

GENERAL CONFERENCE of THE WESLEYAN CHURCH  
**15<sup>th</sup>**

**EMPOWERED  
BY THE  
SPIRIT**

MAY 17-20  
**2026**  
MARION, INDIANA



# Welcome to



*Thank you for making the effort to be here and for your prayers throughout the next few days.*

**W**e, as the “Council of Three” (Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, Rev. Isaac Smith, Dr. H. C. Wilson), welcome you to the 15th General Conference of The Wesleyan Church. As delegates, we are aware of your understanding of the responsibility as well as the joy you carry in representing the various areas of The Wesleyan Church. Among the three of us, we have attended every General Conference since the inception of The Wesleyan Church in 1968. As a result, we love the gathering of Wesleyan family and at the same time recognize the seriousness of the decision-making.

The theme of **“EMPOWERED”** for this conference could not be more pertinent for these days. We believe the Lord has called The Wesleyan Church and its message for a time such as this. The culture in which we minister is rootless, lonely and restless. In fact, it is even described as an “epidemic” of loneliness. Yet, when we look at our Scripture Acts 2:4 theme for this conference, we find we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be God’s “witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of earth” (Acts 1:8, NIV). This is the call to reach those who do not yet know of or have not experienced the transforming presence of the living God.

As we move through this conference and talk through Memorials that may at times seem mundane, let us keep this theme and vision in our hearts, prayers and mind of God’s call to The Wesleyan Church in bringing hope and holiness for a desperate generation.



Dr. Jo Anne Lyon



Rev. Isaac Smith



Dr. H.C. Wilson





# Prayer Initiatives

*The Crossroads District invites all delegates and guests to participate in prayer opportunities throughout the 15th General Conference.*

**D**aily prayer walks begin at 6 am in front of the Chapel Auditorium and conclude in the Lo's Loft with a time of focused prayer for conference needs. Additional prayer walks will be offered before the conference begins and after it concludes. Times will be announced.

The Lo's Loft, located in the upstairs lobby of the Chapel Auditorium, will serve as the primary prayer space during the conference. This room provides a dedicated place for prayer and solitude, space for journaling and art, and a prayer wall where requests may be posted.

There is also an opportunity to sign up for a one-hour prayer slot during conference sessions to pray specifically for the decisions and voting taking place. Participation may be on campus or off campus. To serve, email Jim Lo at [jim.lo@coghworldmissions.org](mailto:jim.lo@coghworldmissions.org).



## Connect & Share



#TWCEmpowered



The Wesleyan Church



*Livestream and video highlights online at*  
**[live.wesleyan.org](http://live.wesleyan.org)**



## QUADRENNIUM OVERVIEW



*Foundational to decisions made during the 15th General Conference of The Wesleyan Church are our beliefs, mission, vision, strategic focus, values, prayer and realities drawn from our annual statistical reporting.*

**OUR BELIEFS** are documented in Part 1 of “The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church,” which includes our Articles of Religion. Their substance shapes all other aspects of our church.

**OUR MISSION** is “the spreading of scriptural holiness throughout every land.”

**OUR VISION** is “Transforming lives, churches and communities through the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ.”

**OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS** is “Celebrating every time a disciple makes a disciple and the church multiplies itself until The Wesleyan Church has a transforming presence in every ZIP code.”

**OUR VALUES** are:

- Spirit-led focus requires prayerful obedience.
- God’s vision requires big relationships.
- The Gospel Gap requires a Kingdom Force.

**OUR PRAYER** is to be **EMPOWERED**, by the Holy Spirit to **BOLDLY** embrace the call of Acts 1:8 — to be a transforming presence for Every Person, Every Church, Every Community, EVERYWHERE.

# THE WESLEYAN CHURCH STATS

CATEGORY	2021*	2025	2021-2025
Churches	1,715	1,469	-14%
Multiethnic	566	632	12%
Membership	118,645	118,914	0.2%
Worship attendance	250,770	295,679	18%
Onsite	127,707	213,116	67%
Online	123,063	82,563	-33%
Discipleship**	78,092	180,498	132%
Conversions	11,776	27,981	138%
Baptisms	5,797	15,810	173%
Credentialed Clergy	5,574	5,596	0.4%
Multiethnic	N/A	839	
Women	1,191	1,327	11%

**Data source:** Local Church Statistical Report

\*COVID-19 impact reflected in 2021 data

\*\*Reporting requirements changed in 2019

## Executive Directors



Steve Glueck



Ed Love



Johanna Rugh



Janelle Vernon



H. C. Wilson

# Celebrating 80 Years of Building the Kingdom Together

EMPOWERING PEOPLE AND  
CHURCHES ACROSS THE U.S.

