



MAY 30 - JUNE 1, 2024

FEARLESS

MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Embracing
A NEW FUTURE

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

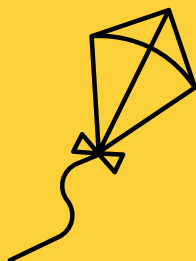
“

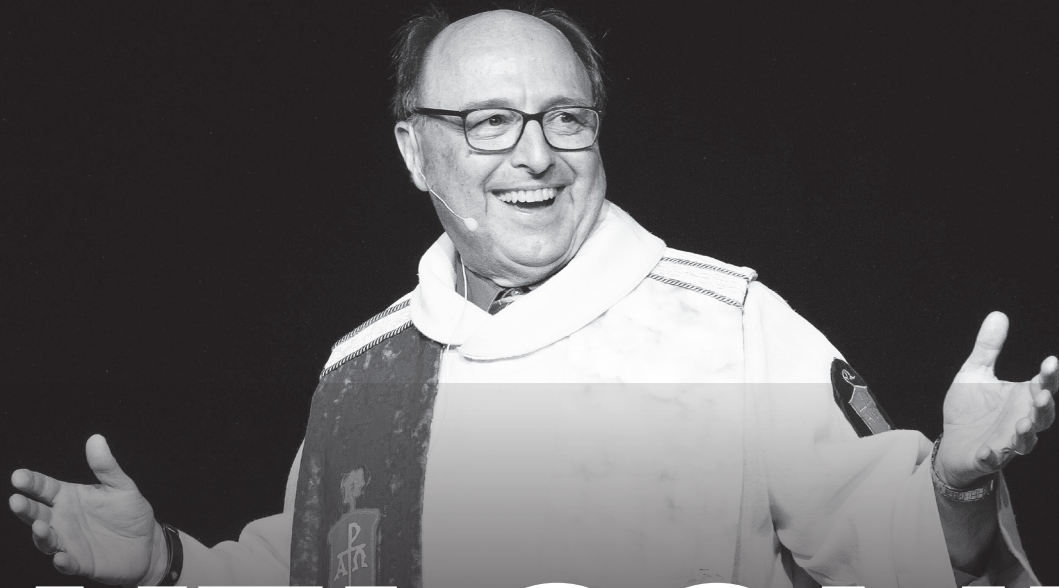
**DO NOT FEAR,
FOR I AM WITH YOU,
DO NOT BE AFRAID,
FOR I AM YOUR GOD;
I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU,
I WILL HELP YOU,
I WILL UPHOLD YOU
WITH MY VICTORIOUS
RIGHT HAND.**



- ISAIAH 41:10

”





WELCOME

To the 2024 Michigan Annual Conference

Greetings in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the peace and power of the Holy Spirit. I welcome you to the 2024 session of the Michigan Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

We gather for annual conference on the heels of the long-postponed General Conference, just processing all that occurred there. We gather in an election year, with familiar candidates and, regrettably, familiar divisions and tensions in our nation. We gather only a few months following the completion of the disaffiliation process for over 16% of our congregations.

And we gather trusting that God has work to do in us and through us as the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church. We gather trusting God's presence and power, God's grace and mercy. "Don't fear, because I am with you, don't be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will surely help you; I will hold you with my righteous strong hand" (Isaiah 41:10, Common English Bible).

Our Annual Conference theme is: "Fearless: Embracing a New Future." We cannot ignore the challenges to being the church in a society where people are abandoning religious

communities at an increasing rate. We do not ignore setbacks as we seek to build social structure consistent with the gospel – social structures that are more just and inclusive. We feel keenly our own uncertainties. Yet we trust deeply and profoundly that God is with us to strengthen us for the ministry journey ahead. God's work in us and through us in Jesus Christ continues. We will embrace the future with hope, joy, courage, and creativity. We will embrace the future fearlessly.

Friends, we are here and now God's people, yet "what we will be has not yet been revealed." God is not done with us yet. God wants to reveal more of God's love in Jesus Christ through us. What hope! What joy! May our work together as an Annual Conference enhance the work of ministry in each of our settings, in the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the God's Spirit. May this annual conference propel us into the future fearlessly.



David A Bard
Bishop David Bard





Dear Members of the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church,

On behalf of the City of Traverse City, I extend a heartfelt and sincere “welcome” to all of you! We are truly grateful that the Michigan Conference has chosen Traverse City as its annual conference destination since the year 2017!

Traverse City, renowned for its unique blend of natural beauty, recreational havens, lively shopping districts, and outstanding dining establishments, eagerly awaits your exploration.

As you convene for the conference, our hope is that your time here proves not only productive and meaningful but also spiritually inspiring. We firmly believe that Traverse City’s dynamic atmosphere is the perfect setting to inspire each and every one of you.

Thank you for the opportunity to welcome you all back to Traverse City!

Sincerely,

**Amy Shamroe, Mayor
City of Traverse City**

Welcome to the picturesque city of Traverse City, Michigan! It is with great joy and anticipation that we extend our warmest greetings to each one of you. As you gather for this significant conference, themed “Fearless: Embracing a new future,” we are inspired by the spirit of courage and hope that it encapsulates.

Traverse City, nestled amidst the beauty of the Great Lakes, is a perfect backdrop for your discussions, reflections, and shared aspirations. May the discussions during the conference be guided by the theme, encouraging fearlessness in facing the challenges ahead and embracing the opportunities for positive transformation.

Our community is eager to embrace the diverse perspectives and collective wisdom that each participant brings. May your time here be marked by meaningful connections, fruitful dialogues, and a renewed sense of purpose. Together, let us embark on this journey towards a future filled with fearlessness and unwavering hope.

Sincerely,

**Trevor Tkach, President/CEO
Traverse City Tourism**



TRAVERSE
city **TOURISM**





Table of CONTENTS


1	Welcome	15	Mission Festival
2	Welcome to Traverse City	22	Conference Preacher and Speakers
4	Land Recognition	24	Annual Conference Offerings
6	Maps and Guides	26	Worship Synopsis
9	Shuttle Service	28	Thank you!
10	Frequently Asked Questions	30	Memorials
12	Who Can Vote	36	Awards and Recognitions
13	Safety First	40	Retirees
14	Daily Schedules:	43	Candidates for Recognition, Commissioning and Ordination
	Wednesday Schedule - 14	46	Commission on the Annual Conference Session
	Thursday Schedule - 16	48	Notes
	Friday Schedule - 18		
	Saturday Schedule - 20		


As a courtesy, please silence all electronic devices and refrain from using flash photography. Thank you!


Additional information and updated information can be found at 2024.MichiganUMC.org

FOLLOW US! Watch Annual Conference Plenary Sessions Live on our website: 2024.MichiganUMC.org

WIRELESS INTERNET: Free WiFi is available in the meeting spaces. **WIFI password:** UMC24

 #MIUMC24

 MichiganUMC

 #MIUMC24

 MIUMC

EVERYTHING YOU NEED CAN BE FOUND AT 2024.MICHIGANUMC.ORG



Grand Traverse region



**Women's drum circle from
Greensky Hill UMC**



Michigan Annual Conference 2022



Land **RECOGNITION**

As we embark on our collective journey this week, there is a profound sense of gratitude for the rich tapestry of Native and Indigenous Peoples whose diverse pathways and legacies have intricately woven themselves into the fabric of the Michigan Conference. These majestic peninsulas have not only sustained but also inspired and nurtured us, providing the very essence of life we require to flourish. We are deeply indebted to the historical tapestry that has brought us to this moment, allowing us to heed God's call for justice, welcome, and mercy.

In our unwavering commitment to the Acts of Repentance to Native and Indigenous Peoples, we pause to extend heartfelt appreciation to the First Peoples of this region, whose ancestral guardianship has safeguarded this land since time immemorial. From the ancient gatherings of the Council of the Three Fires at Michilimackinac in 796 AD to the enduring stewardship of the Anishinaabe member nations—the Ojibwe, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi—these Indigenous communities have resiliently preserved this land for the prosperity of all.

The abundant blessings of the Great Lakes and their fertile surroundings have not only sustained diverse cultures but also provided refuge for those escaping adversity. Immigrants seeking solace from famine and poverty, African slaves embarking on the perilous journey to freedom through the Underground Railroad, and refugees fleeing violence from distant lands have all found sanctuary upon these shores. In the midst of our shared pursuit for equity and justice, we acknowledge the privilege that has shaped our collective journey, as we strive to confront and reconcile its impact on our divine calling.

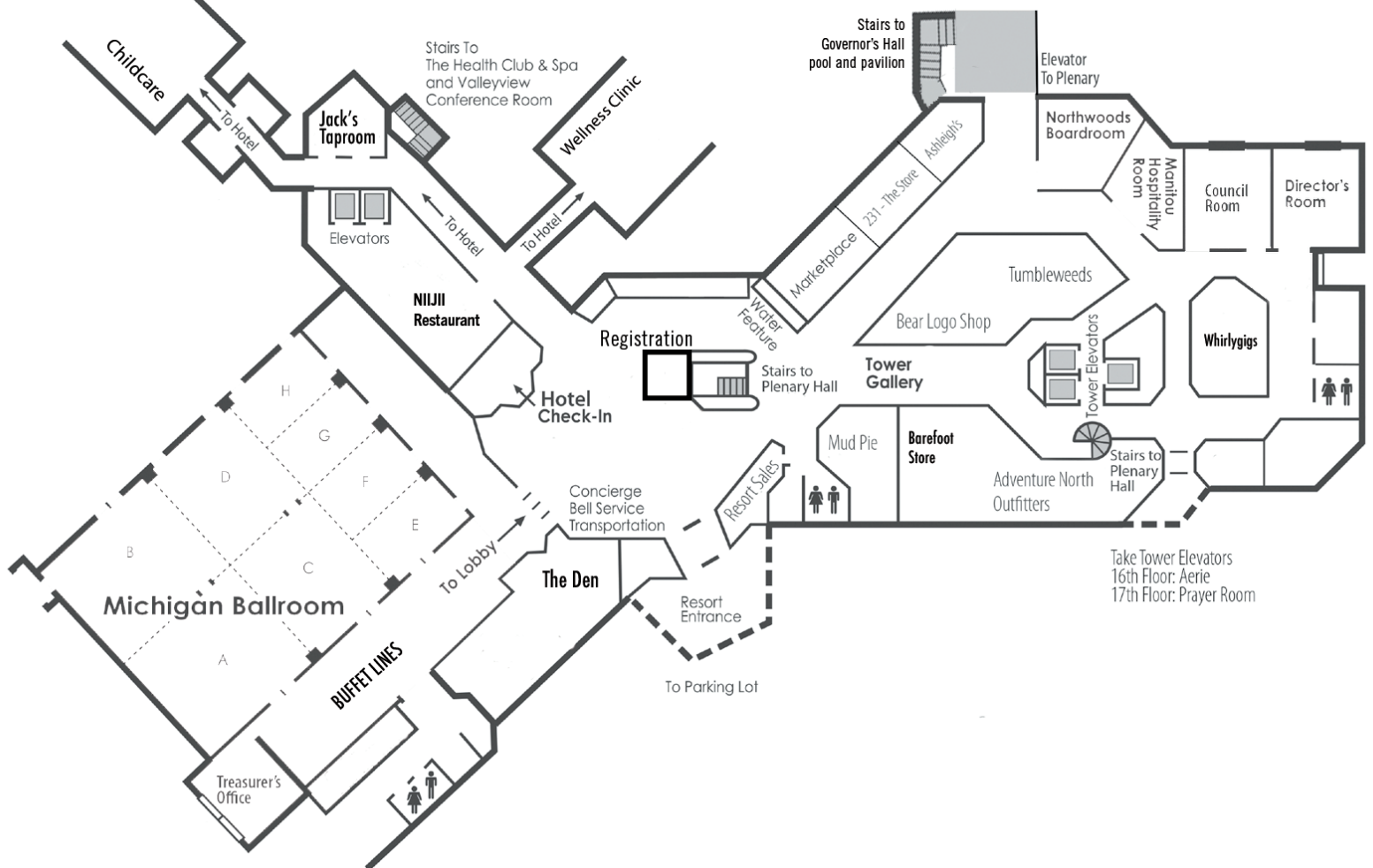
Even amidst the harrowing injustices that have marred their history, the Anishinaabe peoples have displayed unwavering resilience, never forsaking their reverence for the Creator and the sanctity of their heritage. Similarly, the enslaved individuals who found liberation, the refugees who sought solace, and the LGBTQ+ community members advocating for recognition—all have exhibited remarkable courage and fortitude in their quest for equality and acceptance.

