

# Journeys

This week has been the first of two weeks of General Conference for our United Methodist Church. Equal Lay and Clergy delegates from all over the world are gathered in Charlotte, NC to chart the direction of our church for the next four years. Any UM member or clergy can submit a petition to make a change to our Book of Discipline that is our basic rule book on how and why we do things. This time, as usual, there are over 1000 petitions submitted. This week, those petitions will be divided into sub-committees. They must be discussed and approved in committee to make it to the main floor for a vote next week.

My wife and daughter have been to several General Conferences as delegates or alternates for the Nebraska Conference. So I have attended a few as an observer. And I have mixed feelings about this one. I can only describe what I'm feeling as a mixture of hope and dread. Hope, that my denomination will finally become an all inclusive church, treating everyone as equals, regardless of race, gender or sexual preference; with equal honor and dignity as humans in God's Kingdom. Dread, that my beloved church will once again approve policies out of fear, that exclude and do harm to those who are seen different than us. My self diagnosis is that I'm experiencing some form of PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) that's muddling my heart and my brain.

For most of my 40 years as a UM pastor I've gone into General Conferences like a good Husker football fan, saying, "This is the year . . . Forget the past . . . This is the year we go all the way!" I suppose this cultural view arises out of a farm background that believed that next year's crop was going to be better than last year's. Three years of drought; next year will be better. Hailed out right before harvest; next year will make it up. So we mid-westerners hope for the best and prepare for the worst.

I invite you to pray with me for our world United Methodist church family. Either way, this General Conference is going to be historical. And I'm getting too old to wait for next time!

Grace & Peace,



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# Order Of Worship

- PRELUDE
- WELCOME
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- † THE PASSING OF THE PEACE
  - CALL TO WORSHIP
    - L: Come to the vineyard of God.
    - P: We seek Christ, the vine of great love.**
    - L: Drink from the waters of life.
    - P: We live in the light of God's grace.**
    - L: Come to the vineyard of God.
    - P: All are welcome here.**
- † OPENING HYMN #397 "I Need Thee Every Hour"
  - OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)
    - God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace. Nurture us with the strength of Christ, the vine of everlasting life. Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit, which flows through us today and all days. Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**
  - HYMN OF PREPARATION # 2130 "The Summons"
- † SCRIPTURE LESSON John 15:1-8 (NIV)
  - SERMON "The Vine and the Branches" by Pastor Anny Kapundu
  - CALL TO PRAYER #2128 (Vs. 1) "Come and Find the Quiet Center"
  - PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
    - Joys & One: "For this we pray..."
    - Concerns All: "Lord hear our prayers"
- LORD'S PRAYER #895
  - PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)
    - Merciful One, you know when we are afraid to love; you know when we are too cowardly to show mercy. Remind us again that perfect love casts out such fears. Surround us and strengthen us with your perfect love, even in the face of our imperfections. Imbue us with love so strong, with such growth toward perfection, that we may cast aside our pride and embrace the power of love. Amen**
  - WORDS OF ASSURANCE
    - Christ is the vine. We are simply branches. If we abide in Christ, Christ's words will abide in us. AMEN
  - OFFERTORY
- † DOXOLOGY #94
  - PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)
    - Generous God, may the gifts we return to you cause your name to be celebrated among the nations. May the lives that we live cause your name to be celebrated in all generations. May our offerings be signs of our praise to you, forever and ever. Amen.**
  - CLOSING HYMN #98 "To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Hath Done!"
  - BENEDICTION
- † POSTLUDE

† - Please stand as you are able to



## 5TH SATURDAY OF EASTER 9:30AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE APRIL 27TH, 2024

**SENIOR PASTOR:** Rev. Kelly Karges (402) 239-9507  
**ASSOCIATE PASTOR:** Pastor Anny Kapundu (308) 370-9465  
**NEW VISITORS**  
**FOLLOW UP PASTOR:** Carla Gunn  
**DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRY:** Christina Landenberger  
**PASTORS EMERITUS:** Del Roper, George Wheat  
**MINISTERS:** All Members

**ADDRESS:** 511 North Elm Street,  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
**OFFICE:** (308) 382-1952  
**EMAIL:** trinity@trinityumcgi.org  
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**SATURDAY WORSHIP IN GOLLAHER CHAPEL**  
Traditional: 6 p.m.  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP IN SANCTUARY**  
TOGETHER WORSHIP: 9:30 a.m.

WELCOME \* CONNECT \* DISCOVER

## Announcements

### Confirmation

Please join us in Miller Hall for a reception honoring our confirmands following 9:30 am worship.

### Graduation Sunday

Join us as we recognize seniors at 9:30am worship who are graduating this school year. Seniors get a breakfast provided by the United Methodist Men at 8:30am.

More Announcements inside

### Volunteers For Service

Greeter	Usher	Reader	Organist
Dixie White & Dan McMullen	Mary Scott	Linda Harris	Kim Wilsey

