

Timeline of Development of Great Lakes Provisional Annual Conference

TIMELINE:

July 27, 2022 – Keith Boyette notified Scott Pattison that the TLC had approved Scott as the GM Church Organizer for Indiana.

October of 2022 – started exploring the next level of structure by forming an Indiana TCAT (Transitional Conference Advisory Team).

November of 2022 – the Indiana TCAT was approved by the GM Church TLC. After our initial meeting, the IN TCAT felt it was wise to re-engage some conversations with our neighboring states to see what their process and timing was.

January through February of 2023 – after much discussion with the WCA leaders in IGR (Illinois Great Rivers), NI (Northern Illinois), MI (Michigan), and WI (Wisconsin), the IN TCAT sought to expand to a more regional TCAT.

February 17, 2023 – Bishop Scott Jones met with the proposed TCAT members of the proposed Great Lakes TCAT at Gathering Point Church (a GMC church) in Dayton, Indiana.

Actions taken:

- The tentative name “Crossroads” was chosen as the TCAT and Provisional Annual Conference (PAC) name. “Great Lakes” was considered as an alternate name.
- Rev. Scott Pattison was elected to the role of President Pro Tempore of the TCAT.

February 27, 2023 – the TLC approved the new regional TCAT that includes Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The name “Great Lakes” was approved, partly because the word “Crossroads” might be confused with the GM Church newsletter of the same name.

March 9, 2023 – The Great Lakes TCAT approved a plan proposed by Rev. Samuel Padgett to form 8 Provisional Districts (PDs) in Indiana for the benefit of the 50+ GM Churches already operating within Indiana.

March 13, 2023 – the TLC approved the Great Lakes TCAT plan for eight (8) interim Provisional Districts for Indiana (from now till we need to adjust as we set up the PAC). Within that plan was for each of the WCA chapters joining the Great Lakes Provisional Annual Conference to also have representation along with the 8 Provisional Districts from Indiana.

March 23, 2023 – The Great Lakes TCAT met by ZOOM.

Actions taken:

- The Great Lakes TCAT approved the information needed to form a legal entity in Indiana under the name “The Great Lakes Provisional Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church, Inc.” and released the business formation sub-team to officially form a legal entity.
- Rev. Jeff Buck was approved as the interim Dean of the Cabinet for the Indiana PDs.

March 27, 2023 – The “Great Lakes Provisional Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church, Inc.” was formed as an Indiana Nonprofit Corporation. A Federal Employee Identification Number (“FEIN”) was obtained from the IRS.

March 30, 2023 – The Great Lakes TCAT met by ZOOM, with Bishop Webb participating. Bishop Webb urged the TCAT members to think in terms of mission, primary task, and theology before building the structure.

Actions taken:

- Art Collins proposed the TCAT set 25 as the minimum number of members for a new church plant to charter (temporary provision, to be revisited after Convening Conference). Bob Phillips seconded the motion. The TCAT unanimously approved the proposal.

March 30, 2023, Homework Assignment:

“What is poor church culture, what is good church culture?” Respond to Karen Zimmerman with specifics.

April 13, 2023 – The Great Lakes TCAT met by ZOOM. Scott Pattison reported that we are getting results from the life-and-culture survey posted on our website. There was lengthy and insightful discussion regarding:

- The mission and primary task of the Annual Conference organization.
- Harmonizing the expectations (past standards) of the five former UMC Conferences regarding items such as minimum clergy salaries, parsonage requirements, etc. Or should we eliminate such standards altogether.
- The formation of standing committees such as Finance and Administration and Board of Ministry.
- The timing of initial GM church gatherings in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan prior to the Great Lakes PAC convening annual conference.

Actions taken:

- The current business formation sub team led by Mike Womack was approved as the initial core of the GL PAC Finance and Administration Committee (with additional members added as needed)
- Mike Womack was approved as the acting Treasurer of the GL PAC until the convening annual conference session in late 2023.

- Mike Womack was given permission to open the GL PAC bank accounts at Bank of America.
- The following persons were approved as the initial core of the Board of Ministry (with additional members added later): Jennifer Pollard (IN), Keith Lenard, Jr. (MI), Scott Field (NIL), Bonnie Abel (IGR), Lee Bushweiler and Judy Vasby (WI). They will serve as Area Registrars to assist Samuel Padgett in processing the application of churches and clergy.

April 19, 2023 – Mike Womack opened the GL PAC’s checking and savings accounts at Bank of America.

April 20, 2023 – The Great Lakes TCAT mt by ZOOM. Scott Pattison announced that the following Task Teams have been formed:

- Tom Anderson to lead the development of the Appointment Process.
- Jeff Buck (Dean of Cabinet) to lead the development of the Role of Presiding Elder.
- Art Collins to lead the harmonizing the Standards and Minimums of the various Conferences.

Actions taken:

- Indiana has several immediate appointment needs. Sam Padgett proposed an interim appointment process to be used until Tom Anderson’s Appointment Process task force completes its work. After extensive discussion and one amendment, the process was approved for immediate use.
- The TCAT agreed that an all-day face-to-face meeting to discuss and approve multiple key decisions is advisable. May 24th is the preferred date. The meeting location is TBD, somewhere in the Greater Chicago area.
- Michigan is planning a July 20-22 gathering in the Lansing area. Bishop Mark Webb and Ken Collins have agreed to participate.

May 4, 2023 - The Great Lakes TCAT met by ZOOM. Karen Zimmerman led a discussion on the culture statements we are crafting to guide the structure and practices of the Conference.

May 11, 2023 – The Great Lakes TCAT met by ZOOM. Scott Pattison opened a discussion of the status of our culture statements. After some discussion a proposed statement about the GL PAC’s culture was crafted.