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Wesleyan Investment Foundation provides investment opportunities for believers, which help fund loans for churches. To see how you can help build the Kingdom with us, visit [wifonline.com](http://wifonline.com).



**WESLEYAN  
INVESTMENT**  
FOUNDATION®

Eighty years ago, a humble seed was planted—rooted in the belief that churches should have access to the support they need to flourish. Placed in faithful soil, that seed took hold. Watered by commitment, tended with wisdom, and passed from one generation to the next, what began as a simple idea grew into something stronger: the Wesleyan Investment Foundation.

Today, that once-nimble seedling stands as a resilient oak—rooted, growing, and reaching. Trusted by those who enjoy its shade, Wesleyan Investment Foundation has brought opportunity, stability, and peace to thousands of churches across the United States. By engaging believers to invest in Kingdom work, this foundation has produced fruit whose impact reaches far beyond any one congregation—impact that echoes into eternity.

Many seeds are planted in life. We remain grateful that this one took root. By the grace of God alone, we are able to continue this work. And so, with holy dedication, we commit ourselves again: to empower churches, to strengthen their capacity to reach people for Christ, and to help every person find a home in the Kingdom of God.

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**For eighty years—and for every year to come—  
we grow where God leads, until His Kingdom is  
on earth as it is in Heaven.**



## DR. JIM DUNN

*General Superintendent nominee*

**Dr. Jim Dunn** returned to his alma mater, Oklahoma Wesleyan University, as president in 2019, carrying with him a lifelong love for Christ, the church and Christian higher education. A pastor and denominational leader for more than three decades within The Wesleyan Church, he believes leadership begins with humility, deep faith and genuine love for people.

At his core, Dr. Dunn longs to see believers united in Christ — leading, serving and learning together in such a way that the world cannot help but believe.

Dr. Dunn holds degrees from Asbury Theological Seminary and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He and his wife Wendy have four children and four grandchildren.

### **General Superintendent Emeriti**

- H. C. Wilson (1988-1996; Reelected July 16, 2000-August 6, 2000)
- Tom Armiger (1997-2011)
- Jo Anne Lyon (2008-2016)

### **Former General Superintendents**

- Harry Wood (1996-1997)
- David Holdren (2000-2005)
- Jerry Pence (2005-2012)

**Discipline 1945.** The General Conference, upon recommendation of the General Board (1655:26), may confer the title of General Superintendent Emeritus or Emerita upon a former General Superintendent, provided the former General Superintendent shall have served as a General Superintendent for two or more quadrennia and shall have reached their sixty-fifth birthday, or shall have become disabled (1590:19). It is understood that the tenure of the emeritus or emerita relation is for life. A General Superintendent Emeritus or Emerita is a voting member of the General Conference (1503:1c).

# GENERAL BOARD

2022-2026

## General Board Members

Executive Directors (pg. 5) are General Board members.



Jo Anne Lyon



Yamil Acevedo



Bill Barker



Ricky Christman



Jeff Clark



Chris Conrad



Norwood Davis



Steve DeNeff



Scott Drury



Steve Dunmire



Craig Dunn



Jim Dunn



Marsha Finchum



Meredith Griffin



Janet Guthrie



Kevin Myers



Sherry Keye



Jon Kuluga



Emily Last



Tammy Leonard



Matt Leroy



Wayne Lewis, Jr.



Jerry Lumston



Earl McJett



Roger Metcalf



Peter Moore



Gamaliel Portillo



Carl Shepherd



Wesley Smith



Chase Stancle



Phill Tague



Wafaa Hanna



Kathy White



Billy Wilson

# THE wesleyan CHURCH

## *Position Statements*

The Wesleyan Church adopts official statements of the Wesleyan view on issues in order to encourage laity and ministers to integrate faith and life to respond appropriately and responsibly to current cultural and public policy matters. Position Statements from the various governing entities of The Wesleyan Church, including the International Conference, the North American General Conference, the General Board and the General Superintendent can be found at [wes.life/TWCstatements](https://wes.life/TWCstatements).

