



new
every
morning

2023 MICHIGAN
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
June 2-4, 2023

GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT & SPA — ACME MI



Michigan Conference
The United Methodist Church





WELCOME TO THE 2023 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 2023 session of the Michigan Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Among my favorite prayers in the liturgy of our church is the "Prayer of Thanksgiving" from the "Order for Morning Praise and Prayer" which begins: "New every morning is your love great God of light, and all day long you are working for good in the world."

The prayer echoes the words of 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." Lovely words, yet Lamentations is hardly a happy bit of writing. Just verses before, we read, "He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes; my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is."

As followers of Jesus Christ, we trust that God's love is new every morning. And we live in a world where it can feel like our teeth are being ground on gravel, where our souls are bereft of peace, and happiness seems a distant memory. We live in a world still at war. We live in a world of acrimonious divisions. A year ago we were mourning school shootings at Oxford High School and in Uvalde, Texas. This year we add Michigan State University and The Covenant School in Nashville.

How do we faithfully follow Jesus in this world? How can we be the church, and will being the church do any good? The questions are real, deep and profound, and into them we hear "God's love is new every morning." We pray, "new every morning is your love great God of light."

Our Annual Conference theme is: "New Every Morning." No matter the difficulties in the world, no matter the challenges to living our faith and being the church, no matter the discouragement as we seek justice and beloved community, no matter our denominational troubles, no matter our own feelings of inadequacy, we can be assured that new every morning is your love, great God of light. And if God's love is new every morning, there is hope, there is joy, there are resources for courage and compassion and creativity. The newness of God's love every morning inspires and heals, it gives us determination to take the next steps in being the church, in doing justice, in building beloved community.

We gather celebrating the newness of God's love in Jesus Christ every morning. 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 we discover together once again that God's love is new every morning.

Bishop David Bard





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

On behalf of the City of Traverse City, we would like to extend a genuine "welcome" to The Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church. It is our privilege and pleasure to welcome you back to Traverse City, and we sincerely thank you for choosing us as your annual conference destination since 2017!

Traverse City is a unique and wonderful city to explore with nature, recreation, shopping, and incredible restaurants. If wanting to explore the latest, enjoy the outdoors by taking a walk on the newly constructed Boardman Lake Loop, a 4+ mile loop around the Boardman Lake in the heart of the city. We do apologize for the construction, however, when you return in the hopefully near future, you appreciate the sacrifice you made in maneuvering through it.

We hope your experience at the conference is productive, meaningful, and spiritually inspiring. We also hope Traverse City provided an inspiration to each of you.

Sincerely,

Richard Lewis, Mayor
City of Traverse City



It is with genuine warmth that we say, "Welcome again to Traverse City." We are truly honored to host the important work of The UMC. With the theme of, "New Every Morning," we hope you can use northern Michigan for personal renewal. Enjoy the natural beauty of the region, embrace the vibrancy of the community, cherish old and new friendships in this special place. We hope you find time to explore new favorite restaurants, shop for hidden treasures you will only find here, or relax in the solitude. Enjoy every minute you spend in Traverse City. Come back again soon.

Sincerely,

Trevor Tkach, President/CEO
Traverse City Tourism





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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 2023.MichiganUMC.org

FOLLOW US! Watch Annual Conference Plenary Sessions Live on our website: 2023.MichiganUMC.org



#MIUMC23



Facebook.com/MichiganUMC



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WIRELESS INTERNET: Free WiFi is available in the meeting spaces. **WIFI password:** UMC23

EVERYTHING YOU NEED CAN BE FOUND AT 2023.MICHIGANUMC.ORG



LAND RECOGNITION

As we begin our time together, I encourage us to celebrate the incredibly diverse pathways and legacies of the people of the Michigan Conference. These beautiful peninsulas have sustained, inspired, and nurtured us, they have given us the resources to live, work, and play. We are grateful that time and place has put us here to live into God's call for justice, welcome, and mercy.

In our commitment to live into the Acts of Repentance to Native and Indigenous Peoples, I would like to take the time to honor the First Peoples of this area for caring for this abundant place. As early as 796 AD, the Council of the Three Fires has been coming together at Michilimackinac. The Anishinaabe member nations are the Ojibwe; the Keepers of Faith, the Odawa; the Keepers of Trade and the Potawatomi; Keepers of the Fire. These First Peoples have worked to overcome colonization in order to sustain this land for our future together.

The harvest of these Great Lakes and their fertile lands would go on to nourish expanding cultures. Immigrants would come to these shores fleeing famine and poverty. This place would become the final passage of an Underground Railroad to freedom for the African slaves and the cities would become the peace-filled homes to Vietnamese, Guatemalan and Middle Eastern refugees of violence. Residents of our State advocated all the way to the Supreme Court to protect transgender people from employment discrimination and recognize same gender marriage.

As the people of Michigan struggle to find equity together, so too, this conference struggles to understand how its privilege has impacted its call from God. We continue to find the ways to honor one another and serve God's call in this place.

Even when injustice stripped away the wealth of soul and land of the Anishinaabe peoples they persevered and never lost dignity. They never lost their respect to the Creator and all that was endowed to them.

The slaves that found freedom in this place, stood firm for their rights even when they were beaten and treated unjustly. The refugees who left the violence of war to seek the peace of acceptance, continue to strive to conquer barriers of hate. Members of Michigan's LGBTQ+ community, too, continue their struggle for recognition and rights.

At this time as we come together as the Michigan Annual Conference, we humbly ask forgiveness. The United Methodist Church has too often been silent and complicit in these harms. To all of our siblings, on behalf of Michigan United Methodists, we apologize for the past atrocities that were inflicted upon you out of racism, injustice, and doctrinal abuse. We honor you, and we seek to honor this beautiful land that you first called home.

Rev. David Eardley, Chair
Commission on the Annual Conference Session





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to Methodists for nearly
100 Years.

