



NORDIC, BALTIC AND UKRAINE EPISCOPAL AREA THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BISHOP KNUT REFSDAL

To members in The United Methodist Church: Grace and peace to you!.

I am writing to give important information regarding the scheduled Global Leadership Gathering of the Council of Bishops, which will take place in Canada in October 2026, and its preparation.

A Denomination-Wide Survey First, I ask for your active participation in a denomination-wide survey authorized by the Council of Bishops and designed to listen to United Methodists across our connection about the present and future of the Church. The insights gathered will directly inform the Global Leadership Gathering as we seek to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. The survey will be open from January 15 to February 15, 2026, and accessible via this [link](#).

To ensure broad participation in the survey, **I request that you announce it in worship, include it in bulletins, share it on congregational websites and social media**, and encourage participation among clergy and lay, long-time members, newer members, young adults, and those whose voices are too often overlooked.

The survey is estimated to take ten minutes. Findings from the survey will be shared with the general Church in the months leading up to the October gathering.

Denomination-Wide Webinars Second, at the request of the Council of Bishops, UMCOM will host three churchwide webinars to help us discern our Wesleyan identity and new vision:

- January 24, 16.00-17.30 DK-NO/17.00-18.30 FI-LV-LT-UA: "Love Boldly"
- February 21, 16.00-17.30 DK-NO/17.00-18.30 FI-LV-LT-UA: "Serve Joyfully"
- March 21, 16.00-17.30 DK-NO/17.00-18.30 FI-LV-LT-UA: "Lead Courageously"

More information, including registration links, can be found on ResourceUMC.org or [here](#). Those registered will have an opportunity to submit questions beforehand. All webinars will be recorded and available for later viewing.

These are two important opportunities to speak faithfully and prayerfully into the life of and future of our Church. I am deeply grateful for the many demands you carry, and I believe this moment warrants our collective attention and care. Our connection and mission are strengthened when we listen widely, discern together, and remain rooted in our identity.

Thank you for your leadership, your faithfulness, and your partnership in this shared work. Please hold this process in prayer, as I continue to hold you and your ministries in mine.

Moss, 20 January 2026
With hope and gratitude,

Knut Refsdal

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