

UNFINISHED



Growing Up and Into Christ
2025 MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MAY 30 - JUNE 1

CLERGY SESSION MAY 29

GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT

ACME MI

UNFINISHED: FOLLOWING JESUS IN A WESLEYAN WAY

BUT SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE, WE MUST GROW UP IN EVERY WAY INTO HIM WHO IS THE HEAD, INTO CHRIST, FROM WHOM THE WHOLE BODY, JOINED AND KNIT TOGETHER BY EVERY LIGAMENT WITH WHICH IT IS EQUIPPED, AS EACH PART IS WORKING PROPERLY, PROMOTES THE BODY'S GROWTH IN BUILDING ITSELF UP IN LOVE. - EPHESIANS 4:15-16

WE ARE ALL ON A JOURNEY WITH JESUS, AND AS UNITED METHODISTS, OUR WAY OF FOLLOWING JESUS IS ROOTED IN AND PROFOUNDLY INFLUENCED BY JOHN WESLEY. HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT TOUCHSTONES IN THE WESLEYAN WAY OF FOLLOWING JESUS.

Grace

OUR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD AND OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD IN JESUS CHRIST IS GROUNDED IN GRACE, THE FREELY AND LAVISHLY GIVEN LOVE OF GOD. GOD'S GRACE TOUCHES OUR LIVES BEFORE WE ARE AWARE OF IT. GOD'S GRACE EMPOWERS US TO SAY "YES" TO JESUS. GOD'S GRACE ENCOURAGES OUR GROWTH.

Growth in Grace

THE JOURNEY WITH JESUS IS A JOURNEY OF GROWTH IN GRACE AND LOVE. IN INTENTIONAL AND DISCIPLINED WAYS, WE SEEK HOLINESS OF HEART AND LIFE WHERE LOVE IS THE HEART OF HOLINESS. "BY PERFECTION I MEAN THE HUMBLE, GENTLE, PATIENT LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOR, RULING OUR HABITS, ATTITUDES, WORDS AND ACTIONS." - JOHN WESLEY, JANUARY 27, 1767

A Warm Hearted Faith

GRACE AND LOVE PERMEATE OUR LIVES, ENGAGING OUR EMOTIONS TO DEVELOP A FAITH THAT WARMS THE HEART WHILE INCREASING ITS CAPACITY FOR COMPASSION AND EMPATHY.

A Thoughtful Faith

WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO DEVELOP A THINKING FAITH. "WHAT HAS EXCEEDINGLY HURT YOU IN TIME PAST, NAY, AND I FEAR TO THIS DAY, IS WANT OF READING...DO JUSTICE TO YOUR OWN SOUL; GIVE IT TIME AND MEANS TO GROW. DO NOT STARVE YOURSELF ANY LONGER." - JOHN WESLEY LETTER TO JOHN PREMBOTH, AUGUST 17, 1760

A Faith attending to compassion, mercy, and justice

A FAITH ATTENDING TO COMPASSION, MERCY, AND JUSTICE — TO GROW IN GRACE AND LOVE MOVES US INTO THE WORLD IN MISSION AND SERVICE, INCLUDING SHARING OUR FAITH INVITATIONALLY (GOSPEL-BEARING) AND GRAPPLING WITH SOCIAL ISSUES THAT AFFECT THE WELL-BEING OF PERSONS AND COMMUNITIES.



WELCOME

to the 2025 Michigan Annual Conference

Greetings in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the peace and power of the Holy Spirit. I welcome you to the 2025 session of the Michigan Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

In his writings about conference, contained in the volumes of *Minutes of Several Conversations between the Rev. Mr. John and Charles Wesley, and others*, we get a sense of the profound hope John Wesley had for the gathering of Methodists. "It is desired that all things be considered as in the immediate presence of God. That we may meet with a single eye, and as little children who have everything to learn. That every point which is proposed may be examined to the foundation. That every person may speak freely whatever is in his heart, and that every question which may arise should be thoroughly debated and settled." (*The Works of John Wesley*, v. 10, p. 844). Wesley proposed a high ideal for conferencing. "Are we convinced how important and how difficult it is to order our conversation right? Is it always in grace? Seasoned with salt? Meet to minister grace to the hearers?" (856-857).

We gather for annual conference, trusting that God has work to do in us and through us as the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church. We gather believing that God is not finished with us yet, both personally and in our churches. We gather trusting "that the one who began a good work among [us] will bring it to completion" in Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6).

Our Annual Conference theme is: "Unfinished: Growing Up and Into Christ." "Speaking the truth

in love, we must grow up in every way into... Christ" (Ephesians 4:15). Each of us is on a transformational journey with Jesus. God's Spirit continues to work in us and through us. As followers of Jesus in the Wesleyan way, we believe that by God's grace and the power of God's Spirit, we can grow more loving, more compassionate, more caring, and more thoughtful throughout our lives. Growing in grace is an essential Wesleyan theme. Our churches should be places where we share this journey together, helping one another along the way and together touching the world with compassion, love, and justice in the name and Spirit of Jesus.

Our journey with Jesus is a lifelong journey, a lifelong adventure. When we gather at annual conference, we come not only to care for necessary business but also to connect more deeply with one another and more profoundly with Jesus Christ. We come to learn and be inspired for the next steps in our personal and corporate journeys.

We are on a journey that is not yet finished. God is not done with us yet. God wants to love the world in Jesus Christ through us. May our work together as an Annual Conference enhance the work of ministry in each of our settings, by the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of God's Spirit. May our time together deepen our own journeys with Jesus.



David A Bard
Bishop David Bard



Dear Members of the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church,

It is a true pleasure to welcome you once again to Traverse City! On behalf of our city, I want to express our gratitude for your continued choice to gather here for your annual conference since 2017.

Nestled along the shores of Lake Michigan, Traverse City offers a vibrant mix of natural splendor, cultural charm, outdoor adventure, and exceptional local cuisine. Whether you're here for the rich discussions and fellowship of the conference or to unwind and enjoy our scenic surroundings, we hope your visit is both fulfilling and memorable.

May your time here be marked by meaningful connections, spiritual renewal, and a deep sense of purpose as you come together in community. We're honored to host you and proud to share this special place with you once more.

My Best,

**Amy Shamroe, Mayor
City of Traverse City**

We're so glad to welcome you to Traverse City, where the beauty of Michigan's natural landscapes meets a strong sense of community and curiosity. Whether this is your first visit or you've been here before, we hope you find time to explore, reflect, and connect in meaningful ways.

This year's conference theme, "Unfinished: Growing Up and Into Christ," offers space to consider the ways we're all continually learning and evolving—both as individuals and as a community. In that spirit, Traverse City provides the perfect setting to pause, take stock, and look forward.

As you engage with one another over the coming days, we invite you to enjoy everything the region has to offer—from the trails and lakeshores to the vibrant local food scene and welcoming downtown. May your time here be inspiring, energizing, and full of fresh perspectives.

Warmly,

**Trevor Tkach, President/CEO
Traverse City Tourism**



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As a courtesy, please silence all electronic devices and refrain from using flash photography. Thank you!

Additional information and updated information can be found at 2025.MichiganUMC.org

FOLLOW US! Watch Annual Conference Plenary Sessions Live on our website: 2025.MichiganUMC.org

WIRELESS INTERNET: Free WiFi is available in the meeting spaces. **WIFI password:** UMC25



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Grand Traverse region



Land RECOGNITION

As we gather this week, we express deep gratitude for the Native and Indigenous Peoples whose histories and legacies shape the Michigan Conference. These lands have sustained, inspired, and nurtured us, calling us to justice, welcome, and mercy.

