



**sowingseeds**

# 2020 VIRTUAL MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JULY 26-28, 2020



**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.

Last year, directly following my greeting, I wrote: "What a difference a year makes." I could add three exclamation points this year. Months ago, as we began preparing for this year's session of the Michigan Annual Conference, we were anticipating engaging in some challenging work as a follow-up to General Conference 2020. No one imagined that General Conference 2020 would move to 2021 or that we would be meeting for our annual conference virtually due to a pandemic.

Last year I wrote, "we gather in uncertain and anxious times." Again, add three exclamation points. Yet the words shared last year from Gil Rendle still ring true, "we have learned to sing the Lord's song in a foreign land before" (Quietly Courageous).

We are wandering in a new land and living in a strange time. Concern for public health will continue to have an impact on how we gather for the foreseeable future. At the same time, our congregations and our leaders, clergy, and lay, are finding new and creative ways to worship and connect and reach out in ministry. Inspired by God's Spirit we are using ZOOM, Skype, and Go To Meeting to attend worship, learn, grow, pray, grieve, celebrate, and connect. Inspired by God's Spirit, we are continuing 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 are finding new ways to create communities of love and forgiveness that also mitigate the spread of a virus.

Our theme this year for Annual Conference is, "Sowing Seeds: rooting, tending, reaping." Our focus is Congregational Vibrancy. So much of what was planned will not take place or will take place differently. It is our plan to offer workshops on vibrancy in the coming months. There is always more to learn. There are always more ways to grow. Right now, the heart of vibrancy is openness and resilience, openness to new ways of ministering in the name of Jesus Christ, resilience in scattering new seeds of love and grace everywhere, walking, leaping, dancing much as the wild farmer in Mark 4 (with a nod to Acts 3).

Annual Conference is very different this year. I will miss greeting you in person. I will miss singing. I will miss handshakes and hugs. We meet virtually to conduct our necessary business in a way that also cares for public health. The most important work, though, remains 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. May our work together as an Annual Conference enhance the work of each of our ministry settings. In the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of God's Spirit, be open, be vibrant, be resilient. Keep sowing seeds of love and grace, justice and reconciliation, peace, and kindness.

David A Bard

Bishop David Bard



# Virtual Conference Schedule: July 26-28

## **SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020\***

4:00 PM

ZOOM TRAINING

7:00 PM

OPENING WORSHIP AND MEMORIAL SERVICE with Bishop David Bard  
*Watch via ZOOM Webinar, Michigan Conference Facebook Page,  
2020.MichiganUMC.org or by phone 408-638-0968.*

## **MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020\* - PLENARY SESSION**

9:30 AM

OPENING DEVOTION – Brad Kalajainen

10:00 AM

OPEN CONFERENCE – Nichea Ver Veer Guy

ORIENTATION TO ZOOM – Mark Doyal

REPORT ON OTHER LEGISLATION – Bishop Bard

PENSION REPORT AND PENSION RELATED LEGISLATION – Don Emmert  
EQUITABLE COMPENSATION LEGISLATION

BUNDLING PLAN OF ORGANIZATION LEGISLATION – Amy Mayo-Moyle

CFA REPORT – Brad Bartelmay

ELECTION OF THE TREASURER – Brad Bartelmay

NOMINATIONS – Janet Larner

12:30 PM

LUNCH BREAK AND CONNECTIONAL VIDEOS

1:30 PM

LAY LEADERS REPORT – Anne Soles, John Wharton

CORPORATE SESSION – Jim LeBaron

BUDGET – Brad Bartelmay

DEAN OF THE CABINET REPORT – Elizabeth Hill

RECOGNITIONS

4:00 PM

CLOSING WORSHIP

4:30 PM

CONCLUDE

## **TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020\***

9:30 AM

CLERGY SESSION

12:30 PM

CONCLUDE

*\*Please see page 4 for registration and connection details.*



# Table of Contents

- 1** Welcome
- 2** Virtual Conferene Schedule: July 26-28
- 4** Arriving at the Virtual Annual Conference
- 5** 2020 Annual Conference Offering
- 7** Rules of Procedure Statement for Annual Conference 2020
- 8** ZOOM Instructions
- 9** Four Ways to Address the Presiding Officer Online
- 10** Voting Procedure - *Please Read Carefully*
- 11** 2020 Michigan Annual Conference Voting Items Booklet
- 28** Michigan Annual Conference Opening Worship
- 31** 2020 Candidates for Ordination and Commissioning
- 34** Annual Conference Webinar Series
- 35** **2020 BALLOT**

## Worship Music

Hymn of Promise, © 1986 Natalie Sleeth; Hope Publishing Company.

Planting Seeds of Faith and Trust, © 1996 Jane Parker Huber; Westminster/John Knox Press.

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Michigan Conference Office of Clergy Excellence presents

## Spiritual Economics: Money, Values, and Faith

An online webinar series with Rebekah Simon-Peter



How your assumptions and values affect your approach to money and stewardship

Jesus' relationship to money & other biblical models of financial leadership

Financial leadership in a Covid-19 world

**Wednesdays, August 5, 12, 19, 26 • 12:00 – 1:00 PM**  
**More information and register at [bit.ly/UMCLeadershipAcademy](https://bit.ly/UMCLeadershipAcademy)**



# Arriving at Virtual Annual Conference

There are a few steps to attend. Please read carefully

Congratulations, you have already completed the first important step! By completing the Michigan Conference registration form on our 2020.MichiganUMC.org website, we know you plan to participate. Here is how to get connected with the ZOOM Webinar or telephone technology to participate in the online sessions.

**Please Note: You are encouraged to find a place to access the internet to connect via ZOOM. You will be unable to ask questions during the ZOOM session if you connect by phone.** If you plan to connect by phone, you do not need to register via ZOOM. To connect by phone on Sunday or Monday, please contact [svollmer@michiganumc.org](mailto:svollmer@michiganumc.org) for the telephone number.

## 1. To register for ZOOM for Sunday, July 26 and Monday, July 27:

By registering you will receive an online link to attend opening worship on Sunday and business sessions on Monday via ZOOM. You will receive an email confirming access to attend by ZOOM for both days, plus email reminders the day and hour before the sessions. Register by July 24 at [contact svollmer@michiganumc.org](mailto:svollmer@michiganumc.org) for the link.

## 2. To register for ZOOM for Tuesday, July 28 Clergy Session:

Voting members at Clergy Session (pastors and lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry) must register for the secure ZOOM call. Participants must attend this session via ZOOM to vote. You will receive reminder emails the day and hour before the session. Register by July 24 at <https://link.gntv.info/miclergyregister>

Please note, observers can watch Opening Worship and the Business of Annual Conference on [facebook.com/MichiganUMC](https://www.facebook.com/MichiganUMC) and conference website [2020.MichiganUMC.org](https://2020.MichiganUMC.org). You cannot vote through either of these platforms.

