



SINGING THE LORD'S SONG

2021 VIRTUAL MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 1-6, 2021 | 2021.MichiganUMC.org

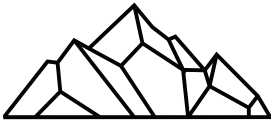
SERVICE OF RECOGNITION, COMMISSIONING, AND ORDINATION

Sunday, June 13, 2021 at 1 PM



Michigan Conference
The United Methodist Church





Greetings in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the peace and power of the Holy Spirit.

As we gather for Annual Conference this year, once again virtually, we continue to traverse a new land and live in a strange time. While we can see the end of the pandemic with increasing vaccinations, we are not there yet, and one thing we have learned is that this is a tenacious virus, ready to take advantage of us when we become complacent about public health. So, we will continue to act to foster public health, promote the common good and care for one another. Thank you for doing this, and thank you for your creativity, ingenuity, and tenacity in finding ways to connect for worship, learning, praying, grieving, and celebrating. Inspired by God's Spirit we continue to reach out in concern and service to the world, feeding, clothing, caring, working for justice, in ways that work to keep people safe and healthy. Inspired by God's Spirit we continue to find new ways to create communities of love and forgiveness, ways that also mitigate the on-going spread of COVID. Inspired by God's Spirit we encourage one another to be vaccinated.

Our theme this year for Annual Conference fits our circumstance: "Singing the Lord's Song." The phrase comes from Psalm 137 where an exilic community asks the poignant question, "How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?" We have found ways to sing the Lord's song, to be in ministry for Jesus Christ in this strange time, in this foreign land. Yet the times keep getting stranger. On the other side of the pandemic we will have to answer questions about how we will be the church in new ways. We will have to deal with the results of the still postponed General Conference and a likely denominational division. We now live in a country where membership in faith communities is less than 50% of the population. We have to navigate deepening divides. For our spiritual well-being, we need to engage in the long work of racial reckoning. How shall we sing the Lord's song? This we know, "we have learned to sing the Lord's song in a foreign land before" (Gil Rendle, Quietly Courageous).

It is my hope and prayer that the work of our Annual Conference will enhance the work of our congregations and ministry settings in making disciples of Jesus Christ so that people can be different and so that the world can be different – more caring, compassionate, kind, loving, and patient in this time of pandemic and beyond, more determined than ever to create Beloved Community. In the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the God's Spirit, may we learn once again how to sing the Lord's song in this very strange time.

David A Bard

Bishop David Bard



ARRIVING AT VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

There are a few steps to attend. Please read carefully

Congratulations, our records indicate you plan to attend as a member to the 2021 Annual Conference!

REGISTRATION REQUIRES ONE ADDITIONAL STEP TO ATTEND

In late April an email was sent to you with a request that you also register in the ZOOM system to receive a meeting link to annual conference. This link provides access to all sessions, June 3-5, 2021. If you completed that ZOOM registration, you received a confirmation email containing a single ZOOM link. If you do not have that confirmation email, please first check your SPAM or junk email folders. If you still do not see a confirmation email, please contact the registrar Sarah Vollmer at svollmer@michiganumc.org.

Clergy registered for annual conference will automatically receive a link to Clergy Session sent via email by Wednesday, June 2. Clergy Session begins on Thursday, June 3 at 12:30PM EST. If you do not receive a confirmation email on/by June 2nd, please first check your SPAM or junk email folders. If you still do not see a confirmation email, please contact the registrar Sarah Vollmer at svollmer@michiganumc.org.

Do not share your link

Your ZOOM link is password protected and allows you to participate and vote. Sharing your link will compromise your ability to attend, vote, and participate in any ZOOM session. Never share your link with other persons.

Those wishing to observe Annual Conference are able to watch live through the conference website 2021.MichiganUMC.org, and on the conference Facebook page: [Facebook.com/MichiganUMC](https://www.facebook.com/MichiganUMC)

To attend by telephone

You can listen to annual conference by telephone. Please note, you can not vote or take other actions on a regular phone. However,

participants using a smartphone can vote and take actions using the ZOOM app. Download the ZOOM app for MAC OS or android phones through your app store.

To listen to annual conference without voting or taking actions, please dial

US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 651 372 8299
or +1 312 626 6799

Enter Webinar ID: 916 4675 0267

International numbers available: <https://michiganumc.zoom.us/j/acYOuDj59l>

GETTING READY

- Please read all of the preparation materials found on the annual conference website 2021. MichiganUMC.org prior to attending virtual annual conference.
- You will need access to a laptop, tablet, or smartphone to participate in the ZOOM sessions.
- You will need one device for each person voting. If you are watching with others, please make sure you each have a device allowing you to vote. One vote, per machine.
- If you plan to access materials on the conference website during ZOOM sessions, we recommend using a second device or an extra screen.
- Make certain you are at a location with stable internet service. Consider traveling to a location with strong service if you have unreliable internet.
- Watch the on demand ZOOM instructional video prior to annual conference on the website 2020.MichiganUMC.org. If you still have questions following the orientation, please attend the live instructional event on Monday, May 31 at 7:00PM. The link to this event can be found at: <https://bit.ly/ac2021zoomtraining>

ZOOM Technical Support please call 517-774-9111
This service is only available during annual conference sessions.

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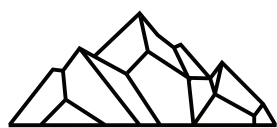
Floor Director Pastor Leslee Fritz measures safety distances between liturgists.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SAFETY INFORMATION

The health and safety of annual conference presenters and crew was the primary focus during production of the 2021 Virtual Annual Conference. Annual Conference was filmed utilizing a strict safety health protocol. Pre-taping and live segments were filmed on a giant, well ventilated sound stage at less than 20% capacity, with remote control cameras. Production included vaccinated participants and musicians, testing, mandatory daily health checks, careful social distancing, and masking except when performing.

The Michigan Annual Conference encourages you to consult and follow guidelines from your local health department and develop a safety protocol that keeps everyone in your community safe from COVID-19.

Everything you need can be found at 2021.MichiganUMC.org



VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

May 31 - June 6, 2021

7:00 PM	MONDAY, MAY 31 LIVE ZOOM TRAINING WITH Q&A
6:00 PM 8:00 PM	TUESDAY, JUNE 1 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES 1 & 2 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES 4 & 7
6:00 PM 8:00 PM	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES 5 & 6 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES 3 & 8
12:30 PM 4:00 PM	THURSDAY, JUNE 3 CLERGY SESSION LAITY EVENT <i>Derrick Scott III Preaching from Campus to City Wesley Foundation, Jacksonville Florida</i>
7:00 PM	OPENING WORSHIP AND MEMORIAL SERVICE <i>Bishop David Bard Preaching, Singing the Lord's Song: Strange Things Happening Every Day</i>
9:00 AM	FRIDAY, JUNE 4 MORNING WORSHIP <i>Pastor Jonathan Mays Preaching from Greensky Hill Indian UMC</i>
9:45 AM	GREETING FROM BISHOP DAVID BARD
10:00 AM	OPEN CONFERENCE <i>Rev. David Eardley, Chair of the Commission on the Annual Conference Session</i> ORIENTATION TO ZOOM <i>Mark Doyal, Director of Communications</i> CONSENT CALENDAR <i>Rev. Joy Barrett, Conference Secretary</i> LIBERIA COVENANT <i>Rev. Jon Reynolds, Chair of the Liberia Ministry Partnership</i> BISHOP SAMUEL J. QUIRE <i>Liberia Conference</i> PENSION AND PENSION-RELATED LEGISLATION <i>Rev. Don Emmert, Director of Benefits and Human Resources</i> EQUITABLE COMPENSATION LEGISLATION JOHN BUXTON AWARD CFA REPORT <i>Rev. Brad Bartelmay, Chair of Council on Finance and Administration</i> CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL <i>Rev. Darryl Totty, Chair</i> ANTI-BIAS/ANTI-RACISM (ABAR) REPORT <i>Pastor April Gutierrez and Rev. B. Kevin Smalls</i> CHILD HUNGER IN MICHIGAN <i>Rev. Paul Perez, Director of Connectional Ministry</i>
12:15 PM	LUNCH BREAK VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL OPEN

1:00 PM	<p>INTENTIONAL, INTERGENERATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH WORSHIP <i>Rev. Dr. Cynthia Wilson, Executive Director, Worship Resources & Director of Liturgical Resources at Discipleship Ministries</i></p>
2:00 PM	<p>NOMINATIONS REPORT <i>Rev. Melissa Claxton</i></p> <p>GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATION REPORT <i>Laura Witkowski and Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai</i></p> <p>LAY LEADER REPORT <i>Annette Erbes, Sharon Appling, Jesse Robbins and Celia Peters</i></p> <p>DEAN OF THE CABINET REPORT <i>Rev. Jerry DeVine</i></p> <p>SETTING OF APPOINTMENTS <i>Bishop David Bard</i></p> <p>CORPORATE SESSION <i>Jim LeBaron, Board of Trustees Chair</i></p> <p>CAMP MINISTRY REPORT <i>Stuart Smith and Rev. David Berkey</i></p> <p>CONSENT CALENDAR/LEGISLATION</p>
4:30 PM	<p>WORSHIP <i>Troy: Korean UMC, Rev. Anna Moon with Devotion</i></p>
5:00 PM	<p>CONCLUDE</p>
	<p>SATURDAY, JUNE 5</p>
9:00 AM	<p>MORNING WORSHIP <i>Rev. Dr. Cynthia Wilson, Homily: No Longer Strangers</i></p>
10:05 AM	<p>LEGISLATION</p>
12:00 PM	<p>HARRY DENMAN EVANGELISM AWARD <i>Rev. Dirk Elliott</i></p> <p>ONE MATTERS AWARD <i>Rev. Gary Step</i></p> <p>HAITI MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP</p>
12:15 PM	<p>LUNCH BREAK VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL OPEN</p>
1:00 PM	<p>CLERGY RECOGNITION <i>Rev. Barry Petrucci, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry</i></p> <p>COMMISSIONING CANDIDATE VIDEOS</p> <p>COURSE OF STUDY GRADUATES</p> <p>WESLEY'S HISTORICAL QUESTIONS <i>Bishop David Bard</i></p> <p>RETIREE REFLECTIONS <i>Rev. Jennie Browne, Director of Clergy Excellence</i></p>
2:00 PM	<p>LEGISLATION</p>
4:00 PM	<p>BUDGET <i>Rev. Brad Bartelmay</i></p> <p>THANKS AND CLOSING OF CONFERENCE <i>Bishop David Bard</i></p> <p>CLOSING WORSHIP <i>Rev. Paul Perez Preaching, Maybe it is Time to Sing a New Song...</i></p>
	<p>SUNDAY, JUNE 6</p> <p>VIRTUAL 5K TO RELIEVE CHILD HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY</p>
1:00 PM	<p>SUNDAY, JUNE 13</p> <p>SERVICE OF RECOGNITION, COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION <i>Bishop David A. Bard Preaching</i></p>

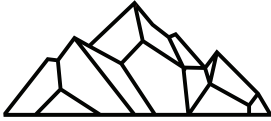


TRAVERSE CITY MISSES YOU!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU IN SPRING OF 2022!

