Greetings in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the peace and power of the Holy Spirit.

Last year, directly following my greeting, I wrote: “What a difference a year makes.” I could add three exclamation points this year. Months ago, as we began preparing for this year’s session of the Michigan Annual Conference, we were anticipating engaging in some challenging work as a follow-up to General Conference 2020. No one imagined that General Conference 2020 would move to 2021 or that we would be meeting for our annual conference virtually due to a pandemic.

Last year I wrote, “we gather in uncertain and anxious times.” Again, add three exclamation points. Yet the words shared last year from Gil Rendle still ring true, “we have learned to sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land before” (Quietly Courageous).

We are wandering in a new land and living in a strange time. Concern for public health will continue to have an impact on how we gather for the foreseeable future. At the same time, our congregations and our leaders, clergy, and lay, are finding new and creative ways to worship and connect and reach out in ministry. Inspired by God’s Spirit we are using ZOOM, Skype, and Go To Meeting to attend worship, learn, grow, pray, grieve, celebrate, and connect. Inspired by God’s Spirit, we are continuing to reach out in concern and service to the world, feeding, clothing, caring, working for justice, in ways that work to keep people safe and healthy. Inspired by God’s Spirit, we are finding new ways to create communities of love and forgiveness that also mitigate the spread of a virus.

Our theme this year for Annual Conference is, “Sowing Seeds: rooting, tending, reaping.” Our focus is Congregational Vibrancy. So much of what was planned will not take place or will take place differently. It is our plan to offer workshops on vibrancy in the coming months. There is always more to learn. There are always more ways to grow. Right now, the heart of vibrancy is openness and resilience, openness to new ways of ministering in the name of Jesus Christ, resilience in scattering new seeds of love and grace everywhere, walking, leaping, dancing much as the wild farmer in Mark 4 (with a nod to Acts 3).

Annual Conference is very different this year. I will miss greeting you in person. I will miss singing. I will miss handshakes and hugs. We meet virtually to conduct our necessary business in a way that also cares for public health. The most important work, though, remains the work of our congregations and ministry settings in making disciples of Jesus Christ so that people can be different and so that the world can be different – more caring, compassionate, kind, loving, and patient in this time of pandemic and beyond. May our work together as an Annual Conference enhance the work of each of our ministry settings. In the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of God’s Spirit, be open, be vibrant, be resilient. Keep sowing seeds of love and grace, justice and reconciliation, peace, and kindness.

Bishop David Bard
### Virtual Conference Schedule: July 26-28

**SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>ZOOM TRAINING</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020* - PLENARY SESSION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>OPENING DEVOTION – Brad Kalajainen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>OPEN CONFERENCE – Nichea Ver Veer Guy&lt;br&gt;ORIENTATION TO ZOOM – Mark Doyal&lt;br&gt;REPORT ON OTHER LEGISLATION – Bishop Bard&lt;br&gt;PENSION REPORT AND PENSION RELATED LEGISLATION – Don Emmert&lt;br&gt;EQUITABLE COMPENSATION LEGISLATION&lt;br&gt;BUNDLING PLAN OF ORGANIZATION LEGISLATION – Amy Mayo-Moyle&lt;br&gt;CFA REPORT – Brad Bartelmay&lt;br&gt;ELECTION OF THE TREASURER – Brad Bartelmay&lt;br&gt;NOMINATIONS – Janet Larner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>LUNCH BREAK AND CONNECTIONAL VIDEOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>LAY LEADERS REPORT – Anne Soles, John Wharton&lt;br&gt;CORPORATE SESSION – Jim LeBaron&lt;br&gt;BUDGET – Brad Bartelmay&lt;br&gt;DEAN OF THE CABINET REPORT – Elizabeth Hill&lt;br&gt;RECOGNITIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>CLOSING WORSHIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>CONCLUDE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>CLERGY SESSION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>CONCLUDE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please see page 4 for registration and connection details.*
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1. Welcome  
2. Virtual Conference Schedule: July 26-28  
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5. 2020 Annual Conference Offering  
7. Rules of Procedure Statement for Annual Conference 2020  
8. ZOOM Instructions  
9. Four Ways to Address the Presiding Officer Online  
10. Voting Procedure - Please Read Carefully  
11. 2020 Michigan Annual Conference Voting Items Booklet  
28. Michigan Annual Conference Opening Worship  
31. 2020 Candidates for Ordination and Commissioning  
34. Annual Conference Webinar Series  
35. 2020 BALLOT

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**Worship Music**

- Sent Forth by God’s Blessing, © 1993 Leland B. Sateren; The Pilgrim Press.  
- Sois la Semilla, © 1979 Cesáreo Gabarain; OCP.  
- And Are We Yet Alive, © 1997 Charles Wesley, Ken E. Read; Words: Public Domain, Music: CBeyond Music.  

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**Michigan Conference Office of Clergy Excellence presents**

**Spiritual Economics: Money, Values, and Faith**

An online webinar series with Rebekah Simon-Peter

- How your assumptions and values affect your approach to money and stewardship  
- Jesus’ relationship to money & other biblical models of financial leadership  
- Financial leadership in a Covid-19 world

**Wednesdays, August 5, 12, 19, 26 • 12:00 – 1:00 PM**

More information and register at bit.ly/UMCLeadershipAcademy
Arriving at Virtual Annual Conference
There are a few steps to attend. Please read carefully

Congratulations, you have already completed the first important step! By completing the Michigan Conference registration form on our 2020.MichiganUMC.org website, we know you plan to participate. Here is how to get connected with the ZOOM Webinar or telephone technology to participate in the online sessions.

Please Note: You are encouraged to find a place to access the internet to connect via ZOOM. You will be unable to ask questions during the ZOOM session if you connect by phone. If you plan to connect by phone, you do not need to register via ZOOM. To connect by phone on Sunday or Monday, call: 1-408-638-0968

1. To register for ZOOM for Sunday, July 26 and Monday, July 27:
By registering you will receive an online link to attend opening worship on Sunday and business sessions on Monday via ZOOM. You will receive an email confirming access to attend by ZOOM for both days, plus email reminders the day and hour before the sessions. Register by July 24 at https://link.gntv.info/miac2020register

2. To register for ZOOM for Tuesday, July 28 Clergy Session:
Voting members at Clergy Session (pastors and lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry) must register for the secure ZOOM call. Participants must attend this session via ZOOM to vote. You will receive reminder emails the day and hour before the session. Register by July 24 at https://link.gntv.info/miclergyregister


GETTING READY
1. Please read all of these materials before attending virtual annual conference.
2. If you are a voting member of annual conference, make sure you received a ballot (on pages 35-36) and return envelope. If you do not have these items, contact the Annual Conference Registrar Sarah Vollmer at svollmer@michiganumc.org or 517-347-4030, ext. 4081.
3. Attend one of the two 30-minute online practice sessions. If you are unfamiliar with the ZOOM Webinar system, learn how to ask questions, get tech support, and vote. See the links for the sessions below:
   • Wednesday, July 22 7:00 PM EDT Attendee Link: https://link.gntv.info/mitraining22attendee
   • Sunday, July 26 4:00 PM EDT Attendee Link: http://link.gntv.info/mitraining26attendee

For ZOOM Technical Support call 478-216-7709
2020 Annual Conference Offering

The majority of the Opening Worship offering will benefit our covenant partners, The Methodist Church of Haiti and The Liberia Annual Conference. A 10% tithe of the opening worship offering received will go to the Michigan Disaster Response and Recovery fund as recommended by Bishop David Bard. This fund allows the Michigan United Methodist Church to initiate response to disasters within the state and to begin mobilizing our response to disasters outside of Michigan.