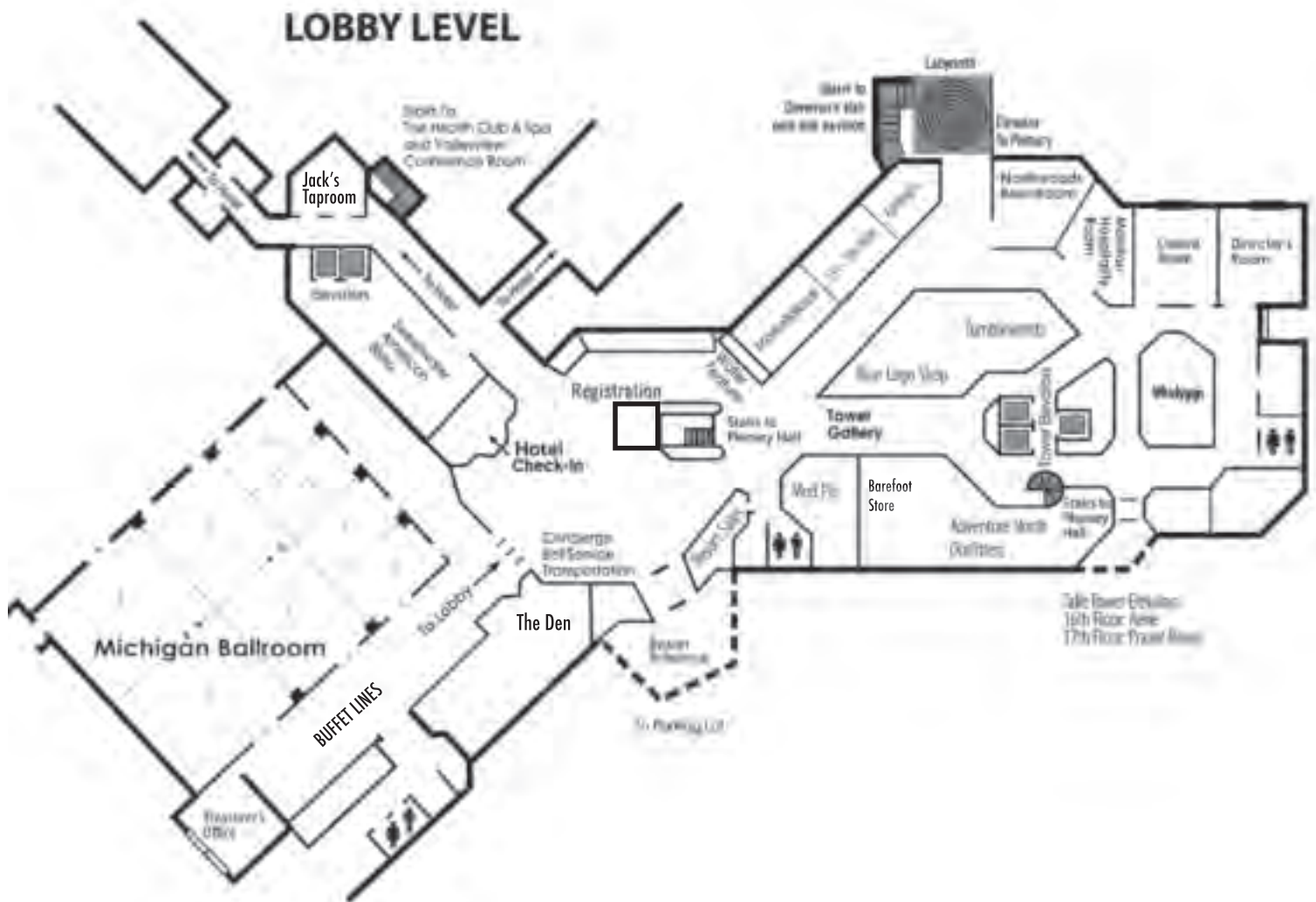
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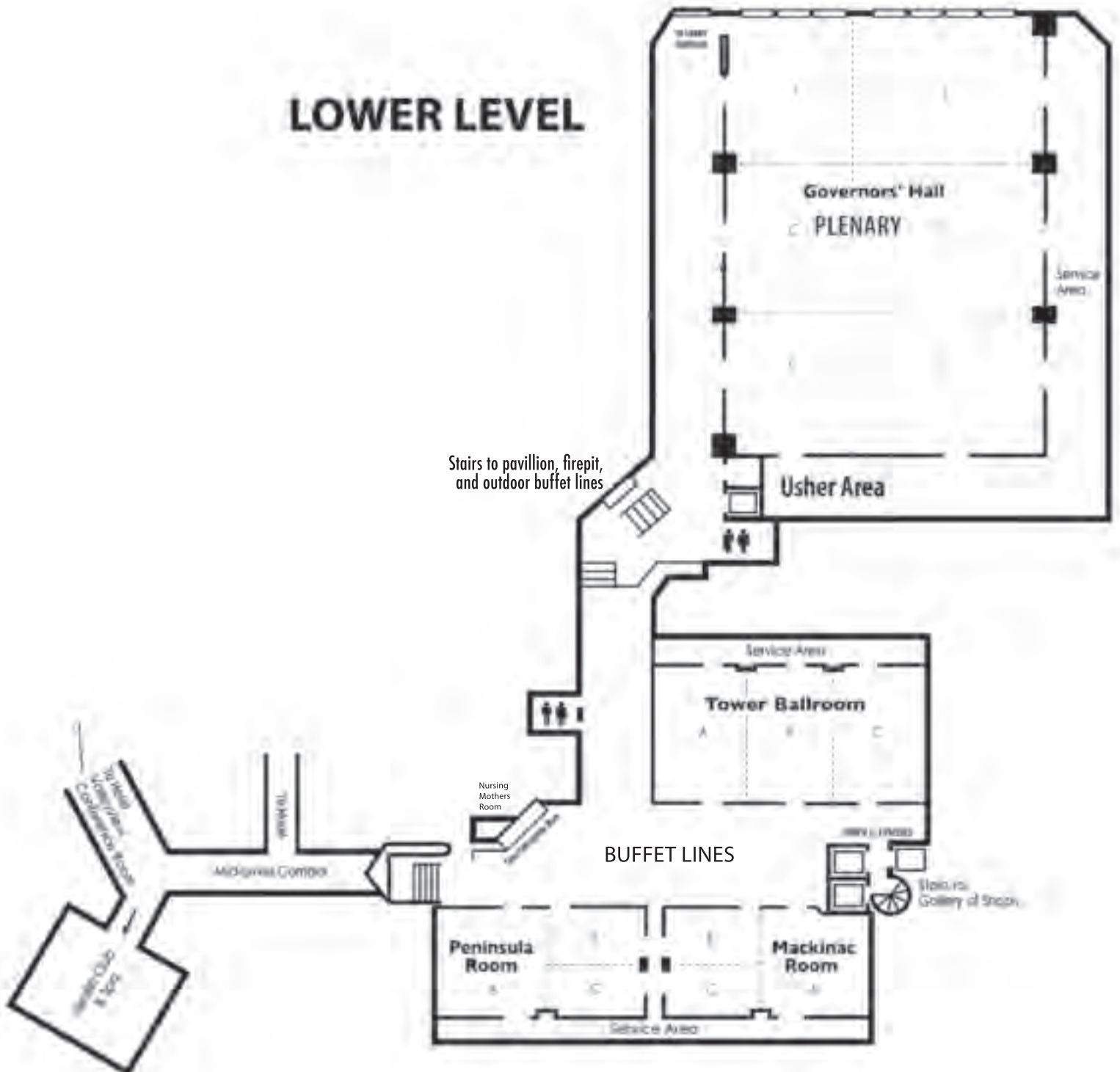
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UMFMichigan.org



