Reports from ministers in special relations, ministerial candidates, supplies, and retired ministers
 - c. Reports from all Conference ministry teams, committees, boards, and other conference personnel, including recommendations requiring action
 - d. Financial statements
 - e. Review of year's activities and future plans
 - f. Audit statements (where applicable)

M. Routine orders for the closing of Annual Conference:

1. The minutes of Annual Conference be referred to the CRC Board of Administration for correction and that a copy of the corrected minutes be sent to all members of the Annual Conference for approval.
2. Business overlooked by this Annual Conference be referred to the CRC Board of Administration with power to act.
3. The CRC Board of Administration shall have power to act on property matters of the conference between sittings of the Annual Conference.
4. The CRC Board of Administration is authorized to fill any board or committee vacancies which occur between Annual Conferences.
5. The Ministerial Education and Guidance board and the Ministerial Appointments Committee (MEG/MAC) is authorized to fill any pastoral vacancies which occur between Annual Conferences.
6. We stand adjourned with the reading of the appointments and prayer
7. We adjourn to meet at the call of the area bishop

CRC Churches, Pastors, and Lay Delegates 2024

CHURCHES	PASTORS	DELEGATES
Alma, NE.....	Jay Brandon (LP)	
Beaver City, NE.....	Under the Supt.	Kathy Wilmot
Bucklin, KS.....	Under the Supt.	Jana Zachman
Buffalo, MO, Grace Community.....	Vicki Coons	Linda Beebe
Carmen, OK, Green Valley FMC.....	Under the Supt.	Charlene Keller
Clinton, OK, Iglesia Crista Nuestra.....	Raul Belmontes	
Esperanza	Juanita Belmontes	
Down, KS, Rose Valley.....	Wyatt Davis	
Edmond, OK.....	Cathy Green	Ken Banks
Enid, OK.....	Jeffery Grimes	Niki Grimes
Geary, OK.....	Saent Izquierdo	
	Jessica Izquierdo	
Guthrie, OK.....	Robin Grueser	Renee Lapin
Hays, KS, The Walk CPP.....	Isaac Wilson	
Inman, KS, Revolution Church (CPP).....	Anthony Aden	
Joplin, MO, Meadowridge.....	Clifford Henry	
	Stephanie Henry	
Kansas City, KS, Myanmar Christian.....	David Tho	
	Luke Mang	
Kansas City, MO, Moria (CPP).....	Andondo Mchuchwa (D)	
Kansas City, MO, Bread Upon the Waters.....	Miriam Johnson	
Lawrence, KS, Revive Church (CPP).....	Kevin Coronado (CMC)	
Lawrence, KS, River City.....	Jason Roberts	Dorothy Pogge
		Jill Anderson
Leoti, KS, West Bethany.....	Amy Arafat	Larry Pridey
		Milan Reimer
Lincoln, NE, Living Faith.....	Ken Watson	
Logan, KS.....	Stephen Reyner	Lou Plummer
		Rhonda Plummer
Macksville, KS.....	Mike Benzel (LP)	
Manhattan, KS, First.....	Lewis Smith	Rosemary Ramundo
McPherson, KS.....	Dallas Burgeson	Dale Burge
	Mercedes Ledesma	Steve Smith
McPherson, KS, Revolution.....	Steve Gray	Beau Borst
		Matthew Skillen
		Elizabeth Caron



McPherson, KS, St. Barnabas CPP.....	Bruce N. G. Cromwell	Jennie Hall (H)
Midwest City, OK.....	Albert Poteat	Anita Baird
	Peter Miller	Rebecca Baer
	Paula Farley	Hal Hoxie
Miller, OK, Highland Chapel.....	Robert Barratt, Jr.	Cheryl Wright
	Rebecca Barratt	
Mount Vernon, MO.....	Clifford Henry	
	Stephanie Henry	
Newton, KS, Golden Plains.....	Jeanne Bergren	
Oklahoma City, OK, Freedom Chapel (CPP)....	Ron Simon	
Oklahoma City, OK, Generacion Del.....	Luz Minerva Jordan	Aaron Barios
Espiritu Santo	Artura Jordan	Victor Arallanes
	Esteban Juarez	Brenda Barios
	Viviana Juarez	Sarai Gutierrez
Oklahoma City, OK, Iglesia Peniel.....	Arturo Pinon	
	Margarita Pinon	
Oklahoma City, OK, Odres Nuevos.....	Alvaro Torres	
	Veronica Torres	
	Amy Kesser	
Oklahoma City, OK, Prayer of Faith.....	Adam Dilley	
(Affiliate)	Eric Ferguson	
	Adonijah Price	
	Jennifer Price	
Osborne, KS.....	Wyatt Davis	
Pratt, KS.....	Micheal Blackford	
Ringgold, NE.....	John Parsons	Kim Blake
Salina, KS, Cornerstone Community.....	Matt Tuszynski	Wayne Senger
Topeka, KS, First FMC.....	Mark Waterhouse	Kurtis Scott
Tryon, OK, Liberty FMC.....	Ron Faulk	Carolyn Grimes
		Eddie Ware
Tulsa, OK, Cristo Salva.....	Alejandro Perez	
	Maria Monse Cervantes	
Tulsa, OK, Iglesia de Amor.....	Frazier Gonzales	Grace Gookin (CMC)
	Iris Gonzales	
Tulsa, OK, Lord's Flock (CPP).....	Diane Harris	
	Beatrice Deffebaugh	
Warr Acres, OK, Resurrection.....	Steven G. Smith	
	Clinton Onoh (LP)	
Watonga, OK Nuevo Amandecer.....	Joaquin Montoya	
	Jessica Montoya	



Wichita, KS, Northwest.....	Alex Mace Stephanie Zousel	Julie Frady Jackson Colflesh
Wichita, KS, Rivercrest.....	Ileana Krum Ekela Sungula	Philip Krum Esther Mollhagen
Willard, MO, Willard Renew.....	Jon Milan	Mike Skelton
Woodward, OK, Grace FMC.....	Hortencia Beltran Alfonso Romero Sobeida de Loera Jorge Ali Romero	Sobeida de Loera

CMC indicates "Conference Ministerial Candidate"
CPP indicates "Church Planting Project"
D indicates "Ordained Deacon"
H indicates "Honorary Delegate"
LP indicates "Licensed Pastor"

Central Region Conference Special Appointments & Relationships

Conference Superintendent: Bruce N. G. Cromwell

Conference Administrator: Denise Abston

Administrative Assistant: Audrey Kaufmann

Attending School: None

Conference Evangelists:

Paul Aelmore (E)
Jeffrey P. Johnson (E)

Denominational Service:

Martin Adamson (E), Chaplaincy
Tim Burkhart (E), Free Methodist Financial Services
Mindi Grieser Cromwell (E), Central Christian College of Kansas
Tiffany Eddy (E), Chaplaincy, U.S. Navy
Lenny Favara (E), Central Christian College of Kansas
Zach Fleming (E), Central Christian College of Kansas
Nathan Hartzell (E), Central Christian College of Kansas
Charles Kaufmann (E), Central Christian College of Kansas
Jordan Kaufmann (CMC), FMWM
Kendra Trepus Luna (E), Free Methodist Missionary to Dominican Republic and
Haiti
Hendrik Smidderks (E), FMWM
Adam Vincent (E), FMWM

Leave of Absence:

Ana Berta (CMC)	Mwamba Nguli (E)
Lieut Curry (E)	Travis Peterson (E)
Tony Garcia (E)	Priscilla Poettker (E)
Fidelia Gonzalez (E)	Brad Potter (E)
David Hanigar (E)	Orlando Ramos (CMC)
Aaron Keller (E)	Ron Simon (E)
Mike Knapp (E)	Jeremy Smith (E)
Justin Mourn (E)	
Jose Navarro (E)	

Released for Ministry Outside the Denomination:

Jeff Baker (E), Disciples of Christ, Fairview, OK
Cary Balzer (E), Faculty, John Brown University, Siloam Springs, AR
Tom Bassford (E), Significant Matters, Olathe, KS
Jack Droste (E), Lyons Church of the Nazarene, Lyons, KS
Charlie Fiddler (E), Anglican Church of North America, Bluffton, SC
Sandra Flores (LP) Watonga, Mexico Mission, OK
Terry Henke (E), Hospice Chaplain, Interim Healthcare, Wichita, KS
Barton T. Herndon (E), Hospice Chaplain, KS
Ron Hollabaugh (D), Counselor, AR
Jessica Hunter (E), Divine Align Coaching, Soul Tribe Retreats
Michael Jestes (E) Salvation Army
Igor Kaliberda (E), Social Worker, WA
J. D. Landers (E), Chaplain, James Crabtree Correctional Center, OK
Elias Lopez (E) Okmulgee, Siloe, OK
Lilia Lopez (E) Okmulgee, Siloe, OK
Debra Mann (E) Tulsa, Hope Academy, OK
Kim Martin (E), Global Methodist Church, Oxford, KS
Kay Nix (E) Mustang United Methodist Church, Yukon, OK
Gerry Pickett (E), Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Kansas City, MO
Anita Poole-Endsley (E), Rose State College, OK
Tasha Pryor (E), Chaplain, Indiana Women's Correctional Facility, Indianapolis, IN
Clint Roberts (E), Chaplain, University of Oklahoma Medical Center, OK
Mathukutty A. Samuel (E) Agape International Outreach Ministries
Alfred Wayne Smith (E), Crossroads Community Church, Mannford, OK

Covenant of Restoration:

Kevin Coronado (E)

Retired:

Hugh Anglin (E)	Eldon Freelend (E)
Eldon Babcock (E)	K. C. George (E)
David C. Ballew (E)	Arden Gray (E)
Harold R. Bishop (E)	Bob Green (E)
John Boyle (E)	Linda Green (E)
Janice Buffalo (E)	Mick Green (E)
Bill Bump (E)	Dwight T. Gregory (E)
Nick Clark (E)	Claude E. Griffith (E), Supt.
Mary Cockroft (E)	Emeritus
Helen Crain (E)	Mike Hambley (E)
Jack Eldred (E)	Doug Heacock (E)
Robert Fisher (E)	John Hull (E)

Lori Kaufmann (E)
Bruce Leisy (E)
P. Thomas Mayse (E), Supt.
Emeritus
Paul McNall (E)
Doug Meux (E)
Jan Mills (E)
Pete Mills (E)
David Morris (E)
Pam Morrison (E)
Jeff Nalley (E)
Rick Ostrander (E)

M. Gilbert Palany (E)
Randy Pratt (E)
Jack Richardson (E)
Kenneth Robinson (E)
Michael Schlittler (E)
Dean Smidderks (E)
Terry Stafford (E)
Danny Wayman (E)
Ken Wilson (E)
Robert W. Wolcott (E)
Sylvia Wolcott (E)



Current Personnel Listing 2024 Central Region Annual Conference

Conference Administrator

Denise Abston

Conference Assistant

Audrey Kaufmann

Conference Treasurer

Dale Burge - General Fund / Loan Board

Ministerial Education & Guidance Board / Ministerial Appointments Committee

Bishop Kaye Kolde, *Chair, MAC, ex officio*

Supt. Bruce Cromwell, *Chair, ex officio*

Great Plains Team

E - Jeanne Bergren, Golden Plains FMC, Newton, KS

E - Mindi Grieser Cromwell, *ex officio, CCKK Religion Dept. Chair*

E - Bruce Leisy, Retired, Scotts Bluff, NE

E - Matt Tuszyński, Cornerstone FMC, Salina, KS

E - Mark Waterhouse, Topeka First FMC, Topeka, KS

L - Mike Craig, Revolution FMC, McPherson, KS

L - Jeff Johnson, McPherson FMC, McPherson, KS

L - Mackenzie Mace, Wichita Northwest FMC, Wichita, KS

L - Candace Pickett, Kansas City, KS

L - Larry Pridey, Leoti FMC, Leoti, KS

Mid-America Team

E - Denise Abston, Conference Administrator

E - Cathy Green, Edmond FMC, Edmond, OK

E - Minerva Jordan, Generacion del Espiritu Santo FMC, Oklahoma City, OK

E - Albert Poteat, Midwest City FMC, Midwest City, OK

L - Susan Agel, Resurrection FMC, Warr Acres, OK

L - Heather Hartzell, McPherson FMC, McPherson, KS

L - Hal Hoxie, Midwest City FMC, Midwest City, OK

L - Ellen Kidd, Resurrection FMC, Warr Acres, OK

L - Erin Smith, Resurrection FMC, Warr Acres, OK

Missions/Outreach Team

Supt. Bruce Cromwell, *ex officio*
E - Doug Heacock, Retired, Lawrence, KS
E - Bruce Leisy, Retired, Scotts Bluff, NE
L - Lara Vanderhoof, McPherson FMC, McPherson, KS

Multiplying Ministries Team

Supt. Bruce Cromwell, *ex officio*
E - Steve Gray, Revolution FMC, McPherson, KS
E - Alexander Mace, Wichita Northwest FMC, Wichita, KS
E - Gerry Pickett, Released for Service Outside the FMC, Kansas City, MO
L - Bob Bailey, McPherson FMC, McPherson, KS

Stewardship Team

Supt. Bruce Cromwell, *ex officio*
Dale Burge, *ex officio*, General Fund Treasurer
E - Denise Abston, Conference Administrator
E - David Morris, Retired, Salina, KS
E - Isaac Wilson, Hays CPP, Hays, KS
L - Gordon Johnson, Wichita Northwest FMC, Wichita, KS
L - Chad Lawson, Cornerstone FMC, Salina, KS
L - Kathy Smith, Manhattan First FMC, Manhattan, KS

Board of Administration

Superintendent Bruce Cromwell, *ex officio*
Conference Administrator Denise Abston, *ex officio*
Conference Treasurer Dale Burge, *ex officio*
E - Jeffery Grimes, Enid FMC, Enid, OK
E - Doug Heacock, Retired, Lawrence, KS
E - Priscilla Poettker, Revolution FMC, McPherson, KS
E - Lewis Smith, Manhattan First FMC, Manhattan, KS
E - Steven Smith, Resurrection FMC, Warr Acres, OK
E - Isaac Wilson, Hays CPP FMC, Hays, KS
L - Ken Banks, Edmond FMC, Edmond, OK
L - Grace Gookin, Iglesia de Amor FMC, Tulsa, OK
L - Doug Hartzell, Midwest City FMC, Midwest City, OK
L - Gordon Johnson, Wichita Northwest FMC, Wichita, KS
L - Audrey Kaufmann, Conference Assistant
L - Neva Krug, McPherson FMC, McPherson, KS

Superintendent's Cabinet

Supt. Bruce Cromwell
Supt. Emeritus (Acts 12:24) Dwight Gregory
Supt. Emeritus (Central Region) C. E. (Tom) Griffith
Supt. Emeritus (Central Region) Tom Mayse
Supt. Emeritus (Mozambique and Malawi) Dean Smidderks

Miscellaneous Committees & Promoters***The Cedars Promoter***

David Ferrell

Memorial Service Committee

Paula Farley
C.E. (Tom) Griffith
Dean Smidderks

Meritorious Service Committee

Dean Smidderks
Audrey Kaufmann

Prayer & Social Action Promoter

Supt. Bruce Cromwell

Nebraska Registered Agent

Ken Watson

Missouri Registered Agent

Gerry Pickett

**Proposed Personnel Listing
2024-2025 Annual Conference
Nominations**

Assistant Superintendent

Denise Abston

Conference Assistant

Audrey Kaufmann

Conference Treasurer

Dale Burge - General Fund / Loan Board

Ministerial Education & Guidance Board / Ministerial Appointments Committee

Bishop Kaye Kolde, *Chair, MAC, ex officio*

Supt. Bruce Cromwell, *Chair, ex officio*

Great Plains Team

E - Jeanne Bergren, Golden Plains FMC, Newton, KS

E - Mindi Grieser Cromwell, *ex officio, CCK Religion Dept. Chair*

E - Linda Green, Retired, Lawrence, KS

E - Matt Tuszyński, Cornerstone FMC, Salina, KS

E - Mark Waterhouse, Topeka First FMC, Topeka, KS

L - Jennie Hall, St. Barnabas FMC, McPherson, KS

L - Jeff Johnson, Revolution FMC, McPherson, KS

L - Mackenzie Mace, Wichita Northwest FMC, Wichita, KS

L - Candace Pickett, Kansas City, KS

L - Rosemary Ramundo, Manhattan First FMC, Manhattan, KS

Mid-America Team

E - Denise Abston, Assistant Superintendent

E - Cathy Green, Edmond FMC, Edmond, OK

E - Minerva Jordan, Generacion del Espiritu Santo FMC, Oklahoma City, OK

E - Albert Poteat, Midwest City FMC, Midwest City, OK

L - Susan Agel, Resurrection FMC, Warr Acres, OK

L - Linda Beebe, Grace Community FMC, Buffalo, MO

L - Heather Hartzell, McPherson FMC, McPherson, KS

L - Hal Hoxie, Midwest City FMC, Midwest City, OK

Missions/Outreach Team

Supt. Bruce Cromwell, *ex officio*
E - Paula Farley, Midwest City FMC, Midwest City, OK
E - Diane Harris, Lord's Flock Outreach Ministries FMC, Tulsa, OK
E - Doug Heacock, Retired, Lawrence, KS
E - Jessica Izquierdo, Geary FMC, Geary, OK
E - Bruce Leisy, Retired, Scotts Bluff, NE
E - Kendra Trepus Luna, Missionary, Dominican Republic/Haiti
E - Jose Navarro, Leave of Absence
LP - Clinton Onoh, Resurrection FMC, Warr Acres, OK
L - Lara Vanderhoof, McPherson FMC, McPherson, KS