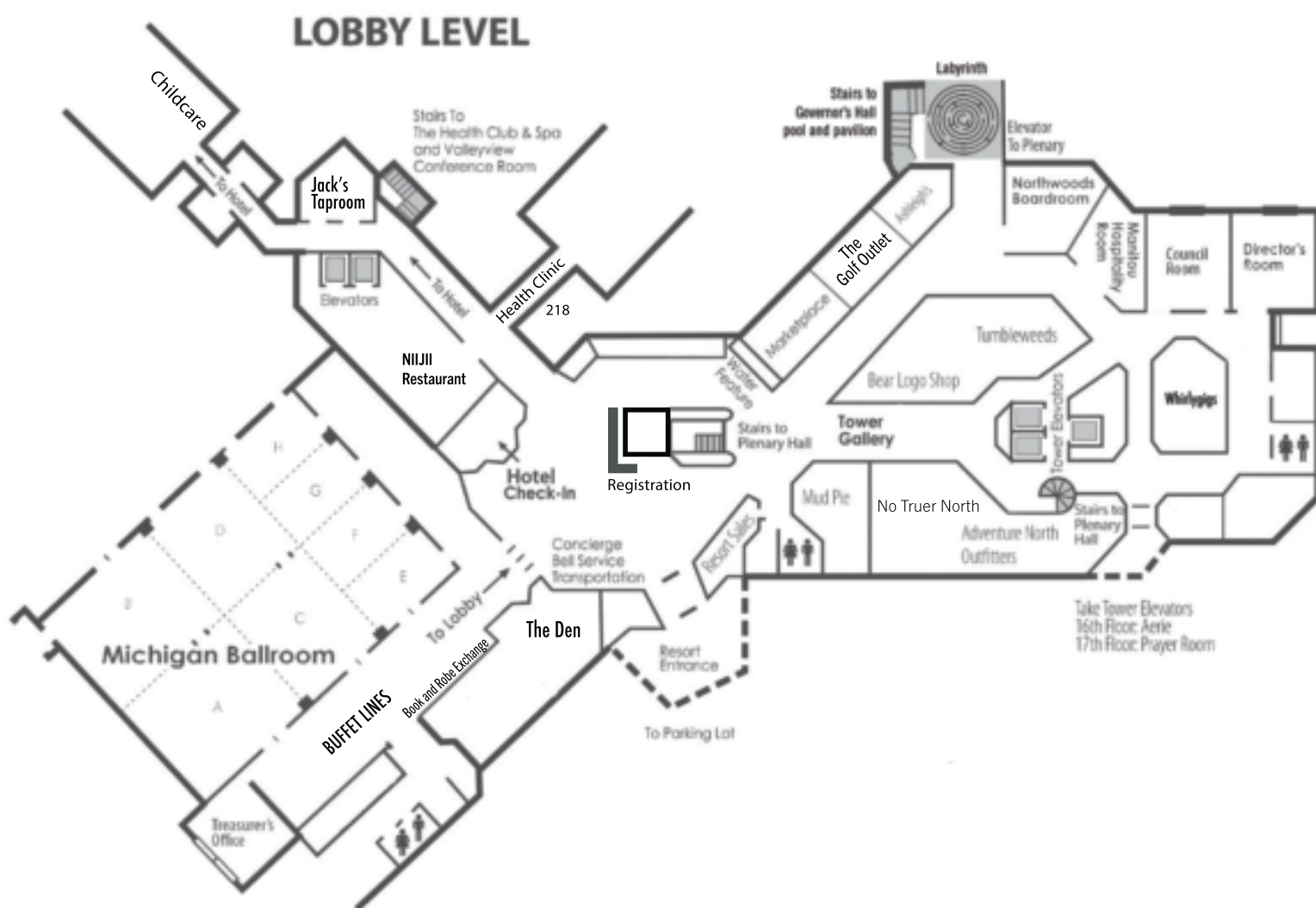
In our unwavering commitment to Acts of Repentance, we honor the First Peoples of this region—the Anishinaabe nations of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi—who have stewarded this land for generations. From the Council of the Three Fires at Michilimackinac in 796 AD to today, they have remained steadfast in their care and resilience.

The Great Lakes have been a refuge for many: immigrants fleeing hardship, African slaves seeking freedom, and refugees escaping violence. Yet, injustices persist. The Anishinaabe, formerly enslaved individuals, and other marginalized communities—including refugees, the LGBTQ+ community, and others—have faced oppression with unwavering courage.

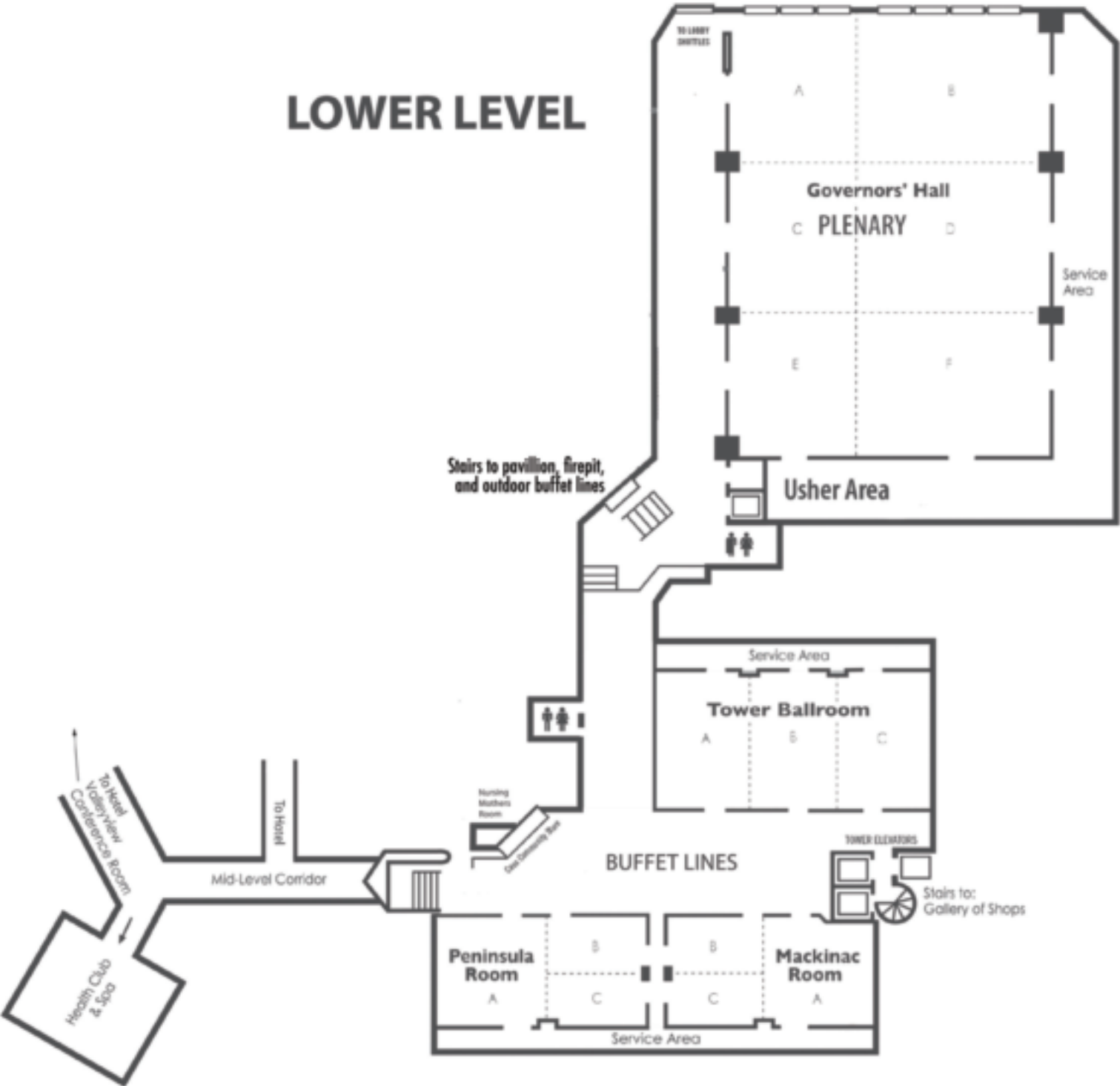
As Michigan United Methodists, we acknowledge our complicity in these injustices and humbly seek forgiveness. We honor the resilience of those who have endured harm and commit to cherishing this land and its people, striving for justice and reconciliation in Christ's name.

to Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

to Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

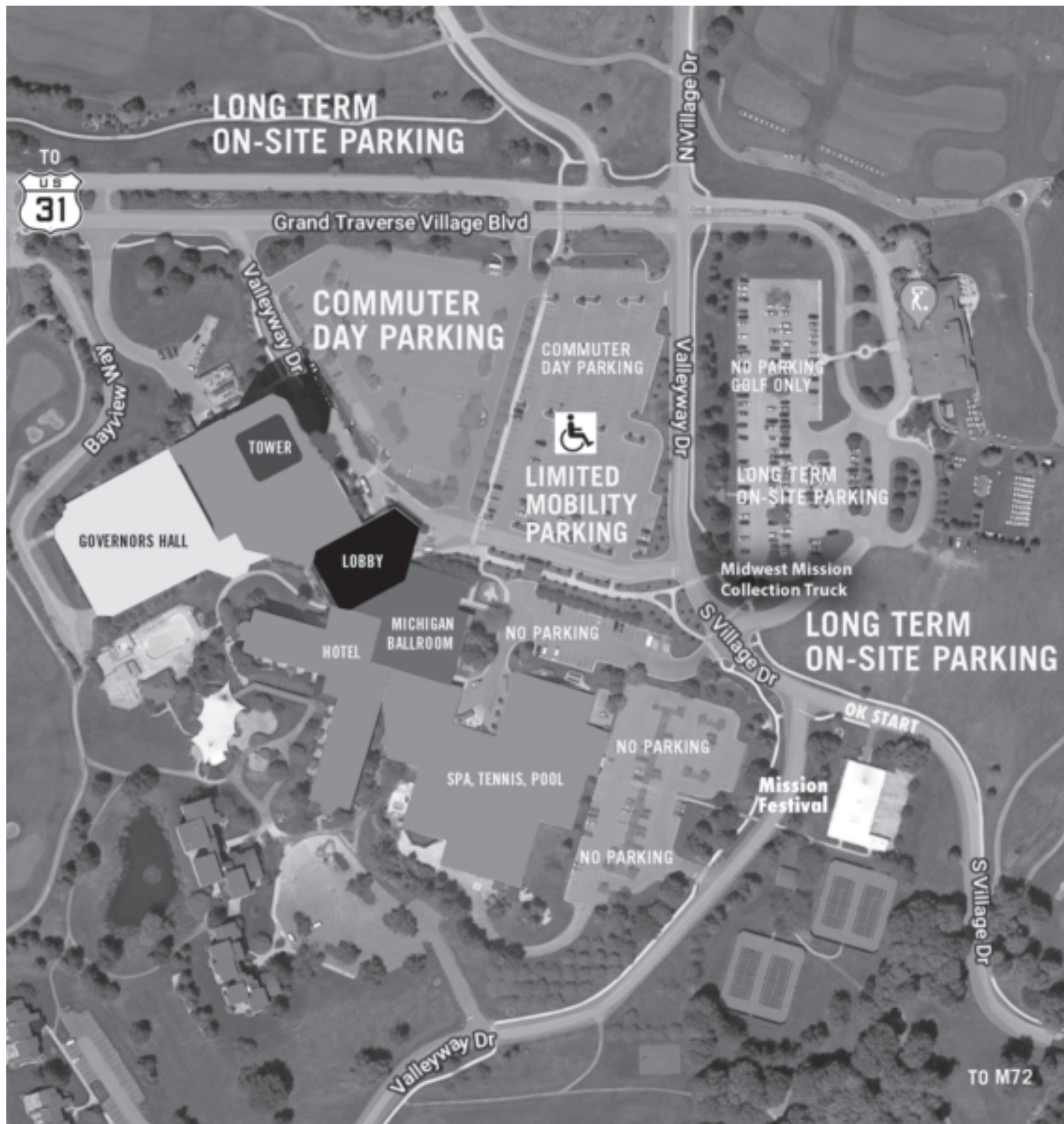


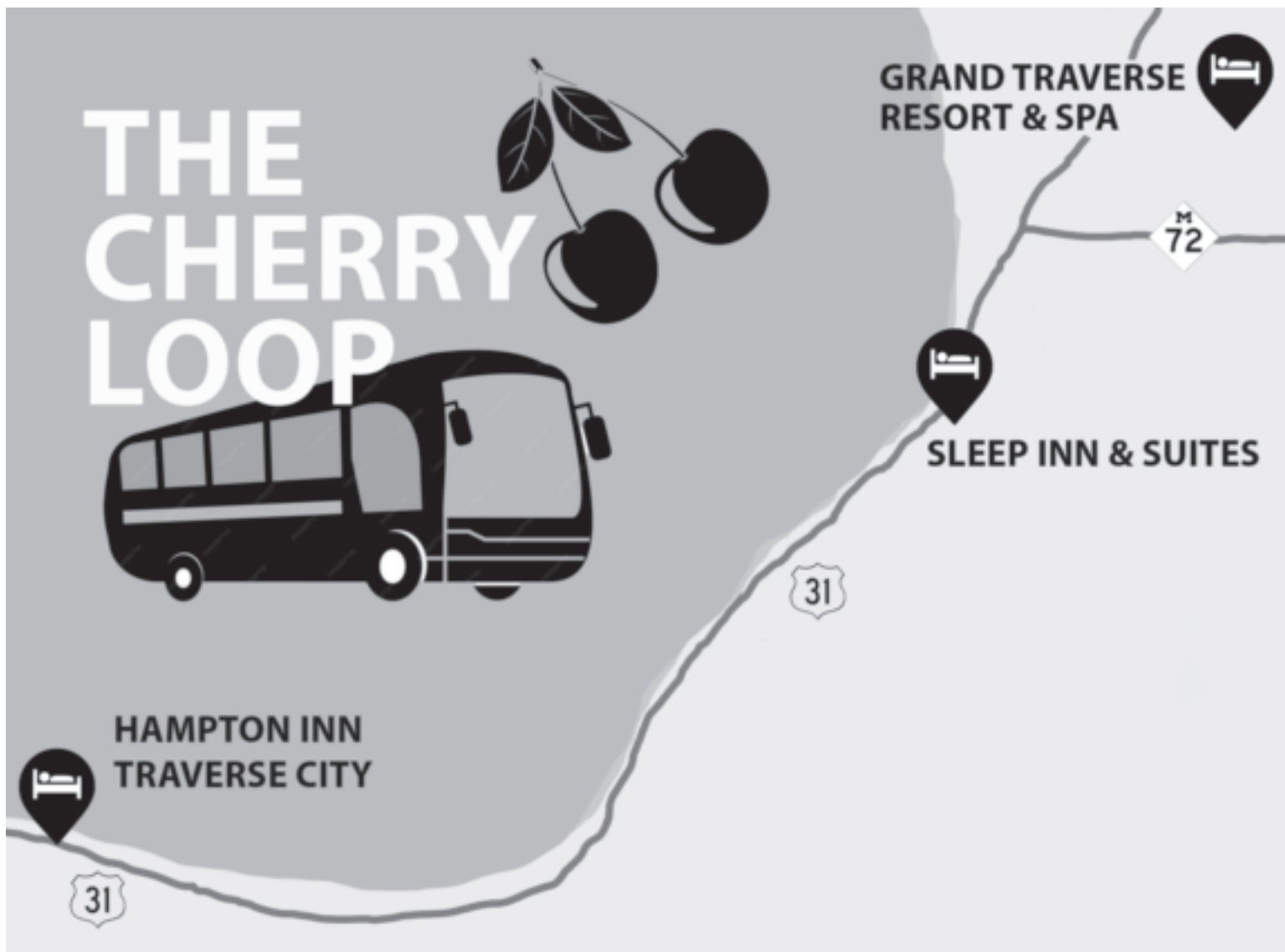
LOWER LEVEL



MAPS & GUIDES

to Grand Traverse Resort and Spa





SHUTTLE SERVICE

Pick up a shuttle from the exit of Governors' Hall pre-function area to the main (lobby level) entrance. Governors' Hall exit and main entrance are also pick-up stops for the Cherry Loop shuttle to local hotel stops.

Two 14-passenger Mercedes Benz transport vans will be in a continuous loop during the following hours:

- Thursday, May 29: 1:00 pm – 10:00 pm
- Friday, May 30: 6:00 am – 10:00 pm
- Saturday, May 31: 6:00 am – 5:30 pm
- Sunday, June 1: 6:00 am – 3:00 pm



Frequently ASKED QUESTIONS

We hope your time at Annual Conference is pleasant and want to make your visit to the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa as enjoyable as possible. If you find yourself in need of assistance or additional information, there are many people waiting to serve you:

- The Grace Patrol – look for hospitality assistants in red vests. They are prepared to assist with directions, answer general questions, and offer you grace.
- Annual Conference Registration Staff – for help with materials, your registration, or other conference needs. Located in the lobby adjacent to the hotel check in.
- Ushers – can assist with questions, seating, and other needs during our plenary sessions along with other events in Governors' Hall.
- Bell Staff – for assistance with parking and luggage. Any of the Grand Traverse Resort staff will be happy to assist you.

ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

ASL Interpreters are available for all plenary sessions and upon request. Please see the Conference Facilitator to request services. There is special seating for persons who are deaf and hard of hearing. Please let an usher know and they will be happy to assist.

The Grand Traverse Resort is ADA compliant. Three wheelchairs are available from the bell stand. If you have need of any special assistance while at Annual Conference, please visit the hotel registration desk. Seating areas are available for those using wheelchairs or mobility carts. Ushers can assist you in identifying these areas.

CONFERENCE FACILITATOR

Jen Peters is your Conference Facilitator. Her job is to help anyone who needs assistance in understanding and using the procedures and resources of the Conference in session. You will find her seated at a table near the stage.

CONFERENCE MATERIALS

All conference materials are available online at 2025.michiganumc.org. Daily News, a summary and preview of upcoming events is emailed each evening to all members to Annual Conference. Printed copies are available each morning.

COST

An event the size of our in-person Michigan Annual Conference gathering is only possible at a handful of venues in the state. Annual conferences in the North Central Jurisdiction hold their events in similar conference venues with fees in line with ours. Overall costs for participants have remained the same.

EMERGENCY

In case of any emergency, messages will be announced and you will be directed where to head for safety. In the event of an emergency you can use a house phone to dial 0 for immediate assistance or dial 911.

LOST AND FOUND

Found items can be brought to the Conference Facilitator's Desk located near the stage in Governors' Hall, or to the Registration Desk located in the Lobby. You may also wish to consult with hotel security.

LOW SENSORY ROOM

Need to escape from the noise of Governors' Hall, but don't want to miss the business of

the conference? This year, the Tower Ballroom will be available for anyone needing a quieter space. A live stream will keep you connected to what's happening. This is a non-voting area and you will need to return to Governors' Hall to vote. The Low Sensory Room will be open during worship services and plenary sessions.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Emergency Medical Technicians are available on-site. Please use a house phone to dial 0 for immediate assistance or dial 911.

MEAL PURCHASES

If you purchased a meal and will not be dining, please stop at the Registration Desk so we can create a ticket for another member to use.

NURSING MOTHER'S ROOM

The space reserved for nursing mothers is in a private room behind the Cass Community Social Services store in the Tower pre-function area. The room will provide needed comfort and privacy while a live stream monitor will keep you connected to what's happening on the conference floor. This is a non-voting space.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

To keep plenary time moving smoothly, requests for 'personal privilege' (speaking about an item of personal interest, making a special introduction or another matter that interrupts scheduled business) will be referred to the Commission on the Annual Conference Session for consideration. Please give personal privilege requests to Jen Peters, Conference Facilitator, who will forward your request.

REGISTRATION DESK

Information on locations for meals, messages, lost and found items, and other updated information can be found at the Conference Registration Desk located in the lobby.

RULES OF ORDER

Jenaba Waggy is your Rules of Order representative. He is seated next to the Conference Facilitator. Please visit him with questions regarding the Standing Rules of the Annual Conference.