LOWER LEVEL



MAPS AND 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:

Thursday, June 1: 12:00 noon – 10:00 pm

Friday, June 2: 7:00 am – 10:00 pm

Saturday, June 3: 6:00 am – 10:00 pm

Sunday, June 4: 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. 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 2023.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.

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.

LABYRINTH

The Board of Global Ministries invites us into supportive relationships with our EngageMI partners in Michigan and throughout the world. All are invited to take a card with the name of a project or missionary and pray walking the labyrinth located in the Mezzanine off of the first floor. Afterwards, please consider sending a note of encouragement and gratitude.

LOST AND FOUND

Found items can be brought to the Conference Registration Desk located in the main 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 Michigan Ballroom will be available for anyone needing a quieter space. A live stream will keep you connected to what's happening and 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 TICKETS

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 located 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. A refrigerator is available. 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 near center stage. Please visit him with questions regarding the Standing Rules of the Annual Conference.

SHUTTLE SERVICE

Avoid the hassle of parking and traffic by using this year's 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.

It's 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.

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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 with 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 staff 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 SCHEDULES:

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

7:30 AM-9:00 AM	BOM Buffet Breakfast <i>Sweetwater American Bistro</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	Burger Bar <i>Tower Ballroom</i>
5:30 PM-6:30 PM	AC Full Committee Meeting <i>Mackinac Room</i>
5:30 PM-7:00 PM	Pre-Conference Seminar, "7 Ways to Increase Engagement in your Hybrid Worship" with Jason Moore <i>Tower Ballroom, Peninsula Room</i>
7:00 PM-8:00 PM	Clergy Retirement Celebration <i>Michigan Ballroom</i>
8:00 PM-8:30 PM	Celebration Reception <i>Michigan Ballroom Pre-function/Lobby</i>



MINI MISSION FAIR

***Hosted by the Conference Board of Global Ministries
At tables near Governors' Hall***

FRIDAY, JUNE 2 - 12:00PM-5:00PM

1. Justice for our Neighbors: supports migrant communities through legal services and social action.
2. Sugar Crash: summer youth program at Centro Familiar Christiano UMC provides multicultural educational and spiritual growth for children of the Melvindale community.
3. Compassion Counts Food Pantry at the Gathering UMC Mission Church: serves 275 families in the Clare country area who live in generational poverty.
4. Midwest Distribution Center: sends tangible resources to places in crisis such as the rice meals to Ukraine.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3 - 8:00AM-12:00PM

1. Readers to Leaders: supports the Michigan Conference Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools and in Liberia, scholarships for children and wells at UM schools.
2. Asbury Community Development Center: the UM unified ministry in the Flint mission zone including FeedFlint, Asbury Farms, South Flint Soup Kitchen, the Angel Closet, Asbury Heath Center and the Sizzling Culture! youth program.
3. Urban Youth Alliance: provides collaborative ministry opportunities for youth in a multicultural urban context. The focus is an affordable weekly long overnight camp where campers can explore God's call on their lives and opportunities for the future.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3 - 12:00PM-5:00PM

1. God's Country Cooperative Parish: located in four counties and Newberry in the Upper Peninsula. Works with those living below the poverty line to provide connection, support, and basic human services.
2. Volunteers in Mission: assists churches to organize and lead volunteer mission trips, including scholarships for first time participants and emergency health insurance and training for leaders.
3. Haitian Assets for Peace International (HAPI): equips local leadership to reduce poverty and save lives in Mizak, Haiti. Provides medical services including a birthing center, urgent care, pharmacy, mobile visits to the disabled, child malnutrition intervention, basic dental and lab services and cardiac care. 'HAPITech' offers vocational training with several courses.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4 - 8:00AM-12:00PM

1. French UMC outreach to new migrants from French-speaking African exiles in Greater Detroit. Funds help migrants reconnect with their faith and basic needs such as food, housing, clothing.
2. Vietnamese UMC (Madison Heights): humanitarian outreach to new migrants including medical care, clothing, and food.
3. General Board of Global Ministries and the US-2s: learn about new and current missionaries, and national and international projects.



DAILY CONFERENCE SCHEDULES:

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

7:00 AM-8:00 AM	Breakfast <i>Tower Ballroom</i>
8:00 AM-6:00 PM	Registration/Check-In/Info Desk Open <i>Lobby</i>
9:00 AM-8:00 PM	Prayer Room Open <i>Level 17, Club Room</i>
9:00 AM-11:30 AM	Golf Scramble for Campus Ministries <i>Golf Course</i>
9:00 AM-12:00 PM	Rice Meal Packing <i>Michigan Ballroom</i>
11:00 AM-8:00 PM	Cass Community Social Services Store Open <i>Tower Ballroom Registration Desk</i>
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	5K Run / Walk for Child Hunger Relief in Michigan <i>5K Loop/Plaza Tent</i>
12:00 PM-5:30 PM	Snack Station Open, Sponsored by Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministry <i>Governors Hall Prefunction</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>17th Floor</i>
1:00 PM-2:30 PM	Opening Worship / Memorial Service Bishop Bard preaching, "Hard Travelin'" Includes Annual Conference Offering for Covenant Partners in Liberia, Haiti, and After the Storm <i>Governors Hall</i>
2:30 PM-3:00 PM	Break