Multiplying Ministries Team

Supt. Bruce Cromwell, *ex officio*
E - Paul Aelmore, Conference Evangelist, Tulsa, OK
E - Vicki Coons, Grace Community FMC, Buffalo, MO
E - Zach Fleming, Revolution FMC, McPherson, KS
E - Steve Gray, Revolution FMC, McPherson, KS
E - Alexander Mace, Wichita Northwest FMC, Wichita, KS
E - Gerry Pickett, Released for Service Outside the FMC, Kansas City, MO

Stewardship Team

Supt. Bruce Cromwell, *ex officio*
Dale Burge, *ex officio*, General Fund Treasurer
E - Denise Abston, Conference Administrator
E - Tim Burkhart, FM Financial Services
E - Jeffery Grimes, Enid FMC, Enid, OK
E - David Morris, Retired, Salina, KS
E - Isaac Wilson, Hays CPP, Hays, KS
L - Gordon Johnson, Wichita Northwest FMC, Wichita, KS
L - Chad Lawson, Cornerstone FMC, Salina, KS
L - Kathy Smith, Manhattan First FMC, Manhattan, KS

Board of Administration

Superintendent Bruce Cromwell, *ex officio*
Conference Administrator Denise Abston, *ex officio*
Conference Treasurer Dale Burge, *ex officio*
E - Jeffery Grimes, Enid FMC, Enid, OK
E - Lenny Favara, President, Central Christian College of Kansas
E - Priscilla Poettker, Leave of Absence, McPherson, KS
E - Lewis Smith, Manhattan First FMC, Manhattan, KS
E - Steven Smith, Resurrection FMC, Warr Acres, OK

E - Isaac Wilson, River City FMC, Lawrence, KS
L - Ken Banks, Edmond FMC, Edmond, OK
L - Grace Gookin, Iglesia de Amor FMC, Tulsa, OK
L - Doug Hartzell, Midwest City FMC, Midwest City, OK
L - Gordon Johnson, Wichita Northwest FMC, Wichita, KS
L - Audrey Kaufmann, Conference Assistant
L - Neva Krug, McPherson FMC, McPherson, KS
L - Jana Zachman, Bucklin FMC, Bucklin, KS

Superintendent's Cabinet

Supt. Bruce Cromwell
Supt. Emeritus (Acts 12:24) Dwight Gregory
Supt. Emeritus (Great Plains) C. E. (Tom) Griffith
Former Superintendent (Mid-America) Jeff Johnson
Supt. Emeritus (Great Plains) Tom Mayse
Supt. Emeritus (Mozambique and Malawi) Dean Smidderks

The Cedars Promoter

Steve Porter

Nebraska Registered Agent

Ken Watson

Missouri Registered Agent

Gerry Pickett

Board of Administration (BOA) Report

Business conducted by the CRC Annual Conference membership:

In December of 2023, the Annual Conference approved the 2024 Board of Administration members, a new Organizational Policy Manual, as well as the 2024 Annual Budget via email.

Business conducted by the Board of Administration:

The BOA met for a virtual meeting via Zoom on Saturday, November 18, 2023. Between meetings, business was conducted by email. In each meeting, Superintendent Cromwell reported on his activities and various Conference issues. Also, the Ministry Teams (Stewardship, MEG/MAC, Missions/Outreach, and Multiplying Ministries) reported on progress, concerns, and actions to be considered.

Much of the year's business will be presented in the individual team reports. This report deals primarily with matters that required action by the BOA or that do not fall under a specific team's responsibilities.

In August, the BOA approved the sale of the Wichita Northwest Free Methodist Church building and property.

In September, the BOA voted and approved the sale of a church building and parsonage owned by the former Great Plains Conference. The approved sale price was \$255,000 for both the parsonage and church building. The buyer, First City Church, had already been renting the property for over a year, so of the \$255,000 sale price, \$35,000 was credited toward the purchase price based on what they had already paid in rent. First City Church would give the Central Region Conference \$100,000 cash. Upon receiving the \$100,000 cash, First City Church would assume all liabilities and responsibilities for both properties and receive the title and deed to the parsonage. First City Church will finance the remaining \$120,000 through us at a 4% interest rate for 10 years. When the loan has been paid in full, they will receive the title and deed to the church property.

Also in September, the BOA approved a grant of \$22,500 and an additional loan of \$25,000 to be paid back at \$250/month for 10 years to the Resurrection Free Methodist Church for facility capital improvements.

In October, Superintendent Bruce reached out to individuals from both the former Great Plains BOA and the Mid-America BOA to narrow down the members to form the current Central Region Conference Board of Administration.

At the Fall BOA meeting, held via Zoom on November 18, the BOA approved a newly revised Organizational Policy Manual drafted by Superintendent Bruce Cromwell, as well as approved the 2024 budget as recommended by the Stewardship Team.

Later in November, Iglesia de Amor Free Methodist Church requested the BOA consider a loan of \$25,447.28 at 0% interest for six months in anticipation of a repayment of the full amount from the City of Tulsa due to damages to the church building from a break in a water main for which the City of Tulsa claimed responsibility. The BOA approved the loan request to make the necessary damage repairs before waiting for the City of Tulsa to reimburse the total of damages.

In February, the sale of the property in Bellevue, NE was finalized, and the BOA approved that from the sale, \$22,000 be distributed amongst five Free Methodist World Missions missionaries, \$5,000 be allocated for Pastor Appreciation dinners that the conference hosts each year as a thank you for the service of our elders, and an additional \$10,000 be given to the Free Methodist World Missions work in West Africa.

In April, the Stewardship Team brought a recommendation to the BOA to give The Lord's Flock FMC about \$9,500 immediately to make necessary repairs on the parsonage roof and the external electrical matters. We then sell the parsonage and vacant lot for \$50,000, passing all responsibilities, legal and otherwise, to Pastor Diane Harris. Upon the sale of the parsonage and vacant lot we will expect to receive the full amount and we will give \$40,500 back to The Lord's Flock for future capital improvements, having first reimbursed the CRC the \$7,000 that we gave for the immediate repairs on the parsonage and \$2,500 for the immediate repairs on the electrical units. The recommendation was approved.

In May, the Conference received funds from the Van Memorial Fund, an endowment set up to support Free Methodist churches in Missouri, in the amount of \$4,244.74. The funds will be applied toward our ongoing church planting and church development work in Missouri.

Also in May, Central Christian College of Kansas requested the BOA consider the forgiveness in full of their existing loan with the Conference. The balance of the loan was \$550,000 at 4% interest. Financial records show Central Christian College had paid the original borrowed amount plus an additional \$93,672.83, and therefore, the BOA approved the request to declare the loan paid in full as they have repaid it in total, plus about an additional 9.75% of the loan amount.

As your board, it is our privilege to walk with our pastors and churches in administrative vision and oversight! Thank you for your ongoing prayers.

Respectfully submitted, Audrey Kaufmann, BOA Secretary

Stewardship Team

The Lord's blessing has been on the CRC this year! It has been an inspiring and amazing group of people on the stewardship team that constantly leave me in awe of their faith, and commitment to godly reflection in finances. I have noted some of the highlights from this last conference year below. This group works diligently to evaluate many unique emergencies, circumstances, requests, and dreams - we are blessed with an amazing group of people willing to Zoom call, drive in, and endure countless complex emails. Thank you and the Lord has surely blessed our conference, in part, because of your faithfulness. Please continue to pray for our stewardship team as they seek God honoring outcomes with our financial recommendations.

August 2023 - Wichita Northwest sold their building and completed a \$60,000 buyout of their conference loan to bring their CRC loan balance to \$0.

September 2023 - Negotiation of the our rented property in Bellevue of the parsonage and church building began. The property was estimated to be worth \$300,000; \$80,000 parsonage and \$220,000 church building.

A request from Resurrection (Warr Acres, OK) FMC for a \$45,000 grant or a 10 year loan at 4% was made to the loan board. Based on the circumstances surrounding the request, \$40,250 was granted to cover the entire HVAC quote and a loan amount of \$7250 at 0% for 6 months and then 4% after that was recommended to the BOA. The BOA would later approve this recommendation with minutes that are available to further detail the transaction.

October 2023 - Negotiation of the Bellevue property was completed for \$35,000 (parsonage) and \$220,00 (church). We worked with them on the \$35,000 they had paid in rent to this point to offset the parsonage cost. They paid us \$100,000 and we financed the remaining \$120,000 on a 10yr note at 4% (They remain current with their payments).

November 2023 - The 2024 CRC Budget created some items of note - EPP will go down by an estimated \$13,000 and our tithe estimated to go up \$14,000. The Conference Administrator budget line was increased from \$20,000 to \$32,000 and in July to be raised to \$45,000. The superintendent travel line increased by \$4000. The percentage of our Conference "personnel" is 54% of our budget. Other changes were connected variable, nominal, lingual, or aesthetics.

The stewardship recommended an emergency loan to Iglesia de Amor FMC in Tulsa, OK for \$12,000 - later re-adjusted to \$25,447.28 to be repaid within 6 months at 0% based on a reimbursement for repair costs and immediacy of work being completed. The BOA

would later approve this recommendation with minutes that are available to further detail the transaction.

The "Conference Parsonage Fund" was shifted to the "Conference Vehicle Fund". The vehicle was updated to a 2023 Nissan Altima SR; 8000 miles and the current vehicle was traded in for a total 'out of pocket' \$25,469.98, first approved by the BOA and agreed by the stewardship team.

December 2023 - February 2024 - Conversation surrounding the Lord's Flock Outreach Ministries parsonage began in Tulsa, OK.

March 2024 - \$20,000 was granted to The Refuge through use of the Loan Fund generated from the sale of proceeds of our Bellevue, NE property.

Clarification of our purpose and vision as the stewardship team moving forward was provided by Supt. Dr. Cromwell. "Loan fund managing" was shifted in responsibility to the CRC BOA. The vision was clearly set, seeking to get out of the banking responsibilities and "bank loan type" handling of our resources and assets.

April & May 2024 - We were charged to evaluate the Central Christian College remaining balance of \$560,000. Records found they had paid back \$1,053,672.82, 100% of the loan value plus approx. 9.75% additionally. Recommendation was made that the remaining \$560,000 would be erased - leaving a 0 balance between Central Christian College and the CRC. The BOA would later approve this recommendation with minutes that are available to further detail the transaction.

Recommendation was made to spend \$9,500 from the loan fund to help the immediate needs of the Lord's Flock FMC in Tulsa. This recommendation also included the sale of the parsonage, repairs that had been completed and an immediate payback of the loaned funds after the completed sale. The BOA would later approve this recommendation with minutes that are available to further detail the transaction.

June 2024 - We were asked to consider the outstanding loan balance for the River City Free Methodist Church in Lawrence, KS. Records found they had borrowed \$974,542.68 from us through the years. To date they had paid back \$605,920, with a balance remaining of \$591,002.26 due to interest and other factors. To assist the congregation, recommendation was made to reduce the balance to \$450,000 to be paid back at 0% interest over 10 years. The BOA would later approve this recommendation with minutes that are available to further detail the transaction.

Submitted by,
Isaac Wilson, Stewardship Team Chairman

**Free Methodist Financial Services
CRC Investment Fund Balances
as of June 1, 2024**

Campbell Endowment..... \$ 18,684.15

- Paid quarterly to the CRC for use as needed

Freeland Endowment..... \$ 30,643.48

- 40% to Meadowridge FMC, Joplin, MO
- 30% to Highland Chapel FMC, Miller, MO
- 30% to Mt. Vernon FMC, Mt. Vernon, MO

Mid-America Harvest Endowment..... \$ 203,079.28

- Paid quarterly to the CRC for use as needed

Ozark Continuance Endowment..... \$ 30,403.01

- Benefits the CRC for use as needed

Van Memorial Fund..... \$ 256,919.50

- Paid annually for use in Missouri, former Ozark Conferences
 - 55% to the Central Region Conference
 - 22.5% to the Gateway Conference
 - 22.5% to the North Central Conference

Mid-America Conference Managed Fund..... \$ 74,971.02

- Benefits the CRC for use as needed

TOTAL BALANCE..... \$ 614,700.44

Lanoue Endowment..... \$ 93,653.79

- Benefits Midwest City FMC, Midwest City, OK

Central Region Conference

Statement of Financial Position

As of May 29, 2024

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
CRC General Fund	153,164.97
CRC Loan Fund	46,794.16
CRC Operating Fund	11,080.93
GPC General Fund	66,893.99
GPC Loan Fund	169,052.68
GPC Operating Fund	2,025.67
Total Bank Accounts	\$449,012.40
Other Current Assets	
Notes Receivable	
Edmond OK FMC	84,992.96
First City Church - Bellevue	117,147.02
Generacion del Espirtu Santo	54,000.00
Iglesia de Amor FMC	126,821.64
Kansas City-Moria FMC	322,237.00
Kansas City-Myanmar Christian	5,834.25
Lawrence FMC-GPC	591,002.26
Lost Creek United Methodist Church	369,242.00
Pratt Free Methodist Church	13,557.64
Resurrection FMC - Oklahoma City	23,500.00
Topeka FMC - Loan #2	2,722.82
Total Notes Receivable	1,711,057.59
Total Other Current Assets	\$1,711,057.59
Total Current Assets	\$2,160,069.99
Fixed Assets	
Accumulated Depreciation-Veh.	-16,666.00
Vehicle	46,237.98
Total Fixed Assets	\$29,571.98
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,189,641.97



LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Missions Accounts Payable	
Payable to Creative Access	2,000.00
Payable to G. Lorenz	2,000.00
Payable to H. Smidderks	3,000.00
Payable to J. Kaufmann	5,000.00
Total Missions Accounts Payable	12,000.00
Total Accounts Payable	\$12,000.00
Other Current Liabilities	
Accrued Interest Payable	4,569.53
Payroll Liabilities	
Payable to Federal Income Tax	2,344.88
Payable to State Income Tax	-575.00
Total Payroll Liabilities	1,769.88
St Barnabas Church Payable	18,755.07
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$25,094.48
Total Current Liabilities	\$37,094.48
Total Liabilities	\$37,094.48
Equity	
Bellevue Property Fund	43,672.92
Designated Funds	
Designated-Anti-Trafficking Fund	7,403.82
Designated-Camp & Congr Nurture	49,144.24
Designated-Christian Education	11,078.84
Designated-Church Planting	44,912.30
Designated-Conference Parsonage	44,290.00
Designated-Pastor Assist. Fund	7,669.65
Designated-Robert & Genevieve Andrews Estate Gift	26,152.08
Total Designated Funds	190,650.93
Unrestricted Net Assets	2,995,582.78
Net Revenue	-1,077,359.14
Total Equity	\$2,152,547.49
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$2,189,641.97



