



FRIDAY MAY 31, 2024

FEARLESS

MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Embracing A NEW FUTURE

SERVICE OF RECOGNITION
COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION



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. Welcome to this unique and beautiful worship service.

“Ministry in the Christian church is derived from the ministry of Christ, who calls all persons to receive God’s gift of salvation and follow in the way of love and service... Within the church community, there are persons whose gifts, evidence of God’s grace, and promise of future usefulness are affirmed by the community, and who respond to God’s call by offering themselves in leadership as set-apart ministers, ordained and licensed” (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, ¶ 301). These words are rooted in our Scriptures. In his letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul writes, “He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. His purpose was to equip God’s people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God’s Son. God’s goal is for us to become mature adults — to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-13, Common English Bible).

We gather in worship to affirm those whom God has called into set-apart ministry, who have been examined by the church, and found to have the gifts and graces the church needs as it seeks to be in ministry for and with Jesus Christ. As your bishop it is my great joy and privilege to place my hands and offer my hands to those being licensed, commissioned, and ordained, in the tradition of bishops who came before me. Every bishop, in offering hands, symbolically offers God’s Spirit and the tradition of the Church, the Church which exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ so that lives will be different and the world will be different.

A unique dimension to ordination services in The United Methodist Church is that they happen when we are gathered at Annual Conference. Here we acknowledge our connection with one another in ministry. The ministry of the church belongs to all God’s people, not just the clergy, yet we believe that to be the church and help one another mature in Christ, we need leaders called by God. At provisional membership, ordination or licensing, persons become members of the Annual Conference. Together, lay and clergy leaders alike, work together so that we might all grow up into mature adulthood in faith and together fearlessly follow in the way of love and service set out for us by Jesus Christ.

As we celebrate those newly commissioned, licensed, recognized, and ordained, may we all hear God’s call anew to be God’s people, together in ministry to a world desperately in need of more love, more justice, more care, more tenderness, more courage, more kindness, and more beauty.

David A Bard

Bishop David Alan Bard





Welcome to this significant service of worship and celebration of ministry. This evening we will recognize, commission and ordain those whom God has called into the leadership of the church. All that we do is anchored in the sacrament of baptism and the ministry of all baptized persons. We invite you to participate fully and pray that the Holy Spirit will work within you as we offer praise and thanksgiving to God for gathering, empowering and sending us to be the body and do the work of Christ.

Commissioned as Deacons and Elders

Commissioning relates persons to the ministry of the provisional members within the annual conference. In it, we acknowledge and affirm God's call and the individual's gifts and training for leadership in the local church. We offer our support for their continuing formation as they journey toward ordination and full membership. Those preparing for ordination as elders and serving local congregations are licensed and authorized for sacramental and pastoral duties. Those preparing for ordination as deacons are licensed and authorized for their appropriate specialized ministries.

Ordination of Deacons and Elders

Ordination is understood as the act of the Holy Spirit. As a liturgical act, it is the culmination of a process in which representatives of the whole Church discern and validate the call, gifts and effectiveness for ministry of those being ordained. Ordination of deacons and elders is both to an office and for a lifetime. It confers a new identity in the life of the church as well as authority for ministry. Upon ordination, deacons and elders become accountable to the whole church, to the community of the ordained, and to the order of deacons or elders of which they are a part. The ministry of the deacon is to teach and to form disciples, to lead worship together with other ordained and lay persons, conduct marriages and bury the dead, and lead the congregation in interpreting the needs and hopes of the world. Deacons exemplify Christian discipleship and create opportunities for others to enter into discipleship. The ministry of the elder is expressed by leading the people of God in worship and prayer, by leading persons to faith in Jesus Christ, by exercising pastoral supervision in the congregation, and by leading the Church in obedience to mission in the world.





PRELUDE

This is the Day of New Beginnings

UMH #383 (stanzas 1-4)

1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
 4. Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin - nings; our God is mak - ing all things new.

CENTERING WORDS

Rev. Ann Emerson

*PROCESSIONAL

*Indicates all are invited to stand as you are comfortable.



O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

UMH #57

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2. My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3. Je-sus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease;
4. He breaks the power of can-cel'd sin, he sets the pris-oner free;
5. He speaks, and listen-ing to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;

the glo-ries of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of thy name.
'tis mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.
his blood can make the foul-est clean; his blood a-vailed for me.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

Verse 6.

I found and owned his promise true,
ascertained of my part,
my pardon passed in heaven I knew
when written on my heart.

Verse 7.

In Christ, your head, you then shall know,
shall feel your sins forgiven;
anticipate your heaven below,
and own that love is heaven.

*GREETING AND PRAYER

Bishop David A. Bard, Bishop of the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church:
The grace of Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

The Holy Spirit is among us.

People: Move us, Holy Spirit!

Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit you gave to your apostles many excellent gifts. Give your grace to all who have been called to ministry, that they may with diligence and faithfulness fulfill their various ministries. Grant that we your people may follow where you lead, to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.



***RECOGNITION OF COMMON MINISTRY AND REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

Beloved in Christ:

Ministry is the work of God, done by the people of God and given to each Christian as vocation.

Through baptism all Christians are made part of the priesthood of all believers,

The Church made visible in the world.

God in Christ through the Holy Spirit empowers us to live as witnesses of God's grace and love.

We are to bear witness in and through the life of the Church and to be faithful in our daily lives.

Therefore, in celebration of our common ministry,

I call upon all God's people gathered here:

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

All: We reaffirm our baptism and our common call to ministry. Thanks be to God!

INTRODUCTION OF ECUMENICAL REPRESENTATIVE

Rev. Jennifer Browne, Clergy Assistant to the Bishop / Director of Clergy Services:

Knowing that the body of Christ is strongest when it is united in purpose and diverse in nature,

The United Methodist Church has a longstanding commitment to ecumenism.