3:00 PM-4:15 PM	Plenary Session Includes: Welcome, Organization of Conference, State of the Conference, Consent Calendar, General Conference Delegation Report <i>Governors Hall</i>
4:15 PM-5:00 PM	Laity Perspective Christian Innovation featuring Kimberly Daniel <i>Governors Hall</i>
5:00 PM-6:30 PM	Dinner Buffet Lines are in these locations: <i>Lobby (Near Michigan Ballroom), Tower Prefunction and Pavilion (Yellow Tent) weather permitting</i> General Seating - Michigan Ballroom, Tower Ballroom, Peninsula Room, Mackinac Room, Pavilion Special Dietary Needs buffet at indoor locations Bishop's Dinner with those to be Commissioned and Ordained <i>Council Room</i>
6:30 PM-7:30 PM	Welcome Back Dessert Reception for Bishop David and Julie Bard <i>Michigan Ballroom and Lobby</i>
7:00 PM-9:00 PM	Young Adult Gathering <i>The Beach Club</i>
7:30 PM-8:30 PM	Meet & Greet with Kimberly Daniel - all are welcome <i>Pavilion</i>



LAITY PERSPECTIVE: CHRISTIAN INNOVATION SPEAKER

Kimberly R. 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. Kimberly currently serves as senior director of communications at the Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE). FTE is a leadership incubator that inspires young people to make a difference in the world through Christian communities. She is also a co-founder of DO GOOD X, an initiative that provides a community and an accelerator for underrepresented Christian entrepreneurs whose businesses focus on social impact. Kimberly is co-author of *A Way Out of No Way: An Approach to Christian Innovation* (FTE Books, 2022), an award-winning book selected by the Publishing Professionals Network for its design. As the daughter of a United Methodist Church pastor and a teacher, Kimberly is energized by inspiring people to align with their purpose and to make a positive impact in communities with their God-given gifts and talents. Kimberly holds a Master of Arts in arts and business administration from Savannah College of Arts and Design and a Bachelor of Arts in communication from Coastal Carolina University.



DAILY CONFERENCE SCHEDULES: SATURDAY, JUNE 3

6:30 AM-8:00 AM	Breakfast - Michigan Ballroom New District Breakfast-Northern Skies - Level 17 New District Breakfast-Western Waters - Council Room
8:00 AM-7:00 PM	Registration/Check-In/Info Desk Open Lobby
8:00 AM-8:00 PM	Prayer Room Open Level 17, Club Room
8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Snack Station Open, Sponsored by Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministry Governors Hall Prefunction
8:30 AM-9:00 AM	Gathering Music Governors Hall
9:00 AM-10:00 AM	Keynote Speaker, Rev. Grace Imathiu "Assurance in Difficult Times" Governors Hall
10:00 AM-11:20 AM	Break
10:00 AM-7:30 PM	Cass Community Social Services Store Open Tower Ballroom Registration Desk
10:20 AM-10:20 AM	Plenary - Christ Centered Bold and Effective Leaders Includes Readers to Leaders, Laity Testimony, Guided Reflection Governors Hall
11:20 AM-11:30 PM	Standing Break
11:30 AM-12:00 PM	Plenary - Legislation, Nominations Governors Hall
12:00 PM-1:15 PM	Lunch Buffet Lines are in three locations: Lobby (Near Michigan Ballroom), Tower Prefunction and Pavilion (Yellow Tent) weather permitting General Seating - Michigan Ballroom, Tower Ballroom, Peninsula Rooms A & C, Pavilion Special Dietary Needs Buffet Lines in Lobby and Tower Prefunction

	<p>Focus Meal: Committee on African American Ministry - <i>17th Floor</i></p> <p>Focus Meal: Committee on Hispanic/Latinx Ministry - <i>Peninsula B</i></p> <p>Focus Meal: Fellowship of Local Pastors & Associate Members - <i>Mackinac Room</i></p>
1:30 PM-2:30 PM	<p>Corporate Session</p> <p><i>Governors Hall</i></p>
2:30 PM-2:45 PM	<p>Break</p>
2:45 PM-4:00 PM	<p>Plenary - Legislation, Pension, Wesley's Historic Questions</p> <p><i>Governors Hall</i></p>
4:00 PM	<p>Dismissal</p> <p>Mini-Mission Fair, Sponsor Tables and Labyrinth Available</p> <p><i>Governors Hall Prefunction and Mezzanine</i></p>
4:30 PM-5:15 PM	<p>Service of Recognition, Commissioning and Ordination</p> <p>Participants Dinner</p> <p><i>Director's Room</i></p>
5:15 PM-6:30 PM	<p>Candidate Photographs</p> <p><i>Council Room</i></p>
5:00 PM-6:30 PM	<p>Dinner</p> <p>Buffet Lines are in three locations: <i>Lobby (Near Michigan Ballroom), Tower Prefunction and Pavilion (Yellow Tent) weather permitting</i></p> <p>General Seating - <i>Michigan Ballroom, Tower Ballroom, Peninsula Room, Pavilion</i></p> <p>Special Dietary Needs Buffet Lines in <i>Lobby and Tower Prefunction</i></p>
6:45 PM	<p>Service of Recognition, Commissioning and Ordination</p> <p>Participant Line-up</p> <p><i>Mackinac Room</i></p>
7:00 PM-8:30 PM	<p>Service of Recognition, Commissioning and Ordination -</p> <p><i>Bishop Bard Preaching, "Make Me A Saxophone"</i></p> <p>Includes Offering for Ministerial Education Fund (MEF)</p> <p><i>Governors Hall</i></p>
8:45 PM-9:30 PM	<p>Service of Recognition, Commissioning and Ordination Reception</p> <p><i>Michigan Ballroom</i></p>
9:00 PM-11:00 PM	<p>Youth Gathering</p> <p><i>Pavilion Campfire</i></p>



DAILY CONFERENCE SCHEDULES:

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

6:30 AM-8:00 AM	Breakfast <i>Michigan Ballroom</i>
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-4:00 PM	Prayer Room Open <i>Level 17, Club Room</i>
9:00 AM-4:00 PM	Cass Community Social Services Store Open <i>Tower Ballroom Registration Desk</i>
8:00 AM-4:00 PM	Snack Station Open, Sponsored by Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministry <i>Governors Hall Prefunction</i>
8:30 AM-9:30 AM	Worship, Rev. Grace Imathiu Preaching <i>Governors Hall</i>
9:30 AM-10:00 AM	Break
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Plenary - Christ Centered Missions and Ministry Includes Advocacy Day Celebration, After The Storm, Laity Testimony, 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> General Seating - <i>Michigan Ballroom, Tower Ballroom, Mackinac Room, Peninsula Room, Pavilion</i> Special Dietary Needs Buffet Line in <i>Lobby and Tower Prefunction</i>
1:30 PM-3:30 PM	Plenary Budget, Legislation Christ Centered Vibrant Congregations Shaping the Future of The Michigan Conference, Laity Testimony, #BeUMC, Celebration Video <i>Governors Hall</i>