**HAITI:**

Haitian Artisans for Peace (Advance #3020490) will receive 45% of the entire offering to support expectant mothers in HAPI’s ‘Start Right’ program for maternal and newborn health in Haiti, saving lives from pregnancy test through birth.

**LIBERIA:**

Bishop Judith Craig Children’s Village in Liberia (Advance #11820A) will receive 45% of the total offering. The funds provide basic needs, education, counseling and healthcare to orphaned children. In lieu of providing materials to be shipped to these locations, we ask you to consider sending additional funds for immediate relief.

Please make your check payable to “Michigan Conference” noting “AC Offering” in the memo line. Include the check in your pre-paid ballot envelope.

We can receive your offering via PayPal, through the Michigan Conference Website bit.ly/AC20offering.

*Note: we’re unable to credit your church for donations given through the online link at this time.*
WELCOME,
MICHIGAN AREA
UNITED METHODIST
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WE LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU IN SPRING OF 2021!

TRAVERSEcity
TraverseCity.com
Welcome to this unique and unprecedented plenary session of the Michigan Annual Conference.

We were scheduled to meet in Traverse City May 28-31, but in accordance with ¶603.3 the place of meeting was changed, and in the interest of public health, it was made a virtual meeting, allowed by the laws of the State of Michigan. Thank you for your participation and patience.

Our agenda has been prepared in accordance with ¶605.2 by the Commission on the Annual Conference Session in consultation with the bishop, district superintendents, and conference lay leaders. The agenda provides for addressing items necessary for the ongoing functioning of our conference, or that are required by The Book of Discipline, or our conference plan of organization and rules of procedure first, and only addressing other business as time permits. I am deeply grateful that so many persons were willing to withdraw their resolutions in the interest of facilitating our work in meeting virtually.

While our rules for Annual Conference were written for in-person gatherings, they are adaptable for this virtual meeting and have been so adapted. I am grateful to Todd Price and the Rules Committee for their diligence and attention to detail. They will be examining our rules and may propose revisions at next year’s annual conference so as to more explicitly provide for such virtual meetings as may be needed in emergencies such as this.

While resolutions will be voted on through paper ballots according to the procedure provided in the program booklet mailed by the annual conference, if we need to vote while meeting, clear directions will be given by the presiding officer. The means by which someone may ask for the floor while we are meeting will also be described by the presiding officer.

Bishop David A. Bard

Reviewed by Todd Price, Chairperson of the Rules Committee
**Question & Answer:** Open the Q&A window, allowing you to ask questions to the host and panelists. They can either reply back to you via text in the Q&A window or answer your question live.

**To address the presiding officer:**

1. Type one of the four approved prompts into the Q&A box (see page 9: Four ways to address the presiding officer.) Click Send.

2. The Q&A is monitored by a team of proctors. If a proctor replies via the Q&A, you will see a reply in the Q&A window. The presiding officer can also answer your question live (out loud). You will see a notification in the Q&A window if the presiding officer plans to do this.

---

**Have a ZOOM question?**

Call GNTV 478-216-7709
Four Ways to Address the Presiding Officer Online

ASK A QUESTION
Use the Q&A window to type QUESTION, followed by your name. When acknowledged by the chair, you will be asked to click the raise hand feature to identify yourself among the participants. After your microphone is turned on please share:

- Name
- Clergy or laity
- The name of your church
- The city where it is located
- Your question

MAKE A SPEECH FOR OR SPEECH AGAINST A MOTION BEFORE THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Use the Q&A window to type SPEECH FOR or SPEECH AGAINST followed by your name. When acknowledged by the presiding officer, you will be asked to click the raise hand feature to identify yourself among the participants. After your microphone is turned on please share:

- Speech for or speech against
- Name
- Clergy or laity
- The name of your church
- The city where it is located

POINT OF ORDER
Use the Q&A window to type POINT OF ORDER, followed by your name. When acknowledged by the presiding officer, you will be asked to click the raise hand feature to identify yourself among the participants. After your microphone is turned on please share:

- Name
- Clergy or laity
- The name of your church
- The city where it is located
- Your point of order

OTHER PARLIAMENTARY REQUEST
Use the Q&A window to type REQUEST, followed by your name and the specific nature of your request. When acknowledged by the presiding officer, you will be asked to click the raise hand feature to identify yourself among the participants. After your microphone is turned on please share:

- Name
- Clergy or laity
- The name of your church
- The city where it is located
- State the specific nature of your parliamentary request
Voting Procedure -
Please Read Carefully

To assure that all Members to Annual Conference are able to vote, regardless of access to online technology, the Commission on the Annual Conference Session is implementing a paper ballot voting procedure. While all resolutions will be voted on through the use of a paper ballot, if members need to vote while meeting, clear directions will be provided by the presiding officer.

MATERIALS NECESSARY TO VOTE:
• This Legislative Guide.
• Ballot – see page 35 of this Legislative Guide.
• Pre-paid return mailing envelope. No postage required.

If you are missing materials, please contact the Annual Conference Registrar Sarah Vollmer at svollmer@michiganumc.org or 517-347-4030, ext. 4081 immediately. Do not use any ballot other than the specific one sent in this guide.

PROCEDURE
1. Read all resolutions in this book.
2. Attend annual conference and listen to presentations on the resolutions.
3. Using a black or blue pen, clearly mark the ballot.
4. The ballot must be returned inside the sealed pre-paid envelope provided. Annual Conference offering can be included in the same envelope.
5. The envelope must be postmarked and mailed with the United States Postal Service between Tuesday, July 28, 2020 and Saturday, August 1, 2020. Ballots postmarked outside of this time period will be designated as invalid.
6. Ballots received at the Michigan Conference Center with the correct postmark by August 31, 2020 will be counted.
7. Bishop Bard will report the vote counts by Labor Day weekend.