Central Region Conference

Statement of Activity

January 1 - May 29, 2024

	TOTAL
Revenue	
Church Planting Income	803.32
Conference Tithe	142,225.66
Contributions Income	21,800.00
Cuba Missions Fund Income	11,625.00
Endowment Distributions	6,675.85
Interest Income General-Peoples	24.21
Miscellaneous Income	5,487.78
Oil Royalty Income	1,832.06
Rent Income	1,750.00
Trust Income and Distributions	
Campbell Endowment	88.42
Mid-America Harvest Endowment	960.13
Total Trust Income and Distributions	1,048.55
Total Revenue	\$193,272.43
GROSS PROFIT	\$193,272.43
Expenditures	
Administrative Asst. Salary	11,458.35
Annual Conference Expense	580.38
Annual CPA Services	350.00
Bellevue Church Expense	4,327.08
Conf. Administrator Compensation	13,333.35
Conf. Administrator Travel/Prof. Dev.	197.20
Conf. Christmas/Apprec. Dinner Expense	2,035.43
Cuba Missions Fund Expense	11,100.00
Equal Participation Plan-EPP	38,971.00
FICA/Medicare-CRC Share	876.55
Health Insurance Exp-Supt.	2,512.00
Insurance Expense	16,106.00
MEG/MAC Board Expense	8,270.09
Office Operation Expense	4,858.78
Bank Service Fee	12.00
Total Office Operation Expense	4,870.78
Office Rent Expense	2,000.00
Office Utilities	
Gas Bill	309.63
Internet Expense	504.00
Refuse Service	136.80
Telephone Expense	454.23
Total Office Utilities	1,404.66



	TOTAL
Pension Payments	
Conf. Administrator's Pension	1,937.70
Superintendent's Pension	5,752.55
Total Pension Payments	7,690.25
Postage & Delivery Expense	68.00
Refuge Camp Expense	6,000.00
Self-Employment Tax-CRC Share	4,048.15
Storage Rental Expense	498.00
Superintendent's Compensation	39,583.35
Superintendent's Profess. Acct	696.17
Superintendent's Travel	7,688.59
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expenditure	1,000.01
Women In Ministry Retreat	3,054.00
Total Expenditures	\$188,719.39
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$4,553.04
Other Revenue	
Loan Fund Transactions-Income	
Interest Income LF-Peoples Bank	5.41
Interest Income-LF Notes Recv.	23,165.18
Total Loan Fund Transactions-Income	23,170.59
Total Other Revenue	\$23,170.59
Other Expenditures	
Gain (Loss) on Closed Church	380,000.00
Loan Fund Transactions-Expense	
Interest Expense-Church Deposit	458.20
LF Consulting Expense	2,575.00
Total Loan Fund Transactions-Expense	3,033.20
Loss on Loans Cancelled	722,049.57
Total Other Expenditures	\$1,105,082.77
NET OTHER REVENUE	\$ -1,081,912.18
NET REVENUE	\$ -1,077,359.14



Stewardship Team Recommendations for Calendar Year 2025

1. The 2025 budget will be presented to the Conference in December for approval.
2. The 2025 EPP for the Central Region Conference can be determined either by (1) real-time reporting of actual income for CRC churches, or (2) reported income of CRC churches from 2023. Based on this latter approach, our EPP for 2025 will be \$103,462, or an increase of \$25,519.
3. The Stewardship Team recommends that the percent for net adjusted monthly income forwarded to the Conference treasurer for Conference Tithe be set at a minimum of 10%. **The local church treasurer shall send this tithe to the Conference treasurer so that it is received by the 10th of the month.**
4. The Stewardship Team recommends that each church pay its pastor the maximum that it can afford. The Stewardship Team further recommends that churches unable to pay a minimum annual salary of \$40,000 for a full-time pastor's gross salary (which may include fair rental value of a parsonage) allow the pastor to seek additional employment. Churches unable to pay a minimum annual salary of \$20,000 for a bi-vocational pastor's gross salary may be assigned a licensed pastor.

Ministerial Education and Guidance Team Report

The Ministerial Education and Guidance Board (MEG) of the Central Region Conference met numerous times this past Conference Year, either face to face, via Zoom, or with email discussions. The MEG brings these recommendations:

1. That the following persons be **received by transfer**:
 - Stephen Reyner, Elder, from the Acts 12:24 Conference
 - Jason Roberts, Elder, from the Southeast Region Conference

2. That the following persons be **received as Conference Ministerial Candidates**, contingent upon completion of requirements where necessary:
 - Elizabeth Caron, Revolution FMC, McPherson, KS
 - Samantha Davis, Osborne FMC, Osborne, KS
 - Scott Gallivan, Grace Community FMC, Buffalo, MO
 - Christopher Hall, Central Christian Church, Lincoln, KS
 - Ilean Marie Krum, Rivercrest FMC, Wichita, KS
 - Ileana LaTorre-Krum, Rivercrest FMC, Wichita, KS

3. That the following persons be **continued as Conference Ministerial Candidates**:

Sobeida de Loera	2015
Jordan Kaufmann	2020
Acunga Mmunga	2022
Amy Arafat	2023
Ana Berta	2023
Kara Betzer	2023
Dan Cones	2023
Grace Elizabeth Gookin	2023
Orlando Ramos	2023

4. That the following persons be **discontinued as Conference Ministerial Candidates**:
 - Deborah Anderson, joined another denomination
 - Raymond Anderson, joined another denomination
 - Jose Castillo, discontinued at own request
 - Sulema Castillo, discontinued at own request
 - Wilson Akinocho Flor, joined another denomination
 - James Harrell, joined another denomination
 - Mireya Ramirez, joined another denomination
 - Jorge Ali Romero, discontinued at own request



5. That the following persons be **admitted into full membership and ordained elder**:
 Andondo Mlongeca Jeremia Mcuchwa

6. That the following persons be **granted a certificate of standing**:
 Robert Legg, Elder, to The River Conference
 Glenn Lorenz, Elder, to the Southern Michigan Conference
 Wendy Lorenz, Elder, to the Southern Michigan Conference

7. That the following persons be **located**:
 None

8. That the following persons **continue to be located**:
 Fred Hobson, Elder, McPherson FMC, McPherson, KS
 Bob Holcomb, Elder, Mt. Vernon FMC, Mt. Vernon, MO
 Thomas Kegin, Elder, Midwest City FMC, Midwest City, OK
 Gustavo Oropeza, Elder, Topeka First FMC, Topeka, KS
 Soraya Oropeza, Elder, Topeka First FMC, Topeka, KS
 Bud Wilder, Elder, Highland Chapel FMC, Miller, MO

9. That with tremendous gratitude for the faithfulness and the example of the following servants, the following persons be honored as they are **moved to retired status**:
 None

10. The MEG board reports that the following persons have **withdrawn from the Conference and Denomination**:
 Hugh Anglin, Elder, credentials deposited per *Discipline* par. 5430.F.
 Joshua Blanchard, Elder, withdrawn per own request
 Maria Monse Cervantes, Elder, withdrawn per own request
 Lieut Curry, Elder, credentials deposited per *Discipline* par. 5430.F.
 Tony Garcia, Elder, credentials deposited per *Discipline* par. 5430.F.
 Aaron Keller, Elder, credentials deposited per *Discipline* par. 5430.F.
 Elias Lopez, Elder, credentials deposited per *Discipline* par. 5430.F.
 Lilia Lopez, Elder, credentials deposited per *Discipline* par. 5430.F.
 Debra Mann, Elder, credentials deposited per *Discipline* par. 5430.F.
 Randy Pratt, Elder, credentials deposited per *Discipline* par. 5430.F.
 Alejandro Perez, Elder, withdrawn per own request
 Travis Peterson, Elder, credentials deposited per *Discipline* par. 5430.F.
 Brad Potter, Elder, credentials deposited per *Discipline* par. 5430.F.
 Michael Schlittler, Elder, credentials deposited per *Discipline* par. 5430.F.
 Orlando Terrero, Elder, withdrawn per own request

11. The MEG board, to the best of its ability, has considered the character and performance of all ordained ministers and affirms the integrity and Christian discipleship of the ministerial members of the Conference, as well as located deacons and elders.

12. That the following persons are **deceased** as of this Annual Conference:
David Keller, Elder
Howard Lehman, Elder

Missions / Outreach Team Report

The Central Region Mission Outreach Team has dedicated this past year to a thorough review and reimagining its structure and objectives. This initiative follows the merger of the two conferences, which has brought new opportunities and challenges for the team. Our primary focus has been on securing additional members to strengthen our committee and enhance our mission outreach capabilities.

Committee Expansion Efforts

Since the merger, one of our key priorities has been to expand the membership of the Mission Outreach Team. We believe that a diverse and robust committee will enable us to better serve our communities and achieve our mission goals. We are actively seeking individuals who are passionate about missional outreach and are eager to contribute their skills and perspectives.

Call for New Members

If you are interested in joining the Central Region Mission Outreach Team or know someone who might be, please reach out to Superintendent Bruce, Pastor Doug Heacock, or Lara Vanderhoof. We are looking for committed individuals who can help us drive our mission forward and make a meaningful impact both locally and globally.

Upcoming Goals and Initiatives

1. Website Rework and Resource Expansion:
Objective: To redesign our website, making it a comprehensive resource hub for missional outreach.
Actions: We will be adding new resources, tools, and information to support individuals and groups engaged in mission work.
2. Webinars and Trainings:
Objective: To provide ongoing education and training opportunities for the local church.
Actions: We plan to host a series of webinars and training sessions on various aspects of mission outreach, ensuring that our members and volunteers are well-equipped to serve effectively.
3. Support for Local and Global Outreach:
Objective: To strengthen our support for missional outreach initiatives at both local and global levels.
Actions: We will be identifying and supporting key projects and initiatives that align with our mission, providing resources and assistance to ensure their success.

For more information or to express your interest in joining the team, please contact Superintendent Bruce, Pastor Doug Heacock, or Lara Vanderhoof. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our mission.

Submitted by Lara Vanderhoof, CRC Mission Outreach Chair

Funds	2023 Total
Teacher Support-Adam & Rebecca	\$69,425
Missionary Support-Gomez	\$31,774
Missionary Support-Smidderks, Hendrik & Kaylene	\$24,060
Missionary Support-Lorenz	\$15,382
CPD - Malawi	\$10,039
Affiliate-Stone Missionary Support	\$9,980
IMSA-Rodriguez, Juan and Yaneth	\$6,000
CPD-Guatemala	\$6,000
Bishop Crisis Response	\$4,164
Tumaini Women - Kenya	\$4,000
CPD - Bulgaria	\$3,600
Set Free	\$3,005
Missions Needed Most	\$2,682
MSA-Cahill, Thom and Sherry	\$2,035
EMP Bishop's House	\$1,942
Wunders	\$1,900
CPD - Togo	\$1,760
ASA-US Missionary - Austin, Kevin	\$1,000
MSA-Kaufmann, Jordan & Audrey	\$660
Missionary Support-Long	\$480
US Partner-Snyder MS	\$460
CPD - Ukraine	\$440
MS - IME - Hany	\$340
CPD - Middle East Area	\$249
CPD - Mozambique	\$230
Grand Total	\$201,607



Multiplying Ministries Team Report

Per the Conference Organization and Policy Manual, our Multiplying Ministries Team is composed of “a leader and assistant, with as many others whom the Team wishes to invite who have a passion and interest in missional imagination, church planting, and ministry multiplication. Current church planters are eligible for Team membership but may not vote on financial decisions which affect their ministry.”

It functions “to encourage missional imagination and oversee the development of new ministries, including planting churches under the sponsorship of the Central Region Conference.”

Among the things they do are:

- Stimulating and facilitating conversations around mission throughout Central Region Conference churches,
- Clarifying for all ministers and ministries what mission means and how each can find a sense of mission in their community,
- Praying for vision and direction across the Conference to reach the unreached by planting churches and multiplying ministries,
- Seeking sources of funding for church planting and ministry multiplication,
- Promoting evangelism/outreach initiatives in local churches with education, coordinating idea exchanges, commending resource materials, strategies, approaches, and
- Strategizing, facilitating, and coordinating church planting and ministry multiplication.

If you are interested in serving on this Conference committee, or have questions about ministry ventures that the Multiplying Ministries Team can answer or come alongside you as you follow the leading of the Spirit, do not hesitate to reach out.

**Reports from Central Region
Conference Churches**

Bucklin Free Methodist Church's focus is reaching outside the walls of our church. Supporting our community, churched and unchurched, is very important to us. Here is a list of our current programs:

- On Sundays, we have a Sunday morning service at 10:45 am. Being between pastors, we are doing a mix of having pulpits and some weeks streaming a sermon from Revolution Free Methodist Church. We also have live traditional and contemporary worship performed by several in our congregation.
- During the sermon on Sunday mornings, we have Children's Church in our basement. We use Wonder Ink Curriculum, which teaches kids through their wonder about how God Knows Them, Jesus Loves Them, the Holy Spirit Leads Them, and They are Children of God.
- Sunday afternoons, we host a small group study from 4:30 – 5:30 pm. Many that attend this do not attend Sunday morning, mainly due to work conflicts on Sunday morning, so this opens up an opportunity to reach those that cannot attend Sunday morning. We are currently doing The Good Book Study, by Deron Spoo with videos from Deron Spoo and Kyle Idleman. We have 15 signed up for this current study.
- On Monday evenings, we host a Women's Bible Study on Zoom. Prior to Covid, this group used to meet in person, but during Covid moved to Zoom and quickly added attendees from across the US. We currently have attendees from Oregon to Missouri. We have over 30 in this group, although attendance varies, we usually average 15 – 20 attendees per week. This group is led by one of our congregants, Sylvia Sellard. We are currently studying Crazy Love by Francis Chan, and it has been quite convicting for our group.
- Our church also distributes state food commodities for low income members of our community. In addition, we have a food pantry as well available for anyone in need of food.
- Once a month, we host a Youth Cooking Program, called Fuel. This was started, as we discovered a lot of the youth of families in the food commodities program did not know how to cook or do anything with the food, and parents were often not present in a way to cook/provide for kids. So, we started a program where we teach kids to cook meals around 5 ingredients or less as well as some fun desserts. Kids take food home with them, but we also deliver food to those in need and freeze up food to have available for those needing a meal as well. It teaches kids how to cook and serve their community at the same time. This has been highly successful and supported by other churches in our community, and we even receive donations from all across the country to support this program.
- At least quarterly, we try to do a more community focused event. Events we have done in the past are: Reverse Trick or Treat (where we delivered a treat bag to every house in town), Easter Egg Hunt, VBS, Christmas Family Events, Trunk or Treats, and more.
- Our church also partners with other churches in town to host Awana during the school year. We provide our prior church building for the program and host 40+ kids a week in this program. Most of the kids that attend Awana do not attend church, and this is their only connection to learning about the Bible.
- We also host an Indoor Park twice a month for parents and their young kids for a time of play and fellowship.
- In addition, we have a youth group that is meeting regularly.



Green Valley FMC, Carmen, Oklahoma

Report – Reported by Charlene Keller, Lay Leader and Dr. Denise Abston

In 2017, the church building was hit by a huge hailstorm and the floor had to be replaced in the sanctuary. It took until late 2023 to complete the work. Rev. Dave Keller and another in the church worked on it between harvests and ranching chores. The pastor also had open heart surgery during this time. The church met in the fellowship hall for Bible Studies and potluck dinners.

In December, 2023, Pastor Dave Keller died following a long illness. And, the memorial service of Dave Keller was held in the sanctuary on January 13, 2024.

On April 14, 2024, services were held in the sanctuary for the first time since 2017. The church is currently Under the Superintendent and the pulpit is filled nearly every week.

Current attendance: 11-14

Five families are homebound and regularly contacted.

Rose Valley Methodist Church-Annual Report

This year was our first year as an affiliate church. We are currently in the process of affiliating with the Free Methodist Church. Last year saw us making a very difficult decision to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. Through much prayer, discernment, and discussion the decision was made by the congregation to seek affiliation with the Free Methodist Church.

Over the past two years we have been partnering with the Osborne Free Methodist Church. We share a pastor. We are 15 minutes down the road, yet serve the area around Downs, Kansas.

This past year we celebrated our Sunday School's 150th anniversary.

Our biggest task this year has been discerning why we exist, who God is calling us to be, and what our mission is as we continue the affiliation process.

In the meantime, that has not stopped us from serving. We regularly serve in the community of Downs through a multitude of ways. One of the biggest ways is through school. We often provide meals for teachers when they have parent teacher conferences, free popcorn at games.

