



SUMMARY REPORT

THE CONVENING CONFERENCE
THE GRAIN COAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH LIBERIA

THEME:

“GROWING CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE
CHURCH & SOCIETY

TEXTS:

MATTHEW 28:19; II CORINTHIANS 5:17

MONDAY TO SUNDAY, JULY 7-13, 2025

GANTA CITY, NIMBA COUNTY

Introduction

The Grain Coast Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church of Liberia hosted its Convening Conference from July 7-13, 2025 in the City of Ganta, Nimba County, Republic of Liberia. The Presiding Bishop, Bishop John Pena Auta presided over the conference. We are pleased to report that every session of the conference was led by the power of the Holy Spirit and was blessed.

This brief report will include the following:

- the gathering of the Grain Coast Annual Conference, GMC
- church planting workshop
- ministerial and laity session (Teaching)
- joint plenary, evangelistic parade
- official opening worship service
- conference organization
- State of the Global Methodist Church in Liberia
- Teaching sessions (conference speakers)
- episcopal message
- Bible Study
- organizational reports
- updates from GMC's legal team on various lawsuits filed by the UMC
- presentation of candidates and ordination service
- memorial service in honour of departed brothers and sisters
- welcome program by host districts
- evening fellowship by young people, men, and women of the GMC
- connectional council report
- committee on Finance & Budget report
- conference committee on nominations and leadership report
- fundraising effort
- Appointment of the Conference Superintendent, Presiding Elders and pastors
- presentation of motorbikes to some district/circuit Presiding Elders

- Appreciation of conference facilitators and special guests
- key resolutions, theme song

The Global Methodist Church-Women Gathering

The Convening Conference of the Grain Coast Annual Conference commenced with the gathering of 350 women from across Liberia from July 4-6, 2025 at the Riverview International Christian Academy (RICA) in the City of Ganta, Nimba County. The women gathered to formalize their national and district leaderships, approved their five –year strategic plan, by-laws and Constitution, financial policy, calendar of events for the next six months, and approved their budget.

Planting Health Churches Seminar

A two-day “Planting Healthy Churches” seminar was conducted on July 7-8, 2025 at the Borpoanyee Global Methodist Church and the Riverview International Christian Academy (RICA) respectively. The Grain Coast Annual Conference in collaboration with the River Network International sponsored the seminar. It was held to train and equip pastors and members in church planting skills. Rev. Dr. Stephen Howell and Rev. Dr. Dale Christopher Livermore of River Network International facilitated the seminar. At the close of the seminar, Dr. Howell challenged and commissioned the participants to move out and share the gospel of Jesus Christ. About 400 pastors and lay people attended the seminar. Every participant received training materials. Many testified at the end of the training that it was very impactful and motivating. Participants committed to planting 241 or more new churches within three years.

On Tuesday evening, July 8th, the Mount Nimba District Conference and the Local Host Committee welcomed the Presiding Bishop and Conference delegates to Ganta City with an evening of traditional and cultural activities, wonderful musical sections led by the District Choir and a message by one of its Pastor.

Ministerial and Laity Sessions

The Conference continued Wednesday, July 9, 2025, with ministers and lay people meetings in separate sessions. The ministerial session was held at the Borpoanyee Global Methodist Church while the Laity Session took place at the RICA.

The sessions were characterized by teachings, primarily on the structure and function of the GMC, and business sessions. Bishop John Pena Auta presided over the ministerial session while Dr. Muriel V. Nelson, the National Coordinator of Women and Children, Bro. J. Jooju Kumeh, the National Coordinator of the Men's Organization, Sis. Martha B. Dobbah, the National Coordinator of Young People's Ministries and Bro. L. Orlandor Boyce, I, a member of the Transitional Committee Advisory Team (TCAT), served as conveners of the Laity Session.

At the ministerial sessions, eleven (11) persons were presented to be ordained as deacons, three (3) persons as elders-in-full connection and six (6) persons as elders-in-associate order. They were all approved for ordination.

More than one hundred fifty (150) pastors attended the ministerial session while more than five hundred (500) people attended the laity session. About 850 clergy and lay delegates and observers attended the convening conference, in addition to about 150 visitors who stopped over to bring fraternal greetings.

