



This week

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*“Do everything
in love.”*

1 Corinthians 16:14

WHEN SOMEONE TUGS YOU

By Kay DeMoss, Senior Writer/Editor

The Service of Ordination and Commissioning is a high point of every Annual Conference session. On Sunday, June 4, 2017, The Michigan Area:

- commissioned one person for work of the Deacon;
- commissioned five persons for work of the Elder;
- recognized one person as an Associate Member;
- recognized seven persons completing Course of Study;
- ordained four Deacons;
- ordained nine Elders.

Bishop David Bard’s sermon, “Because It’s Hard,” harkened back to the experience of the disciples who Jesus sent out two by two, taking “nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts, with sandals but no extra shirt.”

He also reminded those being recognized, ordained and commissioned of the quote of the week from theologian Reinhold Niebuhr: The human story is too grand and awful to be told without reverence for the mystery and majesty that transcends all human knowledge.

The bishop summarized their journey: “You have answered the call to serve and to lead. You’ve answered the call to share bread, to share Word, to offer grace, to call us all to do justice, to order our shared life, to continue the apostolic work begun when Jesus sent out his first disciples to preach and teach and heal.”

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Final Edition



TUG continued

He continued, “Something tugged at you ... would not let you go” and “you responded, not because it was easy, but because it was hard.” And it’s not getting any easier. “Now seems a particularly challenging time. So many trends are convulsing our world, many of which make ministry for and in the name of Jesus Christ acutely difficult.”

But it IS possible to experience exhilaration rather than exhaustion. Read more in the full text of the sermon that can be found in the attached pdf.



SWEET TWEET #MIUMC17



MI VISION KEEPERS

By Kay DeMoss, Senior Writer/Editor

A number of recognitions were made during the course of the 2017 Annual Conference. On Sunday morning the Rev. Gary Step, Michigan’s Director of Congregational Excellence, honored two congregations with the One Matters Award. Conferred by the denomination’s Discipleship Ministries, One Matters encourages Baptisms and Professions of Faith. “This is the hope of the new Michigan Conference,” Step said. “We are recognizing long and deep change this morning.”

He named Manistee UMC as West Michigan’s recipient. Accepting for the congregation was current pastor John Scott. The turn-around began when former pastor, David Selleck took the church into the Vital Church Initiative (VCI).

“Flint Calvary UMC, under the leadership of Pastor Jim Britt, is Detroit



L-r: Bishop David Bard, Pastor Jim Britt with layman from Flint: Calvary UMC, layman from Manistee UMC with Rev. John Scott, along with Rev. Gary Step.

Conference’s One Matters recipient. After 20 years of slow decline, a “concerted effort was made to grow through a multi-cultural vision. “It is encouraging,” Step remarked, “to have faith growing in an area in the national spotlight for its drinking water and economic challenges.”

On Saturday, June 3, two awards were made at the Church & Society and Justice, Advocacy & Equity Board dinner. The Revs Paul Perez and Carl Gladstone, both Deacons in Full Connection in the Detroit Conference, were recognized for their ministry in the world. Perez was named West Michigan’s Peacemaker of the Year Award. Gladstone received the Harold Stanton Peace and Justice Award.

On Thursday night Perez was also one of two recipients of the John Buxton Award recognizing creative leadership for his service as Director of Justice For Our Neighbors Southeastern Michigan and current role as Detroit Conference Director for Mission and Justice Engagement and Leadership Recruitment. The Rev. Faith Green Timmons, pastor of Flint: Bethel UMC was honored for “turning the church into a beacon” during the water crisis and recovery.