Therefore, our tradition in services of ordination is to include a representative of the

larger Christian body. This evening we are especially honored to welcome

Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel, Conference Minister for the Michigan Conference of

The United Church of Christ.

ECUMENICAL REPRESENTATIVE GREETING AND REFLECTION

Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel

RECOGNITION AND PRAYER FOR THOSE COMPLETING COURSE OF STUDY

Rev. Marv Herman, Chair, Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members

Gathered as Christ's body the Church,

and as people of the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church,

we celebrate the work of these persons who have completed the Course of Study:

Class of 2023

William "Bill" Curtis Cleland

Rhonda Jean Osterman

Andrea Louise Johnson



Let us pray for them:
Loving God, as you walked among us, you called women and men, young and old,
tax collectors and fishermen, inviting them to lay down their old priorities
in order to take up a new life following you. Like them, these Course of Study graduates
have bravely changed their lives in order to serve you. Bless them in their ministry
and guide them to walk closely with you. **Amen.**

Bishop Bard:

We honor the faithful work of ministry that you have already done
and rejoice in all that is yet to come.

**All: With thanksgiving, we celebrate all you have done and rejoice in all you will do
as servants of Christ and leaders among us. May God guide you in the way ahead.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Send Me, Lord
UMH #497

Send me, Lord.



Send me Je - sus, send me, Je - sus, send me, Je - sus, send me, Lord.
Thu - ma mi - na, thu - ma mi - na, thu - ma mi - na, So - man - dla.

PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE COMMISSIONED, RECOGNIZED, OR ORDAINED

Bishop Bard:

Who presents these candidates to be commissioned, recognized, or ordained?

Annette Erbes, Lay Leader:

On behalf of the laity of local congregations of the
Michigan Conference, who have recommended them in our local congregations,
I present these candidates with our prayers and support.

Rev. Barry Petrucci, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry:

On behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry,
and the Michigan Conference which has approved them,
I present these candidates for commissioning with our prayers and support:

To be commissioned for the work of a Deacon:

Sonrisa Marie Cortes
Robert Bruce Prud'homme

**I present this candidate to be transferred as a
Provisional Member with our prayers and support:**

Edwin M. Harris



To be commissioned for the work of an Elder:

Beatrice S. Alghali
Nicolas Rey Berlanga
Rachel Joy Kain
Kimberly Sue Metzger
Martin David Phillips
Michelle Mitchell Vallier

I present these candidates to be transferred as Provisional Members or Full Members with our prayers and support:

To be transferred as Provisional Members for the work of an Elder:

Edwin Maurice Harris

To be transferred as a Full Member for the work of an Elder:

John Kabala Ilunga Ngoie

To be recognized as a Full Member for the work of an Elder:

Suzanne Kuenzli Goodwin
Vaughn William Thurston-Cox

I present these candidates for ordination with our prayers and support:

For ordination as Deacon:

Michelle Marie King

For ordination as Elder:

Sari Lynn Brown
Martin Timothy Cobb
Rachael Marie Dunlap
Stephanie Elaine Norton
Kellas Dale Penny, III
Corey Matthew Simon

Bishop Bard: We rejoice in the Spirit's work in our lives
and the lives of these people who come to serve and lead among us.

**All: We will uphold them with our prayers and support.
Thanks be to God.**

THE GENERAL EXAMINATION

Bishop Bard:

Sisters and brothers in Christ, the Church now confirms your calling.
As ordained or commissioned ministers,
you are to be coworkers with laity, bishops, elders, deacons, local pastors,
provisional members, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, home missionaries,
supply pastors, and with all the people of God.
Remember you are called to serve rather than to be served,
to proclaim the faith of the Church and no other,
to look after the concerns of God above all.
So we may know you believe yourselves to be called by
God and that you profess the Christian faith, we ask you:



Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of set apart ministry?

I do so believe.

Do you believe in the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
and confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

I do so believe and confess.

Are you persuaded that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments
contain all things necessary for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ
and are the unique and authoritative standard for the Church's faith and life?

I am so persuaded, by God's grace.

Will you be faithful in prayer, in the study of the Holy Scriptures,
and with the help of the Holy Spirit continually rekindle the gift of God that is in you?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you do your best to pattern your life in accordance with the teachings of Christ?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you, in the exercise of your ministry, lead the people of God to faith in Jesus Christ,
participate in the life and work of the community, and seek peace, justice, and freedom for all people?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you be faithful to The United Methodist Church, accepting and upholding its order,
liturgy, doctrine, and discipline, defending them against all doctrines contrary to God's
Holy Word, and committing yourself to be accountable with those serving with you,
and to the bishop and those who are appointed to supervise your ministry?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you, for the sake of the Church's life and mission, covenant to participate in the life
of the order into which you are commissioned, recognized or ordained?

Will you give yourself to God through the order, in order to sustain and
build each other up in prayer, study, worship and service under the rule of life
set forth in the vows you take this day?

I will, with the help of God.

May God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you grace to perform them,
that the work begun in you by the Holy Spirit may be brought to perfection.

All: Amen.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Scripture Readings

Rev. Sue Pethoud

Isaiah 41:6-10

1 John 3:1-3

Gospel Reading

Annette Erbes

John 1:43-51

(Please stand for the gospel reading.)



SERMON

Bishop David A. Bard
"Anything Good?"

Come and See
by Caleb Williams

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Jennifer Browne:

Today's offering will support the Ministerial Education Fund, which assists people pursuing pastoral leadership in The United Methodist Church through seminary and continuing education scholarships, funding of our thirteen U.S. United Methodist seminaries, and more.

