

## **Josh McCollom**

New Bern District- Garber Methodist  
Ethnicity- Caucasian

### **Share your testimony of coming to faith and salvation in Jesus Christ.**

My journey in faith and salvation has been a lifelong process. While some are able to point to a single moment in time where they were saved, my experience of Christ, and growth in Him has been different. Through the encouragement of many faithful brothers and sisters in Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I have grown in my faith toward Him over many decades. I have also come to understand that salvation in Christ occurs, not in a single saving event, but through a lifetime of sanctification. That is, we were saved by Him, we are being saved through Him, and we will be saved in Him, all for His glory.

Since being encouraged by many over the years to apply my faith, I have gained a greater understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Through the increased practice of spiritual disciplines, such as fasting, worship, prayer, and regular confession of sins as part of a discipleship band, my adoration of Christ as grown, feeling the weight of what he accomplished on the cross in the conquering of sin and death for my sake and for the sake of all the world. I still struggle with sin, and have not reached full sanctification, and I do not know that I will in this life even though it is expected of me by Him (Matt 5:28). Thankfully where I continue to lack, I am forever grateful that His grace and mercy abounds. Christ is my Master, my Judge, my Teacher, and thankfully a Friend of Sinners like me.

### **Describe your ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.**

Teaching has been my primary focus of ministry for many years. I teach Adult Sunday School, Children's Sunday School, Men's Bible Study, and volunteer as a High School Youth Leader. In Matthew 28:19-20, Christ identifies teaching as a primary ministry for the growth of His Kingdom and the furtherance of His Church. This passion for teaching God's word has lead me through many roles and seasons service at Garber Methodist Church. Where I have had opportunity to lead and serve Garber over the years in various committees and through disaffiliation, I have sought to do so with the heart and focus of a teacher. God reveals Himself to us through His word, and effective teaching is how we are able to aid in building His Kingdom. Teaching is how we share our faith and it how we share Christ's expectations of His disciples.

In the last year, I along with several others brothers in Christ started a Men's Ministry at Garber where there had not been one in over two decades. It was started primarily as a teaching ministry that holds as its goal Christ's command in the Great Commission: teaching discipleship. Though out the last year, we have begun to hold band meetings with over fifty men participating in these groups. We've maintained a Men's Bible study that has seen new member growth within the last year. We've organized extended group bible readings though a "Read Aloud the New Testament in Lent" initiative. And we have plans to add a mentorship program modeled after Paul's own relationship with Timothy.

### **Service in the General Conference is a special task. Explain your understanding of this task.**

Serving at the General Conference level is a tremendous honor and responsibility. This initial Laity comprise the majority of Christ's Church and thusly the ministry done by laity is the

majority of ministry done by the church. The function of the General Conference should be to enable and bolster the ministry of the laity within the local church, first. Second, the General Conference should empower the local clergy to assist in directing the ministry of the local church to fulfill Christ's command to make disciples of all nations, which must occur locally. Any service rendered to the General Conference should keep these missional tasks at the forefront.

Practically, a delegate to the General Conference should seek adherence to scripture and orthodox teaching, promote unity in Christ, minimize bureaucracy, promote transparency, eliminate waste and redundancy, and help to establish systems of checks and balances that promote equality within the Body of Christ and the General Conference. A delegate to the General Conference must remember all who love Christ and His Church have need for one another and this need for one another is rooted in unity and equality in Christ (1 Cor 12).

**What gifts/strengths/passions/talents do you bring to the building up and organizing of the Global Methodist Church?**

As stated, teaching is one of my primary spiritual gifts, followed by prophecy, and shepherding/leadership. For the last several months I have had the privilege of serving as the Men's Ministry liaison for the NCPAC. I have a passion for Men's Ministry and I have been blessed to be surrounded by many other men at Garber who share this same passion and drive to call Men to be better disciples of Jesus Christ. Whatever gifts, talents, and abilities, Christ has given me, I am honored to render as service to his kingdom.

Over the last year I have been convicted that I should seek spiritual growth in the spiritual gifts that do not come naturally to me. While we certainly are called to use the gifts that He has graciously given us for His sake, we are not given a pass to ignore the demands of Christ that do not come naturally. For me, Congregational Care and Fellowship (Koinonia), is not something that comes easily or naturally. Knowing this, I have deliberately increased the time I spend serving in this capacity and have been more intentional about caring for some within our church without a robust support network through shared meals and fellowship. Christ has blessed me in this already many times over in the new friends and relationships I've made in this effort; His strength made perfect in my weakness (2 Cor 12:9-10).

**Do you agree to fast and pray for your role and the delegation to the General Conference?** Yes

**Do you attend worship at your church at least 3 out of 4 Sunday's a month?** Yes

**Do you attend worship when on vacation, out of town, or not otherwise in the church to which you are appointed?** No

**Are you a part of a small group, Sunday School class or band?** Yes

**Are you involved in Christian missions at least once a month?** Yes

**Do you pray regularly for your church, pastor, and members?** Yes

**Do you give a full tithe to the church of your membership?** Yes

**Do you uphold and agree with the Doctrinal Standards of the GMC**

**as stated in Part 1 of the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline?** Yes

**Do you uphold and agree with the Social Witness of the GMC as stated in Part 2 of the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline?** Yes

**If elected will you agree to represent Jesus Christ and uphold the integrity of the GMC NC PAC? Yes**

**Do you have a current U.S. Passport? Yes**

**In order to serve, will you be available to travel to Costa Rica from September 19-27, 2024 and attend online meetings ahead of the conference? Yes**

**Are you willing and able to bear some of the cost for attendance to serve in this capacity? Yes**

**I once again affirm that I satisfy the requirements to be a delegate to the Convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church. Yes**

**I consent for my answers to be published on the NCPAC website. Yes**