



AEC PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE EOY REPORTS



2023 Year End Report from the President Pro Tem of the Alabama Emerald Coast Conference

2023 was a very exciting year for the Alabama Emerald Coast Provisional Conference of the Global Methodist Church! Our movement is growing rapidly around the world as the Global Methodist Church, which launched on May 1, 2022, now has over 4,280 churches with over 700 additional congregations in the application process awaiting approval. There are over 4,400 clergy members who are now a part of the GMC with over 800 additional clergy members who are awaiting acceptance. The Global Methodist Church is now located in 14 different countries with many more Provisional Conferences in many more countries preparing to launch in 2024!

The Alabama Emerald Coast Provisional Conference officially launched on May 7, 2023. From May 7 until December 31, we grew from 0 churches to 160 churches, and we have grown from 0 clergy members to over 170 clergy members in that same time period. This represents phenomenal growth and the exciting expansion of the Global Methodist Church in our conference. No doubt, it is an indicator of the incredible momentum we are seeing as many more churches and Pastors prepare to join with us in 2024.

We held our first Alabama Emerald Coast Provisional Annual Conference on September 8 and 9 of 2023 at Saint James Church in Montgomery, Alabama. Over 500 attended our inaugural Annual Conference as we celebrated our formation, our freedom and our future. We enjoyed great preaching, music and worship. We experienced warm fellowship and delicious refreshments in the lobbies, and we were encouraged in our numerous breakout sessions and luncheons. We also approved all of the official reports of our leaders, and we approved our first annual budget for the Alabama Emerald Coast Conference. One of the highlights of the conference was the Ordination Service where we witnessed and participated in the ordination of 39 new clergy members. Bishop Scott Jones then concluded the conference by blessing all of the appointments of the clergy members to their churches. As a part of the incredible move of the Holy Spirit at our 2 day Annual Conference, we raised more than enough money (over \$35,000) to buy 15 brand new motorcycles for the 15 Presiding Elders of our new Covenant Mission Partner, the Democratic Republic of Congo Provisional Conference of the Global Methodist Church. We also collected over \$19,000 for the AEC Disaster Response Team to use as needed for disaster relief and response efforts. Over 20 vendors added to the festivities of the Annual Conference, and we are glad to partner with all of them in ministry together.

The Alabama Emerald Coast Conference has six Districts now overseen by our six Presiding Elders. Our AEC Cabinet meets the 4th Tuesday of each month and our AEC Leadership Team meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month. I want to assure you that the Cabinet and the Leadership Team of the Alabama Emerald Coast Conference is working tirelessly and faithfully to honor the Lord in all that we do as we seek to add value to our collective efforts and to ensure that our conference is focused on the mission of "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ who Worship Passionately, Love Extravagantly and Witness Boldly." I

want to thank each and every one of these leaders for their commitment and passion for the work of the Lord in the AEC! There are also numerous other teams of lay and clergy working alongside the leadership in these efforts.

We as a conference are now looking ahead as we enter a very important, historic and exciting 2024. Our second Alabama Emerald Coast Annual Conference will be held on May 5 - 7, 2024 at Crosspoint Church in Niceville, Florida. We will gather together once again as a Provisional Conference to worship, fellowship, witness, grow and prepare for the future as we elect lay and clergy delegates to the first General Conference/ Convening Conference of the GMC! We are especially excited to be ordaining another great group of women and men who are answering the call to ministry in the GMC. The historic, first General Conference/ Convening Conference of the GMC will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica on September 20-26, 2024.

Please take time to read all of the 2023 End of the Year Reports by: AEC Lay Leader, Gene Floore; AEC Dean of the Cabinet, Dr. Larry Bryars; AEC Board of Ministry Report, BOM Chair Rev Mike Hoppe; AEC Treasurer Report, Treasurer, Bill Hopper; AEC Church Multiplier Team, Rev Rusty Hutson; AEC GMC Church and Clergy Liaison, Rev Randy Greene.

