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Members of the Detroit and West Michigan Annual Conferences will gather for the 2017 Michigan Area Annual Conference at the Grand Traverse conference center, June 1-4. Details can be found at [2017.michiganumc.org](http://2017.michiganumc.org).

“Gather UP!” will bring together these two annual conferences in Northern Michigan for a time of worship, fellowship and the continued work of creating a new annual conference. Gather UP!, the theme for the week, is based on the miracle story of Jesus feeding the 5000 (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15) and takes us on a discipleship journey from scarcity to joyful abundance.

Conference begins with Opening Worship/Memorial Service on Thursday, June 1 at 10 AM and concludes with the 2 PM Ordination Service on Sunday, June 4. Conference ends at 5 PM following the Ordination Reception.

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[Take the Shuttle North!](#)

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In order make the journey to Traverse City easier for a majority of conference members, we invite you to take the shuttle north! Centralized events, onsite shuttles, and connecting with friends means there will be little or no need for a car once you arrive at the Grand Traverse conference center.

Comfortable passenger coach buses will depart the first location at 8 AM and following locations as noted below. **Plan to arrive 30 minutes prior to the scheduled departure.** Cost is \$50 per person/round trip. The East Line bus will stop for lunch (on your own) between Saginaw and the Grand Traverse conference center. You can leave your car in a parking lot at each location at your own risk. If you chose to ‘take the shuttle north’ you will

need to make reservations for Wednesday night through Saturday night accommodations. Sunday departure is 5 PM.

**West Line** | Kalamazoo @ the District Office (820 Rankin Ave, Kalamazoo 49006) | 8 AM Departure  
→ Grand Rapids, Cornerstone Church (1675 84th St SE, Caledonia 49316) | 9 AM Departure  
→ Arrive at the Grand Traverse conference center in Acme around 12:30 PM

**Center Line** | Jackson @ Calvary UMC (925 Backus St., Jackson 49202) | 8 AM Departure  
→ Lansing @ MI Area Ministry Center (1011 Northcrest Rd, Lansing 48906) | 9 AM Departure  
→ Mt. Pleasant @ Wesley CMU (1400 S Washington St, Mt. Pleasant 48858) | 11:45 AM Departure  
→ Arrive at the Grand Traverse conference center in Acme around 2 PM

**East Line** | Southfield @ Hope UMC (26275 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield 48076) | 8 AM Departure  
→ Flint @ Hope UMC (4467 Beecher Rd, Flint 48532) | 10 AM Departure  
→ Saginaw @ Saginaw Bay District Office (3617 Mackinaw #1, Saginaw 48602) | 11 AM Departure  
→ Arrive at the Grand Traverse conference center in Acme around 3 PM

**All buses arrive at Grand Traverse conference center in Acme, Michigan!  
(100 Grand Traverse Village Blvd, Acme 49610)**

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## Onsite Lodging Options

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Onsite lodging options include the Grand Traverse Hotel and Tower (both attached to meeting spaces), and Grand Traverse Condos (connected by a complimentary shuttle service). You will be able to request and pay for a double or single occupancy Hotel room, Tower room, or 1 Bedroom Condo on the registration form. If you do not indicate a roommate name for a double occupancy, one will be assigned to you. If family members are staying with you and are not members of AC, they should register as a visitor and select a double room.

If you would like to lower your cost by having a triple or quadruple occupancy in one of these rooms, you will be able to complete your registration online. Then you MUST contact Jen Peters at [jpeters@detroitconference.org](mailto:jpeters@detroitconference.org) to finalize arrangements and room charges. Please have your roommates' names ready, as we cannot assign triple and quad roommates.

2 Bedroom Condos and 3 Bedroom Condos are also available onsite. You will be able to complete your registration online, but you MUST contact Jen Peters at [jpeters@detroitconference.org](mailto:jpeters@detroitconference.org) to finalize arrangements and room charges. Please have your roommates' names ready, as we cannot make roommate assignments for the 2 and 3 Bedroom Condos.

The hotel requires a valid credit card per room when you arrive. Shared rooms/roommates must stay the same nights or full single rate will be applied. Images of condos and rooms can be found at [2017.michiganumc.org](http://2017.michiganumc.org).

Please note you have the option to extend your stay before or after Annual Conference at the conference rate! These dates include May 29 (Memorial Day) & 30, June 4, 5 & 6. You will be able to include these dates on the registration form and then pay the hotel directly onsite. Once your registration is processed, you will receive a hotel confirmation email directly from the Grand Traverse conference center.