TRAVERSE*city*

TraverseCity.com



PREACHERS AND TEACHERS



DERRICK SCOTT III

Derrick Scott III is the Executive Director and United Methodist Campus Minister for the Campus to City Wesley Foundation in Jacksonville and St. Augustine, FL. He has been leading ministry to college students and young adults for more than 18 years. He is passionate about raising up a new generation of leaders and laborers who will live as disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world. He has an undergraduate degree in history, is a Cicerone Certified Beer Server, and a textbook introvert. He loves eating sushi, flying on Delta, pouring craft beer, nerding out over accounting, talking theology, and taking care of his Chihuahua-mix dog Winston and Bengal cat Julian. Most importantly, he hates mayonnaise.



REV. DR. CYNTHIA A. WILSON

Rev. Dr. Cynthia A. Wilson serves as Executive Director of Worship Resources at our United Methodist Discipleship Ministries agency supervising and guiding staff in the process of developing resources and training events with a primary focus on music, liturgy, and preaching. Dr. Wilson is an ordained deacon under extension ministry appointment in the Great Plains Annual Conference.

Prior to joining the staff of Discipleship Ministries, Dr. Wilson served as Assistant Vice-President of Student Life and Dean of Students at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. At Garrett-Evangelical, she launched the Center for Music and Worship in the Black Church Experience, a one-of-a-kind North American Institute that provides training in the sacred music of the Black Church and beyond for musicians and worship leaders.

A talented vocalist, Dr. Wilson is a Grammy nominee and was noted the "Best Female Vocalist" at the Gospel Choice Awards held in Atlanta, GA (1998). Her recording credits include *New Songs of Zion*, which was nominated for several awards; featured soloist on *Spirituals: Songs from the American Experience* from the "Global Praise Series"; *Prayers from the House*, *Praise from the Heart*; *All That Is Within Me*; *A CHRIST-mas Experience*; and *Simply Cynthia*, featuring the music from the 2000 General Conference of the United Methodist Church, where she served as the first female and first African American Director of Music.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education from Dillard University, a Master of Sacred Music degree from Perkins School of Theology/ SMU, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Liturgical Studies from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.



2021 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. A 10% tithe of the opening worship offering received will go to relieve child hunger and food insecurity in Michigan as recommended by Bishop David Bard.

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.

Child Hunger Relief: Funds will be distributed to all districts in Michigan through agencies that work specifically with child hunger relief. These include Blessings in a Backpack, Weekend Survival Kits, Feeding America West Michigan, Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, and South Michigan Food Bank's summer resourced Meet Up and Eat Up. More information: <https://michiganumc.org/missions/childhungerresources/>

Donate by check: Please make your check payable to "Michigan Conference" noting "AC Offering" in the memo line. Mail your check in the envelope included in the program book, or to: Michigan Conference Center North, 1161 E. Clark Rd., Suite 212, DeWitt, MI 48820

Donate online: Pay with debit or credit card via PayPal. Offerings received via PayPal cannot be credited toward church giving for this event. <https://michiganumc.org/2021-annual-conference-offering/>

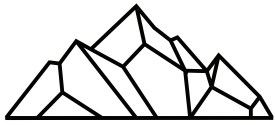
Other Giving Opportunities

5K for Child Hunger and Food Insecurity Relief in Michigan: Walk, Run or Ride and raise money to relieve child hunger and food insecurity in Michigan. Twenty-six percent of children in Michigan are food insecure, so we'll all wear race bib #26! Funds raised through registration, sponsors or donation will be distributed to all districts in Michigan. Sign-up or donate directly here: <https://michiganumc.org/2021virtual5k/>

Donate by check: Please make your check payable to "Michigan Conference" noting "5K/Child Hunger" in the memo line. Mail your check in the envelope included.

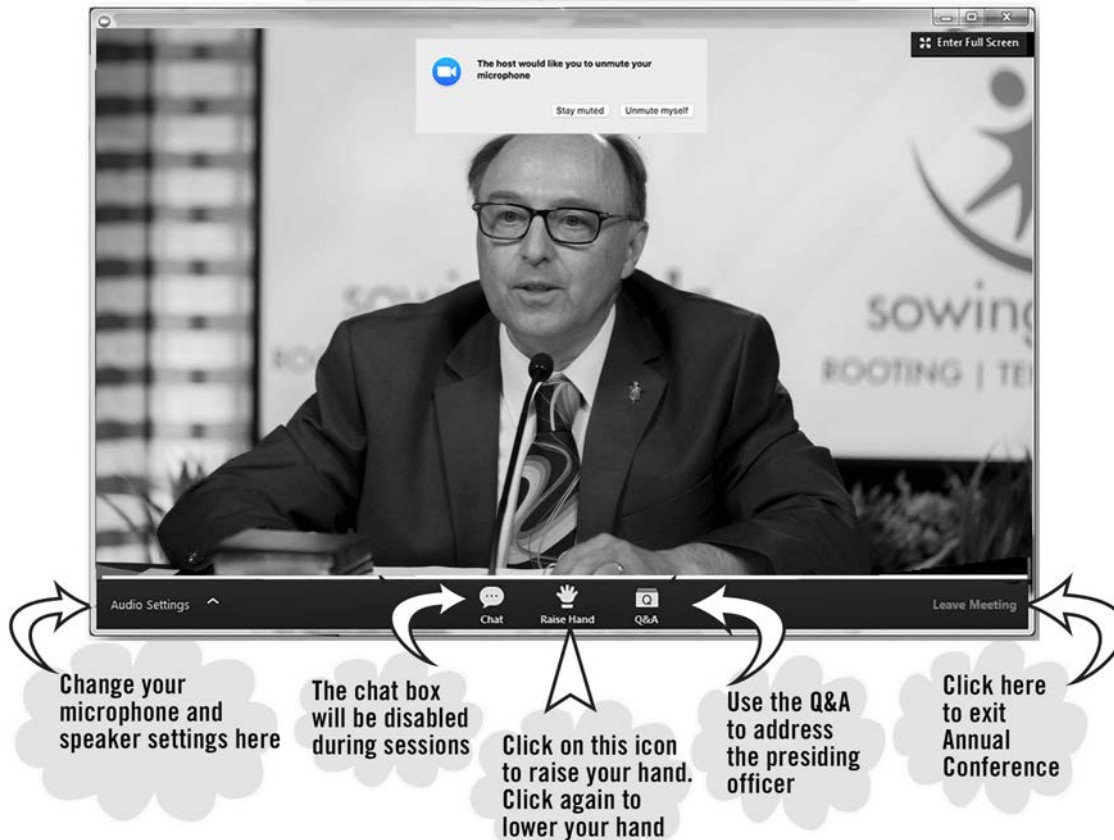
MEF (Ministerial Education Fund): This offering is traditionally received during The Service of Commissioning and Ordination. Funds received assist seminary students with educational expenses. Donate here: <https://michiganumc.org/2021-mef-offering/>

Donate by check: Please make your check payable to "Michigan Conference" noting "MEF" in the memo line. Mail your check in the envelope included in the program book.



ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

If you are recognized to speak by the presiding officer, you will receive a prompt. Please un-mute and speak.



Question & Answer: Open the Q&A window, allowing you to ask questions to the host and panelists. They can either reply back to you via text in the Q&A window or answer your question live.

To address the presiding officer:

1. Type one of the four approved prompts into the Q&A box (see page 10: Four ways to address the presiding officer.) Click **Send**.

Note: Do not select Send Anonymously. You will not be recognized

2. The Q&A is monitored by a team of proctors. If a proctor replies via the Q&A, you will see a reply in the Q&A window. The presiding officer can also answer your question live (out loud). You will see a notification in the Q&A window if the presiding officer plans to do this.

As an attendee (member) you can also like or comment on other member's questions. This helps the presiding officer identify popular questions, especially in a webinar with many attendees.

1. Click the thumbs up icon to like a comment.

Tip: The number beside the icon is the total number of likes the question has received so far.

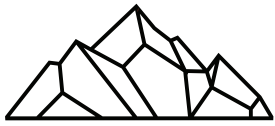
2. Click the red thumbs up icon to unlike a comment.

3. Click **Comment** to write a reply to an existing question.

4. Type your comment and click **Send**.

Your comment will appear beneath the question.

Have a ZOOM question? Call 517-774-9111



FOUR WAYS TO ADDRESS THE PRESIDING OFFICER ONLINE

ASK A QUESTION

Use the Q&A window to type **QUESTION**, followed by your name. When acknowledged by the chair, you will be asked to click the raise hand feature to identify yourself among the participants. After your microphone is turned on please share:

- Name
- Clergy or laity
- The name of your church
- The city where it is located
- Your question

MAKE A SPEECH FOR OR SPEECH AGAINST A MOTION BEFORE THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Use the Q&A window to type **SPEECH FOR** or **SPEECH AGAINST** followed by your name. When acknowledged by the presiding officer, you will be asked to click the raise hand feature to identify yourself among the participants. After your microphone is turned on please share:

- Speech for or speech against
- Name
- Clergy or laity
- The name of your church
- The city where it is located

POINT OF ORDER

Use the Q&A window to type **POINT OF ORDER**, followed by your name. When acknowledged by the presiding officer, you will be asked to click the raise hand feature to identify yourself among the participants. After your microphone is turned on please share:

- Name
- Clergy or laity
- The name of your church
- The city where it is located
- Your point of order

OTHER PARLIAMENTARY REQUEST

Use the Q&A window to type **REQUEST**, followed by your name and the specific nature of your request. When acknowledged by the presiding officer, you will be asked to click the raise hand feature to identify yourself among the participants. After your microphone is turned on please share:

- Name
- Clergy or laity
- The name of your church
- The city where it is located
- State the specific nature of your parliamentary request

RULES OF PROCEDURE STATEMENT FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021



Welcome to this unique 2021 plenary session of the Michigan Annual Conference.

In accordance with ¶603.3 the place of meeting was changed, and in the interest of public health safety, it was made a virtual meeting, allowed by the laws of the state of Michigan.

Our agenda has been prepared in accordance with ¶605.2 by the Commission on the Annual Conference in consultation with the bishop, district superintendents, and conference lay leaders.

While our rules for Annual Conference were written for in-person gatherings, they are adaptable for this virtual meeting and have been so adapted. I am grateful to Todd Price and the Rules Committee for their diligence and attention to detail. All voting at this year's annual conference session will be done electronically and instructions will be provided.

We thank you for your continued participation and patience.

Bishop David A. Bard

Reviewed by Todd Price, Chairperson of the Rules Committee



90+
YEARS

Helping Faithful People Live Generous Lives

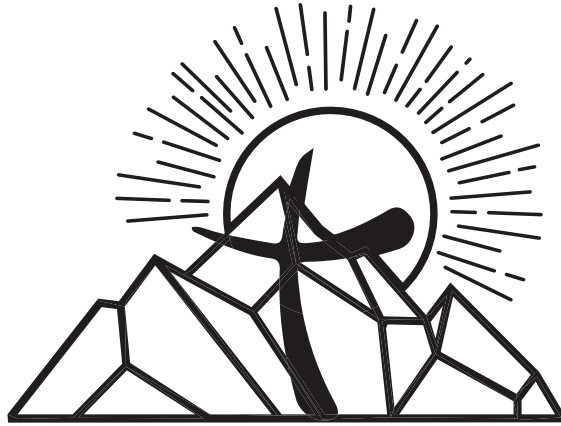
We steward your generosity in ways that change lives in your community, across the Church, and around the world.