Members of our church run a community wide youth ministry. It does not fall under our guidance: however, we support it.

Annually we put on a big fish fry at the end of each summer. It provides and opportunity for the community to come together around food and entertainment.

We also are heavily involved with North Central Youth Camp. Last year we hosted it. It is an overnight camp usually taking place the first weekend in June. Many members from Rose Valley volunteer at it. The ages for camp are 2nd-8th grades.

Last year we hosted camp at Rose Valley, and pastor Wyatt was the camp speaker. This year's camp will be held in Smith Center, Kansas.

We also support different missionaries and local ministries each month.

Attendance has been steady, not shrinking, but not growing either.



Our biggest need for prayer would be for discernment as we figure out who we are and where God is calling us to as we join the Free Methodist Church.

Geary Free Methodist Church

By the end of 2022, the Geary Free Methodist Church's active membership had declined to two men besides the pastor's family of four. We were discussing closing the church down since all our efforts to bring in new members were not succeeding and the church was not bringing in enough tithes and offerings each month to pay all of the bills. Then several seeds that had been planted in the past began to grow!

The daughter of an inactive member, one who had been inviting her to church for many years, finally began coming to church and brought her husband and father-in-law with her in 2023. The daughter decided to get baptized on Easter morning, 2023. They are now very active members of our church.

Around the same time, Laura, Pastor Al's wife, told me of a friend of hers who lives in Watonga and how they are looking for a church. Laura gave me her number and I called her. She started coming to church in Geary along with her five children since Geary is only about a 20-minute drive from Watonga. Although they have not yet chosen to be members, they consistently attend services, and their infant son was dedicated to the LORD in our church in December of 2023. One day, our youngest daughter, Faith, reminded us that she had been praying for many years for God to bring more children to the church and now He has. It was a blessing to see our daughter rejoice in God answering her prayers and to also hear our daughter remind us of God's faithfulness.

We have been faithfully pastoring Geary FMC for 10 years now and have seen nothing but a steady decline in active membership. But we said as long as there was one other person at church on Sundays besides our family, we would continue to preach about God. We were not seeing fruit from the seeds we and our church members had been planting and it seemed like our prayers were going unanswered. Then all of a sudden, God showed his enduring love and faithfulness. Our average attendance on Sunday morning is now 17, which is a HUGE improvement over our attendance a year and a half ago!

Our members are active and care about each other. They also care for the really small town they live in where everyone knows everybody else and their business. They are constantly bringing up their friends and neighbors so we can pray for them and they are inviting them to be a part of our church family. Just this Sunday one of those connections bore fruit, and a woman who lives right next to the church finally decided to attend services today. She said she wants to come back next Sunday, and we are praying that she will come back every Sunday and bring her husband with her.

For many years we tried EVERYTHING to bring more people into our church, but nothing happened. But God is faithful: we never gave up and He brought new members at just the right time. It is the most amazing blessing to see how He was moving, even though it didn't seem like He was because our church membership was dwindling. But He was working and moving the whole time, planting seeds through the connections of the people of a small town and beyond! And now God is just beginning to grow all of those seeds and all we can do is sit back and praise the LORD!

Report for Meadowridge and Mount Vernon

The last year has been one of improvement and promotion at both Meadow Ridge Ministries in Joplin and Free Methodist Church in Mount Vernon, Mo.

Mount Vernon got a new sign and a new roof this year. The church also had renters move into the parsonage that had been empty and unused for the last several years. This not only provides more traffic around the church but some help with upkeep around the property.

New posters inside the sanctuary of the six core beliefs of the Free Methodist Church gave it a splash of color.

Trying to be more visible in the community Mount Vernon sponsored two youth sports teams. One soccer and one baseball team. In each league, every player had the church name across the back. The purple for soccer and white for baseball really looked nice with the Free Methodist logo on them.

The church sign was replaced as the lettering was peeling and faded. The new sign is the same style but gives a bright new look to let the community know that this is a place that is open for the community to worship at.

Meadow Ridge in Joplin got a fresh look in the last year. Not only did they get new posters on the inside but a new sign out by the road to help communicate to those passing by when to come to worship.

The exciting part of the church this year is how the members have started taking more ownership of the church by taking active involvement with the care and upkeep. Cleaning, painting and trimming wherever is needed. The surrounding community knows that there is life and eternal life will be shared when they come in.

Sincerely,

Clifford Henry

River City Church has a long, rich history in Lawrence, Kansas since 1872. This past year brought about change as Pastor Alex Alexander left to pastor a church in Texas. The wonderful people and staff of RCC stepped up to help carry the load for a number of months with assistance from our great Supt. Cromwell and many others also helping with pulpit supply.

While much from the past year was not anticipated, many people in the church stepped up in various areas to cover vacancies and fill in for needed ministries. Associate Pastor Clay Smith played a major role as the interim pastor.

Ministries to the community have been a major highlight for River City Church. Ministries such as low-income meal assistance, homeless shelter, women's crisis center, and a special "Night to Shine" event in connection with the Tim Tebow Foundation. Additionally, a special end-of-year offering allowed five ministry partners in the Lawrence community to be blessed with a bonus financial gift.

In March, Jason Roberts (who moved with his family from Florida) was appointed as the new pastor. Since that time, we have already seen 12 new commitments to Christ. There is also a renewed excitement for ministry and anticipation for what God has in store for the next season for River City Church and the Lawrence community.

The church is progressing through structural changes with the staff, congregation, and leadership. River City Church is also addressing deferred maintenance and physical updates to the campus. With the new season, the church is continuing to invest further in Kingdom actions and embracing a culture of multiplication – shifting from *attenders* to developing connected disciples who make and equip disciples who are thriving and deploying for Kingdom impact.

Living Faith is blessed to be celebrating sixty-seven years of ministry on 60th and Holdrege St.

The Lord brought us through an interesting year. We had someone run into our fence on 59th Street taking out half of the fence. We then had someone steal tires and the catalytic converter of off one of our vans. I finally got a camera. The Lord blessed us to get a new roof on the church building and the parsonage with no deductible. We were blessed to meet the needs of several people who came to us for help. And between regularly serving at Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach and our Thanksgiving outreach we have cooked for and fed close to 1000 people last year.

Unfortunately, a longtime member and dear friend left the church, we had been walking with them through some very difficult times when overwhelming memories became too much while at church, they felt it was time to leave. The whole church was devastated by what they were walking through; them leaving, even though it was foreseen, it made the hard times harder.

We believe Matthew 18:20 has been a foundational verse for how the Lord has blessed us through 2023

Living Faith Free Methodist

Ken Watson Pastor

Logan Free Methodist Church

303 Church Street (parsonage: 305 Church St.)

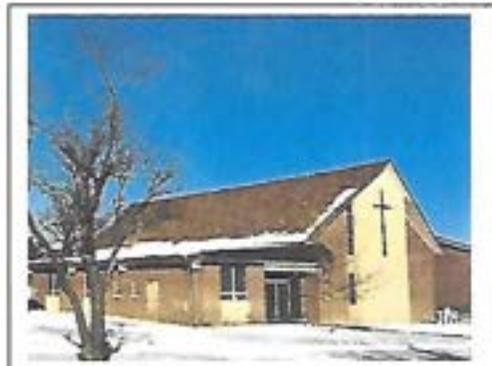
P.O. Box 336 Logan, KS 67646

Pastor (443) 235-1136

pastorreyner@outlook.com

May 2024

LOGAN FMC ANNUAL CHURCH ACTIVITY REPORT



With settling into the work of the Lord here as of March, there has been *just* enough time in our Worship, visitation, outreach and marketing around Phillips County, KS for me to properly report to you here. Five notes of celebration for you to lift to God in thanks with us:

- a. This Church has maintained and led a tremendously successful **LOGAN AFTER-SCHOOL KIDS CLUB** for over two decades! From 20 to 25 kids come to the Church basement on their way home from school each Wednesday. They do crafts, games, enjoy treats and most importantly open up their fertile hearts and minds to one of Director Rhonda Plummer's scripture lessons. It is a modern-day Sunday School in the middle of the week! It comes from inter-Church cooperation with the Christian Church up the street and has the children of former attendees coming now, as former students are grown up Dads & Moms themselves. Lou, Sandy and Cindy help greatly also.
- b. Another group of young disciples meet every other Wednesday at our Church & at the Christian Church, back-n-forth. It is the **LOGAN INTER-CHURCH YOUTH GROUP**. They eat a fine supper and then dive deep into the Word. It is refreshing, inspiring and unforgettable for one to witness their intense focus and openness to God's Word, led by teachers Shari and Kirk. (This group tends to be middle-school-aged as senior highs get involved with Teens for Christ on Monday nights.)
- c. A **LOGAN INTER-CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** serves the whole community annually. It gathers here this year May 20 - 23rd, and then is back at the Christian Church next year. Director Tammy Girard leads our effort and its impact. It is cutting-edge Christian fellowship, music, art, treats and study, and we've had at least 20 kids each evening!
- d. A powerful **LOGAN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CANTATA** is rehearsed and performed at our Church each Christmas, led by Director Judy Schneider, coupled by a Community Bell Choir. The two Choirs have many 'other Church' and town participants.
- e. A summer '**CASUAL SATURDAY OUTEACH SERVICE**' has been approved and begins June 1st! For anyone who finds Sunday mornings inconvenient, it will gather at 6:30 pm each Saturday led with both hymns & choruses on guitar, and having guest interviews with community and County leaders. It will touch all with laughs, joys and Scripture. It will be an effort to reach people not currently attending Christian worship anywhere.

We're continuing our outreach all around Logan to businesses, homes and farms. I am ministering in music & devotions at the Logan Convalescent Manor on Wednesday mornings and I am attending the County Ministerial Alliance in Phillipsburg. We have received amazing free publicity in the local newspaper! Praise the Lord. Our quarterly Church newsletter has also begun in earnest, with 85 in the first issue going out to all teachers at the schools, to local businesses, to all those in local housing authority apts. and to staff at the Logan Manor.

May God be pleased and praised, *Pastor Stephen Reyner*



Pastor's Annual Written Report
Manhattan First Free Methodist Church
Lewis O. Smith Sr., Pastor
Delegate: Rosemary Ramundo, Alternate Delegate: Jerry Marrow

During the 2023 thru 2024 church year, the Manhattan First Free Methodist Church continue to enjoy the blessings of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Our average in-person attendance is around 25 believers during a thirteen-month period. Our online face book viewers over a thirteen-month period are seventy-seven viewers.

We continue to make donations on a quarterly basis to the following community agencies BE ABLE Community Center, Life Choice Ministries and Shepherd's Crossing. We also donated to the Manhattan Fire Department to help them to continue to educate our students in grades K through 12 on fire safety.

We are supporting the Smidderk's, and Kaufmann's, who have decided to go into the mission field. Both families made a presentation to our congregation seeking support and our prayers. In 2023 we contributed items to the Refuge Camp from their wish list and will be offering scholarships to any family that wants their child to experience attending camp.

We adopted a family during the Christmas season. A sewing group has been established by the women of our congregation that meet every Monday to made quilts for agencies within the community.

We have opened the door of our facility to three Alcoholic Anonymous groups that hold their weekly meetings in our facility. They are The Noon AA group which meets on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Simple Solution AA group which meets every Thursday evening, and The Young Gun's AA group which meets every Thursday. This last group is an AA group for young adults aged 16 years to 21 years of and they also have a recovering AA member that oversees their meetings.

I am presently in conversation with the leaders of our community's first responders about starting an Alcoholic Anonymous group for all our first responders in Manhattan, Riley County police officers, fire fighters, emergency medical service and our doctors, physician assistance and nurses in the community. This would provide a safe place for our first responders and their family members to come and discuss the addictive behaviors they are dealing with daily. This group will be open to the first responder's family. Even though we are very active in supporting individuals, families, and different community agencies, we have a great deal of work to accomplish in sharing our individual story to the unchurched and unsaved in our community. This is something that we as a congregation will be working on in 2024. During the 2023-2024 church year, we had one person accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and baptized one baby. We have one child and two young adults that are being taught about the importance and the reason a person needs to be baptized. Overall, we have had a very good year, a year where individuals are working towards being more in the image of Christ in their daily lives and journey.





PRAYER OF FAITH WORLD OUTREACH YEARLY REPORT

Greetings from Prayer of Faith World Outreach. We are excited at what God has been doing in our church this past year. We are pleased at where we are since COVID-19. We continue to seek the direction God would have our church move. With this, we have continued to do our quarterly outreach at the local food bank and include another church when they are able to participate with us. We also have the youth group from the Midwest City Free Methodist Church join us once a month for our youth lessons. During the summer months, May through October, we have a cookout on the second Wednesday of each month. No Bible study, just lawn chairs and hot dogs in the parking lot, fellowshiping with one another. We also have the Midwest City youth group join us on those nights as well. We play basketball, volley ball and host a fund raiser for youth camp in May at the cookout.

In 2024, we are seeking *More in '24*, with a focus on each individual experiencing a spiritual awakening for themselves. Each quarter is focusing on a different season, such as a season of sacrifice, a season of service, etc. We have celebrated new life with new babies, celebrated lives of those that have gone to heaven, celebrated new beginnings through marriages and new life through baptisms and dedications. We are seeing a small need and desire to grow our young adult group (18 to 20's) and younger children's ministry as well.

Pastor Eric and I continue to preach Biblical messages and practical application. We have seen some new families recently and pray God continues to draw people to us to help us grow and/or so we can help them grow.

Faithfully Submitted,
Rev. Adam Dilley
Senior Pastor



Osborne Free Methodist Church-Annual Report

Women's Ministries- Ladies group meets weekly to walk through a book study. This last year they worked through two books. One was Growing Slow by Jenifer Dukes Lee and the other was Radical Forgiveness by Josh Avery. The group attendance has been steady.

Men's Ministries- Men's group meets weekly. It is a group that meets exclusively to bear each other's burdens through prayer, accountability, and encouragement from Scripture. Each week men meet to ask each other four questions...

1. How were your relationships? *Is there a relationship that is strained? Is there a new one? Do you need to make something right to your wife or kids?*
2. How are your finances? *(We don't care how much you have. Do you have a big decision to make, do you have enough, were you God-honoring with them?)*
3. How was your thought life? *Are you thinking thoughts about yourself and others that God thinks? Are you anxious or worried about something? Are you struggling with a persistent thought that won't go away?*
4. How do you need God to move in YOUR life this week? *Emphasis on your. We often spend much time praying for others, but this is an opportunity to ask for God to move in a mighty way in your life.*

At the end, all the men take turns praying for each other and the things that were mentioned. Whoever starts the prayer will pray for the man on the left or right of him, but it won't be decided beforehand which encourages everyone to pay attention so that they can be prepared to pray for those around him.

This group regularly sees men who do not have connection to a church coming. This group has functioned similarly to a Wesleyan Band and is a way of outreach to those not yet comfortable with attending a church.

Sunday School- Meets weekly and walks through a Wesley devotional guide.

Sunday Morning Worship- We have a blend of contemporary and traditional worship. We have seen slow, but steady growth over the last year.

Ministerial Association- We are active in the Osborne Ministerial Association (OMA). The OMA meets monthly and regularly organizes community worship services in which all the churches participate in worship and a fellowship meal. Also the OMA functions as the entity that cares for people's physical needs such as food through the food bank, and helps with unpaid utilities.

Kids Ministry- Meets regularly on Wednesday nights. We saw 4 kids attend camp last year.

Junior High Ministry- We rotate every other week with the highschool. We provide a full meal for the students. We have been using the curriculum from Tenx10.

High School Ministry-We rotate every other week with the Junior High. We provide a full meal for the students. We have also been using the curriculum from Tenx10.

Baptism- We had one baptism this year.

Building Projects- We completely remodeled our welcome area. We received a grant from a local organization to remodel and update our welcome area to make it more accommodating for events such as banquets, funerals, weddings, and sunday mornings. We removed a former classroom which opened up the area.

We also removed plastic which was glued to the windows. It was made to look like stained glass, but it had faded a lot over the decades. Without it much more natural light is let into the sanctuary and we have the opportunity to see out into the community, reminding us that it is our mission field.

Overall we feel as if God has been preparing us for a season of harvest as we are raising up a group of leaders. Prayer has been our area of focus this year. Prayer for each other, prayer for the community, and prayer for discernment on where we go next. We can feel the anticipation and hope growing as God is moving in and through our hearts in a new, but not unfamiliar, way.