Hotel | 240 Rooms in Six-Story Hotel Attached to Meeting Space | Conveniently Located | Comfortable | WiFi  
\$129 Per Room / Per Night | Hotel Room - 2 Queen Beds  
Single: \$129 | Double: \$65 | \*Triple: \$45 | \*Quad: \$35  
\$129 Per Room / Per Night | Hotel Room - 1 King Bed, 1 Pull-Out Couch  
Single: \$129 | Double: \$65 | \*Triple: \$45

Tower | 186 Modern Rooms Attached to Meeting Space | Improved Lighting and WiFi | Spacious Bathrooms  
\$159 Per Room / Per Night | Tower Room - 2 Queen Beds, Mini Fridge  
Single: \$159 | Double: \$80 | \*Triple: \$55 | \*Quad: \$40  
\$159 Per Room / Per Night | Tower Room - 1 King Bed, Twin Murphy Bed, Mini Fridge  
Single: \$159 | Double: \$80 | \*Triple: \$55

Condo | Spacious and Quiet | Detached from the Meeting Space, Distances Vary | Access to Free Shuttles |  
Furnished Dining Area, Kitchenette, Living Room, WiFi  
\$169 Per Condo / Per Night | 1 Bedroom Condo - 1 Bed, 1 Pull-Out Couch  
Single: \$169 | Double: \$85 | \*Triple: \$60  
\$219 Per Condo / Per Night | 2 Bedroom Condo - 2 Beds, 1 Pull-Out Couch, 2 bathrooms  
\*Single: \$219 | \*Double: \$110 | \*Triple: \$75 | \*Quad: \$55 | \*Five: \$45  
\$269 Per Condo / Per Night | 3 Bedroom Condo - 3 Beds, 1 Pull-Out Couch, 2 bathrooms  
\*Single: \$269 | \*Double: \$135 | \*Triple: \$90 | \*Quad: \$70 | \*Five: \$55 | \*Six: \$45 | \*Seven: \$40

\*Contact Jen Peters, [jpeters@detroitconference.org](mailto:jpeters@detroitconference.org) to reserve.

*Once Grand Traverse is close to full, other hotel blocks will open up. They will likely cost more than staying onsite.*

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## Offsite Lodging Options

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You must make your own arrangements.

[Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park](#)

[Everflowing Waters Campground](#)

Dorm | [Northwestern Michigan College](#) (1701 E Front Street, Traverse City, MI 49686) | Configured in Suites - Two Rooms Connected by a Bathroom | Two Twin Beds, desks with chairs, built-in closets/dressers | Mini Fridge, microwave | WiFi | Free Parking, No Shuttle | Linens can be reserved for an additional \$10/person. The linen package includes a bottom fitted sheet, top sheet, blanket, pillow, pillow case, wash cloth and a bath towel

This option is NOT available on the registration form. [Click here](#) to download the reservation form. Northwestern Michigan College has not updated their form yet. It is coming soon. Contact person is Lisa, 231.995.1409 or [leiden@nmc.edu](mailto:leiden@nmc.edu).

\$55 per night/person + 6% tax (no roommate, shared bathroom)

\$35 per night/person + 6% tax (you will have a roommate)

\$90 per night + 6% tax (two rooms connected by a bathroom)

*Once Grand Traverse is close to full, other hotel blocks will open up. They will likely cost more than staying onsite.*

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## Meals

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The catering staff partners with local artisans and organic farmers. The collaboration between the chefs and trusted partners is designed to provide culinary experiences that celebrate wellness and sustainability.

There is no dining hall; Focus Meals will be in meeting rooms, and gathering spaces with tables will be available for eating General Meals. Final locations for meals will be posted onsite and in the program book. Focus Meals are open to anyone unless it is a noted 'Invite Only' meal. Please indicate on your registration any dietary restrictions so that catering staff can provide the appropriate meals. Cost includes gratuity for service personnel who serve and prepare the meals. Saturday night includes the only dinner at the \$35 rate being offered. Other nights include the BBQ at no cost to members or dinner on your own. There are 4 onsite restaurants as well.

Breakfast is buffet style located in either Sweetwater American Bistro or Aerie Restaurant. Other breakfast options are Hotel and Tower room service or on your own. All breakfast options are at your own expense.

## Meals and Focus Meal Opportunities

### Thursday Lunch

- **General**
- **Clergy Session**
  - ✦ Clergy and those required to attend the Clergy Session should register for this meal. The Clergy Session will begin with lunch in order to maximize time. Clergy Session business will begin promptly at 1:30pm.
- **Clergy Spouses**
  - ✦ An opportunity for clergy spouses to gather together and also meet Mrs. Julie Bard. [Click here for details.](#)
- **Lay Servant Ministries**
  - ✦ An opportunity for lay servants to gather.

