

East Winds District

Michigan Conference Of The United Methodist Church



June 2022

Dear Servants of the Gospel,

Thank you for the support and planning you have engaged with your appointed clergy. The extent that you work together and watch over one another with love has borne the fruit of grace-filled ministry in your churches and communities. Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committees are scheduled to meet starting August by ZOOM video conference (or for those who don't have a computer, by a telephone call-in). A zoom link will be shared with Pastors and SPRC Chairpersons to invite their committee to the scheduled meeting. Please encourage committee members to be present in this meeting, which will be a significant time with their district superintendent. We will discuss their assessment of the church's congregational health and their relationship with your Pastor and other appointed clergy (i.e., associate pastors or deacons) on your church's staff. Your clergy's presence at this meeting has also been requested throughout the meeting. The meeting will be held to a length of 30 minutes. If there is reason for further discussion, we will schedule an additional time to meet. Your answers on the Evaluation and Joint Review forms will guide the specific agenda for your meeting – ***please observe the deadlines & use this year's forms.***

Please submit completed, signed, and scanned (PDFs) not jpgs, forms by the deadlines noted on each document to the district office via email (crentschler@michiganumc.org) at least **two weeks before** your scheduled fall S.PPRC meeting with me. Forms are found on-line on the Michigan Conference Website: <https://michiganumc.org/resources/forms/> S.PPRC forms to be emailed in early are: **1. 2022 Profile of Church, 2. 2023 Clergy (or DSA) Compensation Recommendation, 3.* 2022 SPRC Assessment of Elder/Local Pastor/DSA, and/or Deacon. 4. 2022 SPRC/Pastor Joint Dialogue/Goals, 5. Listing of Current Names of S.PPRC committee, Chair, Lay Leader(s), 2022 Lay Delegate to Annual Conference. (*1st Year S.PPRC Evaluation of New Clergy of 2022 form instead)**

Church conference forms are posted on the Conference Web Site and ready to download for use. Though there are lingering uncertainties due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are planning to resume Church Conferences by Mission Zone gathering. These will take place on Sunday afternoons, as we did in 2019, unless there is another surge in the pandemic, and it is determined our gatherings would be unsafe. Churches within your mission zone are planned for gathering for shared worship and ministry celebration, then gather by charge or parish in separate meeting rooms for business sessions which will be meeting simultaneously. Additional elders in the district will preside over the local church break-out business sessions.

An agenda for your fall church conference is attached with this letter. It includes a "state of the church" report delivered by the clergy and the necessary action items for decisions. You are asked to have all other reports printed and published in booklet-form and distributed to the congregation. (If possible, prepare booklet and then pdf/email it to crentschler prior to your Church Conference). There will be no other verbal reports.

If you have a significant decision to make (such as a building project), please let me know well in advance. Also, please prepare the church by communicating information in advance to your church members, introducing and explanation of the topic, giving them an opportunity to direct questions and opinions to church leadership .

I look forward to our time together in this vital observance which has been a part of our Wesleyan life since the days of the Quarterly Conferences and Camp Meetings on the Sawdust Trail. It was a high point of spiritual and social life 200 years ago. I pray it will be as significant for your church life today.

Carpe Diem!
John H. Hice
East Winds District Superintendent