



Virtual Michigan AC 2020 July 26 – 28, 2020 Communication Prior to Registration

Sowing Seeds: Rooting, Tending, Reaping is the theme of the 2020 Annual Conference. 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. COVID-19 concerns keep us from gathering together to share in this work. Webinars for equipping the local congregation, whether in-person, or virtual worship, will be presented throughout the year.

Essential business of the Annual Conference will be conducted via ZOOM webinar. You can watch it through the [Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church Facebook Page](#) and livestreamed on the [2020.michiganumc.org site](https://2020.michiganumc.org). Other streaming options may become available.

We'll begin our time together on Sunday, July 26, 7:00 PM EDT with Opening Worship, and a time of memorial. Bishop David A. Bard will be preaching. Although separate, our hearts and spirits will be joined together in this common time of worship and remembrance. A time of offering will be included to benefit our covenant partners in Haiti and Liberia who rely heavily on our support, as well as Michigan Disaster Relief and Recovery. Checks can be including in the voting member's ballot envelope or mailed separately to the conference office. An online offering option has been created to donate via PayPal: <https://michiganumc.org/2020-virtual-annual-conference-offering/> **Offerings received via PayPal cannot be credited toward church giving for this event.**

Essential business of the Annual Conference will be conducted on Monday, July 27 from 9:30 AM EDT to 4:30 PM EDT. Voting members of the Annual Conference will register for the Virtual Annual Conference, receive a legislative guide by mail, and participate in the plenary session via ZOOM webinar. Marking and mailing of ballots should be done following plenary and postmarked between July 28 - August 1, 2020 to be valid.

Clergy Session will occur on Tuesday, July 28 from 9:30 AM EDT to 12:30 PM EDT via ZOOM. The Business of the Annual Conference Report, and a secure ZOOM link will be emailed to registered Clergy and lay members serving the BOM in advance of the session.

In consultation with the candidates for ordination and commissioning, and the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Bishop has postponed the Service of Recognition, Commissioning and Ordination until Annual Conference 2021. Concerns for the health and safety of the traditionally large gathering were paramount in making this decision. Those affirmed at clergy session will be received into full member in 2020 and commissioned or ordained the following year.

Who Registers for Annual Conference?

Voting members of the Annual Conference, those with voice but no vote, and clergy with no voice / no vote should register. The registration will be used to mail the legislative guide and ballot to voting members, as

well as send the ZOOM Registration links. **IMPORTANT! Registration is a 2-step process.** You need to register for Annual Conference AND register for the ZOOM Webinars. Instructions for registering for the Plenary session via ZOOM Webinar will be sent in the mailed Legislative Guide and emailed to registrants. Clergy and Lay BOM members participating in Clergy Session will receive information to register via email and will receive the Business of the Annual Conference report via email.

- Voting members will receive the legislative guide, ballot, offering opportunity and return envelope in the mail. The guide includes ZOOM webinar registration information.
- Registrants with voice / no vote will receive the legislative guide without ballot, offering opportunity, and return envelope in the mail.
- Clergy with no voice / no vote will not receive the legislative in the mail. All information will be posted on the 2020.michiganumc.org website. They will receive a letter and envelope for their church to participate in the opening worship offering and will be emailed ZOOM webinar registration instructions.

Registration closes on Sunday, June 14 at 11:59 pm. There is no late registration nor cancellation as the mailing list will be sent immediately to the printer.

Who has Voice and Who has Vote at Annual Conference?

Clergy Voice & Vote

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

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

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

Clergy NO Voice and NO Vote

- Ordained ministers or Provisional members from other Annual Conferences or Methodist denominations ¶346.1
- Ordained ministers from other Christian Denominations ¶346.2

LAITY Voice and Vote

- Lay members representing a local church or charge ¶602.4
- Equalization Members as determined by the Standing Rules and Board of Laity ¶602.4

More information: 2020.michiganumc.org

- Diaconal ministers, active deaconesses, home missionaries ¶602.2, 602.4

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

- A representative from each of the affiliate entities 5.2.4.1
 - 10.1 AFFILIATED VIA THE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES
 - 10.1.1 Bronson Health Group.
 - 10.1.2 Clark Retirement Community.
 - 10.1.3 Methodist Children’s Home Society.
 - 10.1.4 United Methodist Community House.
 - 10.1.5 United Methodist Retirement Communities, Inc.
 - 10.2 AFFILIATED VIA THE BOARD OF YOUNG PEOPLE’S MINISTRIES
 - 10.2.1 Adrian College.
 - 10.2.2 Albion College.
 - 10.2.3 Bay Shore Evangelical Association.
 - 10.2.4 Michigan Area Board of Christian Camping.
 - 10.2.5 Lake Louise Christian Community.
 - 10.3 AFFILIATED VIA THE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
 - 10.3.1 Michigan Area United Methodist Church Historical Society, Inc.
 - 10.4 AFFILIATED VIA THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
 - 10.4.1 Michigan Area Loan Funds.
 - 10.4.2 United Methodist Foundation of Michigan.

How much is the Registration Fee?

The registration fee is \$45 for the multi-day event. The registration fee is waived for retired elders, deacons, associate members and conference equalization members. The fee is also waived for clergy with no voice / no vote. Costs associated with the virtual event include design, printing, and mailing of the legislative book and production expense.

How do I watch the Virtual Annual Conference?

You can watch it through the [Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church Facebook Page](#), and livestreamed on the [2020.michiganumc.org site](https://2020.michiganumc.org). Other streaming options may become available. Voting members and those with voice / no vote will receive a ZOOM webinar link to connect to Plenary on July 27, 2020. This webinar format has a Q & A function that can be used by those connecting to the webinar. A conference call option will also be provided. The Commission on the Annual Conference Session Leadership team plans to schedule a practice session prior to the actual event. If your internet service is spotty or if you don’t have internet access, think about where you can connect for the events. Contact your local church, or district office for options.

Can we still raise money to support Michigan Disaster Response and Recovery efforts with a 5K event?

Yes! The event is being retooled for a virtual format. Additional information will be released shortly.

Contact us!

For registration questions, email AC Registrar Sarah Vollmer at: svollmer@michiganumc.org

For other questions, email Conference Events Planner Nancy Arnold at: narnold@michiganumc.org

More information: 2020.michiganumc.org