- ☑ Estate Gift Planning
- ☑ Donor Advised Funds
- ☑ Stock Gifts
- ☑ Charitable Gift Annuities
- ☑ IRA Charitable Distributions
- ☑ Individual Trust Administration
- ☑ Clergy Tax and Finance Help
- ☑ Loan Fund Investments

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OF MICHIGAN

UMFMichigan.org

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SINGING THE LORD'S SONG

2021 Michigan Annual Conference Voting Items Booklet

ANNUAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

Res. No.	Resolution title	Leg. Cmt.	Pg
R#2021-1	Establish 2022 Past Service Rate	Plenary	15
R#2021-2	Establish the Housing/Rental Allowance for Retired or Clergy on Disability	Plenary	15
R#2021-3	2022 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan	Plenary	16
R#2021-4	Authorize CBOPHB to Address Health Insurance Benefits Claims	Plenary	16
R#2021-5	Conference Policy on Use of Proceeds from Sale & Accumulated Assets of Local Church Properties	LC 7	17
R#2021-6	Vote on Direction of Michigan Conf in Post-separation Church	LC 4	18
R#2021-7	Creation of District Working Group	LC 4	19
R#2021-8	Retiree Group Health Care Plan, DAC Health Care Plan Amendment	LC 8	19
R#2021-9	Recognize Unborn Baby	LC 5	21
R#2021-10	Affirm Bishop's Anti-Bias Anti-Racism Working Group	LC 1	21
R#2021-11	Training and Support for Cross Racial/Cross Cultural Appointments	LC 1	22
R#2021-12	Anti-Bias Anti-Racism Training for Active Clergy, Conference & District Staff	LC 1	23
R#2021-13	Amend Michigan Conference Protection Policy – Online Ministry	LC 8	23
R#2021-14	Inclusiveness of the Michigan Conference	LC 7	24
R#2021-15	Transfer Camping Funds into MAUMC Foundation Account	LC 3	25
R#2021-16	Addition to the Michigan Conference Parsonage Guidelines	LC 2	25
R#2021-17	Let's Overcome Christian Nationalism	LC 6	26
R#2021-18	Covenant of Ministry Partnership with Liberia Annual Conference	LC 2	28
R#2021-19	Conference Guidelines for 2022 Equitable Compensation Support	LC 3	30
R#2021-20	2022 Equitable Compensation Guidelines and Schedule	LC 3	30

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (LC) ASSIGNMENTS

Tuesday, June 1 6pm -- LC1 -- R#2021-10, R#2021-11, R#2021-12

June 1 6pm -- LC2 -- R#2021-16, R#2021-18

June 1 8pm -- LC4 - R#2021-6, R#2021-7

June 1 8pm -- LC7 -- R#2021-5, R#2021-14

Wednesday, June 2 6pm -- LC5 -- R#2021-9

June 2 6pm -- LC6 -- R#2021-17

June 2 8pm -- LC3 -- R#2021-15, R#2021-19, R#2021-20

June 2 8pm -- LC8 -- R#2021-8, R#2021-13

R#2021-1**PLENARY****Establish the 2022 Past Service Rate**

Motion:

Establish the Michigan Conference 2022 Past Service Rate (PSR) for the Ministers' Reserve Pension Fund (Pre-82) at \$890. The surviving spouse benefit rate shall remain at 85 percent.

Rationale:

The PSR of \$890 per year of eligible service provides \$30 increase per year of eligible service for retirees and maintains the required 1.30 ratio relative to the Conference Average Compensation (PSR/CAC) per conference policy.

Reserves invested in the Pre-82 Pension Plan are sufficient to fund the increased rate while maintaining a fully funded account balance/surplus for future liabilities.

Submitted by:

Michigan Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits

Rev. Dr. Steven J. Buck, President

Rev. Donald J. Emmert, Director of Conference Benefits & Human Resources/Interim CFO

R#2021-2**PLENARY****Establish the Housing/Rental allowance for retired clergy
or clergy on medical leave**

Motion:

The Michigan Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits moves to establish the Housing/Rental Allowance for retired or clergy on medical leave status (receiving disability benefits) in the Michigan Conference as follows:

1. An amount equal to 100% of the retirement and disability plan distributions received during the year 2022 is hereby designated as a rental/housing allowance for each retired and disabled ordained, commissioned, or licensed clergyperson of The United Methodist Church who is or was a member of the Michigan Conference at the time of his or her retirement or disability.
2. This rental/housing allowance shall apply to each retired and disabled ordained, commissioned, or licensed clergyperson who has been granted the retired relationship or placed on medical leave by the Michigan Conference and whose name and relationship to the conference is recorded in the Journal of the Michigan Conference or in other appropriate records maintained by the conference.
3. The retirement and disability plan distributions to which this rental/housing allowance applies shall be the retirement and disability plan distributions resulting from all service of such retired and disabled ordained, commissioned, or licensed clergypersons from all employment by any local church, annual conference or institution of The United Methodist Church, or from any other employer who employed the clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry and who elected to sponsor the retirement plan and/or welfare plans of The United Methodist Church for such retired clergyperson's retirement or disability benefits. Retirement distributions include all eligible amounts received from the United Methodist denominational retirement plan administered by Wespeth Benefits & Investments.
4. The amount of the housing/rental allowance that may be excluded is limited to the lesser of: a) The amount designated as the housing/rental allowance, or b) The amount actually expended for housing/rent, or c) The fair rental value of housing as required by law.

Rationale:

The United Methodist Church has and functions through Ministers of the Gospel who are duly ordained or licensed. The practice of The United Methodist Church is to provide a parsonage or housing allowance as a part of the gross compensation for each of its active ordained or licensed ministers. Pensions paid to retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers of the United Methodist Church are considered deferred compensation and are paid to said retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers in consideration of previous active service. The Internal Revenue Service has recognized that the Michigan Conference is the appropriate body to designate a housing/rental allowance for retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers who are members of this conference.

Submitted by:

Michigan Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits

Rev. Dr. Steven J. Buck, President

Rev. Donald J. Emmert, Director of Conference Benefits & Human Resources/Interim CFO

R#2021-3**PLENARY**

2022 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Motion:

Authorize the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (CBOPHB) to review and approve the 2022 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan (CBFP), and subsequent year CBFP plans upon the successful completion and receipt of a favorable "letter of opinion" from Wespath Benefits & Investments.

[NOTE: Due to Wespath's timeline, their review and "letter of opinion" cannot be completed by the conference deadline for submitting resolutions. The 2021 CBFP favorable "letter of opinion" as well as prior year approval letters are recorded and available through the Conference Benefits Department.]

Rationale:

Per 2012 General Conference action, all annual conferences are required to develop, adopt, and implement a comprehensive funding plan encompassing all conference benefit obligations. The funding plan must be submitted to Wespath Benefits & Investments for review. After receiving a favorable, written opinion from the Wespath actuaries, it must be approved annually by the annual conference.

Submitted by:

Michigan Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits

Rev. Dr. Steven J. Buck, President

Rev. Donald J. Emmert, Director of Conference Benefits & Human Resources/Interim CFO

R#2021-4**PLENARY**

Authorization for CBOPHB to address claims

Motion:

Authorize the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (CBOPHB) to negotiate, compromise, submit to arbitration, or retain legal counsel regarding any claims for benefits that may arise under the Michigan Conference Benefits Plans. This includes the current Michigan Conference Group Health Care Plan, the Michigan Conference Lay Employee Retirement and Welfare plans, the United Methodist Clergy Retirement

and Welfare Plans, as well as other plans instituted in the future. The CBOPHB will be considered the final appeal and have final authority to decide any issue in the event of a dispute or disagreement by a participant.

Rationale:

Per The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, the Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits is the responsible entity to administer and ensure the accuracy of conference related benefits, as well as review participant inquiries or discrepancies.

Submitted by:

Michigan Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits

Rev. Dr. Steven J. Buck, President

Rev. Donald J. Emmert, Director of Conference Benefits & Human Resources/Interim CFO

R#2021-5

LC 7

**Conference Policy on Use of Proceeds
from Sale & Accumulated Assets of Local Church Properties**

Motion:

- (A) Following the closure or discontinuance of a local church, whenever the conference Board of Trustees disposes of any real property or other assets, the proceeds from the sale thereof shall be distributed in the following order of priority:
- (1) Outstanding secured loans shall be repaid.
 - (2) Expenses, including but not limited to utility payments, legal fees, closing costs, necessary improvements, maintenance, and upkeep incurred in connection with the asset disposition, shall be reimbursed.
 - (3) Outstanding health insurance and/or pension obligations shall be paid to the conference.
 - (4) Outstanding ministry shares and/or district apportionments for the year in which the church closed shall be paid to the conference and district, respectively.
 - (5) Any identifiable unused grant funds and outstanding unsecured loans shall be returned to the agencies from whence they came.
- (B) Following the aforesaid, any remaining proceeds shall be distributed as follows:
- (1) Fifty percent shall be given to the Council on Finance and Administration, which shall either use the funds for capital expenditures or shall earmark the funds for future capital expenditures (including, but not limited to capital expenditures for new church starts).
 - (2) Fifty percent shall be given to the district and shall be distributed by the district leadership team (or equivalent structure) in accordance with ¶¶ 2549.7 and 212 of the 2016 Book of Discipline (or the equivalent paragraphs in any future applicable Book of Discipline), which set forth the requirements for the use of such funds in urban transitional communities.
- (C) Notwithstanding (B), above, for any church closure or discontinuance in the district containing the City of Detroit, any proceeds remaining after the payments required by (A), above, shall be distributed as follows:
- (1) Fifty percent shall be given to the Council on Finance and Administration, which shall either use the funds for capital expenditures or shall earmark the funds for future capital expenditures (including, but not limited to capital expenditures for new church starts).
 - (2) Ten percent shall be given to the district and shall be distributed by the district leadership team (or equivalent structure) in accordance with ¶¶ 2549.7 and 212 of the 2016 Book of Discipline (or the equivalent paragraphs in any future applicable Book of Discipline), which set forth the requirements for the use of such funds in urban transitional communities.
 - (3) Forty percent shall be distributed to the United Methodist Union of Greater Detroit.

Rationale:

This policy contains only one substantive change from the previous policy.

Closed churches were often many decades old and often served several generations of people throughout the years. Previously, funds distributed to the conference were to be used with priority and emphasis on new church starts. This often meant paying short-term expenses in unstable contexts. Once this money was spent, it was gone forever. The new policy requires the conference to invest its share of the remaining proceeds in capital expenditures. This ensures that proceeds from churches that served generations in the past will be saved and used to serve generations in the future.

