



new
every
morning

RESOLUTIONS

2023 Voting Items

2023 Annual Conference

June 2-4, 2023

Grand Traverse Resort

Acme, Michigan



Michigan Conference

The United Methodist Church

2023 Michigan Annual Conference Resolutions

R #1 – Establish the 2024 Past Service Rate

It was resolved by the Michigan Conference:

The Michigan Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits moves to:

Establish the Michigan Conference 2024 Past Service Rate (PSR) for the Ministers' Reserve Pension Fund (Pre-82) at \$920. The surviving spouse benefit rate shall remain at 85 percent.

R #2 – Establish the Housing/Rental allowance for retired clergy or clergy on medical leave

It was resolved by the Michigan Conference:

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 retirement and disability plan distributions received during the year 2024 is hereby designated as a rental/housing allowance for each retired and disabled ordained, commissioned, or licensed clergyperson 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, commissioned, or licensed clergyperson 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 retirement and disability plan distributions to which this rental/housing allowance applies shall be the retirement and disability plan distributions resulting from all service of such retired and disabled ordained, commissioned, or licensed clergypersons from all employment by any local church, annual conference or institution of The United Methodist Church, or from any other employer who employed the clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry and who elected to sponsor the retirement plan and/or welfare plans of The United Methodist Church for such retired clergyperson's retirement or disability benefits. Retirement distributions include all eligible amounts received from the United Methodist denominational retirement plan administered by Wespath Benefits & Investments.
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 as required by law.

R #3 – Financial Support for Archives and History

It was resolved by the Michigan Conference:

The work of the Commission on Archives and History is essential to the mission of the annual conference and funding shall be included in every conference budget for the Commission's work.

R #4 – A Call to Promote Justice for Palestinians

It was resolved by the Michigan Conference:

The Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church urges Michigan United Methodists to heed the urgent call from Christians in the Holy Land. It is a call “to engage in a process of study, reflection and confession concerning the historic and systemic deprivation of the rights of the Palestinian people, and the use of the Bible by many to justify and support this oppression,” Cry for Hope: A Call to Decisive Action, www.cryforhope.org .

The Conference members understand that the “Cry for Hope” calls for decisive action as it names the harm that the U.S. government has done by their policies in the Holy Land. We see ourselves complicit in the harm as we have failed to promote justice. So now we are declaring our readiness to act to promote the human rights of Palestinians, especially the children.

The Conference members call Michigan’s United Methodist members to honor their baptismal covenant to “resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.” Therefore, we ask our congregations and their members to take actions to resist the unjust policies that cause harm and death to Palestinian people, especially the children, in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel.

The Conference members urge each voting member and attendee of this 2023 Michigan Annual Conference to

- take this resolution to their home congregation,
- engage their congregation in study and discussion of “Cry for Hope” and learn more about the Palestinian struggle with educational resources from the General Board of Church and Society at www.umcjustice.org and the United Methodist Kairos Response (UMKR) at www.kairosresponse.org,
- find a member in their congregation to be a contact person with the Board of Justice Task Force Promoting Justice in the Middle East,
- Ask each contact person to inspire members to advocate for the human rights of the Palestinians, especially the children.
- Contact their United States Congressional representative and ask them to support passage of Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act (H.R. 3103) introduced by Congresswoman Betty McCollum.

R #5 – In Support of Creating a U.S. Regional Conference

It was resolved by the Michigan Conference:

That the Michigan Annual Conference affirm the resolution “Support Formation of a U.S. Regional Conference” that was passed by the 2022 North Central, Northeastern, South Central, Southeastern, and Western Jurisdictional Conferences.

We especially call attention to these statements from the Resolution:

“THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Jurisdiction supports the expressed intents of the Christmas Covenant and Connectional Table legislation, including the creation of Regional Conferences in Africa, Europe, the Philippines, and the U.S., respectively; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Central Jurisdiction recognizes and supports the leadership of our Central Conferences in the creation and furtherance of the 1 Christmas Covenant as well the Connectional Table’s future visioning on behalf of our worldwide fellowship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Central Jurisdiction urges every Annual Conference within its boundaries to support both the Christmas Covenant and Connectional Table proposals to establish a fair and equitable general church structure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Central Jurisdiction urges the Council of Bishops to expedite the process of voting on the constitutional amendments necessary to enact the regional conferences legislation, calling special sessions of annual conferences where necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in line with the intent of the non-disciplinary petition submitted by the Connectional Table, the North Central Jurisdiction requests the Council of Bishops to immediately appoint a 20-25 member Interim Committee on Organization for a US Regional Conference to develop and propose to the 2024 General Conference the structure and organization of a US Regional Conference. In line with the CT's legislation, this body would organize and plan for the establishment and functioning of a new United States Regional Conference comprising the current five jurisdictions of the United States. Committee membership should have a minimum of 3 members of each US jurisdiction, 3 central conference members and shall meet standards of racial and gender diversity. The Committee should recommend a structure for the US Regional Conference including considerations such as its membership, committee structure, meeting time, agency, and function."

