

Relentlessly leading our churches to become outwardly focused and spiritually centered Christ followers.



## THE MISSOURI ANNUAL CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP



**ROBERT FARR**  
Bishop of the  
Missouri Annual  
Conference



**REV. SANDY  
NENADAL**  
Assistant to the  
Bishop



**CATHERINE  
TURNER**  
Executive  
Assistant to  
the Bishop



**REV. NATE  
BERNEKING**  
Director of Finance  
and Administrative  
Ministries



**REV. KIM JENNE**  
Director of  
Connectional and  
Mission, Service  
and Justice  
Ministries



**REV. DR.  
MARK  
SHEETS**  
Director of  
Congregational  
Excellence



**REV. MARK  
STATLER**  
Director of  
Leadership  
Excellence



**REV. DR. LUCAS  
ENDICOTT**  
Associate Director  
of Mission, Service  
and Justice  
Ministries



**REV. MONA  
CANDEA**  
Associate  
Director of  
Next Generation  
Ministries



# Leadership Excellence

DIRECTOR OF LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE: REV. MARK STATLER

mstatler@moumethodist.org

## Partners in Leadership Excellence Ministries

- 2023 Licenses for Pastoral Ministry: **16**
- 2023 Ordained Deacons in Full Connection: **3**
- 2023 Ordained Elders in Full Connection: **8**
- Board of Ordained Ministry members: **43**
- Coaches: **40**
- Mentors for Residents in Ministry: **21**
- Mentors for Local Pastors: **40**
- Mentors for Candidates: **30**
- Licensing School Faculty: **8**
- Conference Lay Ministry Team: **5**
- District Lay Leaders: **12**
- Certified Lay Ministers: **8**
- New Certified Pulpit Supply: **5**
- Lay Education Coordinators: **5**
- Lay Education Course Leaders: **17**
- Right Start Leaders: **13**
- dCOM Members: **99**

## Participants in Leadership Excellence Ministries

- Residents in Ministry: **18**
- Candidacy Summit Participants: **25**
- Right Start Participants: **40**
- Seminary Scholarships: **19**
- Preaching Academy: **29**
- Missouri Leadership Excellence Fellows\*: **2**
- 2023 Crossroads (College-aged) Interns\*: **11**  
(**3** explored a vocational call to ministry)
- 2023 Cole Intern: **1**
- Cohort Participants: **20**



**Total: 165**

*\*Supported by Congregational Excellence, Leadership Excellence and the Missouri United Methodist Foundation*



**Total: 373**

## 12 Culture Coaches

The purpose of a Culture Coach is to equip and empower pastors and local congregations for multicultural leadership, cross-cultural connection and healing justice. Coaches will work with:

- churches seeking greater understanding and engagement with their community
- pastors and churches preparing for a cross-cultural appointment
- pastors and churches who are exploring becoming a cross-cultural appointment

Learn more at [www.moumethodist.org/culture-coaches](http://www.moumethodist.org/culture-coaches)

## Laity Highlights

Paul describes ministry as a beautifully connected activity where the diversity of gifts and passions of individuals work in concert with the Holy Spirit and each other for the unified purpose of sharing the love of Christ (Rom. 12 and I Cor. 12). This picture for ministry is just as true for the Missouri Conference as it is for the local church. We are so grateful for all the laity who serve in ministry beyond the local church:

Serving on Conference teams: **95**

Leading or taking lay education courses: **286**

Participating in cohort learning: **42**

Absorb users: **101**

**ABSORB**

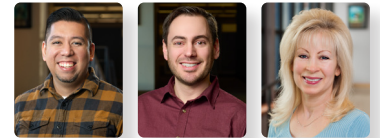
Use the QR code or go to [www.moumethodist.org/absorb](http://www.moumethodist.org/absorb) to learn more.





# NextGen Ministries

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: REV. MONA CANDEA  
mcandea@moumethodist.org



Staffed by Rev. Angel Garcia,  
Josh Schaller and Tina Twenter

## NEXTGEN MINISTRIES VISION

Next Generation Ministries seeks to impact the UMC through awareness of the younger generations, retention of nextgen ministry leaders and members, and creation of accessible systems, resources and programming.