Submitted by:

Council on Finance and Administration
Brad Bartelmay, President
Andrew Wayne, Vice President

R#2021-6**LC 4**

Vote on Which Post-separation Church to Join

Motion:

The 2021 Michigan Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church shall take a plenary session vote on the following question:

Because the Michigan Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church can be offered the opportunity to choose a direction for its future under the proposed Protocol, that direction to be either:

- (1) remaining a Conference within the Post Separation United Methodist Church, or
- (2) Becoming a Conference within a new Traditional expression of Methodism whose policies include the 2016 Book of Discipline (as amended through Feb 28, 2019) language on "homosexuality," same gender marriage and LGBTQIA+ ordination.

If agreed to, this vote will be taken without further debate and this item will be scheduled for a vote no later than 2PM on the last full day of the 2021 Annual Conference, to ensure full participation of delegates.

Rationale:

It is expected that the 2022 General Conference will adopt changes in the Book of Discipline which allow for Annual Conferences to amicably depart from the entity "The United Methodist Church" and join a new denomination as described in the new enabling legislation as: The Traditionalist UMC which will maintain the current stance of the Discipline regarding the practice of homosexuality. It will emphasize unity around doctrine, mission, and standards, leaner denominational structure, greater local flexibility, and accountable discipleship. The results of this vote will then allow discernment and decision process to begin concerning future affiliations for individual Churches, individual members and clergy members.

Submitted by:

Robert Hegel,
Mio UMC

R#2021-7**LC 4****Creation of District Working Group**

Motion:

The Michigan Conference shall create a District Working Group.

The working group shall develop a plan and submit legislation to the 2022 Annual Conference to reduce the number of Districts by at least one District effective no later than January 1, 2023.

The membership of the working group shall be comprised of the Bishop, the Director of Connectional Ministries, a Cabinet Representative, a Conference Leadership Council Representative, a Council on Finance and Administration Representative, and two at-large members selected by the Bishop.

The working group shall be amenable to the Conference Leadership Council.

Rationale:

The District Working group will provide a holistic assessment of the Michigan Conference's Districts in response to projected membership decline and departure of congregations in the coming years.

Submitted by:

Conference Leadership Council
Rev. Dr. Darryl Totty, CLC President
Second Grace United Methodist Church, Detroit

Mrs. Katja Falker, CLC Vice President
Grace United Methodist Church, Houghton

R#2021-8**LC 8****Retiree Group Health Care Plan, DAC Health Care Plan Amendment**

Motion:

Insert a new ¶3. Subsequent numbers will be reordered accordingly. New Plan would read as follows:

RETIREE GROUP HEALTH CARE PLAN**Introduction:**

This section describes the provisions and requirements of the Detroit Annual Conference group retiree health care plan. All available benefits are at all times subject to and may be limited, denied, or terminated based on applicable underwriting provisions, contract terms, eligibility rules, and premium payment requirements. All required submissions, underwriting, and payments must be timely made. It is the subscriber's responsibility to understand the specific rules relating to eligibility for coverage in retirement prior to the subscriber's retirement date. Questions may be directed to the Conference Benefits Officer or conveyed in writing to the Board of Pension & Health Benefits. Do not rely on verbal responses to general questions raised in informational meetings or provided by representatives other than the Board of Pension & Health Benefits.

It is crucial that clergy who have served appointments during their career in Extension Ministries or another Annual Conference are knowledgeable regarding years of service credit, coverage, and cost sharing in order to effectively plan for retirement.

Definition of Terms:

1. **Years of Service Credit for Health Benefits in Retirement:** Years of Service in Eligible Detroit Conference Episcopal Appointments used to calculate eligibility and funding levels for health benefits in retirement.
2. **Eligible Detroit Conference Episcopal Appointment:** An Episcopal appointment is defined when the Detroit Annual Conference is the responsible agency for the clergyperson's benefits.
 - a. Some Extension Ministry Appointments will be eligible for credit toward health benefits in retirement. Others will not, depending on the agency responsible for the clergyperson's benefits.
 - b. Appointments to other conferences/agencies while maintaining membership in the Detroit Annual Conference are not eligible for credit toward health benefits in retirement.
 - c. Reciprocal Agreement with West Michigan Conference
 - i. A Detroit Conference clergy member will receive credit toward health benefits in retirement for Eligible Episcopal appointments in the West Michigan Conference.
 - ii. A West Michigan Conference Eligible Episcopal Appointment is defined when the West Michigan Conference is the responsible agency for the clergyperson's benefits.
 - iii. A Detroit Conference clergy member serving a West Michigan Conference appointment must serve a Detroit Conference Eligible Episcopal Appointment and be enrolled in the Detroit Conference Active Group Health Care Plan immediately preceding retirement in order to be eligible for retiree health benefits. (reference: Eligible Subscribers 1.b. below)
3. ***Years of service in another United Methodist Conference will be eligible for Service Credit for Health Benefits if the clergy member has transferred membership to the Michigan Conference, served a minimum of ten continuous years prior to retirement in the Michigan Conference, and participated in the Michigan Conference health care plan during the years of service in Michigan Conference.***
4. **Mandatory Retirement:** Defined as retirement on July 1 after having attained age 72.
5. **Full Retirement:** Defined as retirement at age 65 or with 40 years of service under appointment as an ordained minister or local pastor. The years of service for retirement may or may not be the same years of service used to calculate health benefit credit depending on the type of appointments served.
6. **Early Retirement:** Defined as retirement at age 62 or with 30 years of service under appointment as an ordained minister or local pastor. The years of service for retirement may or may not be the same years of service used to calculate health benefit credit depending on the type of appointments served.
7. **20 Year Rule:** Defined as retirement under age 62 with 20 years of service under appointment as an ordained minister or local pastor. The years of service for retirement may or may not be the same years of service used to calculate health benefit credit depending on the type of appointments served.

Rationale:

1. The United Methodist Church is a connectional body, recognizing the ordination and service across conference lines.
2. The Michigan Conference prides itself on successfully recruiting exceptional clergy from other conferences to serve in Michigan.
3. Bringing in experienced pastors is good for Michigan Conference.
4. Pastors starting their career in another conference then moving to the Michigan Conference for an appointment should not be penalized in their retirement after serving at least ten years in the Michigan Conference.

Submitted by:

Rev. Dirk Elliott, Director of Congregational Vibrancy

R#2021-9

LC 5

Recognize the Unborn Baby**Motion:**

That the Michigan Area Annual Conference recognizes the unborn baby in the womb as a full human person from the moment of conception.

Rationale:

Scripturally and scientifically the unborn baby is fully human from the moment of conception.

Scripturally,

1. Psalm 139:13 tells us that God “knitted me together in my mother’s womb.”
2. In Luke 1, Mary, pregnant with Jesus, met her cousin Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist. Elizabeth told Mary “As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ear, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.” v. 44.

Scientifically, virtually every embryology textbook affirms that conception is the beginning of new life.

1. “In that fraction of a second when the chromosomes form pairs, the sex of the new child will be determined, hereditary characteristics received from each parent will be set, and a new life will have begun.” Human Development: The Span of Life, pp 28-29, (1974).
2. “Although life is a continuous process, fertilization is a critical landmark because, under ordinary circumstances, a new genetically distinct human organism is thereby formed.” Human Embryology and Teratology, (1996).

Finally, prochoice intellectuals and scientists recognize that the unborn baby is a human being.

1. “There is no doubt that from the first moments of its existence an embryo conceived from human sperm and egg is a human being.” Peter Singer, Bioethics Professor, Princeton University in Practical Ethics, third edition, p 73.
2. “Perhaps the most straightforward relation between you and me on the one hand and every human fetus on the other is this: All are living members of the same species, homo sapiens.” David Doonin, PhD, Professor of Philosophy, University of Colorado Boulder, A Defense of Abortion, p 20.

Submitted by:

Mike Cooper and Rebecca Cooper, laity Gaylord First United Methodist Church sadiebuster333@gmail.com

R#2021-10

LC 1

Affirm Bishop's Anti-Bias Anti-Racism Working Group**Motion:**

The Anti-Bias Anti-Racism Working Group moves to affirm and support the following purpose, membership, organization, and amenability:

Purpose: The working group shall provide resourcing, support, and advocacy for local congregations and pastors that are engaged in anti-bias and anti-racism work, dialogue, and study.

Membership: The membership of the current working group will continue. The group was formed with these criteria in mind: The Bishop, in consultation with the Chair of the Conference Division on Religion & Race, the Associate Director for Multi-Cultural Vibrancy, and the Director of Connectional Ministry, appointed members to ensure the group has at least 12 and no more than 16 members. Attention was given to age, gender, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, geographic region, and previous experience with anti-bias and anti-racism work. Ex officio members

are: The Bishop, the Associate Director for Multi-Cultural Vibrancy, and the Director of Connectional Ministry.

Organization: The Working Group has two co-convenors and organizes itself as it sees fit to accomplish its work.

Amenability: The task force is amenable to the Bishop and will offer regular reports to the CLC for consultation and advisement.

Rationale:

The Michigan Conference supports the Bishop's Anti-Bias Anti-Racism Working Group as an expression of its commitment to anti-bias and anti-racism work as essential to our journey with Jesus. It is important to create opportunities for the growing awareness to catalyze transformation of individuals, congregations, and The Michigan Conference. The Anti-Bias Anti-Racism Working will strive to help The Michigan Conference understand the role of bias and racism in our local churches and conference structure, increase our capacity, as well as skills and resources, for some challenging, yet truthful discussions, and create a framework to take actions that address racial equity and justice.

The members of the Working Group are:

Ernestine (Tina) Campbell (*Detroit: Second Grace UMC member and Convener of the Board of Justice's Division on Religion & Race*)

Sang Chun (*Pastor at Atherton/Phoenix United Methodist Churches*)

April Gutierrez (*Adrian: First UMC member*)

Jennifer Hahm (*Lansing: Grace UMC member and Ministerial Assessment Specialist with the Board of Ordained Ministry*)

Robin Lees (*Greensky Hill Indian Mission UMC member*)

Sonya Luna (*Conference Coordinator of Hispanic/Latinx Ministries*)

Marshall Murphy (*pastor of Harper Woods: Redeemer UMC*)

Simmie Proctor (*Committee on African American Ministries co-chair*)

Albert Rush (*pastor of Eastpointe: Emmanuel UMC and Convener of Board of Justice's Division on Church & Society*)

B. Kevin Smalls (*pastor of Southfield: Hope UMC*)

Shonagh Taruza (*Minister of Outreach, Social Justice, and Diversity at Ann Arbor: First UMC*)

Matt Weiler (*pastor of community formation, Kalamazoo: First UMC*)

April Gutierrez and B. Kevin Smalls serve as co-convenors

Submitted by:

April Gutierrez, Adrian: First UMC, Co-Convenor of the Bishop's Anti-Bias Anti Racism Working Group

B. Kevin Smalls, Southfield: Hope UMC, Co-Convenor of the Bishop's Anti-Bias Anti Racism Working Group

R#2021-11

LC 1

Training and Support for Cross Racial/Cross Cultural Appointments

Motion:

The Michigan Conference directs the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Cabinet to collaboratively create and implement training and support for clergy and congregations in Cross Racial/Cross Cultural appointments. In creating and implementing this training, they shall request input from and collaboration with the Bishop's Office, particularly the Bishop's Anti-Bias Anti-Racism Working Group. A report shall be provided to update the 2022 Annual Conference.

