



## Michigan Virtual Annual Conference

June 3 – 6, 2021

Communication Prior to Registration

Where do we find ourselves in the second year of a once-a-century pandemic? **Singing the Lord's Song...is** the theme of the 2021 Annual Conference. Join us as we celebrate how ministry continues even as our sanctuaries remain closed. Explore new ministries and new ways to serve the Lord in this time of COVID. Discern the new challenges! Renew your soul! Discover how we sing the Lord's song in a strange land! -Psalm 137:4

Annual Conference moves online, undeterred even as COVID-19 prevents us from gathering in person. This year offers expanded offerings including a reimagined Laity Event, multiple devotion and worship experiences, legislative and teaching sessions, mission day opportunities, and a Service of Commissioning and Ordination.

Annual Conference begins on Thursday, June 3 with Clergy Session at 12:30 PM EDT (Clergy and Board of Ordained Ministry only). All are welcome to join the newly designed Laity Event from 4:00 PM EDT – 6:00 PM EDT for a devotional, and an uplifting segment on the call to lay ministry, including a live Q & A with lay speaker Derrick Scott III. Opening worship is Thursday night, at 7:00 PM EDT, including a time of Memorial. Bishop David A. Bard will be preaching during this inspiring service.

**Guest Teacher** Rev. Dr. Cynthia Wilson from Discipleship Ministries will share her gifts of worship and song. Lending her beautiful voice in a teaching session Friday afternoon then culminating her work in a sung sermon in Saturday morning's worship. Learn more at [2021.michiganumc.org](https://2021.michiganumc.org).

**Essential Business** of the Annual Conference will be conducted via ZOOM Webinar on Friday, June 4 and Saturday, June 5. Renewal of our Conference covenant with the Liberia Annual Conference, and an initiative to relieve child hunger and food insecurity in Michigan will be highlighted. Registrants will participate via

ZOOM, while the general audience watch the livestream on [2021.michiganumc.org](https://2021.michiganumc.org) or the conference [YouTube Channel](#).

**The Service of Commissioning and Ordination** will occur after the close of the annual conference session for those approved for commissioning or ordination in 2020 and 2021. Health and safety protocols will be in place to keep all participants safe, led with as few worship leaders as possible to lessen exposure. This service will premiere on Sunday, June 13 at 1:00 PM EDT, and posted on the website for on-demand viewing. The work of Local Pastors who've completed their Course of Study will be recognized during Saturday's plenary session.

**The Worship Committee** under the direction of Rev. Marsha Woolley has designed full worship services or devotions in differing traditions. Bishop David A. Bard will preach for opening worship and the Service of Commissioning and Ordination. Rev. Dr. Cynthia Wilson will shape Saturday morning worship. So that pastors and church leadership can focus on attending annual conference, a full worship service will be available for all churches to download and share on their online platforms on Sunday, June 6, with Director of Connectional Ministry, Rev. Paul Perez, preaching. This service will launch us in a day of mission and community service, with the 5K returning for a 5<sup>th</sup> year; proceeds to support child hunger relief in Michigan. Additional mission day information and registration for the Virtual 5K will be available by April 1.

**The Annual Conference Offering** will be received during opening worship to benefit our covenant partners in Haiti and Liberia whose ministries rely heavily on our support. The Bishop has designated 10% of the offering to child hunger relief in Michigan. Haiti and Liberia share the remaining 90% of the total offering. HAPI (Haitian Artisans for Peace International) will use the funds received for their work in Mizak (South Central Haiti - Advance #3020490). The offering for Liberia will provide basic needs, education, counseling, and healthcare at The Bishop Judith A. Craig Children's Village (Advance #11820A).

Individual and church offerings can be sent in the envelope included in the program guide. Make checks payable to "Michigan Conference" noting "AC Offering" in the memo line. Mail to Michigan Conference Center North (1161 E. Clark Rd., Ste 212, DeWitt, MI 48820), or give via PayPal through this link: [michiganumc.org/2021-annual-conference-offering/](https://michiganumc.org/2021-annual-conference-offering/). Offerings received via PayPal cannot be credited toward church giving at this time.

