



All photos by Hannah Hazen

## Today's Highlights

- 9:00 AM Special Worship
  - Budget Vote
  - Dean's Report
- 10:30 DS Installation
  - Appointments
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:30 PM Clergy Robing
- 2:00 PM Ordination & Commissioning
- 4:00 PM Reception
- 5:00 PM Coach Buses Depart

 **62° RAIN/COOL**

***“...made perfect  
in weakness”***

- 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9 *NRSV*

## The mission is yet alive.

ACME, Mich. (MIC) – The Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, chief connectional ministries officer for The United Methodist Church, began her Saturday morning sermon saying, “I feel like I’ve come home to a bigger family.” She left Michigan in January as a Superintendent in the West Michigan Conference. Six months later Kennetha said to members of the new Michigan Conference, “These two annual conferences are coming together, not because we are all alike or think alike but because we all love alike.”

Like two preachers before her, she reflected on the story of The Good Samaritan. Her focus on the parable was, “Go and do likewise.” Recalling the pop songs current at the time of the birth of The United Methodist Church – especially Dionne Warwick’s, What the World Needs Now, is Love Sweet Love – Kennetha explained, “Love is not about being right or winning the argument. Love is not about our personal preference or our sense of politics or our authority. Love is to be deeply committed to the well-being of others.”

Just as The United Methodist Church was born during a time of turmoil in 1968, so The Michigan Conference is being created during a time of struggle “at the crossroads.” She concluded urging all to keep diligent in ministry and mission. “I am so grateful and so delighted that even at this time of division in our nation and our church, Detroit and West Michigan are singing love songs to one another. We are about to get hitched.” Conference member enacted the care for the well-being of one another of which Kennetha spoke by participating in a hand-washing facilitated by deacons of The Michigan Conference.

## TOM TALKS AND PEOPLE LISTEN

The final four TOM Talks were shared on Saturday. Associate Director for Mission and Ministry, the Rev. Paul Perez, commented earlier: "In highly contentious and unsettled times are we a big hot mess? ... John Wesley's answer to spiritual malaise was missional." His advice to those in a "discipleship funk," is to "be vulnerable with the vulnerable." TOM Talks show us how to do that.



ENGAGE with youth... Rhonda Goode/Indian River Youth Director and Sarah Alexander/Motown Mission ...*We teach a lot about serving alongside which is different than ministry to.*



ENGAGE with those struggling ... Gregory Timmons, Exec. Director Flint Recovery ... *There's a mountain of fear, doubt and worry and you are the only church that continues to have a presence, on a daily basis, in Flint gathering resources.*



ENGAGE with churches ... Naomi Garcia, Associate Director of Congregational Vibrancy ... *Things happen when people know God will do it and yet we behave as if God's not trustworthy.*



ENGAGE with schools ... Rev. Shawn Lewis-Lakin, Birmingham 1st UMC Associate; Rev. Alex Fernandez, Cornerstone: Heritage Hill; Rev. Kathy Pittenger, Waterford: Central UMC; Christy Miller-Black, Flint: Court Street UMC; Randy Hildebrandt, Missionary God's Country Cooperative Parish ... *Pray for us. After Parkland and Santa Fe we know there is support. But that support is needed everyday.*

## UMCOR HONORS MISSION SUPPORT

The Rev. Jack Amick, Director of Sustainable Development for UMCOR and clergyman from the Detroit Conference, "came home" on Saturday to present



three Advance Giving Awards. The Rev. Paul Perez, Associate Director for Ministry and Mission, and Detroit Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, Jackie Euper, were on stage to receive the plaques. The Detroit Conference was recognized for 2017 giving, among the

top 10 supporters in The United Methodist Church in: 1) International Disaster Response; 2) Health Initiatives; and 3) Missionaries. Amick said, "Because we are better together, I am sure there will be 2019 awards for The Michigan Annual Conference, a place that is committed to mission."

## MICHIGAN ENGAGED IN MISSION

On Saturday evening the Rev. Paul Perez, Associate Director for Ministry and Mission, the Rev. Don Gotham, outgoing Chair of Global Ministries



for the Detroit Conference and Brenda DuPree, incoming Chair of the Michigan Conference Board of Global Ministry stepped on stage. They explained the model for mission engagement that will not only continue the generous legacy of Spotlight Church and Six Lanes of The Advance but "take it to the next level." Engage MI officially begins January 1, 2019. Guidebooks were distributed to all members

and a copy will be mailed to each church in the conference this summer. **Learn. Give. Act.** That's the basic concept of Engage MI. In addition to the printed guide there will be a website for Engage MI with up to date project lists and an online giving option. Perez introduced 50 Engage MI ambassadors who have been trained to interpret and assist local churches in bold involvement with Engage MI. Gotham said, "We have no worries of having the traditions of the past set aside, for we both (Detroit and West Michigan boards) hold dear the mission of the church." Dupree added, "It is vital that we honor those whom we serve and those with whom we work ... Engage MI is all built on a foundation of relationship-building with those involved in the giving and receiving."

## TODAY'S SWEET TWEET @MIUMC18



Alex Plum  
@plumalex

Following

A little love song playlist care of @BighamTsai at #MIUMC18



Go and Do Likewise - Kennetha Bigham-Tsai at MAC 2018 by Alexander Plum...  
Listen on Apple Music