



HEARTS UNITED

Hart United Methodist Church

February 2019

Pastor's Ponderings *By Steve Young*

Special General Conference February 23-26

At this time of year—and for years and years—I typically give a “state of the church” report, similar to what the president (??), the governor, and other State and local officials in government do annually in their “State of” and year-end addresses reflecting on the previous year.

However, this year I’m setting all that aside in favor of a preview of what is to occur later this month—and I hope that move indicates how serious this coming event is to the future of the United Methodist Church.

From Saturday, February 23, through Tuesday, February 26, a special General Conference of the worldwide UMC and Methodist-related churches will meet in St. Louis, MO. Usually General Conference takes place every four years, as it did in 2016 and will in 2020. However, this 2019 special session was called in 2016 to deal with the crucial dispute of LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgendered, Questioning) relationships in the church, particularly in regard to ordaining as pastors those of such identification.

The special General Conference will consider three plans of “A Way Forward,” as presented and developed by the Commission on a Way Forward which was formed at the 2016 General Conference’s directive. Another group, The Council of Bishops (UMC) has already considered the proposals and is recommending the “One Church Plan” (see below) to General Conference for adoption. Here are summaries of each plan:

One Church Plan (recommended by UMC bishops): The one-church model would allow different United Methodists in different places to make different decisions regarding ministry with or by LGBTQ persons rather than maintaining a single standard that operates everywhere throughout the worldwide church. Even though no changes to the denomination’s constitution would be required, this plan would remove restrictive language from the Book of Discipline and give conferences, churches and pastors the flexibility to “uniquely reach their missional context in relation to human sexuality without changing the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church.” United Methodists in central conferences in Africa, Asia and Europe would retain the authority to adapt the Book of Discipline and could continue to include their traditional language and values.

Regular Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday:

10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Wednesday & Friday:

10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

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Pastor's Pondering, cont.

This plan would also protect the rights of United Methodists whose theological convictions will not allow them to perform same-sex weddings or ordain LGBTQ people. Additionally, all church litigations against pastors who have performed same-sex weddings in the past would cease (many of these cases are on hold currently).

Traditionalist Plan: This plan would affirm the current language about homosexuality in the Book of Discipline and seek to strengthen enforcement for violations of church law.

Connectional-Conference Plan: This plan would create three connectional conferences based on theology or perspective, each having clearly defined values (accountability, contextualization and justice). The three connectional conferences would function throughout the worldwide church and the five existing U.S. jurisdictions would be abolished. Adaptations to the Book of Discipline would be allowed by each connectional conference. Annual conferences, (including our Michigan Annual Conference) would determine their own affiliation with a world connectional conference. Furthermore, local churches who prefer a branch other than the one chosen by their annual conference could vote to join another worldwide conference. Additionally, this plan would require multiple amendments to the denomination's constitution.

So, this month the 2019 General Conference will officially receive the above report and legislation and make decisions about whether or how to change our current connectional relationships.

Of course, this is serious business, and requires our devoted prayers. Therefore, all United Methodists—and any and all others as well—are being asked to join in prayer, especially for a designated “time zone” prayer time while General Conference meets. So, each day, 2/23 – 2/26, during the moments of 2:23 – 2:26 p.m., we are being asked to pray for the General Conference representatives (Michigan has two laypeople and two clergypersons), our bishops (Michigan's is David Bard), and the entire United Methodist Church and Methodist-related churches worldwide.

I will have further comments about this in upcoming sermons on February 17 and 24, and you can read more about it right now at umc.org and at michiganumc.org on your device. Most of all, take it to the Lord in prayer. Thank you.

“Souper Bowl” Collection Coming

For nearly thirty years, a collection has been taken up across the United States at Super Bowl time and given in full to local charities. We will participate in this on Super Bowl Sunday, February 3 (as well as the Sunday before, January 27). We'll be asking everyone to contribute a dollar

(or more!) into a soup pot, or you can also write a check payable to Hart UMC and designated “Souper Bowl” to make your donation. OUR DONATIONS WILL BE GIVEN AGAIN TO THE COMMUNITY MEAL MINISTRY OF PENTWATER CENTENARY UMC, like in the past. Read more about the Souper Bowl of Caring, and track the giving (perhaps over ten million dollars nationwide going to help those in need at each locality), including ours, at souperbowl.org (There's also information on how to fund the operating expenses for the Souper Bowl of Caring organization in Columbia, South Carolina, if you're interested). Thank you!



THANK YOU SO MUCH, Hart UMC, for the very generous cash gift given to us on Christmas Eve night. It brightened our family Christmas and helped to enable our trips to the hospital for our sister-in-law and sister before she passed. Also, thanks to all who sent Christmas and sympathy cards in the mail or dropped them off. God Bless You!