As we convene as the Michigan Annual Conference, we humbly seek forgiveness for the transgressions of the past, acknowledging the complicity and silence of The United Methodist Church in perpetuating systemic injustices. On behalf of Michigan United Methodists, we extend our heartfelt apologies to all our brethren who have endured these injustices. We honor their resilience and pledge to honor the land that has been cherished and nurtured by Indigenous hands since time immemorial.

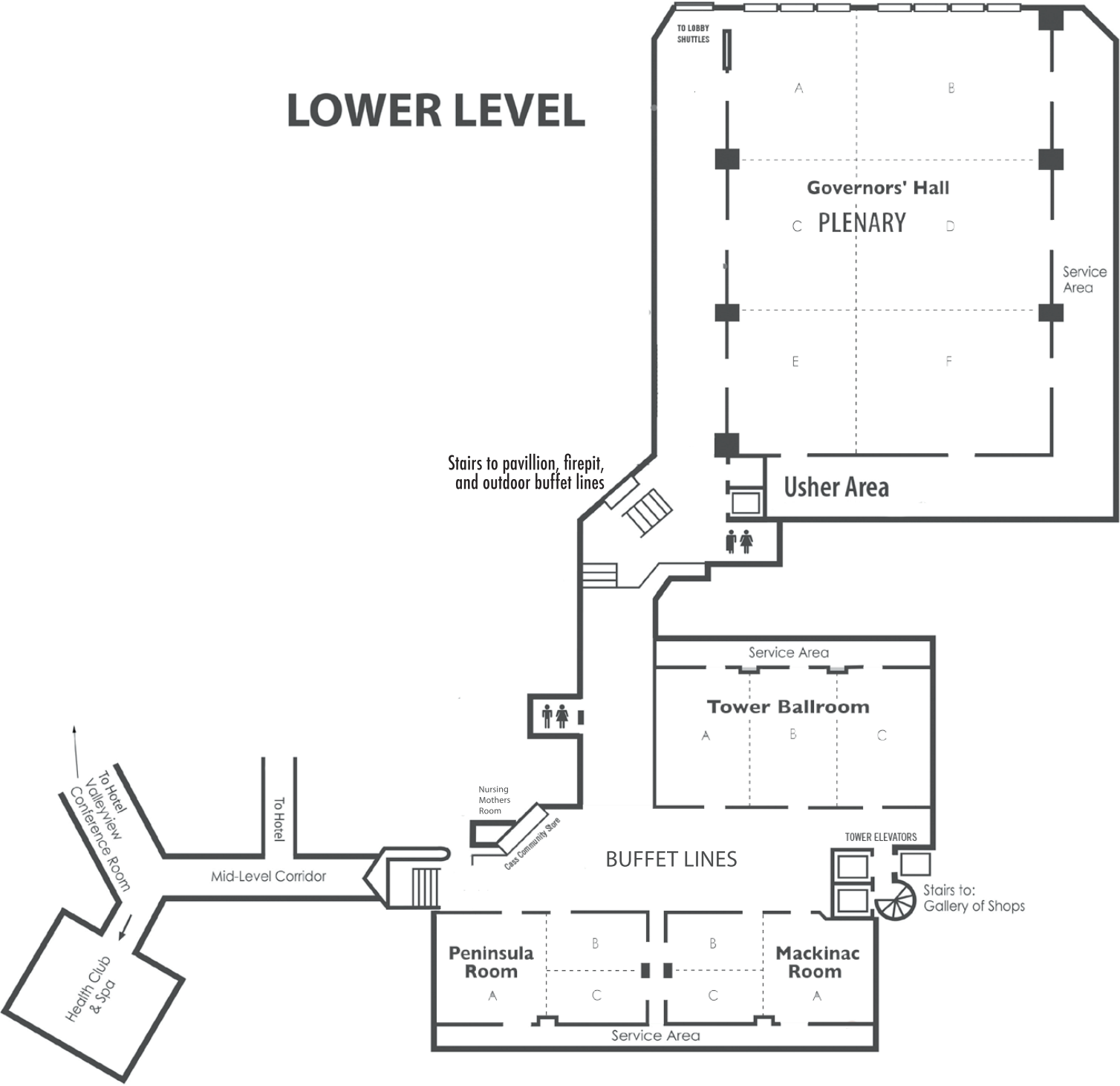
MAPS & GUIDES

To Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

LOBBY LEVEL

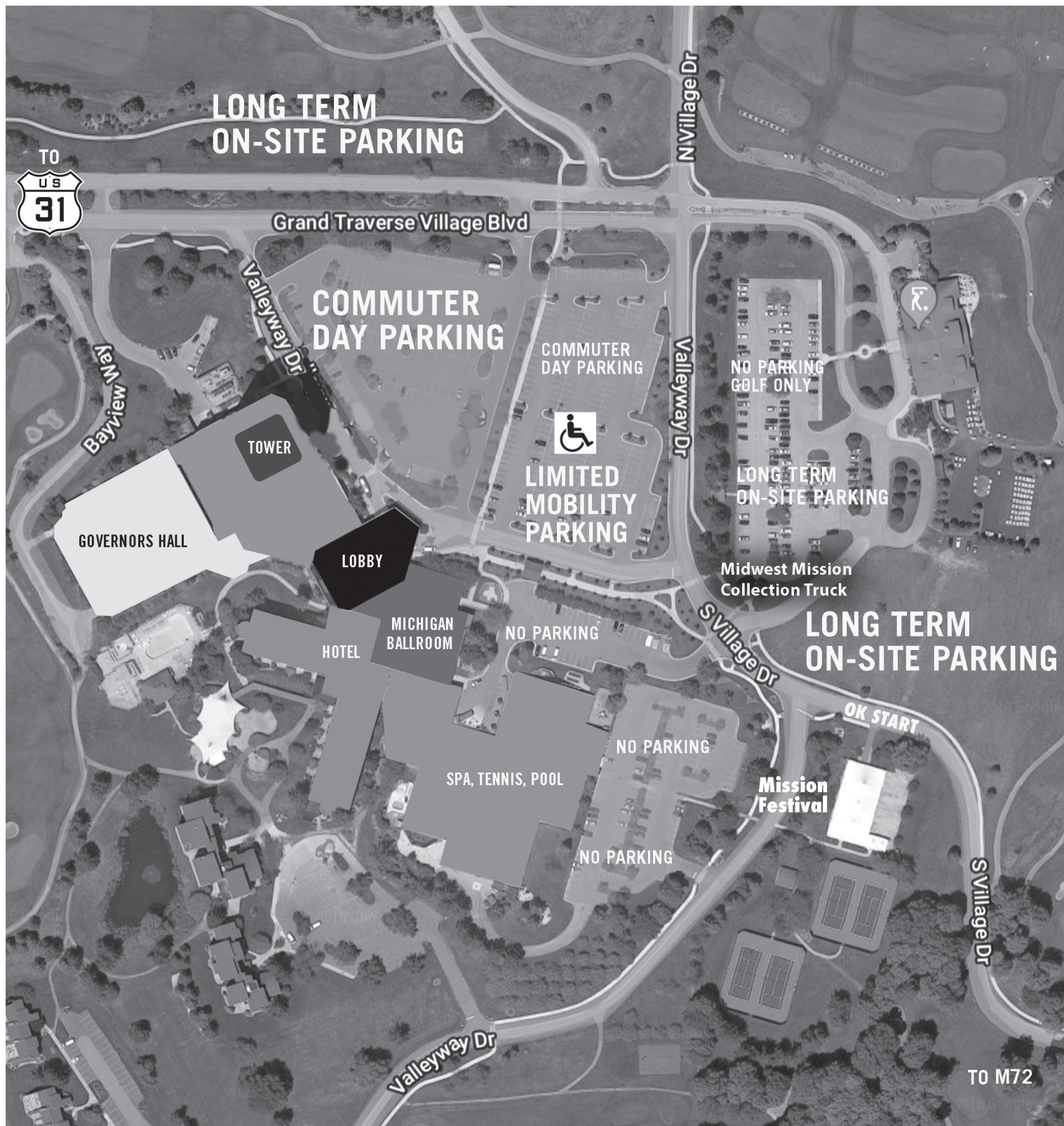


LOWER LEVEL



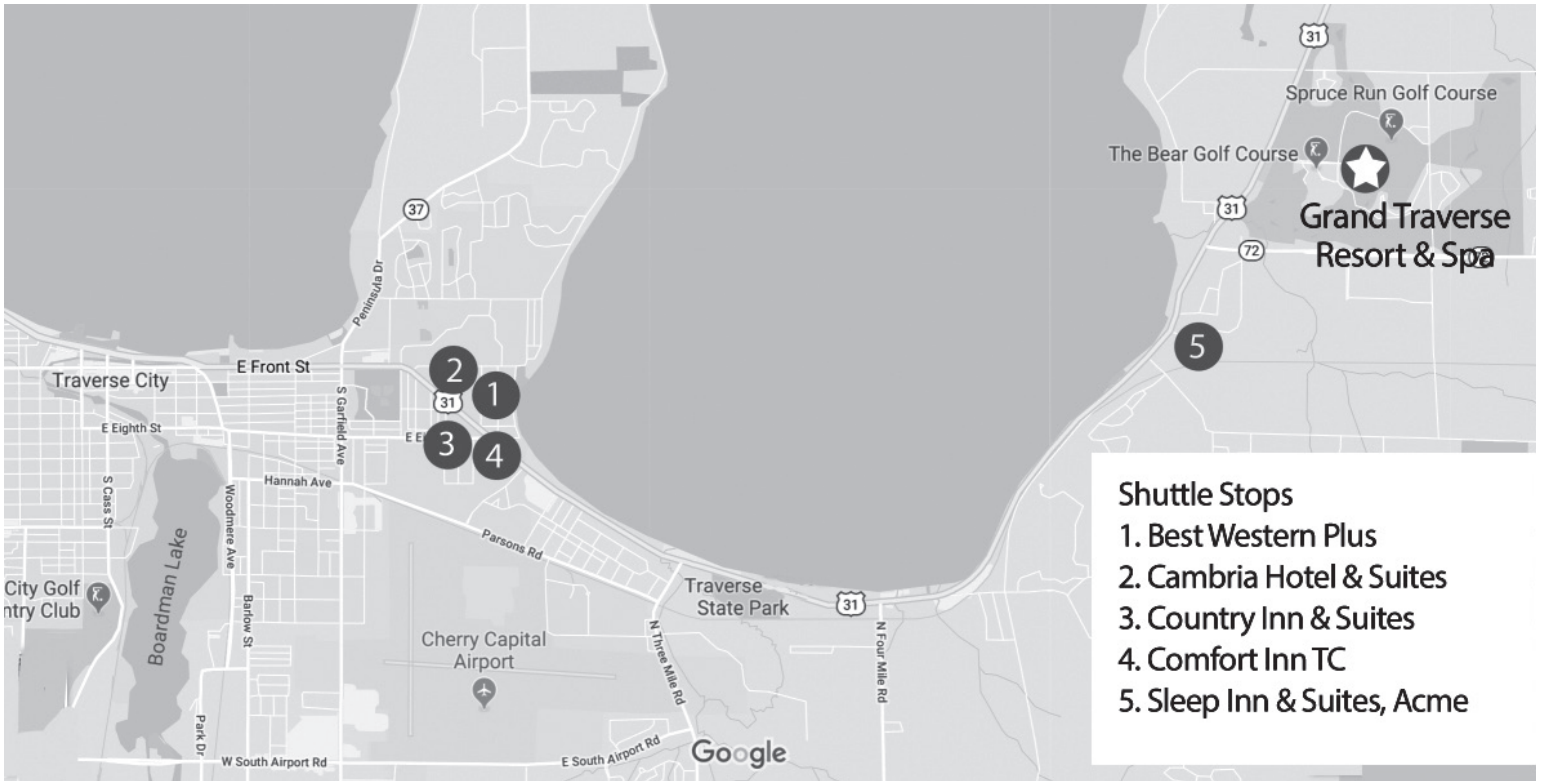
MAPS & GUIDES

To Grand Traverse Resort and Spa



SHUTTLE SERVICE

Pick up a shuttle from the exit of Governors' Hall pre-function area to the main (lobby level) entrance. Governors' Hall exit and main entrance are also pick-up stops for the Cherry Loop shuttle to local hotel stops.



Two 14-passenger Mercedes Benz transport vans will be in a continuous loop during the following hours:

Wednesday, May 29: 12:00 noon – 10:00 pm

Thursday, May 30: 7:00 am – 10:00 pm

Friday, May 31: 6:00 am – 10:00 pm

Saturday, June 1: 6:00 am – 5:30 pm Guest may want to drive to the resort after checking out in the morning.

Stop 1 = Best Western Plus (305 Munson)

Stop 2 = Cambria Hotel & Suites (255 Munson)

Stop 3 = Country Inn & Suites (420 Munson)

Stop 4 = Comfort Inn (460 Munson)

Stop 5 = Sleep Inn (5520 US-31)





frequently

ASKED QUESTIONS

We hope your time at Annual Conference is pleasant and want to make your visit to the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa as enjoyable as possible. If you find yourself in need of assistance or additional information, there are many people waiting to serve you:

- The Grace Patrol – look for hospitality assistants in red vests. They are prepared to assist with directions, answer general questions, and offer you grace.
- Annual Conference Registration Staff – for help with materials, your registration or other conference needs. Located in the lobby adjacent to the hotel check in.
- Ushers – can assist with questions, seating, and other needs during our plenary sessions and other events in Governors' Hall.
- Bell Staff – for assistance with parking and luggage. Any of the Grand Traverse Resort staff will be happy to assist you.

ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

ASL Interpreters are available for all plenary sessions and upon request. Please see the Conference Facilitator to request services. There is special seating for persons who are deaf and hard of hearing. Please let an usher know and they will be happy to assist.

The Grand Traverse Resort is ADA compliant. Three wheelchairs are available from the bell stand. If you have need of any special assistance while at Annual Conference, please visit the hotel registration desk. Seating areas are available for those using wheelchairs or mobility carts. Ushers can assist you in identifying these areas.

CONFERENCE FACILITATOR

Jen Peters is your Conference Facilitator for 2024. Her job is to help anyone who needs assistance in understanding and using the procedures and resources of the Conference in session. You will find her seated at a table near the stage.

CONFERENCE MATERIALS

All conference materials are available online at 2024.michiganumc.org. Daily News, a summary and preview of upcoming events, is emailed each evening to all members to Annual Conference. Printed copies are available each morning.

COST

An event the size of our in-person Michigan Annual Conference gathering is only possible at a handful of venues in the state. Annual conferences in the North Central Jurisdiction hold their events in similar conference venues with fees in line with ours. Overall costs for participants have remained the same or decreased through creative scheduling. By reducing the length of conference by a day, we've reduced the number of hotel nights and meals to be purchased. There's been no increase in food or lodging costs in 2024.

EMERGENCY

In case of any emergency, messages will be announced, and you will be directed where to head for safety. In the event of an emergency, you can use a house phone to dial 0 for immediate assistance or dial 911.

LOST AND FOUND

Found items can be brought to the Conference Facilitator's Desk located near the stage in Governors' Hall, or to the Registration



Desk located in the Lobby. You may also wish to consult with hotel security.

LOW SENSORY ROOM

Need to escape from the noise of Governors' Hall, but don't want to miss the business of the conference? This year, the Tower Ballroom will be available for anyone needing a quieter space. A live stream will keep you connected to what's happening and to let you know when you need to get back to vote. The Low Sensory Room will be open during worship services and plenary sessions. This is a non-voting area.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Emergency Medical Technicians are available on-site. Please use a house phone to dial 0 for immediate assistance or dial 911.

MEAL PURCHASES

If you purchased a meal and will not be dining, please stop at the Registration Desk so we can create a ticket for another member to use.

NURSING MOTHER'S ROOM

The space reserved for nursing mothers is in a private room behind the Cass Community Social Services store in the Tower pre-function area. The room will provide needed comfort and privacy while a live stream monitor will keep you connected to what's happening on the conference floor. This is a non-voting space.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