## GETTING READY

1. Please read all of these materials before attending virtual annual conference.
2. If you are a voting member of annual conference, make sure you received a ballot (on pages 35-36) and return envelope. If you do not have these items, contact the Annual Conference Registrar Sarah Vollmer at [svollmer@michiganumc.org](mailto:svollmer@michiganumc.org) or 517-347-4030, ext. 4081.
3. Attend one of the two 30-minute online practice sessions. If you are unfamiliar with the ZOOM Webinar system, learn how to ask questions, get tech support, and vote. See the links for the sessions below:
  - Wednesday, July 22 7:00 PM EDT contact [svollmer@michiganumc.org](mailto:svollmer@michiganumc.org) for the link.
  - Sunday, July 26 4:00 PM EDT contact [svollmer@michiganumc.org](mailto:svollmer@michiganumc.org) for the link.

**For ZOOM Technical Support call 478-216-7709**



# 2020 Annual Conference Offering



The majority of the 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 the Michigan Disaster Response and Recovery fund as recommended by Bishop David Bard. This fund allows the Michigan United Methodist Church to initiate response to disasters within the state and to begin mobilizing our response to disasters outside of Michigan.



## HAITI:

Haitian Artisans for Peace (Advance #3020490) will receive 45% of the entire offering to support expectant mothers in HAPI's 'Start Right' program for maternal and newborn health in Haiti, saving lives from pregnancy test through birth.



## 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. In lieu of providing materials to be shipped to these locations, we ask you to consider sending additional funds for immediate relief.

Please make your check payable to "**Michigan Conference**" noting "**AC Offering**" in the memo line. Include the check in your pre-paid ballot envelope.

We can receive your offering via PayPal, through the Michigan Conference Website [bit.ly/AC20offering](https://bit.ly/AC20offering).



**Note: we're unable to credit your church for donations given through the online link at this time.**

# WELCOME,

MICHIGAN AREA  
UNITED METHODIST  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE



WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
SEEING YOU IN SPRING OF 2021!

**TRAVERSE** *city*

[TraverseCity.com](http://TraverseCity.com)

# Rules of Procedure Statement for Annual Conference 2020



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

We were scheduled to meet in Traverse City May 28-31, but in accordance with ¶603.3 the place of meeting was changed, and in the interest of public health, it was made a virtual meeting, allowed by the laws of the State of Michigan. Thank you for your participation and patience.

Our agenda has been prepared in accordance with ¶605.2 by the Commission on the Annual Conference Session in consultation with the bishop, district superintendents, and conference lay leaders. The agenda provides for addressing items necessary for the ongoing functioning of our conference, or that are required by The Book of Discipline, or our conference plan of organization and rules of procedure first, and only addressing other business as time permits. I am deeply grateful that so many persons were willing to withdraw their resolutions in the interest of facilitating our work in meeting virtually.

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. They will be examining our rules and may propose revisions at next year's annual conference so as to more explicitly provide for such virtual meetings as may be needed in emergencies such as this.

While resolutions will be voted on through paper ballots according to the procedure provided in the program booklet mailed by the annual conference, if we need to vote while meeting, clear directions will be given by the presiding officer. The means by which someone may ask for the floor while we are meeting will also be described by the presiding officer.

Bishop David A. Bard

*Reviewed by Todd Price, Chairperson of the Rules Committee*



# ZOOM Instructions

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

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting window with three participants. A notification box in the center reads: "The host would like you to unmute your microphone" with buttons for "Stay muted" and "Unmute myself". Below the video, the Zoom control bar includes "Audio Settings", "Chat", "Raise Hand", "Q&A", and "Leave Meeting".

Callouts from the screenshot:

- Change your microphone and speaker settings here** (points to Audio Settings)
- The chat box will be disabled during sessions** (points to Chat)
- Click on this icon to raise your hand. Click again to lower your hand** (points to Raise Hand)
- Use the Q&A to address the presiding officer** (points to Q&A)
- Click here to exit Annual Conference** (points to Leave Meeting)

**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 9: Four ways to address the presiding officer.) Click Send.
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.

**Have a ZOOM  
question?**

**Call GNTV  
478-216-7709**



# 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



# Voting Procedure - *Please Read Carefully*

To assure that all Members to Annual Conference are able to vote, regardless of access to online technology, the Commission on the Annual Conference Session is implementing a paper ballot voting procedure. While all resolutions will be voted on through the use of a paper ballot, if members need to vote while meeting, clear directions will be provided by the presiding officer.

## **MATERIALS NECESSARY TO VOTE:**

- This Legislative Guide.
- Ballot – see page 35 of this Legislative Guide.
- Pre-paid return mailing envelope. No postage required.

If you are missing materials, please contact the Annual Conference Registrar Sarah Vollmer at [svollmer@michiganumc.org](mailto:svollmer@michiganumc.org) or 517-347-4030, ext. 4081 immediately. Do not use any ballot other than the specific one sent in this guide.

## **PROCEDURE**

1. Read all resolutions in this book.
2. Attend annual conference and listen to presentations on the resolutions.
3. Using a black or blue pen, clearly mark the ballot.
4. The ballot must be returned inside the sealed pre-paid envelope provided. Annual Conference offering can be included in the same envelope.
5. **The envelope must be postmarked and mailed with the United States Postal Service between Tuesday, July 28, 2020 and Saturday, August 1, 2020. Ballots postmarked outside of this time period will be designated as invalid.**
6. Ballots received at the Michigan Conference Center with the correct postmark by August 31, 2020 will be counted.
7. Bishop Bard will report the vote counts by Labor Day weekend.

Questions about voting should be directed to your District Office, or by email to [Secretary@MichiganUMC.org](mailto:Secretary@MichiganUMC.org).



**2020 Michigan  
Annual Conference  
Voting Items Booklet  
REVISED MAY 2020**



## ANNUAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

Res. No.	Resolution title	Leg. Cmt.	Pg
R#2020-1	Authorize CBOPHB to Address Claims	Plenary	3
R#2020-2	Establish Housing/Rental Allowance for Retired or Clergy on Medical Leave	Plenary	3
R#2020-3	2021 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan	Plenary	4
R#2020-4	Establish Past Service Rate	Plenary	5
<del>R#2020-5</del>	<del>Retiree Group Health Care Plan amendment</del>	<i>withdrawn</i>	
<del>R#2020-6</del>	<del>Vote on Which Post-separation Church to Join</del>	<i>withdrawn</i>	
<del>R#2020-7</del>	<del>Keep Any Exit Gracious</del>	<i>withdrawn</i>	
<del>R#2020-8</del>	<del>Amend Conference Plan of Organization – new paragraph re Inclusiveness</del>	<i>withdrawn</i>	
R#2020-9	Amend Conference Plan of Organization – Conference Leadership Council Membership	Plenary	5
R#2020-10	Amend Conference Plan of Organization – Council on Finance and Administration Membership	Plenary	6
R#2020-11	Amend Conference Plan of Organization – Board of Trustees Membership	Plenary	6
<del>R#2020-12</del>	<del>Creation of Michigan Conference Affiliations Task Force</del>	<i>withdrawn</i>	
<del>R#2020-13</del>	<del>Create Conference Committee on LBGTQIA+ Ministry</del>	<i>withdrawn</i>	
<del>R#2020-14</del>	<del>Create Conference Worship Supplemental Task Force</del>	<i>withdrawn</i>	
<del>R#2020-15</del>	<del>Create Conference Anti-racism Task Force</del>	<i>withdrawn</i>	
<del>R#2020-16</del>	<del>LBGTQIA+ Ministries Conference-wide Special Offering</del>	<i>withdrawn</i>	
<del>R#2020-17</del>	<del>Readers to Leaders Conference-wide Fundraising Appeal</del>	<i>withdrawn</i>	
<del>R#2020-18</del>	<del>Covenant of Ministry Partnership with Liberia Annual Conference</del>	<i>withdrawn</i>	
<del>R#2020-19</del>	<del>Conference Policy on Use of Proceeds from Sale &amp; Accumulated Assets of Local Church Property</del>	<i>withdrawn</i>	
<del>R#2020-20</del>	<del>Michigan UMC Gun Free Zones</del>	<i>withdrawn</i>	
<del>R#2020-21</del>	<del>Questions for Candidates for Federal Offices</del>	<i>withdrawn</i>	
<del>R#2020-22</del>	<del>Recognize Unborn Baby</del>	<i>withdrawn</i>	
R#2020-23	2021 Equitable Compensation Guidelines and Schedule	Plenary	7