First Free Methodist Church, Topeka, Kansas
Mark S. P. Waterhouse, Pastor
Kurtis Scott, Delegate

We are thankful to serve the Lord in Topeka. Our congregation has been generous financially; exceeding the church budget, exceeding the church missions pledge, and giving generously to the Set Free Movement on Freedom Sunday.

We continue to serve our neighborhood and Topeka through worship, prayer, and ministry that reaches out to the "least of these."

Wednesday Worship Warriors is our weekly worship service for adults with developmental disabilities, which averages about 40 people each week. We do take a summer hiatus. Deacon Curtiss Chase continues to lead monthly worship services at 2 Topeka Long Term Care Facilities.

This year marks our 10th year of partnering with Harvesters to distribute food in the church parking lot every other month. We serve up to 160 families (up to 700 children, adults and seniors), distributing up to 11,000 pounds of food. We also offer Blessing Boxes for emergency food assistance. This is a box filled with assorted non-perishable food (boxes and cans) that is available when people call the church.

We set up the Clothing Closet in the basement Fellowship Hall 2-3 times a year to give away clothing and small household items. We give what has been donated by the church and the community.

In October 2023 we hosted a Saturday afternoon Fall Festival. We received food donations from local businesses, Frito Lay and Reeser's Fine Foods. We rented inflatables. Topeka Fire Dept. brought out a truck and even allowed attendees to work the fire hose. We had live music by talented musicians from our worship team. About 100 people attended.

This year, from February through May, we offered the Alpha course led by Deacon Keith Tatum. This is an 11-week video and discussion course designed to introduce people to Jesus. It begins with a meal each week. Although only a few people from outside the church attended sporadically, many people from the church were involved and benefited greatly from the video and discussion, giving most a greater desire to share their faith.

The women's ministry has been active this year, meeting regularly and serving the church and the local schools. They brought food for teachers at Ross Elementary and Eisenhower Middle schools during Parent/Teacher conferences. Ross and Eisenhower are located in the same block as the church. We continue to give socks, hats, and gloves/mittens to both schools in January.

In April, we partnered with over 20 Topeka churches with Sharefest. Sharefest is an annual Saturday morning in which churches do painting, landscaping, and other maintenance work at local public schools. This year we worked at our local Eisenhower Middle School. In addition, as a result of our positive presence in the neighborhood, the Eisenhower Middle School principal requested that Sharefest paint the church's exterior shed, which has been graffitied several times in past years.

These are some highlights from this past year. More could have been written. We continue to seek the Lord's guidance to be the church Jesus intends, "to live a life worthy of the calling [we] have received." (Ephesians 4:1 NIV)

May 1, 2024

Central Region Conference- FMC:

Blessings to you in the name of our Lord!

Exciting things are happening at Iglesia de Amor! This past year, we have been experiencing rapid growth:

- Sunday attendance has almost doubled and continues to grow.
- Our children's ministry is seeing growth at a rate of 50% each quarter.
- Our Friday service attendance has tripled since it began at the end of 2023.

Over the past year, the demographics of Tulsa has seen a shift. We are committed to growing and adapting to meet emerging needs. We believe we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the city of Tulsa.

We have found over the last year that the best way to build strong disciples is through a solid discipleship program. We recently had the first group of adult students complete our 2-year discipleship program. We firmly believe and have seen that the Word of God has the power to transform one's life. We are called to bring salvation and complete restoration to one family at a time based on Jeremiah 33:6. That includes our children! We have been experiencing a great spiritual hunger in our children. During this next round of discipleship classes, we are launching a 12-week children's discipleship program!

We have also started holding quarterly seminars. These seminars take one day to focus on one biblical topic. This has proven to be very beneficial for our new believers. Our children are loving this too! Their seminars are hands-on and allow them to have a day of fun, learning and growing in the Lord.

We have seen a great move of the Holy Spirit lately. Many souls have come to Christ, and many have received baptism, deliverance, and restoration. As disciples are being developed, spiritual gifts are beginning to flourish. Leaders are rising up- in our children too! We held our first Children's Service. This was a service completely led by the children of Iglesia de Amor: from worship to preaching. It's beautiful to see children serving the Lord with their whole hearts!

In these last days, we are laser-focused on this mission. His message of hope and restoration is spreading throughout our city, and we are seeing families restored and healed. Hallelujah!

May the Lord continue to bless you all,

Frazier and Iris Gonzales
Pastors



Reports from Ministers and Those Under Special Appointment

Mike Benzel
P.O. Box 243
Macksville, KS 67557

We have an annual Chicken Dinner in March which served 113 people. We helped a young lady with a vehicle. Trunk or treat in October which included Christian Tracts. Participated in a local Homecoming called MackFest. Women's Bible study, Samaritan Purse Christmas boxes (33 mailed), made blankets, bibs and supplied games to nursing homes. Eye glasses for Cindy Lawson missionary's mission. And made two quilts for missionaries.

Nick Clark
808 N. Evergreen St.
Gardner, KS 66030

The Lord has allowed me to serve this church family through teaching 4th and 5th grade Sunday School. My prayer is that I may be a positive influence for Christ in the lives of these elementary age students. I also lead a Community Group (small group) of retirees. I attend an early morning men's Bible study group on Monday mornings. I assist each Sunday with serving communion. My wife and I were recently called upon to host a young man in our home for a short period of time while he and his wife worked through some marital issues.

Mindi Grieser Cromwell
524 E. Marlin
McPherson, KS 67460

For the fourth year, I continue to serve the Lord through Central Christian College. During the school year, I teach both ministry students and our general education students. Mentoring students feeling a call to full time ministry and students who are awakening to how God is at work in their lives continues to be a humbling privilege. I'm thankful to the Lord for this season of ministry.

Wyatt Davis
727 W. Main St.
Osborne, KS 67473

In the past year, God has brought a lot of personal growth in my life as well as growth as a leader. He has brought it through the church and its members, through my now wife (we were married on March 16, 2024), and through community involvement. At annual conference 2023, I was ordained and while the weight of that has yet to hit me, it has continually brought a sense of renewal to my call to ordained ministry. The biggest area of growth has been marrying my wife, Samantha Davis. Through marriage, I am learning much more about the image used throughout the Scriptures of the Church being the bride of Christ. I have learned so much more about what it means to die to my selfish desires and lay down my version of the "good life" life for another person in the past 2 months than I have in the 9 years I have been following Christ.

Along with the major life changes, I have been working through the Sermon on the Mount with the Bible Project this year and it has been a very fruitful study for me. It has been both encouraging and challenging as I wrestle with the teachings of Jesus within the context they were written.

Lenny Favara
700 S. Maple
McPherson, KS 67460

Dea and I have had the honor of serving Central Christian College of Kansas for over 25 years, now completing our 6th year in the roles of President and First Lady. The College is now entering its 140th year of service to the Kingdom. As it was designed to do when the West Kansas Conference first blessed the endeavor, Central continues to serve as a both a breakwater against the tides of an ever-shifting culture, as well as a beacon of redemptive purpose and service. Keep in mind that our dual focus - providing a Christ-Centered Education, as well as developing a Christ-Centered Character, is a reflection of our heritage as a Methodist movement. B.T. Roberts, in founding the Free Methodist Church asserted an aspect of the Holiness Movement that maintained a focus on maintaining a Biblical standard of Christianity, while also prioritizing social responsibility - especially to the poor. As such, Central's focus on Christian Scholarship and Christian Character, made accessible through grants and scholarships, is simply a reflection – a living echo – of the fundamental purpose that first motivated the opening of our doors in 1884. We continue to be Unapologetically Christian and Undeniably Different.

As a note - I recognize that this is the first year we are communing together as the "Central" region. It was just over a 100 years ago that the title "Central" was bestowed on the College, recognizing the "central"-ity of its new location, after having

moved from Orleans, Nebraska. As such, we are overjoyed to share this name - and the ministry - of this region. We look forward to ways we can serve each church, as we all serve side-by-side in this great calling.

Paula Farley
105 Redbird Circle
Midwest City, OK 73110

I feel like the Lord has really helped me to let go of my adult children and trust Him to work in their lives, bringing them back into His fold. He has given me an opportunity to help babysit my granddaughter, teaching her “Jesus Loves Me,” and watch her light up when I sing it to her.. He also blessed me with connecting with my husband’s friend, Rev. Becci Rivera, from their youth group days, as well as making new friends, at WHWC. It was an amazing time for all who attended, full of fellowship, worship, education and memories! He is really teaching me to trust Him more and see Him in each day!

Charlie Fiddler
651 Old River Ct.
Okatie, SC 29909

Ministry in South Carolina has been good and fruitful this year. I have accepted a position with the church I am serving to move into a Director of Worship role, which will keep us in South Carolina serving the Anglican church for some time, but I anticipate this being a good fit. The church I am serving has continued to grow steadily, and there are major opportunities for growth in the next several years. Pray for Camille and I as we find our (temporary) home in South Carolina. We enjoy living close to some friends from seminary here, and there is plenty of work for me at the church, and we will (God willing) start the process of Camille's counseling licensure this upcoming year. .

Zach Fleming
819 E Euclid
McPherson, KS 67460

During this past year I had the privilege to serve the denomination at the national level as the director of FM:Infuse. In this role I lead student programming during General Conference in June of 2023. Additionally I worked with our newly elected Bishops to help hand off this role as I sensed my time in this position had reached an end.

I continued to work full time at Central Christian College, serving as the Campus Pastor. During the 2023-2024 school year I was able to baptize 5 students, lead multiple students to Jesus, and have MANY moments of one-on-one discipleship. After much prayer and discernment, I will step down from my position at CCK in May, and in June join the Pastoral Staff at Revolution Free Methodist Church in McPherson, serving as the Co-Lead Pastor alongside Rev. Dr. Steve Gray.

This year has brought much transition. Our three children are finishing their time in 9th, 7th, and 5th grade. This has meant that my wife and I have been juggling kids at three different schools. We continue to serve, we continue to open our home to college students and the youth at Revolution church, and we do our best to make Jesus famous in all we do.

Fidelia Gonzales
4819 S. 31st West Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74107

This year has been one of blessings as the Lord has been faithful in fulfilling His purpose in my life. Since my diagnosis of Endometrial Cancer back in 2021 the Lord has been working with me about trusting Him in everything from the smallest to the biggest situations. I have been able to share my testimony one on one with ladies from our church on how God has shown up for me through all of this. God is good and faithful and never fails. I have heard from the ladies in my church that because of what God is doing in my life they feel like they can also continue on their own journeys. I pray with the women and just share a word of encouragement with them. This year I was also able to help at a local Spanish church leading praise and worship since their lead worship leader was on leave to have her 2nd baby. It has been such a blessing to bless others with the gift God has given me - singing. I know God has other plans in store and look forward to those. May God richly bless all of you as we continue to work for the Kingdom.

Superintendent Emeritus Claude E. (Tom) Griffith
718 S. Maple
McPherson, KS 67460

Bettie and I continue to feel richly blessed. Obviously, aging issues affect our ministry involvement. Active participation involves teaching Sunday School and leading prayer meeting on a rotational basis. In addition, we maintain regular family devotions with special note of prayer needs through Superintendent Cromwell's Conference updates, the Missions Hotline, the monthly Missions report, and our local church's weekly prayer sheet. Add our more personal areas of concern and we have plenty for which to pray.

As Bill Gaither taught us to sing, "The longer (we) serve Him, the sweeter He grows!"

Nathan Hartzell
1401 N. Grimes St.
McPherson, KS 67460

This has been a truly amazing year in which God has opened many doors for myself and my family. In July, after much prayer and seeking wisdom from Superintendent Bruce as well from others, I made the difficult decision to transition from being a Lead Pastor to accepting a position as a professor in Central Christian College of Kansas business department. Despite the hectic, stressful move God provided a way and has continued to bless us over the past year. God is good. It was during this time away from ministry that I became aware of how spiritually drained I was. You never realize how empty your spiritual cup is getting while you are trying to make sure others are staying full. The time away from the pulpit has allowed me to reorient, refocus on my own spiritual growth and development.

However, just because I exchanged the pulpit for the podium does not mean I stepped away from ministry. Central Christian College of Kansas is a ministry field filled with the next generation who need to know that they are loved by an all loving, compassionate God. It has been a real joy visiting with students and talking to them regarding matters of life and faith. To guide them during their struggles and to help encourage them when they feel their world is crashing down around them. Even being able to enter into conversations about God and walk along side them as they have small encounters with the living God. It has been a real joy and a challenge serving the students at Central and look forward to serving them again at the start of the next school year.

Jessica Izquierdo
1120 Chestnut Creek Dr.
Yukon, OK 73099

Over the past year and a half, God has grown our average church attendance from 6 (4 of whom were the pastor's family) to 17! We have been faithfully pastoring Geary FMC for 10 years now and have seen nothing but a steady decline in active membership. But we said as long as there was one other person at church on Sundays besides our family, we would continue to preach about God. We were not seeing fruit from the seeds we and our church members had been planting and it seemed like our prayers were going unanswered. Then all of a sudden, God showed his enduring love and faithfulness.

Our members are active and care about each other. They also care for the really small town they live in where everyone knows everybody else and their business. They are constantly bringing up their friends and neighbors so we can pray for them and they are inviting them to be a part of our church family. For many years we tried EVERYTHING to bring more people into our church, but nothing happened. But God is faithful: we never gave up and He brought new members at just the right time. It is the most amazing blessing to see how He was moving, even though it didn't seem like He was because our church membership was dwindling. But He was working and moving the whole time, planting seeds through the connections of the people of a small town and beyond! And now God is just beginning to grow all of those seeds and all we can do is sit back and praise the LORD!

Viviana Juarez
3208 S. Oklahoma Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73129

I have always been involved in many areas in the church, but this year I started working in the Kid's Ministry. Our church Generación del Espíritu Santo started the "Roots" Curriculum . For those of you who have not heard about this program, Roots is a Kids Curriculum where they learn about Who God is, who they are in Christ, experiencing God, and loving others. I see God working in my life as we work on our future generation.

J.D. Landers
713 Dakota St.
Norman, OK 73069

The Lord has blessed me with so many things. But the blessing that continues to give me the greatest joy is serving the Lord, by taking the word to the men in prison. That's my service to the Lord and the church. Following the lead from Charles Wesley. My brother Al has worked with me in this ministry for over 15 years. Thank you Lord Jesus.

Kim Martin
1431 N. Lark Lane
Wichita, KS 67212

I began pastoring the Oxford Methodist Church in Oxford, Kansas on July 1, 2023. I am enjoying pastoring again. I have had the joy of leading three people to Christ and baptizing two youth. Half of the congregation has been attending our Wednesday night Bible study where I have seen spiritual growth in their lives. Also, most of the congregation is reading through the Bible in a year. Most of them have never done this before.

As far as our family, we are doing well. My wife, Rhonda plans to retire from Goddard High School at the end of the school year which will give us more time to travel. Our children are doing well. Two of them live in Michigan and one lives in Halstead. Our grandson, Max got married last summer and they are expecting a son in October. It is exciting thinking about being great-grandparents. Max is also training to be a youth pastor. Our granddaughter Leia is attending WSU where she is pursuing being a History teacher.

Pete & Jan Mills
708 N. Commerce St.
Natchez, MS 39120

Jan: My husband, Peter (also Elder) has experienced continued healing and improvement in his health following the septic knee, which began in December, 2022. He is able to exercise and enjoys gardening again. He continues to preach at a church in LA and lead worship at assisted living. His focus this year has been on his Bible reading and study and being a wonderful prayer, emotional and all around support for me. While I continue with grief groups and volunteer hospice visiting and preaching, the Lord has given me some great physical therapists to help improve my balance and mobility. I am frequently involved in a Christian book study on the internet. I am challenged by the Wake-Up call and other offerings of Seedbed. The edge of this growth has been the emphasis on prayer and the band I am involved in memorizing scripture and returning to a previous study on prayer to discover all that we missed.

Rev. Dr. Pam Morrison
13926 W. 115th Terr.
Olathe, KS 66062

I have continued to do missionary work in Cuba. I have taken others with me to minister in Cuba. Because of the constant exodus of people and pastors from Cuba, our ministry is one of encouragement. When I travel there, I preach, teach and minister healing through prayer.

