



AC 2020

Communication Prior to Registration

Sowing Seeds: Rooting, Tending, Reaping is the theme of the 2020 Annual Conference in Acme, Michigan May 28 – 31, 2020. Vibrant Congregations is the third in the series based on the vision statement of the Michigan Conference.

The focus of the conference is on equipping the local church for vibrant worship, strong lay leadership, and new ministries that engage the community.

Our keynote speaker teacher and preacher is [Rev. Jasmine Smothers](#).



Bishop David Bard, and Rev. Brad Kalajainen will also preach during worship services.

Over a dozen nationally known and local workshop and focus meal presenters will be engaging the attendee with practical application ideas to equip the local church. Presenters include, Sarah Hescheles, Scott Hughes, Rev. Jaye Johnson, Kay Kotan, Rev. Candace Lewis, Mitch Marcello, Jason Moore, Rev. Jasmine Smothers and Cynthia Wilson. Local workshop presenters include Naomi García, Rev. Matt Hook, Rev. Gary Step, and Rev. Kathy Pittenger.

Annual Conference begins with Opening Worship and Memorial Service on Thursday, May 28 at 10 am and concludes after the 2 pm Service of Recognition, Commissioning and Ordination on Sunday, May 31. Conference ends at 5 pm following the Ordination Reception. A block schedule will be posted at 2020.michiganumc.org

How to Get There

We encourage you to carpool to Grand Traverse Resort. The Cherry Loop shuttle buses return this year, with continuous shuttles from the resort to local hotel hubs in Traverse City. The East Line bus returns this year with a discounted price. Pick-up the bus in Southfield, Flint or Saginaw to Grand Traverse Resort, then ride a Cherry Loop shuttle to one of the hotels on the route.

The comfortable passenger coach bus will depart the first location at 8 am and following locations as noted below. Plan to arrive 30 minutes prior to the scheduled departure. **Cost is \$35 per person/round trip.** The bus will stop for lunch (on your own). You can leave your car in a parking lot at each location at your own risk. If you chose to take the shuttle you will need to make reservations for Wednesday night through Saturday night accommodations. The bus departs Grand Traverse Resort Sunday at 5 pm.

East Line

8:00 AM Departure from Southfield @ Hope UMC (26275 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield 48076) →

9:25 AM Departure Flint @ Hope UMC (4467 Beecher Rd, Flint 48532) →

10:25 AM Departure from Saginaw @ Central Bay District Office (3764 Fashion Square Blvd., Saginaw 48603) →

Arrive at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme around 2 PM

Where to Stay

Onsite Lodging Options

Options at the Grand Traverse Resort include Hotel Rooms and Tower Rooms (both attached to meeting spaces), and Condos (connected by a complimentary shuttle service). You will be able to request and pay for a double or single occupancy Hotel room, Tower room, or One-Bedroom Condo on the registration form. If you do not indicate a roommate name for a double occupancy room, one will be assigned to you. If family members are staying with you and are not members of AC, they need to register as a visitor and select a double room.

There are a limited number of rooms and condos at the Grand Traverse Resort, and overflow housing offsite is inevitable. You are highly encouraged to find a roommate to share a double room (2 beds) so fewer members to annual conference need to make a daily commute.

You can lower your cost by having a triple or quadruple occupancy in one of these rooms. Complete your registration online, then contact AC Registrar Sarah Vollmer at svollmer@michiganumc.org to finalize arrangements and room charges. Have your roommates' names ready, as we cannot assign triple and quad roommates.

Two and Three-Bedroom Condos are also available onsite. You will be able to complete your registration online, but you must contact Sarah Vollmer at svollmer@michiganumc.org to finalize arrangements and room charges. Have your roommates' names ready, as we cannot make roommate assignments for the 2 and 3 Bedroom Condos.

The hotel requires a valid credit card per room when you arrive. Shared rooms/roommates must stay the same nights or the full single rate will be applied. Images of condos and rooms can be found at 2020.michiganumc.org. You have the option to extend your stay before or after Annual Conference at the conference rate! These dates include May 25 (Memorial Day), May 26, May 31, June 1 and June 2 (limited spaces post-conference). You can select these dates on the registration form and then pay the hotel directly onsite. Once your registration is processed, you will receive a hotel confirmation email directly from the Resort.

