



Photos by Hannah Hazen

What to do this week

- Read the legislative summary in **MIconnect** when it arrives via email on Thursday.
- Post copies of this week's Daily News on your church bulletin board.
- Visit [Vimeo.com](https://www.vimeo.com) to share presentations you saw this week. Search MIUMC.
- Check our [Flickr Page \(Michigan Conference\)](#) to share photos of the week.

“...the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

- 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9 *NRSV*

Michigan Conference ignites

ACME, Mich. (MIC) – With the creation of a single flame, the new Michigan Conference was ignited on Sunday, June 3, 2018. A few minutes before noon in Governor's Hall of the Grand Traverse Resort, John Wharton, Lay Leader, carrying the flame of the Detroit Conference, and Lay Leader Anne Soles, carrying the flame of the West Michigan Conference, tipped their respective tapers to ignite the Unity Candle of the new Michigan Conference as the congregation proclaimed, “As two become one, we will work and pray so that the light of God's love shines even more brightly.”

Sunday morning of conference again opened this year with Cabinet reports brought to members as a worship service. The Rev. William Haggard, outgoing Dean of the Cabinet, was among those bringing the Word. His message compared the Detroit and West Michigan conferences in the 21st century to Judah and the prophet Jeremiah in the 7th century B.C. “Jeremiah believes just because Babylonians are at the door ... doesn't mean God isn't to be found, looking beyond the challenges with hope and aspiration. I think maybe that's a little like starting a brand new Annual Conference.” He encouraged members to put **TOM Talks** into action. “Will we do it?”

Bishop David Bard thanked Superintendents finishing their terms: Revs Mark Spaw, Bill Haggard, Dale Miller and Kennetha Bigham-Tsai. Two new Superintendents had opportunity to share the Word. Rev. Dr. Margie Crawford (Midwest District) reflected on Pentecost and the difficulty of waiting. “We are a very diverse group but we are also children of God.

see **IGNITE** on back

Wrap Up

“OURS IS NOT JUST A JOB”



2018 Michigan Conference Ordinand/credit: Hannah Hazen

The Service of Ordination and Commissioning, a high point of every Annual Conference, was held on Sunday afternoon, June 3.

During a majestic service the conference ordained three Deacons; ordained five Elders; commissioned nine persons for work of the Elder; recognized one person's Elder's ordination; recognized seven persons completing Course of Study.

Before the holy moments with questions of examination and laying on of hands, Bishop David Bard shared a message focused on navigating the uncertainties of the present day: “Not just a job, an adventure.” He noted that the “social location of the church and of its clergy has become dramatically de-centered. He remarked about the “tender place of uncertainty and fragility” the denomination finds itself in right now. Citing chapters in testaments both Old and New, the Bishop declared, “In the midst of the uncertainty and the unknown, we understand that we need to be something more than pastoral directors.”

The map for the adventure of ministry was taken from, “Canoeing the Mountains,” by Tod Bolsinger. “It's all about adaptive leadership where mission needs to be the focus and leaders need to stay focused, stay calm, stay connected and stay the course.” He stressed the importance of self-discovery, managing interpersonal relationships, theological growth, and resilience. “Here is some good news,” he concluded. “God shows up on the adventure. God calls AND God accompanies.” A full text of the sermon will be shared in the June 7th edition of MIconnect.

IGNITE continued

That is our accord. God has each of us in his hands and we must be yielded and still for the next thing that is going to happen.” The Rev. Dr. Jerome DeVine (Mid-Michigan District) visited imaginary waters of the Sea of Galilee. After recounting the story of Jesus walking on water he said: “Bishop, we have reached the new shoreline and moored our boats. I give you this vintage oar. We are ready to step out of the boat with energy and urgency.”



Rev. Dr. Jerry DeVine/credit: Hannah Hazen

All superintendents of Michigan's nine new districts were then installed. The ceremony ended with each receiving a baton and the admonition, “Let the race begin!” Signs of new life were announced by the Rev. Dirk Elliott, Director of Congregational Vibrancy. “We are taking steps to start three new churches: Restoration UMC in Grand Rapids; Traverse City: Mosaic; and Detroit: African Diaspora, a French-speaking congregation.

CONFERENCE BY THE NUMBERS

1,795 Clergy and Laity attending Annual Conference

\$14,825,633 2019 Approved Budget

\$222,242 Funds reduced from 2018 Budget

\$48,476.91 Offerings split between:

\$22,240 Haiti Hot Lunch

\$21,530 Bishop Craig Children's Village

\$4,706 Bishop's Emerging Needs Fund

\$950 Quilt Auction for Safe Harbor in Traverse City

TODAY'S SWEET TWEET @MIUMC18



Mandana Nordbrock @mandana98 · Jun 1

when you are unexpectedly introduced in front of the entire #MIUMC18