To keep plenary time moving smoothly, requests for 'personal privilege' (speaking about an item of personal interest, making a special introduction or another matter that interrupts scheduled business) will be referred to the Commission on the Annual Conference Session for consideration. Please give personal privilege requests to Jen Peters, Conference Facilitator, who will forward your request.

REGISTRATION DESK

Information on locations for meals, messages, lost and found items, and other updated information can be found at the Conference Registration Desk located in the lobby.

RULES OF ORDER

Todd Price is your Rules of Order representative. He is seated next to the Conference Facilitator. Please visit him with questions regarding the Standing Rules of the Annual Conference.

SHUTTLE SERVICE

Avoid the hassle of parking and traffic by using the Cherry Loop shuttle! Pick up a shuttle from the exit of Governors' Hall pre-function area to the main (lobby level) entrance. Governors' Hall exit and main entrance are also pick-up stops for the Cherry Loop shuttle to local hotel stops.

SMOKING

There is no smoking inside the conference property. Smoking is permitted 25 feet from entrances and exits of the building.

TIPPING AND GRATUITY

The Program Committee has already included a 24% gratuity for pre-registered meals. We encourage you to tip housekeepers \$2 per night, bell staff \$1 per bag and restaurant servers 20%-25%. In today's world, tipping and gratuities are no longer considered a bonus, but part of the income for these hard-working employees.

TRIBAL AFFILIATION

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians own two major businesses which are marketed under the tradename Grand Traverse Resort and Casinos.

The gaming business is owned and operated by the GTB Economic Development Corporation, a federally chartered corporation. The GTB-EDC operations include Turtle Creek Casino and Hotel, the Leelanau Sands Casino and Lodge and the Eagle Town Market.

The hotel and resort business is owned and operated by the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa LLC, a Michigan limited liability company. GTRS LLC has its own Board of Directors and its management operations and financials are separate from the GTB-EDC.

FOLLOW US

Watch Annual Conference Plenary Sessions live on our website: 2024.MichiganUMC.org or facebook.com/MichiganUMC



#MIUMC24



#MIUMC24



MichiganUMC



MIUMC





Who Can **VOTE**

Who can vote on Annual Conference business?

Annual Conference business is best defined as items in the Legislation Booklet and any business that arises during our conference business.

CLERGY Voice and Full Vote

- Elders and Deacons in full connection ¶329.2, 334.1, 602.1a

CLERGY Voice and Partial Vote (cannot vote on constitutional amendments or on matters regarding ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy in the clergy session)

- Provisional Elders and Deacons who have completed their educational requirements ¶327.2, 602.1b
- Associate Members ¶321.1, 602.1c
- Local Pastors who have completed Course of Study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding election ¶316.6, 602.1d

CLERGY Voice and Limited Vote (cannot vote on General Conference or Jurisdictional Conference Delegates, constitutional amendments or on matters regarding ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy in the clergy session)

- Provisional Elders and Deacons who have not completed their educational requirements ¶327.2, 602.1b
- Local Pastors currently under appointment, but for less than two consecutive years and/or have not completed Course of Study or an M. Div. degree ¶316.6, 602.1d
- Appointed members of other denominations ¶346.2 (must be approved yearly by vote of the Board of Ordained Ministry, if not they are considered an Observer with no voice)

LAITY Voice and Vote

- Lay members representing a local church or charge ¶602.4
- Equalization Members as determined by the Standing Rules and Board of Laity ¶602.4
- Diaconal ministers, active deaconesses, home missionaries ¶602.2, 602.4

CLERGY/LAITY OBSERVER with Voice and NO Vote (may be present in the bar)

- Elders and Deacons with membership in another conference or Methodist denomination ¶346.1 (must be approved yearly by vote of the Board of Ordained Ministry, if not they are considered an Observer with no voice)
- Affiliate members ¶344.4 (our standing rules say voice no vote 6.2.4.2)
- Retired local pastors not serving an appointment who have completed Course of Study or an M.Div. degree ¶321.5
- A representative from each of the affiliate entities 6.2.4.1

CLERGY/LAITY VISITOR NO Voice NO Vote (cannot be present in the bar)

- District superintendent assignments
- Student local pastors ¶318.3
- Exhibitors & Speakers
- Alternate lay members
- Local Pastors not currently under appointment, Honorable Location
- Multi-day registered visitors

GUEST NO Voice and NO Vote (may only attend worship)

- RCO Guests
- Memorial Families

Safety **FIRST**



We are so glad to have you with us at the Grand Traverse Resort attending Annual Conference. The Committee on Annual Conference and hotel staff want to assure your safety during your stay, please take a moment to review these safety guidelines:

If you have an immediate, life threatening emergency DIAL 911

Provide the operator your exact location. Ask another person to inform Grand Traverse Resort staff by house phone dialing 0. Also ask someone to immediately inform Annual Conference staff, ushers or Grace Patrol. All are trained to seek assistance and radio for help.

If your emergency is not immediately life-threatening

Inform Grand Traverse Resort staff by house phone dialing 0 and/or inform Annual Conference staff, ushers or Grace Patrol. All are trained to seek assistance.