More information: [2021.michiganumc.org](https://2021.michiganumc.org)

**First Time Attendees** are invited to attend an orientation session or watch a curated recording at a later date. The orientation sessions will be hosted by the Board of Laity and held April 24 at 9:00 AM EDT and May 20 at 7:30 PM EDT. The Board of Laity is also pairing up first time attendees with seasoned mentors to answer your questions and guide you through the process. Check “First Time Attendee” or “Willing to serve as MAC Mentor” in the registration form.

**An Orientation to ZOOM** will be available and posted online [2021.michiganumc.org](https://2021.michiganumc.org) after May 1. A live training will be held Monday, May 31 at 7 PM EDT with live Q & A. Use the unique ZOOM link you receive after registering to attend.

**Legislative Committees** will consider and perfect submitted legislation on the evenings of Tuesday, June 1 or Wednesday, June 2. Voting members will receive an email with their Legislative Committee assignment and schedule after registration closes April 15. Legislation will be posted at [2021.michiganumc.org/annual-conference-materials/](https://2021.michiganumc.org/annual-conference-materials/) on April 15 and included in the program book. Perfected legislation will be acted upon in plenary sessions. Using the ZOOM platform, members will have the opportunity to participate fully in the discussion and vote electronically. Please view the ZOOM orientation above to prepare for participating in these committees.

**Clergy Session** will occur on Thursday, June 3 from 12:30 PM EDT to 3:30 PM EDT via ZOOM. The Business of the Annual Conference Report, and a secure ZOOM link will be emailed to registered Clergy and lay members serving the BOM in advance of the session. Using the ZOOM platform, members will have the opportunity to participate fully in the discussion and vote electronically. Please view the ZOOM orientation above to prepare for participating in these committees.

**The Block Schedule is Posted [here](#)** with the outline of the week’s events.

**Voting Members** and those with voice/no vote will register for the ZOOM webinar, then attend the Virtual Annual Conference using a unique personal internet link. If your internet service is spotty, or, if you don’t have internet access, think about where you can connect for the plenary events on a personal device. Contact your local church, or district office for options. Voting members are strongly encouraged to watch the ZOOM

More information: [2021.michiganumc.org](https://2021.michiganumc.org)

Orientation video on [2021.michiganumc.org](https://2021.michiganumc.org) and consider attending the live Q&A training session on Monday, May 31 at 7:00pm.

**ESSENTIAL!** Every voting member must have their own email address. ZOOM allows only one voting participant per email address. Voting will take place online through the ZOOM webinar, which is considered the voting bar. Observers watching via YouTube, the [2021.michiganumc.org](https://2021.michiganumc.org) website, or listening on the ZOOM conference call will not have access to the online voting system. Voting members gathered together must each have registered under their own email address, and individually access the webinar to cast their vote online. There will not be a mail-in ballot this year!

**Observers** can watch annual conference livestreamed on the [2021.michiganumc.org](https://2021.michiganumc.org) site and the conference [YouTube Channel](#). All sessions will be recorded and available on the website for on-demand viewing.

**The Registration Fee** of \$125 covers training sessions, legislative sessions, business and worship over a span of eight days. The registration fee is waived for retired elders, retired deacons, retired associate members and conference equalization members. A registration fee of \$40 is set for clergy with no voice / no vote for materials, training, and access to Clergy Session.

**Who Registers?** Local church lay representatives, Conference Equalization members, and all Clergy should register. All Clergy will attend Clergy Session. Clergy with Voice & Vote, and Voice / No Vote will connect to the Annual Conference through the ZOOM Webinar. The registration will be used to mail the program book, email Legislative Committee assignments, and ZOOM Registration and connection links.

**IMPORTANT! Registration is a 2-step process.** You need to register for Annual Conference **AND** register to receive a unique secure ZOOM Webinar link. Instructions for registering for the ZOOM Webinar will be emailed to those who have registered by April 1st. You will receive confirmation emails for each registration. Additionally, Clergy and Lay BOM members will receive a separate secure link via email to attend the clergy session, as well as the Business of the Annual Conference report. No registration is required to attend clergy session.