3:30 PM-4:00 PM	Closing Litany and Setting of Appointments
4:00 PM	Conference Concludes
4:00 PM	To-Go Dinner Pick-up <i>Lobby</i>
4:30 PM	Bus Departs
5:00 PM-6:00 PM	Dinner Buffet Line in <i>Tower Prefunction, Tower Ballroom</i>

**ENDING
POVERTY**

TOGETHER

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CONFERENCE SPEAKER AND PREACHER

GRACE IMATHIU **Saturday, June 3 and** **Sunday, June 4**



Rev. Grace Imathiu is Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church Evanston, IL. She has also served churches in Kenya as a church planter; a superintendent minister overseeing 68 rural churches in Nkubu; and an urban minister to an ecumenical congregation in Nairobi with strong outreach to the neighboring slums of Kawangware. Pastor Grace is intimately familiar with the Church in its many theological expressions and social locations.

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 a healthy tension that is ideological, theological, racial, ethnic and cultural.

For Rev. Imathiu "the world is her parish." As an African who married a European and is raising an American son, Grace is committed to advocating for the inclusion of all people. She has preached in Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, Togo, Liberia, Denmark, Australia, Malaysia, Brazil, and all throughout the United States.



2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFERING



TRADITIONAL OFFERING

The traditional opening worship offering will benefit our covenant partners, The Methodist Church of Haiti and The Liberia Annual Conference. Bishop Bard has designated a 10% tithe of the Annual Conference offering received go to After The Storm (formerly Michigan Disaster Relief and Recovery), to initiate response to disasters within the state and to begin mobilizing our response to disasters outside of Michigan.

Haiti: Haitian Assets for Peace International (Advance #3020490) will receive 45% of the total offering. The Michigan Haiti Covenant Partnership invites support for the work in Mizak (South Central Haiti). HAPI empowers women and girls by providing health services, maternity care, and vocational training to alleviate poverty and save lives.

Liberia: Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village in Liberia (Advance #11820A) will receive 45% of the total offering. The funds provide basic needs, education, counseling and healthcare to orphaned children.

Donate by check: Please make your check payable to "Michigan Conference" noting "AC Offering" in the memo line.

Mail your check to: Michigan Conference Center North, 1161 E. Clark Rd., Suite 212, DeWitt, MI 48820

Donate online: Pay with debit or credit card. Offerings received by credit card cannot be credited toward church giving for this event.
<https://michiganumc.org/ac-offering/>



OTHER GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

5K 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/5K>

Donate by check: Please make your check payable to "Michigan Conference" noting "5K/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/rice>

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





NEW DISTRICTS

On July 1, 2023, the Michigan Conference will move from nine districts to seven. This action was approved at Annual Conference 2022.

Here is the list of the seven new districts, some general notes related to the redrawing of boundaries, and their district superintendents:

- The **Northern Skies District** will extend further into the northern lower peninsula. The Rev. Scott Harmon will be the district superintendent.
- The **Central Bay District** will extend west to include more of the center of the lower peninsula. The Rev. John Kasper will be the district superintendent.
- The **Western Waters District** (new name) will extend along the shores of Lake Michigan and include both the Traverse City and Grand Rapids areas. The Rev. Jodie Flessner will be the district superintendent.
- The **East Winds District** will now include the entire thumb area of the state and some more of the northern Detroit metropolitan suburban areas. The Rev. Dr. Margie Crawford will be the district superintendent.



- The **Greater Southwest District** will extend more into the south-central part of the lower peninsula. The Rev. Dwayne Bagley will be the district superintendent.
- The **Heritage District** will extend into the Lansing metropolitan area. The Rev. LuAnn Rourke will be the district superintendent.
- The **Greater Detroit District** will extend south to the Michigan-Ohio state line. The Rev. Dr. Darryl Totty will be the district superintendent.

Five of the seven district offices will remain virtual, with Greater Southwest District and Greater Detroit District continuing to have dedicated office space.





THANK YOU!

GRACE PATROL

- Denny Olin
- The generous and grace filled team!

USHERS

- Mara Marsman
- Our wonderful volunteers

REGISTRATION

- Sarah Vollmer
- Ashley Kilpatrick

COMMUNICATIONS

- The entire GNTV Team
- James Deaton
- Kay DeMoss
- 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

- Lisa Cook
- Rebecca King

WORSHIP PLANNERS

- Sarah Alexander
- Tish Bowman
- Melany Chalker
- Matt Chapman
- Tammy Melvin
- Anna Moon
- Jeremy Peters
- Joan VanDessel
- Joel Walther
- Caleb Williams
- Marsha Woolley

MUSICIANS

- Caleb Williams, Music Director
- Jeff Cobb, Choir Director
- Alvin Waddles

SPECIAL GUESTS FOR SUNDAY

- Southfield Hope Gospel Choir

Small Membership Church Resources

You are not alone in ministry! Almost 500 churches in the Michigan Conference worship with less than 100 in attendance. We have training videos and other resources available for churches with less than 100 in worship attendance. Email questions to: lessthan100wa@michiganumc.org

Simplified Accountable Structure

SAS streamlines congregational leadership structures for increased growth and vitality. The structural shift places a priority on mission, eliminating the need for multiple administrative meetings. Congregations typically begin this process in January.

REVITALIZATION PROGRAMS

Local Church Assessment (LCA)

helps congregations with limited energy and momentum to complete an assessment process to gauge their potential and vitality to continue ministry. Can they move beyond the status quo to a future that will result in complete transformation?

Restoring Relevancy (RR) helps small and midsize congregations (less than 100 and 300 in worship, respectively). A three-phase process, Reflect, Recreate, Reinvigorate, is designed to see stumbling blocks and challenges, and discern next steps. Congregations will evaluate if they can engage a future of growing disciples or should enter into legacy conversations.

Church Unique (CU) takes spiritually alive congregations that have lost clarity of vision on a deep dive into envisioning the future. These congregations are generally healthy, although their life energy is diminishing, and can address conflict before it grows destructive.