Joint Plenary

During the afternoon hours of July 9, 2025, a joint plenary session took place in the conference hall at RICA. Focus of the session included: teaching on family life by Bro. Wolobah and Sis. Venessa Taylor of the Great Commission Movement of Liberia, Tent Making by Rev. Timothy Beardsley, Conference Evangelist in the Northeastern Annual Conference of the GMC, USA, and the presentation on the sustainable Development & Investment by Rev. Allen Paye and committee members. Both clergy and lay people attended the joint plenary session. The session ended with a time of worship, praise and prayers. The Young People's Ministry Leadership Team led the conference in the

evening evangelistic fellowship and celebration, including a drama performance on intimacy with God and serious obedience.

Evangelistic Parade

On Thursday, July 10, 2025, the conference commenced with an evangelistic parade from the GMC Ganta Methodist Mission to the Conference Venue, the Riverview International Christian Academy (RICA). More than 700 people participated in the evangelistic parade. Bishop Auta and our overseas partners and friends also participated in the march, including Bro. Simon Mafunda, the Africa Director of the Global Methodist Church, and Rev. Forbes Matonga of the Zimbabwe West Annual Conference.

Official Opening of the Convening Conference: Thursday, 10 July 2025

The official opening worship service was conducted after the evangelistic march at the Conference venue. Over 800 pastors, lay people, national and foreign guests were part of the service. Rev. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah, I, the Chairperson of TCAT delivered the opening message at the Convening Conference, based on the conference theme and text, “Growing Christian Disciples for the transformation of the church and society”, Matthew 28:19 and 2 Corinthians 5:17.

The afternoon was characterized by business sessions including the official opening of the conference, conference bar establishment, adopting the rules of the conference, and recognition of local, national and foreign guests. Additionally, Rev. Dr. Kulah presented on the state of the Global Methodist Church in Liberia. Among other things, he indicated that the Grain Coast Annual Conference of Global Methodist Church (GCAC-GMC) has a current membership of 26, 885, from its newly established six districts and nine circuits. That the denomination now has 212 pastors and 155 congregations and preaching points, with several former congregations of the UMC making plans to join the GMC. However, emphasized the commitment of the of the GCAC-GMC to plant new churches in unreached communities across Liberia.

The conferees were also blessed to hear a spirit-led presentation on the theme and text of the conference by the Conference Speaker, Pastor Tayo Akinola of the Living

Seed Ministries. Our Presiding Bishop, Bishop John Pena Auta closed the afternoon session with a wonderful episcopal message to the leaders and members of the Grain Coast Annual Conference. The Men's organization of the Grain Coast Annual Conference led an evening evangelistic service that concluded the day's activities.

Proceedings: Friday, 11 July 2025

The conference continued Friday, July 11, 2025 with a time of worship, praise and prayers. This was followed by devotional time which was led by Pastor Janjay Lewis of the Gbehzohn Circuit. Pastor Saye K.M. Dolo of the Refuge Global Methodist Church led the first session of the Bible Study using the text and theme of the conference. A time of worship and praise and prayer followed the Bible Study.

Pastor Akinola, the Conference Speaker spoke to the conference on the theme and text of the Conference. This was followed by a time of praise. Following the praise & worship, Dr. Joshua Nador facilitated the topic: *"Growing Christian Disciples for the Transformation of the Church & Society: The Unfinished Task in Liberia."*

Upon our return for the afternoon session, Conference Speaker, Pastor Tayo Akinola, challenged the conferees to live their lives for Christ and be examples in their communities. Reports from the men, women and young people were given by their respective leaderships.

In furtherance of the conference, the legal team, through its Chairperson, Bro./Cllr. T. Emmanuel Tomah and Co-chairperson, Sis. /Cllr. Sedia W. Wollor briefed the conference on the status of several lawsuits filed by Bishop Samuel Quire of the UMC against Global Methodist Church and all former congregations of the UMC that have disaffiliated from the denomination.

The close of the day witnessed the presentation of the candidates for ordination. And a memorial service was held to remember our loved ones who departed this life since we last gathered in February 2025 in Gbarnga City, Bong County. We finished the day with a wonderful evangelistic fellowship and musical night hosted by the Women's organization.