*Three position papers were updated during the 2022-2026 quadrennium:*

THE WESLEYAN CHURCH  
AND **HOMOSEXUALITY**

A WESLEYAN APPROACH  
TO **RACE AND RACISM**

WESLEYAN CHURCH  
POSITION STATEMENT  
ON **IMMIGRATION**

EXPLORE THE  
WESLEYAN VIEW



# Program Protocol

*“The General Conference is the supreme governing body of The Wesleyan Church. The basic provisions, powers, and restrictions of this body are set forth in the Constitution (325–360).”<sup>1</sup>*

- The voting body of the conference is comprised of The Wesleyan Church (TWC) general officers, General Superintendents Emeriti, and district-elected lay and clergy individuals sent to represent TWC from across North America. These delegates are assigned seating within the conference bar and are empowered to discern, discuss and vote on TWC business items as they are presented. Additional seating within the conference bar is reserved for international and fraternal delegates.
- General Conference business begins precisely at 8:15 am Delegate roll call will be taken daily as the first item of business.
- Delegates will be provided a lanyard and an official name badge which are required for admission.
- Guests will be provided peel and stick name tags.
- Guest seating during business sessions is available in Luckey Arena, Commons, Globe Theatre and Henry West Banquet Room.
- Everyone is to be respectful of persons authorized within the conference bar to speak. Noise and distractions are to be minimized out of courtesy and to ensure effective conference engagement. Cell phones are to be silenced during the business sessions, including guest seating.
- The Exhibit Hall will be closed during worship and business sessions.

1. “The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church” (Fishers, IN: Wesleyan Publishing House, 2016), 185.

# Empowered

# CONFERRING

by Matthew Tietje

The first church nearly died in committee. Maybe that's an overstatement, but perhaps not by much. Acts 15 describes a business meeting that could have strangled the Christian movement in its infancy. Gentiles were coming to faith through Paul's and Barnabas' ministry, but teachers from Jerusalem insisted these new believers must be circumcised and follow the Mosaic law to be saved. The conflict was sharp enough that the Antioch church sent Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to sort it out with the apostles and elders.

What happened next is one of the most consequential moments in church history and offers something vital for how we think about the Spirit's work in gathered bodies of believers.

The Jerusalem Council didn't resolve quickly or easily. Luke tells us there was "much debate" before Peter stood to speak. The apostles heard testimony from Peter

about Cornelius, from Paul and Barnabas about what God was doing among the Gentiles. James consulted the prophet Amos. They wrestled with Scripture, with experience, with each other.

Then came the breakthrough. The Council reached a conclusion they articulated in this remarkable language: "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us ..." (Acts 15:28).

That phrase deserves our attention. The apostles didn't claim the Spirit bypassed their deliberation. They didn't say the Spirit handed them the decision. They didn't say they took roll call, held a vote and the Holy Spirit rubber-stamped it.

Transformation came *through* their honest wrestling, their testimony, their scriptural reflection, their debate. The Holy Spirit worked in the business not around it. Wesley noted this in his commentary on Acts 15, observing that "we need not suppose their inspiration was always so

“

THE EARLY CHURCH *discovered* THAT FAITHFUL CORPORATE DISCERNMENT, *rooted* IN SCRIPTURE AND OPEN TO THE SPIRIT, *released* THEM FOR MISSION THAT *bore* FRUIT FOR MILLENNIA.”

instantaneous and express, as to supersede any deliberation in their own minds, or any consultation with each other.”

The result was organizational clarity that released the church for mission. The door to the Gentiles was opened wide. Paul’s subsequent journeys, the spread of the gospel across the Mediterranean, the eventual emergence of a global church ... all of it flows through that opened door. Each of us reading this article is downstream of what happened when that Council engaged in holy, Spirit-infused debate together.

We talk often about the Spirit’s empowering work in individual believers. We preach sanctification as God’s transforming grace in our personal lives. Acts 15 shows us something we discuss less frequently: the Spirit **sanctifying and empowering** the corporate body.

Consider what happened to the church as an organization at Jerusalem. It was cleansed from a false requirement that would have strangled the gospel. It was set free from a burden that hindered mission. It was empowered to move into territory it couldn’t have entered otherwise. That’s sanctification language applied to a body, not just a person.

The Spirit’s work at Jerusalem wasn’t merely informational, telling them what to believe. It was transformational, making them into a body capable of a mission they couldn’t have undertaken in their previous state of confusion. The Council that gathered in uncertainty left with clarity, power and a

renewed focus on the Savior’s great mission — to reach the ends of the earth.

Notice this, as well: the way the Jerusalem Council delegates approached their work seems essential to the outcome. They came to Jerusalem not having already decided their opinions on the matter. They came with genuine questions, genuine conflict and genuine desire to allow the Spirit to lead them somewhere they couldn’t have reached relying on their own human preferences, opinions and understandings.

“  
IT SEEMED  
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This posture differs from arriving with entrenched positions and debating until one side “wins.” It differs from treating deliberation as a “necessary evil” we must endure. The Council at Jerusalem was open to listen and be led, corrected and surprised by one another and by the Spirit.

