

# To Our Friends in The Global Methodist Church

August 16, 2024,

As we head toward the convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church, we are filled with gratitude and awe. For some, this moment represents the finish line of a lifetime of faithfully working to birth a new generation of Methodism. For others, it is a starting line for a new movement of the Holy Spirit. For all of us, this is a new beginning and an opportunity to dream together about what can be.

As the nominees for the office of two-year bishop (representing legislation proposed by the Transitional Leadership Council), we are acutely aware that not all in our movement are of one mind about how the episcopacy should be shaped. We have offered ourselves to a process that is still very much “in process.” We are praying with you that together we might find the creativity to truly do a new thing as we discover the best way forward in selecting episcopal leaders. Whatever our opinions about the process, we know this: we all have the same warm heart for the Global Methodist Church.

We recognize that since we are the ones representing a model of the episcopacy that may or may not be adopted by the body of the General Conference (and that others may join us in the days ahead), we want to be thoughtful, prayerful and intentional about practices established and postures taken. We have all voiced our commitment to contributing to a healthy culture that honors the office of a spiritual leader. Toward that end, we have consulted other Methodist traditions to learn from their witness. We are meeting together weekly to pray for one another, to pray over this process, and especially to pray for our movement. We encourage you to do the same.

We have also agreed to work together with a GM staff team that is not only stewarding this proposal but working overtime to prepare for our convening General Conference. We certainly want to make this process easier, not more difficult, for them. We are working closely with the GM Church’s Executive Director of Communications, Dianne Burnett, to develop written and video profiles for each of us. These profiles, which will be shared in coming days, are designed to be informative and equitable, with each of us answering the same set of vetted questions. We are grateful for Dianne's experience and wisdom.



In addition, we are handling interview requests through the GM communications office, a process that we collectively agreed upon. Watch for upcoming episodes on "More to the Story" with Andy Miller III, the President of Wesley Biblical Seminary, and for virtual town hall meetings designed to give greater awareness of this process to delegates. Because delegates are the ones charged with the weighty responsibility of discerning the model of episcopal elections we'll use, they are our priority. We hope the combination of personal interviews conducted by Dianne Burnett, town hall meetings, and podcast conversations will give everyone a good level of trust and confidence as we all discern God's best. However, we welcome media and other inquires.

As we navigate this process, we ask for grace and understanding from our church family. Each of the nominees for the two-year episcopal office also lead churches, teach classes, shepherd conferences, and travel extensively in support of this new movement. To be nominated has been both humbling and encouraging. It has allowed each of us to reflect even more deeply on our calling, and to consider how we can best serve the church both individually and together.

How can you help? Mostly, we ask you to pray. If God is truly doing a new thing, how can we all participate in that? Can we dream together about a future that is less political, more spiritual; less about power, more about servanthood; less about the individuals and more about the whole gospel for the whole world? We believe this is our call and this is our time, friends. By choosing to move forward together, we hope to embody the very spirit of unity and grace that the Global Methodist Church stands for.

Until the whole world knows,

*Episcopal Nominees*

Ryan Barnett (MidTexas)  
John Beyers (North Georgia)  
Kimba Evariste (Democratic Republic of Congo)  
Jeffrey E. Greenway (Allegheny West)  
Leah Hidde-Gregory (MidTexas)  
Kenneth Levingston (Trinity)  
Carolyn Capers Moore (North Georgia)  
Gregory D. Stover (Allegheny West)  
Rob Townsend (Northeast)