Rationale:

An increasing number of cross-racial/cross-cultural appointments are happening in the Michigan Conference. Clergy and congregations in these appointments require and have requested training and support.

Submitted by:

April Gutierrez, Adrian: First UMC, Co-Convenor of the Bishop's Anti-Bias Anti Racism Working Group

B. Kevin Smalls, Southfield: Hope UMC, Co-Convenor of the Bishop's Anti-Bias Anti Racism Working Group

R#2021-12**LC 1****Anti-Bias Anti-Racism Training for Active Clergy, Conference and District Staff****Motion:**

The Michigan Conference will require all active clergy, Conference staff, and District staff to attend anti-bias and anti-racism training at least once every four years. The Board of Ordained Ministry and the Bishop's Anti-Bias Anti-Racism Working Group are invited to develop this training, and in doing so will request collaboration with the Bishop's Office. The first round of training shall begin in 2022 and be completed no later than Dec. 31, 2024. A report shall be provided to update the 2022 Annual Conference.

Rationale:

This training will help to build the capacity of clergy and staff across the Conference to be leaders who address bias and racism. Anti-bias and anti-racism work is a priority for the Conference and essential to our journey with Jesus.

Submitted by:

April Gutierrez, Adrian: First UMC, Co-Convenor of the Bishop's Anti-Bias Anti Racism Working Group

B. Kevin Smalls, Southfield: Hope UMC, Co-Convenor of the Bishop's Anti-Bias Anti Racism Working Group

R#2021-13**LC 8****Amend Michigan Conference Protection Policy—Online Ministry****Motion:**

Amend the Michigan Conference "Policy for the Protection of Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults" by addition of a new sub section D. in Section III: Care Supervision:

D. Online or Virtual Ministry

1. Always have at least two unrelated care providers in the on-line group meeting.
2. Use "ministry based" accounts instead of personal accounts.
 - a. The host must be a ministry leader or trusted background checked adult and should understand the platform they are using, including, but not limited to, knowing when and how to mute both audio and video.
3. Maintain the five-year rule (care providers are at least five years older than the people they are working with).
4. Use group pages – supervisors and parents included (Facebook, WhatsApp, etc.).
5. Transparency is important. Ensure all digital meetings are logged with time, date, and attendance with district/conference administration.
6. Create a regular schedule so parents, youth, and children know when a ministry-based account is being used.

7. Require staff and volunteers to use their real names and have a log of usernames. It is important for people to know who they are talking with. Encourage youth to use their real name as well.
8. When using a virtual breakout room option, at least two care providers must be in each virtual breakout room. If at least two care providers are not available for each virtual breakout room, the use of virtual breakout rooms is not permitted.
9. Create a "Virtual Meeting Covenant" that includes behavioral expectations and consequences for violations.
10. Dress appropriately.
11. Be mindful of surroundings. (You may need to use a backdrop or background).
12. Consider recording the group time (transparency and accountability), if you have written permission from minors and parents.
13. Keep a log of any 1-1 sessions with specifics of time, length, conversation. Make sure to share these with supervisor (as confidentially appropriate) for transparency. This should be done for all digital and in-person 1-1 sessions.
14. Be aware of who has signed media permission and be mindful of what you have permission to share in social media, newsletters, and online.
15. Ensure that the virtual hosts are capable and knowledgeable of online platforms to ensure the safety of the group.
16. Leaders need to be mindful that online church ministry needs to have the same boundaries and language that is used with in-person meetings.

Rationale:

Given the rapidly changing landscape of ministry and the increase in virtual ministry, the protection policy team has deemed it necessary to add a section to the policy to address these needs. This policy addition has been approved by Church Mutual (the Michigan Conference's liability insurance carrier) and by the conference Chancellor. This addition applies only to the Michigan Conference and districts and does not apply to other entities (local churches, cooperative ministry settings, etc.).

Submitted by:

Michigan Conference Protection Policy Team
 Chairperson, Judy Herriff, jherriff@gmail.com, 517-604-1755
 Vice-chairperson, Marguerite Zawislak, mozawislak@gmail.com, 248-524-9323

R#2021-14

LC 7

Inclusiveness of the Michigan Conference

Motion:

Amend the Plan of Organization by addition of a new section §1 as indicated below and renumber the remaining sections and sub-sections accordingly:

§1. Inclusiveness of The Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church

The Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, relationship, ability, national origin, status, or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the Conference. In The Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church, no local church or other organizational unit of the conference shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the conference because of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, relationship, ability, national origin, status, or economic condition. Nor shall any lay or clergy member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, ministry, governance of the conference, local church, or other organizational unit of the conference because of race, color,

gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, relationship, ability, national origin, status, or economic condition.

Rationale:

In light of past actions of General Conferences and uncertainties of future actions, the Michigan Conference seeks to be clear about the full inclusion of all people, especially LBGTQIA+ people, in the life, worship, ministry and governance of the conference.

Submitted by:

Christina A. Wright (617) 875-6955 cwright1223@gmail.com
Mark E. Thompson (269) 591-0731 mark757984@gmail.com
And seven others

R#2021-15

LC 3

Transfer Camping Funds into MAUC Foundation Account

Motion:

The Council on Finance and Administration of the Michigan Annual Conference (MAC) shall transfer 50% of the New Church Start/Camp Refurbishment Fund (#2097) and all of the Camp Refurbishment Available Fund (#2098) to the Methodist Camping General Investment Account of the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan. The full transfer of these funds shall occur by no later than June 30, 2023.

Rationale:

In 2000 the Detroit Annual Conference established a fund with 50% designated to new church starts and 50% designated for "maintenance" of camping properties. The proceeds of this fund which are designated for camping are held in the aforementioned accounts and in the aforementioned proportions in the MAC's general ledger.

In 2015 the Detroit and West Michigan Annual conferences established Michigan Area United Methodist Camping (MAUMC) Inc., but did not act to transfer these designated funds to the new corporation. By this motion, management of these funds will transfer from the Council on Finance and Administration to the United Methodist Foundation which manages these types of assets for MAUMC Inc.

The reason for extending the transfer across a maximum of 24 months is to mitigate the impact of this transfer on the cash flow of the MAC.

Submitted by:

Stuart Smith, Chair
Michigan Area United Methodist Camping

R#2021-16

LC 2

Addition to the Michigan Conference Parsonage Guidelines

Motion:

The following paragraph will be added to Section IV of the current Parsonage Guidelines, after the paragraph currently under "Pastor Leaving."

The Cabinet and Board of Ordained Ministry recommend that outgoing pastors be given at least the last two weeks (including two Sundays) of the appointment off from all pastoral responsibilities. This

time off is not be considered vacation time and can be adapted or negotiated on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the District Superintendent. The purpose of this time off is to help the pastor enter their new appointment rested. It also gives an emotional buffer for the congregation between the outgoing pastor's last Sunday and the incoming pastor's first Sunday.

Rationale:

Establishing this "2 weeks/2 Sundays off for transition" practice as normative for our Conference will create consistency among districts, congregations, and ministry settings. While individual District Superintendents, clergy, and congregations have followed this practice for many years, it has not been uniformly understood or implemented. This addition to the Parsonage Guidelines will grant both authority and flexibility as it is needed. The current Parsonage Guidelines, approved by Annual Conference vote in 2017, can be found here: <https://michiganumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Parsonage-Policy.pdf>.

Submitted by:

Board of Ordained Ministry
Rev. Jennifer Browne, Director of Clergy Excellence
with support from the Michigan Conference Appointive Cabinet

R#2021-17**LC 6**

Let's Overcome Christian Nationalism

Motion:

We, members of the Michigan United Methodist Church Annual Conference, were horrified at the assault on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. We were dismayed by the use of Christian symbols during the violent attack on the Congress. The sight of the cross, the Christian flag, "Jesus Saves" signs, and a "Jesus 2020" flag modeled on the Trump campaign flag – along with the prayers professing a belief in God empowering the insurrectionists onto victory – abused Christianity. We became more aware of the dangerous ideology of Christian nationalism.

Our United Methodist faith compels us to recognize that Christian nationalism fuses Christian and American identities so as to dishonor both the Christian faith and America's constitutional democracy. We understand that Christian nationalism often overlaps white supremacy, patriarchy, heteronormativity, authoritarianism, and militarism. We believe that no religion, including Christianity, should be privileged by government policies. "The United Methodist Church has for many years supported the separation of church and state." (SOCIAL PRINCIPLES)

1. The Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church condemns the use of Christian symbols and prayers by the attackers on the U.S. Congress at the Capitol on January 6, 2021. We invite our clergy and lay leaders to condemn that attack and armed ventures into the Lansing State Capitol, as well as any future attacks.
2. The Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church disavows the lies spread about the 2020 Presidential Election that incited the mob carrying Christian symbols to violently attack Congress while it was certifying the Electoral College votes on January 6, 2021. We assert that the election of President Biden was free, fair, and legal.
3. We call upon our pastors and lay leaders to lead studies of Christian nationalism using resources including www.ChristiansAgainstChristianNationalism.org; "The Capitol Insurrection Was as Christian Nationalist as It Gets," www.nytimes.com/2021/02/28/opinion/christian-nationalists; *Taking America Back for God* by Whitehead and Perry; *The Power Worshipers: Inside the Dangerous Rise of Religious Nationalists* by Katherine Steward; and *White Too Long, The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity* by Robert Long.
4. We invite our clergy and laypeople to join Walter Brueggemann, Tony Campolo, Sister Simone Campbell, Jim Wallis, Jim Winkler, Rich Peacock, Duane Miller, Diana Spitnale Miller, Louise Ott,

Bob Schoenhals, Doug Vernon, Tom Macaulay, and thousands of Christians to sign this statement at www.ChristiansAgainst Christian Nationalism.org, which follows:

“As Christians, our faith teaches us everyone is created in God’s image and commands us to love one another. As Americans, we value our system of government and the good that can be accomplished in our constitutional democracy. **Today, we are concerned about a persistent threat to both our religious communities and our democracy – Christian nationalism.**

Christian nationalism seeks to merge Christian and American identities, distorting both the Christian faith and America’s constitutional democracy. Christian nationalism demands Christianity be privileged by the State and implies that to be a good American one must be Christian. It often overlaps with and provides cover for white supremacy and racial subjugation. **We reject this damaging political ideology** and invite our Christian brothers and sisters to join us in opposing this threat to our faith and to our nation.

As Christians, we are bound to Christ, not by citizenship, but by faith. We believe that:

- People of all faiths and none have the right and responsibility to engage constructively in the public square.
- Patriotism does not require us to minimize our religious convictions.
- One’s religious affiliation, or lack thereof, should be irrelevant to one’s standing in the civic community.
- Government should not prefer one religion over another or religion over nonreligion.
- Religious instruction is best left to our houses of worship, to other religious institutions and families.
- America’s historic commitment to religious pluralism enables faith communities to live in civic harmony with one another without sacrificing our theological convictions.
- Conflating religious authority with political authority is idolatrous and often leads to oppression of minority and other marginalized groups as well as the spiritual impoverishment of religion.
- We must stand up to and speak out against Christian nationalism, especially when it inspires acts of violence and intimidation – including vandalism, bomb threats, arson, hate crimes, and attacks on houses of worship – against religious communities at home and abroad.

