

**GATEWAY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT  
ONE HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION  
FIRST SITTING – April 24, 2026**

The first sitting of the 148<sup>th</sup> session of the Gateway Annual Conference of the Free Methodist Church of North America convened on Friday, April 24, 2026 at 4:15 p.m. at the Greenville Free Methodist Church in Greenville, IL with Bishop Keith Cowart presiding.

The bar of the conference was established, and voting members were urged to be seated.

The conference was called to order by Bishop Cowart.

The Standing Rules & Procedures were adopted by consensus.

Roll call was read by Barb Sands.

Barb Sands, secretary, gave the report for the MEGA Board:

The Ministerial Education and Guidance Board recommends:

1. That the following persons be given a **Certificate of Transfer**:  
Reinstating credentials for Greg Fish to Crossroads Conference  
Charles Mallory (E) to Central Region Conference  
Jennifer Mallory (E) to Central Region Conference
2. No **Certificates of Transfer** were received.
3. That the following persons be **received as Conference Ministerial Candidates**:  
Keagan Rebecca Bouman  
Suzanne Allison Davis  
Natalie Liana Tungate  
  
Keagan Rebecca Bouman was approved as a CMC by consensus.  
Natalie Liana Tungate was approved as a CMC by consensus.  
Suzanne Allison Davis was approved as a CMC by consensus.
4. That the following persons be designated as a **Licensed Pastor**:  
Nick Brown  
Archie Fox  
Marcos Gilmore  
Shanella Huntley-Marzuk
5. That the following persons be **continued as Conference Ministerial Candidates**:  
Nicole Brown (2)  
Abby Cox (2)  
Rachel Tungate (3)
6. That the following person be **discontinued as a Conference Ministerial Candidate at own request**:  
Christopher Benton
7. That the following person be **designated as a Located Elder**:  
Ginger Coakley

8. That the following be **admitted into full membership and Ordained Elder:**  
Zachary Robert Davis

Zachary Robert Davis was approved into full membership by consensus.

9. That the following persons be listed as **Retired:**  
Eugene Dunkley  
Jennifer Dunkley  
Mark Scandrett

10. That the following persons be listed as deceased:  
Willard Frost  
Peter (The Chen) Wan

11. The Ministerial Education and Guidance Board has given due consideration to the character and performance of each ministerial member of the Gateway Conference. Based on the information available to the MEG Board through the minister's annual Confidential Report, and input from the Superintendent, the MEG Board recommends passing on the integrity and Christian discipleship of the ministers in accord with paragraph 5230 of the 2023 *Book of Discipline*.

The actions of the Ministerial Education and Guidance Board were received as presented by consensus.

Service awards were presented to the following elders by Supt. Tyler Boyer:

5 years: Matthew Eckhardt, Charles Mallory, Jennifer Mallory

10 years: Mitabaro Bernard, Christopher Smith

20 years: Eugene Dunkley and Benjamin Wayman

35 years: Steve Neville

Retired: Eugene Dunkley, Jennifer Dunkley, and Mark Scandrett

Prior to conference, MAPS pastors Javier Quintana and Gloelma Rivera-Quintana shared about their journey to relocate and break new ground. Bishop Keith Cowart had the conference gather around them to pray for them and for those to whom they minister.

The conference adjourned for dinner at 5:02 p.m.

The 7:30 evening service began with Supt. Tyler Boyer presenting a certificate to Jeff Funkenbusch, delegate from Mt. Olivet, to recognize the church as a Free Methodist society.

C. J. Dyas, Paulo Camargo, Tati Camargo, and Jeremy Martin led the conference in a time of worship.

Bishop Cowart's message on Pentecost and the outpouring of God's Spirit was from Acts 2:1-13 emphasizing the individual implications. Signs of the outpouring of God's Spirit are (1) prayer; (2) a robust theology of the Holy Spirit; (3) courage to overcome fear; and (4) a deep, deep yearning for more.

