

X. MEMOIRS

A. Associates Members

1. Active

None

2. Retired



MARY L. SODERHOLM – Born March 11, 1947. Rev. Soderholm served in the following appointments in the West Michigan and Detroit Conferences: Dowling: Country Chapel/Banfield 1986; Lowell: Vergennes/ Snow 1991; Retired 1998; Barry County: Woodland 2004; Detroit Conference, Harrisville/Lincoln/Glennie 11/01/2014; Detroit Conference, Harrisville/Lincoln 10/01/2015. Died June 10, 2017.

B. Provisional Members

1. Active

None

2. Retired

None

C. Members in Full Connection

1. Active



RAYMOND R. SUNDELL – Born December 29, 1956. Rev. Sundell served Elk Rapids/Kewadin 1993; St. Johns Pilgrim 1998; Fennville/Pearl 2003; Perry/Shafsburg 2008; LeValley/Berlin Center 2012. Died April 14, 2017.

Rev. Ray Sundell died on Good Friday, April 14, 2017. He was a pastor for 30 years in the West Michigan Conference. He left behind his wife of 39 years, Jennifer, and their three sons: Jason, Jordan, and Joshua and their wives, and a granddaughter, Breckyn Sundell. Before becoming a pastor, Ray served as a youth director in Flint for both Bethlehem UMC and First Presbyterian Church. Ray loved Jesus and wanted others to know and love him too. We rejoice he is now in Heaven with our Savior!

2. Retired



DEAN I. BAILEY – Born May 21, 1935. Rev. Bailey served Leaton 1956; Sanford 1960; Vicksburg 1966; Lowell: First 1969; Stevensville 1979; Traverse City: Central 1987; Retired 2002; Served Alto/Bowne Center in Retirement. Died January 18, 2017.

Rev. Bailey was a gifted preacher, a dedicated and caring pastor, a loving father, husband, and grandfather, a loyal friend, and a role model to many. His ministry touched countless lives through thousands of worship services, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and quiet conversations. When Pastor Bailey walked into a room, no matter how many people were present, you felt noticed, cared for and accepted. He mentored and guided others with grace, kindness, and humor.



WILBUR (BILL) EDWARD COURTER – Born February 1, 1941. Rev. Courter served Comstock UMC, 1967; Alcoholism Program Coordinator, Kalamazoo, 1973; Kalamazoo County Health Dept. 1976; Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home Superintendent, 1982; West Side Family Mental Health Clinic, Kalamazoo, 1985. Died October 25, 2016.

Bill was passionate and compassionate in his ministry to people of all races, creeds, color and orientation. He and his loving wife of 60 years, Charlotte, were founders of the Comstock Community Center and he counseled with many men and women to help them heal emotional wounds. In his free time he loved fishing on Lake Esnagami, Canada, spending time with family and friends at his cabin in Baldwin, MI and playing cards with his buddies. He may have been short in stature, but to many he was larger than life!



DAVID L. CRAWFORD – Born August 23, 1927. Rev. Dr. Crawford served Portage Pathfinder 1949; Galien 1950; Dayton 1953; Comstock 1954; Buffalo Central Park, NY 1957; Cadillac 1960; Executive Secretary, Board of Education 1965; Lansing Christ 1969; Albion District Superintendent 1977; Traverse City Central 1981; Hartford 1987; Retired 1990. Died April 15, 2017.

Dave served in United Methodist ministry for more than forty years, including local pastoral appointments, the West Michigan conference office, and district superintendency. He was known for his passion for people, love of mission service, deep commitment to Christian camping, offbeat sense of humor, and a lifetime zest for travel which took him to more than 75 countries around the world for personal, missional, and church legislative opportunities. Assured of “life after life” Dave passed away just days before his wife of 66 years, Kathryn (DeVinney) Crawford – enthusiastic and excited about their reunion in full health together in heaven.



STANLEY A. FINKBEINER – Born September 8, 1930. Rev. Finkbeiner served Hopkins/South Monterey 1970; Kent City Chapel Hill 1974; Edmore 1981; Portland 1987; Grand Rapids: Northlawn 1992; Retired 1996. Died September 26, 2016.