Hotel: 240 Rooms in six-story hotel attached to meeting space | Standard Hotel Room with WiFi | two Full Beds or one King Bed & pull-out sofa | Rates per night include lodging tax: Single: \$125 | Double: \$65 | *Triple: \$45 | *Quad: \$35

Tower: 186 modern rooms attached to meeting space | Improved Lighting and WiFi | Spacious bathrooms | All rooms have a mini fridge | 2 Queen Beds OR 1 King Bed with Twin Murphy Bed | Rates per night Include lodging tax: Single: \$169 | Double: \$85 | *Triple: \$60 | *Quad: \$45

Condo: spacious and quiet | Detached from the meeting space, distances vary | Access to free shuttles, furnished dining area, kitchenette, living room, WiFi | Perfect for those with special dietary needs who need to prepare their own food | Rates per night include lodging tax:

-  1 Bedroom Condo: 1 Bed, 1 Pull-Out sofa | Single: \$179 | Double: \$90 | *Triple: \$60
-  2 Bedroom Condo: 2 Beds, 1 Pull-Out sofa, 2 bathrooms | *Single: \$229 | *Double: \$115 | *Triple: \$80 | *Quad: \$60 | *Five: \$45
-  3 Bedroom Condo: 3 Beds, 1 Pull-Out sofa, 2 bathrooms | *Single: \$285 | *Double: \$145 | *Triple: \$95 | *Quad: \$70 | *Five: \$60 | *Six: \$50 | *Seven: \$40

*Contact Sarah Vollmer at svollmer@michiganumc.org to reserve.

Offsite Lodging Options

Once the Grand Traverse Resort is full, other hotel blocks will open. You can take a free door-to-door shuttle to select area hotels on the Cherry Loop and avoid taking and parking your car! The full list will be posted at 2020.michiganumc.org. You must make your own arrangements and followed stated cancellation policies. Note: Equalization members are required to stay onsite. You are responsible for the cost of offsite lodging and are eligible for reimbursement of up to \$65 per night. Complete a voucher with receipt at the Registration desk.

Two stand-out options have been negotiated on your behalf and make lodging during annual conference very affordable. Reserve a double queen room with a friend and split the cost! The Cherry Loop shuttle will pick you up and drop off at both locations, so no need to find a parking spot at the resort.

-  **Brio Beach Inn** 1465 Munson Ave (US 31), Traverse City, MI 49686 | 231.946.6930 | Rate of \$89 for single or double, extra person \$10, plus 11% sales and lodging tax. Call directly to reserve by May 1, 2020

More information: 2020.michiganumc.org

 **Sleep Inn** 5520 US 31 N, Acme, MI 49690 | 231.938.7000 | Rate of \$79, extra person \$10; plus 11% sales and lodging tax. Breakfast included. Call direct to reserve by May 1, 2020.

Airbnb.com Some condos are still available on this site that are part of the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa complex. These owners are listing them independently and are not part of the rental pool in our contract. Book directly through [Airbnb](#). If they are on the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa property, free shuttle service would be included. Inquire with your host.

Dorm Rooms at Northwestern Michigan College (1701 E Front Street, Traverse City, MI 49686) Configured in Suites Two Rooms Connected by a Bathroom | Two Twin Beds | Mini fridge, microwave, WiFi | Free parking, no shuttle | Linens can be reserved for an additional \$15/person. The linen package includes a bottom fitted sheet, top sheet, blanket, pillow, pillow case, wash cloth and a bath towel | \$55 per night/person + 6% tax (no roommate, shared bathroom) \$35 per night/person + 6% tax (you will have a roommate) \$90 per night + 6% tax (two rooms connected by a bathroom). This option is not available on the AC registration form. [Click here](#) to download the NMC reservation form after March 1.

Camping Options:

[Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park](#)

[Everflowing Waters Campground](#)

Meals

The Commission on the Annual Conference Session has worked very closely with the Grand Traverse Resort's Food & Beverage Manager and Chef to craft delicious menus for our conference.

Special Dietary Needs Grand Traverse Resort has committed to providing complete menus for those with special dietary needs. If you avoid any of the seven main allergens (dairy, egg, tree nuts, peanuts, shellfish, fish, wheat/gluten), you can safely dine from the special allergen-free buffet line. There will be one buffet line outside of the Michigan Ballroom and one in the Tower/Mackinac/Peninsula Room pre-function space.

