



Greater Detroit District

Michigan Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 4, 2023

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. The purpose of this letter is to share the following information with you pertaining to the 2023 church conferences in our district:

1. Bishop Bard and the Michigan Conference Appointive Cabinet are encouraging that Annual Church Conferences in 2023 be held by Zoom unless there are extenuating circumstances requiring in-person gathering.
2. Ms. Dwanda Ashford, district executive administrative 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 Church Conference. Please look out for that email as the time gets closer to your church conference date. My preference is that your documents are uploaded 15 days ahead of your church conference, if you could do this, it will be greatly appreciated.
3. This year's Church 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.
4. I am asking each lead pastor to share the Zoom link to the Church Conference (which will be sent to the pastor two weeks prior to your Annual Church Conference) with all members prior to the date of the conference. This means the district office will *Not* send links to individual members of your church conference. ***To secure administrative privileges the district will no longer allow a church to use their local Zoom account license to host their annual church conference.***
5. **Save the Date: November 1, 2023, for District Conference.** The 90-minute conference will be held in person at a local church, along with a Zoom option. All documents will be digital using Mentimeter. A link will be posted on the district website, sent by email and Calling Post text messaging before the date. All participants will be able to download documents. Please know that I am praying for you as you continue to lead in these challenging times.

With faith and Commitment,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darryl E. Totty".

Rev. Darryl E. Totty