



Greater Southwest District

Michigan Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Dear Greater Southwest District Churches,

I greet you in prayer with hope for the life that comes in our shared faith in Christ.

O Great Spirit, whose breath gives life to the world, and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze: We need your strength and wisdom. Cause us to walk in beauty. Give us eyes ever to behold the red and purple sunset. Make us wise so that we may understand what you have taught us. Help us learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. Make us always ready to come to you with clean hands and steady eyes, so when life fades, like the fading sunset, our spirits may come to you without shame. Amen.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit, United Methodist Hymnal #329

We will be meeting for our annual Church Conferences soon under a new format. Churches from each Branch will meet together at the same time and in the same space. Forms to be completed prior to the Church Conference are listed below. These forms are due in the District Office no later than 10 days before the Branch Church Conference, and the items that are in **bold** also require a review and vote by your local church governing board.

A second list of forms is also below, describing what to prepare for the day of the Branch Church Conference. These packets are for each person from your congregation who attends, and one for the District Superintendent.

Please invite any who have been Baptized or joined the church since the last Church Conference. We will name them and celebrate them. If you have questions, or if there are any concerns about this new Branch Church Conference format, please contact me.

Peace,

Rev. Dean N. Prentiss

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The Branches

Branch One: Saturday, October 18, 2025, 3 pm @ Casco

- Casco; Fennville & Pearl; Ganges; Glenn; Lacota; South Haven: First

Branch Two: Sunday, October 19, 2025, 3 pm @ Martin

- Allegan; Bradley Indian Mission; Burnips & Monterey Center; Dorr: CrossWind Community; Hopkins; Martin & Shelbyville; Wayland

Branch Three: Saturday, October 25, 2025, 3 pm @ Hastings: Green Street

- Delton: Faith & Hastings: Hope; Hastings: Green Street; Lake Odessa: Central; Nashville; Woodland

Branch Four: Sunday, October 26, 2025, 3 pm @ Paw Paw

- Alma & Paw Paw; Bangor: Simpson; Gobles; Kendall; Lawton: St. Paul's

Branch Five: Saturday, November 1, 2025, 3 pm @ Kalamazoo: Westwood

- Portage: Chapel Hill; Kalamazoo: First; Kalamazoo: Milwood; Kalamazoo: Westwood; Otsego; Parchment; Plainwell: First

Branch Six: Sunday, November 2, 2025, 3 pm @ Gull Lake

- Battle Creek: Chapel Hill; Battle Creek: Christ & Convis Union; Battle Creek: First & Kalamazoo: Sunnyside; Battle Creek: Washington Heights; Climax & Scotts; Galesburg & Augusta: Fellowship; Gull Lake

Branch Seven: Saturday, November 8, 2025, 3 pm @ Dowagiac: First

- Cassopolis; Dowagiac: First; Niles: New Journey; Portage: Prairie; Three Rivers: Ninth Street & Marcellus

Branch Eight: Sunday, November 9, 2025, 3 pm @ Buchanan: First

- Bridgman: Faith; Buchanan: First & Galien River; Lakeside; Water's Edge & Three Oaks

Branch Nine: Saturday, November 15, 2025, 3 pm @ Stevensville

- Coloma; Hartford & Lawrence; Riverside; Silver Creek; Sodus: Chapel Hill & Morris Chapel; Stevensville

Branch Ten: Sunday, November 16, 2025, 3 pm @ Marshall

- Albion: First & Concord; Coldwater; Girard & Lyon Lake; Marshall; Newton & Homer; North Parma & Springport

Branch Eleven: Saturday, November 22, 2025, 3 pm @ Vicksburg

- Constantine; Oshtemo; Schoolcraft & Pleasant Valley; Three Rivers: Center Park; Vicksburg; White Pigeon

Branch Twelve: Sunday, November 23, 2025, 3 pm @ Centreville

- Bronson & Colon; Centreville; Mendon & Burr Oak; Nottawa; Sturgis: First; Three Rivers: First

Forms due 10 days before Church Conference

Items in bold require a review and vote by your local church governing board.

- ☐ Clergy/Local Pastor/DSA (or Deacon) Self-Evaluation Form
- ☐ SPRC Assessment of Elder/Local Pastor/DSA
- ☐ or First Year Review for New Appointment
- ☐ SPRC Assessment of Deacon
- ☐ SPRC and Pastor Joint Dialogue Form
- ☐ **2026 Clergy (or DSA) Compensation Recommendation Report**
- ☐ **Profile of the Church**
- ☐ **Business of the Church Conference**
- ☐ GCFA Report of the Finance Committee
- ☐ GCFA Report of the Trustees
- ☐ GCFA Annual Accessibility Audit
- ☐ GCFA Insurance Worksheet Form
- ☐ Parsonage Information Sheet (due every 5 years)
- ☐ Parsonage Inspection Form
- ☐ **Membership Report**
- ☐ **Lay Leadership (Nominations) Report**
- ☐ or **2026 Nominations Form for Simplified Accountability System**
- ☐ **Native American Comprehensive Plan Representative Form**
- ☐ Certified Lay Servant/Speaker/Minister Annual Report(s)
- ☐ Appointment Advisory Form (only if requested by Clergy or SPRC)

All forms can be found at:
michiganumc.org/resources/forms

Send completed forms to:
mnordbrock@michiganumc.org

Packet to bring to the Branch Church Conference

Make enough copies for the District Superintendent and any who attend from the congregation.

- ☐ Business of the Church Conference Form
- ☐ List of names of all Baptisms and New Members since last Church Conference
- ☐ 2024 Church Conference Minutes
- ☐ Membership Report
- ☐ Lay Leadership (Nominations) Report
- ☐ Committee Reports
- ☐ Pastor's Report (Pastor is encouraged to share the Pastor's Report in worship)

Do not include in the Branch Church Conference Packets:

- ⊗ Clergy (or DSA) Compensation Recommendation
- ⊗ Clergy Self-Evaluation
- ⊗ SPRC Assessment of the Pastor
- ⊗ Joint Dialogue
- ⊗ Certified Lay Servant/Speaker/Minister Annual Report(s)
- ⊗ Appointment Advisory Form