Questions about voting should be directed to your District Office, or by email to Secretary@MichiganUMC.org.
# Annual Conference Resolutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Res. No.</th>
<th>Resolution title</th>
<th>Leg. Cmt.</th>
<th>Pg</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R#2020-1</td>
<td>Authorize CBOPHB to Address Claims</td>
<td>Plenary</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R#2020-2</td>
<td>Establish Housing/Rental Allowance for Retired or Clergy on Medical Leave</td>
<td>Plenary</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R#2020-3</td>
<td>2021 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan</td>
<td>Plenary</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R#2020-4</td>
<td>Establish Past Service Rate</td>
<td>Plenary</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R#2020-5</td>
<td>Retiree Group Health Care Plan amendment</td>
<td>withdrawn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R#2020-6</td>
<td>Vote on Which Post-separation Church to Join</td>
<td>withdrawn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R#2020-7</td>
<td>Keep Any Exit Gracious</td>
<td>withdrawn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R#2020-8</td>
<td>Amend Conference Plan of Organization—new paragraph re Inclusiveness</td>
<td>withdrawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>R#2020-9</td>
<td>Amend Conference Plan of Organization—Conference Leadership Council Membership</td>
<td>Plenary</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R#2020-10</td>
<td>Amend Conference Plan of Organization—Council on Finance and Administration Membership</td>
<td>Plenary</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R#2020-11</td>
<td>Amend Conference Plan of Organization—Board of Trustees Membership</td>
<td>Plenary</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R#2020-12</td>
<td>Creation of Michigan Conference Affiliations Task Force</td>
<td>withdrawn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R#2020-13</td>
<td>Create Conference Committee on LBGTQIA+ Ministry</td>
<td>withdrawn</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>R#2020-14</td>
<td>Create Conference Worship Supplemental Task Force</td>
<td>withdrawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>R#2020-15</td>
<td>Create Conference Anti-racism Task Force</td>
<td>withdrawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>R#2020-16</td>
<td>LBGTQIA+ Ministries Conference wide Special Offering</td>
<td>withdrawn</td>
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<td>R#2020-17</td>
<td>Readers to Leaders Conference wide Fundraising Appeal</td>
<td>withdrawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>R#2020-18</td>
<td>Covenant of Ministry Partnership with Liberia Annual Conference</td>
<td>withdrawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>R#2020-19</td>
<td>Conference Policy on Use of Proceeds from Sale &amp; Accumulated Assets of Local Church Property</td>
<td>withdrawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>R#2020-20</td>
<td>Michigan UMC Gun-Free Zones</td>
<td>withdrawn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R#2020-21</td>
<td>Questions for Candidates for Federal Offices</td>
<td>withdrawn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R#2020-22</td>
<td>Recognize Unborn Baby</td>
<td>withdrawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>R#2020-23</td>
<td>2021 Equitable Compensation Guidelines and Schedule</td>
<td>Plenary</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PLEASE NOTE:** In light of the 2020 Annual Conference session moving to a condensed, virtual conference meeting, 15 of the previously published resolutions have been withdrawn by the presenters.

See page 19 for information about the **Corporate Session**.
R#2020-1

Authorization for CBOPHB to Address Claims

Motion:
Authorize The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (CBOPHB) to negotiate, compromise, or submit to arbitration any claims for benefits that may arise under the Michigan Conference Health Care Plan, the Michigan Conference Lay Employee Welfare Plan (death and disability), the United Methodist Retirement Plans (Pre-82, Ministerial Pension Plan, Clergy Retirement Security Program, United Methodist Personal Investment Plan), the United Methodist Clergy Welfare Plan (Comprehensive Protection Plan); and for that purpose to retain legal counsel as needed. The CBOPHB will be considered the final appeal and have final authority to decide any issue in the event of a dispute or disagreement by a participant.

Rationale:
Per The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, the Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits is the responsible entity to administer and ensure the accuracy of conference related benefits, as well as review participant inquiries or discrepancies.

Submitted by:
Michigan Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits
Rev. Dr. Steven J. Buck, President
Rev. Donald J. Emmert, Director of Conference Benefits & Human Resources

R#2020-2

Establish the Housing/Rental Allowance for Retired Clergy or Clergy on Medical Leave

Motion:
The Michigan Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits moves to establish the Housing/Rental Allowance for retired or clergy on medical leave status (receiving disability benefits) in the Michigan Conference as follows:

1) An amount equal to 100% of the pension/disability payments received during the year 2021 is hereby designated as a rental/housing allowance for each retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister of The United Methodist Church who is or was a member of the Michigan Conference at the time of his or her retirement or disability;

2) This rental/housing allowance shall apply to each retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister who has been granted the retired relationship or placed on medical leave by the Michigan Conference and whose name and relationship to the conference is recorded in the Journal of the Michigan Conference or in other appropriate records maintained by the conference;

3) The pension/disability payment to which this rental/housing allowance applies shall be the pension/disability payment resulting from all service of such retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers from all employment by any local church, annual conference or institution of The United Methodist Church, or from any other employer who employed the minister to perform services related to the ministry and who elected to make contributions to the pension and welfare funds of The United Methodist Church for such retired minister’s pension or disability benefits;

4) The amount of the housing/rental allowance that may be excluded is limited to the lesser of: a) the amount designated as the housing/rental allowance, or b) the amount actually expended for housing/rent, or c) the fair rental value of housing, if required by law.
**Rationale:**
The United Methodist Church has and functions through Ministers of the Gospel who are duly ordained or licensed. The practice of the United Methodist Church is to provide a parsonage or housing allowance as a part of the gross compensation for each of its active ordained or licensed ministers. Pensions paid to retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers of the United Methodist Church are considered deferred compensation and are paid to said retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers in consideration of previous active service. The Internal Revenue Service has recognized that the Michigan Conference is the appropriate body to designate a housing/rental allowance for retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers who are members of this conference.

**Submitted by:**
Michigan Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits
Rev. Dr. Steven J. Buck, President
Rev. Donald J. Emmert, Director of Conference Benefits & Human Resources

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**R#2020-3 2021 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan**

**Motion:**
The Michigan Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits moves to authorize the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits to review and approve the 2021 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan (CBFP) upon successful completion of the CBFP and receipt of a favorable “letter of opinion” from Wespath Benefits & Investments.

*NOTE: Due to Wespath’s timeline, their review and “letter of opinion” cannot be completed by the conference deadline for submitting resolutions. The “letter of opinion” will be available online and in the final printed materials once it is received from Wespath.*

**Rationale:**
Per 2012 General Conference action, all annual conferences are required to develop, adopt and implement a comprehensive funding plan encompassing all conference benefit obligations. The funding plan must be submitted to Wespath Benefits & Investments for review. After receiving a favorable, written opinion from the Wespath actuaries, it must be approved annually by the annual conference.

**Submitted by:**
Michigan Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits
Rev. Dr. Steven J. Buck, President
Rev. Donald J. Emmert, Director of Conference Benefits & Human Resources
R#2020-4

Establish Past Service Rate

Motion:
The Michigan Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits moves to establish the 2021 Past Service Rate (PSR) for the Ministers’ Reserve Pension Fund (Pre-82) at $860. The surviving spouse benefit shall remain at 85 percent.

Rationale:
The PSR of $860 per year of eligible service provides a 2% pension increase for retirees and maintains a 1.29 ratio relative to the Conference Average Compensation (PSR/CAC) as per conference policy.
Reserves invested in the Pre-82 Pension Plan are sufficient to fund the increased rate while maintaining a fully funded account balance/surplus for future liabilities.

Submitted by:
Michigan Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits
Rev. Dr. Steven J. Buck, President
Rev. Donald J. Emmert, Director of Conference Benefits & Human Resources

R#2020-9

Amend Conference Plan of Organization – Conference Leadership Council Membership

Motion:
Amend the Plan of Organization of the Michigan Conference, Section 2.1.3.2, “Conference Leadership Council Membership, Ex officio with voice and vote” by adding:
- 2.1.3.2.5 Chair of the Conference Board of Trustees or their designee
- 2.1.3.2.6 Chair of the Conference Human Resources Committee or their designee
- 2.1.3.2.7 Chair of the Conference Board of Pension and Benefits or their designee

Rationale:
This concept was initially considered by the Design Team. It has become apparent that without these three entities being consistently able to contribute to and participate in Conference Leadership Council decisions, important elements of legal, property, pension, benefits and personnel matters are inadequately connected to the overall strategy and alignment of resources of the conference. The Board of Ordained Ministry and the Council on Finance and Administration are already present on the CLC. This places all administrative and program leadership around a common table.