Please review the [menus](#) during registration and check the special dietary meal option checkbox to receive this throughout the week. If you have concerns once onsite, please see the Grand Traverse Resort staff.

Meals are served buffet style. Final meal costs include a 20% gratuity for service personnel. Breakfast is \$12 | Lunch is \$15 | Dinner is \$20 | Wednesday Dinner Burger Bar is available for \$18. There are also four onsite restaurants.

Breakfast is considered optional and not included in equalization member registration. Onsite breakfast options are Sweetwater American Bistro, hotel coffee shop, or Hotel and Tower room service. There is no dining hall; Focus Meals and general seating will be in meeting rooms or outdoor venues. Final locations for meals will be posted onsite and in the program book. Focus Meals are open to anyone unless it is noted as 'Invitation Only'.

Focus Meal Schedule

Thursday, May 28

Lunch

-  First Time Attendee Orientation
-  Building Transformational Leadership Teams – with Rev. Jaye Johnson
-  Fellowship of Local Pastors & Associate Members
-  How to Become a Mission Intern Site
-  Memorial Families
-  Retired Clergy

More information: 2020.michiganumc.org

Dinner

-  Board of Global Ministries – updates of Engage projects
-  Committees on African-American, Asian American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native American Ministries
-  Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) / Reconciling Ministries Network

Friday, May 29

Breakfast

-  Northern Skies District Breakfast
-  Northern Waters District Breakfast

Lunch

-  Bishop's Annual Meeting with Clergy in Extension Ministries
-  Board of Justice – Disability Concerns as Congregational Care
-  Liberia Covenant Partnership
-  Multiply Your Church by Discovering Your Contextual Flavor – with Jason Moore
-  Order of Deacons
-  United Methodist Women – Alline Beutler, Site Manager for Traverse City Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON)
-  Wesleyan Covenant Association

Saturday, May 30

Breakfast

-  Haiti Covenant Partners
-  Michigan Clergy Spouse Association

Lunch

-  Do you Need to Revitalize or Multiply Worship? – with Rev. Gary Step
-  Reclaiming the Call to Lay Ministry – with Kay Kotan
-  Asbury Theological Seminary Alumni
-  Boston University School of Theology
-  Duke Divinity School Alumni
-  Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary – with President Lallene Rector
-  Methodist Theological School in Ohio Alumni & Friends
-  United Theological Seminary – with Rev. Brad Kalajainen

Dinner

-  Bishop and Mrs. Bard's Dinner with those to be Ordained and Commissioned
-  Asking Focused Questions Leads to a Sustainable Future – with Naomi García
-  Michigan Conference Lay Servant District Directors Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 31

Breakfast

-  Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) (Invitation Only)

Lunch

-  Explore Calling

Reception

-  Reception for those newly Commissioned and Ordained

Child Care

Grand Traverse Resort has onsite childcare. The Cub House is a licensed childcare center through the State of Michigan. Because these standards meet our protection policy and are conveniently located, we will be utilizing the Cub House. The Michigan Annual Conference is not providing independent care.

Advanced reservations are required, meals are included. For Cub House Reservations, call 231-534-6780 between March 9 and April 30. Health insurance information and immunization records are required.

The Conference will reimburse families up to \$75 per day/per child following conference. A receipt is required for reimbursement. You will find a voucher to complete at the AC Registration/check-in desk. Cub House childcare and reimbursement is provided to allow members of Annual Conference to be present in sessions. The Cub House is not available, and reimbursement does not apply to visitors of AC or non-members.

Pre-Conference Opportunities – Wednesday

Golf Tournament - 4-Person Scramble | Shotgun Start @ 1 pm | \$80 per person

Sign-up for this is not part of the registration system. Contact Rev. Rich Burstall, 989.348.2974, gvnit2god@yahoo.com to register and pay. Proceeds Benefit Campus Ministries of the Michigan Conference. [Click here for flyer.](#)

5k Run / Walk / ElliptiGO | 4 pm Start | \$35 per person

Proceeds will benefit Michigan Disaster Response and Recovery - Sponsored by Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Sign-up for this is not part of the AC registration system - [click here](#) to register.

The 3.1-mile course starts at Jazz Live Field on the grounds of Grand Traverse Resort and loop back to the start area, with portions of the race running on Lautner Road. T-shirts and prizes will be given following the race. You can choose to participate on Wednesday for the big event or complete the walk at some point during Annual Conference.

