



2023 MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 2 – 4, 2023, Clergy Day June 1 • Grand Traverse Resort, Acme Michigan

***New Every Morning* is the theme of the 2023 Annual Conference, based on Lamentations 3:22-23, “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”**

This year’s theme invites us to reflect, remember, and give thanks for all that ways that God’s love and mercies have been at work in our churches, district, conference, and denomination throughout these anxious and uncertain times. No matter where we have been traveling this season as Michigan United Methodists, God has been with us, God’s love has sustained us, and God’s mercies have been flowing through our members and ministries. As always, God’s grace is at work in and through us. This is good news!

Clergy will attend the **Clergy Session on Thursday, June 1 at 2:00 p.m.** Annual Conference begins with **Opening Worship and Memorial Service on Friday, June 2 at 1:00 pm and concludes at 5 pm on Sunday, June 4.** Bishop David Bard will preach for Friday afternoon’s Opening Worship and Memorial Service as well as for the Service of Recognition, Commissioning and Ordination on Saturday night. A block schedule is posted at 2023.michiganumc.org. Registration is open March 1 – May 1, with limited late registration.



Rev. Grace Imathiu

We’re honored to host **Rev. Grace Imathiu** who will lead us in Saturday’s Bible Study and preach on Sunday Morning. Rev. Imathiu is the Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church in Evanston, IL. She has also served churches in Kenya as a church planter, and a superintendent minister overseeing 68 rural churches in Nkubu.

Grace loves people and has a passion and gift for inspiring and nurturing communities of faith to live out loud the prophetic story of Jesus. For Grace, the quintessential expression of the resurrected Lord’s presence is a community whose very DNA is a radical hospitality which births a loving and healthy tension that is ideological, theological, racial, ethnic and cultural. [[read full bio](#)].

Author Kimberly Daniel will speak to the Annual Conference during a laity-led segment on Christian Innovation Friday night. Ms. Daniel has over 15 years of experience leading communications efforts at non-profit organizations and has helped to catalyze faith-driven entrepreneurs to do good. [[read full bio](#)].



Kimberly Daniel

Health and Safety at Annual Conference

The Commission on the Annual Conference Session will monitor infection rates, and CDC health and safety guidelines. We encourage safe distancing to prevent the spread of illness. At this time masking is not required yet strongly encouraged if you are immune compromised in any way. The Michigan Conference reserves the right to amend this directive based on guidelines from the State of Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services regarding COVID-19, RSV, or other communicable diseases.

How to Get There

We encourage you to carpool to Grand Traverse Resort. The Cherry Loop shuttle buses return this year, with continuous shuttles from the resort to local hotel hubs in Traverse City. The East Line bus is available from Southfield or Flint or to Grand Traverse Resort, then ride a Cherry Loop shuttle to one of the hotels on the route.

Where to Stay - Onsite Lodging Options

Options at the Grand Traverse Resort include newly remodeled Hotel Rooms and modern Tower Rooms (both attached to meeting spaces), and Condos (connected by a complimentary shuttle service). If you're fully mobile, consider staying offsite, or not registering on March 1, to allow those with more mobility concerns to stay onsite.

If family members are staying with you and are not members of AC, please have them register as a visitor and select a double room. You are encouraged to find a roommate to share a double room (2 beds) so fewer members to annual conference need to make a daily commute.

You can lower your cost by having a triple or quadruple occupancy in some of these rooms. Complete your registration online, then contact AC Registrar Sarah Vollmer at svollmer@michiganumc.org to finalize arrangements. Shared rooms/roommates must stay the same nights, or the full single rate will apply. The hotel requires a valid credit card per room when you arrive. Photo ID is needed at Registration check-in.

Hotel: 240 Rooms in a six-story hotel attached to meeting space | Newly remodeled | Standard Hotel Room with WiFi | New single-step into shower | 2 Queen Beds or 1 King Bed and a sofa bed (no sofa beds in ADA-compliant rooms) | All rooms have a mini fridge | Rates per night include lodging tax \$145

Tower: 186 modern rooms with WiFi, attached to meeting space | 2 Queen Beds or 1 King Bed | Single-step into shower | All rooms have a mini fridge | Rates per night Include lodging tax: \$198

Condo: Spacious and quiet | Detached from the meeting space, distances vary | Most have stairs | Access to free shuttles, furnished dining area, kitchenette, living room, WiFi. Perfect for those with special dietary needs who need to prepare their own food | Rates vary based on the number of bedrooms, and include per night lodging tax.

Offsite Lodging Options

Once the Grand Traverse Resort is full, other hotel blocks will open. You can take a free door-to-door shuttle to select area hotels on the Cherry Loop and avoid taking and parking your car! The full list will be posted at 2023.michiganumc.org. You must make your own arrangements and follow stated cancellation policies.

Airbnb, VRBO and other online booking sites have condos on their site that are part of the Grand Traverse Resort complex. These owners are listing them independently and are not part of the rental pool in our contract. If they are on the Grand Traverse Resort property, free shuttle service would be included.

Camping Options:

[Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park](#)

[Everflowing Waters Campground](#)

Meals

We've worked very closely with the Grand Traverse Resort's Food & Beverage Manager and Chef to craft delicious meals. Grand Traverse Resort has committed to providing complete menus for those with special dietary needs. If you avoid any of the seven main allergens (dairy, egg, tree nuts, peanuts, shellfish, fish, wheat/gluten), you can select from the special allergen-free buffet line – located outside of the Michigan Ballroom and in the Tower/Mackinac/Peninsula Room pre-function space. Outdoor seating does not have a special dietary needs buffet line. Check the special dietary meal option checkbox to receive this throughout the conference. If you have concerns, please see Grand Traverse Resort staff.