OFFERTORY

Conference Choir

It is Well With My Soul – Arr. Tom Fettke

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH #94



***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Rev. Jennifer Browne:

Creator God, we give you thanks for your generosity in all things. In your great wisdom you have gifted each of us in different ways and called us to use all that you have given in community with others. As we give back to you, with humble and grateful hearts, may our offering be blessed and multiplied for the building of God's kingdom, the renewing of God's church, and the transformation of the world.
In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONING

Bishop Bard:

Provisional members are bound to the service of God, appointed and supervised by the bishop, and guided by ordained and lay colleagues and the Board of Ordained Ministry, as they continue to grow in grace and to practice and perfect their skills in the ministries to which they may later be ordained as Deacon or Elder. This is the way of life and work of a provisional member.
Do you believe that God has called you to continue your preparation toward ordained ministry in this way?
I do so believe.

RECOGNITION OF ORDERS: PROVISIONAL MEMBER TRANSFER

Bishop Bard: One among you first received their call and ministry in another fellowship of Christ's holy Church, and have sought provisional membership in the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Edwin M. Harris, we recognize and welcome you to serve among us as a provisional Elder in the United Methodist Church.

People: We receive you with joy! Thanks be to God!

COMMISSIONING AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

Bishop Bard:

God of the apostles and prophets, of the martyrs and teachers, you raise up men and women to be apostolic leaders in your Church.
By your Holy Spirit help these, your servants, to understand and live the mystery of your love with boldness and joy. Deepen their sense of purpose as they exercise commissioned ministry. Empower them and those who will walk with them to guide their ministry, together with all of your people, to heal the sick, love the outcast, resist evil, preach the Word, and give themselves freely for your name's sake. **Amen.**



Pour out your Holy Spirit upon *Full Name*.
Send him/her/them now to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ,
to announce the reign of God, and to equip the Church for ministry,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF NEWLY COMMISSIONED MEMBERS

Bishop Bard: As you have placed yourselves into the hands of God,
People: **And as we have prayed for the Holy Spirit to empower you
for your continuing growth in ministry among us,**

Bishop Bard: We now send you forth to announce the good news of God's kingdom,
and equip disciples of Jesus for ministry.

People: **Lead us to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

Bishop Bard: I present to you these newly commissioned members of
the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church!

EXAMINATION OF DEACON

Rev. Jodie Flessner, District Superintendent of the Western Waters District

A Deacon is called to share in Christ's ministry of servanthood, to relate the life of the
community to its service in the world, to lead others into Christian discipleship,
to nurture disciples for witness and service,
to lead in worship, to teach and proclaim God's Word,
to assist Elders and appointed Local Pastors at Holy Baptism and Holy Communion,
to interpret to the Church the world's hurts and hopes,
to serve all people, particularly the poor, the sick, and the oppressed,
and to lead Christ's people in ministries of compassion and justice, liberation and reconciliation,
even in the face of hardship and personal sacrifice.

This is the rule of life and work of a Deacon.

Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of a Deacon?

I do so believe.

Will you, for the sake of the Church's life and mission, covenant to participate in the Order of
Deacons? Will you give yourself to God through the Order of Deacons
in order to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship, and service?

I will, with the help of God,

and with the help of my clergy colleagues in the Order of Deacons.

PRAYER FOR DEACONS

Rev. Sue Pethoud, Chair of Order of Deacons:

We thank you God, that in your wisdom, you created each of us in your image and yet gifted
and called us uniquely and individually. In your great love for us you sent your Son, Jesus Christ,
to show us all how to live out our call to love and serve one another. As disciples, we seek to
emulate Jesus, so that others might see you in our prayer, study, worship, and service, and
sense their own call to the same. We call upon you for strength and courage enough to
follow you in all the ways and into all the places we are called to go. In all we do, may
we reflect your grace, and your mercy for your glory and the good of your Church.



MUSICAL RESPONSE

Send Me, Lord

UMH #497

Send me, Lord.

Send me Je-sus, send me, Je - sus, send me, Je-sus, send me, Lord.
Thu-ma mi-na, thu - ma mi - na, thu - ma mi-na, So-man - dla.

EXAMINATION OF ELDERS

Rev. Dwayne Bagley, District Superintendent of the Greater Southwest District

An Elder is called to share in the ministry of Christ and of the whole Church:
to preach and teach the Word of God
and faithfully administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion;
to lead the people of God in worship and prayer; to lead persons to faith in Jesus Christ;
to exercise pastoral supervision, to order the life of the congregation and connection,
to counsel the troubled, and declare the forgiveness of sin;
to lead the people of God in obedience to Christ's mission in the world;
to seek justice, peace, and freedom for all people; and to take a responsible place
in the government of the Church and in service in and to the community.

This is the rule of life and work of an Elder.

Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of an Elder?

I do so believe.

Will you, for the sake of the Church's life and mission, covenant to participate in the Order of Elders?

Will you give yourself to God through the Order of Elders in order to
sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship, and service?

I will, with the help of God, and the help of my fellow disciples in the Order of Elders.

PRAYER FOR ELDERS

Rev. Cathi Huvaere, Chair, Order of Elders

We thank you God, that in your wisdom, you created each of us in your image and yet gifted and called us uniquely and individually. In your great love for us you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to show us all how to live out our call to love and serve one another. As disciples, we seek to emulate Jesus in all we do, so that others might see you in our life and work. As we faithfully serve your Church may you continue to reveal gifts in us that we might present your Good News in new ways. We call upon you for strength and courage enough to follow you in all the ways and into all the places we are called to go. In all we do, may we reflect your love, your grace, and your mercy for your glory and the good of your Church.



RECOGNITION OF ORDERS

Bishop Bard:

This evening, it is our joy to recognize and welcome one elder who is transferring into the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church, one elder who is being received as a full member, and one person who is entering the Order of Elders from the Order of Deacons.

Rev. John Kabala Ilunga Ngoie is transferring from the North Katanga Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Rev. Kabala, we recognize and welcome you to serve among us.

People: We receive you with joy! Thanks be to God!