The service concluded with the ordination of Zachary Davis.

## SECOND SITTING – April 25, 2026

The second sitting of the 148<sup>th</sup> session of the Gateway Annual Conference of the Free Methodist Church of North America convened on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Greenville Free Methodist Church in Greenville, IL with Bishop Keith Cowart presiding.

Worship was led by C. J. Dyas, Paulo Carmago, Tati Camargo, and Jeremy Martin.

Superintendent John Townley from the United Kingdom was introduced via video to talk about the challenge coin and the freedoms of the Free Methodist Church.

Robyn Florian, Greenville University alumni director, gave a presentation for the university.

Amanda Wiegand and Frankie Neeley presented Grafted, a college ministry, as a river flowing out of Greenville Free Methodist Church.

Ron Gines gave the BOA report. By consensus, the report was accepted.

David Hooks gave the treasurer's report.

The conference took a break at 10:30 am.

The conference reconvened at 11:00 am.

Chris Kaufman and Marissa Mattox-Herrnan gave a presentation from The Justice Network.

John Hubbs, FMCUSA Endorsing Agent and Director of Chaplain Ministries, shared about the areas in which chaplains serve.

Peter Hough, from the Alton Mission Fellowship, shared his story of the church going from being a church for the poor to a church of the poor and how they are breaking new ground. He challenged us to be people who “eat with” the poor.

Bishop Cowart shared the results of the Gateway Conference Annual Conference Nominating Committee Ballot vote for 2026. Those with the highest number of votes have been elected (a majority is not required).

### **Treasurer:**

David Hooks - 38 votes

**David Hooks has 38 votes and is elected**

### **Board of Administration:**

#### **Clergy (one will be elected):**

Tati Camargo – 2 votes

Justin Mulholland – 9 votes

Gloelma Quintana-Rivera – 14 votes

Chris Smith – 14 votes

**Chris Smith is elected in a BOA tie-breaking vote**

**Layperson (one will be elected):**

Andy Davis – 17 votes

Jamie Mannigel – 5 votes

Katie Myette – 16 votes

**Andy Davis has 17 votes and is elected**

**Ministerial Education, Guidance and Appointments:**

**Clergy (two will be elected):**

CJ Dyas – 16 votes

Brian Hartley – 23 votes

Javier Quintana – 8 votes

Keli Pennington – 14 votes

Mark Scandrett – 12 votes

**Brian Hartley has 23 votes and is elected, C. J. Dyas has 16 votes and is elected**

**Layperson (one will be elected):**

Barbara Sands – 28 votes

Donna Smith – 3 votes

Leah Smith – 9 votes

**Barbara Sands has 28 votes and is elected**

**Nominating Committee:**

**Layperson (two will be elected):**

Charles Coates – 22 votes

Melissa Hummel – 11 votes

Kristen Schindler – 9 votes

Lisa Shipman – 12 votes

Donna Smith – 13 votes

Todd Stendabeck – 8 votes

**Charles Coates has 22 votes and is elected, Donna Smith has 13 votes and is elected**

The conference dismissed for lunch at 12:00 pm.

The conference reconvened at 1:00 pm.

An ICCM report was given by Tati Camargo, child sponsorship representative.

Tim Burkhardt gave a report for Butterfield Foundation.

Bishop Keith Cowart shared from Acts 2:42-47 and 4:32-37 about the Spirit-filled church. The greatest miracle that poured out from Pentecost was the unified gathering together. Qualities

birthed from the church included: (1) they were grounded in the Word of God; (2) they were upheld in worship; (3) they were united in prayer; (4) they were manifested in fellowship; and (5) love.

Churches gathered in their respective groups and prayed boldly for the next breakthrough/big ask that is not humanly possible, and then the conference took a break.

The conference reconvened at 2:50 pm.

Testimonies were shared of the good things God is doing within the church.

Bishop Keith Cowart prayed over the Gateway Conference churches.