New Church Starts

Organize an all-new faith community committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ and transforming your community. We can reach more people, younger people and more diverse people. Check out the toolbox on the Conference Resource page to see new church starts in Michigan.

Fresh Expressions

Dinner church. Church in a pub. Bicycle church. Create a new form of church that appeals to un-churched people in a rapidly transforming culture. Visit Starting Something New on the Conference Resource page for more information.

Your path to CONGREGATIONAL VIBRANCY

Board of Congregational Life

The Division of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations

We empower Michigan Area UM churches to work with other Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith organizations.

We also encourage developing relationships as we learn about faith diversity and work together to create God's kingdom on earth.

Revitalization Toolbox

See information below for location

Starting Something New Toolbox

See information below for location

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit or contact:

**<https://michiganumc.org/resources/>
and click on Starting Something New or Revitalization
CongregationalVibrancy@michiganumc.org**



OPENING WORSHIP

1:00 p.m., Friday, June 2, 2023

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

WORDS OF GREETING

This is the day our God has made!

A day to rejoice and be glad!

A day to give thanks for we are alive and gathered here.

A day to remember the troubles we've seen since last we assembled.

Disaffiliations...denominational strife...diminished resources...

And yet each day dawns, full of God's promise and presence...rich with possibilities!

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases!

God's mercies never come to an end!

GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS, O GOD!

*RESPONSE

Great is Thy Faithfulness

(chorus only)

RECOGNITION OF THE LAND ON WHICH WE GATHER

(written by Matthew Chapman)

Moses came before the Lord and said, "I'm here."

Then the Lord said, "Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground."

We come before the Lord in a place that is not ours and say, "We're here"

The Lord says, "Come with humility, because you are standing on holy ground."

We come before the Lord on the land of the Odawa, Grand Traverse Band of
Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Land of the Council of Three Fires.

The Lord says, "Take off your ownership of the land, because you are standing on holy ground."

We come before the Lord on land that has been bought, stolen, fought over, colonized, and
whitewashed.

The Lord says, "Take off your pride, because you are standing on holy ground."

We come before the Lord on the land used by the Missionaries and Voyageurs, Lumber Barons and
Immigrants, those that tried to help and those that exploited.

The Lord says, "Take off your status and privilege, because you are standing on holy ground."

We come before the Lord with all those that came before us, all those that are gathered with us, all
those that will come after us.

The Lord says, "You are standing on holy ground."

*OPENING HYMN

"And Are We Yet Alive?"

UMH#553

TIME OF MEMORIAL

SACRED TIME OF REMEMBERING

ANTHEM

Joy in the Morning

Conference Choir

*HYMN OF REMEMBRANCE

"For All the Saints"

#711, vs. 1, 4

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24: 13-28

SOLO REFLECTION

"Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown" (vs. 1)

SERMON

"Hard Travelin'"

Bishop David A. Bard

SOLO REFLECTION

"Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown" (vs. 4)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we do not love you with our whole heart.
We fail to be an obedient church.
We are not doing your will.
We are breaking your law.
We rebel against your love.
We do not love our neighbors,
and we do not hear the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news:

Christ dies for us while we are sinning;
That proves God's love for us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven,

GLORY TO GOD. AMEN.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*As you come forward to receive the elements, you are invited to bring your conference offerings as well.
Ushers will be ready with baskets to receive them.*

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Bishop David A. Bard

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*CLOSING HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

#140 (UMH)

*SENDING FORTH

Bishop David A. Bard

*POSTLUDE

MUSIC LICENSING

"The Steadfast Love of the Lord Never Ceases" | Edith McNeill
© 1974, 1975 Celebration CCLI Song #21590 | CCLI License No. 11547740, CSPL133392

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" | Thomas O. Chisholm, William M. Runyan
© 1989 United Methodist Hymnal | Hymn #140 | United Methodist Publishing House
CCLI Song #18723 | Public Domain

"And Are We Yet Alive?" words by Charles Wesley | arr. by Lowell Mason
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CCLI Song #754458 | Public Domain

"Joy in the Morning" | Natalie Sleeth
© 1977, 2001 Hope Publishing Company
CCLI Song #112887 | CCLI License No. 11547740, CSPL133392

"For All the Saints" words by William W. How | arr. by Ralph V. Williams
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CCLI Song #112887 | Public Domain

"Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown" words by Charles Wesley
© 1989 United Methodist Hymnal | Hymn #386 | United Methodist Publishing House
CCLI Song #4215044 | Public Domain

"This is a Day of New Beginnings" words by Brian Wren | arr. by Carlton R. Young
© 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Company | United Methodist Hymnal | Hymn #383
CCLI Song #2803661 | CCLI License No. 11547740, CSPL133392

"This is a Day" | Les Garrett
© 1967, 1980 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) | United Methodist Hymnal | Hymn #657
CCLI Song #32754 | CCLI License No. 11547740, CSPL133392

"He Has Made Me Glad" | Leona Von Brethorst
© 1976 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) | TFWS #2270
CCLI Song #1493 | CCLI License No. 11547740, CSPL133392

"From The Rising of the Sun" | Anonymous
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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 April 1, 2023 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



Joy E. Arthur



John D. Bailey



Virginia B. Bell



Betty M. Blair



Paul F. Blomquist



Tom Brown II



Bonnie D. Byadiah



H.Reginald Cattell



Richard C. Devor



Mona J. Dye



Valerie A. Fons



James E. Fox



Barbara L. Franks



James C. Grant



A. Theodore Halsted Jr.



Pauline S. Hart



Robert D. Harvey



Carl L. Hauserman



Andrew Jackson



Robert E. Jones Jr.



