



Greater Detroit District

Michigan Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 31, 2020

Dear Fellow Clergy:

Grace and peace to you and your families in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord! I hope and pray that you and your congregations are well and abiding by safety and health precautions as we do ministry together in this time of the coronavirus pandemic.

The purpose of this letter is to share the following information with you pertaining to the 2020 church conferences in our district:

1. Bishop Bard and the Michigan Conference Appointive Cabinet have decided to request that all Annual **Church** Conferences in 2020 be held as Annual **Charge** Conferences, and that they be held by Zoom conferencing. This measure will ensure the safety and well-being of all leaders and members of our congregations during this uncertain time of the coronavirus.
2. If any congregation has agenda items that require only a Church Conference to decide, the lead pastor should contact the district superintendent to schedule a Special Church Conference to decide that issue separate from the Annual Charge Conference.
3. The Annual Charge Conference this year should limit its agenda to necessary items. A draft agenda is attached for your review and use. In case there are other agenda items needed, please include them before printing a full agenda. Ms. Dwanda Ashford, district executive assistant, will email each appointed and/or assigned clergy a Dropbox link where each clergy must deposit all required documents at least 10 days prior to the date of their Annual Charge Conference. Please look out for the email with instructions in the next few weeks.
4. This year's Charge Conference schedule is attached for your review and confirmation. Please contact Ms. Dwanda Ashford by phone at (313)481-1045 with any scheduling questions right away.
5. I am asking each lead pastor to share the Zoom link to the Charge Conference (*which will be sent to the pastor one week prior to your Annual Charge Conference*) with all members prior to the date of the conference. *This means the district office will **Not** send links to individual members of the charge conferences.*
6. In case your church would like to use your Zoom account instead of the district's to convene the charge conference, please contact Ms. Dwanda Ashford at the district office, no later than September 10, 2020 to make arrangements.

Please know that I'm praying for you. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know and I will do my best to respond. In the meantime, I am praying for you and your ministry.

With faith and commitment,

Rev. Dr. Charles S. G. Boayue, Jr.

Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr.
District Superintendent

Dwanda Ashford
Executive Assistant

Audrey Mangum
Director Justice & Mission Engagement