Proceedings: Saturday, 12 July 2025

The day commenced with worship, praise and prayers. The morning devotion was led by Solomon Nyema of the Cavalla River Circuit and Bible Study led by Pastor Saye KM Dolo. Rev. Dr. Dale C. Livermore presented on: *“Growing Disciples for the Transformation of the church & society: Sustainable Development Through Mutual Partnership & Collaboration”*. This followed by a conference speaker sharing from the conference theme and text.

As a part of Saturday’s activities, reports were made by the Connectional Council, Conference Committee on Finance & Administration, and Conference Committee on Nominations and Leadership. Those nominated and subsequently elected by the conference were:

POSITION	NAME
Conference Secretary	Rev. Dr. Julius Y ZK Williams, I
Associate Conference Secretary	Rev. Peter Sayekwee
Associate Conference Secretary	Sis. Jestina Sayon
Conference Lay Leader	Bro. L. Orlandor Boyce, I
Associate Conference Lay Leader	Sis. Lucia Herbert
Associate Conference Lay Leader	Bro. Augustine Krah
Associate Conference Lay Leader	Bro. J. Morris Neanquoi
Conference Registrar	Bro. Edwin Dormie
Associate Conference Registrar	Sis. Mai Pailey
Conference Treasurer	Sis. Patricia W. Wilson, Jr.
Conference Chancellor	Cllr. T. Emmanuel Tomah
Conference Associate Chancellor	Cllr. Sedia W. Wollor
Conference Associate Chancellor	Attorney Victor Howard
Conference Associate Chancellor	Cllr. Jlayteh Saylor

Committees & Boards Chairpersons

Committees & Boards	Name
Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership	Rev. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah, I
Conference Connectional Council	Rev. Kenneth C. Jackson
Conference Board of Ministry	Rev. Jerry N. Kande
Conference Committee on Superintendency	Sis. Korpo Tenny
Conference Committee on Finance & Administration	Rev. Saye K.M. Dolo
Conference Committee on Investigation	Rev. Isaac Chukpue- Padmore
Administrative Review Committee	Rev. Martin Kpolar
Board of Trustees Chair	Rev. Rose R. Farhat
Evangelism, Discipleship & Church Planting	Rev. Dr. Bobson Bleh
Ministry & Higher Education	Rev. Dr. George D. Wilson, Jr.
Conference Committee on Communication, History & Archives	Bro. Alfred K. Mensah
Conference Committee on Pension & Health Benefits	Rev. Aaron O. Yankee
Conference Committee on Investment & Sustainable Development	Rev. Allen Paye
Conference Committee on Early Childhood, Primary & Secondary Education	Rev. P. Cooper Mondolo
Conference Committee on Women and Children Ministries	Dr. Muriel V. Nelson
Conference Committee on Young People's Ministries	Sis. Martha Dobbob

Conference Committee on Health & Social Welfare	Dr. Paye Gbanmie
Conference Committee on Men's Ministry	Fth. J. Jooju Kumeh
Conference Committee on Legal Affairs	Cllr. Emmanuel Tomah
Conference Committee on Family Life	Bro. Wolobah & Sis. Venessa Taylor
Conference Committee on Resource Mobilization	Fth. Rudolph Merab

The session continued with a time of celebration to God Almighty for His goodness to the people called Global Methodists.

For the conduct of effective and efficient ministries in the various circuits and districts of the Grain Coast Annual Conference, the Conference Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Kulah, on behalf of the Conference leadership, has committed to providing at least a motorbike to each of the Presiding Elders of the fourteen (14) circuits and districts of the Conference. To commence the process, at the seat of the convening conference, he presented four motorbikes to the Mount Nimba Northeastern District, River Gee & Mount Gedeh Circuits, Guinea Circuit and Grand Kru Circuit. Two of the bikes were donated by Bro. Joe Kilpatrick of the "Bikes and Bibles Ministry", and the other two were donated by two of the leaders of the Grain Coast Annual Conference. During the donation ceremony, three members of the Conference pledged to donate a motorbike each to three of the unreached counties that do not yet have the presence of a GMC congregation. Therefore, a donation of eight (8) additional motorbikes will enable us to provide one bike for each district and circuit of the Conference.