Notice too what’s absent from the account. No one attacks Peter’s character for eating with Gentiles. No one accuses Paul of selling out the faith. No one suggests the Jerusalem leaders are motivated by pride or power. The debate is vigorous, but it stays focused on the

*continued on page 19*

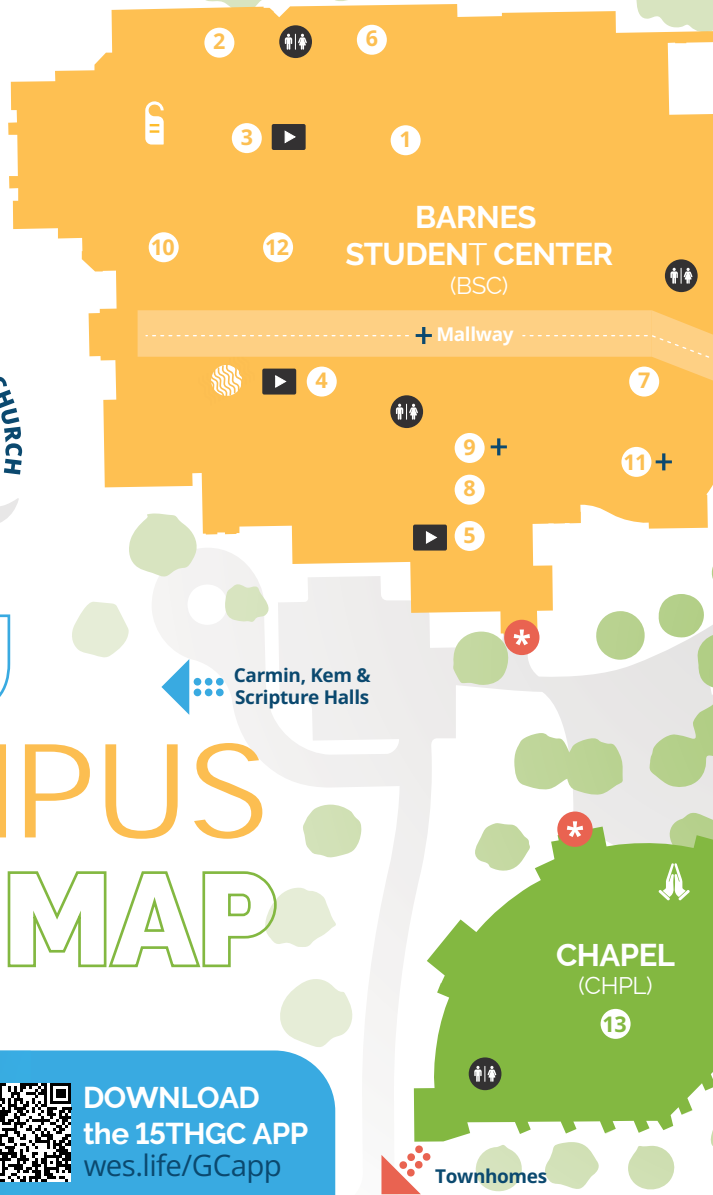


GENERAL CONFERENCE of THE WESLEYAN CHURCH  
**15<sup>th</sup>**

IWU

CAMPUS

MAP



DOWNLOAD  
 the 15THGC APP  
[wes.life/GCapp](https://wes.life/GCapp)

- 1 Baldwin Dining Room
- 5 Henry West Banquet Room
- 2 Century Dining Room
- 6 Heritage Room
- 3 Commons
- 7 Information
- 4 Globe Theatre
- 8 Leedy-Bedford Banquet Rooms

Entrances    Exhibitors    Lo's Loft



14 Business Sessions

RECREATION AND WELLNESS CENTER (RWC)

Beckett Hall & The Lodges

Outdoor Commons

PHILIPPE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (PPAC)

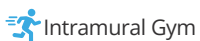
EXPLORE MORE in MARION AND GRANT COUNTY [wes.life/grantcounty](http://wes.life/grantcounty)



- 9 Jones Banquet Room
- 10 McConn Coffee
- 11 Piazza

- 12 Teter Café
- 13 Chapel Auditorium
- 14 Luckey Arena

- 15 Baker Recital Hall
- 16 Band Room



# Daily Schedule



## SUNDAY, May 17

- 11:30 am-1 pm Lunch, Baldwin Dining Room (BSC)
- 1-4:20 pm Pre-conference Workshops\*
- 1-6 pm Exhibit Hall Open, Barnes Student Center
- 4:30-6 pm Dinner, Baldwin Dining Room (BSC)
- 6:30-7:45 pm Opening Worship **(B)**, Chapel Auditorium
- 7:45-8:30 pm Exhibit Hall Open, Barnes Student Center
- 7:45-9 pm Receptions\*\*