Supt. Tyler Boyer and Supt. Jen Finley discussed bringing together Gateway and Crossroads Conferences as the bishops envision a new network of annual conferences. A letter of intent was distributed by the tellers. The possibilities of forming a new annual conference include:

- Moving together in the same direction
- Moving from fragmentation to collaboration
- Moving from redundancy to efficiency
- Moving from disconnection to relational connection
- Moving from capacity issues to healthy workflow

Bishop Keith Cowart read the list of appointments.

Conference was adjourned with a benediction from Bishop Keith Cowart.



Barb Sands, Conference Secretary Pro-tempore

# 148<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, 2026

## Roll Call

### Elders

Aden, Michael	
Allen, Thomas, P.	
Ball, Bryce	X
Ball, David	
Bernard, Mitabaro	
Bonney, M. Doane	
Boyer, Tyler	X
Busch, Thomas	X
Camargo, Paulo	X
Camargo, Tati	X
Coakley, Ginger	X
Coates, Stephen M.	
Coleman, Jerry D.	
Cox, Judy	
Crawford, Steve	
Davis, Zach	X
Delamarter, Lucia	
Diyali, Reuben	X
Dunkley, Eugene	X
Dunkley, Jennifer	X
Dyas, Clifford James	X
Dyas, Stephanie	X
Eckhardt, Brian	
Eckhardt, Matthew	
Fry, Timothy L.	
Fuller, Earl	
Glennon, John	
Graham, Lester	
Groves, Gregory W.	X
Hall, Norman	
Hartley, Brian	
Heaney, James R.	
Heston, Pat	X
Holbrook, Kirby	
Hough, Peter	X
Hubbs, John D.	X
Huston, Ruth Winslow	
Janicke, Martin	
Keefe, Jr., Victor	
Kessinger, Christie	
Kirkham, J. Robert	X
LaFleur, Steve	
Lopez, Fredy	X
Mallory, Charles	X
Mallory, Jennifer	X
Martin, Jeremy	X
Maurer, Dan	

### Elders cont'd

McPeak, Rick	
Mehlig, Mark D.	
Morris, Charles	
Mulholland, Justin	X
Munshaw, Robert	X
Neville, Steven	
Nzitubundi, Wilson	
Pennington, Keli	X
Pichaske, Steve	X
Quintana, Javier	X
Renfroe, B. Elliott	X
Richardson, Bruce	
Rivera Quintana, Gloelma	X
Roan, Cherrie	X
Robart, Vaughn	X
Ross, Rosalee K.	
Rovenstine, Loren D.	
Sands, Randall L.	X
Scandrett, Mark E.	X
Scandrett-Leatherman, Craig	
Sepombe, Gideon	
Shuffett, Joe	X
Shuffet, Wendy	X
Smith, Christopher	X
Smith, Robert L.	
Somerville, Deborah	X
Sussenbach, Ward V.	X
Susman, Robert	X
Tucker, Ron	
Tungate, Steve	X
Wayman, Benjamin J.	

### Deacons

Newman, Ronald	
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### Ministerial Candidates

Bouman, Keagan	X
Brown, Nicole	X
Cox, Abby	X
Davis, Suzanne	X
Tungate, Natalie	X
Tungate, Rachel	X

Licensed Pastor (seat, but no vote)