Bonny J. Lancaster



Alger T. Lewis



Charles M. Lewis



Leicester "Les" R. Longden



Charles R. Marble



Paul D. Mazur



William V. Payne



Keith I. Pohl



Wayne G. Reece



Richard C. Richmond



Archie T. Roberts



William T. Schomaker



Mary Spencer



Royal J. Synwolt



Kenneth L. Tousley



Karen A. Welch



Robert L. Wessman



Bobby D. Whitlock



Douglas E. Wingeier



Gregory B. Wood

CLERGY SPOUSES



Wilma Ablett



Miriam "Jean" Amstutz



Dorothy L. Arthur



Ronald E. Austin



Mary E. Balfour



Karen K. Bamsey



Christina L. Beckwith



Marcia L. Bohnsack



Evelyn J. Bollinger Forehand



Beth A. Burkey



Normajean S. Carlson



Michael H. Clark



Arnold "Wesley" Crocker



Ethel J. Dobson



Wilma M. Faust



Kenneth D. Frey



Gale E. Fuller



Grace J. Gilroy



Linda D. Haase



Darlene Huff



David E. LaFrance



Carol I. Lowes



Lydia N. Mulder



Judith A. Parker



Diane C. Ray



Ruth E. Reinhart



Robert K. Richards



Delcina "Del" P. Ritter



Linda H. Selberg



Allan E. Shapley



Jenella M. Smith



Nancy Spalenka



Helene Hope Thompson



Helen M. Vaught



Alice L. Walton



Leslie Wessman



Sandra L. Williams



Mary Yoh

LAITY



Valerie S. Robinson



Harvey M. Weaver

CLERGY CHILDREN



Sendy P. Grettenberger





SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 a.m., Sunday, June 4, 2023

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Southfield Hope Gospel Choir

Alvin Waddles, director

OPENING HYMN

Morning Has Broken

(UMH) #145

OPENING LITANY

"My Lord, It's Morning"

written by Joel Walther

SPECIAL MUSIC

Praise Ye the Lord
Without You

Southfield Hope Choir
Scott Cumberbatch
Anthony Brown

SCRIPTURE

MESSAGE

Rev. Grace Imathiu

CLOSING SONG

Secret Place

Southfield Hope Choir
Kevin Davidson

BENEDICTION

Rev. Grace Imathiu

POSTLUDE

Alvin Waddles



MUSIC LICENSING

"Morning Has Broken" | Eleanor Farjeon
© 1989 United Methodist Hymnal | Hymn #145 | United Methodist Publishing House
CCLI Song #2776365 | Public Domain

"My Lord, It's Morning" | words and music by Joel Walther
Special permission granted by Joel Walther

"Praise Ye the Lord" | J. Jefferson Cleveland
© 1981 Abingdon Press | TFWS #2010
One License Song # #78117 | One License #A-726149

"Without You" | Anthony Brown & Group Therapy
ASCAP | Key of a Music Publishing | Tyscot Music
IPI #493799288 | ISWC #T9169675676
CCS License #8524, CCLI License: #11547740, #CSCPL133392

"Secret Place" | Kevin Davidson
Broadcast Music, Inc. | IPI #00183573156 | BMI Song #5766251
CCS License #8524, CCLI License: #11547740, #CSCPL133392



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and supports Campus Ministry**

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AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

HARRY DENMAN AWARD FOR EVANGELISM - PASTOR PAM HARKEMA

The Harry Denman Evangelism Award program honors United Methodists in each annual conference whose exceptional ministry of evangelism – expressed in Word (what), Sign (why), and Deed (how) – brings people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ. Evangelism happens in many contexts and many settings; impacts and engages all generations; and requires relationships among a variety of persons.



What distinguishes a Harry Denman Evangelism Award recipient is the commitment to consistently introduce others to the Good News of Jesus Christ in all ministry settings. Their ministry is exceptional for the number of new Christ Followers who credit encounters with this person as critical in helping to start or reignite their faith journey.

This year, the Michigan Conference presents the Denman Award to Pastor Pam Harkema. Pam was appointed to the Oscoda and Oscoda Indian Mission churches in 2021 in the midst of the global pandemic. She quickly engaged with the churches' established outreach programs and began new ones including a food pantry, assisting up to 30 families per week. She began working on homelessness in the community, and opened the church as a warming center, offering warm meals twice a week. Pam also served as president of the Oscoda Rotary Club to strengthen community connections with the churches.

The result is the churches added more than 30 new members. Attendance has grown from 40 per week to an average of 85, celebrating eleven confirmations and seven baptisms.

"There is an atmosphere of people who are empowered for ministry. Pam says, "People feel excited about inviting others to worship and connecting to ministry here. Oscoda United Methodists have developed a reputation for hospitality and acceptance."

ONE MATTERS - FRENCH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Presented by United Methodist Discipleship Ministries, the One Matters Award is presented to the pastor and lay leaders of a congregation that has done significant work to grow their ministry, turning zeros from previous years into positive numbers.

The 2023 One Matters Award is presented to French United Methodist Church in Birmingham, MI, and Rev. Gertrude Mwadi Mukalay. The mission of French UMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. To this end, the social services ministry that the church provides to French speaking immigrant communities is ultimately about making disciples and transforming their community.



French Church provides social services to newly arriving immigrants including: A monthly meal of African food to all the residents of the Freedom House; seasonal clothing; transportation to doctors, job interviews, shopping, and meetings with immigration officials; assistance with finding housing and Bibles and devotional material.

Said one person served by the program, "If it was not for French Church, I would no longer be living in Detroit. I would have received my immigration papers and moved. But, because of this church and the help I received, I stayed in Detroit. I have found a church that cares."

FRANCIS ASBURY AWARD - REV. CARL GLADSTONE



Named for early American Methodist Bishop Francis Asbury, this award honors his call to establish a school in the vicinity of every church. "We must," he said, "... give the key of knowledge to your children, and those of the poor in the vicinity of your small towns and villages." Today, the award recognizes United Methodist individuals who have made a significant contribution to fostering United Methodist ministries in higher education at the local, district or annual conference level. It is awarded annually to one honoree per annual conference.

This year's winner is Rev. Carl Gladstone. Carl has served in a variety of capacities in campus ministries over the years: student active in chapel ministries at Albion College, chaplain, campus minister, board member of local boards and with the General Board of Discipleship.

Carl was instrumental in re-establishing campus ministries in the Detroit area through Motor City Wesley. He continues to support campus ministry through his work on the board for United Methodist Campus Ministers Association. Carl is creative and collaborative using art, music, food trucks and podcasts to engage students and congregations. Carl has led collaborative fundraising efforts in support of MI UMC campus ministries and continues to lead the way in rethinking campus ministry support in the Michigan Conference. Carl is an incubator and provides a learning lab for students and congregational partners!"

JOHN BUXTON AWARD - REV. JOHN BOLEY

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, allowing Detroit to become 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 year's recipient of the Buxton Award for creative and dedicated service is Rev. John Boley. John served churches across Michigan, was an active leader in the former West Michigan Annual Conference and is a past District Superintendent, Chairperson for the Board of Ordained Ministry, and Clergy Assistant to the Bishop. In retirement he continues as a special assistant to the bishop bringing his guidance to legal challenges and the disaffiliation process.