R #7 – Affirmation of the Queer Delegates' Call to Center Justice and Empowerment for LGBTQIA+ People in The UMC

It was resolved by the Michigan Conference:

That the Michigan Annual Conference affirm the resolution "Queer Delegates' Call to Center Justice and Empowerment for LGBTQIA+ People in The UMC" that was passed by the 2022 North Central, Northeastern, South Central, Southeastern, and Western Jurisdictional Conferences.

We especially call attention to these statements from the Resolution:

- "1. Supports and amplifies the queer delegates' call to justice and empowerment for the LGBTQIA+¹ community throughout the Michigan Annual Conference, within and beyond our local churches, districts, departments, centers, and committees;*
- 2. Implores our member Annual Conferences to either not pursue, or resolve in a timely fashion through a process of just resolution any complaints against clergy regarding their sexual orientation or the officiating of weddings of LGBTQIA+ persons;*
- 3. Aspires to become a United Methodist Church in which LGBTQIA+ people will be protected, affirmed, and empowered throughout our life, mission, and ministry together."*

R #8 – Encouraging Leadership with Integrity

It was resolved by the Michigan Conference:

That the Michigan Annual Conference affirm the resolution "Leading with Integrity" that was passed by the 2022 North Central, Northeastern, South Central, Southeastern, and Western Jurisdictional Conferences.

We especially call attention to these statements from the Resolution:

"Be it further resolved that the North Central Jurisdiction expresses both respect and gratitude to those who have voluntarily stepped away from positions of leadership as they journey away from membership in The United Methodist Church.

Be it further resolved that, in an effort to ensure that decisions about The United Methodist Church are made by those who are wholeheartedly committed to its future, the North Central Jurisdiction believes that only lay and clergy members who intend to remain in The United Methodist Church are appropriately eligible to serve in governance roles such as: districts, annual

conferences, jurisdictional conferences, general conference; and their related committees, boards, agencies; delegations and episcopal candidates. We encourage Conference Boards of Trustees to develop codes of conduct to manage conflicts of interest that may arise around discussions of disaffiliation agreements.

Be it further resolved that the North Central Jurisdiction respectfully asks all who intend to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church to recuse themselves from governance roles annual conference, jurisdictional conference, and general conference.”

R #9 – Supporting the Removal of Discriminatory Policies

It was resolved by the Michigan Conference:

Be it resolved that the Michigan Annual Conference supports the removal of all discriminatory policies and harmful language related to sexual orientation and gender identities, and urges delegates to adopt the following petitions; petitions already submitted and that will be before the voting body of the next General Conference:

Petition No: 20730-CB-¶161-G;

Entitled: Revised Social Principles-161 and 162

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 1, Page 208](#)

Summary: Removes the statement that affirms marriage as only between “one man and one woman.” Removes the statement that only affirms “heterosexual” marriage. Removes, “The UMC does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.”

Petition No: 20177-FO-¶304.3

Entitled: A Simple Plan #3

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 624](#)

Summary: Removes ¶304.3 which states, “self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.” Also removes the corresponding footnote stating that “self-avowed practicing homosexual is understood to mean that a person openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee of ordained ministry, Board of Ordained Ministry, or clergy session that the person is a practicing homosexual; or is living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union, or is a person who publicly states she or he is a practicing homosexual.”

Petition No: 20469-OM-¶341.6

Entitled: A Simple Plan #5

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 1041](#)

Summary: Removes ¶341.6, which states (under unauthorized conduct), “ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.”

