



*Lift  
Every  
Voice*

2024 North Central Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church

**ADVANCE JOURNAL  
VOLUME 1**

**Sioux Falls, SD  
July 10-13, 2024**

**2024 NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
July 10-13, 2024**

**Advance Journal Volume 1  
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# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Dakotas-Minnesota Area

Resident Bishop  
Lanette  
Plambeck  
bishopoffice@dkmnareaumc.org

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July 10, 2024

Dear Delegates and Guests,

Welcome to Sioux Falls for the United Methodist North Central Jurisdictional Conference! It is my honor to greet you as the Resident Bishop of the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area. We are delighted to host this significant gathering of our United Methodist family.

Our conference theme, "Lift Every Voice," calls us to recognize and honor the diverse voices within our church and communities. As we conference together, we seek to embody the inclusive spirit of Christ, lifting up the gifts, perspectives, and stories that enrich our shared ministry.

Throughout this week, you will have opportunities to engage in meaningful dialogue, worship, learning, and decision-making. I pray each day you will see our commitment to ensuring that every voice is heard and valued as we discern and celebrate our collective path forward.

Sioux Falls, with its vibrant community and beautiful surroundings, offers a welcoming environment for our gathering. I encourage you to explore the city, enjoy its hospitality, and connect with fellow delegates in fellowship and service.

Thank you for your commitment to our church's mission. May this time be filled with inspiration, unity, and a renewed sense of purpose.

In Christ's Peace,

*Bishop Lanette L. Plambeck*

Bishop Lanette L. Plambeck  
Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area  
The United Methodist Church

## 2022-2024 NCJ COLLEGE OF BISHOPS Active Bishops



**Front Row:** Kennetha Bigham-Tsai (Iowa), Hee-Soo Jung (Wisconsin), Tracy Smith Malone (East Ohio), David A. Bard (Michigan), Dan Schwerin (Northern Illinois)

**Second Row:** Julius C. Trimble (Indiana), Lanette L. Plambeck (Dakotas/Minnesota), Frank J. Beard (Illinois Great Rivers), Gregory V. Palmer (West Ohio)

## **2024 JURISDICTIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEES**

### **NCJ Host Committee**

Bishop Lanette Plambeck, Resident Bishop, Dakotas-Minnesota Area

Diane Brown, NCJ Conference Secretary

Lonnie Chafin, NCJ Conference Treasurer

Jim Ducker, Dakotas Conference Treasurer

Beata Ferris, NCJ Committee on Episcopacy

Doreen Gosmire, Director of Communications

Rev. Kris Mutzenberger, Dean of Dakotas Conference Cabinet

Susan Punt, Registration

Al Roll, Event Coordinator

Bea Stucke, Operations and Logistics Coordinator

David Stucke, Communications and Production

Rev. Rebecca Trefz, Executive Director of Ministries

### **NCJ Design Team**

Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Iowa Conference

Bishop Lanette Plambeck, Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area

Bishop Dan Schwerin, Northern Illinois Conference

Diane Brown, NCJ Conference Secretary

Beata Ferris, Dakotas Conference

Doreen Gosmire, Dakotas Conference

Rev. Insuk Peebles, Indiana Conference

Rev. Ryan Russell, Chair Mission Council

Rev. Erik Swanson, Vice Chair Mission Council

Rev. Rebecca Trefz, Dakotas Conference

**NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION 2024 CONFERENCE**  
**DAILY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**  
**As of July 1, 2024**

**All Plenary Business sessions and Worship Services will be held  
in the Exhibit Hall 2 of the Convention Center**

**Tuesday, July 9:**

1-5 p.m.	College of Bishops ( <i>Hotel - Hammons</i> )
1-5 p.m.	COB Spouses outing
3 - 8 p.m.	Information & Registration Open ( <i>Convention Center lobby</i> )
4 – 8:30 p.m.	Committee on Episcopacy ( <i>Hotel - Fontenelle</i> )
5:15 – 7:15 p.m.	Dinner for College of Bishops, Spouses, & Dakotas Cabinet & Spouses ( <i>off-site</i> )

**Wednesday, July 10:**

	<b>DAY ONE THEME – DO NO HARM</b>
8 a.m. – 9 p.m.	Information & Registration Open ( <i>Convention Center lobby</i> )
8 a.m. – 8 p.m.	Prayer Room Open ( <i>Convention Center Room 11</i> )
8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Nominations Committee ( <i>Convention Center Rooms 12/13</i> )
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Vendor Set-up ( <i>Convention Center Exhibit Hall 1</i> )
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Committee on Episcopacy ( <i>Hotel - Fontenelle</i> )
Noon – 2 p.m.	Bishops & BIPOC Delegates Lunch ( <i>Conv. Center Room 9</i> )
1—6 p.m.	Vendor/Display Area Open ( <i>Convention Center Exhibit Hall 1</i> )
<b>3 - 5 p.m.</b>	<b>Calling the Conference to Order –</b> <i>Bishop Frank Beard, Presiding</i> Welcome – <i>Bishop Lanette Plambeck</i> Opening Service of Worship – <i>Bishop Lanette Plambeck, preaching</i> Communion
5 - 6:30 p.m.	Dinner ( <i>Convention Center Exhibit Hall 1</i> )
<b>6:45 - 9 p.m.</b>	<b>Business Session – Bishop Frank Beard, Presiding</b> Roll Call - <i>NCJ Secretary Diane Brown</i> Rules of Order - <i>Mission Council Chair Rev. Ryan Russell</i> Confirmation of Jurisdictional Committees & Secretarial Staff Mission Council Report - <i>Rev. Ryan Russell &amp; Rev. Eric Swanson</i> Committee on Episcopacy - <i>Rev. Barrie Tritle</i> Treasurer’s Report and reimbursement forms - <i>Lonnie Chafin</i> Introduction of Special Guest

Special Topic -- Wesleyan heritage, Three Simple Rules, and Addressing Racism in our Wesleyan ways – *Dr. Ashley Boggan D, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History*

9 p.m. Three Simple Rules Theme Introduction  
Recess

**Thursday, July 11:**

7:30 – 9 a.m.

**DAY TWO THEME – DO GOOD**

College of Bishops breakfast with LGBTQ delegates/guest (*Conv Center Room 9*)

7:30—9 a.m.

General Breakfast open (*Convention Center Exhibit Hall 1*)

8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Information & Registration Open (*Convention Center lobby*)

8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Vendor/Display Area Open (*Convention Center Exhibit Hall 1*)

8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Prayer Room Open (*Convention Center Room 11*)

**9:15 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Service of Worship** – *Bishop Julius C. Trimble, preaching*  
Break

10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Business Session

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Theme Video #1

Recap Theme Day One/Intro Theme Day Two

Introduction of Special Guest

Special Topic – Lifting Every Voice post General Conference for the Purpose of Multiplying Love – *Rev. Paul Chilcote and Dr. Boggan*

Introduction of Lunch N Learn sessions - *Rev. Rebecca Trefz*

12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

General Lunch (*Convention Center Exhibit Hall 1*)

Lunch N Learn sessions

- Community Development (*Conv. Center Room 10*)
- Church Leadership (*Conv. Center Rooms 12-13*)
- Regionalization (*Conv Center Rooms 6-7*)

**1:30 – 3 p.m.**

**Business Session**

Committee on Nominations Report

Introduction of Special Guest

Special Topic – What to Teach: A Practical Theology of Love – *Rev. Chilcote*

Special Topic Response – Practical Application and Best Practices From an Evangelical Lens – *Rev. Tyler Sit*

3 – 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 – 5 p.m.