SHUTTLE SERVICE

Avoid the hassle of parking and traffic by using the Cherry Loop shuttle! Pick up a shuttle from the exit of Governors' Hall pre-function area to the main (lobby level) entrance. Governors' Hall

exit and main entrance are also pick-up stops for the Cherry Loop shuttle to local hotel stops.

SMOKING

There is no smoking inside the conference property. Smoking is permitted 25 feet from entrances and exits of the building.

TIPPING AND GRATUITY

The Program Committee has already included a 24% gratuity for pre-registered meals. We encourage you to tip housekeepers \$2 per night, bell staff \$1 per bag, and restaurant servers 20%-25%. In today's world, tipping and gratuities are no longer considered a bonus, but part of the income for these hard-working employees.

TRIBAL AFFILIATION

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians own two major businesses which are marketed under the tradename Grand Traverse Resort and Casinos.

The gaming business is owned and operated by the GTB Economic Development Corporation, a federally chartered corporation. The GTB-EDC operations include Turtle Creek Casino and Hotel, the Leelanau Sands Casino and Lodge, and the Eagle Town Market.

The hotel and resort business is owned and operated by the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa LLC, a Michigan limited liability company. GTRS LLC has its own Board of Directors, and its management operations and financials are separate from the GTB-EDC.

FOLLOW US

Watch Annual Conference Plenary Sessions live on our website: 2025.MichiganUMC.org or facebook.com/MichiganUMC





Who Can **VOTE**

Who can vote on Annual Conference business?

Annual Conference business is defined as items in the Legislation Booklet and any business that arises during our conference business.

CLERGY Voice and Full Vote

- Elders and Deacons in full connection ¶329.2, 334.1, 602.1a

CLERGY Voice and Partial Vote (cannot vote on constitutional amendments or on matters regarding ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy in the clergy session)

- Provisional Elders and Deacons who have completed their educational requirements ¶327.2, 602.1b
- Associate Members ¶321.1, 602.1c
- Local Pastors who have completed Course of Study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding election ¶317.6, 602.1d

CLERGY Voice and Limited Vote (cannot vote on General Conference or Jurisdictional Conference Delegates, constitutional amendments or on matters regarding ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy in the clergy session)

- Provisional Elders and Deacons who have not completed their educational requirements ¶327.2, 602.1b
- Local Pastors currently under appointment, but for less than two consecutive years and/or have not completed Course of Study or an M. Div. degree ¶317.6, 602.1d
- Appointed members of other denominations ¶346.2 (must be approved yearly by vote of the Board of Ordained Ministry, if not they are considered an Observer with no voice)

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

CLERGY/LAITY OBSERVER with Voice and NO Vote (may be present in the bar)

- Elders and Deacons with membership in another conference or Methodist denomination ¶346.1 (must be approved yearly by vote of the Board of Ordained Ministry, if not they are considered an Observer with no voice)
- Affiliate members ¶344.4
- Retired local pastors not serving an appointment ¶320.5
- A representative from each of the affiliate entities 6.2.4.1

CLERGY/LAITY VISITOR NO Voice NO Vote (cannot be present in the bar)

- District superintendent assignments
- Student local pastors ¶318.3
- Exhibitors & Speakers
- Alternate lay members
- Local Pastors not currently under appointment, Honorable Location
- Multi-day registered visitors

GUEST NO Voice and NO Vote (may only attend worship)

- RCO Guests
- Memorial Families

safety **FIRST**



We are so glad to have you with us at the Grand Traverse Resort attending Annual Conference. The Committee on Annual Conference and hotel staff want to assure your safety during your stay. Please take a moment to review these safety guidelines:

IF YOU HAVE AN IMMEDIATE, LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Provide the operator with your exact location. Ask another person to inform Grand Traverse Resort staff by dialing 0 on a house phone. Also, ask someone to immediately inform Annual Conference staff, ushers, or Grace Patrol. All are trained to seek assistance and radio for help.

IF YOUR EMERGENCY IS NOT IMMEDIATELY LIFE-THREATENING

Inform Grand Traverse Resort staff by dialing 0 on a house phone and/or inform Annual Conference staff, ushers, or Grace Patrol. All are trained to seek assistance.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTIONS

To protect ourselves and others from disease, maintain good hand sanitization practices and monitor your health before and during our time together. If you develop any symptoms of illness please notify the Annual Conference Registrar or registration desk as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY ALERTS

The Grand Traverse Resort has an emergency public address system throughout the entire facility. Listen for instructions over this system to learn what actions to take in the event of an emergency or weather.

EXITS

Please take a moment to find the location of the nearest emergency exit in any room you enter. Note that some exits lead to hallways. Know how to quickly exit directly outside. Once outside the building, do not block lanes or sidewalks where emergency vehicles and first responders may need access.

WEATHER

In the event of dangerous weather conditions, Grand Traverse Resort staff will guide you to the appropriate place to safely shelter. Stay away from windows.

REPORTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

If you are concerned about a suspicious package or person, please immediately alert the Grand Traverse Resort staff, Annual Conference staff, ushers, or Grace Patrol. If you see something, say something.

PUBLIC PROTESTS

Please note that the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa has corporate policies that prohibit disruptions in resort common areas and property. The resort does not allow protests or other behavior that disrupts the experience of other guests. Individuals will be asked to leave the property for violations of this policy, and the resort reserves the right to call law enforcement if there is failure to comply. As guests of the resort, the Michigan Conference agrees to abide by this policy.



Dear Michigan Annual Conference Members,

As your General Conference delegation co-chairs, we're writing to highlight an important responsibility at this year's Annual Conference—voting on amendments to the United Methodist Church's Constitution.

These amendments were overwhelmingly approved by the 2024 General Conference and now require a two-thirds aggregate vote of eligible lay and clergy members from all annual conferences around the world to take effect. The Michigan delegation strongly supports each amendment and encourages you to vote yes after reviewing the materials for yourself.

Peace,

Paul Perez and Laura Witkowski

Photo above: 2024 General Conference Delegation (left to right) Front row: Nichea Ver, Veer Guy, Bishop David Bard, Diane Brown, Laura Witkowski (Co-Chair), Ruth Sutton, Joel Fitzgerald. Middle Row: Paul Perez (Co-Chair), Jennifer Peters, Joy Barrett, Megan Walther, Ruby Anderson, Christina Wright. Back Row: Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Brad Bartlemay, Charles Boyaue, Gordon Grigg (not pictured: Sherri Swanson)

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

EVERY SINGLE VOTE MATTERS

At the 2024 General Conference, delegates approved four proposed amendments to the United Methodist Constitution. These amendments only become official once ratified by a two-thirds affirmative vote of all annual conference members (§ 59, BOD 2020/2024). Each vote matters: approval or rejection may hinge on just a few votes. During the Michigan Annual Conference, we will vote on these amendments. They can be debated but not modified; it's a straightforward YES or NO vote. Results from all Annual Conferences will remain confidential to protect the integrity of the voting process worldwide. The Council of Bishops will announce the results on November 7, 2025.

BALLOT #1 REGIONALIZATION

A set of amendments to create new regional conferences that will each have equal power to adapt portions of the Book of Discipline within their prospective regions. The United States would become its own Regional Conference, allowing it to make decisions that specifically address outreach and ministry needs within the U.S. context.



BALLOT #2 UPDATING PARAGRAPH 4 ARTICLE 4

An amendment to add the words “gender” and “ability” to Paragraph 4, Article 4 of the constitution to categories that cannot be used to exclude membership in The United Methodist Church.

BALLOT #3 UPDATING ARTICLE V

An amendment to strengthen Article V of the UMC Constitution by explicitly recognizing the church's role in combating racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy.

BALLOT #4 CLERGY EDUCATION

General Conference voted to amend Section VI, Article IV of the United Methodist Constitution, which establishes the educational requirements for clergy members of annual or provisional conferences who are eligible to vote for clergy delegates to the General Conference.



For in-depth details on each amendment
visit [2025.michiganumc.org/constitutional-
amendments](https://2025.michiganumc.org/constitutional-amendments)

Daily Conference Schedule

THURSDAY, MAY 29

7:30 AM-9:00 AM	BOM Buffet Breakfast <i>NIIJI Restaurant</i>
9:00 AM-8:00 PM	Registration/Check-In/ Info Desk Open <i>Lobby</i>
9:00 AM-2:00 PM	BOM Retreat <i>Mackinac Room</i>
9:30 AM-2:00 PM	Appointive Cabinet <i>Director's Room</i>
12:00 PM-1:30 PM	Buffet Lunch <i>Tower Ballroom</i>
1:00 PM-10:00 PM	Cherry Loop Shuttle Bus <i>Lobby and Governors Hall</i>
2:00 PM-4:00 PM	Clergy Session <i>Governors Hall</i>
3:00 PM-5:00 PM	Snack Station Open Supporting Campus Ministries <i>Governors Hall Prefunction</i>
4:00 PM-5:00 PM	Rehearsal for Service of Recognition, Commissioning and Ordination - Governors Hall
5:30 PM-7:00 PM	Dinner <i>Tower Prefunction</i> General Seating - Tower Ballroom Focus Meal: Early Ministry Pension and Benefits Seminar (Private) - Council Room Focus Meal: Garrett-ETS Alum & Friends - Director's Room Focus Meal: Perkins School of Theology Alumni Gathering Peninsula Room B Focus Meal: United Theological Seminary Alumni Gathering Peninsula Room A
5:30 PM-6:30 PM	AC Full Committee Dinner Meeting <i>Mackinac Room</i>
6:30 PM-7:00 PM	AC Executive Committee Meeting <i>Mackinac Room</i>

7:00 PM-8:30 PM	Clergy Retirement Celebration <i>Tower Ballroom</i>
8:00 PM-9:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal <i>Governors Hall</i>
8:00 PM-10:00 PM	Trivia Night <i>Mackinac Room</i>
8:30 PM-9:00 PM	Clergy Retirement Celebration Reception <i>Tower Prefunction</i>


Michigan Conference
The United Methodist Church

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You spoke. We listened. Introducing a more user friendly Michigan Conference Website for clergy and laity.