As everywhere, food costs have increased. **Meal prices include a 24% gratuity for servers.** Breakfast is \$16 | Lunch is \$20 | Dinner is \$25 | Thursday Dinner Burger Bar is available for \$23. There are also four onsite restaurants. Other onsite breakfast options include Sweetwater American Bistro, hotel coffee shop, Hotel and Tower room service, or grab-and-go from Campus Ministries Snack Station. See [menus on the website](#).

Pre-Conference Opportunities – Friday

Golf Tournament - 4-Person Scramble | 10 Holes | Shotgun Start @ 9 am | \$65 per person

Proceeds Benefit Campus Ministries of the Michigan Conference. See the 2023.michiganumc.org website for more information, or contact Rev. Rich Burstall, 734.915.6058, gvnit2god@yahoo.com to register and pay.

5k Run / Walk / Ride / Wag | 11 am Start on June 2 | \$35 per person | Registration includes a T-Shirt

A live 5K will be held onsite on June 2 at 11:00 a.m., plus local events held throughout the state on Sunday, June 4. Proceeds will benefit Child Hunger Relief in Michigan. Pet bandanas are back by popular demand! See the [5K website](#) for more information, and how to organize a 5K event at your local church. Since the need arose significantly during the pandemic, you've raised over \$82,000 these last two years! All funds were distributed to agencies supporting every county in Michigan for immediate hunger relief!

Golf Discounts and Spa Discounts will be available. See 2023.michiganumc.org for more info.

More information: 2023.michiganumc.org

Child Care

Childcare will be available for children of members to conference. Full information is on the 2023.michiganumc.org website. Registration and payment is through the Annual Conference registration form. **Note: Registration for childcare closes on April 15 to allow time to hire staff based on enrollment.**

Service Opportunities

The Board of Global Ministries is partnering with [Midwest Mission](#) to assemble rice meal bags for those in need - most recently sent to Ukraine. Rice meal bags will be assembled at Annual Conference in hands-on mission on Friday, June 1 from 9 a.m. - noon, before Annual Conference begins. Each rice meal bag contains rice, vitamin pack, dehydrated vegetables, and soy, and provides 6 meals. The supply cost is \$2 per bag.

You can help! Donations will be collected on the AC Registration form for Rice Meal Bags at \$2/each. In addition, 250 people are needed for 3 hours for assembly. Standing and sitting jobs are available in assembly line fashion. You don't need to assemble to donate for material cost. Check your interest on the AC Registration form.

Midwest Mission estimates that an assembly line of 10 volunteers can pack 175 meal bags per hour. With three hours, five teams, and your generous support we estimate we can pack *at least* 2,625 bags providing meals for 15,750! We've got room for up to 21 teams and will fill the room if we have volunteers and donated supplies. Imagine the impact we could make!

Note: this time does conflict with the Golf Outing to benefit Campus Ministries (9 - noon) and the onsite 5K for Child Hunger Relief in Michigan at 11 a.m.

Volunteers are also needed to serve as Ushers & Tellers, 5K timekeepers, Grace Patrol, Registration Desk Help, Choir Members and Stage Hands. Sign up to volunteer through the registration system.

Clergy Retirees & Conference Equalization Member Rate

Retired Clergy will have the \$200 cost of registration waived for Annual Conference. You are responsible for all other expenses. The fee is automatically deducted in the registration system, so the balance, including any late fee, is your responsibility.

Conference Equalization Members

Those persons who are seated because of their positions of conference leadership or selected by the Board of Laity shall have their basic expenses paid by the Annual Conference. Please "take what you need" but also "use what you take." Equalization members are required to stay at Grand Traverse Resort unless it is sold out. Once it is sold out, offsite hotel blocks will open. Equalization Members can receive a reimbursement up to \$75 per night with a receipt. Reimbursement forms are available at the Registration Desk.

Expenses covered for Equalization Members:

- \$200 Registration
- Onsite lunches and dinners between the opening and closing of the conference.
- 2 nights lodging in a shared hotel room at Grand Traverse Resort, or \$75 per night reimbursement.

Expenses NOT covered for Equalization Members:

- Travel expenses or bus shuttle from the East Side
- Thursday meals, Friday lunch, Sunday dinner and additional breakfasts
- Offsite meals or meals at the Grand Traverse Resort restaurants.
- Housing expenses that exceed \$75 per night (i.e., the additional cost for a Hotel Single or Tower room)
- Registration Late Fees

If you select a more expensive room option, or meals not included in the Equalization package, the balance for those expenses will appear at the end of your registration. You are responsible for paying them either immediately with a credit card, or by mailing a check, received by April 25.

More Registration Need-to-Know (aka, the Fine Print)

Registration opens March 1 at 9:00 am EST. Watch your email for a link to register. General registration ends May 1, 2023, at 11:59 pm. All cancellations incur a \$50 cancellation fee. There are no cancellation refunds after May 1 as food and housing orders have been placed. Registration reopens May 2, with a \$50 late fee, not covered for equalization members or retirees. Payments by check for registration must be received in the Treasurer's office by April 25 to validate your registration, or your registration will be cancelled, and onsite housing given to someone on the waiting list. Reregistration will incur the \$50 late fee. Registration remains open until May 19. Those registering after May 19 will not be able to participate in Legislative Committees scheduled online for May 23-24. Your balance must be paid in full to participate in Legislative Committees. Meals are not guaranteed with late registration as meal counts have been submitted to the resort on May 1. Limited late registration is available beginning May 25.

Contact Us!

Email your Annual Conference questions to Conference Events Planner Nancy Arnold at: narnold@michiganumc.org.
Send registration questions to Annual Conference Registrar Sarah Vollmer at: svollmer@michiganumc.org

See you on June 2nd!

The Commission on the Annual Conference Session