Rev. Vaughn William Thurston-Cox is being received as a full member after transferring from another fellowship of Christ's Holy Church. Rev. Thurston-Cox we recognize and welcome you to serve among us as an Elder in full connection in The United Methodist Church.

People: We receive you with joy! Thanks be to God!

Rev. Suzanne Kuenzli Goodwin is entering the Order of Elders after being ordained as a full member of the Order of Deacons. Rev. Goodwin we recognize and welcome you to serve among us as an Elder in full connection in The United Methodist Church.

People: We receive you with joy! Thanks be to God!

Let us pray:

Almighty God, pour out your blessings upon Rev. Kabala, Rev. Thurston-Cox, and Rev. Goodwin who serve among us in the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Grant them joy, that they may experience the fullness of Christ.

Grant them grace, that they may give their hearts and lives in service to you.

Grant them peace, that they may be guided and sustained by your Holy Spirit.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS FOR ORDINANDS: INVOCATION OF HOLY SPIRIT

Bishop Bard: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Bishop Bard: Holy Spirit, move among us! Come, Holy Spirit!

People: Come, Holy Spirit!

Bishop Bard: These persons are to be ordained by God and the Church for the ministry of Deacons and Elders, to which they have been called by the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray for them.

Bishop Bard:

Come, Holy Spirit; Come, Father of the Poor; Come, Mother of the Broken.

Come, Giver of Gifts, fill the hearts of your faithful,

for without your divine power, no good can come from our work.

Wash what is unclean, water what is dry, heal what is wounded.

Bend what is inflexible, warm what is chilled and guide what is astray.

Grant that these persons to be ordained, and that we, your people,

may follow where you lead and live in joyful obedience to your will,

through Jesus Christ, Savior and Healer of the world.

Bishop Bard: Come upon these, your servants.

People: Come upon these, your servants.

Amen.



LAYING ON OF HANDS FOR ORDINAND: DEACON

Almighty God, pour upon Michelle Marie King your Holy Spirit for the office and work of a Deacon in Christ's holy Church. **Amen.**

Michelle Marie King, take authority as a Deacon to proclaim the Word of God and to lead God's people in ministries of compassion and justice; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Bishop Bard: *Michelle Marie King*, be a Deacon among us.
People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

LAYING ON OF HANDS FOR ORDINANDS: ELDERS

Almighty God, pour upon *Full Name* your Holy Spirit, for the office and work of an Elder in Christ's holy Church. **Amen.**

Name, take authority as an Elder to preach the Word of God, to administer the Holy Sacraments and to order the life of the Church; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Bishop Bard: *Full Name*, be an Elder among us.
People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

PRESENTATION OF THE NEWLY ORDAINED

Bishop Bard: As you have placed yourselves into the hands of God

People: And as we have prayed for the Holy Spirit to empower you for your ministry among us,

Bishop Bard: Fulfill your calling as Elders in Christ's holy Church.

People: Lead us to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Bishop Bard: Friends in Christ, it is my utmost joy to present to you those we have ordained. Please receive them with thanksgiving.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Send Me, Lord
UMH #497

Send me, Lord.

Send me Je-sus, send me, Je - sus, send me, Je-sus, send me, Lord.
Thu-ma mi-na, thu - ma mi - na, thu - ma mi-na, So-man - dla.



*HYMN OF SERVICE

The Servant Song

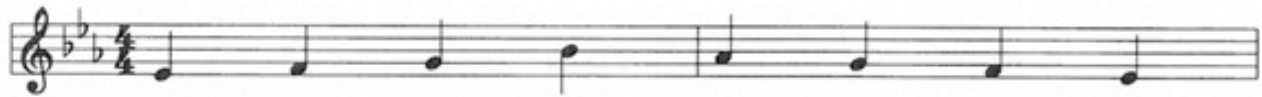
TFWS #2222

Verse 1: Those newly recognized, commissioned, or ordained sing.

Verse 2-4: The Clergy sing to those being recognized, commissioned, or ordained.

Verse 5: Everyone sings together.

Verse 6: The Bishop sings to us, a cappella.



1., 6. Broth - er, sis - ter, let me serve you,
2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney;
3. I will hold the Christ - light for you
4. I will weep when you are weep - ing;
5. When we sing to God in heav - en,



let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may
we're to - geth - er on this road. We are here to
in the night - time of your fear; I will hold my
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you. I will share your
we shall find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've



have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
help each oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

All are seated.

INVITATION TO MINISTRY

Bishop Bard:

From our baptism, we are all called to ministry, as disciples of Jesus Christ.

We celebrate the call that God places on all of our lives, through the grace of Jesus Christ.

If you are feeling called to consider ministry as a vocation, you are invited to come forward and be greeted by members of the Board of Ordained Ministry during this time of singing.



*SONGS OF INVITATION

Here I Am Lord

UMH #593



- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | I, the Lord of sea and sky, I who made the stars of night, | I have heard my peo-ple cry. I will make their dark ness bright. |
| 2. | I, the Lord of snow and rain, I will break their hearts of stone, | I have borne my peo-ple's pain. Give them hearts for love a - lone. |
| 3. | I, the Lord of wind and flame, Fin-est bread I will pro - vide | I will tend the poor and lame. Till their hearts be sa - tis - fied. |



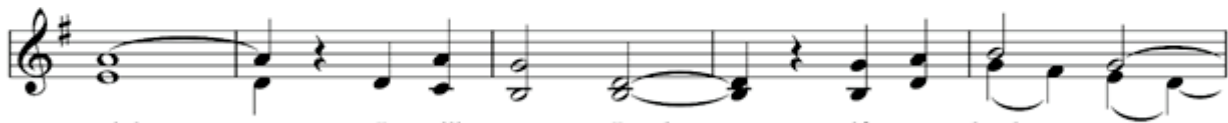
| | |
|--|--|
| All who dwell in dark and sin Who will bear my light to them? I have wept for love of them. I will speak my word to them, I will set a feast for them. I will give my life to them. | My hand will save. They turn a - way. My hand will save. |
|--|--|



Whom shall I send? _____ Here I am Lord. _____



_____ Is it I Lord? _____ I have heard you cal-ling in the



night. _____ I will go Lord, _____ if you lead me. _____



I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Song: *The Commission* - CAIN

*PRAYER AND DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Bishop Bard:

We thank you, gracious God, for raising up among us faithful servants.
Clothe them with your righteousness,
and grant that we, with them, may glorify you by giving ourselves to others. **Amen.**

Bishop: The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.
In all that you do, go in peace to serve God and your neighbor.

