

State of the Conference

2026

OREGON CONFERENCE OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

YEAR IN REVIEW

Over the past year, our conference has walked through a significant season of discernment, transition, and renewed alignment with God's mission. This has not been a year defined by maintaining what has been, but by asking deeper questions about what God is doing among us and how we are called to participate in it. At the center of this journey has been a growing conviction that ministry must be shaped not by tradition alone, but by a Spirit-led responsiveness to the present realities before us.

One of the most notable highlights has been the continued movement toward sustainable and missionally aligned ministry models. Through initiatives such as The Fold, we have seen how creative expressions of ministry can engage people in everyday spaces, creating both relational connection and long-term impact. Alongside this, significant work has taken place in restructuring financial systems and re-aligning resources to better serve churches and leaders, ensuring that our structures support—not hinder—the mission God has entrusted to us.

We have also seen encouraging progress in leadership development and multiplication. New pathways are emerging as we invest in people, including the development of a growing Gen Z and Alpha community that is being formed through intentional relationship, discipleship, and leadership engagement. At the same time, we celebrate the continued expansion of multicultural ministry. We have been encouraged by missional development within the Chinese church, the Spanish-speaking congregation officially becoming a Free Methodist Church and experiencing meaningful growth, and the ongoing development of the Arabic community in Vancouver as new relationships and leadership pathways are taking shape.

At the same time, this year has brought meaningful challenges. Many of the decisions we have faced required us to release familiar structures, embrace uncertainty, and move forward without complete clarity. Whether navigating financial realities, property decisions, or the discernment process of dissolving existing conference structures to form something new, these moments have tested our willingness to trust God more deeply. We have been reminded that faithful leadership is not about preserving comfort, but about pursuing obedience.

Through it all, one truth has become increasingly clear: **ministry happens at the speed of relationships**. Lasting impact has not come through quick strategies or rapid change, but through listening, trust-building, and walking alongside people over time. As we have slowed down to pay attention—to God, to one another, and to the communities we serve—we have begun to see new possibilities emerge.

So what has God been shaping in our conference? He has been forming a people who are learning to lead with greater dependence on the Holy Spirit, to align structures with mission, and to prioritize relationships over results. He is shaping us into a conference that is less focused on maintaining systems and more committed to participating in a Spirit-fueled movement—one marked by discernment, collaboration, and faithful action.

As we look ahead, we are reminded that what God is forming among us is still in its early stages. Like an acorn, there is far more potential within this movement than we can currently see. Each of us carries within us the capacity to become more than we can imagine as we surrender to God's leading. The invitation before us is to continue trusting, listening, and stepping forward in faith, believing that God is growing something far greater than we can yet fully understand.

Respectfully Submitted,

Superintendent Robroy Ranger