



August 1, 2025

Dear Florida GMC Family,

As we look to the fall, it's time for our local churches to hold their annual charge conference. We hold these meetings to provide accountability and transparency for the local church members to know what is going on concerning the business of the church. It's also the members' opportunity to elect the leaders of the congregation and address other business needs.

Charge conferences can be a perfunctory meeting that everyone just gets through. **OR...**they can be a time of worship and celebrating all that God has done over the past year. They can include worship, and they can be a time of inviting volunteers to be recognized and appreciated for all they have done over the previous 12 months.

I want to encourage you to hold a worship service for your charge conference. Let the business part be a minimal (but important) part – like what we did at annual conference. Find a way to give a small gift to your volunteers and show them how much you care for their sacrifice of time and resources. Consider having a meal and celebrating Holy Communion. Commission your new leaders who will take office on January 1, 2026. Charge conferences, done well, can be something that people look forward to and help move the church onward toward achieving its mission.

Here are some words of instruction for this year's charge conference:

1. The theme for this year's charge conferences is continued from our theme for Annual Conference:

Preparing for the Presence. For the **pastor's/church's report**, please do the following:

- a. How have you seen the Holy Spirit at work in the life of your church over the past year?
 - b. What does your church need to stop doing to prepare for the Presence of the Holy Spirit to do more through your church?
 - c. Where do you think the Holy Spirit is at work in your church AND community, and how can your church mobilize to be a part of what the Holy Spirit is doing?
2. We have tried to make this process as simple as possible. You'll notice that we only request the information required by the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline*. Many forms are for YOUR reporting to your church and record keeping. They are not required to be submitted. Please note that on the Agenda or the form itself.
 3. In the spirit of trying to create maximum flexibility and empowering the local church, **please choose one of the following three options for holding your charge conference by September 1, 2025. Email your Presiding Elder for approval of the Elder who you are asking to preside:**
 - a. Choose a date for your charge conference between October 1 – November 23, 2025. Please select an elder to preside (All active or senior elders are available. No elder may preside at more than two charge conferences.)
 - b. Join with two or more other churches and hold a cluster charge conference. I encourage you to make it a worthwhile gathering. Have worship and perhaps a meal. Select your own date and elder to preside.
 - c. Ask your presiding elder (member of the Cabinet) to preside at your church conference.

Conference Administrator, the Rev. Nako Kellum, and Conference Superintendent, the Rev. Jay Therrell, are also available. Selecting this option will require your charge conference to be held according to the presiding elder's availability and schedule.

Once you have your Charge/Church Conference date and the Elder who will be presiding, please submit this information by using this link: <https://forms.gle/dWvy9PfDL6Y7DTGCA>

I will host a webinar on **Tuesday, September 23, 2025** where we will go over Charge Conference. You will have a chance to ask questions and receive clarification if needed.

4. You are required to hold a charge conference which means that all church members have a voice, but **ONLY** members of the church council (or its equivalent) have a vote. I want to strongly encourage you instead to hold a church conference. At a church conference, all members have a voice **AND** vote. Holding a church conference increases transparency, builds trust, and helps to increase buy-in from the entire church for important decisions. Please inform your presiding elder whether you are holding a charge or church conference.
5. Trustees Report: This information is required by the Book of Doctrines and Discipline to ensure transparency and accountability for the local church. The annual conference does not need a copy of it. In the Global Methodist Church, there is no trust clause and will not be one. That said, each member of the local church should know what the assets of the church are. It ensures everyone is on the same leadership page, and it prevents fraud from taking place. We have had an incident where local church leadership tried to sell church owned real estate without others knowing, and this report can help prevent that.
6. Notice requirements for charge/church conferences in the GMC are a little different than in our previous denomination. Please note ¶438.6, "Notice of time and place of a regular or special session of the charge conference shall be given at least ten days in advance by three or more of the following...: from the pulpit of the church, in its weekly bulletin, in a local church publication, by email, or by mail.)

The Cabinet is here to help in any way that we can. We continue to refine this process to try and make it simpler. Please let us know if you have any ideas.

We are excited about all the ways that the Holy Spirit is at work across our annual conference. His presence is palpable! I pray your charge/church conference will be a celebration of His work and help your congregation to prepare for His presence. God bless you!

All God's love,

Jay Therrell

Rev. Jay Therrell
Conference Superintendent