Public Health Protections

To protect ourselves and others from disease, maintain good hand sanitization practices and monitor your health before and during our time together. If you develop any symptoms of illness please notify the Annual Conference Registrar or registration desk as soon as possible.

Emergency alerts

The Grand Traverse Resort has an emergency public address system throughout the entire facility. Listen for instructions over this system to learn what action to take in the event of an emergency or weather.

Exits

Please take a moment to find the location of the nearest emergency exit in any room you enter.

Note that some exits lead to hallways. Know how to quickly exit directly outside. Once outside the building, do not block lanes or sidewalks where emergency vehicles and first responders may need access.

Weather

In the event of dangerous weather conditions, Grand Traverse Resort staff will guide you to the appropriate place to safely shelter. Stay away from windows.

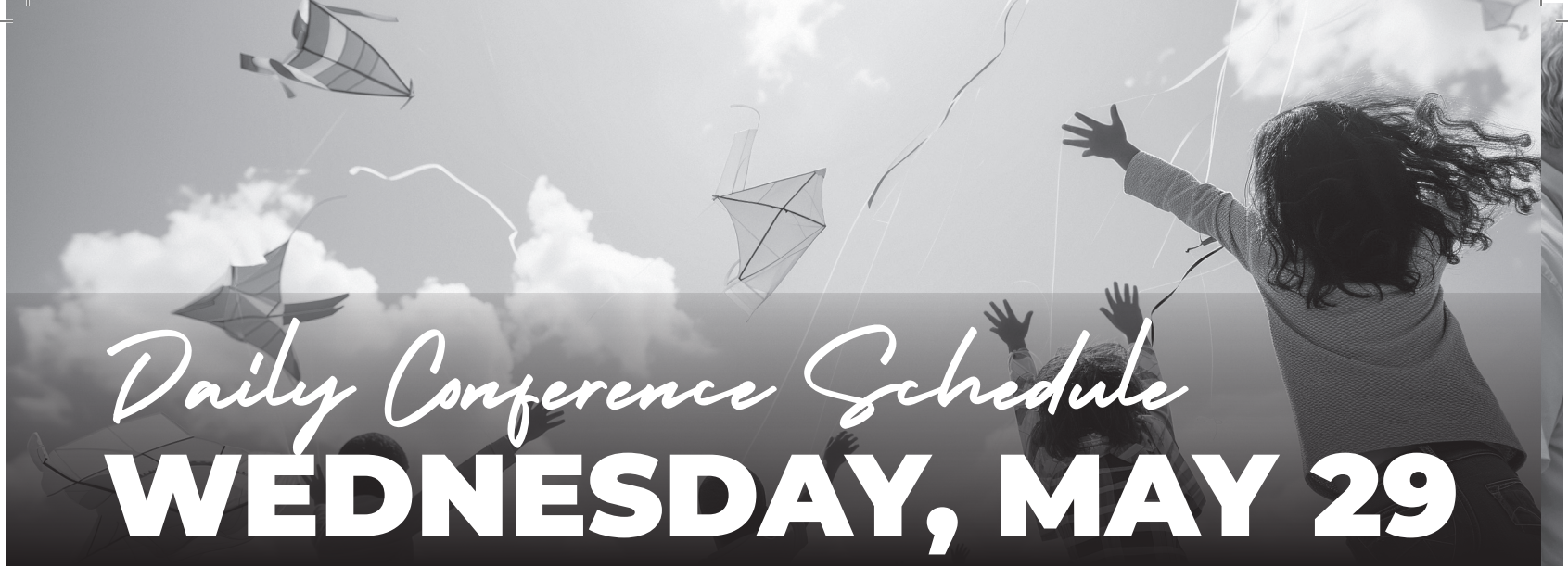
Reporting suspicious activity

If you are concerned about a suspicious package or person, please immediately alert the Grand Traverse Resort staff, Annual Conference staff, ushers or Grace Patrol. If you see something, say something.

Public Protests

Please note that the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa has corporate policies that prohibit disruptions in resort common areas and property. The resort does not allow protests or other behavior that disrupts the experience of other guests. Individuals will be asked to leave the property for violations to this policy and the resort reserves the right to call law enforcement if there is failure to comply. As guests of the resort, the Michigan Conference agrees to abide by this policy.



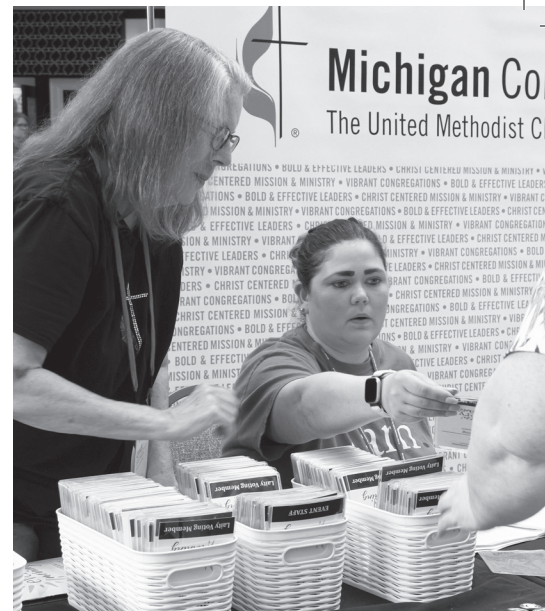


Daily Conference Schedule

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

7:30 AM-9:00 AM	BOM Buffet Breakfast <i>NiiJii Restaurant</i>
9:00 AM-7:00 PM	Registration/Check-In/ Info Desk Open <i>Lobby</i>
9:00 AM-2:00 PM	BOM Retreat <i>Mackinac Room</i>
9:30 AM-2:00 PM	Appointive Cabinet <i>Director's Room</i>
2:00 PM-4:00 PM	Clergy Session <i>Governors Hall</i>
4:00 PM-5:00 PM	Rehearsal for Service of Recognition, Commissioning and Ordination <i>Governors Hall</i>
5:00 PM-6:30 PM	Dinner <i>Tower Prefunction</i> <i>General Seating - Tower Ballroom</i> <i>Pre-Conference Seminar, Resilience Practices for Clergy Well-Being with Rev. Ron Bell, Sr. - Peninsula Room</i> <i>Dinner with Garrett-ETS Alumni and Friends - Director's Room</i>
5:30 PM-6:30 PM	AC Full Committee Meeting <i>Mackinac Room</i>
6:30 PM-7:00 PM	AC Executive Committee Meeting <i>Mackinac Room</i>
7:00 PM-8:00 PM	Clergy Retirement Celebration <i>Governors Hall</i>
8:00 PM-9:00 PM	Celebration Reception <i>Michigan Ballroom Pre-function/Lobby</i>
8:00 PM-9:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal <i>Governors Hall</i>





Don't miss your opportunity to connect, learn, and contribute to missions both locally and globally.

Please join us Thursday, May 30th following dinner for the Michigan Conference Mission Festival. Organized by the Board of Global Ministries, the Mission Festival will showcase up to 60 EngageMI Projects. EngageMI is the mission engagement program for the Michigan Conference that challenges congregations to comprehensive missional learning, giving and action with the goal of encouraging congregations to shift from transactional “ministry to” models to relational “ministry with” vulnerable people and communities. This meet-and-greet event provides a space where attendees can interact with representatives from various missions and ministries with interpersonal time to learn how your church can get involved. Held near the Plaza, the ambiance will be enhanced with live music, delicious desserts and refreshing beverages as you explore the diverse array of opportunities for engagement. Exit the hotel main entrance and walk down to the white tent-like structure just east of the health club and spa. We look forward to seeing you there!





Daily Conference Schedule

THURSDAY, MAY 30

7:00 AM-10:00 PM	Cherry Loop Shuttle Bus <i>Lobby and Governors Hall</i>
7:00 AM-8:00 AM	Breakfast <i>Michigan Ballroom</i>
7:30 AM-12:00 PM	Golf Scramble for Campus Ministries - (8:00 AM Tee Off) <i>Club House</i>
8:00 AM-12:30 PM	Health Screening <i>Hotel Hospitality Suite 222</i>
8:00 AM-6:00 PM	Registration/Check-In/Info Desk Open <i>Lobby</i>
8:00 AM-5:30 PM	Snack Station Open, Sponsored by Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministry <i>Governors Hall Prefunction</i>
9:00 AM-8:00 PM	Prayer Room Open <i>Level 17, Club Room</i>
9:00 AM-12:00 PM	Rice Meal Packing <i>Michigan Ballroom</i>
10:30 AM-12:00 PM	Zero-K for Child Hunger Relief, Sponsored by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits <i>5K Loop/Plaza Tent</i>
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Usher/Teller Training <i>Governors Hall</i>
12:00 PM-1:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal <i>Governors Hall</i>
12:00 PM-1:00 PM	Lunch Buffet Lines are in two locations: <i>Tower Prefunction and Michigan EFGH</i> General Seating - <i>Michigan Ballroom EFGH, Tower Ballroom, Mackinac Room, Peninsula Room</i> Memorial Family Lunch - <i>Council Room</i>



<p>1:00 PM-2:30 PM</p>	<p>Opening Worship / Memorial Service Bishop Bard preaching, “Pantophobia” Includes Annual Conference Offering for Covenant Partners in Liberia, Haiti, and Water For Life <i>Governors Hall</i></p>
<p>2:30 PM-3:00 PM</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>3:00 PM-8:00 PM</p>	<p>Cass Community Social Services Store Open <i>Tower Ballroom Registration Desk</i></p>
<p>3:00 PM-4:30 PM</p>	<p>Plenary Session Includes: Welcome, Organization of Conference, State of the Conference, Consent Calendar <i>Governors Hall</i></p>
<p>4:30 PM-5:30 PM</p>	<p>Laity Perspective <i>Governors Hall</i></p>
<p>5:30 PM-7:00 PM</p>	<p>Dinner Buffet Lines are in these locations: <i>Lobby, Tower and Pavilion (Yellow Tent) weather permitting</i> General Seating - Michigan Ballroom, Tower Ballroom, Pavilion Special Dietary Needs buffet at indoor locations Bishop’s Dinner with with Candidates <i>Council Room</i> Focus Meal: Protection Policy & Your Church <i>Mackinac Room</i> Focus Meal: Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members <i>Peninsula Room</i></p>
<p>7:00 PM-9:00 PM</p>	<p>Mission Festival <i>Plaza (White Tent)</i></p>
<p>9:00 PM-10:00 PM</p>	<p>Fireside Chat with the Haiti Task Force and EngageMI Partners <i>Pavilion (Yellow Tent)</i></p>