Pastor Steve Young & Kathy



PLAN NOW FOR SUMMER CAMP

The 2019 United Methodist Summer Camping program has been scheduled with camps for all ages from kindergarteners (completed) through older adults.

Brochures are now available in the sanctuary hallway to help you make a selection, but right now you can also go online at umcamping.org to decide and register. After you have registered and made the initial deposit, please bring your paperwork to the church office to receive a camp scholarship (values vary according to camps selected, but a typical full-week scholarship for a regular camp priced around \$400 would approximate \$350 for a United Methodist sponsored camp, and \$300 for a non-United Methodist camp). Please complete your registration by April 30, as full payments for United Methodist camps must be made by May 15. Even now, some camps are filling up, so make your reservation soon and happy camping!

A Later Lent With Pancakes And Ashes Service On March 6

The Season of Lent always begins forty days before Easter, not including Sundays. So, with Easter not coming until April 21 this year, Lent will begin late, beginning on Wednesday, March 6. This day is known as Ash Wednesday, named for the practice of placing a small amount of ashes on the forehead of worshipers at services that day. WE WILL DO THAT at 6:30 p.m. that night, WITH A PANCAKE SUPPER BEFORE at 6:00 p.m., all in Fellowship Hall. Watch for further announcements but plan now to attend!

Lenten Study To Begin In March— Days And Times Survey Going On Now

Throughout the six-week Season of Lent leading up to a later Easter (April 21), we will be studying the discipleship of Simon Peter, beginning the week of March 10. PLEASE INDICATE WHAT DAYS AND TIMES WORK BEST FOR YOU on the sign-up sheet in the sanctuary hallway, with the most preferred announced at the end of February. Also, an optional study book is available, and the first 10 people may pick up one at the Church Office for \$14 each (hardcover, regular print).



United Methodist Women

UMW 2019 Calendar

February 10: Chili cook-off during Fellowship Time (see Kay or Penny about participating)

March 25: Prayer and Self Denial to be held in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m.

April 6: Day of Making Peace East Lansing University UMC

May 3: 4 Spring Retreat St. Francis Retreat Center Dewitt, MI cost \$85 (registration to come in March)

May 12: Mother's Day Ice Cream Sundae Sunday

June 16: Father's Day Strawberry Shortcake Sunday

July 4: Christmas in July— Pack Health, School Kits and Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes (date to be announced)

July 10-13: Mission U Albion College Albion, MI

August 26: Picnic in the Park (location to be determined)

September 21: Midwest District Annual Meeting (location to be determined)

September 23: General Meeting for Fall Bazaar discussion and Officer nominations at 6:00 p.m.

October 14: Election of Officers and complete plans for the Fall Bazaar

October 26: MI Conference Annual Meeting Howell UMC

November 8: Fall Bazaar and Luncheon from 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

November 9: Evening Apart Middleville UMC

December 13: Oceana County Medical Care Facility Birthday Party at 2:00 p.m.

United Methodist Women, cont.

Cooks and or helpers are always welcomed and still needed on Wednesdays for Rotary. Sign up sheet is located in the Fellowship Hall. Any questions see Judy Kuipers, Penny Brubaker or Kay Dixon.

Sunday, February 10 the UMW will be having a chili cook-off after the service in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will plan to stay and vote for your favorite! If you have a favorite recipe and would like to contribute a pot we would welcome you.

The UMW hosted the December birthday at the Oceana Medical Care Facility on December 14. There are 2 of our members Bill Stevens and Lenore Westrate staying there. Maureen Huizing helped with the party and it was a great and fun time for everyone!

Women Who Care

Remember the college students with whom we keep in touch throughout the school year. Please take time to send some valentines and/or notes to the students below. If you are unable to send all 16 students a valentine, please consider splitting the list with a friend. Thank you for your help in this mission! If you have any questions email Pat Schramm (fschramm@goldcommcable.com).

Onika BOUWKAMP
Mailbox 616277
141 E. 12th St.
Holland, Mi 49423

Lauryn JOHNSON
Apt. 1410
536 S. Forest Ave.
Ann Arbor, Mi. 48104

Nick VANCE
Herring Hall
403 Broomfield – Room 215
Mt. Pleasant, Mi 48858

Quinn BOUWKAMP
Mailbox 572164
141 E. 12th Street
Holland, Mi 49423

Hanna LAWRENCE
% Lorie Jager
17424 Buchanan
Grand Haven, Mi 49417

Austin VANDERLAAN
6191 Kraft Ave. S.E.
Davenport University
Grand Rapids, Mi 49512

Makayla GARDNER
North Hall 462
Ferris State U.
785 Campus Drive
Big Rapids, Mi 49307