All: We are sent in Christ's name. Thanks be to God!

*GOING FORTH

Bishop Bard will lead the recessional. All are invited to follow after the clergy to greet those who have been recognized, commissioned, or ordained today at the reception in the Michigan Ballroom.

Go to the World Worship & Song #3158

Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth; Go
Go to the world! Go in - to ev' - ry place; Go
Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless and pray; The
Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, For

preach the cross where Christ re - new's life's worth, Bap -
live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace; Go
nights of tears give way to joy - ful day. As
I am with you till the age shall end, When

ti - zing as the sign of our re - birth.
seek God's pre - sence in each time and space.
ser - vant Church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
all the hosts of glo - ry cry 'A - men'

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

RECESSIONAL



MUSICAL SELECTIONS

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

United Methodist Hymnal #383

Text: Brian Wren, 1983

©1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Company

Music: Carlton R. Young,

©1987 Hope Publishing Company

CCLI #231043 | CCLI License No. 11547740

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

United Methodist Hymnal #57

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739

Music: AZMON, CM, Carl G. Gläser, arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

Come & See

Text & Music: Caleb Williams, 2024

Special permission granted

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)

United Methodist Hymnal #94

Text: Thomas Ken, 1674. Public Domain.

Music: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623. Public Domain.

Send Me, Lord

United Methodist Hymnal #497

Text & Music: traditional South African, Anders Nyberg

One License Song #65065 | One License No. A-726149

The Servant Song

The Faith We Sing #2222

Text & Music by Richard Gillard.

©1977 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing

(Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)

CCLI Song #72673 | CCLI License No. 11547740

Here I Am, Lord

United Methodist Hymnal #593

Text & Music: Dan Schutte.

©1981, 1983, 1989 Daniel L. Schutte and NALR

One License Song #80670 | One License No. A-726149

The Commission

Text & Music: Carter Frodge, David Blake Neesmith, Logan Cain,

Madison Cain Johnson, Taylor Cain Matz.

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Cain Music; Taylor Cain Music; cbfrodge Music; Fair Trade Music Publishing

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CCLI Song #7146623 | CCLI License No. 11547740



Go to the World
Worship & Song #3158
Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan
Copyright © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.
One License Song #01065 | One License No. A-726149
Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906, Public Domain

It is Well With My Soul—Arr. Tom Fettke
Conference Choir - Offertory
Public Domain



*All are invited to stay and join the reception generously provided by
The United Methodist Foundation of Michigan.*

COURSE OF STUDY GRADUATES



WILLIAM "BILL" CURTIS CLELAND

Seminary: United Theological School, St. Paul's School of Theology

Home Church: Bad Axe First United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Midland County Hope, Edenville, and Dale United Methodist Churches

My passion for ministry is simply to love people. People may choose not to listen to me but my job is to speak the truth of Jesus Christ. I'm a woodworker and my passion is making crosses and giving them away, from 2 inches to six feet tall. I see instant change in people. I also purchase wood crosses from "Cross the World" in Minnesota by the hundreds. My email at Hope UMC is pastorofcrosses@outlook.com, it's a calling and it's my evangelism. I'm often asked what my goal is each year, it is to save one soul for the Lord.



RHONDA JEAN OSTERMAN

Seminary: United Theological Seminary, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Home Church: Harper Woods Redeemer United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Millville Charge: Millville, Leslie, and Felt Plains United Methodist Churches

My passions for ministry are worship, sacraments, preaching and teaching. I love sharing God's Word in ways that enlarge vision and challenge believers and seekers to rethink long-held beliefs and see a bigger picture of God's amazing love for humanity and all of creation.



ANDREA LOUISE JOHNSON

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Home Church: Battle Creek Chapel Hill United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Old Mission Peninsula United Methodist Church

My passion for ministry flows from what I believe about who we are as human beings and how we are called to live together in the world. Each one of us is made in God's image and loved by our Creator beyond our wildest dreams. We are called to love in the same way God loves us: unconditionally, without regard to race, gender, ethnic background, economic status, education, sexual preference, criminal history, or any of the other labels that we use to separate ourselves from each other and from God. That kind of love can be a powerful force for good. I believe people are hungry for love and the sense of hope that only comes from faith in God. We need to tell them about God's grace and forgiveness and the offer of salvation through Jesus Christ. We are all wounded and longing for healing. I am called in my ministry to tell the story of God's magnificent love and how Jesus Christ came to embody that love in a broken world. People need to know that the story is still being written today and we are all invited to be part of it.



ELDER RECEIVED INTO PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP



EDWIN M. HARRIS

Seminary: Wesley Theological Seminary

Home Church: Southfield John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church

Currently Serving: Sterling Heights UMC

The sacred call to be a servant of all demands a deep level of sacrifice that rewards the servant in unexpended and timely ways. God directs our path, places us in the vineyard where we will for a time serve, and always provides the necessary resources for us to complete our mission. The true assignment is often only realized in hindsight, so the authentic servant courageously enters their assignment open-minded and without prejudice, understanding that the bond between pastor and parish is unique in every instance. With a mind to learn, an ear to hear, a heart to serve, and the character to work, God will bless the shared season.