Business Session

Theme Video #2

Instructions for Host Night Event and Transportation

Special Topic – How to Teach: Learning Through Spiritual Practices – *Rev. Chilcote*

Special Topic Response – *Rev. Tyler Sit*

5 p.m.  
6 – 8 p.m.

Episcopal Address – *Bishop Frank Beard*  
Host Night Event

**Friday, July 12:**

7:30—9 a.m.  
8 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
8 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
8 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
**9 – 9:30 a.m.**  
9:30 – noon

**DAY THREE THEME – STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD**

General Breakfast open (*Convention Center Exhibit Hall 1*)

Information Desk Open (*Convention Center lobby*)

Vendor/Display Area Open (*Convention Center Exhibit Hall 1*)

Prayer Room Open (*Convention Center Room 11*)

**Opening Devotions**

Business Session

Tribute video – Bishop Julius Trimble

Special Topic – What To Do: A Community of Wide Embrace – *Rev. Chilcote*

Special Topic Response – *Rev. Tyler Sit*

Break

Tribute video – Bishop Gregory Palmer

Racial Audit report – *Rev. Curtis Brown*

Discussion – What did we learn from our guest speakers?

Noon – 1:15 p.m.

General Lunch (*Convention Center Exhibit Hall 1*)

Lunch N Learn sessions

- Clergy Well-being (*Conv. Center Rooms 12-13*)
- Innovation (*Conv. Center Rooms 6-7*)
- Regionalization (*Conv. Center Room 10*)

**1:30-3 p.m.**

**Business Session**

NCJ VIM Report – *Tammy Kuntz*

Regionalization Education

Special Guest Topic 1 – *Rev. Sit*

Day's Theme wrap-up

3-3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 – 5 p.m.

Recognition of Retirement Service –

*Bishop Dan Schwerin, preaching*

Offering to be taken for 31:8 Project and Midwest Distribution Center

5:15 -- 6 p.m.

Greeting of Retiring Bishops and Spouses –

(*Convention Center Lobby*)

5:30 – 7 p.m.

General Dinner (*Convention Center Exhibit Hall 1*)

7:15 – 9 p.m.

Possible Business Session, if needed



**Saturday, July 13:**

7:30 -- 9 a.m.	General Breakfast open ( <i>Convention Center Exhibit Hall 1</i> )
8 – 10 a.m.	Information Desk Open ( <i>Convention Center Lobby</i> )
<b>8:30 – 9 a.m.</b>	<b>Opening Devotions</b>
9-10:45 a.m.	Business Session
	Budget – <i>Lonnie Chafin, Treasurer</i>
	Mission Council Wrap-up, Theme conclusion – <i>Rev. Eric Swanson</i>
	Invitation to West Ohio – <i>Rev. Justin Williams</i>
	Special Guest – Sending Forth – <i>Rev. Sit</i>
11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Closing Service & Episcopal Assignments – <i>Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, Preaching</i>
12:30-1:30 p.m.	Reception for Bishops ( <i>Convention Center Lobby</i> )
12:30 p.m.	Box lunches available; transportation to airport available

## GENERAL 2024 CONFERENCE INFORMATION

**Conference Headquarters**

The Convention Center at Denny Sanford PREMIER Center, 1201 N. West Avenue Sioux Falls, SD, 57104, is the location for the 2024 North Central Jurisdictional Conference. You can find information about this center at <https://www.dennysanfordpremiercenter.com/>

**Hotel Information**

The adjacent [Sheraton Hotel – Sioux Falls](#) is the official conference hotel at 1211 North West Avenue, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA, 57104, Tel: +1 605-331-0100

**Mileage Reimbursements**

Delegates who drive to the NCJ Conference may request a mileage reimbursement by completing a travel voucher which will be available at the Conference. The travel reimbursement will be 30 cents per mile (round trip) for the first voting delegate in the vehicle and five cents per mile for each additional voting delegate riding in the same vehicle. Reimbursement requests for tolls must be accompanied by receipt. Vouchers will be available for delegates to submit their information and receipts at the time of registration. Please be prepared at that time to complete and submit your voucher to receive a check while present at the conference.

For those who will fly to Sioux Falls, please have a copy of your plane expenses available to submit with your voucher at registration.

### **Transportation to/from the Airport**

Conference volunteers will be available in the Sioux Falls airport during most arrival times. They will guide you to convenient transportation for the five-minute ride to the conference hotel. An email will be sent to each registered delegate who indicated they were arriving by plane to provide additional information.

### **Per-diem for Delegates and First Reserves**

Delegates and first reserves will receive a \$30 per diem reimbursement for Thursday night food regardless of Host Night attendance. Please indicate this on your reimbursement form.

### **Information Desk**

An Information Desk will be located in the lobby of the Convention Center during the conference and will be open:

- Tuesday, July 9, 3 - 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 10, 8 a.m.- 9 p.m.
- Thursday, July 11, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Friday, July 12, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Saturday, July 13, 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

### **Conference Registration**

Registration will be located in the lobby of the Convention Center during the conference and will be open:

- Tuesday, July 9, 3 - 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 10, 8 a.m.- 9 p.m.
- Thursday, July 11, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Friday, July 12, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

### **Lost and Found**

Lost and found will be located at the Registration/Information Desk in the Convention Center.

### **Prayer Room**

A Prayer Room can be found in the Convention Center Room 11 Wednesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day.

**CREDENTIALLED DELEGATES TO THE  
2024 NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE**

**DAKOTAS**

4 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Rebecca Trefz	Sara Nelson
<b>Laity:</b>	Kara Togel, Chp.	Beata Ferris
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>	Ray Baker	Jennifer Hallenbeck Orr
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>		

**EAST OHIO**

24 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Gary Henderson, Chp. Dan Bryant Armando Arellano Cara Stultz Costello Nestor Nazario Carrie Antczak	Andy Call Matthew Laferty Benita Rollins Abby Auman Jonathan Priebe Heidi Welch
<b>Laity:</b>	Martha Banks Sarah Dixon Susan Achberger William Watts Gloria Brown Judy Sees	Connor Prusha Thomas Lewis Allen Laferty Liz Platt Nehemiah Priebe Virginia Faeth
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>	Jared Gadomski Littleton	Laura Jaissle
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>	Stefanie Williams	

**ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS**

20 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Sara Isbell Janice Griffith Eric Swanson Michael Crawford Jo “Nicole” Cox	Randy Robinson Beverly Wilkes Null Beth Fender Jennie Edwards Bertrand Sylvester Weatherall
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<b>Laity:</b>	Paul Black, Chp. Pamela McDavid Christina Krost Andrea Stuby Sydney Pappas	Anna Anderson Anish Hermon Erik Slingerland Susan Connor Kelsey Ross
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>	Vince Rohn Curtis Brown	Jessica Baldyga
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>	Ann Wagle	Curtis Franklin

**INDIANA**  
27 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Russell Abel, Chp. Lisa Schubert Nowling Duane Carlisle Gregory Pimlott Matthew Landry Marti Lundy Chiyona Bourne Shannon Stringer	Aleze Fulbright Robert Fuquay, Jr. Larry Whitehead Adriane Rockhill Derek Weber Daniel Cho Margaret “Meg” Lassiat
<b>Laity:</b>	Christopher Hancock Kimberly Arnott Alberto Hidalgo, Jr. Alisa Isaacs-Bailey MaryKate Annin Mya Taylor	Shannon Priddy Kenneth Einselen Nathan Lundy Janee LaFuze Karin Heinicke Lou Ann Pence
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>		
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>		