Whether we worship at a church, mosque, synagogue, or temple, America has no second-class faiths. All are equal under the U.S. Constitution. As Christians we must speak in one voice condemning Christian nationalism as a distortion of the gospel of Jesus and a threat to American democracy.”

Rationale:

The past cannot be forgotten; therefore, those who attacked Congress and behave as Christian nationalists must be held accountable. Many of Trump’s followers attached a messianic character to his presidency. But we, Michigan United Methodists, do not believe that God ordains politicians.

We confess that we have morally failed - excused ourselves by inattention, tolerance, and cowardice - to minister by naming and calling out the false faith of Christian nationalism. We have avoided applying the commandment against bearing false witness to politicians as described by former President George W. Bush and Senator Mitch McConnell.

“I am appalled by the reckless behavior of some political leaders since the election.” (Bush) “The mob was fed lies. They were provoked by the president and other powerful people and they tried to use fear and violence to stop a specific proceeding of the first branch of the federal government which they did not like.” (McConnell)

“...we know ourselves to be responsible to God for social and political life.” (SOCIAL PRINCIPLES, V. The Political Community) This is a Kairos to proclaim the truth in United Methodist theology and practice sound

patriotism. We believe that only devout reason and tough love can drive out hate. Therefore, we minister to overcome the dangerous ideology of Christian nationalism.

Submitted by:

Rev. Rich Peacock, retired, First United Methodist Church of Troy

R#2021-18

LC 2

Covenant of Ministry Partnership with the Liberia Annual Conference

Motion:

Be it resolved that the Michigan Annual Conference approve the following new *Covenant of Partnership in Ministry* and *Working Understandings* governing our work with the Liberia Annual Conference.

The Covenant

The Liberia Annual Conference and Michigan Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church desire to seek God's will together as we reach out to the world's peoples in both our countries and conferences. Remembering Jesus' words, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul... and with all your mind." This is the greatest commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," (NRSV Mt. 22:37-39), we agree to establish a Partnership in Ministry between our two conferences, and do hereby covenant to:

1. Continue to support each other by our prayers and the sharing of the gifts of the Holy Spirit with our intellect, our physical being and our resources
2. Continue to educate the laity and clergy of both conferences about the faith; ethnic groups, tribes and races; customs; social issues; geography; politics and other aspects of both countries. We shall seek, while learning from each other, to develop connections between individuals, families, communities, and congregations.
3. Continue to seek opportunities for two-way visitations, such as Volunteers in Mission teams and to learn from one another.
4. Continue to find creative ways in which we can support each other through the established channels of The United Methodist Church.
5. Continue to evaluate our Partnership in Ministry relationship at least quadrennially.

This Covenant replaces in its entirety the Covenant Relationship document between the Liberia Annual Conference and the Detroit Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church adopted in 1998.

Working Understandings

1. The Partnership in Ministry between the Liberia Annual Conference and the Michigan Annual Conference is a mutually agreed upon relationship. The boards, agencies, and districts of the two conferences will be involved in its implementation and evaluation. Any change in this covenant requires mutual agreement.
2. The Michigan Conference Board of Global Ministries will represent the Michigan Annual Conference while the Liberia Annual Conference will be represented by its executive committee. Each entity shall designate the persons or groups that will represent it in the administering and evaluation of this covenant.
3. Coordination of all partnership activities within a conference shall be the responsibility of the respective conference. The sister conference may appoint a representative to coordinate the work with those responsible within the conference.
4. Any request for funding or work teams shall be for projects that have been approved by both the Liberia and Michigan Annual Conference leadership.
5. The guiding principle in developing and implementing joint projects shall be "In Mission Together Partnership Covenant" as suggested by the General Board of Global Ministries.
6. All projects shall be socially just and ecologically sustainable.
7. In regards to Volunteers in Mission teams and visitations, efforts shall be made to
 - a. encourage an exchange of work teams, people working side-by-side in both countries.
 - b. see that teams not displace indigenous labor.
 - c. seek opportunities for visitations of persons from both conferences.

- d. have any groups from either of the two conferences be inclusive as applicable with regard to race, tribe, age, sex, financial capability, clergy, laity, and geographical area.
8. Either party may choose to exit the Covenant at any time if the relationship is no longer mutually beneficial.

Addendum

Any changes to the covenant expressed herein, require the mutual consent of the parties.

In the event either party wishes to withdraw from this relationship, a notice is required to be served on the other party to the covenant following consultations between the parties.

And that the Executive Committees of the Liberia Annual Conference and the Liberia Michigan Task Force shall enforce the execution of this covenant.

Approved by the Michigan Annual Conference: _____
Date

For the Michigan Annual Conference: _____
Bishop David A. Bard

Michigan Conference Secretary: _____
Rev. Joy Barrett

Other signatures representing Michigan Conference Board of Global Ministries, Chair of Liberia Partnership in Ministry, etc.

Approved by the Liberia Annual Conference: Feb 22, 2020

Rationale:

This "Covenant" and "Working Understanding" was sent to the Liberia Annual Conference for their approval and signatures.

1. The Detroit Annual Conference has been working with the Liberia Annual Conference for over 20 years.
2. Some churches and individuals of the West Michigan Conference have also been involved in Liberia.
3. The Detroit Annual Conference helped establish the Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village early in our relationship to provide a place of love, care and Christian education for orphans during and following their civil war. Some West Michigan Conference churches have helped provide support and even funded the building of some of the children's cottages.
4. The Detroit Annual Conference has been sending Volunteer in Mission teams to work on many projects to assist in rebuilding churches, schools, hospitals, water wells, etc. in Liberia following the civil war.
5. Medical teams from both conferences have assisted with medical care and birthing.
6. The Detroit Annual Conference has been hosting Liberian Bishops and many leaders as they have come to share their ministry with our churches and many West Michigan congregations welcomed them also.
7. The Detroit Annual Conference has hosted two national Liberia Partner Summits of United Methodist conferences and local churches working in Liberia.
8. In April 2018 we provided leadership working with Bishop Samuel Quire and Liberian United Methodist leaders to develop a five-year ministry and development plan for the Liberia Annual Conference.

Submitted by:

Rev. Jon Reynolds
Chair of the Michigan Conference Liberia Ministry Partnership

R#2021-19**LC 3****Guidelines for Equitable Compensation Support for 2022**

Motion:

The Commission on Equitable Compensation (CEC) moves these Conference Guidelines for Equitable Compensation Support for 2022.

1. Local congregations shall conduct an annual stewardship campaign. Congregations receiving Equitable Compensation support are expected to participate in ongoing stewardship education and planning through programs such as the Stewardship Academy offered through the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan, Roads to Vibrancy, or Local Church Assessment as provided in ¶213 of the United Methodist Book of Discipline.
2. Local congregations considering requesting an Equitable Compensation grant shall first counsel with their District Superintendent (DS). Counsel with the DS is required each year a grant is sought.
3. Local congregations requesting an Equitable Compensation grant shall voucher the travel and business expenses of their pastor according to the guidelines of the Council on Finance and Administration.
4. Local congregations may receive an Equitable Compensation grant for up to four consecutive years, reducing the original grant amount by 25% each year. Equitable Compensation funds shall not be used to fund more than the Conference minimum salary.
5. Local congregations receiving Equitable Compensation grants are encouraged to show progress in full payment of ministry shares.
6. Local congregations anticipating pursuing both capital expenses or capital campaigns and an Equitable Compensation grant shall counsel with their DS before applying to begin or continue seeking a grant from the Commission on Equitable Compensation. Projects which solely address building accessibility will not automatically disqualify an Equitable Compensation grant request.
7. The deadline for grant submission shall be the 25th day of October preceding the year for which the grant is sought. Incomplete grant submissions and grant submissions received after the established due date may be denied. Mid-year grant requests shall be considered at a time mutually agreeable with the Cabinet and the chairperson of the Commission on Equitable Compensation.
8. Exceptions to these guidelines may be considered upon recommendation of the Bishop and the Cabinet.

Submitted by:

Commission on Equitable Compensation
Rev. Don Gotham
Interim Chair

R#2021-20**LC 3****2022 Minimum Salary Schedule**

Motion:

The Commission on Equitable Compensation (CEC) moves the following Minimum Salary Schedule be adopted for 2022 by the Michigan Conference.

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

Churches are strongly urged to compensate clergy whose years of service are beyond this chart's years by considering both years of service as clergy and inflation forces. While electing not to provide clergy with a raise might alleviate pressure on the church budget, it places unfair stress on clergy and is demoralizing.

Years of Service	Local Pastor			Associate Member			Provisional Member			Full Member		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Year 1	\$37,394	\$37,992	\$38,752	*	*	*	\$41,730	\$42,397	\$43,245	***	***	***
Year 2	\$37,768	\$38,372	\$39,140	*	*	*	\$42,145	\$42,819	\$43,677	***	***	***
Year 3	\$38,143	\$38,753	\$39,528	*	*	*	\$42,562	\$43,243	\$44,109	\$44,526	\$45,238	\$46,143
Year 4	\$38,516	\$39,132	\$39,916	*	*	*	\$42,981	\$43,668	\$44,541	\$44,980	\$45,700	\$46,604
Year 5	\$38,891	\$39,514	\$40,304	\$40,646	\$41,296	\$42,122	\$43,397	\$44,091	\$44,973	\$45,431	\$46,158	\$47,065
Year 6	\$39,267	\$39,895	\$40,692	\$41,049	\$41,706	\$42,543	\$43,813	\$44,514	\$45,505	\$45,879	\$46,613	\$47,526
Year 7	\$39,640	\$40,274	\$41,080	\$41,453	\$42,116	\$42,964	\$44,230	\$44,937	\$45,837	\$46,286	\$47,026	\$47,987
Year 8	\$40,014	\$40,654	\$41,468	\$41,861	\$42,531	\$43,385	\$44,648	\$45,362	\$46,269	\$46,779	\$47,528	\$48,448
Year 9	\$40,389	\$41,035	\$41,856	\$42,274	\$42,951	\$43,806	**	**	**	\$47,232	\$47,988	\$48,909
Year 10	\$40,763	\$41,415	\$42,244	\$43,652	\$44,350	\$44,227	**	**	**	\$47,684	\$48,447	\$49,370

Year one of each category was adjusted/increased 2% for CPI/inflation. Years two through ten were increased by an additional 1% of the beginning amount in each category. The adjustment/increase for 2022 is due to the portions of the Consumer Price Index that would more adversely impact those at the entry-level salaries. Please refer to www.bls.gov for the figures.

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

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

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

Submitted by:

Commission on Equitable Compensation

Rev. Don Gotham

Interim Chair



ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORSHIP

"Singing the Lord's Song" is the chosen theme for our time together this year, based on Psalm 137, "How do we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?"

Truly these past 15 months have found us all in a strange land, having to adjust to life in the uncharted land of a global pandemic...figuring out how to be the church in new ways...responding to the racial injustices and the political divide and the abandoned children at our borders...helping our neighbors who struggle financially and the increasing number of children suffering from food insecurity...