### Thursday Dinner

- **Welcome BBQ for Bishop Bard** – Registration required at no cost to attendees.
  - ✦ This will be a time of fellowship and fun to welcome Bishop David Bard and his family to Michigan.

### Friday Breakfast

- **Grand Traverse District** (Williamsburg UMC)
  - ✦ Off-site meal, not available through registration. [Click here](#) for details and contact info to sign-up.

### Friday Lunch

- **General**
- **Susan Beaumont (keynote speaker) Q & A**
  - ✦ An opportunity for interaction with our keynote speaker [Susan Beaumont](#).
- **Campus Ministry**
  - ✦ [Click here for details](#). Shapes and Sizes of Campus Ministries Across The UMC, guest speaker Matthew Charlton, Assistant General Secretary Collegiate Ministries.
- **Methodist Federation for Social Action**
  - ✦ A gathering of both the Detroit and West Michigan MFSA chapters.
- **MI Area Black Clergy – Black Methodists for Church Renewal**
  - ✦ An opportunity for Detroit and West MI to gather and get to know each other.
- **Michigan Area Haiti Task Force**
  - ✦ Members of MAHTF will provide an update on Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts, the 200th anniversary of Methodism in Haiti, and completion of the Local Preachers Academy.
- **New Church Development Teams**
  - ✦ New models for reaching new people. The most effective way to reach new people is to start something new. We will introduce new models for churches in the Michigan area and beyond.
- **Order of Deacons**
  - ✦ This will be the meeting and fellowship time for the Orders of Deacons for the Michigan Area.
- **Town and Country Ministry**
  - ✦ This meal will focus on saving small churches through collaboration and cooperative parish.

### Friday Dinner

- **On Your Own** - No Conference Dinner Offered
  - ✦ Friday evening is an unscheduled night. Conference will recess at 5:30 PM and resume again Saturday morning.
- **Board of Global Ministries** (Traverse City Central UMC) \$20
  - ✦ Off-site meal, not available through registration. [Click here for details](#) and contact info to sign-up. Guest Speaker: Mr. George G. Howard, Executive Director, Global Coaching & Strategic Initiatives, General Board of Global Ministries, Atlanta GA

### Saturday Lunch

- **General**
- **Bishop's Lunch with Extension Ministries (Invite Only)**
  - ✦ Closed gathering for those appointed to extension ministries.
- **Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary**
  - ✦ Alum gathering for Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.
- **Hispanic/Latino Ministries**
  - ✦ An opportunity to learn about developing Hispanic/Latino ministries, taking some aspects of the Pentecost Journey Workshop on developing Hispanic/Latino ministries.

- **Liberia Task Force**
  - ✦ Information about the needs of Liberia and the covenant relationship between the Liberia Conference and Michigan.
- **Methodist Theological School in Ohio**
  - ✦ Gathering for alumni and friends of MTSO.
- **Mission Interns**
  - ✦ Join us to hear the life-changing stories of the Mission Intern program from Interns, Sites, and Alumni. Allow us to share our gratitude for your support for this premiere young adult ministry and find out how your church can partner with the Mission Intern program this summer.
- **Reconciling United Methodists**
  - ✦ An opportunity for persons wishing to network about ways to be in ministry with all, including, but not limited to, LGBTQI persons. In addition to fellowship, we will have a speaker.
- **Retired Clergy**
  - ✦ An opportunity for previously retired clergy from Detroit and West MI to gather.
- **Vital Church Initiative**
  - ✦ Barriers to Growth. Rev. Gary Step will be speaking on our churches preexisting core values and their influence on hindering or facilitating growth.
- **Wesleyan Covenant Association**
  - ✦ This is a coalition of congregations, clergy and laity from all jurisdictions that are committed to promoting ministry that combines a high view of Scripture, Wesleyan vitality, orthodox theology, and Holy Spirit empowerment. We have come together to support, network and encourage one another as the future of The UMC comes into clearer focus.

#### Saturday Dinner

- **Retiree Celebration is General Meal**
  - ✦ An honoring of those retiring this year.
- **Bishop's Dinner with Those to Be Commissioned (Invite Only)**
  - ✦ For all Michigan Area Candidates being commissioned in 2017.
- **Church & Society and Justice, Advocacy & Equity Board**
  - ✦ We will have a speaker on a current social justice issue, followed by awards.
- **Council on Finance and Administration (Invite Only)**
  - ✦ Business session for West MI and Detroit CFA's.
- **Multi-Ethnic Church – New Church Teams**
- **UM Camping Ministries**
  - ✦ [Click here for details.](#) Updates on the vital camping ministries we support.

