



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2024

Global Episcopacy Committee Organizes and Begins Its Essential Work for the Global Methodist Church

The Global Episcopacy Committee, appointed by the General Conference, held its inaugural meeting on Wednesday, October 9, convened by Connectional Operations Officer Mike Schafer. At this meeting, Chris Ritter was elected as Chairperson, Jason Burnham as Vice-Chairperson, and Christine Hargrove as Secretary.

Distinct from other global commissions and committees, the Global Episcopacy Committee commenced its work immediately following election. One of its primary tasks is to assign bishops to areas of responsibility, with new episcopal terms set to begin on November 1. Guided by General Conference mandates, the committee is consulting with annual conference delegations, Bishops Jones and Webb, and the Transitional Leadership Council to ensure thoughtful placements. Beyond assignments, the committee will also determine salaries and benefits for episcopal leaders. A comprehensive outline of the committee's responsibilities will be available in Paragraph 505 of the forthcoming Book of Doctrines and Discipline.

"Please pray for our bishops and the Global Episcopacy Committee members," said Chris Ritter, Chairperson of the committee. "While this new deployment process presents unique challenges, we are blessed with humble, faithful servants of Jesus whose goal is to spread scriptural holiness around the globe."

Committee Members

The committee includes representatives from across the denomination:

- Gregg Benefiel (Mid-South)
- Don Bourland (Mississippi-West Tennessee)
- Jason Burnham (Trinity)
- William Floyd (South Carolina)
- Lyndol Loyd (West Plains)
- Christine Hargrove (North Georgia)
- Tyson Heins (Heartland)
- Sarah Walters Maher (Allegheny West)
- Matt O'Reilly (North Alabama)
- Chris Ritter (Great Lakes)
- Heather Sims (Trinity)
- Joanne Valenzuela (Mega Manila, Philippines)

Additional members may be appointed by the Connectional Council to ensure comprehensive representation and expertise as the committee continues its work.

About the Global Methodist Church: The Global Methodist Church is a worldwide Christian denomination committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. Rooted in the rich heritage of the Wesleyan tradition, the Global Methodist Church seeks to spread the message of God's grace and love to all corners of the globe. Through vibrant worship, compassionate service, and a steadfast dedication to biblical teachings, the Global Methodist church aims to transform lives and communities, fostering a deeper relationship with God and one another. For more information, visit globalmethodist.org.

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