*Stanley Arthur Finkbeiner lived with a passion for life and his family and always sought to bring fun to his ministry. Stanley wrote three memoirs which encapsulated his mischievous sense of humor: *Almost Religious – The Life of Stanley Finkbeiner*, *Being a Minister Can Have Its Fun Side*, and *My Life*. He also traveled prolifically – managing to visit 53 countries within three trips. Stanley served as a pastor for twenty-six years in The United Methodist Church; he was also a veteran who proudly served his country in the United States Army. His granddaughter, Brimey Cole, remembers him best as a grandpa you could trust to make you laugh, “Grandpa filled life with joy and laughter. Sitting next to him at a meal you were sure to have your hand dunked in the food. He made Sunday worship fun. Jokes to lighten any mood. I remember wet sponges placed on chairs at church right before people sat back down. Goodbye hugs were sometimes paired with raspberries to the neck. Heaven sure is lucky to be gaining this angel. He will be missed.”*



CHARLES WILLIAM (BILL) MARTIN – Born June 30, 1924. Rev. Martin served Newaygo 1951; Sanford 1956; Hartford 1960; Edmore Faith 1965; Middleville/Hastings Welcome Corners 1969; Clare 1973; Wyoming Park 1979; South Haven 1984; Retired in 1989. Died June 3, 2017.



ROBERT C. SMITH – Born November 24, 1919. Rev. Dr. Smith served Banfield/Dowling: Country Chapel 1941; Middleville 1946; Ovid/Shepardsville 1951; Mt Pleasant: First 1958; Jackson: First 1966; Grand Rapids District Superintendent 1971; Conference Council Director (Director of Connectional Ministries) 1977; Retired 1983. Consultant to United Methodist Committee on Relief, General Board of Global Ministries 1983-1992. Died April 20, 2017.

Bob, as he liked to be called, was a man almost larger than life itself. Bob was a man of integrity. Bob was filled with energy. Bob was filled with joy. Bob was filled with love: for his work, his country, creation, all humanity, especially his family.

Bob loved God – his church and all the church represents, his life and lived it to the fullest. Bob is now living the good life unending. Glory be to God!

D. Deacons in Full Connection

1. Active

None

2. Retired

None

E. Local Pastors

1. Active



ROBERT W. ECKERT – Born August 21, 1954. Pastor Eckert served Grand Rapids Olivet 2001, Wyoming Park 2006, Church of All Nations 2008, Courtland-Oakfield 2011. Died October 21, 2016.

Robert spent his early years in Indianapolis, IN, where his family hosted missionaries, foreign students and families, and those who needed a friend. He built his own typesetting corporation named after his father Agnew and after 25 years decided to pursue his lifelong desire of being a pastor. Robert's first appointment came in 2001 and he had the honor of serving Olivet, Wyoming Park, Church of all Nations and Courtland-Oakfield UMCs. He was a supporter of Habitat for Humanity, North Kent Community Services, Michigan Blood Center, and Plainsong Farm. He loved his four sons and adored his four grandsons and two granddaughters. Robert's core guidelines were to love your neighbor, do no harm and know God's grace is yours.

2. Retired

None

F. Diaconal Ministers



HELENE HILL – Born March 18, 1920. Died March 15, 2017.

Diminutive in physical stature, Helene Hill was a dynamo for justice in West Michigan. With her eyes "fixed on Jesus" her ears were attentive to the cries of those mistreated. She raised an insistent, persistent voice on behalf of those trapped in the underside of life and had an uncanny ability to get things done.

As a Deaconess, she served on Conference boards and agencies, was a regular at Annual Conference, Director of Community House in Grand Rapids and a counselor at Coopersville Public Schools. Never one to call attention to herself, she was unafraid to speak her mind, even to the point of totally covering the back of her car with challenging political, social justice stickers and labels. We are thankful for her indefatigable witness.

G. Clergy in good standing from another denomination.*None***H. Other Clergy**

ROBERT E. HORTON – Born December 31, 1927. Rev. Horton served Boaz 1952; Berrien Springs 1955; Wyoming Park 1957; Detroit: Trinity 1965; Utica 1971; Port Huron District Superintendent 1977; Clergy Assistant to the Bishop 1983; Retired 1993. Died October 20, 2016.