- Now translated into 5 languages
- Easier navigation
- Faster search engine
- Detailed local church data
- Added learning opportunities
- More resources
- More news
- More events


Communications
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THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OUR PASSION

MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD.



LOVE FOR OUR MIGRANT NEIGHBORS

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 Growing and inspiring your faith.



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 Michigan Conference
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Daily Conference Schedule

FRIDAY, MAY 30

6:00 AM-10:00 PM	Cherry Loop Shuttle Bus <i>Lobby and Governors Hall</i>
6:30 AM-8:00 AM	Breakfast <i>Tower Ballroom</i>
7:30 AM-11:00 AM	Wellness Clinic Open <i>Hotel Hospitality Suite 218</i>
8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Golf Scramble for Campus Ministries (Check-in starts at 7:00 AM) <i>Club House</i>
8:00 AM-8:00 PM	Registration / Check-In / Info Desk Open <i>Lobby</i>
9:00 AM-8:00 PM	Prayer Room Open <i>Level 17, Club Room</i>
9:00 AM-12:00 PM	Rice Meal Packing <i>Michigan ABCD</i>
10:30 AM-12:00 PM	Zero-K for Child Hunger Relief, Sponsored by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits <i>5K Loop / Plaza Tent</i>
11:00 AM-6:00 PM	Cass Community Social Services Store Open <i>Tower Registration Desk</i>
11:30 AM-12:00 PM	Usher/Teller Training <i>Governors Hall</i>
11:30 AM-1:00 PM	Lunch Buffet Lines are in these locations: <i>Lobby, Tower, Pavilion (Yellow Tent) weather permitting</i> <i>(Special Dietary Needs Buffet at Indoor Locations)</i> General Seating - <i>Michigan EFGH, Tower, Mackinac,</i> <i>Peninsula, Pavilion weather permitting</i> Memorial Family Lunch (Private) - <i>Council Room</i>
12:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal <i>Governors Hall</i>

12:30 PM-5:30 PM	Snack Station Open, Benefitting Campus Ministries <i>Governors Hall Prefunction</i>
1:00 PM-5:30 PM	Low Sensory Room Open <i>Tower Ballroom</i>
1:00 PM-2:30 PM	Opening Worship / Memorial Service <i>Governors Hall</i> Bishop Bard preaching, <i>Unfinished and Undaunted</i> Includes Offering for Ministry Partners in Liberia, Haiti, and UMCOR US Disaster Response & Recovery
2:30 PM-3:00 PM	Break
3:00 PM-4:30 PM	Plenary Session <i>Governors Hall</i> Includes: Welcome, Organization of Conference, State of the Conference, Consent Calendar
4:30 PM-5:30 PM	Laity Perspective, Featuring Ministry of Court Street UMC, Flint <i>Governors Hall</i>
5:30 PM-7:00 PM	Dinner Buffet Lines are in these locations <i>Lobby, Tower, Pavilion (Yellow Tent) weather permitting (Special Dietary Needs Buffet at Indoor Locations)</i> General Seating - <i>Michigan ABCD, Tower, Pavilion weather permitting</i> Focus Meal: After the Storm - <i>Peninsula Room A</i> Focus Meal: Haiti Ministry Partners - <i>Michigan EF</i> Focus Meal: Making Meaning Together Children's Faith Formation Grant - <i>Council Room</i> Focus Meal: UMCOM - Church Marketing - <i>Mackinac Room A</i>
6:30 PM-7:15 PM	Cardio Drumming <i>Pavilion (Yellow Tent) Fire Pit</i>
7:00 PM-9:00 PM	EngageMI Mission Festival - Sponsored by The United Methodist Foundation of Michigan <i>Plaza (White Tent)</i>
9:15 PM-10:15 PM	Fireside Chat with the Haiti Task Force Guests and EngageMI Partners <i>Pavilion (Yellow Tent) Fire Pit</i>



Daily Conference Schedule

SATURDAY, MAY 31

6:00 AM-10:00 PM	Cherry Loop Shuttle Bus <i>Lobby and Governors Hall</i>
6:30 AM-8:00 AM	Breakfast <i>Michigan Ballroom</i> Northern Skies District Breakfast - Level 17 Western Waters District Breakfast - Council Room Walk to Emmaus Breakfast - Peninsula A Clergy Spouse Breakfast - Peninsula B
8:00 AM-8:25 AM	Chair Yoga <i>Tower Ballroom</i>
8:00 AM-7:00 PM	Registration / Check-In / Info Desk Open <i>Lobby</i>
8:00 AM-10:00 PM	Prayer Room Open <i>Level 17, Club Room</i>
8:00 AM-8:30 AM	Worship Team Rehearsal <i>Governors Hall</i>
8:30 AM-9:00 PM	Snack Station Open, Benefitting Campus Ministries <i>Governors Hall Prefunction</i>
8:30 AM-9:00 PM	Low Sensory Room Available All Day Except Meal Times <i>Tower Ballroom</i>
8:30 AM-9:00 AM	Gathering Music / Devotional <i>Governors Hall</i>
9:00 AM	Cass Community Social Services Store Open <i>Tower Ballroom Registration Desk</i>
9:00 AM-10:00 AM	Teaching Segment with Rev. Dr. Jasmine Smothers <i>Governors Hall</i>
10:00 AM-10:30 AM	Break
10:30 AM-11:00 AM	Corporate Session <i>Governors Hall</i>
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Constitutional Amendments <i>Governors Hall</i>

12:00 PM-1:15 PM	Lunch Buffet Lines are in these locations: <i>Lobby, Tower, Pavilion (Yellow Tent) weather permitting</i> <i>(Special Dietary Needs Buffet at Indoor Locations)</i> General Seating - Michigan, Tower, Pavilion weather permitting Focus Meal: Board of Justice - Advocacy - Mackinac Focus Meal: Committee on Hispanic/Latino/x/e Ministry - Peninsula Room B Focus Meal: Liberia Ministry Partners - Peninsula Room A
1:30 PM-3:00 PM	Plenary: <i>Unfinished</i> - Sharing God's Love <i>Governors Hall</i> Featuring Making Meaning Together/Belong, New Church Starts, Compass, Legislation, Apology
3:00 PM-3:30 PM	Break
3:05 PM-3:25 PM	Walking Yoga <i>Pavilion (Yellow Tent) Fire Pit</i>
3:30 PM-5:30 PM	Plenary: <i>Unfinished</i> - Building Beloved Community <i>Governors Hall</i> Featuring Wesley Park UMC, ABAR, Nominations, Legislation, Advocacy Day, Historical Questions
5:30 PM-7:00 PM	Dinner Buffet Lines are in these locations: <i>Lobby, Tower, Pavilion (Yellow Tent) weather permitting</i> <i>(Special Dietary Needs Buffet at Indoor Locations)</i> General Seating - Michigan, Tower, Peninsula A, Pavilion weather permitting Focus Meal: Bishop's Dinner with Candidates (Private) - Director's Room Focus Meal: Committee on African American Ministries (COAAM) Peninsula BC Focus Meal: Fellowship of Local Pastors & Associate Members Peninsula A Focus Meal: United Women in Faith - Mackinac Room
6:30 PM	Candidate Photos <i>Council Room</i>
6:30 PM-7:15 PM	Cardio Drumming <i>Pavilion (Yellow Tent) Fire Pit</i>
7:00 PM-9:00 PM	Plenary: <i>Unfinished</i> - Developing Leaders <i>Governors Hall</i> Featuring Urban Methodist Youth Camp, Michigan Conference Cohorts, Legislation, Leading with Depth Cohort
9:00 PM-11:00 PM	Youth Gathering - Pizza & S'mores <i>Pavilion (Yellow Tent) Fire Pit</i>



Daily Conference Schedule

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

6:00 AM-3:00 PM	Cherry Loop Shuttle Bus <i>Lobby and Governors Hall</i>
6:30 AM-8:00 AM	Breakfast <i>Michigan Ballroom</i>
7:30 AM-8:30 AM	Council on Finance and Administration Breakfast (Private) <i>Council Room</i>
8:00 AM-8:25 AM	Chair Yoga <i>Tower Ballroom</i>
8:00 AM-8:30 AM	Worship Team Rehearsal <i>Governors Hall</i>
8:00 AM-2:00 PM	Registration/Check-In/Info Desk Open <i>Lobby</i>
8:00 AM-2:00 PM	Prayer Room Open <i>Level 17, Club Room</i>
8:30 AM-11:00 AM	Snack Station Open, Sponsored by Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministry <i>Governors Hall Prefunction</i>
8:30 AM-10:00 AM	Plenary <i>Governors Hall</i> Featuring Legislation, Celebrations, Closing Litany with Setting of Appointments
9:00 AM-11:00 AM	Cass Community Social Services Store Open <i>Tower Ballroom Registration Desk</i>
10:00 AM-11:00 AM	Break
10:10 AM	Choir Rehearsal <i>Governors Hall</i>
10:30 AM	Worship Rehearsal <i>Governors Hall</i>
10:30 AM	Candidates Check-in, Robed <i>Mackinac Room</i>