Workshops:

-  **Into the Deep...Again** [5:30 PM - 6:50 PM] with Speaker Dr. Candace Lewis, DS, Florida Conference
Our congregations have been vibrant before and can be vibrant again! Let's follow Jesus, Into the Deep... Again ... to discover new ways to make disciples of Jesus Christ and transform our communities and the world! LUKE 5:1-11
-  **Advocacy Training** Become a More Effective Advocate for Justice! [6:00 – 9:00 PM]
Learn how to engage values-driven grassroots actions in the most effective way. You will gain skills, strategies - and inspiration - to take collective action for peace with justice in our communities.
This workshop includes interactive activities and group reflection to explore ways to engage with state and federal legislators, local decision-makers and the media to create the news you want to see.
Following the 3-hour workshop, we can continue to use our new knowledge by building local advocacy teams to influence Peace with Justice efforts in our communities. Training is provided by the Friends Committee on National Legislation from Washington D.C. For more information, contact Pam Boyce, pam.boyce@me.com, Northern Waters District, Peace with Justice Ministry Team. [See flyer](#)

Sightseeing Wednesday, May 27 and the evening of Friday, May 29 you will have unscheduled time to take advantage of several opportunities. Traverse City Tourism can help with whatever questions you have and provide a list of options. [Click here](#) for possibilities.

Golf Discounts are available for the three championship courses onsite. **Spa Discounts** are available including 15% off special services such as massage, facial, mani & pedi. See [more information](#) here.

How You Can Help?

Sign up for the following volunteer opportunities through the registration system:

More information: 2020.michiganumc.org

- 📌 **Ushers & Tellers** collate and disseminate materials and assist with the voting process. It's helpful if Tellers are not voting members to conference.
- 📌 **Conference Choir:** This is an opportunity to participate in worship through singing in the choir. Details will be communicated as they are available to those who sign up. Limited to 100 participants.
- 📌 **5K volunteers** needed to sign-in participants track their time at the finish line. 10 volunteers needed from 3:30 - 5:30 pm on Wednesday, May 27.
- 📌 **Grace Patrol:** Do you have a gift of hospitality? Grace Patrol members provide directional help, collect meal tickets, and answer general questions.

Clergy Retirees & Conference Equalization Member Rate

Retired Clergy will have the \$125 cost of registration waved for Annual Conference. You are responsible for all other expenses. The registration fee is automatically deducted in the registration program, so the balance at the end is your responsibility. You may pay immediately with a credit card or mail a check (instructions are given in your registration confirmation).

Conference Equalization Members Those persons who are seated because of their positions of conference leadership or selected by the Board of Laity representing districts shall have their basic expenses paid by the Annual Conference. This makes it possible to invite diverse laypersons a large financial burden. Please "take what you need" but also "use what you take." Equalization members are required to stay at Grand Traverse Resort unless it is sold out, so register early!

Expenses covered for Equalization Members:

- 📌 \$125 Registration
- 📌 Onsite conference lunches and dinners
- 📌 Up to \$65 per night toward housing for up to 4 nights (this covers the cost of a Hotel Double at the Grand Traverse Resort).

Expenses NOT covered for Equalization Members:

- 📌 Travel expenses or bus shuttle
- 📌 Wednesday lunch and dinner, and additional breakfasts
- 📌 Offsite meals or meals at the Grand Traverse Resort restaurants.
- 📌 Housing expenses that exceed \$65 per night (i.e., the additional cost for a Hotel Single or Tower room)

If you select a more expensive room option, Wednesday lunch or dinner, or additional breakfasts, the balance for those expenses will appear at the end of your registration. You are responsible for paying them either immediately with a credit card, or by mailing a check.

When rooms sell out at the Grand Traverse, blocks in local hotels will be made available. You will be responsible for the cost of offsite accommodations, though you will be able to fill out a voucher from the Registration/check-in desk for reimbursement of up to \$65 per night.

More Registration Need-to-Know

Registration ends April 30, 2020 at 11:59 pm. There are no cancellation refunds after April 30.

Online registration reopens on Tuesday, May 26, with a \$50 late fee, not covered for equalization members or retirees. If you miss the deadline, it's best to register on May 26 so your materials are waiting for you at check-in. Meals and workshops are not guaranteed if registering onsite.

See you on May 28th!

More information: 2020.michiganumc.org