In conclusion, I want to express my appreciation for each of you who are the clergy and lay members of the Alabama Emerald Coast Provisional Conference! I want to thank all of the churches who voted to join with us in this new movement of Methodism that is sweeping the world as well as Alabama and the Panhandle of Florida. We welcome any and all of the churches who have disaffiliated or who are seeking disaffiliation in the future to join with us in the AEC. There is a place for you to serve alongside all of us in the Kingdom work here!

My wife, Janeese, and I are enjoying traveling the conference as we have the opportunities to worship, preach and fellowship in the great churches of the AEC. We are constantly praying for each of you and your church as we move forward together for the Cause of Christ in the power of His Holy Spirit and by His grace!

Blessings

Dr Lester Spencer

President Pro Tem

Alabama Emerald Coast Provisional Conference

Global Methodist Church



2023 Board of Ministry Year-End Report

Year-End Reflection

Our Board of Ministry recruits, guides, mentors, and approves the credentialing of leaders to serve our local churches. We are thankful to our volunteers for their hard work of creating our BOM system from scratch while implementing it ("Building the plane as we fly it!") We feel the Holy Spirit in our meetings, and we love helping to disciple and guide our current and future ministry leaders who are called to lead people Jesus. Our board seeks to be highly relational through mentoring and forming close connections. We are encouraged by the number of ministry candidates, transfers, and ordinations in our new movement! -Mike Hoppe, BOM Chairperson

2023 BOM Members

Jimmy Allen (Mentor Coordinator), Lisa Ausley (Psych Eval Co-Chair), Elaine Brown (Psych Eval Co-Chair), Dunford Cole (Presiding Elder), Randy Greene (Registration/Application), Mike Hoppe (Chairperson), Bruce Knecht (CLM Co-Chair), Allen Newton (Presiding Elder), Sean Rezek, Kenna Sapp (Transcript Evaluator), Debbie Smalley, Larry Teasley (Education), Mike Tatom (CLM Co-Chair), and Steve Winton (Presiding Elder)

Certified Lay Ministers (CLM)

Our conference was excited to be among the first GMC conferences to begin certifying CLMs. CLM's serve in a variety of leadership, speaking, and serving roles in the local church. To become a CLM, a lay person must complete the required coursework, complete a Ministry Safe background check and video safety course, be approved by their pastor and church leadership, and be approved by the BOM.

Beginning Ministry Workshop

This fall, 25 students attended our first-ever workshop, with 16 contributing leaders and mentors

Candidates for Ordained Ministry

Inquiring Candidates discerning vocational ministry: 10

Certified Candidates moving towards ordination: 22

Ordinations

Ordinations at Annual Conference: 39

Year-end Clergy Stats

Lay Supply Pastors: 13

Transitional Local Pastors: 22

To-Be-Ordained Deacon Status: 1 (others in process)

Deacons: 7 Transitional Deacons, 2 Permanent Deacons

Deacons, Senior Status: 1

To-Be Ordained Elder Status: 8

Elders: 105

Elders, Senior Status: 22

Valid Elders: 1



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
ALABAMA EMERALD COAST CONFERENCE

2023 End of the Year Report of the Presiding Elders of the AEC Cabinet

At this time last year the Alabama Emerald Coast Conference did not exist. We did not have a district or a cabinet. No appointment had been made in this conference. Churches and clergy were struggling to make decisions concerning their future. In May of 2023 the United Methodist Called Conference offered an opportunity for disaffiliation. Disaffiliated churches then joined together and begin anew with a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit.

The miraculous hand of God helped local churches and this new annual conference move forward with a sense of victory and expectation. The organization of the conference and districts emerged. Leaders stepped forward to guide the process and the dust settled quickly.

At this time, most churches have received a pastor and most pastors have received churches. There is still work to be done in these areas, but we stand in awe at how far we have come in such a short period. We pray that God will continue to open doors for the right leadership in the right places so that all clergy and local churches can feel that God's will has been done.

There have been many changes to the appointment system we have previously been used to, with only some similarities. However, we now have a better idea of how to proceed. Both clergy and laity seem to be pleased that there is the opportunity to have a role in the decision. The expectation in this is that with a voice in the decision, there will be a greater sense of satisfaction for both parties. Hopefully, this will lead to a longer and more fulfilling tenure.