#### Sunday Lunch

- **General**
- **Explore Calling**
  - ✦ [Click here for details.](#) Space for the Boards of Ordained Ministry to gather with seminary representatives and those hearing a call to ministry.

## Sunday Ordination Reception

- **Appetizers** - Registration is required at no cost to attendees.
    - ✿ This will be a chance to meet and greet the Ordination participants, includes appetizers and light refreshments.
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## Childcare During Annual Conference

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Grand Traverse has onsite child care! The Cub House is a licensed childcare center through the State of Michigan. Because these standards meet our protection policy and are conveniently located, we will be utilizing the Cub House and The Michigan Area of The United Methodist Church is not providing independent care.

**Advanced reservations are required, meals are included. For Cub House Reservations, call 231-534-6780. Health insurance information and immunization records are required.**

The Conference will reimburse families up to \$75 per day/per child following conference. A receipt is required for reimbursement.

**The use of The Cub House is to allow members of Annual Conference to be present in sessions. The Cub House is not available and reimbursement does not apply to visitors of AC or non-members.**

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## Pre-Conference Opportunities – Wednesday

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Golf Tournament | 4-Person Scramble | \$75 per Person | Shotgun Start @ 1 PM

Sign-up for this is not part of the registration system. Contact Rev. Rich Burstall, 989.348.2974, [gvnit2god@yahoo.com](mailto:gvnit2god@yahoo.com) to register and pay. Proceeds Benefit Campus Ministries of the Michigan Area. [Click here for flyer.](#)

5k Run / Walk / Bike | \$35 per person | 4 PM Start

Proceeds will benefit Haiti Hurricane Relief - Sponsored by Board of Pension and Health Benefits  
Sign-up for this is not part of the registration system; registration details coming soon.

- ✿ The 3.1 mile course will start at Jazz Live Field on the grounds of Grand Traverse and loop back to the start area, with portions of the race running on Lautner road. T-shirts and prizes will be given following the race. You can choose to participate on Wednesday for the big event or complete the walk at some point during Annual Conference.

Mission Work – Details Coming

Possibilities: Spirit Journey, Northport's Roof Replacement, Wellington Street Safe Harbor Facility, Love Inc., Habitat for Humanity, Acme Christian Thrift Store, Central UMC – Community Hot Breakfast Outreach

## Sight-Seeing

Wednesday, May 31 and the evening of Friday, June 2 you will have unscheduled time to take advantage of several opportunities. [Traverse City Tourism](#) can help with whatever questions you have and provide a list of options. If you're looking to sight-see with others, we will have a 'Communication Board' available in the lobby for you to connect with others for this purpose. [Click here for possibilities.](#)

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## Friday Night Opportunities – Details Coming

Dinner at Greensky Hill or other Native American Ministry | Shuttle Access to Downtown | Golf on your own

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## Volunteer Opportunities

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### Ushers & Tellers

- ✦ Collate and disseminate materials and to count votes on legislation.

### Grace Patrol

- ✦ The venue offers exceptional hospitality through their staff, but we want to be sure we've got everything covered. Be one of the friendly faces who greet members as they arrive. We know that warm, smiling faces, words of assurance, God's giving grace and immediate access to knowledgeable hosts and guides will be an important factor in assuring this event is a successful one.
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## Clergy Retirees, Conference Equalization, District Equalization, District At-Large Members

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### **Detroit Retired Clergy**

The 2016 Detroit Annual Conference voted "Effective July 1, 2016, registration and board for annual conference for Clergy retirees and those on medical leave shall be budgeted and paid at the onsite rate, unless otherwise funded."

### **West MI Retired Clergy**

It has been the tradition of the West MI Annual Conference to have the registration fee waived for retired clergy. Lodging expenses are paid at the double rate of the onsite lodging. 2017 will be covered at \$65 per night.

### **Detroit District At-Large Members**

Districts are reimbursed at varying rates. Please contact your district office.



**Detroit Conference Equalization**

Those persons who are seated because of their positions of conference leadership shall have their expenses paid by the group on which they serve. Lodging expenses are paid at the double rate of the onsite lodging. 2017 will be covered at \$65 per night.

**West MI Conference and District Equalization**

Rule 8.C.4. "Those persons who are seated because of their positions of conference leadership shall have their expenses paid by the group on which they serve. The remaining persons elected by the district conferences shall have their expenses paid from funds made available by the Conference CF&A." Lodging expenses are paid at the double rate of the onsite lodging. 2017 will be covered at \$65 per night for onsite lodging.

If you are in an above category, you must stay in the Grand Traverse Conference Center unless it is sold out. Only meals ticketed through registration are covered, excluding breakfast. Within the registration system, any charges remaining are above what is covered by the conference.

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