### NEXTGEN BY-THE-NUMBERS

- **16** children's and youth ministry leaders participating in the pilot cohort of NextGen Leaders Academy
- **340** students and leaders attended the NextGen-hosted UNITE youth conference at Central Methodist University
- **60** curriculum discount codes distributed
- **101** ministry leaders attended the Discipling Gen Z and Gen Alpha event

### SAFE GATHERINGS

- **7,285** lay volunteer Safe Gathering certifications
- **627** clergy Safe Gathering certifications



### 2023 CAMPING EXPERIENCES

- **21** day camps
- **3** overnight camps
- **2,464** total campers



Learn more at [www.nextgencamps.org](http://www.nextgencamps.org)

**8 COLLEGE-AGE  
MINISTRIES  
GRANTED \$182,607**

**Center of Faith and Service**  
Central Methodist University

**Ignite Campus Ministry**  
First UMC (Rolla)

**Momentum Ministry**  
Kirksville UMC

**Saint Paul's UMC (Joplin)**

**The Neighborhood College  
Ministry**  
Missouri UMC (Columbia)

**The Rock**  
Warrensburg UMC

**ThirdPlace**  
The Gathering (St. Louis)

**Wesley Christian  
Campus Center**  
Maryville UMC



# Leadership Recruitment

RECRUITMENT SPECIALIST: BRIAN VALENTINE  
bvalentine@moumethodist.org

### VISITS TO COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES: **22 TOTAL**

**Central Methodist University**  
Fayette, MO

**Harris-Stowe University\***  
St. Louis, MO

**Lincoln University\***  
Jefferson City, MO

**Philander-Smith University\***  
Little Rock, AR

**Rust College\***  
Holly Springs, MS

**University of Central Missouri**  
Warrensburg, MO

**Wiley College**  
Marshall\*, TX

\*Indicates HBCU

### VISITS TO SEMINARIES: **6 TOTAL**

**Eden Theological Seminary**  
Webster Grove, MO

**Gammon Theological Seminary**  
Atlanta, GA

**Saint Paul School of Theology**  
Leawood, KS

### RECRUITMENT PRESENCE AT NATIONAL EVENTS: **9 TOTAL**

- Youth 2023
- Leadership Institute
- TheologyCon
- Walk Justly Conference
- Facing the Future Conference
- Orange Conference
- Black Clergy Leadership Retreat
- Ebony Exploration



# Congregational Excellence

DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL EXCELLENCE: REV. DR. MARK SHEETS

[msheets@moumethodist.org](mailto:msheets@moumethodist.org)

## REVITALIZATION



### REVITALIZATION COHORTS 12 CHURCHES

Annual year-long cohorts that help generate new ideas and challenges leaders to change their approach to ministry.



### DREAM LAB - 19 CHURCHES WITH 73 PARTICIPANTS

A 24-hour event that brings local church teams together to brainstorm the next chapter of ministry.



### JUMP START WORKSHOPS 55 UNIQUE PARTICIPANTS

A monthly, in-person workshop series that reimagines solutions for today's ministry essentials.

## NEW PLACES FOR NEW PEOPLE

### NEW CHURCH STARTS

- The Well (Wentzville)** • Danny Lybarger
- 80-Twenty (O'Fallon)** • Amie Martin
- Christ en Espanol (Independence)** • Freddy Tames
- Grace in Joplin** • Kevin McNeely
- COR Brookside** • Wendy Chrostek
- Resurrection Church (Springfield)** • Mike Randle
- Compass Church (Cape Girardeau)** • Jennifer Long
- McCrite (North Cross)** • Shawn Franssens
- Good People Café (Faith Grain Valley)** • Mike Cassidy



### CHURCH PLANTING INTENSIVE 56 PARTICIPANTS FROM 5 ANNUAL CONFERENCES

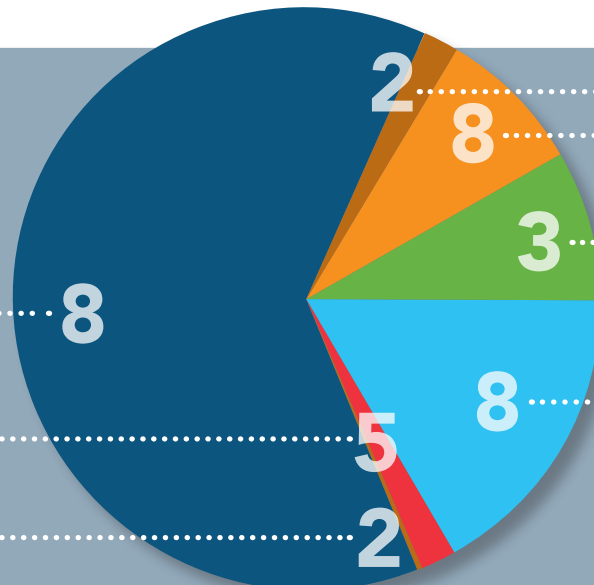
A three-day training event for those discerning or preparing to start something new – whether it's a new ministry or new multi-site. Topics include crafting a vision and purpose, building a launch team, cultivating generosity and what to do after launching.