Ordination Service

The first ordination service of the Grain Coast Annual Conference took place during the evening hours of Saturday, July 12, 2025. Dr. G. Gemane Getteh of the Anchor of Hope Ministry delivered a very inspiring message at the occasion. Those who were ordained were:

A. Ordained as Deacon

Sis. Theresa G. Sieh-Jackson	Christopolis District
Sis. Emmangie P. Capehart	Christopolis District
Pastor David Y. Woodson	Christopolis District
Bro. Francis Quarshie, Sr.	Christopolis District
Sis. Whanetta B. Goodridge	Christopolis District
Bro. Prince Hilton	Christopolis District
Pastor Janjay Lewis	Gbehzohn Circuit
Bro. Jake S. Niala	Christopolis District
Sis. Josephine T. Bleedee	Christopolis District
Pastor Saye KM Dolo	Christopolis District
Bro. Stanley Gordo	Christopolis District

B. Ordained as Elder-in-Associate Order

Pastor Victoria K. Delon	Bong Circuit
Pastor John Marbiah	Mount Nimba District
Pastor John Donseah	Mount Nimba District
Pastor Peter Fanyean	Mount Nimba District
Pastor Joseph G. Karpoleh	Mount Nimba District
Pastor Michael S. Dahn	Mount Nimba District

C. Ordained as Elder-in-Full Connection

Pastor William N. T. Laywhyee	Mount Nimba District
Pastor Andrew N. Togba	Mount Nimba District
Pastor Johnson K. Flomo	Guinea Circuit

At the close of the ordination service, the Conference distributed about three hundred copies of the Holy Bibles, including some study bibles to all the pastors, choirs and some members of the conference. The bibles were gifts from the Rafiki Foundation of Liberia, the Great Commission Movement of Liberia and the Bible Society of Liberia. This was followed by a time of praise and worship unto God Almighty.

Official Closing Service: Sunday, 13 July 2025

The official closing service took place on Sunday, July 13, 2025. The closing message was delivered by Bishop John Pena Auta using the conference theme and text. The Holy Communion was served; appointments were made. On behalf of the Episcopal leadership of the Global Methodist Church worldwide, Bishop Pena Auta appointed Rev. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah, I as the Conference Superintendent of the Grain Coast Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church of Liberia. He then authorized Rev. Kulah to make appointment of the Presiding Elders and Pastors to districts, circuits and local churches of the Conference.

Following the election of officials and appointment of the Conference Superintendent, Presiding Elders and pastors to local churches of the Grain Coast Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church, the Transitional Committee Advisory Team (TCAT) that provided leadership up to the convening conference was officially dissolved by the Presiding Bishop, Rev. Dr. Auta on Sunday, 13 July 2025. He then called on all members of the Conference to support the leadership of Rev. Dr. Kulah as Superintendent of the Conference and collectively contribute their gifts and graces to the continued growth and development of the GMC in Liberia.

Fund Raising

As a part of the closing service, the Grain Coast Annual Conference encouraged its members to support the capital campaign projects of the denomination by making a commitment to a monthly, quarterly or annual support. The Conference identified six capital campaign projects for its members to support – Church Planting, Development and growth; Ministerial/Pastoral Welfare; Global Methodist Church School System (GMCSS); Sustainable Development Initiatives; Global Methodist Church Missions and Retreat Centre and Global Methodist Church National Headquarters. Following the mobilization, the Finance and Administration Committee led the Conference into its first fund raiser. Many received the form and gave joyfully. The Committee generated the amount of Two Thousand, Two Hundred, Fifty-Three United States Dollars (\$2,253.00), and Four Thousand, Eight Hundred Dollars (\$4,800.00) in pledge, and One Hundred Two Thousand, Eighty Liberian Dollars (LRD\$102,080.00) in cash.