Submitted by:
Rev. Amy Mayo-Moyle,
Chairperson of the Conference Leadership Council,
(517) 918-2215 amayomoyle@yahoo.com
R#2020-10

Amend Conference Plan of Organization –
Council on Finance and Administration Membership

Motion:
Amend the Plan of Organization of the Michigan Conference, Section 4.1.3.3, “Council on Finance and Administration, Membership, Ex officio with voice only”, by adding:
  4.1.3.3.8 Chair of the Board of Trustees or their designee

Rationale:
It has become apparent that without these two entities (Trustees & CFA) being consistently able to contribute to and participate in various intersecting decisions, important elements of legal, financial and property matters, are inadequately connected to the overall strategy and alignment of resources of the conference.

Submitted by:
Rev. Brad Bartelmay, President of the Council on Finance and Administration,
(269) 266-2221; bradbartelmay@gmail.com

R#2020-11

Amend Conference Plan of Organization – Board of Trustees Membership

Motion:
Amend the Plan of Organization of the Michigan Conference, Section 4.4.3.3, “Board of Trustees, Membership, Ex officio with voice, but not vote,” by adding:
  4.4.3.3.3 President of the Council on Finance and Administration, or their designee

Rationale:
It has become apparent that without these two entities (Trustees & CFA) being consistently able to contribute to and participate in various intersecting decisions, important elements of legal, financial and property matters, are inadequately connected to the overall strategy and alignment of resources of the conference.

Submitted by:
Jim LeBaron
Chairperson of the Conference Board of Trustees
(517) 290-2274, jilebaronlc@aol.com
Motion:

1. Local congregations shall conduct an annual stewardship campaign. Congregations receiving Equitable Compensation support are expected to participate in ongoing stewardship education and planning through programs such as the Stewardship Academy offered through the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan, the Vital Church Initiative (VCI) or a Paragraph 213 Review as provided in ¶213 of the United Methodist Book of Discipline.

2. Local congregations receiving Equitable Compensation grants shall annually counsel with the District Superintendent (DS) concerning levels of pastoral support. Completed applications are to be submitted to the DS for approval.

3. Local congregations requesting equitable compensation support shall voucher pastors' travel and business expenses according to the guidelines of the Council on Finance and Administration.

4. Local congregations may receive Equitable Compensation support for up to four consecutive years, reducing the original grant amount by 25% each year. Equitable Compensation funds shall not be used to fund more than the Conference minimum salary.

5. Congregations receiving Equitable Compensation are encouraged to show progress in full payment of ministry shares.

6. Churches receiving or applying for Equitable Compensation that have planned or are planning to enter into building or remodeling projects that require permission of the District Board of Church Location and Building, or which exceed 10% of the total annual budget of the local congregation, shall not proceed with proposed projects and/or related capital campaigns until such time as a plan for ending Equitable Compensation support has been presented and approved by the Commission on Equitable Compensation and the district superintendent. Exceptions to this guideline shall be given greater consideration when proposed projects are related to building accessibility.

7. Exceptions to these guidelines may be considered upon recommendation of the Bishop and the Cabinet.
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<td>$37,394</td>
<td>$37,992</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>$41,730</td>
<td>$42,397</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>1.60%</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>$37,768</td>
<td>$38,372</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>$42,145</td>
<td>$42,819</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$38,143</td>
<td>$38,753</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>$42,562</td>
<td>$43,243</td>
<td>$44,526</td>
<td>$45,238</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$38,516</td>
<td>$39,132</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>$42,981</td>
<td>$43,668</td>
<td>$44,980</td>
<td>$45,700</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$38,891</td>
<td>$39,514</td>
<td>$40,646</td>
<td>$41,296</td>
<td>$43,397</td>
<td>$44,091</td>
<td>$45,431</td>
<td>$46,158</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>$39,267</td>
<td>$39,895</td>
<td>$41,049</td>
<td>$41,706</td>
<td>$43,813</td>
<td>$44,514</td>
<td>$45,879</td>
<td>$46,613</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>$40,014</td>
<td>$40,654</td>
<td>$41,861</td>
<td>$42,531</td>
<td>$44,648</td>
<td>$45,362</td>
<td>$46,779</td>
<td>$47,528</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>$40,389</td>
<td>$41,035</td>
<td>$42,274</td>
<td>$42,951</td>
<td>$45,065</td>
<td>$45,787</td>
<td>$47,232</td>
<td>$47,988</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>$40,763</td>
<td>$41,415</td>
<td>$43,652</td>
<td>$44,350</td>
<td>$45,483</td>
<td>$46,211</td>
<td>$47,684</td>
<td>$48,447</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended (Years 11-40)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$41,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$42,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$43,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$44,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$44,841</td>
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<tr>
<td>$45,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$47,289</td>
</tr>
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<td>$48,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$48,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$49,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,552</td>
</tr>
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<td>$51,368</td>
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<tr>
<td>$52,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$53,000</td>
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<td>$53,815</td>
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<td>$54,631</td>
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<td>$56,262</td>
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<tr>
<td>$57,079</td>
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<tr>
<td>$57,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$58,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$59,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$60,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$61,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$61,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$62,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$63,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$64,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$65,236</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Submitted by:
Michigan Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation
Nancy Patera, Chair

Corporate Session
“The agenda and action items for the Corporate Session of the Michigan Conference will be posted on the Conference website by 5 pm Friday, July 25, 2020”

i. One list will be the Closures

ii. One list will be the Withdrawal Agreements and the necessary descriptions of the terms and conditions of those actions.

Michigan Conference (160)
2020 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Conference Benefit Officer (or equivalent)          Donald Emmert          12/19/2019
Conference Treasurer                               David Dobbs            12/19/2019
Conference Board of Pension Chair                  Steven Buck            12/26/2019
Council on Finance and Administration Chair

Opinion on Michigan Conference 2020 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

The funding plan meets the standards for a Pre-82 funding plan as established by Wespath Benefits and Investments and the favorable opinion requirements for a funding plan. Note: The statement above and any written opinion provided by Wespath do not imply any representation as to the ability or probability of the applicable plan sponsor to fulfill the obligations included in the funding plan.

Wespath Benefits and Investments
Wespath Benefits and Investments
1901 W Chestnut Ave
Glenview, IL 60025
SUBJECT: Michigan Conference Budget Recommendation for 2021

MOTION: The Council on Finance & Administration recommends the following:

1. The amount of $12,617,521 shall be the Conference budget for 2021 which is a decrease of 14.17% from prior year.
2. The amount of $3,720,000 shall be the Benefits budget for 2021 which is the same as the prior year.
3. The salary of District Superintendents and Directors shall be $87,394, which is a 0% increase, and the housing allowance will remain at $20,000.
4. There will be no increase in Support Staff wages for 2021.