**PLEASE NOTE:** In light of the 2020 Annual Conference session moving to a condensed, virtual conference meeting, 15 of the previously published resolutions have been withdrawn by the presenters.

See page 19 for information about the **Corporate Session**.

1 **R#2020-1**

PLENARY

**Authorization for CBOPHB to Address Claims**

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**Motion:**

2  
3  
4  
5 Authorize The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (CBOPHB) to negotiate, compromise, or  
6 submit to arbitration any claims for benefits that may arise under the Michigan Conference Health Care Plan,  
7 the Michigan Conference Lay Employee Welfare Plan (death and disability), the United Methodist Retirement  
8 Plans (Pre-82, Ministerial Pension Plan, Clergy Retirement Security Program, United Methodist Personal  
9 Investment Plan), the United Methodist Clergy Welfare Plan (Comprehensive Protection Plan); and for that  
10 purpose to retain legal counsel as needed. The CBOPHB will be considered the final appeal and have final  
11 authority to decide any issue in the event of a dispute or disagreement by a participant.  
12

**Rationale:**

13  
14 Per The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, the Conference Board of Pension & Health  
15 Benefits is the responsible entity to administer and ensure the accuracy of conference related benefits, as  
16 well as review participant inquiries or discrepancies.  
17

**Submitted by:**

18 Michigan Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits  
19 Rev. Dr. Steven J. Buck, President  
20 Rev. Donald J. Emmert, Director of Conference Benefits & Human Resources  
21  
22  
23  
24  
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26  
27

28 **R#2020-2**

PLENARY

**Establish the Housing/Rental Allowance for Retired Clergy  
or Clergy on Medical Leave**

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**Motion:**

29  
30  
31  
32 The Michigan Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits moves to establish the Housing/Rental  
33 Allowance for retired or clergy on medical leave status (receiving disability benefits) in the Michigan  
34 Conference as follows:  
35

- 36 1) An amount equal to 100% of the pension/disability payments received during the year 2021 is hereby  
37 designated as a rental/housing allowance for each retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister  
38 of The United Methodist Church who is or was a member of the Michigan Conference at the time of  
39 his or her retirement or disability;
- 40 2) This rental/housing allowance shall apply to each retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister  
41 who has been granted the retired relationship or placed on medical leave by the Michigan Conference  
42 and whose name and relationship to the conference is recorded in the Journal of the Michigan  
43 Conference or in other appropriate records maintained by the conference;
- 44 3) The pension/disability payment to which this rental/housing allowance applies shall be the  
45 pension/disability payment resulting from all service of such retired and disabled ordained or licensed  
46 ministers from all employment by any local church, annual conference or institution of The United  
47 Methodist Church, or from any other employer who employed the minister to perform services related  
48 to the ministry and who elected to make contributions to the pension and welfare funds of The United  
49 Methodist Church for such retired minister's pension or disability benefits;
- 50 4) The amount of the housing/rental allowance that may be excluded is limited to the lesser of: a) the  
51 amount designated as the housing/rental allowance, or b) the amount actually expended for  
52 housing/rent, or c) the fair rental value of housing, if required by law.  
53  
54

**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

**R#2020-3****PLENARY****2021 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan**

---

**Motion:**

The Michigan Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits moves to authorize the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits to review and approve the 2021 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan (CBFP) upon successful completion of the CBFP 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 "letter of opinion" will be available online and in the final printed materials once it is received from Wespath.]*

**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

1 **R#2020-4**

PLENARY

**Establish Past Service Rate**

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**Motion:**

The Michigan Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits moves to establish the 2021 Past Service Rate (PSR) for the Ministers' Reserve Pension Fund (Pre-82) at \$860. The surviving spouse benefit shall remain at 85 percent.

**Rationale:**

The PSR of \$860 per year of eligible service provides a 2% pension increase for retirees and maintains a 1.29 ratio relative to the Conference Average Compensation (PSR/CAC) as 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

26 **R#2020-9**

PLENARY

**Amend Conference Plan of Organization –  
Conference Leadership Council Membership**

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**Motion:**

Amend the Plan of Organization of the Michigan Conference, Section 2.1.3.2, "Conference Leadership Council Membership, Ex officio with voice and vote" by adding:

- 2.1.3.2.5 Chair of the Conference Board of Trustees or their designee
- 2.1.3.2.6 Chair of the Conference Human Resources Committee or their designee
- 2.1.3.2.7 Chair of the Conference Board of Pension and Benefits or their designee

**Rationale:**

This concept was initially considered by the Design Team. It has become apparent that without these three entities being consistently able to contribute to and participate in Conference Leadership Council decisions, important elements of legal, property, pension, benefits and personnel matters are inadequately connected to the overall strategy and alignment of resources of the conference. The Board of Ordained Ministry and the Council on Finance and Administration are already present on the CLC. This places all administrative and program leadership around a common table.

**Submitted by:**

Rev. Amy Mayo-Moyle,  
Chairperson of the Conference Leadership Council.  
(517) 918-2215 amayomoyle@yahoo.com

1 **R#2020-10**

**PLENARY**

2 **Amend Conference Plan of Organization –**  
3 **Council on Finance and Administration Membership**

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4  
5 **Motion:**

6 Amend the Plan of Organization of the Michigan Conference, Section 4.1.3.3, “Council on Finance and  
7 Administration, Membership, Ex officio with voice only”, by adding:  
8 4.1.3.3.8 Chair of the Board of Trustees or their designee  
9

10 **Rationale:**

11 It has become apparent that without these two entities (Trustees & CFA) being consistently able to contribute  
12 to and participate in various intersecting decisions, important elements of legal, financial and property  
13 matters, are inadequately connected to the overall strategy and alignment of resources of the conference.  
14

15 **Submitted by:**

16 Rev. Brad Bartelmay, President of the Council on Finance and Administration,  
17 (269) 266-2221; bradbartelmay@gmail.com  
18  
19  
20  
21  
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25 **R#2020-11**

**PLENARY**

26 **Amend Conference Plan of Organization – Board of Trustees Membership**

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27  
28 **Motion:**

29 Amend the Plan of Organization of the Michigan Conference, Section 4.4.3.3, “Board of Trustees,  
30 Membership, Ex officio with voice, but not vote,” by adding:  
31 4.4.3.3.3 President of the Council on Finance and Administration, or their designee  
32

33 **Rationale:**

34 It has become apparent that without these two entities (Trustees & CFA) being consistently able to contribute  
35 to and participate in various intersecting decisions, important elements of legal, financial and property  
36 matters, are inadequately connected to the overall strategy and alignment of resources of the conference.  
37

38 **Submitted by:**

39 Jim LeBaron  
40 Chairperson of the Conference Board of Trustees  
41 (517) 290-2274, jlebaronllc@aol.com  
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1 **R#2020-23**

PLENARY

**Guidelines for Equitable Compensation Support**

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**Motion:**

The Commission on Equitable Compensation moves the Conference Guidelines for Equitable Compensation Support for 2021.