Brown, Nick	X
Fox, Archie	
Gilmore, Marcos	X
Huntley-Marzuk, Shanella	

Lay DelegatesReserves

Alton- Kathy Schaefer	X	
*Alton Mission Fellowship- Ashburn-		
Bethany- Phillip Spracklen	X	
*Cave In Rock- Jim Whittaker	X	
Centralia- Andy Davis	X	
Centralia- Josh Turner	X	
Clever- Jim Wright		
Coffeen- Bryan Vollintine	X	
Cowden- Dale Mahaffey	X	
*Dahlgren-		
Decatur- Mona Busch	X	
Edwardsville-		
Greenville- John Dawdy	X	
Greenville- Dave Disch	X	
Greenville- Tara Faulkner	X	
Greenville- Kelsey Groves	X	
Greenville- Cary Holman	X	
Greenville- Laura Miller	X	
Greenville, St. Paul's-	R	Isaac Gilmore
Hillsboro- Bob Hester	X	
Hillsboro-	R	Larry Hewitt
Hillsboro- Sandy Leitheiser	X	
Hillsboro-	R	Megan Tuetken
Lamar- Rick Johnson	X	
Lamar- Dean McKibben	X	
*Mt. Olivet- Jeff Funkenbusch	X	
Rushville- Corey Sipes	X	
STL Lighthouse Chinese-		
MAPS Pontoon Beach- Elsy Castellanos	X	
Springfield- Karen Whitlock	X	
Tower Hill-		
Vandalia – Stefanie Montgomery	X	

\*Honorary position, no voting privileges

Appointments  
**GATEWAY CONFERENCE**  
 2026-2027

Tyler Boyer, Superintendent (second of a two-year term)

Alton, Emmanuel .....	(10) Christopher Smith (E)
.....	(2) Zachary Davis (E)
Alton Mission Fellowship.....	(14) Peter Hough (E)
Ashburn .....	(20) Victor Keefe, Jr. (E)
Bethany .....	(1) Rob Susman
Centralia, Foundation Church .....	(4) Joseph Shuffett (E)
.....	(4) Wendy Shuffett (E)
Coffeen .....	(1) Abby Cox, (CMC)
Cowden .....	(2) Nick Brown, (LP)
Decatur, Moundford .....	(5) Sabra Dyas (E)
Edwardsville, The Bridge .....	(5) Matthew Eckhardt (E)
Ferges .....	Closed
Greenville .....	(6) Steve Pichaske (E)
.....	(41) Gregory W. Groves (E)
.....	(4) Jeremy Martin (E)
.....	(7) Christie Kessinger (E)
.....	(4) Justin Mulholland (E)
Greenville, St. Paul's.....	(20) Ben Wayman (E)
.....	(3) Robert Munshaw (E)
.....	(2) B. Elliott Renfroe (E)
.....	(2) Keli Pennington (E)
.....	(1) Natalie Tungate (CMC)
.....	(1) Rachel Tungate (CMC)
Hillsboro .....	(16) Clifford James Dyas (E)
.....	(16) Stephanie Dyas (E), AP
.....	(2) Paulo Camargo (E)
.....	(1) Suzanne A. Davis (CMC)
Rushville, Hope .....	(6) Bryce Ball (E)
St. Louis, Lighthouse Chinese .....	Under the Superintendent
Pontoon Beach, Ministerio Apostolico Plantio	
del Senor Fellowship, .....	(14) Javier Quintana (E)
.....	(13) Gloelma Rivera-Quintana (E)
.....	(3) Fredy Lopez (E)

Florissant, Ministries United .....	(8) Shanella Huntley-Marzuk (LP)
Springfield, Knox Knolls .....	(14) Tyler Boyer (E)
.....	(2) Nicole Brown (CMC)
Littleton, affiliate .....	Rob Kirkham (retired)
Tower Hill .....	(4) Archie Fox (LP)
Vandalia, Parkview .....	(2) Marcos Gilmore (LP)
Come To Jesus, Columbia, Affiliate .....	(10) Mitabaro Bernard (E)
Bhutanese Nepali Church of Kansas, Affiliate...	(8) Reuben Diyali (E)
Kansas City African Church, Affiliate .....	(8) Gideon Sepombe (E)
	(8) Wilson Nzitubundi (E)
Clever Free Methodist Church .....	(5) Charles Mallory (E)
	(5) Jennifer Mallory (E)
Mount Olivet Free Methodist Church.....	(5) Brian Eckhardt (E)
Dahlgren FMC, affiliate .....	(3) Lester Graham (E)
Cave In Rock Free Methodist Church, affiliate.....	(3) Cherrie Roan (E)
Lamar Free Methodist Church .....	(3) Steve Neville (E)

