



WPCGMC WHY CHARTER?

A Faithful Step Toward Longevity, Voice, and Mission

First, a word of affirmation.

An unchartered church is not “less than.” It is not temporary by default, deficient in faith, or lacking in God’s blessing. New faith communities are real churches doing real ministry. They preach the Gospel, make disciples, worship Jesus Christ, and serve their communities faithfully. The Conference recognizes and celebrates that work.

Chartering is not about legitimacy. It is about maturity, stability, and shared responsibility in the mission God has entrusted to us.

So why should a church *desire* to charter?

Because chartering is a declaration of commitment.

A chartered church is saying, “We are here for the long haul.” It signals to your congregation, your community, and the wider church that this ministry is not exploratory or provisional, but rooted and enduring. Chartering tells future members, leaders, and partners that this church intends to be a lasting presence, not something that could disappear quietly or unexpectedly.

Because chartering gives your church a voice and a vote.

Chartered churches have full voting representation at Annual Conference. That matters. Annual Conference is where the direction of the Conference is discerned, leaders are affirmed, budgets are adopted, and mission priorities are set. Chartering allows your church to participate fully in shaping the future of the Global Methodist Church in the West, rather than simply observing it.

Because chartering strengthens your church’s leadership and governance.

Chartering encourages healthy structure, shared leadership, and accountability. These are not obstacles to ministry; they are supports for it. Clear governance protects pastors and lay leaders alike, provides continuity through leadership transitions, and ensures that decisions are made wisely and transparently. Churches that charter tend to be more resilient during seasons of change.

Because chartering protects what God has entrusted to you.

Incorporation, proper financial practices, insurance coverage, and defined leadership roles are not merely administrative tasks. They safeguard the people, resources, and ministry God has placed in your care. Chartering helps ensure that offerings are handled responsibly, leaders are protected, and the church is positioned to steward its resources with integrity.

Because chartering anchors your church in the connection.

The Global Methodist Church is connectional by design. Chartering deepens that connection. It strengthens relationships with other churches, opens doors for collaboration, and reinforces the truth that your church is not alone in its mission. A chartered church stands firmly within the shared life, mission, and accountability of the Conference and the wider denomination.

Because chartering clarifies your church's mission and future.

Chartering invites a church to ask important questions: Who are we? Why are we here? How will we continue to make disciples? Churches that charter do so with intention. They are not just sustaining weekly worship; they are committing to long-term disciple-making, outreach, and multiplication. Chartering is a statement that this church is not only surviving, but planning to grow, serve, and reproduce.

Because the effort is worth the outcome.

The steps toward chartering require focus, organization, and follow-through. But they are not busywork. They form a foundation that allows ministry to flourish rather than falter. Churches that charter consistently report greater clarity, stronger confidence, and a deeper sense of shared ownership of the mission.

Chartering is a moment when a church says, "God has planted us here, and we are committed to this place, these people, and this mission."