The Leadership Team and the Cabinet work extremely well together. It is our desire to serve the local church. We want to equip each church to be as effective as possible to win and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Larry Bryars - Port City District
Allen Newton - Gulf Coast District
Doug Pennington - Beaches/Wiregrass District
Janet Krantz - River Region/Plains District
Dunford Cole - Six Rivers/Midpoint District
Steve Winton - Troy/Pike District



2023 Church & Clergy Liaison EOY Report

1. During 2023 it was my honor to provide assistance and advice to around 125 churches that are now GMC.
2. On a personal note, I was also honored to discover that Abbeville Methodist became our conference's 1st GMC congregation late in 2022 (October 24th, 2022).
3. Alabama Emerald Coast Conference vetted, processed, interviewed, and received about 160 clergy during 2023, not counting candidates. Our Board of Ministry met almost weekly during the year to handle this huge volume of applicants.
4. I had the opportunity to both preach and respond to GMC/AEC-related questions at 20+ congregations and received and processed questions from almost all of the 125 churches that became GMC during the 2023 year.
5. During 2023 numerous changes happened at Global Methodist and within the Alabama Emerald Coast Conference. These changes were addressed through online meetings, in-person meetings and hundreds of phone conversations. Changes included an entire revamp of the GMC database from paper applications to a Microsoft Teams system (training for this happened via online meetings with GMC leadership). GMC also made a number of personnel changes that required significant time and energy for all of the registration persons nationwide.
6. The highlight of my year was to attend Annual Conference in Montgomery, Alabama and see the fruit of our labor "in-the-flesh" of ordinands, attendees, colleagues, and leaders from other conferences (including our bishops).

It has been a time-intensive honor to be part of this movement of God happening right before our eyes, as new congregations and revitalized churches have been "freed for joyful obedience" to make disciples of Jesus that worship passionately, love extravagantly and witness boldly!

Randy Greene, *GMC Liaison, BOM, Cabinet and AEC Leadership Team*



2023 Church Multiplication Report

It has been an incredible year in our fledgling Global Methodist Church! God has been on the move in powerful ways throughout our new connection. While many wonderful things have taken place, probably the most impactful has been the number of new GMC churches that have formed in such a short amount of time. The Holy Spirit is busy bringing people together to create new works of faith that will propel the Kingdom of God and our GMC forward into the future.

This is also happening right here in the Alabama Emerald Coast Conference! We have had many new churches started in the last few months. Here is a list of those churches:

Living Word Church – Tanner Williams, AL.
Faith Global Methodist Church – Jackson, AL.
Trinity Church – Selma, AL.
Demopolis Moving Forward – Demopolis, AL.
Wesley Church – Montgomery, AL.
Christ Methodist – Auburn, AL.
Trinity Church – Ozark, AL.
Grace Methodist Church – Pace FL. (now a campus of Crosspoint)
Global Methodist Pensacola – Pensacola, FL.
Ft. Walton Beach Moving Forward – Ft. Walton Beach, FL.

This is just the beginning. We have lots of places within our conference that are ready for a new GMC church. We are praying for God to raise up more churches and planters to catch a vision for multiplication, mission and discipleship. Steve Cordle with The River Network said “Conferences don’t plant churches; churches plant churches”. I couldn’t agree more! We would like for our current churches to start having conversations around the idea of birthing a new church or starting a second campus. Making this kind of move is born out of a passion for the great commission and discipleship. We are partnered with The River Network who is providing support, assessment and training for church planters in the GMC. Also, Asbury Seminary is now partnered with the GMC by providing grant opportunities for church planters who are Asbury graduates. Our conference Church Multiplier Team is providing support and connection for pastors and lay people who are interested in being a church that focuses on discipleship and multiplication. Last year, November 2-3, we met as a group in Niceville, Florida at Crosspoint Church to begin a long conversation about how to make disciples as a church. This year we will have a Zoom gathering for continued support, encouragement and shared learning. We are planning another gathering later this Spring. If you are interested in being a part of this group let me know.

We want to do everything we can to push forward our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly! This is going to be another great year of growing the Kingdom and changing lives for eternity!

