

## **Details for Advocacy Day March 22, 2023**

### **Arrival**

Registration and a continental breakfast will begin at **7:30 am** at Central UMC ([215 N Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI 48933](#)). Registration is starting 30 minutes earlier due to our high volume of participants. Welcome will still be at 8:30 am. Please allow ample travel time for navigating construction, city parking garages, and walking to Central UMC.

### **Parking**

Central UMC does not have available on-site parking, but a drop-off area near the front door is available. Several nearby city parking garages are available (consult the map to locate). City parking is \$3/hour up to a maximum of \$15 for the day. Consider carpooling with others coming from your area or meet others at Grace UMC (1900 Boston Blvd, Lansing 48910) where parking is available for free. Unfortunately, Grace is too far to walk from there, but carpooling from Grace will reduce the number of cars that need to pay for parking downtown. Those with mobility issues who are concerned about the distance between parking garages and Central UMC can contact Melanie Carey at [mcarey@eluumc.org](mailto:mcarey@eluumc.org) well in advance, to request a van ride to Central UMC from University UMC (1120 S Harrison Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823).

### **Hotel block**

A reduced rate block of hotel rooms has been set up for those traveling from out of town for Advocacy Day. The rate of \$100 plus tax is available at The Fairfield Inn & Suites at Eastwood (3320 Preyde Boulevard Lansing, Michigan 48912) on March 21 and March 22. This rate is available through **March 13**, so book soon!

### **Activities**

We will have many opportunities for public witness beyond the meetings with elected officials. In the morning they include letter writing to lawmakers, and poster-making for the press conference at Central UMC. Prayer vigils at Central UMC and in the rotunda of the Capitol (see sign up for rotunda). A "United Methodist and Friends Press Conference" beginning with music from Motor City Wesley at 11:15 am and speakers at 11:30 am on the Capitol steps, and introductions in the House and Senate chambers with times TBD. Corey Simon, pastor and blacksmith, will transform a gun into a gardening tool on the Capitol lawn during the morning, and we will use this in worship at 1 pm. For those who wish, a State Capitol tour at 2 pm (see sign up for the tour). And all day there will be opportunities to meet people from around the state of Michigan who are committed to faith, justice, and gun safety. We will have a continental breakfast of bagels and fruit during registration and boxed lunches.

**Dress**

Dress for legislative visits is usually professional or business casual. Consider also wearing the color orange for gun safety and symbols of faith as a visual witness. We will have name-tag lanyards with orange ribbons.

Pack light and prepare for navigating 1-3 blocks between the House and Senate offices, the State Capitol, and Central UMC. ID may be required by security in some buildings. Name tag lanyards will have a zipper pouch that can be used for small items.

**COVID 19 precautions**

If you are feeling ill, please stay home and participate through prayer and by contacting your elected officials in support of gun safety legislation. Masks are optional. Masks and hand sanitizer will be available at registration.

**Late Registrations, after March 13**

You are still welcome. Plan to bring your own lunch. You may be able to join a previously scheduled meeting as a supportive presence. Regardless, you may still participate in the other activities such as the press conference, letter writing, prayer, and worship. You can also visit Corey Simon's public witness of turning a gun into a gardening tool on the Capitol lawn. Please still register and let us know you're coming.