

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,




Want to write an article?
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Order Of Worship

- PRELUDE
- OPENING SONG "Today (As For Me And My House)"
- WELCOME
- CALL TO WORSHIP (On Screen)
- † THE PASSING OF THE PEACE
- † OPENING PRAYER (On Screen)
- ALL GOD'S CHILDREN
- † SCRIPTURE LESSON John 15:1-8
- CHOIR ANTHEM "Lord I Stretch My Hands to You"
- SERMON "Confirmation Sunday" by Rev. Kelly Karges
- CALL TO PRAYER #2128 (Vs. 1)
"Come and Find the Quiet Center"
- PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Joys One: "For this we pray..."
& All: "Lord hear our prayers"
Concerns
- LORD'S PRAYER #895
- PRAYER OF CONFESSION (On Screen)
- WORDS OF ASSURANCE (On Screen)
- † DOXOLOGY #94
- PRAYER OF DEDICATION (On Screen)
- CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION #33
- | <u>Confirmands</u> | <u>Mentors</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Alexa Seely | Jody Freeman |
| Carlyn Cochran | Sebrina Bergmeier |
| Hadley Haake | Zach Schroeder |
| Jace Bergmeier | Steven Stoppkotte |
| Kanon Jasa | Becky Jasa |
- CLOSING HYMN #2051 "I was there to hear your borning cry"
- BENEDICTION
- † POSTLUDE

† - Please stand as you are able to



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9:30AM TOGETHER SERVICE APRIL 28TH, 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
WEBSITE: trinityumcgi.org
FACEBOOK/YOUTUBE: @trinityumcgi

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 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	Pianists
Sharon Jensen	Rob Horky	Brian Gallagher	Kim Wilsey	Sharon Jensen & Joyce Victor