## CONGREGATIONAL EXCELLENCE GRANTS

NEW CHURCHES & MULTI-SITES  
\$572,500

RECOVERY MINISTRY  
\$17,500

SMALL GROUP  
\$4,000



COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS  
\$20,000

FRESH EXPRESSIONS  
\$73,300

LANGUAGE-BASED CHURCH BOOST GRANT  
\$75,000

NEW WORSHIP SERVICES  
\$152,500

**GRANT TOTAL: \$914,800**



# Mission, Service and Justice Ministries

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: REV. DR. LUCAS ENDICOTT  
lendicott@moumethodist.org



Staffed by Scott Burdin  
and Sidney Everhart

## MSJ BY-THE-NUMBERS

- In 2023, Missouri gave over **\$250,568** in second mile giving through the General Board of Global Ministries advances. Missouri churches and individuals gave to Disaster Response, Global Migration, Creation Care, specific missionaries and more.
- The Conference Mission, Service and Justice Team awarded **\$15,000** from the Costner-Fulton Fund to **six** churches for new, innovative mission programs.

## FESTIVAL OF SHARING

Get involved at [www.festivalofsharing.org](http://www.festivalofsharing.org)

- **300** volunteers donating over **1,500** hours of time across **seven** Sharefest events. **Seventy-nine** agencies serving over **48,000** Missourians each month received items from Sharefests in 2023.
- **Sixty-five percent** of participating Festival churches represented communities of **5,000** or less and their donations accounted for three-fourths of non-cash gifts (packs and kits).
- **460** women's hygiene kits to the Eastern Reception and Diagnostic Facility in Vandalia.
- **\$8,634** which represents **863** blankets for people who have experienced a disaster.



## DISASTER RESPONSE

Get involved at [www.moumethodist.org/disaster-response](http://www.moumethodist.org/disaster-response)

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newly Certified ERT members: <b>51</b></li> <li>• Volunteer hours: <b>631</b></li> <li>• Menstrual hygiene kits packed: <b>3,300</b></li> <li>• Hygiene kits packed: <b>1,550</b></li> <li>• Cleaning kits packed: <b>880</b></li> </ul> | <h3>YEAR-END INVENTORY</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1,036</b> menstrual hygiene kits</li> <li>• <b>1,551</b> hygiene kits</li> <li>• <b>771</b> cleaning kits</li> </ul> |
|---|--|



**MOZAMBIQUE INITIATIVE**  
mzinitiative.com

**Ezequiel Marcos Nhantumbo**  
MI Representative Mozambique



**TOTAL 2023 GIVING: \$902,415**

*100% of donations made to MI each quarter go directly to Mozambique*

- In the past year, **\$902,414.52** was donated for work in Mozambique, exceeding 2022's total by almost \$90,000. Since 2018, nearly **\$4.5 million** has been given through the Missouri Conference for work in Mozambique.
- **13** wells were completed in 2023 bringing access to clean water for over **30,000** people.
- In 2023, **\$149,646.23** was raised to purchase solar panel kits for parsonages throughout Mozambique. This brings the total to nearly **60** kits exceeding our Mozambican partners' goal of 50! Several churches have continued to donate in 2024 helping to equip even more parsonages and churches.



# Connectional Ministries

DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES: REV. KIM JENNE  
kjenne@moumethodist.org



Staffed by Fred Koenig  
and Lauren Miers

## RACE AND CULTURE

### WHY RACE AND CULTURE WORK?

The Missouri Conference wants to become a brave, empowering place for people from diverse cultures and generations so that we can become a Church for all God's people.

We seek to do this by equipping Conference leaders and local churches for multicultural leadership, cross-cultural connection and healing justice.

