West Michigan Conference Corporate Session

ITEM #CS-1
SUBJECT: Closing of Snow United Methodist Church.

MOTION: In accordance with all provisions of ¶2549 of the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016, I move that the West Michigan Annual Conference declare Snow United Methodist Church closed as of this June 2017 Corporate Session.

– Rev. William Haggard

RATIONALE: “Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” John 12:24

Sisters and brothers in Christ, Snow United Methodist Church, Lowell, MI, on the Grand Rapids District, has provided vital ministry to our annual conference. It has provided nurture to members, ministry to its community and has fostered ecumenical and interfaith relationships. The people of Snow UMC have made disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

However, over time, the church has declined in worship attendance, giving, and leadership engagement and has been affected by other situations that have impacted their ability to do ministry in The United Methodist Church. After conducting a ministry assessment, it was determined that they could no longer sustain their ministry. The members are being cared for in their transition and the appropriate bodies are handling disposition of the church building and other assets. This church has left a legacy in ministry. We trust, that even in death, the seeds that they have planted will bear fruit for the kingdom of God.

Detroit Conference Corporate Session

ITEM #CS-2
SUBJECT: Closing of Detroit Conference Local Churches.

MOTION: On behalf of the Cabinet and in accordance with all provisions of paragraph 2549 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church - 2016, I move that the Detroit Annual Conference declare the following churches closed as of the dates noted:

Rev. Elizabeth Hill: The closing date is effective as of this 2017 Corporate Session of the Annual Conference for the following churches on the Blue Water District:
Akron UMC in Akron, MI
Argyle UMC in Argyle, MI
Bethel UMC in Akron, MI
Gagetown UMC in Gagetown, MI
Peck UMC in Peck, MI
Unionville in Unionville, MI
West Goodland UMC in Imlay City, MI

Rev. Elbert Dulworth: The closing date is effective as of June 30, 2016 for the following churches on the Marquette District:

Marquette First UMC in Marquette, MI
Skandia UMC in Skandia, MI

BLUE WATER RATIONALE:
“Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” John 12:24

Sisters and brothers in Christ, the churches that have been named here today have provided vital ministry to our annual conferences. They have provided nurture to members, ministry to their communities and have fostered ecumenical and interfaith relationships. They have made disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

However, over time, these churches have declined in worship attendance, giving, and leadership engagement and have been affected by other situations that impact their ability to do ministry in The United Methodist Church. After conducting a ministry assessment, it was determined that they could no longer sustain their ministry. The members are being cared for in their transition and the appropriate bodies are handling disposition of the church building and other assets. These churches have left a legacy in ministry. We trust, that even in death, the seeds that they have planted will bear fruit for the kingdom of God.

MARQUETTE RATIONALE:
The members of the Marquette First United Methodist Church and the Skandia United Methodist Church met on Sunday, June 26, 2016 at a combined duly called church conference and voted to reincorporate together as a new church called, Marquette Hope, effective July 1, 2016. Marquette Hope, a United Methodist faith community, consists of one church with three campuses. On Sunday September 11, 2016, they launched their third campus in the location of the former Grace United Methodist Church in Marquette, across the street from Northern Michigan University. Marquette Hope is the first new church start in the Marquette District since 1978.