2021 Michigan Conference Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) District Superintendents</td>
<td>$2,102,743</td>
<td>$2,126,446</td>
<td>$2,140,803</td>
<td>$14,357</td>
<td>0.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Episcopal Fund</td>
<td>$562,632</td>
<td>$568,025</td>
<td>$626,855</td>
<td>$58,830</td>
<td>10.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Ministerial Education Fund</td>
<td>$641,692</td>
<td>$647,843</td>
<td>$488,952</td>
<td>($158,891)</td>
<td>(24.53%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Episcopal Residence Committee</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Equitable Compensation Committee</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
<td>$120,000</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>25.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Clergy Advocacy</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>($2,000)</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7) Abuse Prevention Team</td>
<td>$10,500</td>
<td>$10,500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>($10,500)</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8) Clergy Moving Expense Fund</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sub-total Clergy Support Budget $3,802,067 $3,782,314 $3,714,110 ($68,204) (1.80%)

Provision for Unpaid Ministry Shares $601,976 $597,042 $614,316 $17,274 2.80%

Total Clergy Support Budget $4,404,043 $4,379,356 $4,328,426 ($50,930) (1.16%)

B) Administration Budget

| 1) Council on Finance & Administration | $2,000 | $2,000 | $2,000 | $0 | 0.00% |
| 2) Treasurer's Office | $684,164 | $724,900 | $577,700 | ($147,200) | (21.39)% |
| 3) Jurisdictional Conference | $36,723 | $36,723 | $36,723 | $0 | 0.00% |
| 4) General Conference Delegation | $20,000 | $28,000 | $8,000 | ($12,000) | (60.00% |
| 5) General Church Administration | $225,596 | $227,758 | $192,253 | ($35,505) | (15.58% |
| 6) Area Administration | $556,453 | $556,453 | $316,703 | ($239,750) | (43.09% |
| 7) Operations | $332,783 | $312,783 | $302,783 | ($10,000) | (3.20% |
| 8) Conference Secretary | $18,300 | $18,300 | $1,000 | ($17,300) | (94.54% |
| 9) Conference Statistician | $3,600 | $3,600 | $3,600 | $0 | 0.00% |
| 10) Conference Trustees | $1,000 | $1,000 | $1,000 | $0 | 0.00% |
| 11) Committee on Archives & History | $40,586 | $45,000 | $40,000 | ($5,000) | (11.11% |
| 12) Committee on Human Resources | $5,000 | $5,000 | $5,000 | $0 | 0.00% |
| 13) Legal Fees | $55,000 | $55,000 | $55,000 | $0 | 0.00% |
| 14) Contingency Funds | $50,000 | $50,000 | - | ($50,000) | (100.00% |

Sub-total Administration Budget $2,031,205 $2,072,917 $1,538,162 ($534,755) (26.20%)

Provision for Unpaid Ministry Shares $343,926 $351,459 $256,364 ($95,095) (27.26%)

Total Administration Budget $2,375,131 $2,424,376 $1,794,526 ($629,850) (26.20%)

C) Conference Benevolences Budget

1) Agencies Relating to Christ-Centered Mission and Ministry

a) Commission on Annual Conference Session | $325,000 | $275,000 | $100,000 | ($175,000) | (63.64% |

2) Agencies Relating to Bold and Effective Leaders

a) Conference Leadership Council | $10,000 | $10,000 | $5,000 | ($5,000) | (50.00% |

b) Board of Ordained Ministry | $95,279 | $66,500 | $59,900 | ($6,600) | (9.25% |

c) Committee on Nominations | $7,500 | $7,500 | $5,000 | ($2,500) | (33.33% |

d) Committee on the Episcopacy | $2,000 | $2,000 | $2,000 | $0 | 0.00% |

e) Protection Policy | $5,000 | $5,000 | $2,000 | ($3,000) | (60.00% |

f) Clergy Excellence Program Funds | $- | $15,000 | $10,000 | ($5,000) | (33.33% |
### 3) Agencies Relating to Vibrant Congregations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>2020 Budget</th>
<th>2019 Budget</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Methodist Men</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Methodist Women</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Laity</td>
<td>$ 10,000</td>
<td>$ 10,000</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Young People's Ministry</td>
<td>$ 350,000</td>
<td>$ 363,000</td>
<td>$ (3,000)</td>
<td>(0.83%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Congregational Life</td>
<td>$ 501,000</td>
<td>$ 533,000</td>
<td>$ (32,000)</td>
<td>(6.08%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministry</td>
<td>$ 39,000</td>
<td>$ 39,000</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Asian-American Ministry</td>
<td>$ 47,000</td>
<td>$ 47,000</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Native American Ministry</td>
<td>$ 115,000</td>
<td>$ 115,000</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on African-American Ministry</td>
<td>$ 66,000</td>
<td>$ 66,000</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial &amp; Ethnic Local Churches</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Expenses/Compensation</td>
<td>$ 2,147,841</td>
<td>$ 2,172,000</td>
<td>$ (24,169)</td>
<td>(1.14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Service Fund</td>
<td>$ 1,899,882</td>
<td>$ 1,918,093</td>
<td>$ (18,211)</td>
<td>(0.96%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathways Funding</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI Area Camping</td>
<td>$ 400,000</td>
<td>$ 300,000</td>
<td>$ 100,000</td>
<td>(33.33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency Funds</td>
<td>$ 25,000</td>
<td>$ 25,000</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets Released from Restrictions</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sub-total Conference Benevolences Budget  
$ 6,757,722 | $ 6,632,313 | $ 125,409 | (1.88%)  |

Provision for Unpaid Ministry Shares  
$ 925,303 | $ 897,947 | $ 27,356 | (3.04%)  |

Total Conference Benevolences Budget  
$ 7,683,025 | $ 7,530,260 | $ 152,765 | (2.04%)  |

D) Other Apportioned Causes

1) Black College Fund  
$ 255,965 | $ 258,419 | $ (2,454) | (0.96%)  

2) Africa University Fund  
$ 57,284 | $ 57,833 | $ (5,550) | (9.46%)  

3) Interdenominational Fund  
$ 50,185 | $ 50,666 | $ (5,481) | (10.82%)  

Sub-total Other Apportioned Causes  
$ 363,434 | $ 366,918 | $ (3,484) | (0.95%)  

Provision for Unpaid Ministry Shares  
$ - | $ - | $ - | 0.00%  

Total Other Apportioned Causes  
$ 363,434 | $ 366,918 | $ (3,484) | (0.95%)  

Total Conference Common Budget  
$ 14,825,633 | $ 14,700,910 | $ 124,723 | (0.85%)  

E) Benefits Ministry Shares Budget

1) Pension/Welfare Payments to Wespath  
$ 3,128,220 | $ 3,020,000 | $ 108,220 | (3.57%)  

2) Benefits Office  
$ 711,780 | $ 700,000 | $ 11,780 | (1.68%)  

Total Benefits Ministry Shares Budget  
$ 3,840,000 | $ 3,720,000 | $ 120,000 | (3.22%)  

2020 VIRTUAL MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NOMINATIONS REPORT
for the
Michigan Conference
The United Methodist Church

Nominations Effective September 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021
(Year elected in parenthesis following name)

The Annual Conference Granted the Nominations Committee to Fill Vacancies Between Annual Conferences.
July 27, 2020

ONLY NEW MEMBERS LISTED – FULL REPORT ONLINE

AGENCIES RELATING TO CHRIST-CENTERED MISSION AND MINISTRY

Annual Conference Session, Commission on the (1.1)

Class | Laity | Clergy
------|------|------
2023  | Lisa Poy (2020) | 
2024  | Elizabeth “Liz” Carr (2020) |

Communications, Commission on (1.2)
There were no changes in members.

Journal, Committee on the (1.3)
There were no changes in members.