It goes without saying to anyone who knew him: Bob's faith and calling were a special gift from God. But after that faith came his undying love for his girl, Beatrice Horton, who preceded him in death by the longest three years of his life. So many people have said that there was no Bob OR Bea. There was only Bob AND Bea. After Bea, came his love and devotion to his four children, Michael, Deborah, Annette, and Susan, who feel nothing but blessed to have been born to this couple. Their spouses, Amy, Todd, Brian, and Bill, all feel the same. As do their five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Bob and Bea started a family tradition of the Horton Family Week at their lake house and it has continued for 28 years. One of Bob's biggest concerns was that it would not continue after he and Bea were gone. He need not have worried. All of the family is so proud of Bob's life and the people he touched and impacted. And all are grateful that the Michigan Conference honors him in such a way as this. As widespread as they all are, not all could be here. But they hope that the legacy of Bob Horton will be influential for many years to come.

OTTO F. FLACHSMANN – Born November 6, 1929. Rev. Flachsmann served the following appointments in the Detroit and West Michigan Conferences: 1953 North Ewart, Brooks Corners; 1956 Scottville; 1959 Bainbridge; 1964 Grant Center, Hersey; 1969 Pontiac: Baldwin Avenue; 1976 Davisburg; 1981 Capac: First, Zion; 1984 Fairgrove, Gilford; 1992 Retired. Died June 11, 2017.



GREGORY J. MARTIN – Born April 15, 1958. Rev. Martin served Battle Creek: Baseline 1984; First Congregational United Church of Christ, Downers Grove, IL 1987; Reed City 1993; Albion 1998; Director, Wesley Foundation, University of Michigan 2002; Grand Rapids: Aldersgate 2006; Leave of Absence 2112. Died February 12, 2017.

Greg grew up in southwest Michigan, graduated from Cassopolis High School, Taylor University, and Wesley Theological Seminary. He served several United Methodist congregations as well as the Wesley Foundation of Ann Arbor. He was married to the Rev. Jennifer Browne from 1985 to 2013; they have two children, Katherine and Alexis. In 2012, Greg transferred to the Unitarian Universalist Association, where LGBT clergy are welcome. He served UU congregations in East Lansing, Portage, and most recently, Dayton, Ohio.

ROBERT WOODRING – Born August 20, 1945. Pastor Woodring served Athens 1986; Battle Creek: Baseline 1987; Disability Leave 1990. Died March 8, 2017.

Robert Woodring was a very caring, funny, stubborn person. He loved his family and congregations. He especially loved teaching the children at his churches in Athens and Battle Creek about the love of Christ and how He affected their lives. Bob always had a passion for the creative arts, especially painting, which he pursued during his retirement as his health allowed. A friend said that he is now able to paint his masterpieces in Heaven.

I. Missionaries*None***J. Missionaries Spouses***None***K. Deaconesses***None***L. Certified Candidate for Ordination***None***M. Clergy Spouses**

