40 DAY PRAYER GUIDE

August 7 to September 15

2024 CONVENING GENERAL CONFERENCE

So the WORLD will know

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Global Methodists,

John Wesley often said that “God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.” If God is to accomplish his purposes through us, Wesley was convinced that prayer was not an option for us, but a necessity.

Watchman Nee, the great Chinese Christian leader (1903-1972), explained it like this: Prayer is like laying tracks for a train. You can have a powerful locomotive—and surely, God is all powerful. The cars of the train can be loaded with wonderful gifts—and surely, God desires to abundantly give us good gifts.

But a train can only go as far as the tracks that are laid for it. And it is through persistent, believing prayer that the tracks are laid so that the train carrying those gifts can arrive.

For months now, we have been looking forward with great anticipation to our historic Convening General Conference, set for September 20-26 in San José, Costa Rica. The theme of the Conference is “So the World Will Know.” Delegates from provisional annual conferences from all over the world will be coming together to worship, pray, fellowship, deliberate and legislate. Many significant decisions will be made that will profoundly shape the future of our church.

How crucial it is then for us to be “laying the tracks for the train” through persistent, believing prayer. For surely, above all else, we need the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to show up in our midst during the Convening General Conference to guide, direct and lead us forward!

That’s why we have designated August 7 through September 15 as 40 Days of Prayer for the Convening General Conference. During this 40-Day timeframe, we want to encourage all sorts of prayer--individual, corporate, and even concerts of prayer in your regions or local churches, both in person and electronically.

To assist you, we have prepared the enclosed 40-Day Prayer Guide, with a specific prayer focus for each day leading up to the Convening General Conference.

We also want to encourage you to add fasting to your prayers since that was a regular practice of early Methodists. As John Wesley emphasized, “When you seek God with fasting added to prayer, you cannot seek His face in vain.” We hope, then, that many will commit to fasting for one meal on a given day each week, or for a given day (from morning till evening) each week throughout the 40 days. Some may also be led to go on an extended fast. Of course, regardless of how you might choose to fast, please do not jeopardize your physical health.

Jesus instructed us to ask, seek, and knock (Luke 11:9). We believe that if we will do that, what Jesus promised will come true (Luke 11:13): Your Father in heaven will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him (Luke 11:13). And when the Spirit comes, we will experience the glory of God in our midst.

Yours in Christ,
Steve Seamands on behalf of the Convening General Conference Prayer Committee

Forty Days of Prayer and Fasting for the Transitional Commission on the Convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church:

"So the WORLD Will Know."

Theme Scripture: John 17:23 / I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

1 Chronicles 16:24 / Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Prayer Guide by Terry Teykl on behalf of the Convening General Conference Prayer Committee – Please use the following prayer prompts to ignite your own petitions to ensure vital areas are saturated with prayer coverage.

Day 1 August 7

Lord, we are grateful for the privileges we have in You. In faith we join our hearts in praise of Your most holy Name, Jesus. As we begin these days together, grant us the desire to reach to the depths of our souls and pray earnestly and rightly in Your sight. We pray these days will be pleasing in Your sight. Today we present our worship committee and worship leaders serving on the Transitional Commission to receive Your favor. May Your glory be evident in all we do and say before and during the Convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Day 2 August 8

Loving Father, our theme in this Convening General Conference is "So the World Will Know." We pray that our leaders will be focused on this amidst the busyness of Conference preparation. We pray for all the bishops of the Global Methodist Church. We especially bring Bishop Mark Webb, Bishop Scott Jones, and Bishop Luis Palomo -- from the Methodist Church of Costa Rica -- to You to have revelation and insight to make this theme clear and practical. So be it.

Day 3 August 9

God, as delegates gather in San José, let them prepare themselves to pursue You, chasing after You with all their hearts. We pray that they know You more and grow more and more in awe of You as days go by. Grant them a seeker's heart. And may they be a witness to those giving rides and making their beds in the hotel and elsewhere. This is good and pleasing to, You, our Father.

Day 4 August 10

Jesus, since Your peace is forceful, alive, quite effective, overwhelmingly good, on time, always unchanging, personal, refreshing and to the point, I let it rule my heart and mind now. You have my permission to flood my being with peace. Please also grant your peace to those serving on the Sponsorship and Exhibit Space Committee for the Transitional Commission on the Convening General Conference. Amen (Colossians 3:15)

Day 5 August 11

Loving God, You never fail and never give up on us. You do not keep score and You always look out for the best for us. You do not look back on what we have done or where we have been. We pray You would give all the volunteers the gift of faith to believe Your ability to give the Global Methodist Church a spirit of revival. Bless our revival service on September 24 to spark an ongoing revival in the Global Methodist Church. Thank You