Justice, Board of (1.4)
There were no changes in members.

Church and Society, Division of (1.4.3.1)
There were no changes in members.

Religion and Race, Division on (1.4.3.2)

Class | Laity | Clergy
------|------|------
2024  | |

Status and Role of Women, Division on the (1.4.3.3)
There were no changes in members.

Disability Concerns, Division on (1.4.3.4)

Class | Laity | Clergy
------|------|------
2024  | Greg Hicok (2020) | 

Global Ministries, Board of (1.5)

Class | Laity | Clergy
------|------|------
2023  | Laurie Kaufman de la Garza (2019) | 
2024  | Taylorie Bailey (2020) | 
2024  | Ava Williams Euper (2019) | 

There were no changes in members.

AGENCIES RELATING TO BOLD AND EFFECTIVE LEADERS

Conference Leadership Council (2.1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Laity</th>
<th>Clergy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Katja Falker (2020)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Ordained Ministry, Board of (2.2)

CLERGY

2020 Quadrennia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laity</th>
<th>Clergy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Associate Members or Local Pastors/Completed Course of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marvin Herman (2020)</td>
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</table>

LAY PERSONS

2016 Quadrennia

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ted Brainard (2019)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laure Mieskowski (2019)</td>
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</table>

Nominations, Committee on (2.3)

There were no changes in members.

Episcopacy, Committee on the (2.4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Laity</th>
<th>Clergy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Mark Trierweiler (2020)</td>
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</tbody>
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Protection Policy Implementation Team (2.5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Laity</th>
<th>Clergy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Beth Pelkey (2020)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AGENCIES RELATING TO VIBRANT CONGREGATIONS

United Methodist Women (3.1)

Vice President: Waltha Gaye Leavitt
Treasurer: Mary Danforth

United Methodist Men (3.2)

Vice President: John Huizing

Laity, Board of (3.3)

Conference Lay Leader: Annette Erbes (2020)

District Lay Leaders: Associate District Lay Leaders:
East Winds: John Seppanen (2019)
Young People’s Ministries, Board of (3.4)
Chairperson: Rev. Elizabeth Hurd

Youth Ministry, Division of (3.4.3.1)
There were no changes in members.

Young Adult Ministry, Division of (3.4.3.2)
Class | Laity | Clergy
2021 | Anika Kasper (2020) |

Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Division of (3.4.3.3)
There were no changes in members.

Congregational Life, Board of (3.5)
There were no changes in members.

Congregational Vibrancy, Division of (3.5.3.1)
Class | Laity | Clergy
2024 | Cindy Thiele (2020) |

Small Membership Church, Division on the (3.5.3.2)
Class | Laity | Clergy
2024 | Glenn Litchfield (2020) |

Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships, Division on (3.5.3.3)
Class | Laity | Clergy
2023 | Larry Edris (2020) |

Hispanic/Latino Ministry, Committee on (3.6)
Class | Laity | Clergy
2024 | Nicolas Berlanga (2020) |

Asian-American Ministry, Committee on (3.7)
There were no changes in members.

Native American Ministry, Committee on (3.8)
There were no changes in members.

African American Ministry, Committee on (3.9)
There were no changes in members.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES

Finance and Administration, Council on (4.1)
Clergy
2020 Quadrennia | Kristen Coristine (2020) |
2024 Quadrennia | Louis “Lou” Grettenberger (2020) |
Pension and Health Benefits, Board of (4.2)

Class | Laity | Clergy
--- | --- | ---
2027 |  |

Administrative Review Committee (4.3)

There were no changes in members.

Trustees, Board of (4.4)

Class | Laity | Clergy
--- | --- | ---
2023 |  | Thomas “Tom” Ball (2020)
2024 | Deborah “Deb” Federau (2020) |  

Investigation, Committee on (4.5)

There were no changes in members.

Rules, Committee on (4.6)

Class | Laity | Clergy
--- | --- | ---
2023 |  | Tonya Murphy (2019) 

Episcopal Residence Committee (4.7)

There were no changes in members.

Equitable Compensation, Commission on (4.8)

There were no changes in members.

Human Resources, Committee on (4.9)

Class | Laity | Clergy
--- | --- | ---
2023 |  | Anne Soles (2020) 

Officers of The Annual Conference

Statistician (6.2): Pamela Stewart (07/15/2019)
Lay Leader (6.7): Annette Erbes (2020)

Please Note: The Annual Conference re-affirms the election of the General and Jurisdictional Delegation and Alternates from the 2019 Annual Conference.

In Order of Election:
2020 Elected General Conference Delegation
   Clergy: Kennetha Bigham-Tsai (Chairperson), Paul Perez, Joy Barrett, Megan Walther
   Laity: Laura Witkowski (Chairperson), Diane Brown, Jennifer “Jen” Peters, Nichea VerVeer Guy

2020 Elected North Central Jurisdictional Conference Delegation
   Clergy: Charles Boayue, Joel Fitzgerald, Christina Wright, Brad Bartelmay
   Laity: Ruby Anderson, Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Lisa Hahn, Ruth Sutton

2020 Elected NCJ Alternates
   Clergy: Sherri Swanson, Matt Weiler
   Laity: Brenda DuPree, Gordon Grigg III
2016 General Church Boards and Agencies:
The Connectional Table: Clergy Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Jerry DeVine
General Board of Church and Society: Clergy Paul Perez
General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits: Clergy Donald Emmert

2016 North Central Jurisdictional Committees:
Court of Appeals: Clergy Benton Heisler (Vice Chairperson). Clergy Alternate: Joy Barrett
Committee on Investigation: Clergy Melanie Carey, Alternate Clergy Bill Dobbs
NCJ Mission Council: Clergy Brad Bartelmay, At-Large: Clergy Alex Plum, Laity Laura Witkowski
Directors of Connectional Ministries (as selected by the NCJ Association of DCMs): Clergy Benton Heisler

AFFILIATE ENTITIES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Elected UMC Board Members as Reported to the Committee on Nominations

Affiliated via the Board of Global Ministries (10.1)

Bronson Health Group (10.1.1) – Trustees of
(UMC Members are no longer a requirement, per change in their 2014 By-Laws)

Clark Retirement Community (10.1.2) – Trustees of
There were no changes in UMC members.

Methodist Children’s Home Society (10.1.3) – Directors
There were no changes in UMC members.

United Methodist Community House (10.1.4)
Laity: Kurt Kimball (2020)

United Methodist Retirement Communities, Inc. (10.1.5) – Board of Trustees

Affiliated Via the Board of Young People’s Ministries (10.2)

Adrian College (10.2.1) – Trustees of
There were no changes in UMC members.

Albion College (10.2.2) – Trustees of
There were no changes in UMC members.

Bay Shore Evangelical Association (10.2.3) – Directors
No report.

Michigan Area United Methodist Camping (10.2.4)
Chairperson: Stuart Smith
Class Laity Clergy
2024 Rachel Dunlap (2020)
Michigan Conference Nominations Report (Abbreviated) 09/01/2020 – 06/30/2021

Lake Louise Christian Community (10.2.5) – Board of Trustees
Laity
Clergy
Corey Simon (2020)
Alicea Williams (2020)

Affiliated via the Commission on Archives and History (10.3)

Michigan Area UMC Historical Society, Inc. (10.3)
There were no changes in UMC members.