**IOWA**  
24 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Katie Dawson, Chp. Chad Jennings Alejandro Alfaro-Santiz Fred Lewis Barrie Tritle Matt German	LaToyna Calderon Nathaniel “Nate” Nims Andrea Kraushaar Melissa Warren Amy Johnson Scott Keele-Kober
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<b>Laity:</b>	Lindsay Drake Nitza Dovenspike James Baty II Kae Tritle Anne Marie Webb David Dovenspike	Angela Hansen-Abbas Alex Johnson Rebecca Nims Kathi Mitchell Shannon Meister
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>	Brian Oliver Timothy Bonney Karen Dungan	Alexis Johnson Brian Williams Medea Saunders
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>	Michael King Martha Chancellor Phyllis Warren	Nancy Steckelberg Joseph Steckelberg Susan Weight

**MICHIGAN**

16 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Paul Perez Megan Walther Joel Fitzgerald Bradley Bartelmay	Joy Barrett Charles Boayue Christina Wright Sherri Swanson
<b>Laity:</b>	Laura Witkowski, Chp. Jennifer Peters Ruby Anderson Ruth Sutton	Diane Brown Beverly "Nichea" Guy Hoon-Yung Hopgood Gordon Grigg III
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>		
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>		

**MINNESOTA**

4 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Carol Zaagsma	Im Woojae
<b>Laity:</b>	David Nuckols, Chp.	Becky Boland
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>	Jeffrey Ozanne Henry Dolopei	Susan Mullin Donna Dempewolf
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>	Walker Brault Shirley Durr	Cindy Saufferer

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS**

12 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Alka Lyall, Chp. Gregory Gross Jacques Conway	Luis R. Reyes-Rosario Hwa Young Chong Brian Gilbert
<b>Laity:</b>	Lonnie Chafin Adrian Hill Ronnie Lyall	Nadia Kanhai Rita L. Smith Nancy Pendergrass
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>	Britt Cox	Rachel Birkhahn-Rommefanger
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>		

**WEST OHIO**

28 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Roger Grace, Chp. April Casperson Anna Guillozet Jason Wellman Suzanne Allen Leo Cunningham Glenn Schwerdtfeger	Karen Cook Deanna Stickley-Miner Rachel Miller Wade Giffin Todd Anderson Rosario Picardo Amy Barlak Aspey
<b>Laity:</b>	Bill Brownson Callie Picardo Katelin Hansen Alex Giffin Dione Joseph Christine Clough Kathy Elasky	George Howard Tracy Chambers Bobbi Ruddock Julie Carter Steven Dunn Landon Balmos-Ruddock Perston Eberlyn
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>	Justin Williams	
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>	Andrew Nimely	Lisa Wachenfeld

**WISCONSIN**  
12 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Jennifer Arneson Allie Scott Jeremy Deaner	Krysta Deede Kathryn Jones Scott Carlson
<b>Laity:</b>	Lisa King Lisa Jones Meredith Spors	Jessica Gobel, Chp. Donald Cramer Gail Burgess
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>	Kevin Dembinski Kristina Androsky	Clarissa Martinelli Amelita Cajuat
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>	Kathy Hartke Allan Lindsay	Anna Hunter Linda Hodorff

## **Proposed revisions for the 2024 NCJ Conference:**

- Proposed additions in **bold** with yellow highlights
- Proposed deletions in **strikeout** with yellow highlights

# **NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PLAN OF ORGANIZATION AND RULES OF ORDER Proposed for July 2024**

## **Setting of Time and Place for Jurisdiction Conference, Call to Order, Service of Communion and Memorial**

The North Central Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church shall meet at the times set by the Council of Bishops and at the place determined by the Local **Host Arrangements** Committee, continuing the rotation shown in the **2024 2016** Advance Journal. **A special-called session may be determined by the College of Bishops. Properly called sessions may be in person or virtual as determined by the College of Bishops.** The conference shall have the power and duties as specified in The 2016 Book of Discipline.

The resident bishop of the Episcopal area in which the conference is held shall call the conference to order followed by a Celebration of Holy Communion and Memorial. The names of bishops, bishops' spouses, and members of jurisdictional standing committees who have died since the last Jurisdictional Conference, plus delegates-elect who have died since their election, and others who in the judgment of the Local **Host Arrangements** may appropriately be remembered, shall be read. **Arrangements for a special-called jurisdictional conference session may be determined by the College of Bishops with assistance from the jurisdictional secretary.**

## **I. ORGANIZATION AND AGENDA OF THE OPENING SESSION**

The president of the College of Bishops shall preside at the opening session of the Jurisdictional Conference at which the agenda will be:

### **A. Greetings and Introductions by the Bishop of the Host Area**

### **B. Roll Call**

The roll shall be called by the secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference in the following manner:

1. The secretary of the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction shall report the names of the bishops who are present and who are absent.
2. The roll of delegates shall be called according to annual conferences. The chairperson of the delegation will report to the conference the number of delegates and reserves present.
3. The general or executive secretaries of the general church councils, boards and commissions of The United Methodist Church, who are members of annual



conferences within the bounds of the North Central Jurisdiction, but who are not elected delegates of the Jurisdictional Conference, shall be seated within the voting area of the Conference and report their presence during roll call.

**C. Report of the Committee Mission Council on Rules of Order**

1. The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order shall remain in effect until amended by a Jurisdictional Conference in regular or special session. Any amendments or additions recommended by the Jurisdictional Committee Mission Council (on Rules of Order) for action by the Jurisdictional Conference must be in accordance with the Rules of Order.
2. A majority of the Jurisdictional Conference delegates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
3. The committee NCJ Mission Council shall report any proposals to change the election process or any question of credentials before the first ballot is taken.
4. **The NCJ Mission Council shall bring a motion to set the bar of the conference and note any exceptions. A person seated in the conference with the right to speak, but without vote, does not have the right to make a motion or second a motion.**

**D. Confirmation of the Jurisdictional Conference Committees and Secretarial Staff:**

1. The secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference shall present, for confirmation,
  - a. membership on the various on-site and standing committees as elected by the appropriate Episcopal areas or annual conferences, and
  - b. those who are serving as members of the conference secretarial staff.

**E. Report of the Committee on Episcopacy**

The Committee on Episcopacy shall report on the number of bishops to be elected. Appropriate Disciplinary materials from The 2016 Book of Discipline and the balloting procedure shall be explained.

**F. Taking the First Ballot**

The first ballot shall be taken. (See Rules of Order II, Procedures for Episcopal Elections).

**G. Report of the Local Arrangements Host Committee, as needed.**

**H. Report of the Jurisdictional Treasurer**

**II. PROCEDURES FOR EPISCOPAL ELECTIONS**

The Committee on Episcopacy shall recommend the procedures for Episcopal nominations and elections.

- A. Episcopal Nominee Information Forms** for supplying biographical and other information regarding nominees shall be developed by the Committee on Episcopacy. These forms shall include but not be limited to requests for: name and address; date and place of birth; family; formal education and continuing education; previous vocational record prior to ordination; ordination date(s) and conference(s); appointment and pastoral

record, current annual conference membership and appointment; membership on boards and agencies: a) church (denominational and ecumenical) and b) community activities; publications, awards, and honors.