## MONDAY, May 18

- 6:30-8 am Breakfast, Baldwin Dining Room (BSC)
- 7 am Prayer, Lo's Loft (CHPL)
- 8-8:15 am Devotional Moment **(B)**, Luckey Arena (RWC)
- 8:15-11:45 am 1st Business Session **(B)**, Luckey Arena (RWC)
- 9 am **State of the Church Address — Council of Three **(B)****, Luckey Arena (RWC)
- 9:30 am **Recognition of Fraternal and International Delegates **(B)****, Luckey Arena (RWC)
- 9:45-10:15 am Session Break, Intramural Gymnasium (RWC) & Barnes Student Center
- 9:45-10:15 am Exhibit Hall Open, Barnes Student Center
- 10:30 am **Recognition of General Superintendents Emeriti **(B)****, Luckey Arena (RWC)
- 11 am **Election of General Superintendent **(B)****, Luckey Arena (RWC)
- 11:30 am-1 pm Lunch, Baldwin Dining Room (BSC)
- 11:30 am-1 pm Exhibit Hall Open, Barnes Student Center
- 1-5:30 pm 2nd Business Session **(B)**, Luckey Arena (RWC)
- 2 pm **Election of General Officers **(B)****, Luckey Arena (RWC)
- 3:15-3:45 pm Session Break, Intramural Gymnasium (RWC) & Barnes Student Center



## MONDAY, May 18

3:15-3:45 pm	Exhibit Hall Open, Barnes Student Center
5-7 pm	Dinner, Baldwin Dining Room (BSC)
5-7 pm	Exhibit Hall Open, Barnes Student Center
7:30-8:30 pm	Worship <b>B</b> , Chapel Auditorium
8:30-10 pm	Receptions**

## TUESDAY, May 19

6:30-8 am	Breakfast, Baldwin Dining Room (BSC)
7 am	Prayer, Lo's Loft (CHPL)
8-8:15 am	Devotional Moment <b>B</b> , Luckey Arena (RWC)
8:15-11:45 am	3rd Business Session <b>B</b> , Luckey Arena (RWC)
9:45-10:15 am	Session Break, Intramural Gymnasium (RWC) & Barnes Student Center
10:15 am	<b>North Central Area Caucus</b> , Globe Theatre (BSC)
10:15 am	<b>Northeastern Area Caucus</b> , Leedy Banquet Room (BSC)
10:15 am	<b>Southern Area Caucus</b> , Henry West Banquet Room (BSC)
10:15 am	<b>Western Area Caucus</b> , Baker Recital Hall (PPAC)
9:45 am-1 pm	Exhibit Hall Open, Barnes Student Center
11:30 am-1 pm	Lunch, Baldwin Dining Room (BSC)
1-5:30 pm	4th Business Session <b>B</b> , Luckey Arena (RWC)
2 pm	<b>Election of General Board</b> <b>B</b> , Luckey Arena (RWC)
3:15-3:45 pm	Session Break, Intramural Gymnasium (RWC) & Barnes Student Center
3:15-3:45 pm	Exhibit Hall Open, Barnes Student Center
5-7 pm	Dinner, Baldwin Dining Room (BSC)
5-7 pm	Exhibit Hall Open, Barnes Student Center
7:30-8:30 pm	Worship <b>B</b> , Chapel Auditorium
8:30-10 pm	Receptions**





  
*continued*

All times Eastern Daylight (EDT) — **B** Broadcast via Livestream in the Commons (BSC), Globe Theatre (BSC), and Henry West Banquet Room (BSC).

\*Various times & locations. See pages 22-24 for details.

\*\* Various times & locations. See pages 20-21 for details.

### BUILDING KEY

-  Barnes Student Center (BSC)
-  Philippe Performing Arts Center (PPAC)
-  Chapel (CHPL)
-  Recreation & Wellness Center (RWC)

## WEDNESDAY, May 20

6:30–8 am	Breakfast, Baldwin Dining Room (BSC)
7 am	Prayer, Lo's Loft (CHPL)
8–8:15 am	Devotional Moment <b>(B)</b> , Luckey Arena (RWC)
8:15 am–12 pm	5th Business Session / Close of 15thGC <b>(B)</b> , Luckey Arena (RWC)
10–10:30 am	Session Break, Intramural Gymnasium (RWC)
10:30 am	<b>Installation of General Officers and Board <b>(B)</b></b> , Chapel Auditorium
11 am	<b>Commissioning <b>(B)</b></b> , Chapel Auditorium
12 pm	<b>Adjournment <b>(B)</b></b> , Chapel Auditorium
12–1 pm	Lunch, Baldwin Dining Room (BSC)

