

Why choose to be affiliated with a denomination instead of remaining independent?
Remaining independent of other religious associations, affiliations, or denominations puts the burden of all aspects of church management, governance, and support on the church itself -- its clergy, council, and members. This includes expanding the bylaws to include its own “Book of Discipline”, finding new clergy, managing legal matters, etc. Joining the Global Methodist Church relieves a lot of this burden as it provides support and guidance on doctrine, education, and vision. It also has a community of like-minded faithful and clergy that fits for Marion Methodist. How the church is managed and how it operates within the denomination won’t change much but we believe all the changes are for the better.

Which other Wesleyan denominations did we consider?

Only Wesleyan denominations were considered because those teachings are at the core of the faith and doctrine held by Marion Methodist. The council reviewed and considered the following associations/denominations in addition to the Global Methodist Church: Association of Independent Methodists, Congregational Methodists, Free Methodists, Methodist Protestant Church, Nazarene, Southern Methodist, Wesleyan.

What are the criteria that the Church Council used to evaluate these affiliations/denominations?

The criteria for evaluation was broken down into three major groups: Message, Mission, and Management. The Message items were mission and vision, views on human sexuality, and sanctity of life. The Mission items related to what and how the mission work is supported and championed within the church, local community, and abroad. The Management items related to the organization’s governance structure, proposed apportionments and how they are used, employment considerations (means to obtain quality and qualified clergy men and women, benefit support, ordination, etc.), membership requirements (joining the denomination, joining a church in the denomination), where the organization is primarily located and its size, and how it directs management/ownership of the church facilities.

What are the factors that led to the Church Council recommending joining the Global Methodist Church?

Evaluating the Global Methodist Church against the criteria, it aligned the best with what the Church Council saw as the benchmarks of Marion Methodist. It addresses the major concerns our church has with the United Methodist Church in all three groups, notably in the denomination’s message and management aspects.

What is the mission and vision of the Global Methodist Church?

The Global Methodist Church mission aligns well with our congregation: to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly and witness boldly. They are grounded in scripture and the life giving confessions of the Christian faith found in the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds. They also have a vision to join God in a journey to bring the presence of Christ to all people and to

use the inspiration and authority of the scriptures and the work of the Holy Spirit to convey God's truth and grace to all people.

How does Marion Methodist join the Global Methodist Church?

The process for local churches to join the Global Methodist Church is quite simple. A congregation meeting must be held, and at the meeting the professing members can vote to adopt a motion authorizing the church to become a member congregation of the Global Methodist Church. Along with the congregation's vote, the Church Council makes the formal application providing necessary information, documentation, and a copy of the meeting minutes from the vote to the Global Methodist Church. Further information is found in paragraph 355 of the GMC's Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline.

The Global Methodist Church is a fairly new denomination - what does that mean for our future?

The Global Methodist Church was officially launched on May 1, 2022. Since its formation, it has been growing rapidly across the world and has been operating under the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline.

There are many conferences forming across the US. While historically, we've been part of an Iowa conference, going forward, we would be part of newly formed Upper Midwest conference. There is a desire to have at least 125 churches to form a conference. At this current time, there are 79 churches in Iowa that have voted to disaffiliate, and the list continues to grow. The Upper Midwest includes Minnesota, North & South Dakota, part of Nebraska and Iowa. We would be a part of this conference.

While there may still be some unknowns, joining the Global Methodist Church and the Upper Midwest conference gives us a chance to help influence the formation of the new conference.

What happens if the church doesn't vote to accept the recommendation to join the GMC?

If the congregational vote to join the Global Methodist Church fails, then Marion Methodist will become an independent church following a successful vote for disaffiliation by the Iowa Annual Conference. At that time, the Church Council will consider the next steps it needs to take in its oversight of the church.

What happens if the Iowa Annual Conference doesn't vote to allow Marion Methodist to disaffiliate?

Marion Methodist would remain within the United Methodist Church, leaving the church to determine its future actions from there.

How do members then join Marion Methodist?

Following a successful vote for disaffiliation by the Iowa Annual Conference, Marion Methodist's member roster will have 0 members. The Membership Committee in the Church Council is working through a new process for how to become a member of Marion Methodist, where you will have the opportunity to join and become "founding members". Additional information will be provided in the coming weeks, so stay tuned.

Where can I find out more about the Global Methodist Church?

Visit www.MarionMethodist.org/GMC for quick links to resources and a link to the Global Methodist Church website. The Global Methodist Church has a dedicated website detailing what the denomination is, what it is about, and other useful information about joining.