No later than September 1 of the year in which General/Jurisdictional Conference delegations are elected, the Jurisdictional Conference Secretary shall send the Episcopal Nominee Information Form and proposed procedures to annual conference secretaries and chairs of annual conference delegations. The annual conference secretary shall have responsibility to inform the population of the respective annual conferences of the availability of the forms through such means as will reach the widest possible audience. The Jurisdictional Conference secretary shall distribute a press release to the director of communications in each conference specifying when and where Episcopal Nominee Information Forms will be available.

Delegations are free to engage nominees beyond their Annual Conference after January 1 of the year of General Conference.

The Jurisdictional Conference secretary shall duplicate the Episcopal Nominee Information Forms which have been signed by the nominee and properly submitted. Seventeen days prior to the opening of Jurisdictional Conference, copies of all Episcopal Nominee Information Forms received shall be distributed via first class mail or email to delegates, first reserves, members of the College of Bishops, and other persons with Jurisdictional Conference responsibilities.

Nominees must submit the Episcopal Nominee Information Forms immediately after the close of their annual conferences, and no later than June 25, in order to be included in the packet of nominee information sent to all the Jurisdictional Conference delegates. The secretary of the jurisdiction shall assign a voting number to each clergy delegate and any others who have properly submitted an Episcopal Nominee Information Form.

A person who has not been assigned a voting number may secure one by requesting such in writing from the secretary. The bishop presiding shall report the additional name(s) and voting number(s) to the Jurisdictional Conference.

## **B. Balloting and Procedures**

A 60% majority of the valid votes cast on any ballot is needed for the election of a bishop (see Rule 25-E).

Prior to every ballot, a bishop or member of the Committee on Episcopacy will lead the conference in prayer.

### **1. Reporting the first ballot:**

a) In the event of an election, the name and vote tally of the elected person shall be announced first and that person introduced to the conference by a member of the Committee on Episcopacy. After such introduction, the bishop presiding will continue reading the names only on the rest of the first ballot.

b) All persons receiving ten or more votes shall be introduced alphabetically by the chair of the Committee on Episcopacy. Upon introduction, each nominee will give name, community where presently residing, and current appointment. An opportunity for withdrawal from nomination shall be given by the bishop presiding.

If any of these nominees has not completed an Episcopal Nominee Information Form previously, one will be furnished by the secretary. The nominee will have thirty (30 minutes) to return the form to the secretary who will copy it for distribution to the delegates prior to the next ballot.

c) The names and vote totals of the nominees will be read in descending order of votes received following the interviews and before the second ballot is taken.

2. Interviews. All nominees, having been introduced to the conference will be assigned rooms for interviews. Space for these interviews will be arranged by the Local Arrangements Host Committee. The interview moderators shall be the lay members of the Committee on Episcopacy with additional lay members of the Jurisdictional Conference being selected by the committee as needed. Three 20-minute periods shall be scheduled with 10-minute breaks between each period, providing every delegate an opportunity to hear and question three candidates. This process will be followed by a thirty-minute period for delegation meetings.
3. After the interviews and report of first ballot votes, balloting shall continue for the second and subsequent ballots in this manner: In the event of an election, the name and vote tally of the elected person shall be announced and that person introduced to the conference by a member of the Committee on Episcopacy. After such an introduction, the bishop presiding will continue the reading of the results of the ballot in descending order of votes received by those who obtained ten or more votes.
4. Balloting shall continue until the elections are completed by 12 p.m. on Friday (unless the conference shall suspend this rule). To facilitate the election process, a variety of opportunities for dialogue shall be offered: nominee interviews, spot conversations, delegation meetings or other processes determined by the jurisdictional conference.
  - a. Spot conversations are for those situations when delegations might need a brief time together.
  - b. Delegation meetings provide opportunity for delegations to converse among themselves regarding the election and to receive further information regarding any of the nominees.
5. A nominee may formally withdraw ~~his/her~~ their name before the beginning of any ballot by either:
  - a. submitting a withdrawal in writing to the Jurisdictional Conference secretary who will immediately notify the bishop presiding and who, in turn, will report the withdrawal, or

- b. submitting their withdrawal orally through a point of personal privilege (two-minute limit recommended).

### III. THE OFFICERS OF THE JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

#### A. Secretary of the Jurisdiction

1. The Jurisdictional Committee on Nominations shall present a nominee from the clergy or lay membership of the North Central Jurisdiction for secretary designate. Other nominations may be made from the floor. The **Jurisdictional Secretary, in collaboration with the Mission Council, Local Arrangements Committee** shall schedule a time for election to be held during the session of the Jurisdictional Conference. If there is more than one nominee, the election shall be by ballot. If, in the interim of the quadrennial sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference, the office of the secretary shall for any reason become vacant, the College of Bishops shall appoint a secretary to serve through the next session of the Jurisdictional Conference.
2. The secretary designate shall assume the responsibility of the office of secretary as soon after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference as all work in connection with the session, including the preparation, printing and mailing of The Journal has been completed. The exact date of transfer of responsibility to the secretary-designate shall be determined by the College of Bishops but shall not be later than twelve months after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference. The secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference shall serve through to the end of the next Jurisdictional Conference.
3. The secretary of the jurisdiction is authorized to perform the following tasks:
  - a. Nominate assistant secretaries from the membership of the United Methodist church within the North Central Jurisdiction as is deemed necessary, to be presented to, and confirmed by, the Jurisdictional Conference at the opening session.
  - b. Edit and arrange for the publication of The Advance Journal prior to the conference and carry out the same tasks for The Journal following the conference.
  - c. Prepare and send by November 1 preceding the opening of the next Jurisdictional Conference the nominating forms with instructions for jurisdictional councils, boards, and committees to each annual conference delegation chair.
  - d. Prepare and send the nominating forms for general church councils, boards, and committees to each annual conference secretary as may be necessary.
  - e. Notify the members of the Committee on Nominations of the time and place of the meeting held at least one day prior to the opening of Jurisdictional Conference. Compile the notebooks necessary for the work of this committee based on The 2016 Book of Discipline and the Plan of Organization.
  - f. Work in consultation with the Committee on Episcopacy to develop the Episcopal Nominee Information Forms.

- g. No later than September 1 of the year in which General/Jurisdictional Conference delegations are elected, send the Episcopal Nominee Information Form and proposed procedures to annual conference secretaries and chairs of annual conference delegations. At the same time, a press release is to be sent to directors of communication in each conference as to how these forms can be obtained.
- h. Edit and make copies of the Episcopal Nominee Information Forms, and no less than 17 days prior to the start of Jurisdictional Conference, send a packet of the Episcopal Nominee Information Forms via first class mail or email to every delegate, all first reserves, members of the College of Bishops, other persons with Jurisdictional Conference responsibilities, and annual conference communicators.
- i. Prepare for the registration packets a list of voting numbers assigned to all clergy members of delegations eligible for the office of episcopacy and for any clergy not in a delegation who have submitted an Episcopal Nominee Information Form.
- j. Make the conference floor seating assignments for delegations and reserves.
- k. Provide a daily form on which to report in writing the attendance of the members of the delegation. Absence of delegates and substitutions by reserve delegates shall be recorded.
- l. In conjunction with the Chairperson of the Committee on Episcopacy and the **College of Bishops, Chairperson of the Local Arrangements Host Committee** determine the presiding officers for sessions of the NCJ Conference. The President of the College of Bishops will preside at the opening business session.
- m. Serve as a full member of the Jurisdictional Missions Council and in advisory capacity to the Local **Arrangements Host** Committee.