One of our main efforts is to uplift pastors through friendship and practical support. We are supplying generators because of the frequent power outages. We have just purchased our first motorcycle for a pastor and also a house for him and for his church.

I continue to share teaching online at <https://pammorrisonministries.com>

Stephen Reyner
P.O. Box 336
Logan, KS 67646

After growing up in and serving in the greater Methodist US world, we served a northern New Jersey FMC from 2010 to 2014, being ordained Elder with Bishop David Roller & Supt. David Harvey in prayer on our knees in 2012. Thereafter helping a UMC in decline in Florida's Space Coast as Outreach Minister propelled us to taking a five-year pastorate on the other side of Florida - where we helped a homeless family with three little boys for three years, did Arts Camps for children and saw rejuvenation of God's work as we held up Christ Jesus!

Seeking the Lord yet again this past winter after resigning there, we flew to Kansas in January bitter cold. Logan faithful all turned out to feed and interrogate us, with Christian love, sharpness and God's Spirit among them. We are again so very thankful for the greater Free Methodist Church world, as compared to opportunities in the new GMC, and for this Conference in particular.

The Lord led us to move here in late February, by His Spirit and confirming it all through others and through details too many to mention.

Logan FMC is home now! You're welcome when you are nearby to stop for a Keurig coffee and conversation! Anytime.

Dean H. Smidderks
1001 S. Ash St.
McPherson, KS 67460

In June last year, Faith and I celebrated our 68th Wedding Anniversary and in July, her 87th birthday. Four days later she experienced mild respiratory difficulty and was placed on oxygen, going on to heaven in her sleep at 2 AM. The Lord called her before her condition deteriorated. My daughter and son-in-law two blocks down the street, invited me to move in with them rather than live alone. Last year I continued to teach the Homeward Bound Sunday School class at the McPherson Free Methodist Church one month each quarter and lead the Prayer Meeting once a month until the end of the year. I know the Lord is extending my time as long as an old man can serve Him. I can only thank and praise Him for His abundant blessings!

Mark Waterhouse
3440 SE Indiana Ave.
Topeka, KS, 66605

It is a privilege for me to share a bit about my own life. This Annual Conference marks 30 years since my first appointment in June 1994. I served Manhattan, First for 11 years and now I have completed my 19th year serving Topeka, First. Since I began serving as a full-time youth pastor in 1986, I have been in ministry for 34 years.

One of the highlights from this past year was legally adopting our adult daughter, Crystal, on December 1, 2023. She has been part of our family since 2014 and as a family we decided to make it official. Julie and I now have six children. We still very much miss our youngest daughter, Naomi, who suddenly passed away in February 2018, at 21 years old. We have seven grandchildren. Our oldest grandson, Jaysen Waterhouse, graduated from High School on May 25.

Although I have worked a second job for most of my pastoral ministry (and for a few years a third job), I have dropped the “bi-vocational” moniker. I have one vocation, pastor. I just happen to have a second job. I served as a part-time Hospice chaplain for about 8 years, and I have driven a school bus for 30 years (with a 5-year hiatus).

Currently, I drive a school bus for Auburn Washburn School District in Topeka (USD 437). I am blessed beyond measure for God’s call to serve in pastoral ministry, a call that has been with me for as long as I can remember. I am anchored to this call through all the joys and sorrows, failures and successes, of ministry.

Ken Watson
5532 NW 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68521

Praise the Lord, God is good! Kellie and I are walking in our second year of being debt free (FREEDOM...Thank you Steve Gray). This blessing has increased our ability to give and help with ministry opportunities that come our way. After years of looking and procrastinating, I finally started back to school. September 30th, I was blessed to walk my youngest daughter down the aisle and then officiate her wedding. The guests received a gospel message from both me and the groom, and then they were blessed with watching the bride and groom wash each other's feet (instead of a unity candle or mixing of the sands) with an explanation from each as to how this spoke to their vows in submission to one another and their relationship to God in Christ. It has been two years (Thank you Lord!) since my heart attack in 2022. By the request of many to slow down, fishing has helped do that a little. God has given me several opportunities via fishing trips and a fishing ministry "Hooked for Life" to be a witness of His Son and share the Gospel of Christ Jesus to many children and parents and catch some nice fish.

Danny Wayman
517 Brookwood Dr.
Oklahoma City, OK 73139

Enjoying retirement. Officiated one wedding for a family member.

Memorial Report



David Keller son of Lee Ralph and Rachel Pearl (Seh) Keller, was born Sunday, November 8, 1942, in New Castle, Pennsylvania. He went home to his Lord on Sunday, December 10, 2023, at Edmond, Oklahoma, at the age of 81 years, one month, and two days.

Dave grew up in Pennsylvania. On June 15, 1962, he married Linda Ellen Taylor. To this union were born Terry, Matt, Duane, and Adam. Dave worked in various jobs. In 1981, the family moved to Colorado where Dave attended Nazarene Bible College. In 1984, he accepted his first pastorate in Guthrie, Oklahoma. In 1988, they moved to Carmen, Oklahoma, where he accepted the pastorate of the Green Valley Free Methodist Church. He pastored there until his death.

Dave's first wife Linda passed away in 2008. Dave married Charlene Martin on February 18, 2012. Dave loved his Lord and strived to live in the center of God's will. He was generous and cared about people. He helped others every chance he got.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Steve, and his wife, Linda. He is survived by his wife, Charlene; a brother, Dennis; his sons and their wives, Terry and Audrey Keller, Matt Keller and Linda Picarillo, Duane and Tina Keller, and Adam and Amber Keller. He also leaves grandchildren: Terry David, Marc, Allison, Jaron, Jaiden, Ryan, Logan, and Aralyn; step-children: Ronda Martin, Charles and Rachel Martin, and Kent and Konya Martin; and step-grandchildren: Nicholas, Anthony, Dakota, Timothy, Katelee, and Kase.

Howard Lehman, son of the late Trevor Lehman and Elizabeth Sumpter Lehman, was born February 4, 1929. He departed this life November 15, 2023 at his home in Oxford, Arkansas at the age of 94 years, 9 months and 11 days. He was united in marriage to Ruth Summary Heater in 1950 and together they raised their family. Most of his working years, Howard worked as a hospital chaplain. He was a member of the Free Methodist Congress. While living in Oxford, he attended Finley Creek Baptist Church.

Howard is survived by two grandchildren: Alicia Knight of Oxford and Ame Vargas of Houston, Texas; six great grandchildren: Christina Knight, Antonio Vargas VI, Andres Vargas, Adan Vargas Sam Hardwick, Steven James Knight; three great great grandchildren: Gabriel Traylor, Jasmin Traylor and Axl Vargas; numerous nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and many good friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; one daughter: Bette Corwin; four siblings; and two sons: Fred Lehman, Larry Lehman.



Darlene Faith Green was born on July 20, 1936, in the Free Methodist parsonage in Edison, Nebraska five minutes before her sister, Arlene Hope, the twin daughters of John C. and Jennie Green. The girls joined their four older brothers, John, Bob, Carroll, and Clark. Faith grew up in parsonages in Nebraska and Oregon before enrolling at Los Angeles Pacific High School & College, where she met and fell in love with Dean Smidderks, a California boy with whom she shared a love of singing and a deep commitment to the Lord. They were married on June 9, 1955, and moved to Seattle to complete studies at Seattle Pacific College and then on to Wilmore, Kentucky, where Faith worked as a seamstress while Dean completed his seminary degree at Asbury Seminary.

The young couple accepted a pastorate in Yucca Valley, California where their daughters Angie and Jennie were born. During these years, they felt led to serve as missionaries and in 1963, they accepted an appointment to Mozambique. They spent the next two years in language study in Portugal and then sailed to South Africa where they were stationed at Baker Farm Mission while waiting for visas to Mozambique. After learning the Tswa language, Faith taught in the Bible School and assisted with women's ministries. Faith's indomitable spirit and great sense of humor were assets during these years on a remote mission station without electricity or safe drinking water. It was here that their third daughter, Kathie, was born. During their first furlough in 1969 in Los Angeles, California, Hendrik joined the family.

After a busy year of deputation, Dean & Faith returned to Witbank, South Africa, where they completed another 5 years of missionary service, with Faith assuming duties of mission bookkeeper. Visas were finally granted while on their second furlough in 1974, and the family returned to Inhamachafo Mission Station in Mozambique in 1975, but civil war soon engulfed the country, forcing them to return to South Africa.

Faith continued to serve alongside Dean in South Africa at Witbank, Carletonville, and Johannesburg, as well as at the Bible Schools in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Malawi until their retirement in 1999. Faith added responsibilities of overseeing child sponsorship and served as mission hostess to overseas guests and missionaries. She is fondly remembered by many for her constant supply of cookies and cake and for delicious meals conjured from the most meager supplies. It was a rare day that guests were not seated around their table or lodged in their guest rooms. All were made to feel at home.

Faith's love for the African students earned her the nickname of Mamane Wuxinji (Mother Mercy) – a fitting name for her unfailing display of love and compassion. She

was also a devoted mother to her four children, who relished her great sense of humor and zest for the adventure that Africa supplied in abundance. She approached every difficulty - from malaria to hyenas - with a positive attitude.

After retiring from the mission field, Dean and Faith pastored the Free Methodist church in Omaha, Nebraska and “retired” a second time to McPherson, Kansas where Faith kept busy with volunteer work at the charity thrift store. After several years of declining health, Faith moved to Pine Village Nursing Home in Moundridge, Kansas, where she endeared herself to the staff with her gentle disposition and love of singing. Faith died on July 24, 2023, just a few days after celebrating her 68th anniversary and 87th birthday.

Faith is survived by her husband, Dean, of McPherson, Kansas; brother, Bob Green of Lawrence, Kansas; children Angie (Tim) Lancaster and Jennie (Brent) Hall, both of McPherson, Kathie (Malcolm) Vaughan of St. Joseph, Missouri, and Hendrik (Kaylene) Smidderks of Wichita; by grandchildren Desiree Harris, Timothy Lancaster, Sharon Lancaster, Lisa Yoder, David Hall, Amy Corona, Trevor Vaughan, Erin Blair and Linnea Smidderks; by 12 great-grandchildren, and many Green and Smidderks nieces and nephews.

Lay Persons

Midwest City

Carol Virian
Gaylon Kent Nixon
Ken Newey

Osborne

Gary Hackerott
Marvel Schaadt

Rose Valley

Gary Doane
Keith Doane

Topeka

Dwane Kratochvil
John Wilson

Reports from Central Region Conference Ministry Partners



FM Financial is the financial services **ministry** of The Free Methodist Church USA. We consider each **partnership** with Free Methodist conferences, local churches, families, and individuals to be a trusted relationship.

Partnership is not a word we take lightly.

We genuinely want to come alongside you as a trusted friend and adviser. Our financial services in the areas of planning, investing, giving, and loans to churches are offered to enable and empower you to focus on your unique God-given calling and mission.

We also do not use the word ministry lightly. Although our expertise is in the financial services industry, our ultimate reason for existence is to advance the Kingdom and support the mission of the Free Methodist Church.

Proverbs 15:22 reminds us, “Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.” The better each individual, family, local church, and conference stewards the resources God has entrusted to their care, the more we can accomplish together for Kingdom purposes.

How can we **partner** with you today?

Mark S. Olson
President & CEO



2023 Ministry Highlights



PLANNING

In 2023, we provided hope and peace to families through **107 financial planning engagements** and **234 estate planning engagements**. Kingdom-minded clients designated over **\$20 million** to be distributed to ministry in the coming years through revocable estate planning documents.

FM Financial's assets under management increased to **\$583 million** in 2023. This includes retirement accounts, non-retirement accounts, endowments, charitable trusts, pension accounts, managed accounts, charitable giving accounts, and more. We are now supporting **over 1800 households/ organizations** with various investment accounts to help them fulfill their financial goals and remain disciplined in an ever changing financial world.



INVESTING



GIVING

Through our generous donors, in 2023, we distributed over **\$8 million** to various ministries. These gifts included **\$1.2 million** from existing endowments; **\$1.5 million** from gift maturities; **\$2 million** from outright gifts (cash, securities, real estate, qualified charitable distributions); and **\$3.3 million** from giving accounts.

In 2023, we helped empower FM churches and ministries for growth through loan disbursements totaling over **\$13.8 million**. We approved **13 new loans** and are now servicing **119 loan relationships**. All of this is made possible by Kingdom-minded investors in the Free Methodist Investment and Loan Fund.



LOAN FUND



2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

An Enduring Purpose

As the only secondary boarding school in the Free Methodist Church - USA, Oakdale Christian Academy has an impact on student lives that extends to their families, churches and communities. This Christ-centered community helps lead students to put Christ first in every part of their lives.

Fully accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) on both its academic and boarding programs, Oakdale is committed to excellence. The college placement rate of Oakdale graduates is 100 percent.

Students come to Oakdale from eighteen states and six foreign countries, which makes its student enrollment of 60 a richly diverse environment.

Leadership development opportunities include the Peer Leader program, Honor Code, and ministry outreach activities like its Enrichment Night ministry to local children.

Eight new buildings in the past 20 years include the Beacon Center (2005), The Inn (2015), May Hall (2021) and the Butterfield Fitness Center (2024).

Oakdale is eager to serve Free Methodist teenagers as it continues this great partnership. Your financial support and work team involvement help make this possible!



Presidential Transition: **DR. DANIEL ROACH**

After 28 years of service to Oakdale, President Dan Fisher concluded his tenure in 2023. Beginning November 2023, Dr. Arthur Brown, retired executive director of FM World Missions and pastor of several large churches during his career, came out of retirement to serve as interim president.

In February, the Oakdale Christian Academy board of trustees voted to appoint Dr. Daniel Roach as its next president, effective May 1, 2024.

Dr. Roach has served as superintendent of two Indiana public school systems. He previously served as an Oakdale board member and has long loved and supported the ministry of the school.



Dr. Roach is a graduate of Anderson University and earned

a doctorate from University of Indiana. He and his wife, Kay, have served in leadership positions at the Washington, (IN) Free Methodist Church. They have two grown children, Brock and Lauren.

Board Chair Joe James commented on the transition: "Dr. Dan Fisher has been an effective President, leading Oakdale through an exciting period of growth and transformation. We will miss his leadership, but with much prayer and an extensive search process, the Lord provided just the right candidate in the person of Dr. Daniel Roach. With his career in public school education, he is gifted, experienced, and eager to serve. We are honored to have him lead OCA into the future."



Oakdale Christian Academy is a member of the Association of Human Service Ministries of the FMCUSA

Purposeful Ministry Employment

DEVELOPING LEADERS AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE

God has prepared you to serve Him by serving others. At Oakdale Christian Academy, you can invest your life experience, your distinctive gifts, and your education in developing life-shaping bonds with teenagers hungry for the meaning that only life in Christ can give.

The nurturing, structured setting of a 24/7 Christian boarding school provides a place for God to do His work in teenage lives. Serving those in grades 7-12 from across the U.S. and internationally who are discovering who they are in Christ is a dynamic and exciting way to invest your life!

Might God be calling you to disciple and counsel teenagers, and mentor students?

Are you equipped to try classroom teaching, leading student music teams, coaching sports teams, or organizing fitness and exercise activities?

Are you interested in planning events and activities, assisting in theater productions, and sponsoring Bible quizzing?

Are you passionate about reaching the lost, serving diverse populations, and living in Christian community?

If so, Oakdale Christian Academy might be the right opportunity for you.



REFINE YOUR LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OTHERS' LIVES.
JOIN A CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY.
USE YOUR MINISTRY CALLING.

POSITION OPENINGS (APRIL 2024):

- Resident Directors
- Teachers (must have 22 credits in a discipline)
- Ministry Support (Food Services, IT Technician)
- Public Relations/Development
- Dean of Student Life

COMPENSATION PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- APARTMENT AND APPLIANCES
- UTILITIES (GAS, ELECTRIC, WATER, TRASH PICKUP)
- LAWN CARE AND HOME MAINTENANCE
- HIGH SPEED INTERNET
- HOME PHONE SERVICE
- MEALS IN THE DINING HALL FOR THE EMPLOYEE AND HOUSEHOLD (10½ MONTHS OF THE YEAR)
- TIAA RETIREMENT PROGRAM (EMPLOYER MATCH UP TO 10%)
- FREE TUITION FOR STAFF CHILDREN IN GRADES 7-12



SCAN TO VIEW VIDEO



OAKDALECHRISTIAN.ORG

 **OAKDALE**
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

CONTACT:

president@oakdalechristian.org
606.666.5123
www.oakdalechristian.org/employment



ALL IN

FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION

When I arrived on campus in July 2023, I was deeply humbled by the long history and strong foundation of Christian faith that undergird Roberts Wesleyan University and Northeastern Seminary. While seasons change, and leaders change, and our surrounding culture changes, the enduring work of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ remains with each passing generation. It excites me to be part of that work here, through the unique avenue of Christian higher education, and to inherit from my predecessors a community that is committed to its flourishing and growth.