Daily Conference Schedule

FRIDAY, MAY 31

6:00 AM-10:00 PM	Cherry Loop Shuttle Bus <i>Lobby and Governors Hall</i>
6:30 AM-8:00 AM	Breakfast - Michigan Ballroom Northern Skies District Breakfast - <i>Level 17</i> Western Waters District Breakfast - <i>Council Room</i>
8:00 AM-12:30 PM	Health Screening <i>Hotel Hospitality Suite 222</i>
8:00 AM-7:00 PM	Registration/Check-In/Info Desk Open <i>Lobby</i>
8:00 AM-8:00 PM	Prayer Room Open <i>Level 17, Club Room</i>
8:00 AM-5:30 PM	Snack Station Open, Sponsored by Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministry <i>Governors Hall Prefunction</i>
8:00 AM-4:00 PM	Cass Community Social Services Store Open <i>Tower Ballroom Registration Desk</i>
8:00 AM-8:25 AM	Chair Yoga <i>Tower Ballroom</i>
8:30 AM-9:00 AM	Gathering Music/Devotional <i>Governors Hall</i>
9:00 AM-10:30 AM	Plenary General Conference Report Legislation <i>Governors Hall</i>
10:30 AM-10:45 AM	Break
10:45 AM-11:15 AM	Corporate Session <i>Governors Hall</i>
11:15 AM-12:00 PM	Plenary: Nominations Report, Certified Lay Ministers, Wesley's Historic Questions <i>Governors Hall</i>
12:00 PM-1:15 PM	Lunch Buffet Lines are in three locations: <i>Lobby (Near Michigan Ballroom), Tower Prefunction and Pavilion (Yellow Tent) weather permitting</i> Special Dietary Needs buffet at indoor locations



	<p>General Seating - Michigan Ballroom, Mackinac Room, Peninsula Room</p> <p>Focus Meal: Courageous Conversations with Rev. Scott Hughes - Tower Ballroom</p> <p>Focus Meal: United Women of Faith - Level 17</p>
1:30 PM-2:00 PM	<p>Plenary - Legislation Governors Hall</p>
2:00 PM-3:00 PM	<p>Teaching Session with Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli Governors Hall</p>
3:00 PM-3:30 PM	<p>Break</p>
3:30 PM-4:30 PM	<p>Fearless: Innovation Governors Hall Stage One, Basketball</p>
4:30 PM	<p>Break See Sponsor Tables</p>
4:30 PM-5:30 PM	<p>Cardio Drumming Plaza (White Tent)</p>
4:30 PM-5:15 PM	<p>Service of Recognition, Commissioning and Ordination Participants Dinner Director's Room</p>
5:00 PM-6:15 PM	<p>Dinner Buffet Lines are in three locations: Lobby (Near Michigan Ballroom), Tower Prefunction and Pavilion (Yellow Tent) weather permitting</p> <p>Special Dietary Needs buffet at indoor locations</p> <p>General Seating - Michigan Ballroom, Tower Ballroom, Pavilion</p> <p>Focus Meal: Commission on Hispanic/Latinx Ministries - Peninsula Room</p>
5:15 PM-6:30 PM	<p>Candidate Photographs Council Room</p>
6:00 PM	<p>Choir Rehearsal Governors Hall</p>
6:45 PM	<p>RCO Candidate Check-in, Robed Mackinac Room</p>
6:45 PM	<p>Service of Recognition, Commissioning and Ordination Processional Line-up Tower Prefunction</p>
7:00 PM-8:30 PM	<p>Service of Recognition, Commissioning and Ordination - Bishop Bard Preaching, "Anything Good" Includes Offering for Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) Governors Hall</p>
8:45 PM-9:30 PM	<p>Service of Recognition, Commissioning and Ordination Reception Michigan Ballroom</p>
9:00 PM-11:00 PM	<p>Youth Gathering - Pizza and S'mores Pavilion Campfire</p>

Daily Conference Schedule

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

6:00 AM-5:30 PM	Cherry Loop Shuttle Bus <i>Lobby and Governors Hall</i>
6:30 AM-8:00 AM	Breakfast <i>Michigan Ballroom</i> Breakfast for Clergy Spouses - Level 17
7:30 AM-8:30 AM	Council on Finance and Administration Breakfast <i>Council Room</i>
8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Registration/Check-In/Info Desk Open <i>Lobby</i>
8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Prayer Room Open <i>Level 17, Club Room</i>
8:00 AM-2:00 PM	Cass Community Social Services Store Open <i>Tower Ballroom Registration Desk</i>
8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Snack Station Open, Sponsored by Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministry <i>Governors Hall Prefunction</i>
8:00 AM-8:25 AM	Chair Yoga <i>Tower Ballroom</i>
8:30 AM-9:30 AM	Worship, Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli Preaching <i>Governors Hall</i>
9:30 AM-10:00 AM	Break
10:00 AM-11:00 AM	Plenary - Fearless: Discipleship <i>Governors Hall</i> <i>Dowagic Library, ABAR</i>
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Legislation <i>Governors Hall</i>
12:00 PM-1:15 PM	Lunch Buffet Lines are in three locations: <i>Lobby (Near Michigan Ballroom), Tower Prefunction and Pavilion (Yellow Tent) weather permitting</i> Special Dietary Needs buffet at indoor locations General Seating - Michigan Ballroom, Tower Ballroom, Peninsula Room, Pavilion Focus Meal: Committee on African-American Ministries - Mackinac Room



1:30 PM-3:00 PM	Plenary Budget, Legislation <i>Governors Hall</i>
3:00 PM-3:20 PM	Break
3:20 PM-4:20 PM	Fearless: Outreach Advocacy Day, God's Country Community Ministry, Sugar Crash <i>Governors Hall</i>
4:20 PM-4:30 PM	Celebrations/Awards
4:30 PM-5:00 PM	Closing Litany and Setting of Appointments
5:00 PM	Conference Concludes
5:00 PM	To-Go Dinner Pick-up <i>Lobby</i>
5:00 PM-6:00 PM	Dinner Buffet Line in <i>Tower Prefunction</i>
5:30 PM	Bus Departs

How healthy is your church?

Coming Fall 2024

Abundant Health Michigan is a network for church leaders like **YOU** to share strategies to promote mental, physical, and spiritual health.

To sign up and learn more, visit bit.ly/healthyMIUMC



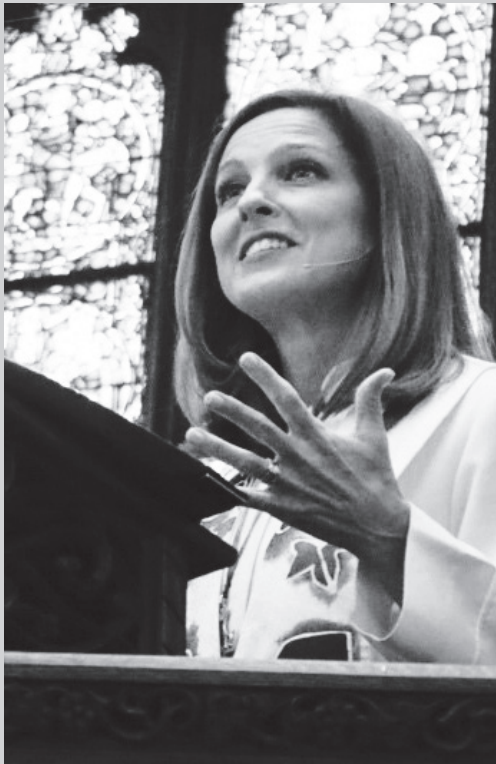
Abundant Health

The United Methodist Church
Michigan Conference Board of Global Missions

health@michiganumc.org

Conference

PREACHER & SPEAKERS



Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli

In 2014, she became the first woman to serve as Senior Pastor of the historic Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. Since Ginger's appointment, Foundry has reenergized its work for racial justice, become a founding member of the Sanctuary DMV movement, and created a Sacred Resistance Ministry Team to mobilize consistent action in response to troubling current events.

A graduate of Yale Divinity School, Ginger has served a variety of congregations: small and large, urban and suburban in the Baltimore Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church, in addition to an uptown Manhattan and two-point charge in the New York Annual Conference. Ginger has served the Baltimore Washington Conference as Chair of the Board of Discipleship and currently serves on the Board of Ordained Ministry. In addition, she has served as an elected delegate to the 2016 General Conference and the 2019 Special General Conference of The United Methodist Church.

For over 20 years as a pastor-theologian, her ministry has encouraged spiritual growth and engaged discipleship—emphasizing radical hospitality, shared ministry, spiritual practices, and solidarity with the poor and oppressed. With this focus, she has brought depth, health, and growth to every community she has served. Ginger contributed to and served as a general editor for *The CEB Women's Bible* (Abingdon, October 2016). Her book, *"Sacred Resistance: A Practical Guide to Christian Witness and Dissent,"* was released in May 2018. Ginger is a sought-after preacher, teacher, and facilitator at local, regional, and international events.

Pastor Ginger enjoys gardening, yoga, poetry, art, ice cream, travel, and hiking. She is married to Dr. Anthony T. Gaines Cirelli, a Catholic theologian, currently serving the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as a Director in their Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Office. The Gaines-Cirellis live in NE Washington, D.C. with their clumber spaniel Daisy, and cat Fiona.



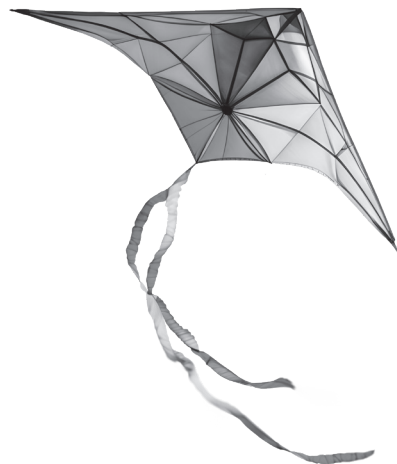
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bell Jr.

Dr. Ron Bell serves as Director of Healing and Resilience for Discipleship Ministries and The Upper Room. He has been a senior pastor, a church plant pastor, and a UMC conference director over congregational development. His webinar series on Trauma and Empathy has been used by colleges and seminaries, nonprofit organizations, and county agencies. He is a board member of the Minnesota Coalition for Death Education and Support and the National Social Justice Clinical Pastoral Education. Three of his books deal with his work with grief and trauma, including *The Four Promises: A Journey of Healing Past and Present Trauma* (Space for Me L.L.C., 2021).



Rev. Dr. M. Scott Hughes

Associate General Secretary (World Service) at Discipleship Ministries, Elder in the North Georgia Conference, M.Div. Asbury Theological Seminary, D. Min. Southern Methodist University. Co-Hosted the Small Groups in the Wesleyan Way podcast, creator of the Courageous Conversations project, and facilitator of several eLearning courses including: *The Church's Ministry with Dementia*, *How to Start Small Groups*, and *Courageous Conversations*. Scott has also led several trainings around Intentional Discipleship Systems and how to use AI in ministry.