John describes ministry as a "great gig," and our connectional system as "life giving, and spirit filled." He looks forward to the day when the current season of conflict is over and "we can move on to live in vibrant discipleship focusing on justice and compassion."





RETIREEES



George H. Ayoub



Bradley S. Bartelmay



Richard W. Blunt



Jerome R. DeVine



Rodney K. Diggs



Robert W. Dister



Robert J. Easlick



Donald J. Emmert



Mark R. Erbes



Robert F. Fuchs



Patricia A. Haas



David L. Haase



John H. Hice



Randell J. Hitts



Patricia A. Hoppenworth



M. Christopher L. Lane



Lester Mangum



Tommy L. McDoniel



Scott K. Otis



Clifford L. Radtke



Lisa M. (McIlvenna) Semmler



Jean M. Smith



Reed P. Swanson



Mark E. Thompson



Beth D. Titus



Melodye Surgeon
VanOudheusden



Donald L. Wojewski



Susan M. Youmans



Jill H. Zundel





2023 CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION AND COMMISSIONING

RECOGNITION OF COURSE OF STUDY GRADUATES



Daniel Lee Barkholz

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Home Church: Manistee UMC

Currently Serving: Manistee UMC



Michael C. Desotell

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Home Church: Menominee First UMC

Currently Serving: Grand Rapids Trinity UMC



Mark A. Harriman

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Home Church: McGregor UMC, Deckerville

Currently Serving: Gwinn UMC



Scott Herald

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Home Church: Trinity - Livingston Circuit

Currently Serving: Fowlerville First UMC



Robert L. Snodgrass II

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Home Church: Hope UMC

Currently Serving: New Journey UMC, Morris Chapel UMC



Kenny Ray Walkup Jr

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Home Church: South Lyon First UMC

Currently Serving: Walled Lake UMC



Thomas J. Waller

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Home Church: Farmington First UMC

Currently Serving: Manchester: Sharon UMC



Coleen Drew Wilsdon

Seminary: United Theological Seminary

Home Church: Byron First UMC

Currently Serving: Morrice UMC, Bancroft UMC

NOT PICTURED: Richard J. Foster

ELDER CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONING



Anthony J.M. Ballah

Seminary: Ecumenical Theological Seminary, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Home Church: Grace Community UMC

Currently Serving: Grace Community UMC



Jodi Melissa Cartwright

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Home Church: Okemos Community Church

Currently Serving: Tecumseh UMC



Martin Andrew Johnston

Seminary: Sioux Falls Seminary

Home Church: Marshall UMC

Currently Serving: Algonquin UMC, Sault Central UMC

ELDER CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION



Jessica Mae Davenport

Seminary: Wesley Theological Seminary

Home Church: Hope Church, Bloomington, Illinois

Currently Serving: Portage Chapel Hill UMC



Eric Max Falker

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, United Theological Seminary

Home Church: Tawas UMC

Currently Serving: Houghton Grace UMC, Painesdale UMC



Susan Elizabeth Hitts

Seminary: United Theological Seminary

Home Church: Alanson UMC

Currently Serving: Harbor Springs UMC



Scott William Marsh

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Home Church: Reed City UMC

Currently Serving: Coldwater UMC



Paul Christopher Reissmann IV

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Home Church: Bangor Simpson UMC

Currently Serving: Lake Odessa Central UMC

ELDER CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION CONTINUED



Suzanne Lee Todd

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Brighton First UMC
Currently Serving: Plymouth First UMC



Michael W. Vollmer

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Home Church: Lockport First UMC
Currently Serving: Stony Creek UMC, Macon UMC



Jenaba Rebecca Duymovic Waggy

Seminary: Vanderbilt University
Home Church: Portage Chapel Hill UMC
Currently Serving: Ann Arbor First UMC

RECOGNITION OF ORDERS



Benjamin Kevin Smalls

Seminary: Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA
Home Church: Ebenezer UMC, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC
Currently Serving: Southfield Hope UMC



Lawrence J. Wiliford

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Lola Valley UMC, Comstock UMC
Currently Serving: Transferring from the Upper NY Conference as a retired Full Elder



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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



Michiganumc.org/disability-concerns



Join us!

bit.ly/contactdisabilityconcerns

Mission Statement: The division on Disability Concerns seeks to provide resources, education, inclusion, and advocacy within the United Methodist Church by empowering churches and persons with disabilities to connect, lead, and share personal stories, together achieving full participation within the life of the faith community.

Resources & support for:

- Trustees - Disability Coordinators / Leaders - Sunday School teachers
- Clergy - UMC annual hospitality & accessibility audit - Safer Sanctuary & other safe space practices - various seating - assistive technology ... and more



ANTI-BIAS/ANTI-RACISM
EDUCATION & TRAINING

The 2022 Michigan Annual Conference voted overwhelmingly to require clergy and invite lay leadership to take part in this important program in 2023. Learn more and enroll at <https://bit.ly/ABARmiumc>



2023 COMMISSION ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION

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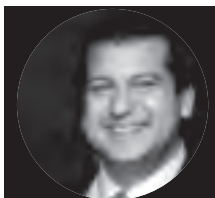
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**A \$500,000 life
changing campaign
to support children
in your community,
across Michigan, and
in Liberia.**

Working together, Michigan United Methodist Churches can change the lives of hundreds of children in your community, across the state, and around the world. Readers to Leaders is a campaign overwhelmingly approved at the 2022 Michigan Annual Conference to support education, literacy, and empowerment of children everywhere. A \$600 gift from your church can support children in three easy steps:

- A** Half of your church donation supports the Liberia Scholarship Fund securing a K-12 education for 100 Liberian children.
- B** Half of your church donation allows hundreds of children to attend Michigan Children Defense Fund Freedom Schools for literacy and empowerment.
- C** Commit to creating a local mission connection at your church with a local school, from gathering school supplies to offering after school tutoring.



Learn more and how to donate
michiganumc.org/missions/readerstoleaders

Congregations ready to contribute should send a check payable to the Michigan Conference with the phrase "Readers to Leaders Campaign #4415" in the memo. Please mail to: Michigan Conference Center North, 1161 E. Clark Rd., Ste 212, DeWitt, MI 48820



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