

Mission, Vision, and Values of the Michigan Delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conference 2020

The Michigan Delegation to the 2020 General and North Central Jurisdictional Conferences aligns its mission with that of the United Methodist Church: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for transformation of the world. Our vision as a delegation is to listen; to lead the Michigan Conference into a more just and inclusive church; to continue the reconciling work of Jesus Christ in whatever new things emerge; to challenge ourselves to follow in the way of Christ; and to live into the catholic spirit of John Wesley.

We value:

A strong foundation. We recognize our foundation is in Jesus Christ, and we seek to strengthen it through continued prayer, reading scripture, listening, and reflection. We also find strength and support in our relationship with each other and with our churches and congregations and we seek to deepen those relationships.

Holding all in sacred worth. We understand diversity and inclusion as the road to true equality. We know that we must actively seek these things and put real work into analyzing and dismantling racism, colonialism, sexism, and all other -isms that continue to separate us from true communion and community with each other.

Compassion, honesty, and realism. We are working through difficult and painful issues. Our hearts break with those who hurt just as they soar with hopes and dreams for the future. We strive to listen to and understand the many voices and hearts both inside of and outside of the church—those we have helped, those we have neglected to help, and those we have hurt. We especially seek to hear the voices and hearts of our LGBTQIA siblings.

Servant leadership. We understand our unique role as leaders and listeners. We hope to better understand ourselves and our conference as we lead. We value the diversity in our delegation and our conference as we recognize that there are voices yet unheard.

The journey. We know that there are more issues to address than the ones immediately before us. We will not complete the job in May or in July, but, in the spirit of moving on to perfection, we will continue the journey of leading the Michigan Conference to improve ourselves and our churches in all the ways we fall short of true, Christ-like love and inclusion.