



The Michigan Annual Conference conference welcomed many new faith leaders including Sarah Alexander, who was ordained as a Deacon. ~ mic photo/Jonathan Trites

What to do this week

- Read the legislative summary in MIconnect when it arrives via email on Thursday.
- Post copies of Annual Conference Daily News on your church bulletin board.
- Watch for the email link later this week of the Annual Conference summary video and show it during worship.
- Visit Vimeo.com to share presentations you saw this week. Search MIUMC.

“... *clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*”

- Colossians 3:14 *NRSV*

LEADERS: GO DOWN THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

ACME, Mich. (MIC) – On Sunday, June 2, Bishop David Bard transported those assembled for the Service of Recognition, Commissioning, and Ordination from Acme to Oz. Picking up a theme he started during Opening Worship on Thursday, he said: “The overall direction of the ministry is the same, but the yellow brick roads we tread, the dark forests we wander, the strange meadows we traverse, the ominous mountains we climb are different. Toto, we’re not in Kansas anymore.”

The bishop noted the world is different today. “The United Methodist Church is different just since the February General Conference,” he began. “This 50-year iteration of the Christian Church in the Wesleyan tradition may be coming to an end, or at the very least is on the verge of significant change.” In addition, the surrounding culture is changing. “We live in a liquid culture where individualism thrives . . . and we find it difficult not only to agree about basic answers to questions but about the nature of the basic questions.”

The bishop expressed his conviction that these new leaders are up to facing such challenges. “Yes, I am using the Wizard of Oz hermeneutic again. I re-emphasize that leadership in our day needs to be leadership rooted in personhood . . . If our congregations are going to be greenhouses of such leadership, you need to lead with mind, heart and courage.”

Two Deacons were ordained -- Sarah Alexander and Cora Glass. Six Elders were ordained: Joel Fitzgerald, Jeremiah Mannschreck, Eun Sik Poy, Jonathan Reynolds, Scott Sherrill, and Devin Smith. (Note: a full list of those clergy making significant transitions in 2019 will be included in this week’s edition of MIconnect, released Thursday, June 6.)

Wrap Up



The party's over! Rev. Dwayne Bagley, Superintendent of the Greater Southwest District, lets the Conference know that all their appointments are set. ~ mic/Jonathan Trites

ANNUAL CONFERENCE BY THE NUMBERS

1,960 CLERGY & LAITY ATTENDING

2020 BUDGET **\$14,700,910**

\$124,723 LESS THAN 2019

STAYS IN MICHIGAN **.88¢**

\$40,444 AC OFFERINGS

GRACE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL- HAITI

BISHOP JUDITH CRAIG CHILDREN'S HOME

MICHIGAN DISASTER RELIEF & RECOVERY



The Michigan Conference Delegation to the 2020 General Conference. Front row left-right: Hoon-Yung Hopgood, L-J; Brenda DuPree, L-JA; Megan Walther, CG; Ruth Sutton, L-J; Ruby Anderson, L-J; Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, C-G; Laura Witkowski, L-G; Joy Barrett, C-G; Diane Brown, L-G; Sherri Swanson, C-JA. Back Row, l-r: Christina Wright, C-J; Gordon Grigg III, L-JA; Nichea Ver Veer Guy, L-G; Brad Bartelmay, C-J; Jen Peters, L-G; Matt Weiler, C-JA; Paul Perez, C-G; Lisa Hahn, L-J. Laura Witkowski and Kennetha Bigham-Tsai will co-chair the 2020 Michigan Delegation. Key: C=Clergy, L=Lay, G=General Conf, J=Jurisdictional Conf, A=Alternate ~ mic photo/Jonathan Trites