*Read celebration stories, view recommendations from the Episcopal Task Force on Race and Culture, download resources, subscribe to our quarterly newsletter and more at [www.moumethodist.org/race-and-culture](http://www.moumethodist.org/race-and-culture)*

## RESOURCES CREATED IN 2023

Access these resources and more at [www.moumethodist.org/resourcelibrary](http://www.moumethodist.org/resourcelibrary)

## FOCUS AREAS AND KEY STRATEGIES

BELOVED COMMUNITY

TRAINING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

LEADERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT

EQUITY WORK



### SOCIAL MEDIA (PAGE LIKES OR FOLLOWERS)

- Missouri Annual Conference: **3,773** followers
- Mozambique Initiative: **1,503** followers
- Festival of Sharing: **1,003** followers
- UMC Disaster Response: **937** followers
- Next Generation Ministries: **1,504** followers
- Missouri Annual Conference Lay Leader: **358** followers



### THE MISSOURI METHODISTS

- Email subscriptions: **1,443**
- Print readership: **3,787**



### 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- Registered Members of the Annual Conference: **1,096**
- Total YouTube Video Views: **1,834**
- Peak YouTube Live View: **78**



### NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

- Net News: **1,093**
- Clergy Newsletter: **508**
- Laitry Newsletter: **876**



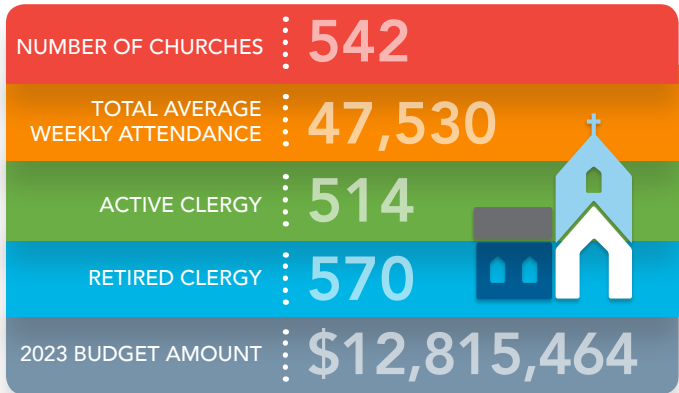


# Financial and Administrative Ministries

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES: REV. NATE BERNEKING  
nberneking@moumethodist.org

## APPORTIONMENTS

- A total of **493** churches paid 100% or more. **Thirty-three** churches paid more than 100% for an 88.65% payout.
- Consulted with **19** local congregations on issues related to generosity, finance and administration.



## BISHOP ROBERT FARR

- Served as president of the College of Bishops, South Central Jurisdiction, completing his term in 2023.
- Related to Discipleship Ministries and South Central Jurisdiction Mission Council; and served on the Council of Bishops Leadership Discernment Committee, Congregational Vitality, Jurisdictional Leaders Committee and the General Committee on Communication executive board.
- Served as trustee for Central Methodist University and the Missouri United Methodist Foundation.
- Offered representation on the boards of Epworth and Barnes Jewish Hospital.
- Preached in 13 churches around the state and recorded and livestreamed prayers, devotionals and meetings in support of pastors and congregations.
- Participated in Prayer for Christian Unity service hosted by the Archdiocese of St. Louis.
- Participated in monthly conversations with Race and Culture Coach Nikki Lerner.
- Traveled to Mozambique in June 2023
- Participated in the Interfaith Prayer Vigil Against Gun Violence in December 2023

## CURRENT READING LIST

***Citizen Soldier: A Life of Harry S. Truman***  
by Aida D. Donald

***Faith for Exiles: 5 Ways for a New Generation to Follow Jesus in Digital Babylon*** by David Kinnaman, Mark Matlock

***Hoover: An Extraordinary Life in the Extraordinary Times*** by Kenneth Whyte, Richard Ferrone, et al.

***The Methodist Book of Daily Prayer*** by Matt Miofsky

***Multiplying Love: A Vision of United Methodist Life Together*** by Paul Chilcote

***The Presidents: Noted Historians Rank America's Best – and Worst – Chief Executives*** by Brian Lamb, Susan Swain, et al.

***Recapturing the Wesleyan Vision: An Introduction to the Faith of John and Charles Wesley***  
by Paul Wesley Chilcote

The Missouri Annual Conference is located on the homeland of a diversity of Native American nations. Despite European-American settlement and modern development, this land continues to have cultural significance for the Ni-U-Ko'n-Ska (Osage), Nyut^achi (Missouria), Asakiwaki and Meskwaki (Sac and Fox), Báxoje (Ioway), Kaw, Kiikapooi (Kickapoo), Kaskaskia, and other Native American nations.

These nations had a significant role in shaping the landscape, and they continue a sacred relationship with the lands on which our local churches and our Conference facilities are located. We commit to honor this distinctive cultural heritage in our fulfillment of the Missouri Annual Conference Mission, Vision and Values.