## **B. Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer**

1. The conference shall elect, on nomination of the jurisdictional Committee on Nominations, a treasurer and, if needed, an assistant treasurer. Consultation prior to the nomination with the Jurisdictional Association of Conference Treasurers is recommended. **If, in the interim of the quadrennial sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference, the position of jurisdictional treasurer shall for any reason become vacant, the College of Bishops, in consultation with the NCJ Mission Council Executive Committee, shall appoint a treasurer to serve through the next session of the Jurisdictional Conference.**
2. The treasurer of the Jurisdictional Conference is authorized to perform the following tasks:
  - a. Pay the bills incurred in connection with the quadrennial session of the Jurisdictional Conference upon the approval of the chairperson of the Local **Arrangements Host** Committee or the chairperson of the Jurisdictional Mission Council or a designee of the Council.
  - b. Make other disbursements as may be authorized by the Jurisdictional Conference.

- c. Pay travel and per diem expense to the duly elected delegates of the Jurisdictional Conference upon receiving properly completed and signed vouchers from them.
- d. Execute contracts on behalf of the Jurisdictional Conference.
- e. Pay travel and other expenses incurred during the quadrennium by the Jurisdictional Mission Council, the Local Arrangements Host Committee, the Committees on Appeals, Episcopacy, and other committees authorized by the Jurisdictional Conference upon receipt of properly completed and signed expense vouchers from the members of these committees. All other expense vouchers must receive approval from a designee of the Jurisdictional Mission Council before payment can be made by the treasurer.
- f. Prepare financial reports at least quarterly for the Jurisdictional Mission Council.
- g. Send quarterly invoices and statements to annual conference treasurers for North Central Jurisdictional apportionments.
- h. Prepare financial records and reports for an annual review of the books and a quadrennial audit.
- i. Prepare such reports as are required by the IRS and other government agencies.

#### **IV. COMMITTEES**

The Jurisdictional Conference shall have on-site and standing committees with functions as prescribed and other committees as it may order. Each committee shall develop a handbook of practices and procedures, a copy of which shall be retained by the Jurisdictional Conference secretary and treasurer. The delegation from each Episcopal area or annual conference shall nominate and elect from their delegation their representatives to these jurisdictional committees unless otherwise prescribed. These names shall be forwarded to the Jurisdictional Conference secretary by February 15 prior to the convening of the Jurisdictional Conference.

##### **A. On-Site Committees**

The College of Bishops shall select the chairperson of each on-site committee with due consideration given to geographical spread, the selection of racial and ethnic minorities, and women to serve in these areas of responsibility. The chairperson shall be chosen from the membership of these committees and shall be responsible for convening their committees at the site of Jurisdictional Conference. At that time, they may elect other officers as needed.

##### **1. Nominations**

There shall be a Committee on Nominations for the purpose of nominating the Jurisdictional Conference secretary and treasurer, and persons to general church councils, boards and commissions, to the Jurisdictional Missions Council, and other positions necessary to fulfill jurisdictional structure. It shall be composed of:

- The active bishops of the jurisdiction;
- One clergy person from each annual conference;
- One lay person from each annual conference;

- One representative of the NCJ Division on Ministry with Young People with voice only;
- One representative with voice only from each of the following four racial/ethnic minority groups, to be elected by the group represented for assignment to the Jurisdictional Committee on Nominations: Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Native American International Caucus, MARCHA, and the Asian American United Methodist Caucus.

The Committee on Nominations shall hold its first meeting at the site of the Jurisdictional Conference at least one day prior to the opening of the Jurisdictional Conference. The Jurisdictional Conference Secretary shall notify the members of the time and place of the meeting.

## **B. Standing Committees**

The Jurisdictional Conference shall have the following standing committees with the term of office beginning, unless otherwise specified, with the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference, and continuing until their successors have been confirmed. Each committee shall be convened on call by a member of the College of Bishops and shall elect its own chairperson.

### **1. Appeals**

There shall be a Court of Appeals appointed in accordance with provisions of The 2016 Book of Discipline.

### **2. Episcopacy**

There shall be a Committee on Episcopacy with membership, functions and terms of office as provided in The 2016 Book of Discipline.

- a. The bishop of each area shall make a written report to this committee not less than thirty days prior to the convening of the Jurisdictional conference. The report shall include, but not be limited to:
  - A review of the bishop's Episcopal administration during the quadrennium;
  - A report on annual conference program emphases, goals and achievements;
  - Evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the area; a statement on the major issues facing the Church in the area; matters of concern regarding the bishop's Episcopal assignment.
- b. The Committee on Episcopacy assumes the responsibilities of caring and honoring functions of the bishops which includes: ceremonial recognition of those bishops entering the retired relationship following Jurisdictional conference; attention to the needs of newly elected bishops, a responsibility which begins at the moment of election; and recognition and hospitality for all Episcopal leaders within the jurisdiction in consultation with the Local ~~Arrangements-Host~~ Committee.
- c. The Chairperson of Committee on Episcopacy in consultation with the NCJ Conference Secretary and the **College of Bishops** ~~Chairperson of the~~

**Local Arrangements Committee** will determine the presiding officers for sessions of the NCJ Conference. The President of the College of Bishops shall preside at the opening business session.

**3. Committee on Investigation**

There shall be a Committee on Investigation consisting of seven elders in full connection, with not more than one elder from each annual conference and two lay observers. Five reserve elders and one reserve lay observer also shall be elected. The committee shall be elected on nomination of the College of Bishops and shall elect a chair at the site of Jurisdictional Conference. See The 2016 Book of Discipline.

**4. Committee on Ordained Ministry**

There shall be a Committee on Ordained Ministry as prescribed by paragraph 513 of The 2016 Book of Discipline. The committee shall be comprised of the chair of the conference boards of ordained ministry or their representatives, the deans/presidents of the United Methodist seminaries in the jurisdiction, two representatives from the College of Bishops and four members at large with two of the members at large being ordained Deacons, named by the committee to insure inclusivity.

**V. JURISDICTIONAL MISSION COUNCIL**

**Mission/Vision Statement:**

The Mission of the North Central Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church is, by the call of God, to make disciples of Jesus Christ by providing spiritual leadership.

The Vision of the North Central Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church is of holy, bold disciples of Jesus Christ living in unique and connected faith communities energized by dynamic spiritual leadership, both lay and clergy.

The Core Process of the North Central Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church is to:

- Provide connections for unique leadership, spiritual and outreach development across the North Central Jurisdiction, and
- Provide for the election and assignment of bishops in the North Central Jurisdiction.

A. The Jurisdictional Mission Council shall consult with the College of Bishops and the North Central Jurisdiction Association of Conference Directors of Connectional Ministries in order to:

1. Support the vision and mission of the Church and the development of models for that mission within the jurisdiction.
2. Constantly test the structures against the stated vision and mission.
3. Establish criteria for funding and evaluation of programs receiving funding.
4. Make annualized budget allocations to programs in the jurisdiction.