As the gifts of the pastor are manifested through faithful servitude, the diverse gift set of church leaders and members are in turn catalyzed into a dynamic spiritual society. In my case, I am a teacher, lover of people, and church builder. Together, people can be healed and equipped for leadership through teaching. Ministries are consequently formed, and God's work is accomplished in the respective community. It is an honor to work while it is day, for the genuine servant may be the greatest beneficiary of the sacrifice.

COMMISSIONED DEACONS



SONRISA MARIE CORTES

Seminary: Western Theological Seminary

Home Church: Holland First United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Holland First United Methodist Church, Arbor Circle

When I was in seminary we all were given Hebrew names that incorporated part of the Shema. My name included the word "Meod," commonly translated as strength, but it is so much more than that! Meod within the Shema is an emphasis on how much, or muchness, we are to love God. With all of our everything, and more. My Hebrew title imprinted on my heart and solidified my passion for ministry; in spaces I encounter, I will arrive and serve with all of my muchness.

I am passionate about creating spaces of inclusiveness, belonging, and safety. I believe this directly correlates to learning, and speaking openly about social justice concerns, naming inequalities, and speaking openly about mental and physical health. In both observance and practice, I've learned that ministry comes in many forms, and includes a vast choir of voices from all walks of life. Ministry can be and is weird, wonderful, silly, heartbreaking, frustrating, powerful, hopeful, and full of love. I believe wholeheartedly that my call to ministry will include unique and alternative ways of connecting with others and connecting with God. I'm excited about these future opportunities!



ROBERT BRUCE PRUD'HOMME

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Home Church: Royal Oak First United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Royal Oak First United Methodist Church

My passion for my environmental and social justice ministry springs from John's Gospel, which begins with "In the Beginning." These same words are our introduction to the scripture in Genesis. As priestly peoples, created in the image of our Creator, Christians are charged with caring for a magnificent, beautiful, and abundant earth. Creation care has been a life-long pursuit toward this end. As "Imago Dei" we are created from the same earth that we have been charged with being responsible for, to rule over or manage as God's representatives here. As such, we are given many choices of how we accomplish this work and we are given many gifts and tools to build capacity for caring for creation. One of the tools at our disposal is other people, others looking for meaning for their existence. As we approach an existential crisis (indeed some will say we are already here) in our relationship with creation and by extension with the Creator and each other, this time to steward all of Creation and the impacts that we have on each other through this care is one of the most important times in the history of humanity, indeed the history of Creation.

COMMISSIONED ELDERS

BEATRICE S. ALGHALI

Seminary: United Theological Seminary

Home Church: Nardin Park United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: North Lake United Methodist Church

Greetings, My name is Beatrice Alghali. I was born in Nairobi, Kenya. I currently serve North Lake United Methodist Church in Chelsea, Michigan. My passion for ministry burns brightly as I am driven by a desire to teach and share the transformative stories of Jesus's boundless love. Each moment spent conveying His teachings fills me with joy and purpose. My ultimate goal is to convey deep connections within congregations, fostering an environment where diversity thrives, and every individual feels valued and embraced. Guided by a commitment to inclusivity, I strive to curate a congregation that reflects the rich tapestry of humanity, celebrating the uniqueness and unity in our shared faith. Through teaching, storytelling, and fostering connections, I aspire to ignite a flame of love and understanding that radiates outward, touching hearts and transforming lives.



NICOLAS REY BERLANGA

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Home Church: Plymouth First United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Goodrich United Methodist Church

Jesus spent much of his time with "outsiders", my passion in ministry is to do the same. I feel called to bridge the gap between those within and outside of the established church, including the economically challenged, the houseless, the differently-abled, queer, and those who know nothing of the church. God loves all God's children, and this is the mantra of my ministry. I look for ways to remove barriers and create doorways. To foster the new, while honoring the old. To make every person feel special, and to give space for the Holy Spirit to work within each of us.





RACHEL JOY KAIN

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Home Church: Nardin Park United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Trinity Health Oakland - Spiritual Care Department

My passion for ministry is rooted in a dedication to human flourishing inspired by Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. I find joy in helping others to grow and flourish as people in the world and in the church. There are few things more satisfying than helping someone else learn something new, find their path, or discover their joy. Bringing people together and facilitating connection and growth is something that I hope to focus on in my ministry. I want to help the local church realize its power as catalyst for human flourishing. On the heels of one pandemic (COVID) and in the midst of another (loneliness), the local church has so much to offer. I want to reimagine the ways in which it engages with the world to seek justice, love, mercy, and walk humbly with God. I envision church as a place for respite, renewal, rejuvenation, regeneration, and restoration for all as bearers of the image of God, through worship, study, fellowship, and pastoral care. In short, I hope to empower and equip congregations to open their hearts to all people with extravagant love and radical hospitality helping them to flourish in body, mind, and spirit.



KIMBERLY SUE METZER

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Home Church: DeWitt Redeemer Church

Currently Serving: Burton Open Door United Methodist Church

Connection. My passion in ministry, and in life in general, is connection. We are all connected and helping to foster deeper connections – especially between factions who don't see that as a possibility – is my passion. I am deep in the messy middle, inviting others from all "sides" to join me here: to work out compromises, to be in ministry together, to show that we love God by our words AND our actions. This collaborative spirit has led me to be involved in ministries and non-profits that come alongside those needing assistance. These collaborations run the gamut from assisting low-income folks with their income tax return preparation to mentoring mothers of preschoolers to providing a safe space to sleep for a family experiencing homelessness. Serving these, and other, often overlooked segments of society in cooperation with other like-minded individuals is what brings me joy. I was drawn to the UMC for its connectional nature and the connection is why I have chosen to still #BeUMC.



MARTIN DAVID PHILLIPS

Seminary: University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom

Home Church: Grand Rapids Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Newago United Methodist Church

My passion is for people to know the good news: that they belong to the living God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead and who will raise us also since we are one with that very same Christ – children of God, heirs to eternal life – because God's Spirit lives in us. I want folks to know this good news not just with their heads but with their hearts so that they might sense the grace of God in their everyday lives. I've dedicated my life to helping people know this good news through the ministries of sacrament and education as well as through proclamation and service.