How do we sing the Lord's song in ways that enlarge our compassion for one another, that enhance our appreciation of our differences and embrace the amazing diversity of God's design?

As we conference together, may we experience a myriad of ways to sing the Lord's song, no matter what strange land we are navigating.

OPENING WORSHIP: BISHOP DAVID BARD, PREACHING

During Opening Worship, we will celebrate our fellowship as we come together in the strange land of virtual reality. We will acknowledge what has been hard and recognize that we still have a song to sing (even if we can't sing together!) In a sacred time of remembering, we will name those who have died and who now live in the strange yet triumphant land of eternity.

FRIDAY MORNING DEVOTION: REV. JONATHAN MAYS, PREACHING

Our Friday morning devotion finds us worshipping with our friends at Greensky Hill Indian United Methodist Church, near Traverse City. Through the experience of Native American traditions and rituals, we explore many of the challenges facing our country right now. We invite in our hopes for reconciliation as we open the day celebrating God's creation.

FRIDAY EVENING DEVOTION: REV. ANNA MOON, PREACHING

Friday closes with worship led by our Korean brothers and sisters in Troy. How have they experienced a spirit of welcome in this land, especially now? Today the faithful voices of Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese, and English blend together to grace our time together as we worship the God of diversity and hospitality.

SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP: REV. DR. CYNTHIA WILSON, PREACHING

Saturday opens with worship under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Cynthia Wilson, Associate General Secretary at Discipleship Ministries. Dr. Wilson will be teaching us about worship on Friday afternoon, and then bringing that teaching to life as she leads our worship Saturday morning. Her Homily, "No Longer Strangers" will inspire us to think, pray, worship, sing, and speak to this challenging world in new ways.

CLOSING WORSHIP: REV. PAUL PEREZ, PREACHING

Our closing worship is created and designed by young adults from across the conference. Raising the question, "How might we sing a NEW song?" We are invited to experience a kind of Love Feast as we are launched into the world ready to share in that new song. We will be challenged by the message brought to us by Rev. Paul Perez, our new Director of Connectional Ministries.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

THURSDAY OPENING WORSHIP

Preaching: Bishop David Bard

Musicians: Sara Hazen, Christy Miller White, Caleb Williams

Liturgist: Raj Wiener

John Wesley: Rev. Dillon Burns

Worship Leader: Christy Miller White

Worship Participants:

Raj Wiener

Rev. Christy Miller White

Rev. Albert Rush

Rev. John Boley

FRIDAY AM WORSHIP

Preaching: Pastor Jonathan Mays

Musicians:

Pastor Jonathan Mays

Sharon Osterhouse

Matt Koontz

Sarah Sheaffer

Liturgist: Pastor Jonathan Mays

Children's Leader: Sarah Sheaffer

Worship Leader: Sharon Osterhouse

Worship Participants:

Kathy Mays

Laurie Wilson Moore

FRIDAY PM WORSHIP

Praise Team:

Lead vocal & Guitar: Steve Chang

Vocal: Grace Kanzawa-Lee, Yeo Jin Yun

Elec. Guitar: Brian Lee

Bass: Richard Hwang

Synth: Ji-Hyun Yu

Synth: Brian Kim

Drum: Justin Sohn

Opening Prayer: Eugene Paik

Revelation Scripture Readers: (4 children)

Yeji Kim (in Korean)

Isaac Chue (in Cantonese)

Lucas Chue (in Mandarin)

Leo Brocht (in English)

Devotion: Rev. Anna Moon

Benediction: Rev. Eung Yung Kim
(Sr. Pastor at Troy Korean)

SATURDAY AM WORSHIP

Preacher/Teacher: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Wilson

Worship Coordinator: Rev. Brittney Stephan

Accompanist: Monya Logan

Bassist: Ibrahim Jones

Percussionist: Kali Douglas

Pianist: Alvin Waddles

Singer 1 (Soprano): Felicia Patton

Singer 2 (Soprano): Lisa Paik

Singer 3 (Counter Tenor): Anthony Banks

Singer 4 (Alto): Yeo Jin Yun

Singer 5 (Alto): Calebria Webb

Singer 6 (Alto): Rev. Brittney Stephan

Singer 7 (Tenor): Dorian Dillard

Singer 8 (Bass): Denzel Douglas

Liturgist: Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai

Liturgist: Rev. Eric Mulanda

SATURDAY PM WORSHIP

Preaching: Rev. Paul Perez

Musicians:

Ali Belsky

Rev. Carl Gladstone

Liturgist: Rev. Corey Simon

Worship Leader: Rev. Cora Glass

Worship Participants:

Rev. Jenna Waggy

Rev. Kelsey Burns-French

Ms. Audra Hudson

Rev. James Cogman

Rev. Elizabeth Hurd

Rev. Zack Dunlap

Rev. Paul Hahm

Rev. Paul Reissmann IV

Rev. Ruth VanderSande

Worship Design: Rev. Sarah Alexander

Special thanks to Rev. Marsha Woolley for her vision and inspirational worship design through a variety of musical experiences.



CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION AND COMMISSIONING

2020 Candidates for Ordination and Commissioning

DEACON CANDIDATE FOR ORDINATION



Rodney Glenn Gasaway (Janice)

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Livonia: Newburg UMC
Currently Serving: Livonia: Newburg UMC / Chelsea: First UMC

ELDER CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION



Dillon Selby Burns (Jennifer)

Seminary: Perkins Theological Seminary
Home Church: Saline: First UMC
Currently Serving: Manchester UMC



Matthew David Chapman (Abigail)

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Port Huron
Currently Serving: Bay Port UMC / Hayes UMC



Elise Rodgers Low Edwardson (Ryan Low Edwardson)

Seminary: Duke Divinity School
Home Church: Saline: First UMC
Currently Serving: Escanaba Central



Cydney M. Idsinga

Seminary: Asbury Theological Seminary
Home Church: Lakeside United Methodist Church
Currently Serving: Marne UMC



Mary Kathryn Butler-Loring (Mark)

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Grand Rapids: First UMC
Currently Serving: Ann Arbor: Calvary

DEACON CANDIDATE FOR COMMISSIONING**Michelle Marie King**

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Home Church: Farmington: First UMC
Currently Serving: Chelsea: First UMC

ELDER CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONING**Nicolas Rey Berlanga** (Lisa)

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

**Martin Timothy Cobb** (Jessica)

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Portage Prairie UMC
Currently Serving: Farwell / Trinity / Countryside UMCs

**Jessica Mae Davenport** (Torey)

Seminary: Wesley Theological Seminary
Home Church: Hope Church, Bloomington, IL
Currently Serving: Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo

**Eric Max Falker** (Katja)

Seminary: United Theological Seminary
Home Church: Tawas UMC
Currently Serving: St. Ignace UMC

**Susan Elizabeth Hitts** (Randy)

Seminary: United Theological Seminar
Home Church: Alanson UMC
Currently Serving: Harbor Springs UMC

**Suzanne Lee Hutchison** (David)

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

ELDER CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONING (CONTINUED)



Ryan Casey Low Edwardson (Elise Low Edwardson)

Seminary: Duke Divinity School
Home Church: Grace UMC (Spencer, Iowa)
Currently Serving: Escanaba: First UMC



Scott William Marsh (Meagan)

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Home Church: Paw Paw UMC
Currently Serving: Coleman Faith UMC



Kellas D. Penny, III (Leanne)

Seminary: Asbury Theological Seminary
Home Church: First UMC (Ada, Oklahoma)
Currently Serving: Water's Edge UMC



Paul Christopher Reissmann, IV (Ashleigh)

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Home Church: Bangor Simpson UMC
Currently Serving: Wayland UMC



Joyce Lee Vanderlip

Seminary: Perkins School of Theology
Home Church: South Mundy UMC
Currently Serving: Fenton UMC / Linden UMC



Jenaba Rebecca Duymovic Waggy

Seminary: Vanderbilt University
Home Church: Portage Chapel Hill
Currently Serving: Portage Chapel Hill

TRANSFER AS PROVISIONAL ELDER



Vaughn William Thurston-Cox (Hillary)

Seminary: Asbury Theological Seminary
Home Church: Rose Lake
Currently Serving: Lake Odessa: Central UMC

TRANSFERS AS FULL ELDERS**Jonathan Edward Bratt Carle** (Jessica)

Seminary: Vanderbilt Divinity School
Home Church: West End UMC, Nashville, TN
Currently Serving: Ionia First UMC/Lyons-Muir Church

**Eungyong Kim** (OK Soon Lee)

Seminary: Wesley Theological Seminary
Home Church: Troy Korean United Methodist Church
Currently Serving: Troy Korean UMC

**Timothy Lee Kobler**

Seminary: Candler School of Theology
Home Church: Aldersgate UMC, Marion, IL
Currently Serving: Wesley Foundation at the University of Michigan



SINGING THE LORD'S SONG

2021 Candidates for Ordination and Commissioning

ELDER CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION



Robert Paul Blanchard (Keri)

Seminary: Methodist Theological Seminary in Ohio
Home Church: Petersburg UMC
Currently Serving: Lansing: First UMC



Christopher Alan Butson (Cathy)

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Monroe: St. Paul's
Currently Serving: Ypsilanti: Lincoln Community UMC



Tania Jana Dozeman (Ted)

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Home Church: Beechwood Reformed Church
Currently Serving: Holland: First UMC



Sean Kent Kidd (Nicole)

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Pokagon UMC
Currently Serving: Kalamazoo: Westwood UMC



YooJin Kim

Seminary: Boston University of Theology
Home Church: Korean First Central UMC
Currently Serving: Onaway UMC



Tiffany Marie Newsom

Seminary: Wesley Theological Seminary
Home Church: St. Johns: First UMC
Currently Serving: Laingsburg UMC



Linda Jo Stephan

Seminary: Candler School of Theology
Home Church: Traverse Bay UMC
Currently Serving: Williamston UMC

DEACON CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONING**Elisabeth Ann Danielsons**

Seminary: Wesley Theological Seminary
Home Church: First UMC, Hannibal, MO
Currently Serving:

**Shonagh Caroline Taruza**

Seminary: Ashland Theological Seminary
Home Church: Ann Arbor: First UMC
Currently Serving:

ELDER CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONING**Rachael Marie Dunlap (Zachary)**

Seminary: Asbury Theological Seminary
Home Church: Birmingham: First UMC and Berkley: First UMC
Currently Serving: Birmingham: First UMC

**Audrey Mangum**

Seminary: Ecumenical Theological Seminary
Home Church: Detroit: Second Grace UMC
Currently Serving:

**Daniel Dung Nguyen**

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Home Church: Grand Rapids: Vietnamese UMC
Currently Serving: Grand Rapids: Vietnamese

**Stephanie Elaine Norton (Ash Champion Norton)**

Seminary: Asbury Theological Seminary
Home Church: Westwood UMC
Currently Serving: Hartford UMC

TRANSFER AS FULL ELDER**Thomas Leo Hoffmeyer (Lenore)**

Seminary: Asbury Theological Seminary
Home Church: Avon UMC, Avon, IN
Currently Serving: Roscommon: Good Shepherd