Resolutions Passed at the Convening Conference

The final business of the of the convening conference was the passing of general and complimentary resolutions as well as the conference resolutions resulting from the one week gathering of the Grain Coast Annual Conference. The Conference resolutions passed included the following:

- a. That the four-ministry focused areas: EVANGELISM, CHURCH PLANTING, DISCIPLESHIP, SUSTIANABLE DEVELOPMENT serve as the pillars of the Grain Coast Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church.
- b. That the Grain Coast Endowment Project (GRA-C-E project) and the five- year Capital Campaign to mobilize resources from members, partners, friends and supporters be the source of support to the various ministry focal areas and missional priorities and programs of the Grain Coast Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church-Liberia.
- c. That the leadership of the Grain Coast Annual Conference, of the Global Methodist Church-Liberia, nominated and elected by the Delegates at the Convening Conference, serve until the second Annual Conference session in February 2027, when permanent leadership will be elected.
- d. That the total of Three Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (\$300,000.00) projected by the Finance and Administration Committee and adopted by the Convening Conference be the operating budget for the Grain Coast Annual Conference for the next six months (July 2025 to December 2025).
- e. That local churches commence payment of their 7% apportionment as of August 2025 to the Headquarters of the Grain Coast Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church as support to the operations and ministry focused areas of the Conference- this amount being distributed as follows: 1.5% covers cost for operation of the district/circuit; 1% for the operations of the General Church; and 4.5% for the operations of the national office.

Conclusion

Looking back upon the week-long convening conference of the Grain Coast Annual Conference, we can only give God all the glory and praise for the great things He has done for us, and greater things He will continue to do as we commit to making Christ-centered disciples for the transformation of the church and society, and to spreading scriptural holiness across Liberia and beyond. Amid the current rainy season in Liberia, the LORD answered our prayers for a sunny week. We did not have disturbance for heavy rainfall throughout the week of the convening conference. This is a testimony worth celebrating. To God be the glory.

We are grateful to the Liberia Council of Churches (LCC), the Liberian branch of Christian Association of Nigeria, the Ganta Christian Community, the Presidents of the Nimba University, the Liberia International Christian College, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion University and other Christian organizations for gracing the convening conference. We are also highly appreciative of our partners from the USA, the River Network that sponsored the “Planting Healthy Churches Seminar” and our Conference partner, the Mt. Horeb Church of Lexington, South Carolina, USA for supporting the hosting of our convening conference. We are also grateful to the General Overseer of the Christ Redemption Ministries, Apostle Joseph Neufville, and the Bishop of Grace Ministries Worldwide, Bishop Sam B. Oroge for attending the conference. The international leadership of the Global Methodist Church was represented by the Africa Director, Bro. Simon Mafunda, and Rev. Forbes Matonga of Zimbabwe also graced the Convening Conference, for which we are grateful.

Our host districts – Mt. Nimba North Central, Mt. Nimba East and Mt. Nimba Northeast Districts did an excellent job at successfully host the convening conference and we remain ever grateful. Most of all, we thank our Presiding Bishop, Rev. Dr. John Pena Auta for his excellent leadership. To God be the glory.

Finally, we want to express our gratitude to Rev. Francis Quarshie for composing the theme song of the Global Methodist church, titled, “*We’re Global Methodist Church*”. It has become the denomination’s national anthem.

Theme Song: “We are Global Methodist Church” (by: Rev. Francis Quarshie, Sr.)

1. We’re Global Methodist Church we stand for the gospel truth; we stand for the Christ: we stand with Christ. We are Global Methodist Church.

2. We’re Global Methodist Church we’re the sons and daughters of Christ we walk by faith and not by sight. We’re Global Methodist Church

Chorus:

Leader: We stand for Christ; We stand for Christ with Christ

We’re Global Methodist Church; We Walk by faith and not by sight

We’re Global Methodist Church

Submitted by:



Rev. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah, Conf. Superintendent

Pictorials of the Convening Conference



Bishop John Pena Auta
Presiding Bishop, GCAC-GMC

Bishop Pena & Rev. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah
Conference Superintendent



Rev. Dr. Jerry Kulah-Delivering the
Opening Message



GCAC-GMC Evangelistic parade throughout the principal streets of Ganta, Nimba County, Liberia



