



GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH Great Lakes

Dear Chris,

It is amazing to think about what can happen in just a year, especially this past year!

In Indiana, 29 churches disaffiliated last June, with the first 5 churches joining the Global Methodist Church (GMC) in our region, effective July 1, 2022. That same month, I was appointed Global Church Organizer for Indiana. Anticipating a large wave of churches to disaffiliate in a special called annual conference session for Indiana in November 2022, the Indiana Transitional Conference Advisory Team (TCAT) was formed. The purpose of the TCAT was to create a Provisional Annual Conference (PAC). Effective December 1, 2022, another 105 churches disaffiliated from Indiana, bringing the total Indiana disaffiliations in 2022 to 143, with 63 churches joining the GMC.

At the first meeting of the Indiana TCAT, the group decided to expand the invitation to neighboring states to form a stronger PAC and give a safe place for more to land. In February 2023, leaders from these areas met before the Breathe event in Dayton, Indiana, with Bishop Scott Jones to become what is now the Great Lakes TCAT (GL TCAT). The GL TCAT was formed with leaders from the WCA and GMC in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. I was tasked to lead this group. This group of leaders has met weekly since that time to create our new Great Lakes Provisional Annual Conference (GL PAC). **After much hard work, we are excited to announce that the Transitional Leadership Council (TLC) of the Global Methodist Church has approved the launch of the GL PAC, effective July 1, 2023 - just a year later! We are also thrilled the GL PAC will launch with 269**

clergy and 173 churches that have or are in the process of joining us in our region.

Our chapters of the WCA (Wesleyan Covenant Association) have worked diligently these past seven years to help churches get out and create a safe Wesleyan place to land. This safe place to land was created by those who know and understand your journey and could not stay in the UMC either. It comprises leaders on the conservative side of the “big tent” of the UMC, and now we are forming the GMC. We know many churches have focused their energy on “getting out” and have not started thinking about where to land afterward. Some have already applied to the GMC, while others are still clicking off the details until July 1 and the next special called annual conference sessions. We also know that due to negative experiences and trauma with the UMC, some do not even want to consider joining another denomination and desire to remain independent. We understand - but please remember, we all have been on this same journey, creating this new expression and connection of Methodism to be healthier and what we believe to be more God-honoring. The GL TCAT has not only intentionally formed the new structure of an annual conference, but also a new, healthier culture.

As we celebrate this past year of God’s move among us, we look forward with hopeful anticipation to this next year, and the many decades to come. In the meantime, we will be sharing more information about the specific leaders and churches that make up our GL PAC. In addition, we will release information about our upcoming convening annual conference session, which will take place later this year. I am excited to share this with you as we go forward.

Serving with you!

Scott Pattison

For those who want to know...

Here is a breakdown of the recent disaffiliations and churches joining the GMC in our region already included in the above totals:

- In Illinois Great Rivers, 29 churches approved to disaffiliate in May, with 14 churches joining the GL PAC.
- Northern Illinois had 8 approved to leave this month, with 5 joining the GL PAC.
- Indiana had 174 churches approved for disaffiliation this month, with 74 churches joining the GL PAC.
- Michigan had 60 churches approved to leave this month, with 47 joining the GL PAC.
- Wisconsin had 47 approved to disaffiliate this month, with 18 joining with the GL PAC to date.

Both Illinois Great Rivers and Michigan will have another called session for disaffiliations in November and December 2023, respectively. At this time, Indiana, Northern Illinois, or Wisconsin churches will not have another opportunity to depart from the UMC.

*Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately,
love extravagantly, and witness boldly.*

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