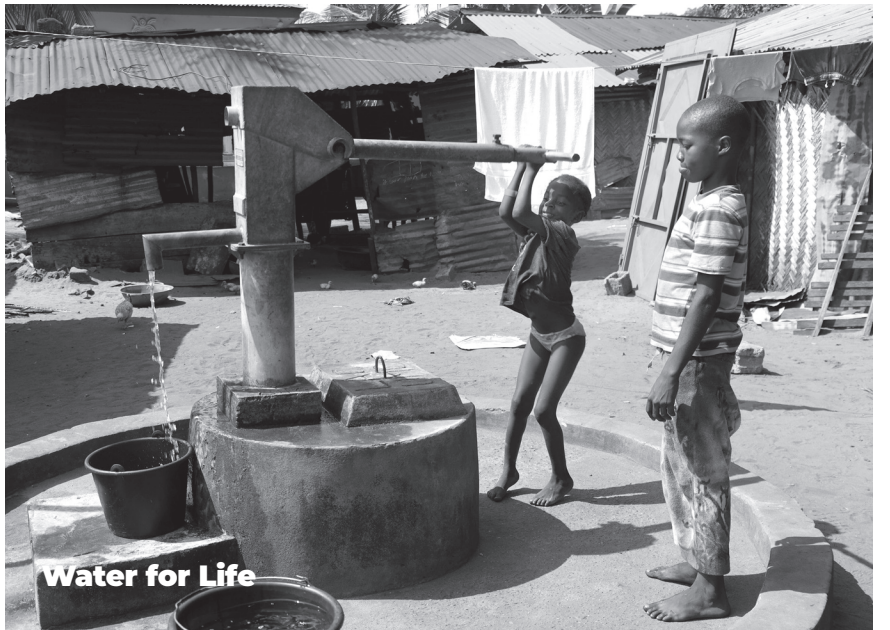




The Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village



HAPI



Water for Life

Traditional OFFERINGS

Please join us in making a meaningful impact around the world with our Opening Worship Offerings, benefiting our valued partners: Haitian Assets for Peace International (HAPI) and the Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village in Liberia. Your contribution will directly support these causes, with each receiving 45% of the offering. Additionally, 10% will be allocated to Water for Life in Liberia, a crucial initiative endorsed by Bishop Bard.

HAPI (Haitian Assets for Peace International, Advance #3020490) has achieved significant milestones in 2023, thanks in part to the support of the Michigan Conference. From providing essential healthcare services to training young individuals for skilled jobs, your contributions ensure families in Mizak, Haiti have access to dignified healthcare and sustainable livelihoods. With initiatives like Start Right, aimed at giving babies a healthy start, and efforts to combat prevalent health issues like hypertension and heart disease, HAPI is transforming lives for the better. Your continued support is vital in empowering local healthcare professionals and sustaining these life-changing programs in Haiti.

The Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village (Advance #11820A), established in Liberia in 2000, offers vital care and education to children affected by conflict and poverty. By supporting this initiative, you provide scholarships, meals, and essential services to ensure these children receive the care and education they deserve. Your contribution makes a tangible difference in the lives of these children, offering them hope and opportunity for a brighter future.

Water for Life (Advance #3020811), addresses a critical need in Liberia, where the majority of the population lacks access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. By contributing to this United Methodist grassroots initiative, you help build wells, hand pumps, and toilet facilities, improving water access and sanitation standards in affected communities. Your support also enables community education and empowerment, advocating for the right to clean and safe drinking water for all.

Together, let's continue to make a positive impact in Haiti and Liberia. Your generosity and support are essential in bringing about lasting change and improving the lives of those in need. Join us in this meaningful cause and be a part of creating a better, healthier future for all.

OTHER GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Zero-K for Child Hunger Relief in Michigan:

Walk, Run or Ride and raise money to relieve child hunger and food insecurity in Michigan. Funds raised through registration, sponsors or donation will be distributed to all districts in Michigan. Sign up or donate directly here: <https://miumc.swoogo.com/5K2024> Donate by check: Please make your check payable to "Michigan Conference" noting "Zero K/Child Hunger" in the memo line. Mail your check to Michigan Conference Center North, 1161 E. Clark Rd., Suite 212, DeWitt, MI 48820

Rice Meal Bag Packing:

With the Board of Global Ministries, Rice Meal bags will be packed at annual conference to distribute to those in need through Midwest Mission, most recently in Ukraine. Each rice meal bag contains rice, vitamin pack, dehydrated vegetables and soy. Supplies for Rice Meal Bags are \$2 and provide six meals. Donate here to buy supplies for a future event: <https://miumc.swoogo.com/rice24>

MEF (Ministerial Education Fund):

This offering is traditionally received during The Service of Commissioning and Ordination. Funds received assist seminary students with educational expenses. Donate here: <https://michiganumc.org/mef/> Donate by check: Please make your check payable to "Michigan Conference" noting "MEF" in the memo line. Mail your check to Michigan Conference Center North, 1161 E. Clark Rd., Suite 212, DeWitt, MI 48820



OPENING WORSHIP

With the theme “Fearless: Embracing A New Future,” in the opening worship, we will gather to praise the Lord in one voice, including the voice of children of all ages and also in multiple languages, as we come together as one body of Christ. We will have a moment to celebrate those who finished the race before us and a time to reflect on Isaiah 41:6-10 and John 3:1-3 as our Bishop David Bard preaches a sermon titled “Pantophobia.” We will also have time to give some of our fears to the Lord and come to the table to which Jesus invites us all. Come, let us worship the Lord!

FRIDAY WORSHIP

As we gather on Friday morning, we will have time to breathe and be present before the Lord as we praise and pray before we start the day.

SATURDAY WORSHIP

As we continue to focus on the theme of “Fearless: Embracing A New Future,” on Saturday morning, we will gather to worship together with our speaker, Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, who will be preaching on “The Wings of Love.” with the scripture passage Luke 13:31-35. Come, let us worship the Lord!



Introduction to Opening Worship

MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

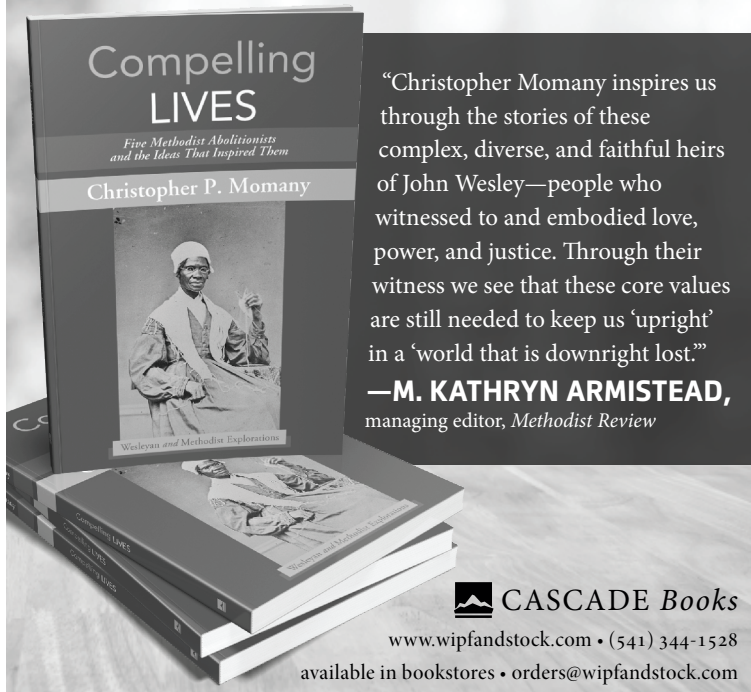
Friends in Christ, welcome to the opening worship service for Annual Conference 2024. The opening worship service brings together two distinct themes, each with a unique tone. Yet as unique as these two elements of the worship service are, they are also profoundly intertwined. Opening worship is filled with joy as we come together again as the Michigan Conference, celebrate our shared ministry, and set a tone for our time together, this year with the theme “Fearless: Embracing A New Future.” During this worship service we also take time and create space to memorialize our friends in ministry who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labors. These members of the Michigan Conference have been our teachers, our mentors, our colleagues, and our friends. We mourn their loss. Opening worship is like a piece of music with two movements tonally different. Yet it is a single symphony, and what wraps these movements together is this: we move into the future remembering the past, building on the good work of those who have come before us. Without the faithful ministry of those whose lives and ministries we mark, we would not be here in the same way talking about what it means to embrace the future fearlessly. As we move into the future we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, and it is important that we express our gratitude.

Wesleyan *and* Methodist Explorations

Compelling Lives

Five Methodist Abolitionists and the Ideas That Inspired Them

Christopher P. Momany



Don't pass up this deal!

A \$25 Snack Pass gets you unlimited snacks during AC 2024 and supports Campus Ministry

Available outside Governors Hall

THANK YOU



GRACE PATROL

- Denny Olin
- The generous and grace filled team!

USHERS

- Chuck Woolley
- Our wonderful volunteers

REGISTRATION

- Sarah Vollmer
- Ashley Kilpatrick

COMMUNICATIONS

- The entire GNTV Team
- James Deaton
- Kay DeMoss
- Mark Doyal
- Kristen Gillette
- Aaron Greer
- Andrew Stange
- Jonathan Trites
- John Woodring

PRINT AND DESIGN

- Lisa Collins/Lavender Studios
- Stacey Trzeciak/Foresight Group

GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT

- Steve Baehr
- Claire Durling
- Katie Leonard
- And the entire staff of the resort

TRAVERSE CITY TOURISM

- Sarah Barnard
- Trevor Tkach

ASL INTERPRETERS

- Emily Gordillo
- Rebecca King
- Haley Shorkey

WORSHIP THANK YOU

BEHIND THE SCENE

- Rev. Sarah Alexander (Worship Assistant)
- Rev. Kevin Smalls (Liturgy)
- Rev. Matthew Chapman (Liturgy)
- Rev. Tish Bowman (Communion)
- Rev. Melany Chalker (Set Design)
- Rev. Marsha Woolley (Set Design)

DANCERS

- Rev. Weatherly Burkhead Verhelst and others (Liturgical Dancers)

MUSICIANS

- Jeff Cobb (Choir Director) & Annual Conference Choir
- Rev. Caleb Williams (Worship Leader)
- Josiah DeNooyer (Keyboardist for the Worship team)
- Tom Bartelmay (Electric Guitar)
- Nick Smalls (Bass - Opening worship)
- Rev. Jeremy Williams (Bass and more)
- Rev. Christine Beaudoin (Trumpet)
- Rev. Geri Hamlen (Violin)
- Izzy Pratt (Flute & Vocal)
- And youth musicians

VOCALS

- Rev. Jung Du Paik, Rev. Miriam Peralta, Rev. Lydie Ngoie, Izzy Pratt, Rev. Carol Blair-Bouse, Rev. Cesar Peralta, and others

SERVICE OF RECOGNITION, COMMISSIONING, AND ORDINATION

- Rev. Chad Parmalee, Laure Mieskowski, Bary Petrucci and the Board of Ordained Ministry

Thanks especially to all the children, parents, churches, and their pastors who participated in the Children's Choir from Great Detroit and Heritage Districts. Also, thanks to First UMC Northville and Rev. Marsha Woolley for their hospitality and for allowing us to record at the church!