10:45 AM	Clergy Processional Line-Up <i>Tower Prefunction</i>
11:00 AM-1:00 PM	Service of of Recognition, Commissioning & Ordination with Bishop Bard Preaching, Wrestling and Dancing <i>Governors Hall</i> MEF Offering, Reception - <i>Governors Hall</i>
1:00 PM-2:00 PM	Lunch General Seating Buffet - <i>Tower Ballroom, Pavilion (Yellow Tent)</i> <i>weather permkking</i> Service of Recognition, Commissioning & Ordination Celebrants' Lunch- <i>Level 17</i> Lunch To Go - <i>Lobby Pick-up</i>
1:30 PM	Bus Departs <i>Lobby</i>



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Conference **PREACHER & SPEAKERS**



Rev. Dr. Jasmine Smothers

Rev. Jasmine Rose Smothers serves as the Lead Pastor of the historic Atlanta First United Methodist Church, where she is the first woman, first person of color, and youngest leader in the church's 177-year history. Known for her passion to *inspire.create.encourage.*, Pastor Jasmine is leading efforts to redevelop Atlanta First's ministries and campus, including affordable housing, schools, and community services.

A dynamic preacher, teacher, and leadership coach, Pastor Jasmine has served the United Methodist Church in numerous leadership roles, including Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for the North Georgia Conference, as a member of the Commission on Religion and Race, Commission on a Way Forward, UMCNext, and Commission on General Conference. She is co-author of the Washington Post best-seller *Not Safe for Church: Ten Commandments for Reaching New Generations* and *Blank Slate: Write Your Own Rules for a 22nd-Century Church Movement*.

A proud graduate of Spelman College and Emory University's Candler School of Theology, Pastor Jasmine is a Birkman Certified Consultant, a creative visionary, and an advocate for community transformation. She enjoys photography, music, crafting, and global travel. Inducted into Morehouse College's prestigious Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers and named one of the "12+ Preachers that the English-Speaking World Needs Now," she is deeply committed to transforming lives through Christ and fostering inclusive, thriving communities.



Rev. Jeremy Peters

Jeremy Peters has been the lead pastor at Court Street UMC in downtown Flint since 2015. He has degrees from Albion College and Duke Divinity School. Jeremy has served extensively in camping ministries, and he currently serves on the Board of Ordained Ministry. Jeremy enjoys reading mystery novels, cheering for the Detroit Tigers, and putting his feet in Lake Superior.



Court Street UMC

Court Street UMC, Flint's first congregation, has a long service history. Members keep Blessing Bags in their cars for unhoused neighbors, partnering with law enforcement and first responders. Pentecost Sunday is "Cereal Sunday," with about 1,000 cereal boxes collected for a local food bank. They donated 475 pairs of shoes, 600 pairs of socks, 600 undergarments, 200 coloring books, hundreds of hygiene items, children's clothing, blankets, backpacks, and tote bags to Ukraine in 40 boxes weighing 1,200 pounds. The congregation also collected and donated 3,671 rolls of toilet paper to the Crossover Downtown Outreach Ministry.

Other ministries include: Hat & Mitten Tree, Teddy Bear Tree for the hospital's pediatric wing, holiday meals, school partnerships, Pride Festival, blanket tying for foster children, CROP Walk, Housing Crisis ministries, Trunk or Treat, camping ministries, scarf giveaways, free Christmas gift wrapping at the mall, cider and donut giveaway at Crim races, and hosting families experiencing homelessness through Family Promise of Genesee County. They partnered with other United Methodist congregations after the Flint Water Crisis and trained Methodist preachers in Petit Goave, Haiti. As a Reconciling Congregation, Court Street UMC has loved and blessed its neighbors both locally and globally.



Rev. Dr. M. Scott Hughes

Associate General Secretary (World Service) at Discipleship Ministries, Elder in the North Georgia Conference, M.Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary, and D.Min. from Southern Methodist University. Co-host of the Small Groups in the Wesleyan Way podcast, creator of the Courageous Conversations project, and facilitator of several eLearning courses, including The Church's Ministry with Dementia, How to Start Small Groups, and Courageous Conversations. Scott has also led several trainings on Intentional Discipleship Systems.



The Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village



HAPI



UMCOR

Traditional OFFERINGS

The opening worship offering will benefit two longstanding mission partners: the people of Haiti and the Liberia Annual Conference. Bishop Bard has designated a 10% tithe of the Annual Conference offering received go to UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery, which most recently addressed devastation from Hurricane Helene on the East Coast and the California wildfires.

Haitian Assets for Peace International (HAPI)

The Michigan Conference played a vital role in supporting HAPI (Advance #3020490) to achieve significant milestones: 7,130 patient consultations, 358 mothers receiving prenatal care, 1,878 laboratory tests conducted, and 117 young people enrolled in skilled training programs. Through this partnership, families gain access to dignified healthcare, vocational training, and fair-wage employment opportunities. HAPI's Start Right initiative is laying the foundation for a healthier future by giving babies a strong start in life. We are also addressing two of Haiti's leading causes of death: hypertension and heart disease. HAPI's mission actively equips local nurses and doctors with training in current medical technology. We invite your continued support to help resource and uplift these dedicated healthcare providers as they shape a brighter future for Haiti.

Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village

In 2000, the Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village was established in Liberia to provide care for children left orphaned by civil war (Advance #11820A). The village provides basic education, health care, and counseling for the children. Established as an orphanage, most of the children today spend their days in the village in classrooms and receiving meals, but return to their own homes each evening. Support for this program assures the children are able to attend school through scholarships and provided care and meals.

UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery

UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. Through UMCOR (Advance #901670), United Methodists extend loving care to people within the United States. When disaster strikes, it is local churches that provide the first response to their communities. This basic understanding—that disaster response is local—forms the foundation for UMCOR's US disaster training and response. When responding to a disaster in the United States, UMCOR provides training, financial assistance, expertise, and community collaboration to churches and partners making them more resilient to disasters.

OTHER GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Zero-K for Child Hunger Relief in Michigan:

Get active and raise money to relieve child hunger and food insecurity in Michigan. Sponsored by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the funds raised through registration, sponsors, or donation will be distributed to all districts in Michigan. Sign up or donate directly here: <https://miumc.swoogo.com/ZeroK25> To donate by check, please make your check payable to "Michigan Conference" noting "Zero K/Child Hunger" in the memo line. Mail your check to: Michigan Conference, 1011 Northcrest Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

Rice Meal Bag Packing:

With the Board of Global Ministries, Rice Meal bags will be packed at annual conference to distribute to those in need through Midwest Mission, most recently in Ukraine. Each rice meal bag contains rice, vitamin pack, dehydrated vegetables, and soy. Supplies for Rice Meal Bags are \$2 and provide six meals. Donate here to buy supplies for a future event: <https://miumc.swoogo.com/rice2025>

MEF (Ministerial Education Fund):

This offering is traditionally received during The Service of Commissioning and Ordination. Funds received assist seminary students with educational expenses. Donate here: <https://michiganumc.org/mef/> To donate by check, please make your check payable to "Michigan Conference" noting "MEF" in the memo line. Mail your check to: Michigan Conference, 1011 Northcrest Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.



Worship SYNOPSIS

OPENING WORSHIP

What a joy it is for us to be together as one body of Christ. As we gather, we will begin the opening worship with drums leading us to sing “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee,” followed by several songs in different styles, from hymns to contemporary pieces. We will also take a moment to remember those who have finished the race before us. The Annual Conference Choir will sing, and then we will reflect on Luke 2:39-52 and Ephesians 4:14-16 while Bishop David Bard preaches his sermon titled “Unfinished and Undaunted.” This year, we will have a baptism and communion during the opening worship. What a blessed worship it will be! Come, let us worship the Lord together!

SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP

As we gather on Saturday morning we will begin with a time of singing, reflecting on Ephesians 4:14-16, and praying together as one body. Come, let us start Saturday morning by worshiping the Lord together!

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

All members to Annual Conference and their guests are invited to join us for this special worship service where we will recognize, commission, and ordain those whom God has called to lead the church. Everything we do is rooted in the sacrament of baptism and the ministry of all baptized individuals. We invite you to join this special service to wholeheartedly pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire us as we give praise and thanks to God for gathering, empowering, and sending us to embody Christ’s mission.