- 7 1. Local congregations shall conduct an annual stewardship campaign. Congregations receiving  
8 Equitable Compensation support are expected to participate in ongoing stewardship education and  
9 planning through programs such as the Stewardship Academy offered through the United Methodist  
10 Foundation of Michigan, the Vital Church Initiative (VCI) or a Paragraph 213 Review as provided in  
11 ¶213 of the United Methodist Book of Discipline.
- 12 2. Local congregations receiving Equitable Compensation grants shall annually counsel with the District  
13 Superintendent (DS) concerning levels of pastoral support. Completed applications are to be  
14 submitted to the DS for approval.
- 15 3. Local congregations requesting equitable compensation support shall voucher pastors' travel and  
16 business expenses according to the guidelines of the Council on Finance and Administration.
- 17 4. Local congregations may receive Equitable Compensation support for up to four consecutive years,  
18 reducing the original grant amount by 25% each year. Equitable Compensation funds shall not be  
19 used to fund more than the Conference minimum salary.
- 20 5. Congregations receiving Equitable Compensation are encouraged to show progress in full payment of  
21 ministry shares.
- 22 6. Churches receiving or applying for Equitable Compensation that have planned or are planning to  
23 enter into building or remodeling projects that require permission of the District Board of Church  
24 Location and Building, or which exceed 10% of the total annual budget of the local congregation, shall  
25 not proceed with proposed projects and/or related capital campaigns until such time as a plan for  
26 ending Equitable Compensation support has been presented and approved by the Commission on  
27 Equitable Compensation and the district superintendent. Exceptions to this guideline shall be given  
28 greater consideration when proposed projects are related to building accessibility.
- 29 7. Exceptions to these guidelines may be considered upon recommendation of the Bishop and the  
30 Cabinet.  
31



1 **Submitted by:**  
 2 Michigan Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation  
 3 Nancy Patera, Chair  
 4

5  
 6

7 **Corporate Session**

8 “The agenda and action items for the Corporate Session of the Michigan Conference will be posted  
 9 on the Conference website by 5 pm Friday, July 25, 2020”

- 10 i. One list will be the Closures  
 11 ii. One list will be the Withdrawal Agreements and the necessary descriptions of  
 12 the terms and conditions of those actions.  
 13

**Michigan Conference (160)  
 2020 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan**

Conference Benefit Officer (or equivalent)	Donald Emmert	12/19/2019
Conference Treasurer	David Dobbs	12/19/2019
Conference Board of Pension Chair	Steven Buck	12/26/2019
Council on Finance and Administration Chair		



Opinion on **Michigan Conference 2020** Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

The funding plan meets the standards for a Pre-82 funding plan as established by Wespath Benefits and Investments and the favorable opinion requirements for a funding plan. Note: The statement above and any written opinion provided by Wespath do not imply any representation as to the ability or probability of the applicable plan sponsor to fulfill the obligations included in the funding plan.

*Wespath Benefits and Investments*

Wespath Benefits and Investments  
 1901 W Chestnut Ave  
 Glenview, IL 60025

**SUBJECT: Michigan Conference Budget Recommendation for 2021**

**MOTION: The Council on Finance & Administration recommends the following:**

1. The amount of \$12,617,521 shall be the Conference budget for 2021 which is a decrease of 14.17% from prior year.
2. The amount of \$3,720,000 shall be the Benefits budget for 2021 which is the same as the prior year.
3. The salary of District Superintendents and Directors shall be \$87,394, which is a 0% increase, and the housing allowance will remain at \$20,000.
4. There will be no increase in Support Staff wages for 2021.

2021 Michigan Conference Budget

	2019 - Michigan Budget	2020 - Michigan Budget	2021 - Michigan Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	% Change to 2020
<b><u>A) Clergy Support Budget</u></b>					
1) District Superintendents	\$ 2,102,743	\$ 2,126,446	\$ 2,140,803	14,357	0.68%
2) Episcopal Fund	\$ 562,632	\$ 568,025	\$ 626,855	58,830	10.36%
3) Ministerial Education Fund	\$ 641,692	\$ 647,843	\$ 488,952	(158,891)	(24.53%)
4) Episcopal Residence Committee	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	-	0.00%
5) Equitable Compensation Committee	\$ 125,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 150,000	30,000	25.00%
6) Clergy Advocacy	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	(2,000)	(100.00%)
7) Abuse Prevention Team	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,500	\$ -	(10,500)	(100.00%)
8) Clergy Moving Expense Fund	\$ 350,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ -	0.00%
Sub-total Clergy Support Budget	\$ 3,802,067	\$ 3,782,314	\$ 3,714,110	(68,204)	(1.80%)
Provision for Unpaid Ministry Shares	\$ 601,976	\$ 597,042	\$ 614,316	17,274	2.89%
<b>Total Clergy Support Budget</b>	<b>\$ 4,404,043</b>	<b>\$ 4,379,356</b>	<b>\$ 4,328,426</b>	<b>(50,930)</b>	<b>(1.16%)</b>
<b><u>B) Administration Budget</u></b>					
1) Council on Finance & Administration	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	-	0.00%
2) Treasurer's Office	\$ 684,164	\$ 734,900	\$ 577,700	(157,200)	(21.39%)
3) Jurisdictional Conference	\$ 36,723	\$ 36,723	\$ 36,723	-	0.00%
4) General Conference Delegation	\$ 20,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 8,000	(20,000)	(71.43%)
5) General Church Administration	\$ 225,596	\$ 227,758	\$ 192,253	(35,505)	(15.59%)
6) Area Administration	\$ 556,453	\$ 556,453	\$ 316,703	(239,750)	(43.09%)
7) Operations	\$ 332,783	\$ 312,783	\$ 302,783	(10,000)	(3.20%)
8) Conference Secretary	\$ 18,300	\$ 18,300	\$ 1,000	(17,300)	(94.54%)
9) Conference Statistician	\$ 3,600	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
10) Conference Trustees	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	-	0.00%
11) Committee on Archives & History	\$ 40,586	\$ 45,000	\$ 40,000	(5,000)	(11.11%)
12) Committee on Human Resources	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	-	0.00%
13) Legal Fees	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	-	0.00%
14) Contingency Funds	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	(50,000)	(100.00%)
Sub-total Administration Budget	\$ 2,031,205	\$ 2,072,917	\$ 1,538,162	(534,755)	(25.80%)
Provision for Unpaid Ministry Shares	\$ 343,926	\$ 351,459	\$ 256,364	(95,095)	(27.06%)
<b>Total Administration Budget</b>	<b>\$ 2,375,131</b>	<b>\$ 2,424,376</b>	<b>\$ 1,794,526</b>	<b>(629,850)</b>	<b>(25.98%)</b>
<b><u>C) Conference Benevolences Budget</u></b>					
<i>1) Agencies Relating to Christ-Centered Mission and Ministry</i>					
a) Commission on Annual Conference Session	\$ 325,000	\$ 275,000	\$ 100,000	(175,000)	(63.64%)
b) Commission on Communications	\$ 396,000	\$ 427,000	\$ 1,000	(426,000)	(99.77%)
c) Committee on Journal	\$ 11,220	\$ 11,220	\$ 5,000	(6,220)	(55.44%)
d) Board of Justice	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,500	(4,500)	(30.00%)
e) Board of Global Ministries	\$ 210,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 147,000	(63,000)	(30.00%)
f) Engage Program Promotion	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
<i>2) Agencies Relating to Bold and Effective Leaders</i>					
a) Conference Leadership Council	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	(5,000)	(50.00%)
b) Board of Ordained Ministry	\$ 95,279	\$ 66,500	\$ 59,900	(6,600)	(9.92%)
c) Committee on Nominations	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 5,000	(2,500)	(33.33%)
d) Committee on the Episcopacy	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	-	0.00%
e) Protection Policy	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,000	(3,000)	(60.00%)
f) Clergy Excellence Program Funds	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	(5,000)	(33.33%)

<i>3) Agencies Relating to Vibrant Congregations</i>						
a) United Methodist Men	\$	-	\$	-	\$	- 0.00%
b) United Methodist Women	\$	-	\$	-	\$	- 0.00%
c) Board of Laity	\$	10,000	\$	10,000	\$	5,000 (50.00%)
d) Board of Young People's Ministry	\$	350,000	\$	363,000	\$	254,000 (109,000) (30.03%)
e) Board of Congregational Life	\$	581,000	\$	533,000	\$	373,000 (160,000) (30.02%)
f) Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministry	\$	39,000	\$	39,000	\$	25,300 (13,700) (35.13%)
g) Committee on Asian-American Ministry	\$	47,000	\$	47,000	\$	30,900 (16,100) (34.26%)
h) Committee on Native American Ministry	\$	115,000	\$	115,000	\$	80,500 (34,500) (30.00%)
i) Committee on African-American Ministry	\$	66,000	\$	66,000	\$	44,200 (21,800) (33.03%)
j) Racial & Ethnic Local Churches	\$	-	\$	-	\$	- 0.00%
4) Administrative Expenses/Compensation	\$	2,147,841	\$	2,172,000	\$	2,645,627 473,627 21.81%
<b>5) World Service Fund</b>	\$	1,899,882	\$	1,918,093	\$	1,561,138 (356,955) (18.61%)
6) Pathways Funding	\$	-	\$	-	\$	- 0.00%
7) MI Area Camping	\$	400,000	\$	300,000	\$	100,000 (200,000) (66.67%)
8) Contingency Funds	\$	25,000	\$	25,000	\$	(25,000) (100.00%)
9) Assets Released from Restrictions	\$	-	\$	-	\$	- 0.00%
Sub-total Conference Benevolences Budget	\$	6,757,722	\$	6,632,313	\$	5,467,065 ##### (17.57%)
Provision for Unpaid Ministry Shares	\$	925,303	\$	897,947	\$	743,986 (153,961) (17.15%)
<b>Total Conference Benevolences Budget</b>	\$	7,683,025	\$	7,530,260	\$	6,211,051 ##### (17.52%)
<b>D) Other Apportioned Causes</b>						
<b>1) Black College Fund</b>	\$	255,965	\$	258,419	\$	225,959 (32,460) (12.56%)
<b>2) Africa University Fund</b>	\$	57,284	\$	57,833	\$	50,800 (7,033) (12.16%)
<b>3) Interdenominational Fund</b>	\$	50,185	\$	50,666	\$	6,759 (43,907) (86.66%)
Sub-total Other Apportioned Causes	\$	363,434	\$	366,918	\$	283,518 (83,400) (22.73%)
Provision for Unpaid Ministry Shares	\$	-	\$	-	\$	- 0.00%
<b>Total Other Apportioned Causes</b>	\$	363,434	\$	366,918	\$	283,518 (83,400) (22.73%)
<b>Total Conference Common Budget</b>	\$	14,825,633	\$	14,700,910	\$	12,617,521 ##### (14.17%)
<b>E) Benefits Ministry Shares Budget</b>						
1) Pension/Welfare Payments to Wespath	\$	3,128,220	\$	3,020,000	\$	3,020,000 - 0.00%
2) Benefits Office	\$	711,780	\$	700,000	\$	700,000 - 0.00%
<b>Total Benefits Ministry Shares Budget</b>	\$	3,840,000	\$	3,720,000	\$	3,720,000 - 0.00%

**NOMINATIONS REPORT**  
for the  
**Michigan Conference**  
The United Methodist Church

Nominations Effective September 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021  
(Year elected in parenthesis following name)

The Annual Conference Granted the Nominations Committee to Fill Vacancies Between Annual Conferences.  
July 27, 2020

ONLY NEW MEMBERS LISTED – FULL REPORT ONLINE

**AGENCIES RELATING TO CHRIST-CENTERED MISSION AND MINISTRY**

**Annual Conference Session, Commission on the (1.1)**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
2023	Lisa Poy (2020)	
2024	Elizabeth “Liz” Carr (2020)	

**Communications, Commission on (1.2)**

There were no changes in members.

**Journal, Committee on the (1.3)**

There were no changes in members.

**Justice, Board of (1.4)**

There were no changes in members.

**Church and Society, Division of (1.4.3.1)**

There were no changes in members.

**Religion and Race, Division on (1.4.3.2)**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
2023		Ronald “Todd” Williamson (2020)
2024	Linda Darrow (2020)	

**Status and Role of Women, Division on the (1.4.3.3)**

There were no changes in members.

**Disability Concerns, Division on (1.4.3.4)**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
2024	Greg Hicok (2020)	

**Global Ministries, Board of (1.5)**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
2023	Laurie Kaufman de la Garza (2019) Ava Williams Euper (2019)	
2024	Taylorie Bailey (2020)	

**Archives and History, Commission on (1.6)**

There were no changes in members.

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**AGENCIES RELATING TO BOLD AND EFFECTIVE LEADERS****Conference Leadership Council (2.1)**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
2024	Katja Falker (2020)	

**Ordained Ministry, Board of (2.2)****CLERGY****2020 Quadrennia**

Kathy Brown (2020)

Susanne "Suzie" Hierholzer (2020)

Cornelius "Neil" Davis, Jr (2020)

John David "JD" Landis (2020)

**Associate Members or Local Pastors/Completed Course of Study**

Marvin Herman (2020)

**LAY PERSONS****2016 Quadrennia**

Ted Brainard (2019)

Laure Mieskowski (2019)

**Nominations, Committee on (2.3)**

There were no changes in members.