U N I T E D
M E T H O D I S T
F O U N D A T I O N
O F M I C H I G A N

**The Foundation is dedicated to the mission
of making disciples for Jesus Christ.**

**While our ministry may look different from
those serving in the local church, we are
committed to investing our resources into
cultivating financial and leadership
abilities that will propel the Church
forward into the future.**

**Scholarships
Grants
Loans
Sustainable Investments
Financial Workshops
Legacy Gifts
Endowment and Trust Management
Leadership Coaching**

**Helping Faithful People
Live Generous Lives
for Over 90 Years
1.888.451.1929**





MEMORIALS

Today's service remembers those who have died since the last session of Annual Conference, including: associate members, provisional members, members in full connection, local pastors, missionaries, missionaries' spouses, deaconesses, clergy spouses, clergy surviving spouses, children of clergy members, diaconal ministers, diaconal ministers' spouses, members of the Episcopal family and lay persons recommended by the Commission on the Annual Conference Session. Today's service honors those who we have lost up to March 1, 2024 for whom we received notice. If you wish to receive future notifications from the annual conference of those who have died, please sign up for emails at <https://michiganumc.org/subscribe/>



CLERGY



Jane A. Berquist



Nancy L. Boelens-Groen



Sylvia A. Bouvier



Doris Crocker



Lynn A. DeMoss



Marshall G. Dunlap



Haldon D. Ferris



Donald R. Fry



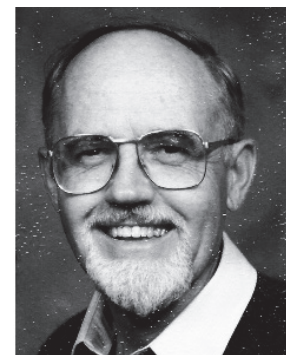
William A. Hertel



Jack E. Johnston



Kenneth I. Kline



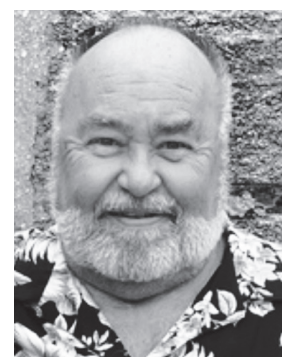
Stephen D. Leffler



James M. Mathews



William P. McBride



Bruce R. McCumons



Martin A. McEntarfer



Clinton E. McKinven-Copus II



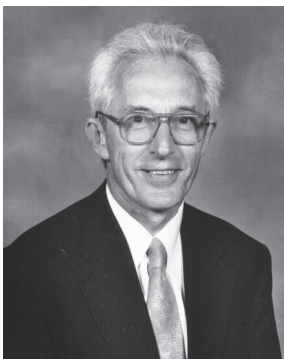
Douglas L. Pedersen



Robert L. Porter



Jo Reece



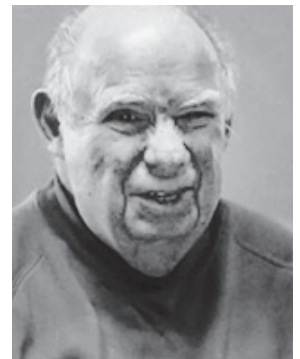
John Ritter Jr.



Donald A. Russell



Donald C. Schark



Allen F. Schweizer



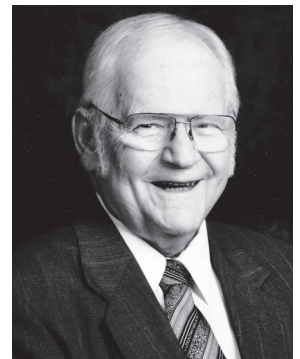
Eric A. Stone



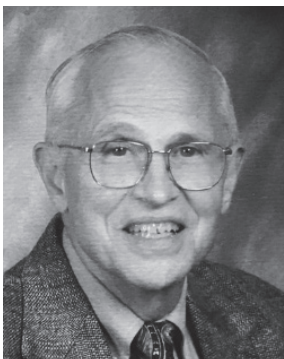
Duane G. Thon



Gerald L. Toshalis



Richard A. Turner



James D. Weiss



Myron K. Williams



Tamara S. Williams

CLERGY SPOUSES



Winona A. Anderson



George R. Bouke



Roger C. Brook



Annie R. Callis



Betty I. Christler



Ruth P. Cooper



Barbara A. Culver



Mary Lou Fassett



Betty M. Finkbeinger



Donna H. Francis



Pamela Gonder



Mary Y. Jensen



Lovona Kolb



Cynthia K.
Kreichbaum



Barbara J. Lemmons



Martha Martin



Joyce Mitchell



Ann L. Morse



Constance L.
Nelson-Synwolt



Evelyn A. Norris



Allen D. Pebley Sr.



Patricia V. Schloop



Ruth A. Smith



Miriam J. Taber



Catherine "Kay" A.
Trebilcock



Lorna Walker

LAITY



Joseph "Keith"
Caldwell



Grace Elaine Condon

CLERGY CHILDREN



Nathan W. Seitz



Awards and **RECOGNITIONS**

HARRY DENMAN AWARD FOR EVANGELISM: Matt West and Rodney Gasaway

Each year, the Harry Denman award is given to people who have shown a passion for and fruit from evangelism. This year's Denman Awards are being presented to Matt West and Rodney Gasaway.



Matt West, is pastor of Milan Marble Memorial UMC. Under Matt's leadership the church adopted a new vision: "To be a welcoming neighborhood, so that all may experience God's love and grace." The church is living into that vision. One Sunday when the power was out at the church, Matt reached out to the owner of a local coffee shop that was not open Sunday mornings to see if they might worship in his shop. Since then, they have continued to schedule occasional worship in the coffee shop and have begun to reach new people in that space.

On another Sunday, almost the entire town was without electricity. The church was able to host a breakfast open to the entire community. Then, they took leftovers to the workers that were restoring the power.

Matt has gone where the people are, rather than trying to get the people to come where he (and the congregation) are gathered. He has led his people to be the church outside the walls of the church building. The result, Marble Memorial church has seen a steady stream of new attendees, including 15 to 20 children each Sunday, lowering the average age of their congregation. Matt's philosophy is "to be in the community with the people, to develop relationships and then help them strengthen their relationship with God."



Rodney Gasaway serves Livonia Newburg UMC and Chelsea First UMC as a Deacon in the areas of missions and community outreach. Rodney is called to word, service, compassion, and justice. He believes in the need to step outside of the comfort of church to meet people where they are and accept them as they are. Three years ago, Rodney started riding his motorcycle with the Veterans of Foreign Wars riders' group in his community. The need for a Chaplain was evident to him. As soon as he put on the leather vest with combat patches on one side and "Chaplain" on the other side, individuals started approaching him at veteran events, charity rides, motorcycle rallies, and car shows, telling him their stories, good and bad, and discussing their own faith journeys. Rodney realized the majority do not attend

church and struggle with organized religion. Some have been hurt by the church, others find the church judgmental, while others find the church unapproachable. To better relate, Rodney enrolled in a certificate program for PTSD Counseling at Michigan State University and started “Fresh Expressions” training with the Michigan Conference, to discover how he could better serve and minister to those he was meeting in the motorcycle ministry. The training helped him form a non-profit called “Pro Allies”, a support organization designed to bring active military and military veterans, law enforcement, fire, emergency medical professionals, and their immediate families together in safe environments to offer support to one another. That has led to connections with hundreds bringing them closer to a new relationship with God. Grateful for the award, Rodney extends blessings to fellow ministers, concluding, “Thank you once again for the honor of this award. May God continue to bless each of you and the ministries you have been called to!”

Read Matt and Rodney’s stories and learn more about their ministries on the annual conference website 2024.MichiganUMC.org/awards

2024 ONE MATTERS AWARD

Grace UMC, Lansing and Rev. Leslee Fritz

“With the One Matters Discipleship Award, we want to lift up the importance of discipleship and help interpret across the connection what zeros in professions of faith and baptism mean and what moving away from the zeros means. Each ‘one’ in those categories represents a transformed life – a life that matters to God, and a life that should matter to us.” – Jeff Campbell, General Secretary.

The 2024 recipient of the One Matters Discipleship Award is **Lansing Grace United Methodist Church and their Pastor since 2021, Rev. Leslee Fritz**. The Lansing Grace website boldly declares, “Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves.” Every day, Grace UMC strives to live out that call through worship, discipleship, mission, fellowship and more.

Working together as a strong pastor/laity leadership team, Grace has grown as a place in Lansing where kids, youth and adults can learn about God’s great love. They are an open and welcoming congregation with everyone encouraging everybody to grow in faith. The outcome of this commitment has meant a near doubling of membership in just a few years. In addition to growing through baptism and professions of faith, the congregation has grown by embracing groups of people who found themselves without a church home due to disaffiliation or closure.

The Missions Team at Grace UMC believes they should be “out of our seats and into the streets sharing the love and teachings of Jesus Christ.” They support local organizations such as Haven House, Loaves & Fishes, Christian Services, food banks and many others. As an EngageMI church they support missions locally, state-wide, nationally, and internationally. Mission Teams from the church travel domestically and internationally.

Grace UMC practices radical hospitality and it has made them a healthy place - relationally, spiritually and financially. We celebrate the inclusive, welcoming spirit of Grace UMC!



BUXTON AWARD: Andy Wayne

The John Buxton Award honors creative problem-solving in our annual conference. There was a time when all annual conferences had sizable unfunded liabilities for clergy pensions. When John Buxton learned of this, he devised a unique plan to



resolve the shortfalls becoming the first conference in The United Methodist Church to fully fund unfunded liability. We celebrate that innovation each year by honoring an individual who offers creative leadership in overcoming difficult challenges in our annual conference.

The recipient of the 2024 John Buxton Award for Creative Leadership is **Andy Wayne**, whose notable contributions to the work and life of the Michigan Conference are evident in a variety of areas.

Attendees of Annual Conference may recognize Andy for his role in worship and his encyclopedic knowledge of Roberts Rules, the Conference's Plan of Organization, and the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church. He was an active and integral part of the Design Team that created the structure of the new Michigan Conference from its two former conferences. After several years on the Council on Finance &

Administration, he is transitioning to the role of Legislative Coordinator where his experience and knowledge will continue to benefit the entire conference.

More than just his leadership roles, however, Andy brings a unique perspective to all that he does. His grace-filled ability to disagree without being disagreeable is especially important in our current social context. He is not afraid to have difficult conversations and he supports group decisions with integrity even when he disagrees. His deep faith, shared generously and graciously with others, is the foundation of that ability. Andy is a gift to the Michigan Conference and a fitting recipient of the Buxton Award.



 **Thank You**
Administrative Ministry

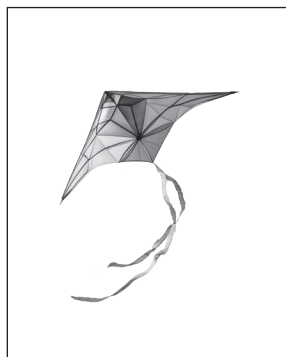
WE  YOU!



Cheers to the Administrative Ministry inside the Central Bay District! WE APPRECIATE YOU!