## Planning Team

**Janelle Vernon**  
*General Secretary*

**Anthony Casey**  
*Assistant  
 General Secretary*

**Matt Stewart**  
*Head Teller  
 Logistics*

**Matthew Tietje**  
*Worship  
 Programming*

**Ronda Chapin**  
*Worship  
 Programming*

**Jess Cole**  
*Event Coordination  
 & Finance*

**Anna Stingley**  
*Marketing &  
 Communications*

**Belinda Selfridge**  
*Volunteer  
 Coordinator*

**Nancy Mills**  
*Hospitality &  
 Exhibitor Relations*

**Michael Wood**  
*Host District  
 Representative*

**Beth Mills**  
*Administration &  
 Sponsor Relations*

# Empowered

# CONFERENCE

continued



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ACTS 15 SHOWS US SOMETHING WE DISCUSS  
LESS FREQUENTLY: THE SPIRIT *sanctifying* AND  
*empowering* THE CORPORATE BODY.”

question rather than the questioners.

When a body of believers gathers with that kind of openness, something becomes possible that wasn't there before. New doors can be opened. Christ's great mission advances. The harvest field opens in new spaces.

The Wesleyan Church gathers periodically to seek the Spirit together in district and general church conferences. We deliberate, debate, hear testimony of what God is doing, consult Scripture and attempt to discern the Spirit's leading for our denomination.

But Acts 15 shows us these gatherings can be more than business meetings. They are occasions for **corporate sanctification and empowerment** through the business. When we genuinely seek to wrestle through weighty matters while also listening to the Spirit's voice together, we position ourselves

to receive clarity and power we could never manufacture on our own.

The question for any such gathering is whether we come seeking to be transformed as a body, or merely to defend our positions and conduct our business. The early church discovered that faithful corporate discernment, rooted in Scripture and open to the Spirit, released them for mission that bore fruit for millennia.

We are that fruit. What doors might open for the message of salvation and holy transformation if we come seeking the Spirit together with the same posture?

**Matthew Tietje** is an ordained Wesleyan elder and serves as director in Communication and Administration of The Wesleyan Church.

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# Receptions and Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
May 17	1-4:20 pm	Workshops <i>See pages 22-24 for details</i>	○ Various Locations
May 17	4:45 pm	Fraternal & International Delegate Dinner <i>Invite only</i>	● Century Dining Room, BSC
May 17	7:45-9 pm	Ice Cream Social	● Outdoor Commons
May 17	8-9 pm	Mountain Plains DBA/Delegates Meeting <i>Invite only</i>	● Century Dining Room, BSC
May 17	8-9 pm	Wesleyan Worship Leaders Gathering	● Bedford Banquet Room, BSC
May 18	6-7 am	Prayer Walk	● Foyer, CHPL
May 18	6-7 am	Stretch & Move Session	● Intramural Gym, RWC
May 18	11:45 am-1 pm	General Board Luncheon <i>Invite only</i>	● Century Dining Room BSC
May 18	11:45 am-1 pm	Northeast District Delegates Luncheon <i>Invite only</i>	● Baldwin, Blue Marble Bistro, BSC
May 18	6:30-7 pm	General Superintendent & District Superintendents Meet Up <i>Invite only</i>	● Leedy Banquet Room, BSC
May 18	8:30-10 pm	IWU Alumni Association Event	● Baldwin, Teter Café, BSC
May 18	8:30-10 pm	World Hope International Dessert Reception	● The Commons, BSC
May 18	8:30-10 pm	Pacific Southwest District Reception	● Henry West Banquet Room, BSC
May 18	8:30-10 pm	Great Lakes Region Reception <i>Invite only</i>	○ College Wesleyan Church
May 18	8:30-10 pm	SWU Alumni Reception	● Century Dining Hall, BSC

## BUILDING KEY

- Barnes Student Center (BSC)
- Phillippe Performing Arts Center (PPAC)
- Chapel (CHPL)
- Recreation & Wellness Center (RWC)

# Sunday, May 17–Wednesday, May 20

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
May 19	6-7 am	Prayer Walk	● Foyer, CHPL
May 19	6-7 am	Stretch & Move Session	● Intramural Gym, RWC
May 19	7-8 am	IBWC Breakfast <i>Invite only</i>	● Bedford Banquet Room, BSC
May 19	11:45 am-1 pm	General Board Luncheon <i>Invite only</i>	● Century Dining Room, BSC
May 19	11:45 am-1pm	Immigrant Connection Luncheon	● Baldwin, Teter Café, BSC
May 19	11:45 am-1pm	Conexión de Líderes Hispanos	● Baldwin, Blue Marble Bistro, BSC
May 19	11:45 am-1pm	General Treasurer's Luncheon <i>Invite only</i>	● Bedford Banquet Room, BSC
May 19	8:30-10 pm	Keep Calm and Carry On: Learn the background, receive counsel and respond biblically to today's upside-down world of sexual ethics. Dr. Steve Lennox	● Leedy-Bedford Banquet Room, BSC
May 19	8:30-10 pm	Retiring Officers Reception	● The Commons, BSC
May 19	8:30-10 pm	Penn York District Reception	● Henry West Banquet Room, BSC
May 19	8:30-10 pm	Learn S'more About World Hope	● Outdoor Commons
May 20	6-7 am	Prayer Walk	● Foyer, CHPL
May 20	6-7 am	Stretch & Move Session	● Intramural Gym, RWC
May 20	11:45 am-1 pm	General Board Luncheon <i>Invite only</i>	● Century Dining Room, BSC
May 20	11:45 am-1 pm	Champions of Missions Luncheon	● Baldwin, Teter Café, BSC
May 20	1 pm	General Board Meeting <i>Invite only</i>	● Century Dining Room, BSC