Affiliated via the Council on Finance and Administration (10.4)

Michigan Area Loan Funds (10.4.1)
There were no changes in UMC members.

United Methodist Foundation of Michigan (10.4.2)

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Disaster Response Team

East Winds: Rev. Eric Miller
Heritage: Robert “Bob” Ankrapp
Northern Skies – East: Randy Hildebrant

Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) – Michigan Board
Elected by Annual Conference, no less than 60% of Board:
Trace Bauman

Elected by Board:
Yvonne Kupperman

Please e-mail any corrections/updates by September 1, 2020 to: nominations@michiganumc.org
- If there is a correction, please include page number, agency, person’s name, and explanation of the correction or change – i.e., “delete” or “add.” If a person is to be added, please specify whether they are clergy/laity, male/female, and the beginning year of service.

If you are interested in serving where vacancies exist, please contact: nominations@michiganumc.org

Thank you!
GATHERING IN GOD’S PRESENCE

GATHERING MUSIC

 Cornerstone Musicians

WORDS OF GREETING

Apart, yet together…
A variety of thought, yet united in Christ.
Hurting, healing, hoping…
loving, longing, lamenting over much…
pleading, promising, praying …
for God to reign, here on earth, as in heaven.

OPENING HYMN

And Are We Yet Alive

 Virtual Conference Choir

PRAYER FOR OUR GATHERING

 Gather us in, Gracious God, from the rocky shores of Lake Superior…from the fertile fields of our farmlands, where corn and soy and nature grow…from Midland’s muddy soil, where the raging waters overcome and the stuff of people’s lives are scattered and destroyed…from the sandy dunes of Lake Michigan, to the sandy beaches along the Huron…from the lush green of our back yards’ grass, mingling between our toes…

We come together in this virtual way, still cultivating this new Michigan Conference, still wondering who you call us to be in the uncertainty of our denomination…in the anxiety of a pandemic…in the turmoil of injustice and fear. With hesitation and hope we are here…coming together, at a time when much seems to be falling apart. We come from a myriad of places – geographically, emotionally, spiritually – to invoke your spirit of love among us. Connect us through your Holy Spirit. Make our ordinary spaces, sacred…as we gather to do the work of this conference. Make of us all, sowers…eager to plant seeds of hope and promise across the communities in which we live. Though there are differences among us, help us to lean into the One who calls us all. May God’s spirit dwell in this space and abide in our hearts. We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.

A SACRED TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

Great Giver of Life and Love, we know your promise: that in the bulb there is a flower, and in the seed an apple tree…As we gather this evening, we remember those who once were with us and who now are eternally with You. They planted seeds within us…they nurtured our faith and helped us to grow closer to you. Through them, you cultivated our sense of call and purpose, so that we would sow your love and serve your people. As we name them, we give you our thanks and gratitude for the harvest of their lives:
REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

We give thanks, loving God, that you have shared these lives with us. We are richer for having known them and loved them. May the seeds of faith they have planted continue to grow and bear fruit, so that others may be nurtured by your grace. For those of us who remain in this life, increase our love for one another. May we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. We pray in the name of God who alone reveals everything in its season.

HYMN

Hymn of Promise

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

PRAYING IN ONE VOICE

And now as beloved children of God we pray together...

Our Father in heaven, help us to honor your name.
Come and set up your kingdom, so that everyone on earth
will obey you, as you are obeyed in heaven.
Give us our food for today.
Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others.
Keep us from being tempted and protect us from evil.
For to you belongs the kingdom and all power and glory,
today and forever. Amen.

(Listening for the Word)

SCRIPTURE

Mark 4: 1-9

REFLECTION

HYMN

Planting Seeds of Faith and Trust
vs. 1, 2, 5

Jane Parker Huber

Planting seeds of faith and trust by the Galilean lake
Jesus called out common folk, for God’s work and mission’s sake
Christ, you call us still today, in our work and in our play.
Seeds of trust need tender care – nurture, shielding, warmth and light
Time to put down healthy roots, growing at a pace that’s right.
Christ, you nurture us today, keep us growing in Your way.

So the cycle is complete: seed to bloom to scattered seed –
Multiplied by faith and sown where there’s pain, distrust or need.
Christ, you lead us still today, in our work and in our play.

SERMON
“Dancing in a Mine Field”
Bishop David A. Bard

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

CLOSING HYMN
Sois La Semilla (You Are the Seed)
Hymn #583

You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
you’re a star that will shine in the night;
you are the yeast and a small grain of salt,
a beacon to glow in the dark.
You are the dawn that will bring a new day;
you’re the wheat that will bear golden grain;
you are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,
my witnesses where’er you go.
You are the life that will nurture the plant;
you’re the waves in a turbulent sea;
yesterday’s yeast is beginning to rise,
a new loaf of bread it will yield.
There is no place for a city to hide,
nor a mountain can cover its might;
may your good deeds show a world in despair
a path that will lead all to God.

Refrain:
Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;
"Lo, I’ll be with you forever, till the end of the world."

SENDING FORTH
Bishop Bard

HYMN
Sent Forth by God’s Blessing
No. 664

Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended. Oh, now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of His teaching, receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us
To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.

MUSIC FOR GOING FORTH
Cornerstone Band
2020 Candidates for Ordination and Commissioning

DEACON CANDIDATE FOR ORDINATION
Rodney Glenn Gasaway (Janice)
Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Livonia: Newburg UMC
Currently Serving: Livonia: Newburg UMC / Chelsea: First UMC

ELDER CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION
Dillon Selby Burns (Jennifer)
Seminary: Perkins Theological Seminary
Home Church: Saline: First UMC
Currently Serving: Manchester UMC

Matthew David Chapman (Abigail)
Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Port Huron
Currently Serving: Bay Port UMC / Hayes UMC

Elise Rodgers Low Edwardson (Ryan Low Edwardson)
Seminary: Duke Divinity School
Home Church: Saline: First UMC
Currently Serving: Escanaba Central

Cydney M. Idsinga
Seminary: Asbury Theological Seminary
Home Church: Lakeside United Methodist Church
Currently Serving: Marne UMC

Mary Kathryn Loring (Mark)
Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Grand Rapids: First UMC
Currently Serving: Ann Arbor: Calvary
DEACON CANDIDATE FOR COMMISSIONING
Michelle Marie King
Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Home Church: Farmington: First UMC
Currently Serving: Chelsea: First UMC

ELDER CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONING
Nicolas Rey Berlanga (Lisa)
Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Plymouth: First UMC
Currently Serving: Ann Arbor: First UMC

Martin Timothy Cobb (Jessica)
Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Portage Prairie UMC
Currently Serving: Farwell / Trinity / Countryside UMCS

Jessica Mae Davenport (Torey)
Seminary: Wesley Theological Seminary
Home Church:
Currently Serving: Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo

Eric Max Falker (Katja)
Seminary: United Theological Seminary
Home Church: Tawas UMC
Currently Serving: St. Ignace UMC

Susan Elizabeth Hitts (Randy)
Seminary: United Theological Seminar
Home Church: Alanson UMC
Currently Serving: Harbor Springs UMC

Suzanne Lee Hutchison (David)
Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Brighton: First UMC
Currently Serving: Plymouth: First UMC
ELDER CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONING (CONTINUED)