Day 6 August 12

Loving God, we pray that all are ready to hear Your voice above the noise and opinions of people. Grant moments of quiet time to listen and obey. Especially bless the speakers to hear from You to speak to us Your will and purpose. Amen

Day 7 August 13

Lord Jesus, You said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, …” (Matthew 5:9). May there be nothing but kind words that convey peace and forgiveness in the sessions ahead. We pray that the Global Methodist Church loves in such a way to be a conduit of Your grace and love. Amen

Day 8 August 14

Our Father, as our delegates review legislation for the Convening General Conference, we pray for them to have wisdom. We pray that You will give it generously, according to Your Word. Amen (James 1:5)

Day 9 August 15

Lord Jesus, You grant Your servants abilities and skills. Would you bless in such a way the committee members as they oversee the logistics of the Convening General Conference. Keep the enemy away from them and their work according to Colossians 2:15. Thank You

Day 10 August 16

God, we will love You and You alone. Holy Spirit, pour LIFE into your Church today. Pour abundance and joy. Pour laughter and passion. Pour desire for and attraction to

You so that at Convening General Conference we will be immersed in Your Presence in a supernatural way. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Day 11 August 17

Lord God, make the path today easy for all Convening General Conference participants, that they may walk in obedience to Your command (2 John 6). We pray they walk in love today and may their bodies and minds be whole and well before Convening General Conference. Pour out Your Spirit upon them, we pray, and give them peace. Especially give peace to members of the Translation Committee. Amen

Day 12 August 18

With God, all things are possible, even Convening General Conference! We pray that our volunteers won't feel like they are trying to do the impossible. Give them Your peace as they work out their schedules, agendas, and calendars. May they find joy in doing so, knowing that You are beside them in every move. May it all work together for good. And bless with Your favor the members on the Committee for Calendar and Agenda. Amen

Day 13 August 19

We pray that our Church renews its concern for one another, and that it has the opportunity to show it. O God, when it looks like there's a mountain ahead, may the participants of Convening General Conference know that the steps are going upward and You are there and they can move under the power of Your mighty hand. Empower the members of the Transitional Leadership Council to make good decisions. Bless them, Lord, as they look to You for inspiration. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Day 14 August 20

Jesus, You intercede for us daily. Tattoo this truth on our hearts. I am so grateful. Help Convening General Conference respond in a perpetual adoration. Let our worship be serendipitous, creative, spontaneous, and led by the Holy Spirit. He is the chief lover of our souls (Hebrews 7:25).

Day 15 August 21

I thank You always for You hear our prayers. I do not have to beg or suffer to get Your attention. You are gracious and reward me according to Your love and goodness. Now to the only God be glory, majesty, power, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen (Jude 25)

Day 16 August 22

Because of Your great love, Your compassions never fail. They are new every morning for great is Your faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22-23). Let Your compassion flow

through our speakers. Bless our speakers as they speak. As they speak let everyone know and experience the love of God.

Day 17 August 23

Lord, we bring the worship at the Convening General Conference before You. May all who lead or present on the platform have the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Bless the worship planning and may the spontaneity of the worship moments honor and please You. Make the Conference a concert of prayer. Lord Jesus, put Your foot on Satan's head so as to frustrate his plans of evil toward our worship times. For this is good and pleases, You, our God and Savior.

Day 18 August 24

Lord, the Word states this truth, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich." And "You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 8:9, 9:11). Would You bless the finances of Convening General Conference. Lead and bless as the Finance Committee oversees the abundant money that flows in for the expenses of the Convening General Conference. And let the excess be given to the homeless and poor. Amen

Day 19 August 25

Be strong and courageous and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished (1 Chronicles 28: 20). Lord God, You have given this Convening General Conference work to do. We pray for our Legislative Process Committee to have courage and strength to do that work without fear or discouragement. Amen

Day 20 August 26

Father God, we pray that our delegates find supernatural physical strength as these 40 days to Convening General Conference go by. Grant them healing from any sickness and injury that they may be at their best as they serve You. Grant them rest as needed, we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen (Psalm 91)

Day 21 August 27

Lord, this is for our prayer team. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray that this team would be quickened physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Full of energy and power, may they be true to Your work in all matters to fully agree with our heavenly Father's will. Amen

Day 22 August 28

Almighty God, we pray today for Keith Boyette, who oversees our Global Methodist Church. We pray that during these days of preparation he follows the example of Your Son Jesus and draws apart to a solitary place to pray. Through the Holy Spirit who lives inside of him, empower him and pour Your love into his heart. Amen

Day 23 August 29

God, we thank You for the gift of faith that carries us through the times when we cannot yet see what You are doing in our midst. Help us to walk in Your light and to be a light for others. May Ray Zirkel, our Costa Rica visas and missions director for the Convening General Conference, lead us in this manner. And thank you for the Costa Rican Church's help and hospitality. Amen