“The Great Lakes Provisional Annual Conference (GL PAC) will operate with biblical values because we value Scripture as the inspired and authoritative Word of God. We follow the triune God; we worship the Father, we walk in the footsteps of the Risen Christ, and we live with the Holy Spirit as our guide.

Just as the One True God is a relational God, so are we a relational PAC.

We desire to be a movement again. We will have a minimal administration, consistent with a lean and focused local church, so as to fully support and encourage the relationships of our laity and clergy with Jesus, and the respective ministry settings across the GL PAC. We will keep our districts small, so that the Presiding Elder can have a relationship with the clergy and the local church, in an effort to support their important ministry, in their local settings. Our local church exists to be and make disciples of Jesus and to enable all – clergy and lay – to have a growing relationship with our Savior and Lord.”

Samuel Padgett led a discussion of potential members for the Board of Ministry.

Art Collins and Samuel Padgett discussed two different models for organizing the leadership of the GL PAC. No decision was made but there was general agreement that the organization should be flat and lean with only the essential committees and people.

Mike Womack asked the TCAT members to be thinking about various models of compensating churches for the time their pastor spends serving as a Presiding Elder. A model needs to be adopted at the May 24th meeting.

Actions taken:

- The TCAT approved the names Samuel Padgett presented as Board of Ministry along with those added in the meeting.

May 18, 2023 – The Great Lakes TCAT met by ZOOM. Scott Pattison opened the meeting by reviewing the proposed PAC culture statement. A few minor revisions were suggested. The focus of the rest of the meeting was the agenda and logistics of the all-day, in-person meeting of the TCAT in Naperville, IL on May 24th.

May 21, 2023 – The Great Lakes TCAT (minus Scott Pattison) met by ZOOM. This special meeting was scheduled exclusively to discuss and tentatively approve the compensation package (salary & housing allowance) for the Great Lakes PAC President Pro Tempore starting in 2024. During the meeting we developed the following facts/assumptions:

- The President Pro Tempore role will almost certainly last from July 1, 2023, until sometime in 2026, probably the end of 2026.
- The GL PAC will not have enough Connectional Funding income in 2023 to start paying the PPT. The PPT will start as a full-time employee on January 1, 2024.
- By September 2023 we will have a much better understanding of and confidence in our 2024 Connectional Funding income.
- Because the salary + housing allowance that we set now would not go into effect until January 2024, it will be only a placeholder for purposes of submitting a draft budget to the TLC in our application.
- Once we begin operation as a PAC in July 2023, the newly constituted Committee on the Episcopacy, in consultation with Bishop Webb and with the approval of the PAC Leadership Council, will consider and set the official salary + housing allowance for the

PPT that will be shown to and approved by the Convening PAC members in Oct./Nov. 2023.

After a lively and productive discussion, those present unanimously agreed to set the placeholder salary + housing allowance (to be included in the TLC application) at \$95,000 +\$35,000.

May 24, 2023 – The Great Lakes TCAT met in person in Naperville, IL.

After opening prayer, welcome remarks, and a wonderful devotion from Exodus, the TCAT began the day with a presentation from the “Role of the Presiding Elder Task Force” by Jeff Buck, Dean of the Cabinet. Summary:

- Want to keep it personal and relational
- Modeling servant leadership
- Main call is to be a mentor and coach to help pastors and churches strive to be all that God has called them to be
- Number of churches a presiding elder can handle: 5 to 15, need a district lay leader, may have associates also to form a district team to support the presiding elder
- Presiding elders will also be serving a church

A discussion of number and distribution of Provisional Districts led to the following conclusions:

We will start operation on July 1 with 16 Provisional Districts as follows:

- IN 8 Provisional Districts (PD) with 64 churches plus others coming in (TBD). Will stay the same until after July 1
- IGR – 1 PD with 13 churches (IL 1)
 - PE Andy Adams may add an associate PE in this transitioning season
 - As more churches are added in the fall, expecting two to three PDs
- NI – 1 PD with 12 churches (IL 2)
 - PE Doug Carroll with an assistant
 - Big cultural difference between northwestern and northeastern IL
 - Hopeful for more churches by end of year
- MI – 3 PD with up to 60 churches (not sure how many coming GMC), currently 44 churches coming to GMC on July 1.
 - PEs are Tom Anderson, Kevin Harbin, Jim Gysel
- WI – 3 PD with up to 41 churches (not sure how many), expecting 35 on July 1.
 - PEs are Mao Her, Harold Zimmick (will have 5 or 6 MI UP churches), and Stan Pegram

The TCAT discussed potential models for financial compensation of either PEs or the churches they serve. The conclusion was that serving a turn as a presiding elder is potentially a part of every elder’s regular responsibility. And allowing their pastor to serve as a presiding elder is a part of every church’s contribution to the connectional health of the denomination. Therefore it was concluded that presiding elders and churches would not be compensated beyond reimbursement for reasonable mileage, meals, hotel, and other related expenses.

After lunch, Mike Womack presented an analysis of the expected income of the GL PAC beginning in July 2023 and for 2024. Based on financial information from 2022 UMC Conference Journals, and a GL PAC Connectional Funding rate of 3%, a very conservative analysis is an income in 2023 of ~ \$150,000 and in 2024 of ~ \$642,000. The discussion then shifted to appropriate budget categories and amounts for 2024. The result was a preliminary draft budget of \$587,000. As better Connectional Funding information becomes available in September of 2023, the budget may be adjusted.

The final major topic addressed was populating the required GL PAC boards and committees. Once the persons nominated to the boards and committees are verified, the officers will be selected at next week's TCAT Zoom meeting.

The successful all day meeting was closed with communion and prayer.

June 1, 2023 – The Great Lakes TCAT met by ZOOM.