**Episcopacy, Committee on the (2.4)**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
2024	Mark Trierweiler (2020)	

**Protection Policy Implementation Team (2.5)**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
2024	Beth Pelkey (2020)	

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**AGENCIES RELATING TO VIBRANT CONGREGATIONS****United Methodist Women (3.1)**

Vice President: Waltha Gaye Leavitt

Treasurer: Mary Danforth

**United Methodist Men (3.2)**

Vice President: John Huizing

**Laity, Board of (3.3)**

Conference Lay Leader: Annette Erbes (2020)

**District Lay Leaders:**

Central Bay: Dennis "Denny" Wissinger (2019)

East Winds:

Heritage: John Seppanen (2019)

Midwest: Deborah Hodges (2019)

**Associate District Lay Leaders:**

Cynthia Rossman (2019)

**Young People’s Ministries, Board of (3.4)**

Chairperson: Rev. Elizabeth Hurd

**Youth Ministry, Division of (3.4.3.1)**

There were no changes in members.

**Young Adult Ministry, Division of (3.4.3.2)**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
2021	Anika Kasper (2020)	

**Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Division of (3.4.3.3)**

There were no changes in members.

**Congregational Life, Board of (3.5)**

There were no changes in members.

**Congregational Vibrancy, Division of (3.5.3.1)**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
2024	Cindy Thiele (2020)	

**Small Membership Church, Division on the (3.5.3.2)**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
2024		Glenn Litchfield (2020)

**Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships, Division on (3.5.3.3)**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
2023	Larry Edris (2020)	
2024	Mary Blashill (2020)	Melissa Claxton (2020)

**Hispanic/Latino Ministry, Committee on (3.6)**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
2024		Nicolas Berlanga (2020)

**Asian-American Ministry, Committee on (3.7)**

There were no changes in members.

**Native American Ministry, Committee on (3.8)**

There were no changes in members.

**African American Ministry, Committee on (3.9)**

There were no changes in members.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES**

**Finance and Administration, Council on (4.1)**

	<u>Clergy</u>
<u>2020 Quadrennia</u>	Kristen Coristine (2020)
<u>2024 Quadrennia</u>	Louis “Lou” Gretttenberger (2020)

Michigan Conference

Nominations Report (Abbreviated)

09/01/2020 – 06/30/2021

**Pension and Health Benefits, Board of (4.2)**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
2026	Nancy Wyllys (2020)	
2027		Deborah “Debbie” Thomas (2020)

**Administrative Review Committee (4.3)**

There were no changes in members.

**Trustees, Board of (4.4)**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
2023		Thomas “Tom” Ball (2020)
2024	Deborah “Deb” Federau (2020)	

**Investigation, Committee on (4.5)**

There were no changes in members.

**Rules, Committee on (4.6)**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
2023	Tonya Murphy (2019)	

**Episcopal Residence Committee (4.7)**

There were no changes in members.

**Equitable Compensation, Commission on (4.8)**

There were no changes in members.

**Human Resources, Committee on (4.9)**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
2023	Anne Soles (2020)	

**Officers of The Annual Conference**

Statistician (6.2): Pamela Stewart (07/15/2019)

Facilitator (6.3): Jennifer “Jen” Peters (2020)

Lay Leader (6.7): Annette Erbes (2020)

Please Note: The Annual Conference re-affirms the election of the General and Jurisdictional Delegation and Alternates from the 2019 Annual Conference.

**In Order of Election:****2020 Elected General Conference Delegation**

Clergy: Kennetha Bigham-Tsai (Chairperson), Paul Perez, Joy Barrett, Megan Walther

Laity: Laura Witkowski (Chairperson), Diane Brown, Jennifer “Jen” Peters, Nichea VerVeer Guy

**2020 Elected North Central Jurisdictional Conference Delegation**

Clergy: Charles Boayue, Joel Fitzgerald, Christina Wright, Brad Bartelmay

Laity: Ruby Anderson, Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Lisa Hahn, Ruth Sutton

**2020 Elected NCJ Alternates**

Clergy: Sherri Swanson, Matt Weiler

Laity: Brenda DuPree, Gordon Grigg III



Michigan Conference

Nominations Report (Abbreviated)

09/01/2020 – 06/30/2021

**2016 General Church Boards and Agencies:**

The Connectional Table: Clergy Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Jerry DeVine

General Board of Church and Society: Clergy Paul Perez

General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits: Clergy Donald Emmert

**2016 North Central Jurisdictional Committees:**

Court of Appeals: Clergy Benton Heisler (Vice Chairperson). Clergy Alternate: Joy Barrett

Committee on Investigation: Clergy Melanie Carey, Alternate Clergy Bill Dobbs

Committee on Episcopacy: Clergy Charles Boayue, Benton Heisler. Laity Jacqueline Euper,  
Nichea Ver Veer Guy.

NCJ Mission Council: Clergy Brad Bartelmay, At-Large: Clergy Alex Plum, Laity Laura Witkowski

Directors of Connectional Ministries (as selected by the NCJ Association of DCMs): Clergy Benton Heisler

## AFFILIATE ENTITIES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### Elected UMC Board Members as Reported to the Committee on Nominations

#### Affiliated via the Board of Global Ministries (10.1)

##### Bronson Health Group (10.1.1) – Trustees of

*(UMC Members are no longer a requirement, per change in their 2014 By-Laws)*

##### Clark Retirement Community (10.1.2) – Trustees of

There were no changes in UMC members.

##### Methodist Children’s Home Society (10.1.3) – Directors

There were no changes in UMC members.

##### United Methodist Community House (10.1.4)

Laity: Kurt Kimball (2020)

##### United Methodist Retirement Communities, Inc. (10.1.5) – Board of Trustees

Laity: Marianne Conner (2019), Steve Fetyko (2019), Mike Fritz (2019)

#### Affiliated Via the Board of Young People’s Ministries (10.2)

##### Adrian College (10.2.1) – Trustees of

There were no changes in UMC members.

##### Albion College (10.2.2) – Trustees of

There were no changes in UMC members.

##### Bay Shore Evangelical Association (10.2.3) – Directors

No report.

##### Michigan Area United Methodist Camping (10.2.4)

Chairperson: Stuart Smith

Class

2024

Laity

Rachel Dunlap (2020)

Clergy

Michigan Conference

Nominations Report (Abbreviated)

09/01/2020 – 06/30/2021

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**Lake Louise Christian Community (10.2.5) – Board of Trustees**
**Laity****Clergy**

Corey Simon (2020)

Alicia Williams (2020)

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**Affiliated via the Commission on Archives and History (10.3)**
**Michigan Area UMC Historical Society, Inc. (10.3)**

There were no changes in UMC members.

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**Affiliated via the Council on Finance and Administration (10.4)**
**Michigan Area Loan Funds (10.4.1)**

There were no changes in UMC members.

**United Methodist Foundation of Michigan (10.4.2)****Class****Laity****Clergy**

2022

Pros Tumonong (2020)

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**Disaster Response Team**

East Winds: Rev. Eric Miller

Heritage: Robert “Bob” Ankrapp

Northern Skies – East: Randy Hildebrant

**Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) – Michigan Board**

Elected by Annual Conference, no less than 60% of Board:

Trace Bauman

Elected by Board:

Yvonne Kupperman

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Please e-mail any corrections/updates by **September 1, 2020** to: [nominations@michiganumc.org](mailto:nominations@michiganumc.org)

- If there is a correction, please include page number, agency, person’s name, and explanation of the correction or change – i.e., “delete” or “add.” If a person is to be added, please specify whether they are clergy/laity, male/female, and the beginning year of service.