### **SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS AND RELATIONSHIPS**

#### **RETIRED:**

Mike Aden (E)	Martin Janicke (E)
Tom Allen (E)	J. Robert Kirkham (E)
David Ball (E)	Steve LaFleur (E)
M. Doane Bonney (E)	Dennis Mallory (E)
Thomas W. Busch (E)	Rick McPeak (E)
Judy Cox (E)	Mark Mehlig (E)
Steve Crawford (E)	Charles Morris (E)
Lucia Delamarter (E)	Ronald Newman (D)
Eugene Dunkley (E)	Bruce Richardson (E)
Jennifer Dunkley (E)	Rosalee Ross (E)
Tim Fry (E)	Loren D. Rovenstine (E)
Earl Fuller (E)	Randy Sands (E)
Brian Hartley (E)	Craig Scandrett-Leatherman (E)
James R. Heaney (E)	Mark Scandrett (E)
John Glennon (E)	Robert L. Smith (E)
Pat Heston (E)	Deb Somerville (E)
Kirby Holbrook (E)	Ward Sussenbach (E)
Ruth W. Huston (E)	Ron Tucker (E)

#### **DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE:**

Tatiana Camargo (E), International Childcare Ministries (ICCM)  
 Captain Stephen M. Coates (E), Chaplain, U.S. Navy  
 Suzanne A. Davis (CMC), Greenville University  
 LTC John D. Hubbs (E), Endorser for FM Chaplains  
 Robert Munshaw (E), Greenville University  
 Keli Pennington (E), Chaplain, Greenville University  
 Steve Tungate (E), awaiting appointment  
 Benjamin Wayman (E), Greenville University

**RELEASED FOR MINISTRY OUTSIDE THE DENOMINATION:**

Jerry Coleman (E), Director of Francis Asbury Society International  
Norman Hall (E), Simpson University  
Dan Maurer (E), Joy Song Global  
Vaughn Robart (E), Jubilee House

**LOCATED:**

Ginger Coakley (E), at Greenville Free Methodist Church

**CONFERENCE ACTIONS**

**ADMITTED IN FULL MEMBERSHIP AND ORDAINED ELDER:**

Zachary Robert Davis

**RECEIVED AS CONFERENCE MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE:**

Keagan Rebecca Bouman  
Suzanne Allison Davis  
Natalie Liana Tungate

**ATTENDING SCHOOL**

Keagan Rebecca Bouman (Duke University)

**DESIGNATED AS LICENSED PASTOR**

Nick Brown  
Archie Fox  
Marcos Gilmore  
Shanella Huntley-Marzuk

**CONTINUED AS CONFERENCE MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE:**

Nicole Brown  
Abby Cox  
Rachel Tungate

**DISCONTINUED AS CONFERENCE MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE:**

Christopher Benton

**DESIGNATED AS LOCATED ELDER:**

Ginger Coakley

**LISTED AS RETIRED:**

Eugene Dunkley  
Jennifer Dunkley  
Mark Scandrett

**TRANSFERS COMPLETE:**

Greg Fish to Crossroads Annual Conference  
Charles and Jennifer Mallory to Central Region Conference

**DECEASED:**

Willard W. Frost  
Peter (Teh Chen) Wan

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**KEY:**

(E) Elder  
(D) Deacon  
(CMC) Conference Ministerial Candidate  
(LP) Licensed Pastor

AP Associate Pastor  
ASP Assistant Pastor  
ATP Assistant to the Pastor  
EP Executive Pastor  
FLM Family Life Ministries  
MD Minister of Discipleship  
MM Minister of Music  
MO Minister of Outreach  
MW Minister of Worship  
MY Minister of Youth

April 24, 2026  
Greenville, Illinois

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Keith Cowart  
Bishop