Hanna MEAD
4967 Pierce Street
Apt. 1031 Bldg. J
Allendale, MI 49401

Holli WITTMAN
224 S. Kendall Ave. #54
Kalamazoo, Mi 49006

Jennie GOTTARDO
5068 W. Campus Drive
D Apt. 37
Allendale, Mi 49401

Hannah RIGGS
% Derek and Hiedi MI-
CHAEL
2571 W. Lever Road
Hart, Mi 49420

Jack WITTMAN
Ackley Hall
202 Valley Drive Room 217
Kalamazoo, Mi 49008-

Patrick GOUGHLER
1505 Snider Road
E. Lansing, Michigan 48823

Jacob STEVENS
329 Mesnard St.
Marquette, Mi 49855

Walter Franz HILL
Quincy Mail Center - 206
58 Plympton Street
Cambridge, MA 02138-7582

Kaylin SWIHART
3103 W. Hazel Road
Hart, Michigan 49420

February Birthdays

7– Clem McLouth
 9– Aaron Myers
 10– Nick Swihart
 12– Audry Swihart
 18– Kimberly Orent;
 Kay Dion
 19–Paul Goughler
 20– Onabelle Klotz
 21– David Jensen
 22– Dana Bond
 25– Donald Taylor
 28– David DuMonte

Hart UMC 2018 Financial Summary Report

The annual Audit/Fund balance report is on file with the Church Office and is available upon request. The report reveals that during 2018, we received in \$216,572 and disbursed \$254,828 for a negative cash flow of \$38,256. \$19,184 of the expenses was attributable to the sewer backup damage in our church basement and \$34,700 was expended on reroofing the Fellowship Hall. To meet these unusual expenses, the Church borrowed \$50,000 from a private lender at 4% interest repayable in semi-annual payments of \$2,500 plus interest.

Our yearly operational budget was \$157,463 and we expended but \$152,837, (97%), or 3% under budget. Some of our major disbursements are for non-budget items like Ministry Shares, Youth Program (Puerto Rico Mission Trip) and Building/Improvements. Because of our unusual building expenses, we paid but 77.5% of our Ministry Shares (\$15,500/\$20,009).

The cash assets of the Church on 12/31/2018 totaled \$61,864 consisting of:

UMW—checking account	\$5,922	
UMM—checking account	\$1,984	
Church Checking Account	\$53,958	\$61,864

Checking Account consists of:

General Fund	\$24,972	
Care (Benevolence) Fund	\$924	
Building/Improvement Fund	\$16,262*	
Noisy Can (Church School) Fund	\$1,554	
Youth Fund	\$3,387	
Memorial Fund	\$4,565	
PC Pantry Fund	\$481	
Music Fund	\$278	
Emergency Fund	\$1,000	
Van Fund	\$104	
College Care Fund	\$115	
Tech Fund	\$2	
Miscellaneous Fund	\$314	\$53,958

*Building Fund will be making the loan payments and the church can prepay the loan without penalty.

Walter Urick, Finance Liaison to Governance Board
 January 20, 2019

United Methodist Men

The UMM elected the following officers at its December annual meeting: President Dave Jensen; Vice President Bill Brubaker; Treasurer John Huizing, Secretary Walt Urick. These men along with Pastor Steve and past President Dan Russell constitute the Executive Board of UMM.

Tentative plans for this year are: Provide a Pancake Supper for Ash Wednesday Service (3/6); Repair & refinish parsonage deck; Organize Singspiration/ talent show along with Spaghetti Supper in early May; Modify Burger Bash into a “Hot-Dog” Bash and continue to serve at 3 games; Spearhead a Christmas Parade Float; Continue sponsoring youngsters to Christian summer camps. A Breakfast meeting date of February 16 (Saturday) at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall is tentatively scheduled. All Men associated with Hart UMC are invited and encouraged to attend.

Upcoming Events at HUMC

Mark your calendar!

Sunday, Feb. 3: Holy Communion; Worship at OCMCF, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 10: Chili Cook-Off during Fellowship, 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 12: PC Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 18: Governance Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 23-26: Special General Conference

Sunday, Feb. 24: Fourth Sunday Potluck

Tuesday, Feb. 26: PC Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 28: Fellowship Hall reserved (Mercy Health Dinner)

Sunday, March 3: Holy Communion; Worship at OCMCF, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6: Pancake Supper & Ashes Service, 6:00 p.m.

Monday, March 25: Prayer and Self Denial, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 26: PC Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 7: Holy Communion; Worship at OCMCF, 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9: PC Pantry from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Monday, April 15: Governance Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 21: Easter Sunday

Digging Deep ~ Reaching Out ~ Looking Up

Contact Us

Call the office or check out our website for more information about us!

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Visit us on the web at hartunitedmethodist.org or like us on Facebook!

Hart United Methodist Church

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE