

# UNFINISHED

The background of the entire page is a light gray architectural drawing. It features various geometric shapes including circles, rectangles, and triangles, along with numerous dimension lines and numerical values such as 125, 100, 200, 115, 35, 31, 15, and 200. Some areas are hatched with diagonal lines.

## MOTIONS

**2025 MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**MAY 30 - JUNE 1**

**GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT  
ACME MI**

## **Board of Trustees**

The conference Board of Trustees (“BoT”) is the fiduciary for the Conference. The Board enjoys the blessing of active participation of six clergy and six laity trustees, plus a voting clergy liaison from the Cabinet. Several conference committees and conference staff serve on the committee with voice but no vote. We currently divide our responsibilities between these focus areas: Conference Properties, Closing Churches, Sale of Closed Properties, Risk Management and Legal Issues.

Meeting quarterly, we gather in person and/or virtually making participation more complete and inclusive. As our focus areas indicate, the responsibilities and issues are significant, including such matters as conference assets, financial stress on congregations, and difficult decisions to bring a church’s ministry to a close.

### **Work review:**

#### **Conference Properties**

Properties owned and utilized by the Conference (offices and parsonages) are managed and maintained by the Board of Trustees. The major effort for 2024 was the consolidation of the Conference Offices at 212 Clark Corners into the Office Building on Northcrest Road in Lansing. This move required some modifications to the Conference Office Building and a great deal of flexibility on the part of conference staff. The consolidation is complete, and Suite 212 is no longer leased by the conference.

Parsonages saw some investment in maintenance and necessary upgrades during 2024. A review of the needs of each property is informing the development of an investment strategy to address heavy maintenance and capital improvement needs at the properties. First on the list is an investment in flooring, paint, and other small improvements at the Northern Skies Parsonage to be timed with the change in District Superintendent.

#### **Closed Churches**

During the 2024 reporting period, eight congregations made the difficult decisions to cease their ministry and close their church. Most often the reason for the decision was related to financial and leadership issues related to declining membership. These congregation celebrated their final worship service in 2024 and their buildings were deconsecrated. Historical records, membership lists, and church assets were addressed according to existing guidelines. Listed below are the closed churches that will be celebrated at the 2025 Annual Conference.

Ashton  
Belding  
Central Lakeport  
Forrester  
Owosso: Trinity  
Shelby  
Turk lake  
Williamston Crossroads

Additionally, during 2024 fourteen churches that were no longer functioning as United Methodist Houses of Worship closed and left the Conference under the provisions of Chapter 2549. These churches are listed below:

Arden  
Barnard  
Boyne City: Compass Community  
Caledonia  
East Jordan  
Edwardsburg: Hope  
Hinchman  
Horton Bay  
Kalkaska  
Ludington: St. Paul  
Mayville  
Merritt-Butterfield  
Moorestown-Stittsville  
Townline

#### Church Sales

The Board of Trustees has been actively marketing the closed churches and associated parsonages from previous years and those from the current year. Churches are a specialty property and often times take significant time to find a buyer. When churches properties are sold, they proceeds are distributed according to existing guidelines.

The following churches and parsonages have been sold or have sales pending as of this writing:

- Ashton (sale pending)
- Belding Parsonage
- Forrester
- Murano Drive Benefits Officer Parsonage
- Owosso: Trinity
- Rodney
- Saginaw Ames (sale pending)
- Silverwood
- Turk Lake Parsonage
- Ubly

The following properties are currently in our closed church inventory and are either listed for sale or being evaluated for other use:

- Belding
- Central Lakeport
- Saginaw Ames Parsonage
- Shelby
- Turk Lake
- Williamston Crossroads

#### Risk Management and Legal Issues

The Board of Trustees conducted the annual “Risk Management” review with Church Mutual Insurance in a full board meeting. There were once again no material claim-issues raised and the relationship continues to be solid. Local churches may have different insurance providers, but the availability and cost of insurance coverage will continue to be a major point of focus and financial stress in the coming years. One item is particularly clear, regular communication with your insurance provider is critical. At the very least, churches should annually explore how adjustments to deductibles and claims avoidance strategies can be used to ensure continued coverage.

No significant new litigation was present during 2024. The Boy Scouts of American settlement is still in process of finalization but we do not expect any significant issues with that will require additional action on the part of the Conference.

Matt DeLong, Chair of the Michigan Conference Board of Trustees