Rusty Hutson
AEC Director of Church Multiplication
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2023 Laity Report

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior. 2023 was an exciting and prosperous inaugural year for the AEC conference. As we reflect on an extraordinary beginning, and plan for the future, I want to say it has been an honor and privilege to serve with you, as we have been building our Conference and movement from the ground up. One of our priorities from the beginning has been to provide valuable, useful resources to member churches. One of the main components of the GMC is more focus and decision making at the local church level. In order for us as laity to meet this challenge, we must rise to the occasion. If we hope to be a thriving relevant church in our communities, as Laity, we must be engaged and full-fill our role as partners in Ministry and leaders in our local church. As I have talked to many of you over the past year, one theme has been constant. What exactly is our Role as Laity? Will there be training and/or resources that can benefit laity and our mission? In 2024, our goal as AEC Lay Leadership team will be to establish a Lay Academy that would include various training and resources for Lay Leadership in the local church. Also, don't forget to check out our website (www.AECGMC.org) from time to time as content and information is constantly updated that could be useful in your ministry.

2024 will be another exciting year as we prepare for Annual Conference in May at Crosspoint Church in Niceville. This will be an election year where we will select Delegates to represent our conference at the upcoming GMC General Conference in September. You will hear more about that in the coming months so stay tuned. I look forward to serving with you this year as we continue our mission making disciples in our communities and around the world. Know that your Conference Leadership Team is committed to serve you and the local church. If we can ever be of assistance, please reach out. May God Bless you and your ministry.

Many Blessings,

Gene

Gene Floore
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2023 Financial Report

The Alabama Emerald Coast Conference of the Global Methodist Church began receiving Connectional Contributions in early 2023. Through December 31, 2023, the conference has received \$176,645.00 of connectional contributions from 103 member churches. This represents nearly 65% of the 160 conference member churches.

The conference also sponsored a fund raiser to supply motorcycles for Presiding Elders in the DR Congo Global Methodist Provisional Conference resulting in \$32,225.00 and 15 motorcycles purchased and distributed.

Most all of our GMC Congolese pastors have no annual salaries. AEC member churches contributed \$9,484.00 to assist in funding pastors' salaries in the Congo. These funds have the potential of impacting as many as 30 pastors.

The conference established a Disaster Relief Fund to assist member churches and congregations which have experienced a disaster. To date \$19,781.00 has been contributed.

The conference's Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenues and Expenditures are included in this report.

Bill Hopper
AEC Treasurer

**Alabama Emerald Coast Conference
Gobal Methodist Church
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
Fiscal Year ended December 31, 2023**

Revenue

General Fund
Connectional Contributions \$ 197,464.93

Congo Motorcycle Fund
Contributions \$ 35,225.63

Congo Pastor Support
Contributions \$ 9,484.20

Disaster Respose Fund
Contributions \$ 19,781.00

Total Revenue \$ 261,955.76

Expenditures

General Fund
Operational Expenses \$ 49,813.28

Congo Motorcycle Fund
Purchase of Motorcycles \$ 32,466.63

Disaster Respose Fund
Administrative Supplies \$ 37.34
Relief Supplies \$ 942.00
Total Disaster Respose Fund \$ 979.34

Total Expenditures \$ 83,259.25

Net Income \$ 178,696.51

**Alabama Emerald Coast Conference
Gobal Methodist Church
Balance Sheet
Fiscal Year ended December 31, 2023**

Assets

Cash on Hand

General Fund	\$ 147,661.65
Congo Motorcycle Fund	\$ 2,759.00
Congo Pastor Support	\$ 9,484.00
Disaster Respose Fund	\$ 18,801.66

Total Cash on Hand \$ 178,706.31

Total Assets \$ 178,706.31

Liabilities and Retained Earnings

Liabilities

Congo Motorcycles	\$ 2,759.00
Congo Pastor Support	\$ 9,484.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 12,243.00

Retained Earnings

General Fund	\$ 147,661.65
Disaster Resposen	\$ 18,801.66
Total Retained Earnings	\$ 166,463.31

Total Retained Earnings \$ 178,706.31