Our Vision 2030 Strategic Plan builds on the University's 157-year history and motto of Education for Character and is focused on four strategic pillars - our renewed, refreshed and bold commitments as we enter a new season:



ANCHORED IN CHRISTIAN FAITH

Integrating a Scriptural worldview into everyday life and learning, we foster spiritual formation for engagement in a diverse world.



READY TO LEAD

We graduate skilled and knowledgeable servant-leaders with global perspective for meaningful contributions to society.



CUSTOMIZED EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS

With flexible programs and immersion in career-enhancing experiences, we equip each student to explore a one-of-a-kind calling and vocation.



FLOURISHING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

Following the Biblical mandate to love God and neighbor, we challenge students to understand the deep concerns of the world and to respond in local and practical ways.

Building on our mission and core values, this strategic framework defines the future of Roberts Wesleyan University in areas of historic institutional excellence, while expanding our reach by creating fresh expressions of our values.

I am so grateful for the vibrant community that works on our campus, and for the larger community of alumni and friends around the world who share our values and support our work. As we work together to serve our students in their educational experience, we remain joyful in hope and faithful in prayer.

Sincerely,

Rupert A. Hayles Jr. Ph.D.
President



ROBERTS
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



NORTHEASTERN
SEMINARY

BY THE NUMBERS

Advancement



\$4,385,320
Total Raised

\$3,185,274 – Annual Giving
1,396 – Total Donors
499 – New Donors

\$33,941,628 – Total Endowment
\$356,831 – New Endowment
\$843,215 – Capital

458 – Total Circle Households
41 – New Members
From 41 States – Roberts Donors
From 26 States – NES Donors

Enrollment & Academics



1,847
students
enrolled



90+
majors &
programs



19
Division II
Sports Teams



100%
full-time undergrad
students receive
financial aid

1633 Roberts Students
Traditional Undergraduate:
3 in 10 students – underrepresented minority students
18 states | 9 countries | 71% female | 29% male

214 NES Students
4 in 10 students – underrepresented minority students
27 states | 6 countries | 61% female | 39% male

HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Rupert Hayles Inaugurated as the 12th President of Roberts Wesleyan University

The Roberts Wesleyan University and Northeastern Seminary board of trustees elected Dr. Rupert A. Hayles, Jr. the 12th president of Roberts Wesleyan University and the fourth president of Northeastern Seminary in June 2023.

Dr. Hayles previously served at New Jersey's Pillar College, a private evangelical Christian institution. Prior to his career in higher education, Hayles served in the United States Air Force as an officer before transitioning to the private sector to support organizations with strategic management, organizational development and advancement, and executive coaching for more than 25 years.



Redhawks Soar High – 2024 NCAA DII Award of Excellence Winner

Pole vaulter, Brynn King cleared 4.60 meters (15-feet 1-inch) in the women's pole vault. King's new personal best is the top mark in the nation among all collegiate divisions and qualifies her for the United States Olympic Trials and U.S. Indoor Nationals Redhawks Run To Ninth Straight ECC Championship



Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan University Receives \$1.2 Million Grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan University has received a grant of \$1.225 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative to establish Familias Unidas, a program that will create pathways for Latino parents and caregivers to strengthen their family ties and the transference of Christian values to their children.

Office of Advancement
2301 Westside Dr, Rochester, NY 14624
roberts.edu | nes.edu | 585.594.6500

Our impact in 2023



a note from the director

We have a bold vision to influence more than 1 million people towards freedom.

There are more than 50,000,000 people enslaved in our world today.

The suffering is off the charts. The Set Free Movement is compelled to act and we are having transformational impact.

Since 2010, the Set Free Movement has launched **more than 55 freedom projects and programs around the globe**, mobilized thousands of people, and produced numerous meaningful resources. We are now working in **14 countries in the direction of freedom**. Each Set Free leader is offering hope and healing in their communities in ways that are meaningful to their local context. We are making a real difference.

Together we can protect more people. Together we can offer more hope.



Rev. Dr. Kevin Austin, Founder and Director

Our progress since 2015

205,930+ people
trained to take action.

22,359+ times we directly
supported survivors or people at-risk.

34,676+ youth reached
and trained to stay safe.

55+ freedom programs
and projects have been launched.

01 We are having transformational impact

1,200+ girls & women were equipped with menstrual kits & education in 6 countries through Wunders.

1,690+ survivors or at risk people supported globally.

70+ youth engaged in prevention & awareness building in Cambodia.



02 We are protecting those vulnerable to human trafficking

390 youth were supported through Fostering Hope.

146 children returned to their families or a safe home in India.

15,000+ people engaged globally.

03 We are Mobilizing Faith Communities & All Sectors of Society

3,760 people in 124 churches from 12 countries participated in Freedom Sunday in Latin America.

11 self-defense classes hosted for community members with local law enforcement in Pennsylvania.

106 people participated in the annual freedom run in California.



04 We are Partnering Strong & Investing in Leaders

50 pastors were taught by director Kevin Austin about human trafficking and Love Driven Justice in Cambodia and Thailand.

Set Free Movement is working to build strong networks with Latino churches in the United States, working on translating our core documents and resources into Spanish.

view our full impact report here →



wunders

“Educating the girl child is educating society. Distributing Wunders kits to the school girls makes them feel comfortable, loved, and acknowledged. This boosts their confidence and performance as they do not miss school anymore.”

— Lucy, Wunders Kenya Treasurer

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

1,200+
WUNDERS KITS



5 WOMEN
EMPLOYED



20+
TRAININGS



NEW WUNDERS
LOCATION IN
TOGO LAUNCHED

We envision a world where every girl and woman has the confidence to thrive.

EQUIPPING GIRLS WITH SUSTAINABLE MENSTRUAL HEALTH KITS



“With Wunders [kits] and Thrive trainings we have seen a consistent reduction in the number of school dropouts and teenage pregnancies.”

- LILLIAN, SET FREE MOVEMENT LEADER

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT

“My life was not good in the last few years. I didn’t have a job. It was hard to cope with life challenges, food for children was difficult to get, there was no money, until Wunders Kenya came into the picture and my life changed.”

- MARGARET, WUNDERS KENYA SEAMSTRESS



In 2024 Wunders is working to:

In 2023, we launched a second Wunders location, distributed 1,200+ kits and hosted 20+ trainings for girls and women. We are looking to accomplish even more in 2024.

DISTRIBUTE 2,000+ KITS to girls and women in even more countries through our partnership network.

HOST 25+ TRAININGS to equip girls and women with our partner Thrive.

STRENGTHEN Wunders Kenya and Wunders Togo.

CONTINUE EXPLORING new sewing center opportunities for Wunders’ third location.

ways to be involved

CONTACT US

at info@wunderspartners.org to learn more about how you, your church, organization, or business can be involved.

STAY IN THE KNOW

Sign up for updates on Wunders at WundersPartners.org

FOLLOW AND SHARE

  @WundersPartners

DONATE SUPPLIES

to a local shelter or pantry to help fight period poverty in your community.

SUSTAIN THIS WORK

Give monthly to Wunders at WundersPartners.org

wunders

Better Together

Southeast Asia
Number of People Groups: 1822
Unreached People Groups: 683



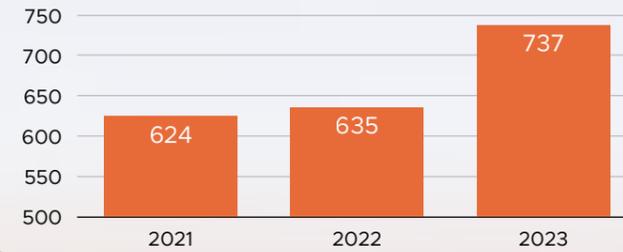
Asia Church Planter Link



2023 New Decisions for Jesus In Asia



CMC's Growth from 2021-2023 in Asia



380
churches/groups planted in 2023 across Asia

Better Together Partners
Together we help free captives spiritually and physically



Our target goal of influencing
1 million for Jesus

Our Need
Training 10,000 national leaders

Approximately **360,000+** people part of the FMC in Asia

The Better Together Way of **Biblical Interdependence**

We are Better Together! We have a shared identity, a shared mission, and a shared destiny; together we create a shared acceleration of Kingdom work, and a shared sustainability solving problems we could not overcome on our own.

New International Missionaries

Helri & Phuong



LoveAsia Give Page



37
FMWM-Asia missionaries

24
countries

12 of the top 20 countries where it is hardest to follow Jesus are in Asia

Several micro-grants were given this year to leaders for shared sustainability projects.

23
Countries where FMC-Asia is working to establish a presence

Opportunities to Partner

- Support a church planter \$150/mo
- Partner with Helri and Phuong new international missionaries
- Give to LoveAsia to help us reach more with the Gospel
- See QR Codes

Video Project progress

- Two videographers; fourteen speakers
- Six full days of filming
- 252 individual clips → 74 ten-minute videos = Three video GLT modules fully filmed

Training modules

Target: Recording 12 core modules in 7 languages

19 modules presented	6 different countries	296 trained in SE Asia
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How to Pray for Asia

- Open doors for the Gospel
- Abundant financial resources
- New leaders to be identified
- Courageous, contagious faith
- Deep-faith discipleship
- Next generation exponential growth (emerging young leaders)



**Ministry
Resource
Team**



Josh Fajardo
Area Director



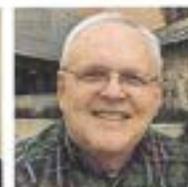
Dee Dee Galloway
Social Justice



Cindi Angelo
Pastoral Formation



Eric Casteel
Mobilization



Larry Winkles
Assoc. Director

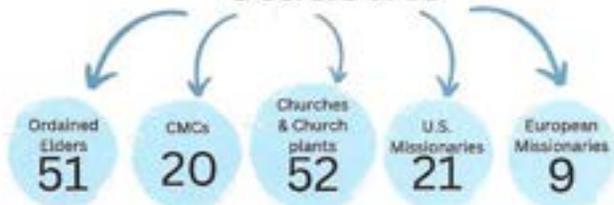


FMCinEurope



FMCinEurope@gmail.com

Statistics



Ministry Partners

SET FREE



Albert Delali-Yevunya
AECN Coordinator

The FMC in Europe equips national leaders to make and multiply disciples, as we **engage** with the relevant Gospel of transformation and **establish** multiplying transformational churches



Annual Conference (FMC-USA)
UK & Ireland

Churches in Formation and Mission Districts (FMWM)

- Albania (CIF)
- Belgium (MD)
- Bulgaria (MD)
- Denmark (CIF)
- France (MD)
- Greece (CIF)
- Hungary (MD)
- Malta (CIF)
- N. Macedonia (MD)

Portugal (MD)
São Tomé & Príncipe (CIF)
Spain (MD)
Sweden (MD)
Ukraine (CIF)

Exploring:
Finland
Germany
Netherlands
Norway
Romania
Russia
Italy

Meet some of our National Leaders

Raul & Abi Arana
(Spain)



Valentin Sikitoka
(Sweden)



Misha & Lena Petrochenko
(Ukraine)



Péter Tóth
(Hungary)



Ukraine



Hungary



Spain



Bulgaria

Prayer Points:

- Continued avenues for training and equipping national leaders
- Hearts to be opened and increasing opportunities to share the gospel
- Church-planting efforts and the establishment of transformational churches

Set Free Ministries



Josh & Susy Fajardo

Missionaries to Europe



God, mark us with grace and blessing! Smile! The whole country will see how you work, all the godless nations see how you save. Psalms 67:1, 2 (The Message)

Greetings from Europe!

Dear Pastors, delegates, and friends...

This coming June we will be entering our twentieth year of field ministry. We appreciate your continued commitment to helping us accomplish God's plan for the continent of Europe. We appreciate you being there for us, especially in your prayers!

Europe-wide highlights

European Leadership Summit: In September, we gathered for the European Leadership Summit, held in Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain. The purpose of the summit was to introduce key European leaders to the new Ministry Resource Team model of oversight in Europe. There were approximately thirty country leaders from Europe.

Exponential! Europe: In October, Josh, along with other Free Methodist leaders from Europe, attended the 2023 Exponential! Europe conference in Berlin, Germany. Larry and Deb Walkemeyer, who are heavily involved in Exponential! in the USA, were there, as Deb was a presenter. This conference introduced the concept of Kingdom Leadership and provided attendees with resources to hold roundtable meetings in their local context and in their local languages.

Pastoral Formation Conference: In March, the Life-Giving Holiness Conference, held in Malta was sponsored by the Pastoral Formation Ministry Resource Team. Former Europe Area Director Jerry Coleman and Bishop Keith Cowart were the speakers. We had fifty participants from ten countries in Europe and the USA. Josh also met with leaders in Malta who have decided to affiliate as an FM congregation. We now have two fellowships in the country.

European Freedom Network: Later in March, our Social Justice team, helped organize and host the European Freedom Network's Bridge Conference held in Lisbon, Portugal. Our Assoc. Director, Larry Winckles serves on the Operations Team of the European Freedom Network (EFN).

African European Church Network (AECN): In April, Josh joined Albert Delali Yevunya (AECN coordinator) in hosting an Exponential! Europe Kingdom Leadership Roundtable for members of the African European Church Network in Stockholm, Sweden. Participants were immigrant leaders from Belgium, France, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Just before the roundtable, we had a training session for the newly formed Francophone Ministerial Education, Guidance, and Appointments Board.

The Ukraine Crisis: As the war enters its third year, we continue to be involved with supporting the relief efforts being undertaken within Ukraine. The Bishops' Crisis Response Fund (BCRF) for Ukraine has been a tremendous blessing. In addition to supporting our Ukrainian relief workers, we continue to partner with select organizations. These organizations work closely with people living within the conflict zone as well as ministering to internally displaced persons.

Donations to support the ongoing work in Ukraine may be made at <https://give.fmcusa.org/ukraine>. Pray for the protection of the relief workers who enter the conflict areas. Pray that the war will end and that many lives will be spared.

Partners in Ministry

We are grateful for the many people who pray faithfully for us and the ministries in Europe. Prayer is essential! We are also grateful for those who partner with us financially, and for those who come and help serve. We look forward to our partnership with you continuing in the coming year. We also welcome new partners! If you haven't yet done so, would you prayerfully consider partnering with us or giving to the Europe Development Fund?

We are thankful!

If you would more information on how to support our ministry or these projects, please use this web link or QR code: <https://give.fmcusa.org/page.aspx?pid=433>



QR giving code

Rev. Josh, & Susy Fajardo
Free Methodist World Missions
Missionaries to Europe
Based in Madrid, Spain



GOD IS Moving!

we participate with **God** in the restoration of Latin America and this is how it's going...

937 LEADERS IN TRAINING

HOUSE CHURCHES, LATIN AMERICA (2018 - 2024)



1036 HOUSE CHURCHES
Currently meeting throughout Latin America



19 COUNTRIES AND COUNTING UNIFYING VISION



10,591 SALVATION DECISIONS since 2018

FMWM Latin America can serve you by providing opportunities for:

WE CAN HELP YOUR CHURCH MEANINGFULLY CONNECT TO THE MOVEMENT

Your church has much to offer the world, and the Global work of God has much to offer your church.

- ✔ Quick "Vision trips" for Pastors/Mission Leaders
- ✔ Impactful short-term mission trips
- ✔ Enriching long-term relationships with a specific country or region
- ✔ Video & prayer updates on projects and places you care about



MORE INFORMATION :

✉ shane.jewell.86@gmail.com

🌐 iml-latinoamerica.org

📞 WhatsApp: +57 3116785465

Looking for a meaningful way to give right now?

