

## **R#2019-8 L.S. 4 41 42 Reaffirmation of the Michigan Conference Support for Camping Ministry**

**Motion:** The Michigan Area Conference United Methodist Camping moves that Michigan Conference churches, ministries, laity and clergy be challenged and encouraged to support Michigan Conference United Methodist Camps through prayer, volunteer service, promotion and financial gifts.

Further, be it resolved that clergy understand the support of camping ministry, as volunteer and advocate, is part of their pastoral service and their time devoted as volunteer staff to the camping ministry will not be counted as vacation.

Be it further resolved that clergy and laity help recruit persons to be on paid or volunteer staff for our camps as needed, contact being made through the Michigan Area Camping office or a camp Site Director.

Be it further resolved that each local church be encouraged to hold a camp promotion Sunday to encourage participation and celebrate our Michigan Area United Methodist camps.

### **Rationale:**

- The Michigan Conference has a rich history of camping ministry for all ages that actively promotes making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- Camping Ministry has helped nurture the call into ordained and lay ministry for many people.
- Our camps function best when churches and pastors are actively involved in promotion, recruitment, usage, and service as volunteers.
- Clergy may be hesitant to volunteer at our camps if it means giving up vacation.
- Pastors are in a position to assist in identifying lay persons with gifts for camping and identifying campers for participation.
- The camping ministry offers a unique opportunity for persons to encounter God in nature and grow in their personal faith.
- It is important to support camps in our own Michigan area United Methodist camping program.

Submitted by: Rev. David Wickert, Michigan Area United Methodist Camping