5. Prepare a financial budget for the succeeding quadrennium to submit for NCJ Conference action.
6. Oversee the investments within the jurisdiction.
7. Review, each quadrennium, the NCJ Plan of Organization and Rules of Order and propose amendments to the same to the Jurisdictional Conference for its consideration. **For the Jurisdictional Conference, the Mission Council shall elect a subcommittee of five or six Mission Council members registered to attend the Conference to serve as the NCJ Rules Subcommittee and NCJ Finance Subcommittee during the Conference.**

B. The membership of the Jurisdictional Mission Council shall consist of the following:

- One person elected by each annual conference within the jurisdiction.
- Seven (7) to ten (10) members-at-large nominated by the Jurisdictional Committee on Nominations, at their discretion, from the pool of names submitted by annual conference delegations and elected by the Jurisdictional Conference;
- Two Directors of Connectional Ministries as selected by the NCJ Association of Directors of Connectional Ministries.
- In addition, the following designated persons will serve the quadrennium in which they are named:
  - One bishop selected by the College of Bishops
  - The NCJ Treasurer
  - The NCJ Conference Secretary
  - The NCJ Coordinator of Communications as selected by the NCJ Mission Council Executive Committee.
- The Jurisdictional Committee on Nominations shall be faithful to the commitments of The United Methodist Church to racial and ethnic inclusiveness, shall give consideration to the expertise needed to fulfill the functions of the Mission Council, and shall provide for full participation of clergy and laity.

C. Organizational Structure and Meetings

1. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Mission Council comprised of:
  - a) A chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary elected by the Jurisdictional Mission Council;
  - b) One of the two (2) DCMs serving on the Mission Council as selected by the NCJ Association of Directors of Connectional Ministries;
  - c) The bishop selected by the NCJ College of Bishops to serve as a member of the Mission Council;
  - d) The NCJ Treasurer;
  - e) The NCJ Conference Secretary;
  - f) The NCJ Coordinator of Communications as selected by the Mission Council Executive Committee.
2. The Jurisdictional Mission Council shall meet to organize by October 30th in the year of the Jurisdictional Conference. It shall have the authority to organize as it deems necessary. Organization shall include the election of officers and orientation of the membership. In addition to the organizational meeting, the full council shall meet two additional times during the quadrennium:

a) The agenda for the second meeting shall include evaluation of the effectiveness of the ministry programs funded in the current quadrennium.

b) The agenda for the third meeting shall include establishing recommendations for the allocation of funds for the quadrennium and setting the budget. Representatives from funded ministry groups, emerging ministries, networks, and other appropriate resource persons shall be invited and encouraged to be present for all full council meetings at their own expense. They shall have voice but not vote except when invited to do so.

c) The Executive Committee shall have the discretion to meet as needed.

3. Periodic consultations with the College of Bishops and the Jurisdictional Association of Conference Directors of Connectional Ministries would be highly desirable for exchange of information and resources and opening of possibilities for new ministries to be supported. These may be arranged at the behest of the Mission Council, the College of Bishops, or the council directors. Consultations between any of these bodies shall be coordinated in such a manner as to minimize travel and the total number of jurisdictional meetings.

4. In order for the Jurisdictional Mission Council to understand the scope and nature of its ministry across the jurisdiction, each funded committee, agency or program of the North Central Jurisdiction shall have a member of the Jurisdictional Mission Council as its link or liaison to the Mission Council. During the quadrennium, the liaisons shall attend meetings and events of the committee or agency, receive its minutes, publications and financial reports, and act as a reminder to the affiliated groups of their "goal integrity" in regard to funding.

#### D. Financial Administration and the Jurisdictional Conference

1. On the first day of the Jurisdictional Conference, the Mission Council shall present a proposed budget for the ensuing quadrennium, and based upon that proposed budget, determine the amounts to be apportioned to the annual conferences. All additional requests for funds shall be referred to this council.

2. At the final business session of the Jurisdictional Conference, the council shall present for action a revised budget with appropriate adjustments in conference apportionments. The Jurisdictional Mission Council shall recommend to the Jurisdictional Conference for action the per diem and travel expense of all jurisdictional delegates and others attending Conference in an official capacity.

a) The report of attendance by the NCJ Conference secretary shall be the basis for paying the per diem to the delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference.

b) The total expense for travel shall be paid to the delegate who is present and seated. If, during the session of the conference, a reserve delegate is seated in the delegate's place, the delegate shall adjust the travel reimbursement with the reserve delegate on the basis of the time served by each.

## **VI. PROCEDURES FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOMINATIONS TO GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL AGENCIES**

The annual conferences shall select the nominees for membership on the various general and jurisdictional councils, boards and commissions in accordance with the requirements of The 2016 Book of Discipline and the Plan of Organization of the Jurisdictional Conference. It is strongly urged that bishops be full participants in this process.

1. To secure nominations for general church councils, boards and commission, the Jurisdictional Conference Secretary shall prepare and send as may be necessary the nominating forms for general church councils, boards, and committees to the Annual Conference secretaries. All nominations from the various conferences shall be returned to the Jurisdictional Conference secretary within one week after the close of the annual conference session and no later than fifteen days prior to the convening of Jurisdictional Conference.
2. To secure nominations for jurisdictional councils, boards and committees, the Jurisdictional Conference secretary shall send nominating forms with instructions to delegation chairpersons by November 1 preceding the opening of the next Jurisdictional Conference. All nominations from the various conferences shall be returned to the Jurisdictional Conference secretary by February 15 prior to the Jurisdictional Conference.
3. The Committee on Nominations shall utilize worksheets prepared by the Jurisdictional Conference secretary proving the following information relative to the general church councils, boards and commissions;
  - Number of persons to be nominated; tenure if other than the quadrennium;
  - Names of incumbent members identified as being eligible or ineligible and including the conferences which they represent;
  - The names of persons each annual conference is nominating and the particular general church councils, boards or commissions to which they are being nominated;
  - Number of nominees from each annual conference in ratio relative to annual conference membership within the jurisdiction;
  - Relative representation as indicated in The 2016 Book of Discipline.
4. Each annual conference nominating group shall be encouraged to give strong consideration to returning effective agency members for a second four-year term. No person shall be eligible to serve on any general church council, board or commission for more than the time provided in The 2016 Book of Discipline.

## **VII. RULES OF ORDER**

The Rules of Order adopted by the immediately previous General Conference shall be the Rules of Order of the Jurisdictional Conference insofar as they apply. The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order shall remain in effect until changed by this or a succeeding Jurisdictional Conference. They may be amended or changed according to Rule 28 which is printed with other rules in The Advance Journal for delegates to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference.

## A. Daily Schedule

**Rule 1:** Hours of meetings and Order of Agenda are to be set by the **Mission Council** ~~Local Arrangements Committee~~ in consultation with the College of Bishops.

**Rule 2:** After the opening session (which is set by the Plan of Organization), the daily sessions of the conference shall be adjusted by the NCJ Conference Secretary in consultation with the College of Bishops and adopted by the Jurisdictional Conference. Validity of questions of privilege, complimentary resolutions, and courtesies also will be determined in the same manner.

## B. Presiding Officers

**Rule 3:** Authority of the Chairperson

- a. The bishop presiding shall be the legal chairperson of the Jurisdictional Conference.
- b. The chairperson shall decide points of order raised by the members and shall rule on points of order not raised by the members, as the chair deems necessary to conform to these Rules of Order, subject in both cases to an appeal to the conference by any member without debate, except that the chairperson and the appellant, in the order here named, shall each have three minutes for a statement in support of their respective positions. A tie vote in the case of appeal shall sustain the chair (see Rule 25b). Any member who raises a point of order shall cite by number the rule adjudged to have been violated.
- c. The **chair bishop presiding** shall have the right to recess a session of the Jurisdictional Conference at any time at the chair's discretion and to reconvene at such time as the chair shall announce. The **chair bishop presiding** also shall have the right to stipulate that the session shall reconvene with only delegates' authorized guests permitted to attend such a session following recess.