More information: [2021.michiganumc.org](https://2021.michiganumc.org)

**Registration Opens on Monday, March 1 at 9:00 AM EDT** and closes Thursday, April 15 at 11:59 PM EDT. You'll find the link to register at [2021.michiganumc.org](https://2021.michiganumc.org). Payments can be received by PayPal or by check (through April 1). All checks need to be received by April 15 to complete your registration. The program book mailing list will be sent to the printer immediately following the close of registration. A late registration fee of \$50 will be added to the cost of registration from April 16 – May 15. We will be unable to mail a program book to late registrants. All materials will be available online to download. Retired Clergy and Conference Equalization members are responsible for their late fee. Cancellation of registration is not available after April 15. Due to the unique webinar structure, no late registrations can be added after May 15. Check with your colleagues, family, friends, and church lay members and make sure they've registered!

### **Who has Voice and Who has Vote at Annual Conference?**

#### Clergy Voice & Vote

- Elders and Deacons in full connection ¶329.2, 334.1, 602.1a
- Provisional Elders and Deacons who have completed their educational requirements ¶327.2, 602.1b
- Associate Members ¶321.1, 602.1c
- Appointed Local Pastors (including those serving with retired status) may vote in plenary on legislative items, but do not vote on matters of ordination, character or conference relations in clergy session ¶316.6, 602.1d. If retired, but serving a local church, register as "Appointed Local Pastor".
- Provisional Elders and Deacons who have not completed their educational requirements may vote in plenary on legislative items, but do not vote on matters of ordination, character or conference relations in clergy session ¶327.2, 602.1b

#### CLERGY Voice and NO Vote (may be present in the bar)

- Affiliate members ¶344.4, 5.2.4.2
- Retired local pastors not serving an appointment who have completed Course of Study or an M.Div. degree ¶321.5

#### Clergy NO Voice and NO Vote

- Ordained ministers or Provisional members from other Annual Conferences or Methodist denominations ¶346.1

More information: [2021.michiganumc.org](https://2021.michiganumc.org)

- Ordained ministers from other Christian Denominations ¶346.2

#### 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

#### Laity Voice and NO Vote (may be present in the bar)

- A representative from each of the affiliate entities 5.2.4.1

##### 10.1 AFFILIATED VIA THE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

- 10.1.1 Bronson Health Group.
- 10.1.2 Clark Retirement Community.
- 10.1.3 Methodist Children's Home Society.
- 10.1.4 United Methodist Community House.
- 10.1.5 United Methodist Retirement Communities, Inc.

##### 10.2 AFFILIATED VIA THE BOARD OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES

- 10.2.1 Adrian College.
- 10.2.2 Albion College.
- 10.2.3 Bay Shore Evangelical Association.
- 10.2.4 Michigan Area Board of Christian Camping.
- 10.2.5 Lake Louise Christian Community.

##### 10.3 AFFILIATED VIA THE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

- 10.3.1 Michigan Area United Methodist Church Historical Society, Inc.

##### 10.4 AFFILIATED VIA THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- 10.4.1 Michigan Area Loan Funds.
- 10.4.2 United Methodist Foundation of Michigan.

#### **Got a question? Contact us!**

For questions regarding registration, lay or clergy status, contact Annual Conference Registrar Sarah Vollmer at [svollmer@michiganumc.org](mailto:svollmer@michiganumc.org)

More information: [2021.michiganumc.org](http://2021.michiganumc.org)

For questions regarding schedule, event segments, or general details contact Conference Events Planner Nancy Arnold at [narnold@michiganumc.org](mailto:narnold@michiganumc.org)

For general questions pertaining to the Commission on the Annual Conference Session, contact Chair Rev. David Eardley at [deardley@stpaulsrochester.org](mailto:deardley@stpaulsrochester.org)

For questions regarding technical and connection requirements, contact Rev. Michael Mayo-Moyle at [mmayomoyle@michiganumc.org](mailto:mmayomoyle@michiganumc.org)