MARY JANE WILSON ALLEN – *Widow of Richard Wilson,
Wife of William Allen*

Born February 16, 1928 Died February 7, 2017

MARK F. BAKER – *Husband of Ellen Zienert*

Born June 14, 1949 Died August 18, 2016

MARY ERNESTINE BINTZ – *Widow of Neil Bintz*

Born February 10, 1928 Died January 22, 2017

ELNORA BOVEE – *Wife of Keith Bovee*

Born November 12, 1929 Died June 26, 2016

KATHRYN CRAWFORD – *Wife of David Crawford*

Born March 10, 1929 Died April 17, 2017

PHYLLIS ISEMINGER – *Widow of Marvin Iseminger*

Born February 17, 1924 Died February 17, 2016

CAROL EILEEN FRYE KERSTEN – *Wife of Robert Kersten*

Born November 24, 1931 Died March 27, 2017

MILDRED KIRCHENBAUER – *Widow of Harold Kirchenbauer*

Born August 5, 1918 Died April 14, 2017

LORRAINE LAVENGOOD – *Widow of James Lavengood*

Born May 21, 1934 Died February 24, 2017

WILLIAM LEE – *Husband of Janet Lee*

Born August 2, 1931 Died March 23, 2017

NORMA DORIS BAUMAN DANCER MANN – *Widow of Harold Mann*

Born March 21, 1926 Died January 29, 2017

RAMELLE (SARAH) MCDONALD – *Widow of Howard McDonald*

Born April 22, 1923 Died May 1, 2017

KIMBERLY MOMANY – *Wife of Christopher Momany*

Born October 19, 1965 Died August 31, 2016

HOWARD (BUDD) NEWMAN – *Husband of Carol Newman*

Born June 28, 1918 Died April 6, 2017

AMY PUTNAM – *Widow of Leonard Putnam*

Born June 23, 1936 Died March 31, 2017

TERRANCE (TERRY) TOCK – *Husband of Janice Lancaster*

Born January 11, 1959 Died April 26, 2017

ELIZABETH WATERHOUSE – *Widow of Laurence Waterhouse*

Born December 2, 1919 Died October 9, 2016

NANCY JO WHITLOCK – *Widow of Bobby Whitlock*

Born April 2, 1952 Died February 13, 2017

JANE ELLEN WILSON – *Widow of Richard M. Wilson*

Born February 1, 1941 Died October 25, 2016

BERTHA (BERTIE MAE) WOOD-LOZIER – *Widow of Joseph Wood,*

Widow of Earl Lozier

Born October 6, 1915 Died March 4, 2016

N. Child of the Parsonage

None

O. Diaconal Ministers' Spouses

None

P. Lay Persons (Professionally Related to the Conference)

BARBARA ANN BRECHTING

Born February 22, 1934 Died December 2, 2016



–WMC Photos

XI. ROLL OF THE DEAD

For Roll of Deceased prior to July 20, 1938, consult Minutes of 1938 and before
 For Roll of Deceased prior to June 12, 1967, consult Minutes of 1967 and before
 For Roll of Deceased prior to April 7, 1977, consult Minutes of 1977 and before
 For Roll of Deceased prior to June 2, 1986, consult Minutes of 1986 and before
 For Roll of Deceased prior to July 1, 1994, consult Minutes of 1994 and before
 For Roll of Deceased prior to July 1, 2005, consult Minutes of 2005 and before
 For Roll of Deceased prior to July 1, 2007, consult Minutes of 2014 and before
 For Roll of Deceased prior to July 1, 2015, consult Minutes of 2016 and before

Name	Date of Death	Place of Death	Age	Entered Reg. Ministry	Joined West Mich. Conference
David L. Miles	8/1/2015		76	1964	1967
Dwight M. Benner	9/25/2015	Beverly Hills MI	71		1970
David Yingling	12/10/2015	Marshall, MI	70		1972
Timothy J. Miller	12/27/2015	Wyoming, MI	59		1992
Joan K. Hamlin	3/6/2016	Holland, MI	84	1983	1984
Wesley E. Smith	3/30/2016	Grand Rapids, MI	86	1977	1981
Robert L. Pumfery	6/6/2016	Grand Junction MI	80	1965	1965
James A. Richie	6/14/2016	Newnan, GA	73	1994	2000
Elmer J. Faust	7/1/2016	Delton, MI	88	1954	1961
Stanley A. Finkbeiner	9/26/2016	Grand Rapids, MI	86	1970	1974
Robert W. Eckert	10/21/2016	Rockford, MI	62	2001	(PL)
Wilbur E. Courter	10/25/2016	Kalamazoo, MI	75	1967	1970
Dean I. Bailey	1/18/2017	Lowell, MI	81	1956	1958
Raymond R. Sundell	4/14/2017	Ionia, MI	60	1987	1993
David L. Crawford	4/15/2017	Grand Rapids, MI	89	1949	1950
Robert C. Smith	4/20/2017	Grand Rapids, MI	97	1940	1945
Charles William Martin	6/3/2017	Clare, MI	92	1948	1950
Mary L. Soderholm	6/10/2017	Harrisville, MI	70	1986	1986



XII. HISTORICAL SESSIONS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

For information regarding previous sessions of the former Conferences of Evangelical United Brethren Church, refer to the Journal of the 107th Annual Session of the Michigan Conference (EUB) Pages 25 and 26 dated May 20-23, 1968.

For the Listing of previous Sessions of the West Michigan Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, please refer to the Journal of the West Michigan Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church Pages 240-241, dated June 12-15, 1974. (Note: Session no. 28 in 1996 refers to the 28th session of the United Methodist Church, as formed with the merger of the Methodist and EUB churches in 1968.)