Petition No: 20181-FA-¶613-G

Entitled: A Fully Inclusive Way Forward-Part 6 of 8

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 1, Page 504](#)

Summary: Removes ¶613.19, which prohibits annual conferences from giving “United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality . . . “

Petition No: 20190-FA-¶806-G

Entitled: A Fully Inclusive Way Forward-Part 7 of 8

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 1, Page 508](#)

Summary: Removes ¶806.9, which tasks GCFA with “ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, or council gives United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group . . . “

Petition No: 20304-HS-¶415.6-G

Entitled: Next Generation UMC #11—Amend Episcopal Responsibilities

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 977](#)

Summary: Removes statements prohibiting bishops from commissioning, ordaining, or consecrating persons determined to be “self-avowed practicing homosexuals.”

Petition No: 20387-JA-¶2711.3-G

Entitled: Next Generation UMC #22—Penalties

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 933](#)

Summary: Removes predetermined, mandatory minimum penalties for clergy who officiate same sex weddings.

Petition Number: 20365-JA-¶2702.1-G

Entitled: Next Generation UMC #21 - Chargeable Offenses

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 924](#)

Summary: Removes chargeable offenses that target “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” and clergy who conduct same-sex weddings.

Petition No: 20420-OM-¶310.2d-G

Entitled: A Simple Plan #4

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 1022](#)

Summary: Removes statements from Footnote 3 that repeat phrases being removed from other paragraphs in the BOD.

Be it further resolved that the Michigan Annual Conference secretary shall send copies of this resolution to: all General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates and alternates, the Commission on General Conference; and the Council of Bishops.

R #11 – 2024 Minimum Salary Schedule

It was resolved by the Michigan Conference:

The Commission on Equitable Compensation (CEC) moves the following Minimum Salary Schedule be adopted for 2024 by the Michigan Conference:

In addition, the CEC asks churches to budget a minimum of \$1,500 for professional expenses and continuing education, exclusive of mileage reimbursements for each full-time clergy person under appointment. For clergy serving less than full-time, the amount set should equal no less than the appointment percentage (i.e., a half-time appointment’s minimum would be at least \$750, etc.)

Churches are strongly urged to compensate clergy whose years of service are beyond this chart’s years by considering both years of service as clergy and inflation forces. While electing not to provide clergy with a raise might alleviate pressure on the church budget, it places unfair stress on clergy and is demoralizing. The Commission on Equitable Compensation also understands the financial distress that many churches are experiencing.

	Local Pastor			Associate Member			Provisional Member			Full Member		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Year 1	\$38,752	\$41,038	\$42,269	*	*	*	\$43,245	45,796	\$47,170	***	***	***
Year 2	\$39,140	\$41,449	\$42,692	*	*	*	\$43,677	\$46,254	\$47,642	***	***	***
Year 3	\$39,528	\$41,863	\$43,119	*	*	*	\$44,109	\$46,717	\$48,119	\$46,143	\$48,865	\$50,331
Year 4	\$39,916	\$42,282	\$43,550	*	*	*	\$44,541	\$47,184	\$48,600	\$46,604	\$49,354	\$50,835
Year 5	\$40,304	\$42,705	\$43,986	\$42,122	\$44,607	\$45,945	\$44,973	\$47,656	\$49,086	\$47,065	\$49,848	\$51,343
Year 6	\$40,692	\$43,132	\$44,426	\$42,543	\$45,053	\$46,405	\$45,505	\$48,133	\$49,577	\$47,526	\$50,346	\$51,856
Year 7	\$41,080	\$43,563	\$44,870	\$42,964	\$45,504	\$46,869	\$45,837	\$48,614	\$50,072	\$47,987	\$50,850	\$52,376
Year 8	\$41,468	\$43,999	\$45,319	\$43,385	\$45,959	\$47,338	\$46,269	\$49,100	\$50,573	\$48,448	\$51,358	\$52,899
Year 9	\$41,856	\$44,439	\$45,772	\$43,806	\$46,418	\$47,811	**	**	**	\$48,909	\$51,872	\$53,428
Year 10	\$42,244	\$44,883	\$46,229	\$44,227	\$46,883	\$48,289	**	**	**	\$49,370	\$52,390	\$53,962

An increase of 3.0% for all clergy is based on based on the Social Security increase for 2023 (4.7%) and the rate of inflation (8.7%). Please refer to www.bls.gov for the figures.

¶322.1 (3) of the [2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline](#) explains *

¶327 of the 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline explains **

¶335 of the 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline explains ***