

Frequently Asked Questions for General Conference 2026

Q: Where and when will General Conference 2026 take place?

A: General Conference 2026 will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, at the Sandton Convention Centre from August 30 through September 5, 2026.

Q: Why was Johannesburg chosen as the location?

A: The Commission on the General Conference evaluated 18 sites across four continents. Johannesburg scored highest based on five key factors: site layout, local infrastructure, safety and security, financial feasibility, and visa potential. The 2024 General Conference had voted to meet in Central Africa to ease visa challenges and maximize in-person participation. However, due to emerging political complexities that impacted the availability of the original frontrunner site, delegates from GC 2024 were polled and unanimously supported selecting another location on the continent. Johannesburg offers a world-class venue and maximizes global representation, providing an excellent setting for the 2026 General Conference.

Q: Will it be safe to attend GC 2026?

A: Yes. The Sandton area is a secure, affluent financial district considered safe by both locals and international visitors. Hotel blocks have been secured adjacent to or within a short shuttle distance from the venue. As with any international destination, travelers should take common-sense precautions, especially at the airport and after dark.

Q: How much will it cost to attend?

A: Estimated cost for U.S.-based participants is between \$3,500–\$5,000, depending on travel arrangements and accommodations. Participants traveling from outside the United States should anticipate different costs based on regional travel factors.

Q: How far is the venue from the airport?

A: Sandton is connected to O.R. Tambo International Airport via a 15-minute train ride. Shuttle service is available from the Sandton station, and alternate arrangements are being considered for later arrivals.

Q: Do I need a visa to enter South Africa?

A: U.S. citizens do not need a visa in advance but **must have a passport valid 30 days beyond departure and at least two blank pages**. Requirements vary for other countries; some require advance visas, while others are eligible for visa-on-arrival. The Commission is supporting non-U.S. delegates through a dedicated visa assistance team.

Q: Are any vaccinations required?

A: The CDC recommends routine vaccinations. Yellow fever vaccination is required for travelers arriving from areas designated by the World Health Organization (WHO) as yellow fever risk zones.

Q: What will the conference experience be like?

A: Each day will include vibrant worship services with a global feel and African influence, as well as Legislative and Plenary Sessions to shape the Book of Doctrines and Discipline. All paragraphs are open for consideration at GC 2026.

Q: How many delegates will attend?

A: The projected number is 380–420 delegates. Most annual conferences will have a similar number of delegates as 2024. Final allocation will be confirmed in early 2026. Conferences are encouraged to elect delegates and reserves in 2025 to prepare for travel and visa needs.

Q: Will there be virtual participation?

A: Delegates are expected to attend in person if eligible for entry. However, hybrid contingency plans are in place to include delegates who are denied visas.

Q: When does registration open?

A: Registration for flights and hotels is in development and will be announced later this year. Booking through the GMC's official travel partner will ensure access to discounted rates and proximity to the venue.