<u>No.</u>	<u>Date Began</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Bishop</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
133	June 4, 1968	Albion, MI	Dwight E. Loder	H. A. Kirchenbauer
134	June 18, 1969	Albion, MI	Dwight E. Loder	H. A. Kirchenbauer
135	June 18, 1970	Albion, MI	Dwight E. Loder	H. A. Kirchenbauer
136	June 17, 1971	Albion, MI	Dwight E. Loder	H. A. Kirchenbauer
137	June 14, 1972	Albion, MI	Dwight E. Loder	L. R. Taylor
138	June 13, 1973	Albion, MI	Dwight E. Loder	L. R. Taylor
139	June 12, 1974	Albion, MI	Dwight E. Loder	L. R. Taylor
140	June 11, 1975	Albion, MI	Dwight E. Loder	L. R. Taylor
141	June 9, 1976	Albion, MI	Dwight E. Loder	L. R. Taylor
142	June 2, 1977	Albion, MI	Edsel A. Ammons	L. R. Taylor
143	June 14, 1978	Albion, MI	Edsel A. Ammons	E. K. Eldred
144	June 13, 1979	Albion, MI	Thomas M. Pryor	E. K. Eldred
145	June 11, 1980	Albion, MI	Edsel A. Ammons	E. K. Eldred
146	June 10, 1981	Albion, MI	James S. Thomas	E. K. Eldred
147	June 9, 1982	Albion, MI	Edsel A. Ammons	E. K. Eldred
148	May 31, 1983	Albion, MI	Edsel A. Ammons	Paul E. Patterson
149	May 29, 1984	Albion, MI	Edsel A. Ammons	Paul E. Patterson
150	June 11, 1985	Albion, MI	Judith Craig	Paul E. Patterson
151	June 10, 1986	Albion, MI	Judith Craig	Paul E. Patterson
152	June 9, 1987	Albion, MI	Judith Craig	Paul E. Patterson
153	June 14, 1988	Albion, MI	Judith Craig	Ronald B. Grant
154	June 13, 1989	Albion, MI	Judith Craig	Ronald B. Grant
155	June 12, 1990	Albion, MI	Judith Craig	Ronald B. Grant
156	June 11, 1991	Albion, MI	Judith Craig	Ronald B. Grant
157	June 9, 1992	Albion, MI	Judith Craig	John H. Hice
158	June 15, 1993	Albion, MI	Donald A. Ott	John H. Hice
159	June 14, 1994	Albion, MI	Donald A. Ott	John H. Hice
160	June 13, 1995	Albion, MI	Donald A. Ott	John H. Hice
28	June 11, 1996	Albion, MI	Donald A. Ott	Gail L. Friedrick
29	June 10, 1997	Albion, MI	Donald A. Ott	Gail L. Friedrick
30	June 8, 1998	Grand Rapids, MI	Donald A. Ott	Gail L. Friedrick
31	June 2, 1999	Grand Rapids, MI	Donald A. Ott	William C. Johnson
32	June 1, 2000	Grand Rapids, MI	Donald A. Ott	William C. Johnson
33	May 31, 2001	Grand Rapids, MI	Linda Lee	William C. Johnson
34	May 31, 2002	Grand Rapids, MI	Linda Lee	William C. Johnson
35	June 6, 2003	Grand Rapids, MI	Linda Lee	William C. Johnson
36	June 3, 2004	Grand Rapids, MI	Linda Lee	William C. Johnson
37	June 2, 2005	Grand Rapids, MI	Jonathan D. Keaton	Kathryn S. Cadarette
38	June 1, 2006	Grand Rapids, MI	Jonathan D. Keaton	Kathryn S. Cadarette
39	May 31, 2007	Grand Rapids, MI	Jonathan D. Keaton	Laura B. Clark
40	June 5, 2008	Grand Rapids, MI	Jonathan D. Keaton	Laura B. Witkowski
41	June 4, 2009	Grand Rapids, MI	Jonathan D. Keaton	Laura B. Witkowski
42	June 3, 2010	Grand Rapids, MI	Jonathan D. Keaton	William W. Chu
43	June 1, 2011	Grand Rapids, MI	Jonathan D. Keaton	William W. Chu
44	June 6, 2012	Grand Rapids, MI	Jonathan D. Keaton	William W. Chu
45	May 29, 2013	Grand Rapids, MI	Deborah L. Kiesey	Greg Buchner
46	June 11, 2014	Grand Rapids, MI	Deborah L. Kiesey	Greg Buchner
47	June 4, 2015	Grand Rapids, MI	Deborah L. Kiesey	Greg Buchner
48	June 9, 2016	East Lansing, MI	Deborah L. Kiesey	Greg Buchner
49	June 1, 2017	Traverse City, MI	David A. Bard	Joy A. Barrett