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David Bell, the CEO of the MI Foundation.



www.UMINSURE.org



MEMORIALS

Today's service remembers those who have died since the last session of Annual Conference including: associate members, provisional members, members in full connection, local pastors, missionaries, missionaries' spouses, deaconesses, clergy spouses, clergy surviving spouses, children of clergy members, diaconal ministers, diaconal ministers' spouses, members of the Episcopal family, and lay persons recommended by the Commission on the Annual Conference Session. Today's service honors those who we have lost up to March 31, 2025 for whom we have been notified. If you wish to receive future notifications from the annual conference of those who have died, please sign up for emails at <https://michiganumc.org/subscribe/>

CLERGY



Dorothy M. Blakey



Gordon B. Boyd



John M. Brooks



Nancy L. Bugajski



John T. Charter



Jon M. Clapp



Frederick P. Cooley



Walter David



Martin M. DeBow



William H. Doubblestein



Robert E. Elder



James A. Fegan



Michelle A. Gentile



Jack Giguere



Robert C. Grigereit



Daniel W. Harris



Ronda L. Hawkins



Catherine W.J. Hiner



James L. Hynes



Raymond A. Jacques



Donald W. Joiner



Kenneth A. Kohlmann



Robert V. Marston



David R. McKinstry



Meredith T. Moshauer



Hilton D. Muntz



Lawrence A. Nichols



James F. Parker



Karen B. Poole



Robert J. Sielaff



Lynnette M. Stallworth



Dorothy J. Thon



Douglas R. Trebilcock



Richard F. Venus-Madden



Margaret E. Wilson

CLERGY SPOUSES



Virginia A. Anderson



Jean H. Andrus



Donna L. Bement-McNaughton



William M. Biergans



Lela Beatrice
Blomquist



Theresa M. Cochran



Marion S. Filbrandt



Donald A. Fisher



Eleanor Griffith



Paul L. Hartman



Bernadine A. Jackson-Williams



Marlene A. Johns



Margaret J. Kett-Hoffmaster



Ada J. Kidd



Joseph F. Kolder



Jean M. McNeil



Marilyn Miles



Linda C. Myers



Phyllis L. Niswender



Linda Omansiek



Beverly E. Reyner



Ellen Y. Shin



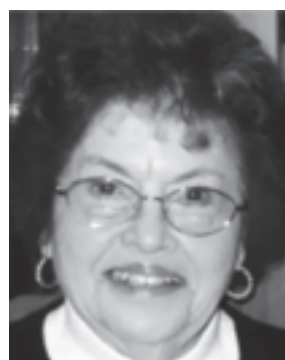
Ruth L. Snogren



Sharon J. Spencer
White



Doris J. Tousley



Zola Webster



Sara A. Weiss



Susan D. Wolfe

LAITY



Julia J. Deemer



Brenda DuPree



Donal D. Hammond



C. David Lundquist



Dorothy J. Smith



Lewis F. Tibbits



Awards and **RECOGNITIONS**

HARRY DENMAN AWARD FOR EVANGELISM: Rev. Andy Lee

The Harry Denman Evangelism Award honors United Methodists in each annual conference whose exceptional ministry of evangelism—expressed through Word (what), Sign (why), and Deed (how)—leads others into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.



What sets a Denman Award recipient apart is their unwavering commitment to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in every ministry setting. Their impact is evident in the number of new Christ-followers who credit encounters with them as pivotal in beginning or reigniting their faith journey. Since 1980, Annual Conferences and the Foundation for Evangelism have recognized youth, clergy, or laypersons for their outstanding evangelistic ministry.

This year, the Denman Award for clergy is presented to **Rev. Andy Lee**, pastor of Commerce UMC, whose innovative and heartfelt approach to evangelism has made a profound impact. One of Pastor Lee's most remarkable ministries began with a simple Tuesday evening basketball game—an outreach to younger men struggling to connect with their church community. What started as a small effort quickly grew beyond expectations, attracting men from surrounding communities, some willing to drive 30-45 minutes just to be part of it.

As word spread, Pastor Lee and his congregation became more intentional in welcoming new participants, ensuring that the ministry extended beyond the game itself. "The opportunity for free basketball brought in an unexpected and diverse group of guys. We approach each person with respect, curiosity,

and a heart of welcome," Lee shared. Through this powerful ministry, lives are being touched, faith is being renewed, and new relationships with Christ are forming.

We celebrate and honor Rev. Andy Lee for his creative, inclusive, and transformative approach to evangelism—one that embodies the very spirit of the Harry Denman Evangelism Award and reminds us all that ministry can happen anywhere, even on the basketball court!

2025 ONE MATTERS AWARD:

Auburn UMC and Pastor Carmen Cook

Every year, Discipleship Ministries partners with the Michigan Annual Conference to present the One Matters Award to a congregation that has made a remarkable impact in discipleship and faith formation. This prestigious award includes a commemorative plaque and a \$1,000 check as a celebration of transformation and renewed commitment to ministry.

The Michigan Conference Board of Congregational Life selects the recipient of the One Matters Discipleship Award, lifting up the power of discipleship and demonstrating the significance of moving beyond “zeros” in professions of faith and baptisms. As Jeff Campbell, General Secretary, beautifully states, “Each ‘one’ in those categories represents a transformed life—a life that matters to God and should matter to us.”

In 2025, this distinguished honor is awarded to **Auburn UMC**, a congregation that has experienced an incredible revitalization under the leadership of **Pastor Carmen Cook**. Through her dedicated ministry, Auburn UMC has not only transformed spiritually but has also demonstrated extraordinary generosity. Under Pastor Cook’s guidance, the church has gone from paying 0% in Ministry Shares to fully contributing 100%—a tremendous achievement in itself. But Auburn UMC didn’t stop there. In a powerful act of faith and stewardship, they are now paying the Ministry Shares for another church in need.

Congratulations to Auburn UMC and Pastor Carmen Cook for their extraordinary leadership, unwavering faith, and generous spirit—may their story continue to inspire discipleship and transformation across our connection!



BUXTON AWARD:

Rev. Brad Bartlemay

The John Buxton Award honors creative problem-solving within our annual conference. Years ago, many annual conferences faced significant unfunded liabilities for clergy pensions. Recognizing this challenge, John Buxton developed an innovative strategy to resolve these shortfalls, making our conference the first in The United Methodist Church to fully fund its liabilities. Each year, we celebrate his legacy by recognizing an individual who demonstrates exceptional leadership in overcoming difficult challenges within our annual conference.

This year, we are proud to present the John Buxton Award to **Rev. Brad Bartlemay**. As past president of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, Brad provided steady



Continued page 38

leadership through major staff transitions and the formation of a new annual conference. His commitment to financial transparency and sustainability has been instrumental in streamlining conference finances and ensuring a strong future alongside the conference's chief financial officer.

In his most recent role as special assistant to the bishop, Brad offered compassionate guidance to church leaders navigating the disaffiliation process. Now, as the Senior Director of Mentored Learning with the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan, he continues to support pastors and local church leaders in their ministry, vision, and leadership.

We are grateful for Brad's dedication, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to the church. Congratulations, Brad, on this well-deserved honor!



FRANCIS ASBURY AWARD: Rev. Curt and Anne Jensen

The Michigan Conference Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is pleased to honor **Rev. Curt and Anne Jensen** with the Francis Asbury Award for their longtime commitment, support, and service to campus ministries. As alumni of campus ministries (Curt at MSU and Anne at CMU), Curt and Anne know the importance of providing a place of welcome, care, and spiritual formation for college students and staff. They were blessed by campus ministries and want to be a blessing to others. Whether bringing a community meal to students at CMU, generously supporting multiple campus ministries with financial resources, making a point to connect with students when they visit campus, serving in leadership positions on the CMU board to maintain its financial health, stopping by the snack table at Annual Conference with a word of encouragement, welcoming a new director, and helping them to develop roots in the community, or witnessing to the impact of campus ministry in their lives, Anne and Curt help to sustain intentional and vital ministry with young adults. In the words of Campus Minister Audra Hudson Stone, CMU Wesley Foundation Director, "Their lives and faiths have been shaped by United Methodist young adult programs, and it's clear to me that they hope to sustain these opportunities for generations to come."



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RETIREES



Christine M. Beaudoin



Joseph L. Beavan



Sara L. Carlson



Lawrence J. Embury



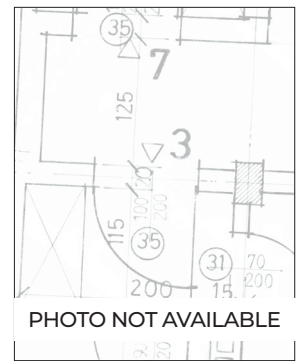
Donald R. Ferris-McCann



Suzanne K. Goodwin



Donald D. Gotham



Valerie M. Hill



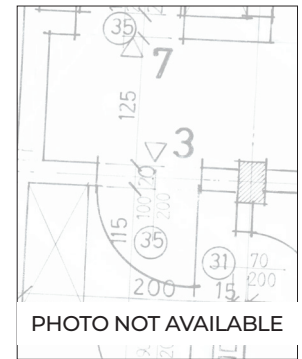
Daniel B. Hofmann



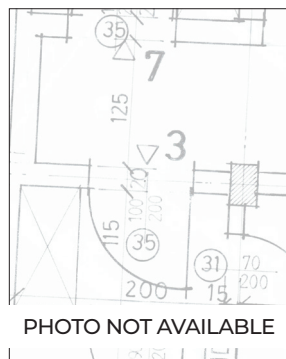
Andrea L. Johnson



Kristen J. LePalm



Ian S. McDonald



Marianne M. McMunn



Terry L. Melton



Mark D. Miller



John J. Pajak



Penny L. Parkin



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Kathryn M. Steen



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2025 Recognition COMMISSIONING & ORDINATION

RECOGNITION OF COURSE OF STUDY GRADUATES



Robert Paul Demyanovich
Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Royal Oak First United Methodist Church
Currently Serving: Caro and Saginaw Resurrection United Methodist Churches



David Lee Leineke
Seminary: Wesley Theological Seminary Washington DC
Home Church: Flint Hope Calvary United Methodist Church
Currently Serving: Pigeon First United Methodist Church