Clergy Session, presided over by Bishop Auta



Plenary session, presided over by Bishop Auta





Bishop John Pena Auta and Rev. Dr. Kulah lead parade



Delegates in jubilant worship, prayer and



Rev. Tim Bearsley and Rev. Dr. Dale Christopher Livermore serve Holy Communion at the closing service



Elders of the Global Methodist-at the opening
of the Convening Conference



Delegates at the Convening Conference-Interceding for the growth of the church
“if my people pray...I will Heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14)



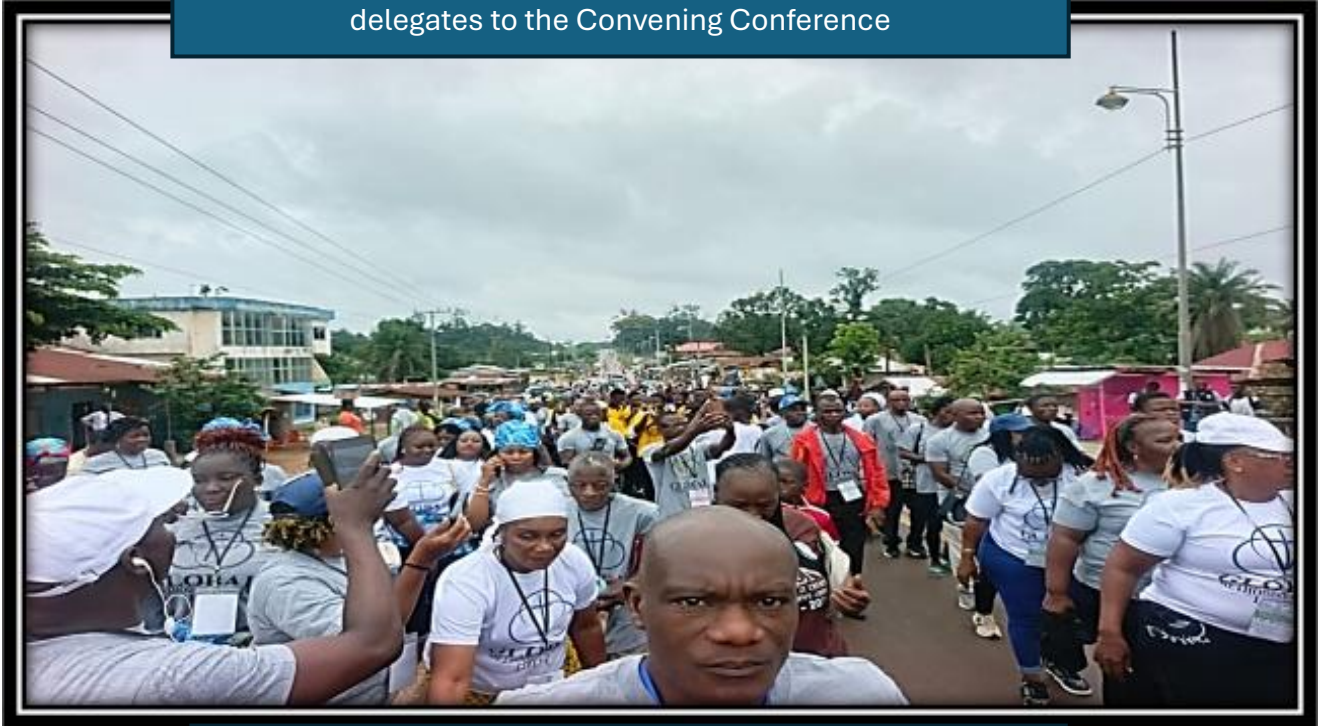
(l-r): Rev. Dr. Julius Williams, C.S. Jerry P. Kulah, Bishop John Pena Auta and
Cllr. T. Emmanuel Tomah, Chancellor, GCAC-GMC



Rev. Dr. Julius Y. Z. K. Williams, Conference Secretary



Parading the Principal streets of Ganta, Nimba County-
delegates to the Convening Conference



Delegates in jubilant mood as they parade



Rev. Kulah and Bishop Auta waved to the
crowd as they led the evangelistic parade



Mt. Nimba District Host Choir-at the Convening Conference



Ebenezer Global Methodist Church Choir-at the Convening Conference