If you are interested in serving where vacancies exist, please contact: [nominations@michiganumc.org](mailto:nominations@michiganumc.org)*Thank you!*



# Michigan Annual Conference Opening Worship

7:00 p.m., Sunday, July 26, 2020

**Preacher:** Bishop Bard

**Liturgist:** Rev. Margie Crawford

See page 4 for connection details.

## GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

### GATHERING MUSIC

Cornerstone Musicians

### WORDS OF GREETING

Apart, yet together...

**A variety of thought, yet united in Christ.**

Hurting, healing, hoping...

**loving, longing, lamenting over much...**

pleading, promising, praying ...

**for God to reign, here on earth, as in heaven.**

### OPENING HYMN

And Are We Yet Alive

Virtual Conference Choir

### PRAYER FOR OUR GATHERING

Gather us in, Gracious God, from the rocky shores of Lake Superior...from the fertile fields of our farmlands, where corn and soy and nature grow...from Midland's muddy soil, where the raging waters overcome and the stuff of people's lives are scattered and destroyed...from the sandy dunes of Lake Michigan, to the sandy beaches along the Huron...from the lush green of our back yards' grass, mingling between our toes...

We come together in this virtual way, still cultivating this new Michigan Conference, still wondering who you call us to be in the uncertainty of our denomination...in the anxiety of a pandemic...in the turmoil of injustice and fear. With hesitation and hope we are here...coming together, at a time when much seems to be falling apart. We come from a myriad of places – geographically, emotionally, spiritually – to invoke your spirit of love among us. Connect us through your Holy Spirit. Make our ordinary spaces, sacred...as we gather to do the work of this conference. Make of us all, sowers...eager to plant seeds of hope and promise across the communities in which we live.

Though there are differences among us, help us to lean into the One who calls us all.

May God's spirit dwell in this space and abide in our hearts. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

## A SACRED TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

Great Giver of Life and Love, we know your promise: that in the bulb there is a flower, and in the seed an apple tree...As we gather this evening, we remember those who once were with us and who now are eternally with You. They planted seeds within us...they nurtured our faith and helped us to grow closer to you. Through them, you cultivated our sense of call and purpose, so that we would sow your love and serve your people. As we name them, we give you our thanks and gratitude for the harvest of their lives:

**REMEMBERING THE SAINTS****PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE**

We give thanks, loving God, that you have shared these lives with us. We are richer for having known them and loved them. May the seeds of faith they have planted continue to grow and bear fruit, so that others may be nurtured by your grace. For those of us who remain in this life, increase our love for one another. May we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. We pray in the name of God who alone reveals everything in its season.

**HYMN**

## Hymn of Promise

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

**PRAYING IN ONE VOICE**

And now as beloved children of God we pray together...

Our Father in heaven, help us to honor your name.  
Come and set up your kingdom, so that everyone on earth  
will obey you, as you are obeyed in heaven.  
Give us our food for today.  
Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others.  
Keep us from being tempted and protect us from evil.  
For to you belongs the kingdom and all power and glory,  
today and forever. Amen.

*(Contemporary English Version)*

**LISTENING FOR THE WORD****SCRIPTURE**

Mark 4: 1-9

**REFLECTION****HYMN**

Planting Seeds of Faith and Trust  
vs. 1, 2, 5

Jane Parker Huber  
tune of Hymn # 92

Planting seeds of faith and trust by the Galilean lake  
Jesus called out common folk, for God's work and mission's sake  
Christ, you call us still today, in our work and in our play.

Seeds of trust need tender care – nurture, shielding, warmth and light  
Time to put down healthy roots, growing at a pace that’s right.  
Christ, you nurture us today, keep us growing in Your way.

So the cycle is complete: seed to bloom to scattered seed –  
Multiplied by faith and sown where there’s pain, distrust or need.  
Christ, you lead us still today, in our work and in our play.

**SERMON**

“Dancing in a Mine Field”

Bishop David A. Bard

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**CLOSING HYMN**

Sois La Semilla (You Are the Seed)

Hymn #583

You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;  
you’re a star that will shine in the night;  
you are the yeast and a small grain of salt,  
a beacon to glow in the dark.

You are the dawn that will bring a new day;  
you’re the wheat that will bear golden grain;  
you are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,  
my witnesses where’er you go.

You are the life that will nurture the plant;  
you’re the waves in a turbulent sea;  
yesterday’s yeast is beginning to rise,  
a new loaf of bread it will yield.  
There is no place for a city to hide,  
nor a mountain can cover its might;  
may your good deeds show a world in despair  
a path that will lead all to God.

Refrain:

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,  
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.  
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;  
“Lo, I’ll be with you forever, till the end of the world.”

**SENDING FORTH**

Bishop Bard

**HYMN**

Sent Forth by God’s Blessing

No. 664

Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The service is ended. Oh, now be extended  
The fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of His teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
**His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us**  
To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.

**MUSIC FOR GOING FORTH**

Cornerstone Band



# 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 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:  
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 Reissman, 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





# Annual Conference Webinar Series: Shape Something New

**AUGUST 4, 7:00PM**

**COLLECTED AND DISTRIBUTED: A NEW KIND OF LOCAL CHURCH FOR A DIGITAL FRONTIER**

*Webinar Leader: Michael Beck*

The future has come in the night and we are here now. COVID-19 has thrust us fully out onto a digital frontier. Fresh Expressions has been a canary in the coal mine alerting the church to a need for a “blended ecology” of church which includes gathered and scattered, attractional and missional, Jerusalem and Antioch, and we can now safely add... analog and digital. We will explore Wesleyan theological underpinnings for the new fields, as well as share practical tools, practices, and processes to help local congregations become a new kind of local church.

**AUGUST 11, 7:00PM**

**THE ROLE OF SMALL GROUPS IN DISCIPLESHIP: USING THE BEST OF ONLINE AND IN-PERSON SETTINGS**

*Webinar Leader: Scott Hughes, General Board of Discipleship Ministries*

As the baptized community, the church affirms the need to continue meeting together (Hebrews 10:25). Now is the time for churches to be experimenting with digital tools and social media to help small groups and Sunday School classes to connect in new ways and continue the church’s efforts at faith formation. But what can reasonably be expected from an online group? How different should we think about online and in-person gatherings? We’ll explore these and other questions in this interactive webinar to help your church’s small group ministry thrive.