Day 24 August 30

Gracious God, we know that you are the potter, and we are the clay. Mold Your Church and make us into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Show us how to offer Your grace and mercy in ways that transform the world. Give John Lomperis, GM Church's General Conference Business Manager, the mantle of a godly potter. Amen

Day 25 August 31

Holy Spirit, we bind stress and weariness in the name of Jesus, that neither cause our delegates to lose sight of where their treasure is. Lord Jesus, we pray that You will favor Beth Ann Cook, Chairwoman of the Transitional Commission on the Convening General Conference, with strength and wellness, for the sake of Your Kingdom. Amen

Day 26 September 1

God, You are the One who is a shield around our delegates, our president pro tems, and all who will be at Convening General Conference. You lift their heads, and You answer them and sustain them. For this, we give You thanks. May they bring You glory as they do the work according to Your perfect will. Amen (Psalm 3:3)

Day 27 September 2

Lord, we know that when we make space in our hearts for You, Jesus redeems the broken pieces of our lives. There is much brokenness in Your Church, and we ask You, O God, to be at work in us and through us to make a difference in the lives of the hurting and the hungry in San José and beyond. Amen

Day 28 September 3

Creator of all things, like the stars above let us shine in San José. As we hold out the Word of life, let there be many takers. Let it be clear where we stand and for whom we

stand. In Jesus' name, let our witness be with a clear and resounding call to know and love You. Pour us out for this purpose. Amen

Day 29 September 4

Lord, help all attendees to be patient with themselves, for patience is better than pride (Ecclesiastes 7:8). May they listen to their bodies that need rest and not push to the limit. We pray protection for weary spirits and tired minds. May they take care of these earthen vessels, we pray. Amen

Day 30 September 5

May we pray at noon and often, Our Father who lives in heaven, let Your kingdom come and Your will be done in Convening General Conference as it is in heaven, and give us our daily bread. Forgive our debts and we forgive our debtors. Keep us from temptation and keep us from evil. For Yours is the power and kingdom and glory forever. Amen

Day 31 September 6

Merciful God, grant the IT people, as well as the Technology and Communications Committee at Convening General Conference, Your favor. We pray that things work right, that technology is a help, not an obstacle. Amen

Day 32 September 7

God, we pray that Your Church walks in the light of Your Presence today. May we rejoice in Your name, for You are our glory and strength (Psalm 89: 15 – 17). Sustain Walter Fenton, Teresa Marcus, Dianne Burnett, and all GM Church Staff who have little time to rest and may they rest in You as they keep going. Amen

Day 33 September 8

Lord, with so many decisions to be made at Convening General Conference, grant an abundance of Your Wisdom. Help us when we think ourselves too smart to need You. Forgive us of self-sufficiency and make us totally dependent on You, not our own physical resources. Thank You

Day 34 September 9

Grant us a spirit of humility as in John Wesley’s adaptation of a prayer, I am no longer my own, but Yours. Put me to what You will, rank me with whom You will; put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for You, or laid aside for You, exalted for You, or brought low for You; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let

me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious, and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen

Day 35 September 10

We pray for the families of all delegates to be shepherded by God during the time of separation. God, give them quietness and peace. As they are apart, may they be restored in Him. May they fear no evil, always comforted by You. Provide for all their needs, especially anoint them with the oil of Your Spirit so that they have an overflow of abundance. In Jesus' name, let goodness and love abound. Amen

Day 36 September 11

And this is how we should pray: IN JESUS NAME. There is just something about that Name and I want to know it. I want to know the breadth, the height, the width, and the weight of that Name. Unequaled and unrivaled. Father God, I ask that you reveal the quintessential meaning of that Name. May His Name be spoken often at Convening General Conference in praise and prayer. Even now, Lord Jesus.

Day 37 September 12

Jesus, I ask in Your Name that You would command the angels to take charge of Convening General Conference attendees and lift them up daily to guard them in all their ways. May they not be tripped up in any way and may they rise above any schemes of the enemy. Thank You (Psalm 91:11 - 13)

Day 38 September 13

Jesus, since Your peace is forceful, alive, quite effective, overwhelmingly good, on time, always unchanging, personal, refreshing and to the point, I let it rule the hearts and minds at Convening General Conference now. You desire to flood Convening General Conference with peace. Amen (Colossians 3:15)

Day 39 September 14

The Bible says, I am seated with You in the heavenlies. Help me understand this seating arrangement. I want to honor this privilege with my mind and words and actions. I want to sit first and work for You second. And please help the Credentialing Committee receive special knowledge so they know who needs to be included in this assembly according to Your will for this work. May I now rest in You.

Day 40 September 15

Jesus said, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.” (John 15:16). Lord, let the result of Convening General Conference be winning people to Jesus. Let this be a preharvest time now! Help us now and always to live out our mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. All this in Jesus’ Name. Amen