# WORKSHOPS

**1-1:50 pm**

Baker Recital Hall,  
PPAC

***Bridge the Chasm Between Church and Disciple Making***

**Presenter:** Rev. Katie Lance

Discipleship beyond programs: life-on-life formation sharpens testimony, renews hope, and transforms. Discover how proximity, testimony, and shared mission cultivate a unified church in growing disciple makers.

**1-1:50 pm**

Globe Theatre, BSC

***Praying on Offense***

**Presenter:** Jeff Clark

Praying on Offense casts vision for how ordinary believers can influence the world for Christ beyond the church walls, offering simple tools that are fueling a growing global prayer movement.

**1-1:50 pm  
AND 2:15-3:05 pm**

Henry West  
Banquet Room, BSC

***Reaching the Unreached: Local Church with a Global Focus***

**Presenters:** Global Partners

4 in 10 people around the world live without access to the gospel, and the local church plays a vital role in carrying out the Great Commission for all to have the opportunity of a hope-filled life with Jesus.

**1-1:50 pm**

Band Room, PPAC

***Urban Urgency: Why the City?***

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Christy Lipscomb

Urban ministry is strategically significant to gospel movement. By 2050, 89% of the U.S. will live in urban areas and 53% will be non-white. Is TWC ready for multiethnic, urban ministry?

**1-1:50 pm**

Leedy-Bedford  
Banquet Room, BSC

***Immigrant Connection: A Wesleyan Response to Immigration***

**Presenter:** Rev. Zach Szmarra

Grounded in Scripture and Wesleyan theology, this workshop equips churches to faithfully engage immigration through hospitality, justice, and practical, church-based action.

**2:15-3:05 pm**

Leedy-Bedford  
Banquet Room, BSC

***Apostolic Initiators: A Wesleyan Strategy for Church Multiplication***

**Presenters:** Eric Hallett, DMin and Central Canada District Multiplication Leaders

Explore a Wesleyan approach to apostolic leadership that mobilizes pastors, forms regional networks, and multiplies churches. Gain vision and practical pathways to cultivate sustainable, reproducing disciple-making movements in diverse contexts.

**2:15-3:05 pm**

Baker Recital Hall,  
PPAC

***Empowered Together: Partnering Church and Higher Education for Pastoral Formation***

**Presenters:** Panel

Pastors, educators and church leadership discuss the partnership of churches and higher education in forming future church leaders. Includes panel discussion and audience Q&A on collaborative pathways for pastoral development.

**Moderator:** Rev. Dr. Emily Hines

**Panelists:**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Oden, OKWU

Rev. Dr. Mark Wilson, SWU

Rev. Jim Terwilliger, Meadowbrook Christian School, Milton, PA

Rev. Kenny Johnston, First Wesleyan Church, Gastonia, NC

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**2:15-3:05 pm**

Band Room, PPAC

***Guarding the Flock: How Pastors Can Enhance Church Safety***

**Presenter:** Charles Hedman, Brotherhood Mutual

Pastors are called to shepherd and protect God's people. Many church risks come not from harmful intent, but from unclear guidelines, overlooked warning signs or lack of planning. This practical session provides clear, faith-based legal and insurance guidance to help you create a safer church.

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**2:15-3:05 pm**

Globe Theatre, BSC

***GodWorx Through You***

**Presenters:** Carrie Whitcher & Rev. Dr. Steve DeNeff

Come explore practical next steps as we dig into the role of the pastor and marketplace multiplier in unleashing God's kingdom!

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**3:30-4:20 pm**

Baker Recital Hall,  
PPAC

***From Calling to Sending***

**Presenter:** Rev. Santes Beatty

This workshop will help participants discover best practices for discovering and developing the calling of all ages while resourcing them on how to deploy effectively in vocational, marketplace and missional spaces.