**AUGUST 18, 7:00PM**

**IMPACT! RECLAIMING THE CALL OF LAY MINISTRY**

*Webinar Leader: Kay Kotan*

The church very likely will rise and fall with the missional investment of the laity. Let’s rekindle the spark and set the laity on fire once again for Christ. Our tribe, The United Methodist Church, was founded as a movement of laity and reached millions of people. Let’s re-stoke that laity movement once again to help re-engage and empower our laity for Kingdom IMPACT! During the IMPACT! workshop, we will identify:

- How ALL are called into ministry
- How Nehemiah was a role model for lay ministry impact
- Why laity ministry impact has waned
- How to reclaim the laity impact in ministry
- The eight specific areas for high ministry impact from laity

**AUGUST 25 7:00PM – 9:00PM**

**TELL THE OLD STORY IN A NEW TIME**

*Webinar Leader: Jason Moore*

Almost overnight, we found ourselves in a new, unfamiliar world. The COVID-19 virus has changed everything about our lives, including how we worship. What is the church to do in such a time as this? With the social distancing practices preventing our physical gatherings, how do we connect and make our message resonate with a world in chaos? Now more than ever, the church has the opportunity to lead the charge in a world looking for spiritual answers. In order to lead effectively, we have to tell the old story in a new way, for a new time and with a new medium.

**Register for all webinars at [bit.ly/UMCLeadershipAcademy](https://bit.ly/UMCLeadershipAcademy).**

## RESOLUTION NUMBER & RESOLUTION TITLE

### **R#2020-1 Authorize CBOPHB to Address Claims**

- Approve
- Approve as Amended
- Not Approve

### **R#2020-2 Establish the Housing/Rental Allowance for Retired or Clergy on Medical Leave**

- Approve
- Approve as Amended
- Not Approve

### **R#2020-3 2021 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan**

- Approve
- Approve as Amended
- Not Approve

### **R#2020-4 Establish Past Service Rate**

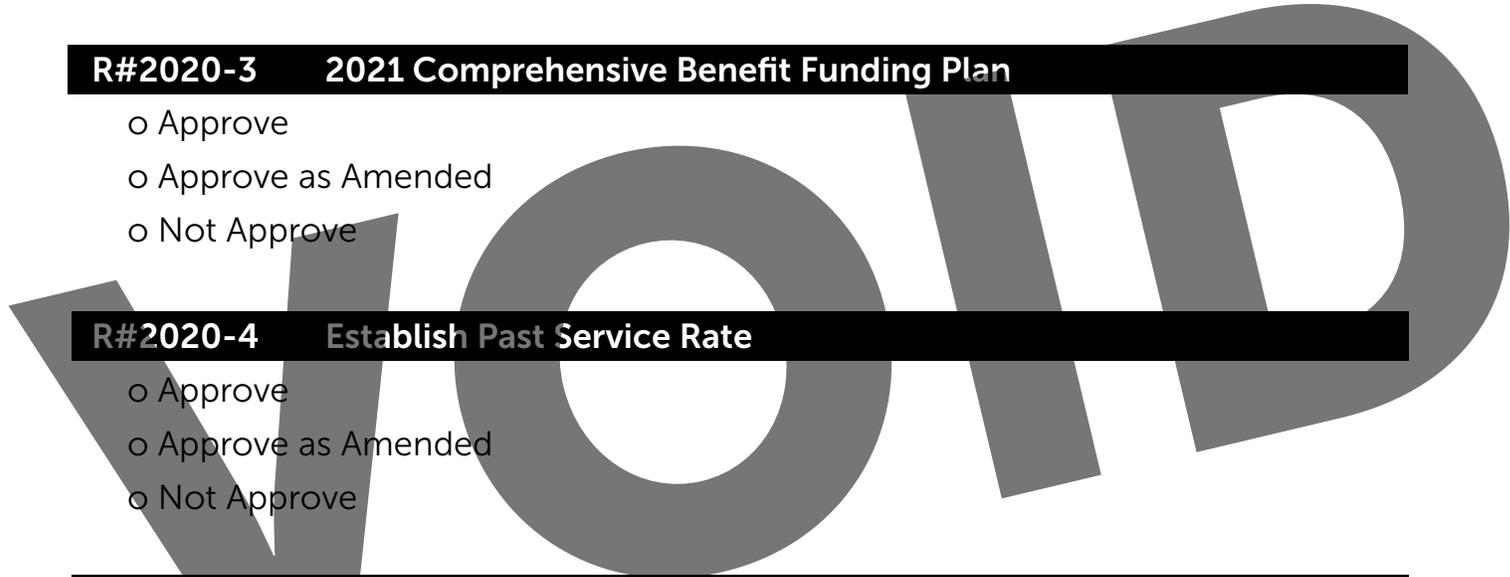
- Approve
- Approve as Amended
- Not Approve

### **R#2020-9 Amend Conference Plan of Organization – Conference Leadership Council Membership**

- Approve
- Approve as Amended
- Not Approve

### **R#2020-10 Amend Conference Plan of Organization – Council on Finance and Administration Membership**

- Approve
- Approve as Amended
- Not Approve



**R#2020-11 Amend Conference Plan of Organization – Board of Trustees Membership**

- Approve
- Approve as Amended
- Not Approve

**R#2020-23 2021 Equitable Compensation Guidelines and Schedule**

- Approve
- Approve as Amended
- Not Approve

**2021 Conference Budget**

- Approve
- Approve as Amended
- Not Approve

**Nominations Report**

- Approve
- Approve as Amended
- Not Approve

**CORPORATE SESSION**

**1. I Approve the Motions Proposed in the Corporate Session of the Michigan Conference to Close the Congregations Listed.**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No

**2. I Approve the Motions Proposed in the Corporate Session of the Michigan Conference Regarding the Withdrawal Agreements of the Congregations Listed.**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No

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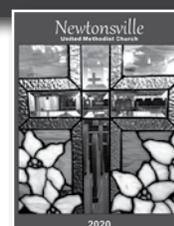
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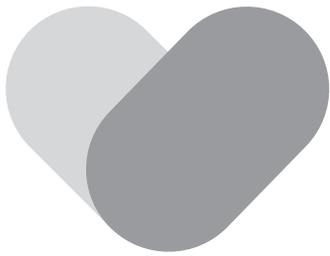


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- Church Leadership Excellence (New track beginning May 2021)
- Global Church Leadership: Asia
- Military Chaplains
- Soul Care (Start term May 2021)
- Howard Thurman: Prophetic Witness (Start term May 2021)

Please contact the Admissions Office at [admissions@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:admissions@wesleyseminary.edu) or 202.885.8659

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## Bringing Families Together

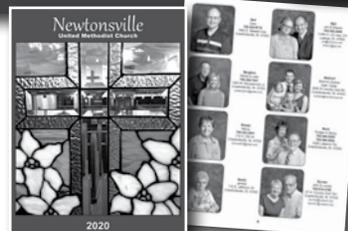
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White supremacy is sin.  
Police brutality is sin.  
Silence is sin.**

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**Black lives matter!**



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- Church & Society
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"Day Camps on the Road brings something to the church that the church can't do alone. We're hoping local churches will be eager to partner with us. And, we're hoping the ministry of the church to their community will be strengthened." --Jeff Parsons, Executive Director

**BAYSHORECAMP.org/daycampotr/**



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OCT 24, 2020  
ONLINE

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## LEADING WITH VISION

**RACHEL GILMORE**

Church planter and on staff at Path 1/  
Discipleship Ministries for the UMC.



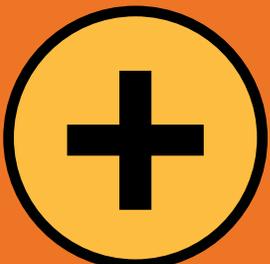
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**JAKE MULDER**

Co-author, "Growing Young" and on  
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