MICHELLE MITCHELL VALLIER

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Home Church: Montague United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Cedar Spring UMC

I believe thriving communities of faith, as reflections of God's diversity of creation, should be the safest spaces in which to engage in difficult conversations with people who may never agree on all things. My ministry is fired by a passion for inclusive social justice and is rooted in a recognition of the deep need for healing in all people. It is my mission as a pastor to cultivate an environment of openness and authenticity, that all might grow in knowledge of God's grace, as we embrace our own gifts and shortcomings. This work done in the local church provides an antidote to the political polarization of our nation and world. With this foundation, we are empowered to move out in mission and advocacy, expressions of life-giving gospel.

ORDAINED DEACON



MICHELLE MARIE KING

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Home Church: Farmington First United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Senior Care Partners P.A.C.

My passion for ministry is rooted in my belief that everyone born is a beloved child of God, created in the image of God, and therefore deserves to live the abundant life that Jesus desires for them (John 10:10). As a Deacon, I am called to be a bridge between the needs and hurts of the world and the love, community, and care of the church. I'm particularly passionate about mental health. In my own life I have seen the church struggle to know how to support people with mental illnesses and their loved ones; I am called to fill that gap. My ministry involves teaching clergy and congregations about mental illness and faith through preaching at different churches, Bible study, and trainings. I'm also passionate about fighting for the rights of God's beloved children through justice and advocacy work and equipping others to put their faith into action in support of their own passions.

ORDAINED ELDERS



SARI LYNN BROWN

Seminary: Candler School of Theology at Emory University

Home Church: Ann Arbor West Side United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: *I have been on leave to focus on mothering a toddler, completing the ordination process in a healthy and fully present way, and exploring creative and outside-the-box forms of ministry.*

I am passionate about creating space for transformative connections with the Divine, ourselves, others, and creation. I do my most fruitful and fulfilling work in the fertile gaps between cultures, institutions, and ways of being, in ministries with Hispanic immigrants, songwriting and music-making, and community building with spiritual seekers and nonconformists. I love to use music, dance, connection with nature, and other creative and embodied spiritual disciplines to build relationships that nurture spiritual growth, healing, and social change.





MARTIN TIMOTHY COBB

Seminary: Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Home Church: Portage Prairie United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Schoolcraft, Pleasant Valley, Three Rivers First United Methodist Churches

I am the guy who gets up every day with thanks and awe that I get to serve as pastor of three great churches. I love the people I serve and have so much fun serving our communities with them. Loving people is one of my passions. As I look back on 27 years of pastoral ministry, I think of all the amazing laity I have been blessed to serve and love with. Time spent with God fuels me. I know that the only way I can effectively minister is with a lot of help from the Holy Spirit, so my time with God is also a real and necessary passion. Times of prayer, retreat, worship, devotion and scripture allow me to serve. Lastly, I am passionate about having fun with God and God's children. There is real joy in ministry. When is the last time you had fun with your church friends? I take an activity that I enjoy and use that as a springboard for a fresh expression of the church. I am taking the pizza oven to the park later. Do you want to come along to make and pass out some awesome pizzas?



RACHAEL MARIE DUNLAP

Seminary: Asbury Theological Seminary

Home Church: Birmingham First United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Flat Rock First United Methodist Church

Sharing the love of Christ is the only thing that brings me lasting joy. I first felt the Holy Spirit speaking to my heart and calling me toward ministry when I was in college. After a phone call with my mother, I decided to pursue a career in camp ministry. Deep in my heart, I knew God was calling me to something more. My husband and I married, knowing our gifts and skills gave balance to each other, and together we can do better ministry. At Zack's commissioning in 2013, the Spirit nudged me again, I stepped forward and prayed with Mary Gibson McInnes at the Annual Conference. I committed my life to intentional ministry. I completed seminary in 2018 on the elder track because I wanted the ability to serve communion to God's family. My mission is to encourage, teach, and build into the lives of others so that they may hear the gospel more affectively. The setting has changed, but the goal is the same. I am very thankful for the folks who prayed for me, pushed me, and supported me along the way!



STEPHANIE ELAINE NORTON

Seminary: Asbury Theological Seminary

Home Church: Westwood United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: South Haven First UMC

My passion for ministry began in a local church, where I witnessed the healing, transformational power of God working through the body of the church. Today my passion is to build up a congregation that offers compassion, accountability, and love to the world. I am excited to bring the church body outside of the church walls into new places in creative ways through technology, children's programming, and authentic relationships.



KELLAS DALE PENNY, III

Seminary: Asbury Theological Seminary

Home Church: Ada First United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Water’s Edge and Three Oaks United Methodist Churches

In ministry, I am passionate about helping those that have been traumatized because of their experiences with church, changing negative perspectives about what church currently is within our own cultural context and helping anyone to better understand the bible and how it relates to our faith and spiritual practices. I believe that by helping people to have a proper understanding of their own faith, how that faith interacts with the community around them, and the importance of being open to the learning and leaning of the Holy Spirit that we all can contribute to making this world a better place.



COREY MATTHEW SIMON

Seminary: Wesley Theological Seminary

Home Church: Boyne Falls United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Bangor Simpson United Methodist Church

For the past few years, my passion in ministry has centered around living out the prophetic call to peace and justice. With a hammer in hand, I actively work to transform swords into plowshares—quite literally turning guns into garden tools. Through traveling demonstrations, I strive to provide a creative outlet for people, fostering connections that bridge divides and heal hearts. I set out to encourage us to reject paths that do not lead to peace, embracing a new way forward that leads to abundant life for all. I’ve come to understand that we’re all hurting and often feeling lost. We carry wounds and seek answers, yearning for the divine and meaning in life. For me, this journey finds its anchor in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Yet, just as I endeavor to reconcile differing views on violence and our responses to it, I also seek to bridge gaps between believers and non-believers. I aim to foster understanding between those who hold steadfast faith and those who question and doubt.

