



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
Heartland Transitional Conference Advisory Team



Heartland Vision

Correction: *The Vision article in the previous email was incomplete. Below is the complete article. Apologies for the inconvenience.*

After much prayer and discussion, the Heartland Area Transitional Conference Advisory Team (TCAT) approved a Vision Statement on August 22, 2023. This Vision Statement is based on feedback from survey questions that were sent out over the summer to both clergy and congregational leaders in the Heartland, which is comprised of GMC congregations in Colorado, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. A TCAT Vision sub-committee reviewed the answers and recognized many words, ideas, and concepts were shared by the clergy and laity. The heart-cry was the same. From this, the Team was able to formulate three statements that were presented to the TCAT, which then

reviewed the statements, modified them, and approved the final statement on the 22nd. It reads as follows:

"The Heartland Area desires to become a gospel-driven expression of Methodism that embodies servant leadership, equips laity, exhorts churches, and encourages clergy."

This Vision Statement makes clear what our priorities will be as we move forward into becoming a Provisional Annual Conference: we will be motivated by preaching and sharing the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ and to more directly follow in the footsteps of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley. Furthermore, we desire for our focus to be on servanthood in every form; for the laity in the churches to be confident in God's calling in their lives; to exhort congregations to reach out as the Spirit leads them; and to support every clergy person of every stripe to stand fast in the work of ministry.

There will be much more said about this Vision Statement, and what our Values are in the weeks and months to come. Keep praying and keep seeking the Lord. He is at work among us in the Heartland!

[Read Complete Article](#)

Monthly

Heartland Area Prayer Meeting Set For September

The next Heartland Area Prayer Meeting will meet Tuesday, September 12 over Zoom at 7pm CT/6pm MT. We have had people from every state in our region join us at previous prayer meetings, and we want to increase our numbers. As we look towards the start up of our Provisional Annual Conference in Wichita KS,

more ordinations, and other important milestones, it is critical for us to keep praying! At each prayer meeting, we have a time of teaching, a sharing of prayer concerns, and then we get right to the work of prayer. We know September is a busy month, but nothing can be more important than prayer! If you have questions, or want the Zoom link, please contact one of the Co-Regional Prayer Directors for more information:

Rev. David Player, Guymon, Oklahoma hunter.david.player@gmail.com

Allison Woods, Wichita, Kansas allisonmwoods@cox.net

Blessings,

Allison Woods

Heartland Area Co-Regional Prayer Director

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Meet Rev. Jan Dillard

Meet the TCAT Team



The Road Ahead

Recently, some members of the Heartland Transitional Conference Advisory Team (TCAT) were asked to share their thoughts about what they see happening in the Heartland, and what they hope to see in the coming years. In the next several issues of the Heartland Newsletter, we will bring you their answers to these questions. Rev. Jan Dillard of Missouri conveys her heart's desires for the Heartland below:

Q. 1: Please share some basic information about yourself:

My name is Rev. Jan Dillard, a lifelong Methodist, former educator in the Missouri Public School System for 25 years; Asbury Theological Seminary Graduate, former Elder in Full Connection with the UMC, and now ordained Elder in the GMC, retired status. Since 2019 I have served as the Chapter Chair of the Missouri WCA, along with a devoted team of like-minded people on the MO WCA Regional Chapter. I am now serving on the Heartland TCAT. I am married to Jack, and together we have four grown children and their families, and a cat named Norman.

Q. 2: What good things do you see happening in the Heartland Area of the GMC?

I see nothing short of a spiritual awakening. In my role with both the WCA and the GMC, along with the team I am working with, we are seeing a general joy surfacing. I also see a realignment of purpose; seeking of "something spiritually and theologically solid"; individuals reaching out to

find others who want the same thing. I have listened to people discuss the possibilities: of church growth as congregations are opening their doors to ten and twelve "new visitors" per week; of smaller congregations envisioning something new as they invite the Holy Spirit in; of "cell" or "house" churches forming; of offering their distance labs in community facilities for pastoral learning; and most joyfully, baptisms and laity inspired worship as smaller churches across Missouri are finding one another.

Q. 3: What would you like to see happen in our Area over the next couple of years?

More of what I described in question number 2. I love the idea that presiding elders are mentors rather than disciplinarians unless under extenuating circumstances, so that each "one teaches one". I love that education for all is being made available, and that we are attending to the integrity and Biblical solidity of the training. I love the idea that house church is not considered a substitute for "real church" but a gathering of people who simply want to worship God. I love the work of the River Network. I love the work of Global ministries and I want Missouri as part of the Heartland, to be part of it. I love the idea of the Nehemiah Journey and we are working on it. I love the idea that the GMC might reach out to learning institutions and be a part of their community here in Missouri. It's all in the works and in capable hands of the people of the Heartland and we here in Missouri are so honored and blessed to be part of it.

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