**Rule 4: Calling the Conference to Order**

When the chairperson ~~stands and~~ calls the conference to order, no member shall speak, address the chair, or stand ~~while the chairperson stands~~ **unless recognized by the chair.**

## C. Rights and Duties of Members

**Rule 5: Attendance and Seating Reserves**

- a. No member, unless hindered by sickness or otherwise from being present, shall be absent from the sessions of the conference without permission of the conference; all absentees shall be reported by the chairpersons of the annual conference delegations to the NCJ Conference Secretary on forms provided by the secretary for that purpose.
- b. Reserve delegates may be seated upon authority of the chairpersons of the delegations who shall report the substitutions in writing to the NCJ Conference Secretary on a form provided by the secretary. Any reserve

delegate seated in the place of a delegate shall have been duly elected by ~~he/she~~ **their** annual conference and shall meet the requirements set forth in The 2016 Book of Discipline. If the NCJ Conference Secretary disapproves the substitution, after consultation with the chairperson of the delegation, ~~he/she~~ **they** may report to the Jurisdictional Conference with a recommendation. The NCJ Conference Secretary shall make a daily written report listing all changes of seating. These reports shall be recorded in The Journal.

- c. The general or executive secretaries of the general church councils, boards and commissions of The United Methodist Church, who are members of annual conferences within the bounds of the North Central Jurisdiction, but who are not elected delegates of the Jurisdictional Conference, shall be seated within the voting area of the conference. These persons shall have the privilege of the floor, without vote, on matters affecting the interests of their respective councils, boards and commissions. The expenses for these persons shall not be assumed by the Jurisdictional Conference.

#### **Rule 6: Directions for Securing the Floor**

Unless raising a point of order or parliamentary inquiry, the delegate shall not speak until granted the floor. A delegate desiring to speak to the conference shall **raise a designated placard, be recognized by the chair, and** then move to the microphone ~~and wait to be recognized by the chair. Once recognized, At the microphone,~~ the delegate shall first announce ~~her or his~~ **their** name and the annual conference represented, **followed by the reason the delegate wished to be recognized,** ~~which the presiding officer shall then announce to the conference.~~

#### **Rule 7: Interrupting the Speaker**

No member who has the floor may be interrupted except for a point of order, a misrepresentation, a parliamentary inquiry, a point of information, or to call attention that the time has arrived for a special order.

#### **Rule 8: Speaking More than Once; Length of Speech**

No member shall speak a second time on the same question if any member who has not spoken desires the floor, no more than twice on the same subject under the same motion, and no longer than three minutes unless that time shall be extended by the conference. This three-minute limit may be amended by a majority vote of the conference at any time and for any period of duration.

#### **Rule 9: Point of Order**

A delegate wishing to raise a point of order shall address the **chair** ~~presiding officer~~ and say, "I rise to a point of order." The ~~presiding officer~~ **chair** shall interrupt the proceeding; if a delegate is speaking, that one shall immediately yield the floor. The **chair** ~~bishop presiding~~ shall then direct the delegate raising the point of order to state the point as briefly and concisely as possible, citing the authority of the point, but the delegate shall not presume to decide the question or

argue the point. A point of order is decided by the **chair bishop presiding** without debate, unless in doubtful cases the chair submits the question to the body for advice or decision. When the **chair bishop presiding** rules on a point, debate is closed, but the decision may be appealed.

**Rule 10: Voting Area of the Conference**

Only delegates within the **voting bar area** of the conference when the vote is taken shall be entitled to vote. All delegates within the **voting bar area** at the time a question is put shall vote, except such as have been excused for special reasons by the conference.

**Rule 11: Voting Procedures**

- a. Voting shall be as recommended by the Local **Arrangements Host** Committee unless otherwise ordered by the conference.
- b. No other business shall be in order when a vote is being taken, or when the previous question has been called, until the process is completed, except such as relates to the vote itself or such business as the chair may deem appropriate.

**Rule 12: Division of the Question**

Before a vote is taken, any delegate shall have the right to call for a division of any question, if it is subject to such division as the delegate indicates. If no delegate objects, the division shall be made, but if there is an objection, the chair shall put the question of division to vote, not waiting for a second.

**D. Business Procedures**

**Rule 13: Motion for Adoption of Reports**

Whenever a report of a committee, signed by the chair **person** and secretary thereof shall be presented to the conference for its action, it shall be deemed in proper order for consideration by the conference without the formality of a motion to adopt.

**Rule 14: Required Forms for Resolutions, Reports, Motions, Amendments**

All resolutions and committee reports shall be prepared as directed by the secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference. **Legislation and reports shall be presented in writing to the NCJ Secretary no later than 21 days before the first day of the NCJ Conference session in order to be included in the Advance Journal. Legislation submitted within 21 days must be provided electronically to the secretary no later than 24 hours before the opening session of conference.**

**Rule 15: Alterations of Motions, Etc.**

When a motion is made and seconded, or a resolution is introduced and seconded, or a committee report is read or is published, it shall be deemed to be in the possession of the conference and may not be altered except by action of the conference.

**Rule 16: Un-debatable Motions**

The following motions shall be acted upon without debate:

- a. To adjourn, when unqualified, except to adjourn the conference finally (See Rule 19);
- b. To suspend the rules;
- c. To lay on the table;
- d. To take from the table;
- e. To call for the previous questions (See Rule 21);
- f. To reconsider a non-debatable motion (See Rule 26);
- g. To limit or extend the limits of debate;
- h. To call for the orders of the day.

**Rule 17: Rights of the Main Question**

The main question may be opened to debate under the following motions: to adopt, to commit or to refer, to substitute, to postpone and to reconsider. No new motion, resolution, or subject shall be entertained until the one under consideration shall have been disposed of, except as provided in Rule 11b. The foregoing does not apply to secondary motions if otherwise allowable in the existing parliamentary situation.

**Rule 18: Precedence of Motions**

If any one or more of the following motions shall be made when one or more other motions are pending, the order of their precedence in relation to one another shall be the same as the order of their listing below (see also Rule 24):

- a. To fix the time at which the conference shall adjourn. (This motion is subject to amendment, or it may be laid on the table);
- b. To adjourn;
- c. To take a recess;
- d. To lay on the table;
- e. To order the previous question (see Rules 16e, 21, 23);
- f. To limit or extend the limits of debate;
- g. To postpone to a given time;
- h. To commit or refer;
- i. To amend or to amend by substitution (one amendment being allowed to an amendment);
- j. To postpone indefinitely.

**Rule 19: Exceptions to the Motion to Adjourn Being in Order**

The motion to adjourn, when unqualified, shall be taken without debate and shall always be in order, except:

- a. When a delegate has the floor;
- b. When a question is actually put, or a vote is being taken and before it is finally decided;
- c. When the previous question has been ordered and action there under is pending;

- d. When a motion to adjourn has been lost and no business or debate has intervened;
- e. When the motion to fix the time to which the conference shall adjourn is pending. The foregoing does not apply to a motion for final adjournment of the conference.

**Rule 20: Tabling Related Motions**

No motion which adheres to another motion or has another motion adhering to it can be laid on the table by itself. Such motions, if laid on the table, carry with them the motions to which they respectively adhere, or which adhere to them.

**Rule 21: Previous Question**

Any member who moves the previous question (that is, that the vote now be taken on the motion or motions pending) shall also indicate to what it is intended to apply if any secondary motions are also pending. If said member does not so indicate, it shall be regarded as applying only to the immediately pending question. This motion shall be taken without debate and shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting for its adoption. If it is adopted, the vote shall be taken on the motion or motions to which it applies without further debate. (See also Rules 16, 23, 24).