RECOGNITION: ELDERS IN FULL CONNECTION



SUZANNE KUENZLI GOODWIN

Seminary: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Home Church: Mason First United Methodist Church

Currently Serving: Mason First United Methodist Church

I rejoice in God’s call to rally the church to be a place where people connect with God and each other, encourage each other to grow in faith and discipleship, and open their arms in love and service to the community around them as witness to the example of Jesus Christ.



VAUGHN WILLIAM THURSTON-COX

Seminary: Asbury Theological Seminary

Currently Serving: Pentwater Centenary United Methodist Church
*Near the back of my old TNIV, you'll find The Prayer of Saint Francis:
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.*

Where there is hatred, let me sow your love.

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope.

Where there is darkness, light.

And where this is sadness, joy.

I made my first ordination vows on its covers; I carried it across Michigan from one circuit to another; and it made pilgrimage with me to Jerusalem. I scrawled this prayer on its pages as a reminder that wherever I go God calls me to become grace alive in the world. To become a little Christ for others, as others became a little Christ for me. Today, I am grateful for the ways the United Methodist Church has shaped my life with God in community, and I look forward to being a part of its bright future.

TRANSFER: ELDER IN FULL CONNECTION

JOHN KABALA ILUNGA NGOIE

Seminary: Katanga University/DR Congo/Africa, Africa University/Zimbabwe, South African Theological Seminary/South Africa

Home Church: North-Katanga Conference UMC, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Currently Serving: French, Omo Zion, and Madison Heights United Methodist Churches

My passion for ministry often finds it involved in various forms of service, from leading religious congregations and providing spiritual guidance, to engaging in charitable works and social justice initiatives. I see the world through the lens of this faith, identifying needs and opportunities to offer love, hope, healing, service, commitment to personal growth and learning. It means constantly seeking to understand one's faith more deeply, to live it out more fully, and to communicate its truths more effectively. It's about being a living example of one's beliefs and inspiring others to explore and possibly embrace those beliefs as well (Matthew 20:28). This work is not confined to the walls of places of worship; it extends into the community and beyond, touching the lives of those in need, regardless of their faith or background. Ultimately, my passion for ministry is about making a difference in the world by being a conduit of divine love and grace. This passion is rooted in a personal relationship with the divine, which provides the strength and motivation to face challenges, persevere through hardships, and continually seek ways to make a positive impact in the lives of others (Matthew 22:37-39; 2 Timothy 4:5).





John Wesley in Georgia 1736 - Image courtesy of National Park Service

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UMC IN THE UNITED STATES

In 1735, the Wesley brothers, John and Charles, sailed to Savannah, Georgia to minister to the colonialists and teach the Gospel to Native American tribes. After returning to England in 1737, John Wesley had an experience he described as an 'infilling of the Holy Spirit.' He soon after formed Methodist societies.

In 1784, John began ordaining ministers for America. He sent Thomas Coke to America where he and Francis Asbury founded the Methodist Episcopal Church, which was to later establish itself as the largest denomination in America during the 19th century.

Methodism thrived in America thanks to the First and Second Great Awakenings beginning in the 1700s. In 1939, many of the splintered Methodist groups joined together to form The Methodist Church USA. Another merger in 1968 resulted in the formation of The United Methodist Church from the Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) and the Methodist Church.

Today, The United Methodist Church has over 12 million members worldwide with more than 14,000 congregations. The Michigan Conference, formed from the Detroit Annual Conference and the West Michigan Conference began operating as one community on January 1, 2019. Today, the Michigan Conference serves 592 local churches across the state with over 105,000 professing members.





BISHOP DAVID ALAN BARD

David Alan Bard is the presiding bishop of the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church. He has served in that role since 2016. From 2021-2022, he also served the Minnesota Annual Conference as interim bishop and as the President of the North Central Jurisdiction College to Bishops from 2017 – 2023. He is currently a member of the Council of Bishops Anti-Racism Task Force.

For more than 30 years, Bishop Bard pastored local churches in the Minnesota Conference from Roseau to the Iron Range, and just prior to his election as bishop, as the Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church in Duluth, Minnesota, the community where he grew up. 1998-2005, he served as the Minnesota Conference Northwest District Superintendent. Within the Minnesota Conference, Bishop Bard was chair of the Episcopacy Committee and the Higher Education Ministry Team, served on the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Congregational Response Team, as conference parliamentarian, and for three years on the Commission on Religion and Race. Bishop Bard was a General and Jurisdictional Conference delegate in 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2012, and an episcopal nominee in 2004 and 2008.

Bishop Bard was recently elected chairperson of the Committee on Faith and Order in the General Church. He has served on the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the Commission on General Conference, the Commission on Theological Education, the Study on Ministry Commission, and the North Central Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy.

Bishop Bard is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Duluth (B.A. cum laude, philosophy and psychology), United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities (M.Div.), and has a Ph.D. in Religious Studies with a concentration in Christian Ethics from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. He has taught courses at The College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN, and United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities as an adjunct faculty member. Among the courses he taught are United Methodist History and Polity, Religious Perspectives in Living, Dying and Grieving and Religious Perspectives on Health Care Ethics. In August of 2021, Bishop Bard received the Distinguished Alum Award from his alma mater, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities.

Bishop Bard married his wife, Julie, also from Duluth, in 1982. Julie is a long-time educator. Together, they have three adult children – David L., Elizabeth (Michael), and Sarah (Aaron), as well as two adorable grandchildren, Henry and Eleanora.

Bishop David Bard - bishop@michiganumc.org



Michigan Conference

The United Methodist Church