Scan here to help support **Juan Carlos** and **Yaneth**, one of our key ministry couples in Latin America

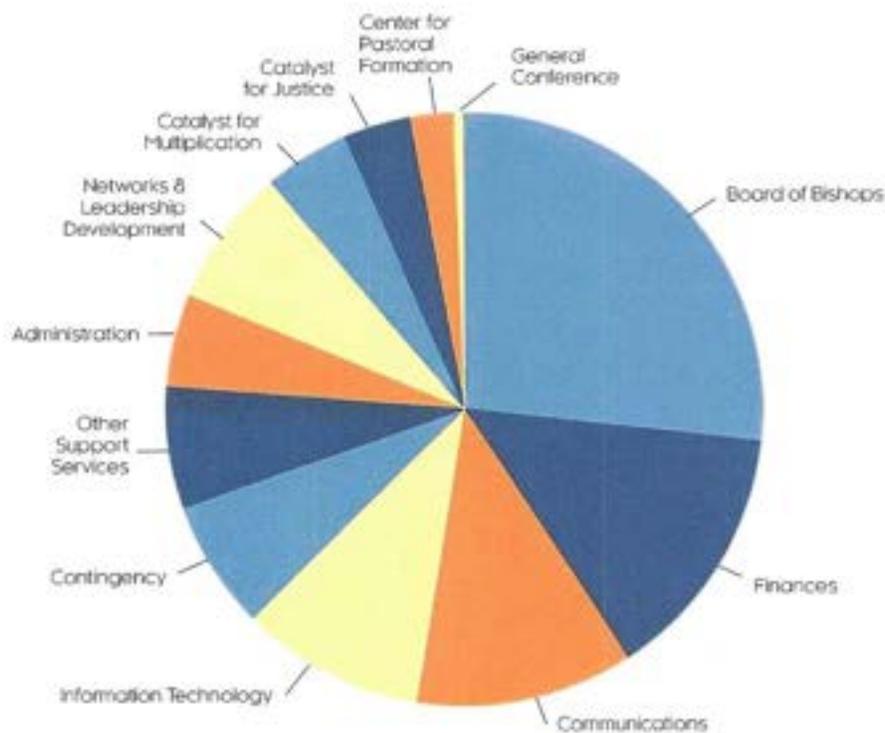


The 2024 Equal Participation Plan (EPP) is a financial partnership among all the churches that comprise the Free Methodist denomination. The conference system of the Free Methodist Church relies upon the continual contribution of its members to accomplish its worldwide ministry.

The Ministry of EPP

- Support your Conference Churches.
- Submit timely and accurate Annual Reports online. Your church's yearly statistics aid in decision making and clearly seeing where God may be leading us as a movement.
- Encourage collaboration between churches, ministry contexts, and cultures for a local and global impact. Participation in conference and denominational initiatives equips churches to do more together than possible individually.
- Encourage your congregation to make annual commitments to support missionaries, international church planning and national leader development through the work of the Free Methodist World Missions.

You are a part of a community that equips and supports the church and its leaders to minister and to multiply. We are accountable to you. We commit to ask for no more funds than necessary to maximize the ministry dollars for the local church.



The 2024 Equal Participant Plan budget is **\$4,274,410**. The following details are how your contributions are making a difference in the ministry of the church around the world.

26.8% (\$1,146,642) Board of Bishops

Elected bishops promote the vision of the Free Methodist Church and pursue the strategic priority of multiplying disciples, leaders, groups, and churches. They equip leaders in the United States and partner with leaders in emerging Free Methodist conferences around the world. Additionally, they serve as liaisons between our Free Methodist colleges and universities, the Free Methodist Financial, and our Human Service Ministries. Your support provides salaries and benefits for the board of bishops and their staffs. Their staffs provide critical support to the ministry of the church and expand the capacity of the bishop they serve. Resources needed to accomplish their ministries (such as travel, training and equipping) are included in the budget.

14.0% (\$597,648) Finance

The finance team provides audited, timely financial reporting. This information is used for decision making by missionaries, WMC work groups, and denominational leadership. You make processing tens of thousands of gifts and the safe sending of ministry resources to more than 70 countries possible.

11.8% (\$505,980) Communications

Your support funds Light + Life Communication, which is responsible for our family of websites, publishing, social media, and graphic design. This ministry provides clear and compelling identification of our church's mission and core values and easy access to Free Methodist information & ministry opportunities. Communications makes publishing our award-winning *Light + Life* magazine and other Free Methodist branded resources possible.

10.0% (\$428,035) Information Technology

Your EPP provides for an onsite IT team, backed up by contracted professionals, whose job is to maintain all digital systems used by the FMC-USA. The budget includes annual costs of donor management and financial software and the purchase of equipment following a replacement plan that ensures reasonable technology updates.

7.5% (\$319,490) Networks & Leadership Development

Your support allows for the development of flexible, need-meeting networks that empower leaders in kingdom outreach and expansion. Current networks include Chaplaincy, the Superintendents Leadership Team (SLT), and FM: Infuse (National Student Ministries Team). This fund also assists with new leadership development initiatives under the guidance of the Board of Bishops.

7.0% (\$300,000) Contingency

Your support provides a fund in case of a shortfall in gifts, a safety net for conferences in difficulty and other unexpected events. The 2024 contingency budget was almost completely funded from reserves.

6.5% (\$279,529) Other Support Services

Human Resources (\$109,804)

Our Human Resources staff oversees payroll and benefit services for the employees at the World Ministries Center and missionaries around the world. They also coordinate the ministerial pension plan for some 3,000 Free Methodist pastors and leaders.

Board of Administration (\$56,400)

Enables our elected leaders who serve between General Conferences to meet twice each year to set policy and budgets and offer counsel and guidance in fulfilling the mission of the church.

Marston Memorial Historical Center (\$65,728)

Your support enables the Historical Center at our World Ministries Center to provide valuable services to churches and scholars and to archive significant historical documents for future research and guidance.

Retiral Assistance (\$7,000)

Provides retirement assistance to general church personnel and retired ministers who served prior to the establishment of our pension plan.

Mailroom & Shipping (\$40,597)

5.1% (\$219,955) Administration

These funds provide for World Ministry Center operations and leadership through the office of the Chief Operating Officer. Their staff serve in reception, event coordination, facilities management, and the mailroom. Legal and financial informational resources and counsel used by churches across the United States are included in this budget.

4.7% (\$199,020) Catalyst for Multiplication

Refocusing priorities to align with core beliefs expressed in the Free Methodist Way required resourcing two new initiatives: Multiplication and Justice. EPP provides for salaries, benefits, travel and working funds to support denominational leadership under these initiatives.

The Catalyst for Multiplication will help Annual Conferences develop plans and provide coaching on the execution of those plans pursuant to living out the mission, vision, and strategies of the Free Methodist Church. Additionally, the CMS advises the Board of Bishops to increase the overall effectiveness of the FMCUSA. Church Planting Grants are now included in this budget.

3.6% (\$155,087) Catalyst for Justice

This initiative's goal is to define justice from a biblical perspective and promote action consistent with those principles. In addition to matters of race and gender, the Catalyst for Justice could encompass immigration, access for persons with different abilities & languages, and other issues. Your support allows leaders to work with existing FM justice-related networks, raise up regional advocates and create opportunities for collaboration and joint initiatives at the conference level.

2.3% (\$98,024) Center for Pastoral Formation

An endowed gift provides for a substantial portion of this cost center. Your support enables staff to assist superintendents and Ministerial Education and Guidance Boards in the work of identifying, recruiting, and deploying competent leaders. As well as providing for the administration of ministerial scholarships, guidance to those who are preparing for ordained ministry, the annual Starting Strong conference (new pastor orientation), short-term intensive classes (j-term) and correspondence courses toward ordination.

0.6% (\$25,000) General Conference

Preparations for General Conference 2027, a substantial portion of the cost is covered by registration fees.

0.0% (\$0) Building & Maintenance

The upkeep of our current building is completely funded by investment earnings from sale of the prior building.

EPP Calculation

As a member of the Free Methodist denomination your church can accept charitable contributions that are tax-deductible by donors. Your membership also means your church is not required to pay federal and state income taxes, nor is your church required to file income tax returns. Other benefits of participation are access to ministry resources like networking support, leadership development opportunities and the planned giving and lending resources of Free Methodist Financial. Participation in the EPP provides your church with the resources of global connection and direct access to missionaries and projects. The Free Methodist church provides reliable avenues to contribute to fruitful ministry elsewhere in the world. By building international relationships we can securely send funds and reduce the impact on the recipients. Annual budgets for the various services the denomination provides are determined in part by the total of these EPP assessments, so it is important that EPP assessments be fully funded.

Conference contributions are calculated using annual reports submitted by individual churches. These annual reports are accumulated into the Yearbook that serves as a directory for the Free Methodist Church and the data is used to identify trends. The EPP calculation begins with the total revenue reported by conference churches. Contributions for Free Methodist missionaries, certain mission projects, church planting, capital campaigns, and other specified items are deducted from total revenue before the EPP percentage is applied.

Your annual commitments to Free Methodist World Missions are vital for sending and sustaining missionaries. If these gifts are made through the church, they count as missions-giving deductions in the EPP calculation. Ministry resourcing is determined by your support for missionaries, international church planting, and national leadership development.

The official doctrine of the Free Methodist Church recognizes the denomination as "representative of what the church of Jesus Christ should be on earth." As such, members recognize a "specific commitment" to common faith and life which is laid out in the Free Methodist Book of Discipline (§121). Along with this shared theology, there is a shared responsibility to fulfill the Great Commission to the ends of the Earth. By supporting the denomination, each church is participating in the work of Christ around the world.

2023 Book of Discipline (The Church, ¶121)

The church is created by God. It is the people of God. Christ Jesus is its Lord and Head. The Holy Spirit is its life and power. It is both divine and human, heavenly and earthly, ideal and imperfect. It is an organism, not an unchanging institution. It exists to fulfill the purposes of God in Christ. It redemptively ministers to persons. Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it that it should be holy and without blemish. The church is a fellowship of the redeemed and the redeeming, preaching the Word of God and administering the sacraments according to Christ's instruction. The Free Methodist Church purposes to be representative of what the church of Jesus Christ should be on earth. It therefore requires specific commitment regarding the faith and life of its members. In its requirements it seeks to honor Christ and obey the written Word of God.

EPP in the FMCUSA

In October of 2002, the GC Board of Administration (GCBOA) approved a motion creating an Equal Participation Plan (EPP) to calculate a fair amount for each conference to contribute in funding the work of the Denomination in its work with Free Methodist ministries around the world.

In the motion and minutes, specific mention is made regarding some conferences seeing their contributions raise, while others contributed less under the new system. The goal in using a mathematical calculation to determine support was to ensure equal participation in the shared ministry of the Free Methodist Church.

This document is a record of our practice regarding EPP as of its publication in April of 2024 to help provide clarity, consistent process, and equal participation in the ministry.

What is a Church?

"Church" can be an ambiguous term, especially if you compare how the term is applied in theological, practical, legal, or procedural ways. For the purposes of the World Ministries Center processes, an FMCUSA church is one that is registered with the denomination as one of four statuses: Society, Fellowship, Church Planting Project or Affiliate. Any church of these statuses has a Church ID number.

Congregations might not be registered with the denomination as an FMCUSA church. One example of a congregation that is not an FMCUSA church would be an Emerging Ministry Point. Conferences are encouraged to use different classifications for their congregations, based on what makes most sense to further their local ministry.

Data Collection

Each year, every church in the FMCUSA is asked to submit an Annual Report. This Annual Report provides information on ministry metrics, contact information for the local church, and financial information. Much of the information in the finance section of the Annual Report is included to allow those reports to be used in calculating EPP if needed. This is the simplest and most straightforward way to calculate EPP. For example, the data collected about year 2000 of ministry is reported in year 2001 and is used to calculate the EPP for year 2002.

The information needed to calculate EPP as the GCBOA has directed is listed at the end of this document, with descriptions to help fully explain them.

Recently the GCBOA has offered an alternative for conferences that would prefer to calculate EPP based on current revenues reported by churches as opposed to prior year information. It is essential that each of those monthly reports reflect all the information that is required for each church in the conference - otherwise the reports will not be accurate.

Annual Report data will be compared with the information provided by the conference monthly for those choosing to participate based upon current revenues for the purpose of calculating EPP. Reconciling those two sources of information is an important part of our process.

Calculations

EPP is not assessed to churches but is assessed by the denomination to the conference. How the conference decides to collect funds from local churches is entirely within their purview.

The current formula to calculate EPP is as follows:

EPP = 3.2% * Total Revenue - FMWM Giving - Revenue Exclusions - Passthrough Revenue

FMWM Giving is determined by the funds received by FMWM during the reporting year.

Revenue Exclusions are income received by the local church during the reporting period that is designated for specific purposes at the time they are received. These include:

- ancillary revenue
- bequest revenue
- capital funds revenue
- church planting revenue
- rental revenue from other FM churches

Passthrough Revenue is income in one of four categories that is not received for the benefit of the local church and is instead collected and paid on others' behalf.

- annual conference passthrough revenue
- concert passthrough revenue
- mission trip passthrough revenue

- training, conference, or event passthrough revenue

EPP is calculated per church (to consider the caps on EPP implemented by the GCBOA in April 2013), then the EPP assessed based on each church's data is added together to give a conference EPP total.

Any exceptions to this formula are not in the purview of the WMC Finance Department or the Database Manager. As the formula is set by the GCBOA, they would need to authorize any changes or deviations.

Appendix: Description of Data Needed

Revenue

Total Church Revenue - any amount of money that was received by a church throughout the year. Any funds entered for any other revenue category must also be included in this total. This "Total Church Revenue" is the sum of all tithes, offerings, donations, bequests, capital funds revenue, and all passthrough funds. Loans or sale of property would not be included in "Total Church Revenue".

Deductions

Gifts Given to Free Methodist World Missions - include those funds forwarded to FMCUSA for the Missionary Support, Country Support, Extra Mile Projects, Impact Middle East, Bishops' Crisis Response Fund, or International Child Care Ministries.

Conference Church Planting – Conference funding of church planting is a deduction from revenue subject to EPP.

Revenue Exclusions

Capital Funds Revenue - money received that is for the purchase of land, new church construction, major renovations, or insurance settlements. On this form, mortgage payments would not be included as Capital Funds Revenue. Any funds listed here should be included in Total Church Revenue at the beginning of this section.

Church Planting Funds Revenue - is not the same as funds given to church plants. It is the portion of money claimed as Total Church Revenue received this past year that is

restricted for use in supporting other FM Church Plants. Any funds listed here should be included in Total Church Revenue at the beginning of this section.

Ancillary Revenue - is operational income from a school, day care center, and/or other business that is run by the church. Any funds listed here should be included in Total Church Revenue at the beginning of this section.

Bequest Revenue - is a gift from an estate after someone has passed away that were received during the previous year. Any funds listed here should be included in Total Church Revenue at the beginning of this section.

Rental Revenue from other Free Methodist Churches is rental income from another FM church for use of your facility in this past year. It includes rent from other FM churches only. Do not include rent received from day cares, parachurch ministries, etc. Any funds listed here should be included in Total Church Revenue at the beginning of this section.

Passthrough Revenue

Passthrough Revenue used for training, conferences, and events - includes any funds collected as revenue and included in Total Church Revenue that were used for training, conferences, or events attended by individuals in the church and that meet the below criteria. Revenue listed as passthrough funds should be funds where no charitable giving receipt was issued, and the church received funds for the purpose of consolidating a payment on behalf of others.

Passthrough Revenue used for concerts outside the local church facility - includes any funds collected as revenue and included in Total Church Revenue that were then paid on behalf of individuals who attended a concert that was not hosted at the local church facility. Revenue listed as passthrough funds should be funds where no charitable giving receipt was issued, and the church received funds for the purpose of consolidating a payment on behalf of others.

Passthrough Revenue used for annual conference events - includes any funds collected as revenue and included in Total Church Revenue that were then paid on behalf of non-clergy individuals who attended an annual conference event. Revenue listed as passthrough funds should be funds where no charitable giving receipt was issued, and the church received funds for the purpose of consolidating a payment on behalf of others.

Passthrough Revenue for mission trips taken by church attendees - includes any funds collected as revenue and included in Total Church Revenue that were then paid on behalf of individuals who participated in a mission trip. Revenue listed here should be funds the church received for the purpose of consolidating a payment on behalf of others.