Ryan Casey Low Edwardson (Elise Low Edwardson)
Seminary: Duke Divinity School
Home Church: Grace UMC (Spencer, Iowa)
Currently Serving: Escanaba: First UMC

Scott William Marsh (Meagan)
Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Home Church: Paw Paw UMC
Currently Serving: Coleman Faith UMC

Kellas D. Penny, III (Leanne)
Seminary: Asbury Theological Seminary
Home Church: First UMC (Ada, Oklahoma)
Currently Serving: Water’s Edge UMC

Paul Christopher Reissman, IV (Ashleigh)
Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Home Church: Bangor Simpson UMC
Currently Serving: Wayland UMC

Joyce Lee Vanderlip
Seminary: Perkins School of Theology
Home Church: South Mundy UMC
Currently Serving: Fenton UMC / Linden UMC

Jenaba Rebecca Duymovic Waggy
Seminary: Vanderbilt University
Home Church: Portage Chapel Hill
Currently Serving: Portage Chapel Hill
Annual Conference Webinar Series: Shape Something New

AUGUST 4, 7:00PM
COLLECTED AND DISTRIBUTED: A NEW KIND OF LOCAL CHURCH FOR A DIGITAL FRONTIER
Webinar Leader: Michael Beck
The future has come in the night and we are here now. COVID-19 has thrust us fully out onto a digital frontier. Fresh Expressions has been a canary in the coal mine alerting the church to a need for a "blended ecology" of church which includes gathered and scattered, attractional and missional, Jerusalem and Antioch, and we can now safely add... analog and digital. We will explore Wesleyan theological underpinnings for the new fields, as well as share practical tools, practices, and processes to help local congregations become a new kind of local church.

AUGUST 11, 7:00PM
THE ROLE OF SMALL GROUPS IN DISCIPLESHIP: USING THE BEST OF ONLINE AND IN-PERSON SETTINGS
Webinar Leader: Scott Hughes, General Board of Discipleship Ministries
As the baptized community, the church affirms the need to continue meeting together (Hebrews 10:25). Now is the time for churches to be experimenting with digital tools and social media to help small groups and Sunday School classes to connect in new ways and continue the church’s efforts at faith formation. But what can reasonably be expected from an online group? How different should we think about online and in-person gatherings? We’ll explore these and other questions in this interactive webinar to help your church’s small group ministry thrive.

AUGUST 18, 7:00PM
IMPACT! RECLAIMING THE CALL OF LAY MINISTRY
Webinar Leader: Kay Kotan
The church very likely will rise and fall with the missional investment of the laity. Let’s rekindle the spark and set the laity on fire once again for Christ. Our tribe, The United Methodist Church, was founded as a movement of laity and reached millions of people. Let’s re-stoke that laity movement once again to help re-engage and empower our laity for Kingdom IMPACT! During the IMPACT! workshop, we will identify:

• How ALL are called into ministry
• How Nehemiah was a role model for lay ministry impact
• Why laity ministry impact has waned
• How to reclaim the laity impact in ministry
• The eight specific areas for high ministry impact from laity

AUGUST 25 7:00PM – 9:00PM
TELL THE OLD STORY IN A NEW TIME
Webinar Leader: Jason Moore
Almost overnight, we found ourselves in a new, unfamiliar world. The COVID-19 virus has changed everything about our lives, including how we worship. What is the church to do in such a time as this? With the social distancing practices preventing our physical gatherings, how do we connect and make our message resonate with a world in chaos? Now more than ever, the church has the opportunity to lead the charge in a world looking for spiritual answers. In order to lead effectively, we have to tell the old story in a new way, for a new time and with a new medium.

Register for all webinars at bit.ly/UMCLeadershipAcademy.
RESOLUTION NUMBER & RESOLUTION TITLE

R#2020-1 Authorize CBOPHB to Address Claims
  o Approve
  o Approve as Amended
  o Not Approve

R#2020-2 Establish the Housing/Rental Allowance for Retired or Clergy on Medical Leave
  o Approve
  o Approve as Amended
  o Not Approve

R#2020-3 2021 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan
  o Approve
  o Approve as Amended
  o Not Approve

R#2020-4 Establish Past Service Rate
  o Approve
  o Approve as Amended
  o Not Approve

R#2020-9 Amend Conference Plan of Organization – Conference Leadership Council Membership
  o Approve
  o Approve as Amended
  o Not Approve

R#2020-10 Amend Conference Plan of Organization – Council on Finance and Administration Membership
  o Approve
  o Approve as Amended
  o Not Approve
R#2020-11  Amend Conference Plan of Organization – Board of Trustees Membership

- Approve
- Approve as Amended
- Not Approve

R#2020-23  2021 Equitable Compensation Guidelines and Schedule

- Approve
- Approve as Amended
- Not Approve

2021 Conference Budget

- Approve
- Approve as Amended
- Not Approve

Nominations Report

- Approve
- Approve as Amended
- Not Approve

CORPORATE SESSION

1. I Approve the Motions Proposed in the Corporate Session of the Michigan Conference to Close the Congregations Listed.

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- Yes  - No

2. I Approve the Motions Proposed in the Corporate Session of the Michigan Conference Regarding the Withdrawal Agreements of the Congregations Listed.

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- Yes  - No
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- Church Leadership Excellence (New track beginning May 2021)
- Global Church Leadership: Asia
- Military Chaplains
- Soul Care (Start term May 2021)
- Howard Thurman: Prophetic Witness (Start term May 2021)

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www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry
Systemic racism is sin.
White supremacy is sin.
Police brutality is sin.
Silence is sin.

As the fires of Pentecost birthed an equitable and diverse church, we pray for a new birth of justice around the world.

Black lives matter!

Michigan Area Board of Justice
• Race & Religion
• Church & Society
• Disability Concerns
• Status and the Role of Women

Visit the Michigan Area UMC - Justice and Advocacy Webpage for information & Resources
https://michiganumc.org/resources/local-church/justice-and-advocacy/

Our students rely on faithful giving to the Africa University Fund.
Thank You.

Michigan Annual Conference
HELP US GROW DEEPER ROOTS WITH 100% SUPPORT IN 2020
Day Camp on the Road or Traveling Day Camp is a great partnership between your church and Bay Shore Camp.

Designed for 2nd - 5th-grade campers, "Day Camp on the Road," is a simple concept. Instead of kids packing up suitcases and sleeping bags and going away to camp, they can simply report to a location in their community and find all the fun and excitement of summer camp waiting for them. There will be arts and crafts, archery, a rock climbing wall, music and singing, drama, skits, huge inflatable toys, water activities, and, of course, worship and Bible teaching.

Partnering with a local congregation, Bay Shore Camp will bring the program and staff while the church will provide volunteers, inside and outside space, two snacks, and lunch each day.

"Day Camps on the Road brings something to the church that the church can't do alone. We're hoping local churches will be eager to partner with us. And, we're hoping the ministry of the church to their community will be strengthened." --Jeff Parsons, Executive Director
WHAT'S YOUR VISION?

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OCT 24, 2020
ONLINE

MORE PEOPLE  YOUNGER PEOPLE  DIVERSE PEOPLE

LEADING WITH VISION
RACHEL GILMORE
Church planter and on staff at Path 1/Discipleship Ministries for the UMC.

GROWING YOUNG
JAKE MULDER
Co-author, “Growing Young” and on staff at the Fuller Youth Institute.

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