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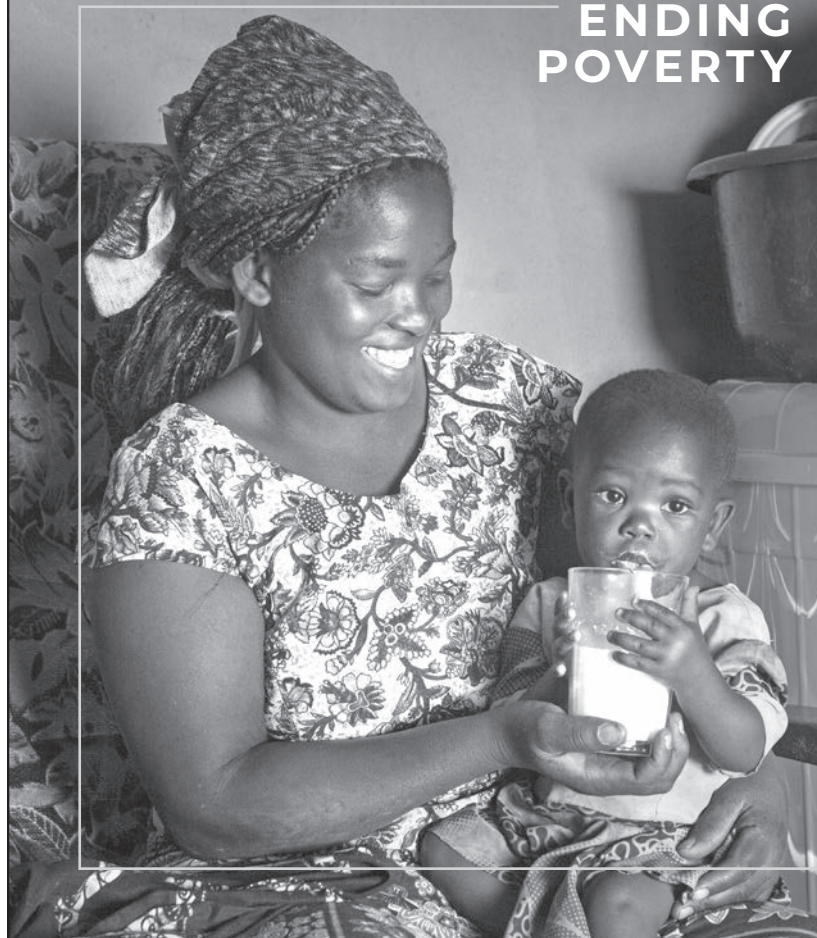
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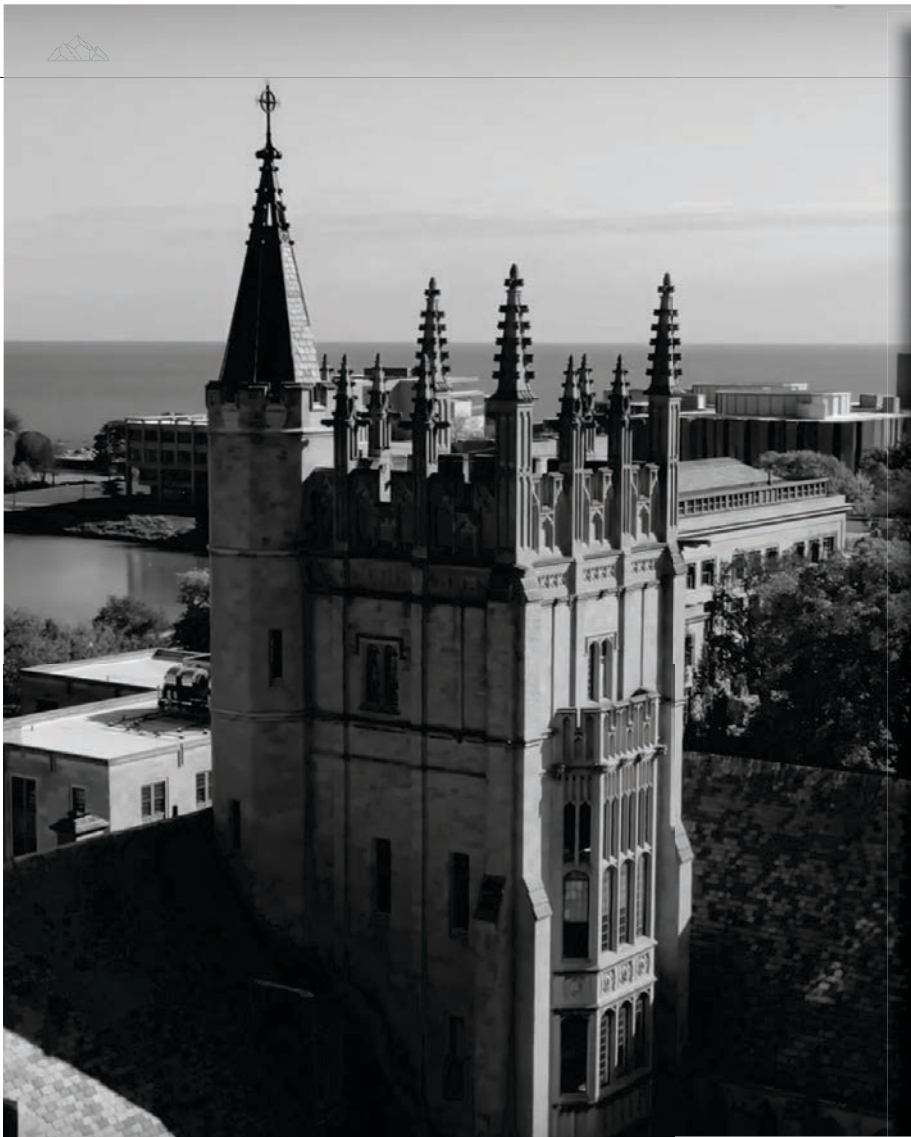
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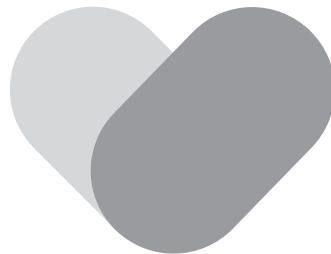
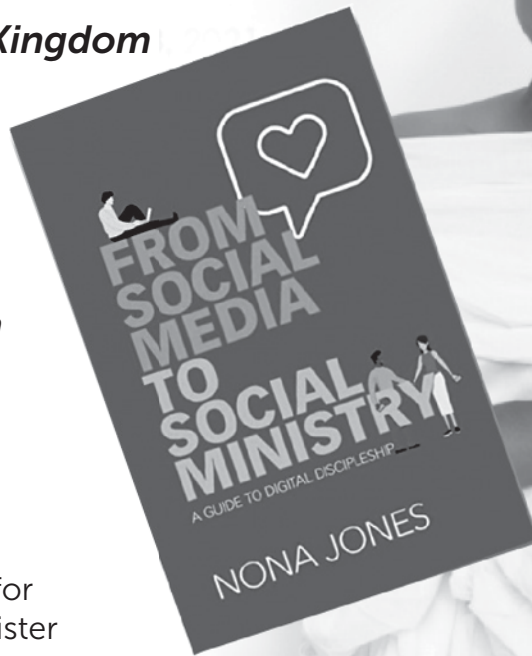
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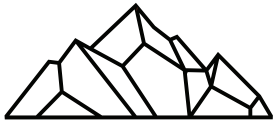
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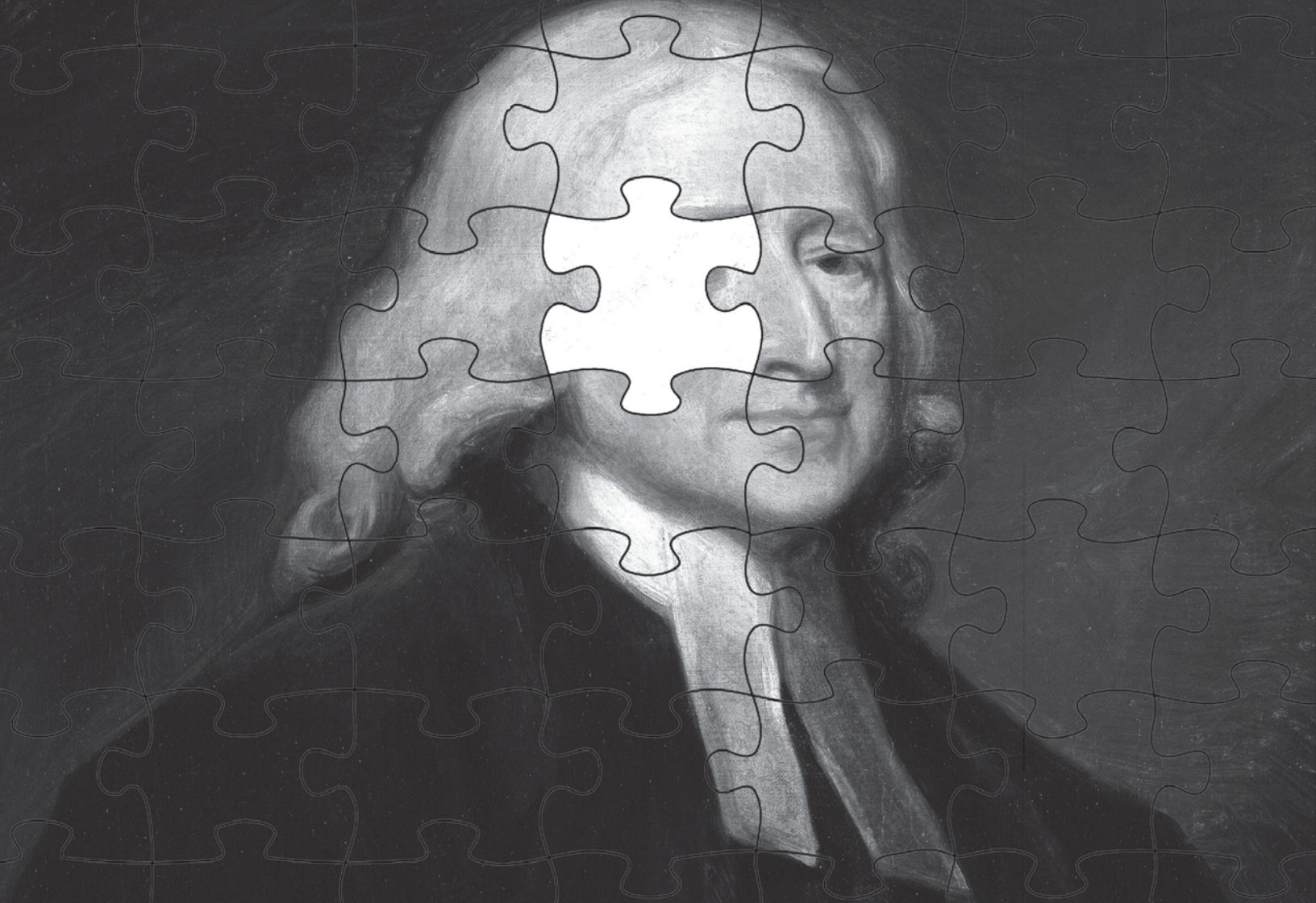


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