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**3:30-4:20 pm**

Globe Theatre, BSC

***The Cost of Minister vs. The Cost of Ministry***

**Presenters:** Rev. Nabil Safi & Rev. Jim Weinmann

Pastoral compensation discussions can be difficult. Join us for practical insights and guidance on this sensitive topic. We consider compensation issues such as the distinction between the cost of a minister and the cost of a ministry.

*continued*

# WORKSHOPS

May 17, 2026

3:30-4:20 pm

Band Room, PPAC

## ***Holiness & Mission: Holiness the Neighborhood Can Recognize as Good News***

**Presenter:** Rev. Jenn Peterson, World Hope International

This session will explore the Wesleyan roots of social holiness, inviting attendees to see community engagement not as a distraction from revival, but as one of the primary ways God prepares the harvest through faithful presence, justice and love.

3:30-4:20 pm

Leedy-Bedford  
Banquet Room, BSC

## ***Marketplace and Mission: How International Tentmakers Increase Access to the Gospel***

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. David Drury

Want to send more? Start here with an interactive exercise about the gospel access crisis, then learn to empower international tentmakers to leverage their professional careers for God's kingdom globally.

3:30-4:20 pm

Henry West  
Banquet Room, BSC

## ***The Joyful Pastor: A Vision for Flourishing Ministry***

**Presenters:** Rev. Carla Working, Rev. Dr. Chris Williams, Rev. Jay Guptill, Rev. Sharon Guptill, Rev. Krista Shaver

We believe pastors *can* thrive! This workshop explores what biblically rooted, flourishing ministry looks like and offers practical insights, healthy rhythms and shared wisdom to help pastors and their supporters cultivate joyful, sustainable ministry.

Thank You

The Wesleyan Church (TWC) thanks the  
**CROSSROADS DISTRICT** and **INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY**  
for hosting our 15th General Conference.

When first contacted about the possibility of TWC gathering at Indiana Wesleyan University, district and university leaders immediately and enthusiastically offered their help.

Thank you, **Crossroads District** and **Indiana Wesleyan University**,  
for your hospitality and Christ-like service.

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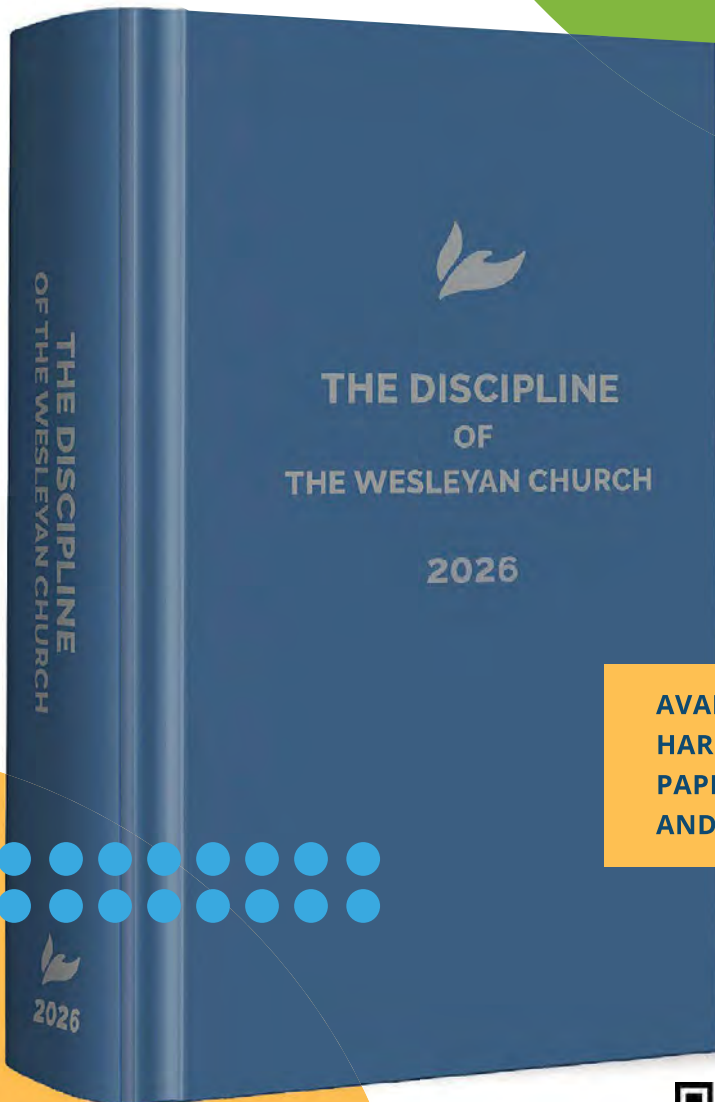
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