Carol Joan Freeland
Seminary: Candler School of Theology, Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Macon United Methodist Church
Currently Serving: West Vienna and Otisville United Methodist Churches



Carolyn A. Jones
Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Home Church: Grace Community United Methodist Church
Currently Serving: Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church

ASSOCIATE MEMBER FOR COMMISSIONING



Pamela Anne Harkema
Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio, United Theological Seminary
Home Church: Algoma/Kewaunee United Methodist Church, Wisconsin
Currently Serving: Oscoda United Methodist Church and Oscoda Indian Mission

ELDER CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONING



Naylo Terrell Hopkins

Seminary: Wesley Theological Seminary

Home Church: Grace and Peace United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Bethel United Methodist Church



Bryan Kelly Kilpatrick

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Home Church: Brighton First United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Lambertville United Methodist Church



Lydie Ngoie

Seminary: Drew University Theological Seminary

Home Church: Birmingham French United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Trinity Faith United Methodist Church



Heather Marie Nowak

Seminary: United Theological Seminary

Home Church: Eastpointe Immanuel United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Trinity Sebewaing and Kilmanagh United Methodist Churches



Jung Du Paik

Seminary: Central Baptist Theological Seminary

Home Church: Elsie United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Elsie and Shepardsville United Methodist Churches

ELDER CANDIDATE FOR PROVISIONAL MEMBER TRANSFER



Joshua Kim

Seminary: Methodist Theological Seminary, Seoul, South Korea

Home Church: Marne United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Marne United Methodist Church

DEACON CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION



Elisabeth Ann Danielsons

Seminary: Wesley Theological Seminary

Home Church: Beacon United Methodist Church, Hannibal Missouri

Currently Serving: Salem in Ladue United Methodist Church



Erica Nicole Thomas

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Home Church: Marquette Hope United Methodist Church Faith Community

Currently Serving: Marquette Hope United Methodist Church Faith Community and Sacred Space Campus Ministry

ELDER CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION



Lenora Fay Combs-Whitcotton

Seminary: Wesley Theological Seminary

Home Church: Trenton Faith United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Portland United Methodist Church



Haley Berg Hansen
Seminary: Boston University
 School of Theology
Home Church: The Peoples
 Church of East Lansing
Currently Serving: The Peoples
 Church of East Lansing



Ryan Casey Low Edwardson
Seminary: Duke Divinity School
Home Church: Grace United
 Methodist Church, Spencer Iowa
Currently Serving: Coloma
 United Methodist Church



Sunhwa Hopgood
Seminary: Methodist Theological
 School in Ohio
Home Church: Troy Korean Global
 Methodist Church
Currently Serving: Richmond First
 / Washington United Methodist
 Church



Audrey Mangum
Seminary: Ecumenical
 Theological Seminary, Methodist
 Theological School in Ohio
Home Church: Detroit Second
 Grace United Methodist Church
Currently Serving: Detroit Conant
 Avenue United Methodist Church



Daniel Dung Nguyen
Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical
 Theological Seminary
Home Church: Grand Rapids
 Vietnamese United Methodist
 Church
Currently Serving: Grand Rapids
 Vietnamese United Methodist
 Church

RECOGNITION OF ORDERS - ELDER IN FULL CONNECTION



Hillary Dawn Thurston-Cox
Seminary: Asbury Theological
 Seminary
Home Church: Big Rapids United
 Methodist Church
Currently Serving: United Methodist
 Church of Ludington

TRANSFER OF ORDERS - ELDER IN FULL CONNECTION



J. Albert Barchue
Seminary: Gbarnga School of
 Theology, Liberia, Drew University
 Theological Seminary
Home Church: Marquette
 Hope United Methodist Church,
 Negaunee Mitchell Campus
Currently Serving: Flat Rock
 United Methodist Church



THANK YOU

We give thanks to the Commission on the Annual Conference Session and these individuals who make the Annual Conference possible.

GRACE PATROL

- Denny Olin
- The generous and grace filled-team

USHERS

- Chuck Woolley
- Our wonderful volunteers

REGISTRATION

- Sarah Vollmer

CHILD CARE

- Ashley Kilpatrick
- Charity Ben
- Milly Shepherd

COMMUNICATIONS

- James Deaton
- Rev. Kay DeMoss
- Kristen Gillette
- Andrew Stange
- Adrienne Trupiano-Stepaniak
- Jonathan Trites
- John Woodring

VIDEO PRODUCTION

- Aaron Greer / Biddle City Production
- Paul Roadarmel, David Wood, and the entire GNTV Team

PRINT AND DESIGN

- Lisa Collins/Lavender Studios
- Stacey Trzeciak/Foresight Group

GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT

- Steve Baehr
- Katie Leonard
- Nick McNeil
- And the entire staff of the resort

TRAVERSE CITY TOURISM

- Sarah Barnard
- Trevor Tkach

ASL INTERPRETERS

- Emily Gordillo
- Rebecca King
- Li Hahn (Student Intern)

ENGAGEMI MISSION FESTIVAL TEAM

- Rev. Dillon Burns
- Jody Pratt
- Rev. Kenny Walkup
- Chuck Woolley

WORSHIP THANK YOU

Thanks to all who served and supported the 2025 Michigan Annual Conference through worship!

WORSHIP DESIGN TEAM

Rev. Matthew Chapman, Rev. Kevin Smalls,
Rev. Sunhwa Hopgood, Linda Hall
Rev. Tish Bowman (Communion)

WORSHIP STAGE DESIGN TEAM

Rev. Melany Chalker, Contreda Navarro, Liz Carr

WORSHIP MUSICIANS

Vocals

Mike Tooman, Saleel Menon, Jenna Brevitz, Erica Plesco, Rev. Lydie Ngoie, Rev. Miriam Peralta,
Rev. Cesar Garcia Rodriguez

Instrumentalists

Rev. Caleb Williams (Keyboard, Vocal, RCO Worship Leader), Casey Baker (Keyboard), Rev. Jeremy Williams (Guitar), Jason Sherman (Bass), Rev. Geri Hamlen (Violin), Rev. Michelle Vallier (Violin), Brandon Rush (Alto Saxophone), Rev. Christine Beaudoin (Trumpet), Rev. Suzanne Goodwin (Percussion), Jonathan Lindenau (Drum)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE CHOIR

Saleel Menon (Director), Casey Baker (Accompanist)

SERVICE OF RECOGNITION, COMMISSIONING, AND ORDINATION

Rev. Chad Parmalee, Laure Mieskowski,
Rev. Barry Petrucci and the Board of Ordained Ministry.



2025 Commission on the Annual CONFERENCE SESSION

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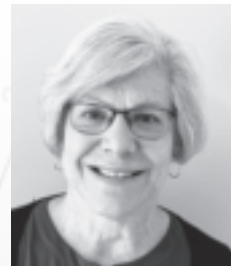
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Engage^{mi} mission festival

White Plaza Tent • Friday 7:00 PM

Thank you to our sponsor!



**United Methodist
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◆ Celebrating 100 Years ◆

Learn about missions and how you can offer support. Desserts, music and more! Spend your Mission Bucks here!	Advocacy Day	↑ Camping Ministry is hosting fun and games outside of the Mission Festival tent	
	Board of Justice		EarthKeepers: Sustainability Resources for Churches
The Gathering Compassion Counts Food Pantry	Noah at Central	Urban Youth Alliance Camp Ministry	Abundant Health Michigan
Lay Servant Ministries	Liberia Ministry Partnership	Committee On African American Ministries	Connexion Summer Intern Program and CDF-Freedom Schools
Sugar Crush Summer Program	Grace Children's Hospital, Haiti	Blue Water Free Store & Ministry Center	
Methodist NOMADS	Haiti Task Force	Disaster Recovery ERT Program	Wesley Campus Ministries
South Lansing Ministries	Haitian Assets for Peace Int'l (HAPI)	Volunteers in Mission	Wesley Foundation
After the Storm	Midwest Mission	God's Country Community Mission	Green Church Initiative
Community Ministries Program	Emmaus of Southeast Michigan	Cass Community Social Services	Michigan Conference Board of Global Ministries
Pawating Megedwin Kikajik	French United Methodist Church	United Women in Faith	EngageMI

Entrance to Mission Festival



**United Methodist
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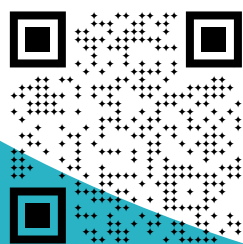
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We're proud to have served our community for **over a century!** In this time, we've provided and continue to provide:

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Love Boldly Serve Joyfully Lead Courageously

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ, who empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love** boldly, **serve** joyfully, and **lead** courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

Love Boldly: We passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life. (Matthew 22:37-39 | John 13:34-35)

Serve Joyfully: With the heart of Christ, we journey alongside the most vulnerable, offering care and compassion with joy. (Psalm 100:1 | Nehemiah 8:10 | John 13:14-15 | 1 Peter 4:10)

Lead Courageously: And, following Jesus' example, we resist and dismantle all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice, and reconciliation. (Joshua 1:9 | Ephesians 6:10)



The new vision of The United Methodist Church reflects both who we already are and God's dream for us. Since 2021, the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table have journeyed together in prayerful collaboration, seeking God's wisdom and discerning a hope-filled vision for this unfolding era in The United Methodist Church. "Sankofa" – a West African concept of remembering where we've come from in order to move forward – guided the work.