RETIREES



Cheryl A. Armstrong



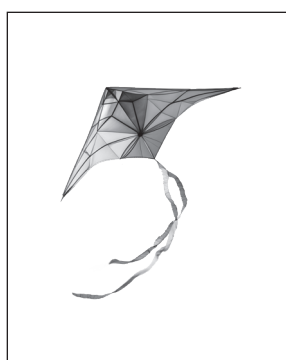
Tonya M. Arnesen



Daniel J. Bowman



Ronald K. Brooks



Beverly J. Clark



Deborah S. Cole



John J. Conklin



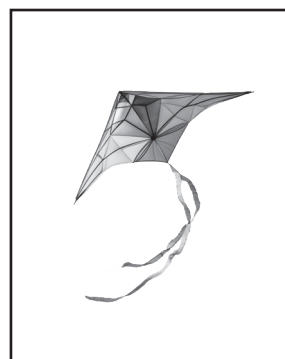
Terri L. Cummins



Thomas A. Davenport



Kimberly A. DeLong



Kenneth C. Dunstone



Dirk P. Elliott



Ann E. Emerson



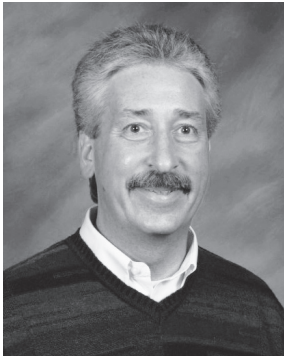
Charles D. Farnum



Robert J. Freysinger



Billie Lou
Gillespie-Brown



John N. Grenfell, III



James E. Hodge



Laurie M. Koivula



James W. Kraus



Matthew D. Kreh



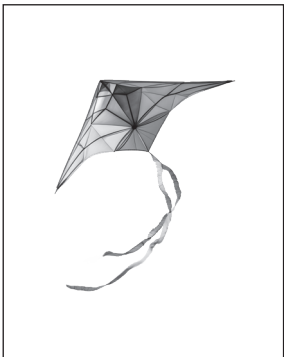
Kristen J. Leslie



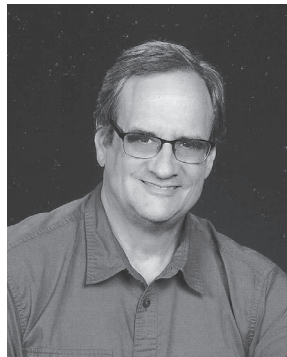
Jane R. Lippert



Grant R. Lobb



Wayne E. McKenney



James J. Mort



David D. Nellist



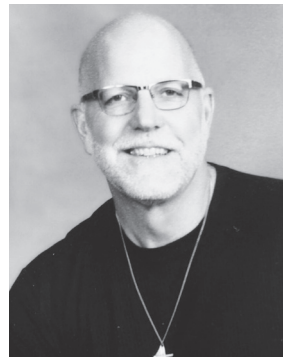
Marva C. Pope



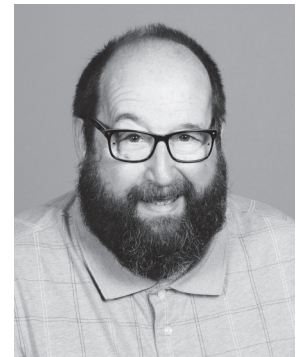
Wayne A. Price



Rahim O. Shabazz



Anthony C. Shumaker



Edwin D. Snook



Sherri L. Swanson



Irene R. White



Charles A. Williams



Karen B. Williams

MISSION IS A HUG FOR A HURTING WORLD. GIVE A HUG!

Share God's love through learning, giving, and acting.
Learn more at the Mission Festival
and online at michiganumc.org/engage-mi



Michigan Conference Board of Global Ministries

Photo by Mike DuBose UMNS

2024 Recognition COMMISSIONING & ORDINATION

RECOGNITION OF COURSE OF STUDY GRADUATES



WILLIAM CURTIS CLELAND

Seminary: United Theological School, St. Paul's School of Theology

Home Church: Bad Axe First UMC

Currently Serving: Midland County Hope UMC, Edenville UMC, Dale UMC



RHONDA JEAN OSTERMAN

Seminary: United Theological Seminary, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Home Church: Harper Woods Redeemer UMC

Currently Serving: Millville Charge: Millville UMC, Leslie UMC, Felt Plains UMC



ANDREA LOUISE JOHNSON

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Home Church: Battle Creek Chapel Hill UMC

Currently Serving: Old Mission Peninsula UMC

DEACON CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONING



SONRISA MARIE CORTES

Seminary: Western Theological Seminary

Home Church: Holland First UMC

Currently Serving: Holland First UMC, Arbor Circle



ROBERT BRUCE PRUD'HOMME

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Home Church: Royal Oak First UMC

Currently Serving: Royal Oak First UMC



ELDER CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONING



BEATRICE S. ALGHALI
Seminary: United Theological Seminary
Home Church: Nardin Park UMC
Currently Serving: North Lake UMC



NICOLAS REY BERLANGA
Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Plymouth First UMC
Currently Serving: Goodrich UMC



RACHEL JOY KAIN
Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Home Church: Nardin Park UMC
Currently Serving: Trinity Health Oakland - Spiritual Care Department



KIMBERLY SUE METZER
Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: DeWitt Redeemer Church
Currently Serving: Burton Open Door UMC



MARTIN DAVID PHILLIPS
Seminary: University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom
Home Church: Grand Rapids Aldersgate UMC
Currently Serving: Newago UMC



MICHELLE MITCHELL VALLIER
Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Home Church: Montague UMC
Currently Serving: Cedar Spring UMC

ELDER CANDIDATE FOR PROVISIONAL MEMBER TRANSFER



EDWIN MAURICE HARRIS
Seminary: Wesley Theological Seminary
Home Church: Southfield John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church
Currently Serving: Sterling Heights UMC

DEACON CANDIDATE FOR ORDINATION



MICHELLE MARIE KING
Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Home Church: Farmington First UMC
Currently Serving: Senior Care Partners P.A.C.

ELDER CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION



SARI LYNN BROWN
Seminary: Candler School of Theology at Emory University
Home Church: Ann Arbor West Side UMC
Currently Serving: On Voluntary Leave of Absence



MARTIN TIMOTHY COBB
Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Portage Prairie UMC
Currently Serving: Schoolcraft UMC, Pleasant Valley UMC, Three Rivers First UMC



RACHAEL MARIE DUNLAP
Seminary: Asbury Theological Seminary
Home Church: Birmingham First UMC
Currently Serving: Flat Rock First UMC



STEPHANIE ELAINE NORTON

Seminary: Asbury Theological Seminary

Home Church: Westwood UMC

Currently Serving: South Haven First UMC



KELLAS DALE PENNY, III

Seminary: Asbury Theological Seminary

Home Church: Ada First UMC

Currently Serving: Water's Edge UMC, Three Oaks UMC



COREY MATTHEW SIMON

Seminary: Wesley Theological Seminary

Home Church: Boyne Falls UMC

Currently Serving: Bangor Simpson UMC

RECOGNITION OF ORDERS - ELDER IN FULL CONNECTION



SUZANNE KUENZLI GOODWIN

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Home Church: Mason First UMC

Currently Serving: Mason First UMC



VAUGHN WILLIAM THURSTON-COX

Seminary: Asbury Theological Seminary

Currently Serving: Pentwater Centenary UMC

TRANSFER OF ORDERS - ELDER IN FULL CONNECTION



JOHN KABALA ILUNGA NGOIE

Seminary: Katanga University/DR Congo/Africa, Africa University/Zimbabwe, South African Theological Seminary/South Africa

Home Church: North-Katanga Conference UMC, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Currently Serving: French UMC, Omo Zion UMC, Madison Heights UMC





2024 Commission on the Annual
CONFERENCE SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Bishop David Bard
Area Bishop
bishop@michiganumc.org



Jennifer Browne
Clergy Assistant to the Bishop
jbrowne@michiganumc.org



David Eardley
Chairperson
reveardley@gmail.com



Anna Moon
Worship Chairperson
inpottershand12@gmail.com



Mark Doyal
Director of Communications
mdoyal@michiganumc.org



Joy Barrett
Conference Secretary
secretary@michiganumc.org



Nancy Arnold
Conference Events Planner
narnold@michiganumc.org

FULL COMMITTEE AND KEY LEADERSHIP TEAM



Diane Brown
Legislative Coordinator
dlb4512@yahoo.com



Liz Carr
Member at Large
carr.mrs@gmail.com



Annette Erbes
Conference Lay Leader
layleader@michiganumc.org



Jodie Flessner
Host District Superintendent
jflessner@michiganumc.org



Laure Mieskowski
Ordination Co-Coordinator
mieskowskilaure@gmail.com



Denny Olin
Grace Patrol
dennyolin@gmail.com



Chad Parmalee
Ordination Co-Coordinator
chad@newburgumc.org



Jennifer Peters
Conference Facilitator
jpeters@michiganumc.org



Barry Petrucci
BOM Chair
barrypetrucci@pchum.org



Lisa Poy
Member at Large
lisa.h.poy@gmail.com



Todd Price
Standing Rules Chairperson
pencollector@me.com



Albert Rush
Member at Large
arushy2k@yahoo.com



Beth Titus
Member at Large
titusbeth61@gmail.com



Sarah Vollmer
Registrar
svollmer@michiganumc.org



Andy Wayne
Incoming Legislative Coordinator
acwayne@hotmail.com



Chuck Woolley
Head Usher
cbwoolley@gmail.com



NOTES

My reflections on dreaming for our church

Please use this page to write down your thoughts during preaching and learning moments at Annual Conference.

Stir up the spark
of grace which is
now in you, and
God will give you
more grace.

- John Wesley

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

- Langston Hughes

Curiosity, imagination, exploration, adventure are not preliminary to the Christian life, a kind of booster rocket to be jettisoned when spiritual orbit is achieved. They are part of the payload.

- Patrick Henry



My reflections on fearlessness

Please use this page to write down your thoughts during preaching and learning moments at Annual Conference.

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.'

- Joshua 1:9

Being fearless isn't being 100% fearful, it's being terrified but you jump anyway.

- Taylor Swift

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.

- 1 Corinthians 16:13



My reflections on risk and failure

Please use this page to write down your thoughts during preaching and learning moments at Annual Conference.

“Peace I leave
with you. My
peace I give you. I
give to you not as
the world gives.
Don't be troubled
or afraid.

- *John 14:27*

Never must the church
tire of reminding
persons that they have
a moral responsibility to
be intelligent.

- *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain..

- *Vivian Greene*





NOTES

With 50% off tuition scholarships to enrolled, degree-seeking students, Saint Paul School of Theology serves a diverse community committed to the formation of leaders for innovative, creative ministry. Offering degree programs in:

- Master of Divinity
- M.A. in Christian Ministry
- M.A. in Theological Studies
- Doctor of Ministry



Discover More

☎ 913-253-5000

✉ ADMISS@SPST.EDU

🖱 SPST.EDU

Brio Living Services

offers a wide array of living options and services to meet the needs and desires of 8,000 older adults annually across Michigan.

Continuing Care
Retirement Communities
Affordable Living
Home- and Community-
based Services

UMRC-PORTER HILLS FOUNDATION

Our Mission Statement:

As faithful, philanthropic stewards and steadfast advocates for vibrant aging, we support the mission of Brio Living Services.

The Foundation's fundraising initiatives include: Benevolent Care, Team Member Support Services, Capital Improvements, and Life Enrichment for Older Adults.

**FAITH-BASED & NOT-FOR-PROFIT
LEARN MORE AT www.MyBrio.org**

“

BELOVED, WE ARE
GOD'S CHILDREN NOW;
WHAT WE WILL BE HAS NOT
YET BEEN REVEALED.
WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THIS:
WHEN CHRIST IS REVEALED,
WE WILL BE LIKE CHRIST,
FOR WE WILL SEE CHRIST
AS CHRIST IS.



- 1 JOHN 3:2

”



4FOCI

**sharing
God's
love**

**building
beloved
community**

**bold &
effective
leaders**

**financial
sustainability**



Michigan Conference
The United Methodist Church