

2025 Greater Southwest District Church Conferences Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Prayer
3. Luke 8:4-8 “Parable of the Sower”
4. Celebration of Branch Connections
5. Church Conference Instructions
6. Church Conference Votes
 - a. Recording Secretary
 - b. **Line 1** of the Business of the Church Conference: **Lay Leadership Report**
 - c. **Line 2** of the Business of the Church Conference: **Membership Report**
 - d. **Line 3** of the Business of the Church Conference: **Pastor’s Total Compensation for 2026**
 - e. **Line 4** of the Business of the Church Conference: **IRS Housing Exclusion**
 - f. **Line 5** of the Business of the Church Conference: **Pastor’s Total Professional Expenses**
 - g. **Line 6** of the Business of the Church Conference: **Certified Lay Servants**
 - h. **Line 7** of the Business of the Church Conference: **Certified Lay Speakers**
 - i. **Line 8** of the Business of the Church Conference: **Certified Lay Ministers**
 - j. **Line 9** of the Business of the Church Conference: **Candidates for Certification**
 - k. **Line 10** of the Business of the Church Conference: **Continued Recommendation for Certified Candidates**
 - l. **Line 11** of the Business of the Church Conference: **Ministry Shares Report**
(No vote, go to www.michiganumc.org/ministry-shares for more information)



7. District News
 - a. District Leadership (Branch Rep from Leadership Team)
 - b. District Budget & District Ministry Shares Information
8. Path to Discipleship Presentation – Fertile Soil
9. Sharing Ideas and Resources
10. Celebration of New Members and those Baptized
11. Reaffirmation of Faith
12. Closing Prayer

Reaffirmation of Faith

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

Let us profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

All: We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal and gracious God, we give you thanks. In countless ways you have revealed yourself in ages past and have blessed us with signs of your grace. Through the waters of the sea, you led your people Israel out of bondage into freedom.

You sent us Jesus your son, who for us was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, and was anointed as the Christ by your Holy Spirit. Through the baptism of his death and resurrection you set us free from the brokenness of sin and death, and give us rebirth.

In baptism you give us your Holy Spirit, who teaches us and leads us into all truth, filling us with gifts, that we might proclaim the gospel to all nations and serve you as its ministers. Pour out your spirit upon us and upon this water. May we remember that we are delivered from death to life, from bondage to freedom, from broken to whole. Bind us to the household of faith. Guard us from all evil. Strengthen us to serve you with joy.

To you be all praise, honor and glory. Through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.

Remember your baptism, and be thankful. **Amen.**

2025 Church Conference Ballot

Please refer to the Business of the Church Conference Form in your Church Packet for the details and motions that pertain to your congregation.

Name (optional) _____

Date _____

Church _____

Professing Member YES NO UNSURE (need help to verify status)

1. Lay Leadership Report	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
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2. Membership Report	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
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3. Pastor's Total Compensation for 2026	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
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4. IRS Housing Exclusion	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
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5. Pastor's Total Professional Expenses	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
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6. Certified Lay Servant(s)

_____	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
_____	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
_____	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
_____	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
_____	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
_____	YES	NO	ABSTAIN

7. Certified Lay Speaker(s)

_____	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
_____	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
_____	YES	NO	ABSTAIN

8. Certified Lay Minister(s)

_____	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
_____	YES	NO	ABSTAIN

9. Candidate(s) for Certification

_____	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
_____	YES	NO	ABSTAIN

10. Continued Recommendation for Certified Candidate(s)

_____	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
_____	YES	NO	ABSTAIN



Gardens of Hope

A \$200,000 life changing campaign to support Engage^{mi} partners in Haiti
We can meet this goal of hope with a gift of \$350 from each Michigan congregation



Join us in planting seeds of hope in Haiti!

Overwhelmingly approved at the 2025 Michigan Annual Conference, this campaign can transform our Haiti covenant partner communities through sustainable agriculture, education, and healthcare initiatives.



Your gift supports our EngageMI partners

Grace Children's Hospital, HAPI, and Jeremie Rising—nurturing a “healthy field” for lasting change. Half of all donations also empower local leaders through a new partner, Grassroots Community Voices Foundation (MUSO).



Together, we're growing a future rooted in dignity, resilience, and hope.

We can build a brighter future for Haitian families, fostering resilience and sustainable growth. Every donation counts.



**Use the QR code to learn more
and how you can donate.**

Visit bit.ly/GardensOfHope



Michigan Conference
The United Methodist Church





A \$200,000 life changing campaign to support Engage^{mi} partners in Haiti
We can meet this goal of hope with a gift of \$350 from each Michigan congregation

Here are 25 ideas on how to easily raise your gift

 Featured Event

- ☐ Host a Gardens of Hope Plant Sale
- ☐ Host a God Dollars event

 Community & Congregational Events

- ☐ Haiti Mission Envelope Challenge
- ☐ Host a Haitian Dinner Night
- ☐ Community Hymn Sing
- ☐ Purse Auction
- ☐ Brownie Bar After Worship
- ☐ Bake Sale
- ☐ Holiday Gift-Wrapping Station
- ☐ Haitian Painting Night
- ☐ Themed Restaurant Night
- ☐ Yard Sale for Haiti
- ☐ Noisy Sunday Coin Collection
- ☐ "Change for Haiti" Spare Change Jars

 Youth-Led & Teen-Friendly Fundraisers

- ☐ Community Cleanup Day
- ☐ Game Night Fundraiser
- ☐ Scavenger Hunt
- ☐ Car Wash
- ☐ Service Auction
- ☐ Pie Fight
- ☐ Social Media Challenges
- ☐ Photo Booth Fun
- ☐ Fashion or Talent Show
- ☐ Pop Can Drive
- ☐ Youth-Led Holiday Gift-Wrapping
- ☐ Bake Sale: Youth Edition



**Use the QR code to learn more
and how you can donate.**

Visit bit.ly/GardensOfHope