**Rules 22: Referring Reports, Etc.**

It shall be in order for the conference to refer to a committee a section or part of a report or resolution which is before the conference for consideration, or any amendment offered thereunto.

**Rules 23: Procedure for Amending by Substitution**

When a resolution or committee report is properly before the conference for consideration, even if amendments are pending, a substitute may be offered by any member moving that the same be substituted for the report, resolution, or amendment under consideration. The substitute shall be an alternative to what is before the house and not simply a negation of the main motion. Debate on the motion to substitute will be limited to the question of substitution only. No amendments to the main motion or the substitute will be considered during this period of initial consideration.

Following the debate on the motion to substitute, a vote on substitution will occur. If the motion to substitute prevails by a majority vote, then the substitute becomes the main motion. If the motion to substitute does not prevail, then the main motion remains on the floor for further consideration. Debate, including the offering of amendments, then moves forward according to these Rules. A motion for the previous question shall not be in order on the motion to substitute until after opportunity has been given for at least three speeches on each side of the question.



**Rule 24: Unlawful Motion after Speech**

It shall not be in order for a member immediately after discussing a pending question, and before relinquishing the floor, to make a motion whose adoption would limit or stop debate.

**Rule 25: Exceptions to Majority Vote**

A majority of those voting, a quorum being present, shall decide all questions with the following exceptions:

- a. One-third of those present and voting shall suffice to sustain a call for a count vote in case the decision of the chair is doubted.
- b. A tie vote sustains the chair. (See Rule 3b)
- c. A two-thirds vote shall be required to sustain a motion to suspend (Rule 27) or amend the rules. (Rule 28) A call for the previous question is a motion to suspend the rules and therefore requires a two-thirds vote.
- d. A majority of 60% shall be required to approve a proposal for a constitutional amendment.
- e. A majority of 60% shall be required for an Episcopal election.

**Rule 26: Reconsideration**

A motion to reconsider an action of the conference shall be in order at any time if offered by a member who voted with the prevailing side. If the motion it is proposed to reconsider is non-debatable, the motion to reconsider may not be debated. (Rule 16f)

**E. Suspending, Amending, and Supplementing**

**Rule 27: Suspension of the Rules**

The operation of any of the provisions of the Plan of Organization or of these Rules of Order may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the conference. (Rule 25c)

**Rule 28: Amending Rules**

The Plan of Organization and these Rules of Order may be amended or changed by a two-thirds vote of the conference, provided the proposed change or amendment has originated in the NCJ Mission Council, or has been presented to the conference in writing and referred to the Mission Council. The Mission Council shall report on the proposed change or amendment not later than the following day. If submitted on the last business day of Jurisdictional Conference, it will be referred to the Mission Council for the next session of the Jurisdictional Conference.

**Rule 29: Robert's Rules of Order as the Supplement Authority**

In any parliamentary situation not covered by the Plan of Organization or these Rules of Order, the Jurisdictional Conference shall be governed in its actions by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

## F. Additional Rules

### **Rule 30: Persons Without Right to Make or Second Motions**

~~A person seated in the conference with the right to speak, but without vote, does not have the right to make a motion or second a motion.~~

### **Rule 30 31: Effective Date**

All legislation of the Jurisdictional Conference shall become effective January 1 following the session of the conference at which it is enacted, unless otherwise specified.

## NCJ Treasurer's Report

Dramatic changes of the denomination continue and the North Central Jurisdiction is reformed. A prairie fire of disaffiliations reshaped the capacities of our annual conferences. Recovery from the pandemic presents even more challenges to our local churches. And yet, we know God still has a plan for The United Methodist Church. There is a new spirit among us, especially in the NCJ.

Annual Conferences continue to support the apportionments of the NCJ at nearly 100%. We are grateful to the churches and leadership for their commitment to the jurisdictional ministry and mission.

Following you will find financial reports for the jurisdiction for the full years of 2021, 2022, and 2023 and through June 30, 2024. As of June 30, 2024, the NCJ has assets of \$880,000. The jurisdiction collects money through the quadrennium to be spent in the final year upon the jurisdictional meeting. The expenses of the Sioux Falls meeting is budgeted to use \$325,000. The proposed budget, below, schedules spending an additional \$362,000 in the next quadrennium.

The Mission Council has established a policy to reserve \$190,000 as the amount necessary to hold an overnight jurisdictional conference should there be a need for an out-of-sequence election of a bishop. So, there is a plan to use the current asset levels for current ministry.

The decision to articulate a total for program ministry to be awarded by the Mission Council has given us the latitude to respond to needs and opportunities as they arise. The flexibility has permitted funding of new ministry ideas and an online jurisdictional conference. The Council appears to be moving towards more direct programming and away from open granting to new groups.

I am so grateful to the NCJ for the opportunity to be your Treasurer since 2016. I will be stepping down this year. Over the last 8 years the NCJ has moved from an officious, incidental body to a missional, relevant network. We have built the relationships to move in connection with one another and have found our voice in the church. I've so enjoyed walking this journey with everyone.

Godspeed,  
Lonnie Chafin  
NCJ Treasurer

## Income Statement (Profit and Loss)

North Central Jurisdiction of UMC

First Six Months of 2024 Compared to 12 Months in prior years

	6/30/24	12/31/23	12/31/22	12/31/21
<b>Income</b>				
Apportionments	109,287.48	218,575.00	218,575.00	218,575.00
Interest Income	0.00	60.33	418.16	563.72
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>109,287.48</b>	<b>218,635.33</b>	<b>218,993.16</b>	<b>219,138.72</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
<b>Mission and Ministries</b>				
Anti-Racism meeting and Data report	0.00	7,500.00	0.00	0.00
BIPOC - College Dialogue	0.00	0.00	4,311.00	0.00
Campus Ministry Project	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,452.74
Delegation Gathering	6.60	29,478.79	0.00	0.00
Garrett Evangelical Latinx Project	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Grace Pictures	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Korean Mission	13,300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Midwest Mission Distribution Center	7,500.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Native Amer Course of Study	0.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Volunteers in Mission	10,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Volunteers in Mission - Youth Project	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
<b>Total Mission and Ministries</b>	<b>33,306.60</b>	<b>104,478.79</b>	<b>71,811.00</b>	<b>75,952.74</b>
Archives and History	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Committee on Episcopacy	13,654.49	9,978.16	10,230.84	700.24
Financial Management Expenses	7,520.58	6,809.01	6,165.04	6,193.00
General Conference Hosting	0.00	0.00	(50,433.00)	0.00
<b>Jurisdictional Conference</b>				
Jurisdictional Conference delegate expenses	0.00	607.42	79,560.00	0.00
Jurisdictional Conference Expenses	47,177.92	0.00	113,034.28	49,443.05
Jurisdictional Conference Journal	0.00	0.00	4,498.83	0.00
Jurisdictional Conference Travel	11,927.37	291.70	32,176.30	0.00
<b>Total Jurisdictional Conference</b>	<b>59,105.29</b>	<b>899.12</b>	<b>229,269.41</b>	<b>49,443.05</b>
Mission Council	1,288.48	26,508.04	10,267.75	330.00
Other Meetings	0.00	1,808.41	0.00	0.00
Uncollected Apportionments	4,415.46	2,729.85	1,381.24	3,445.10
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>120,290.90</b>	<b>153,211.38</b>	<b>278,692.28</b>	<b>136,064.13</b>
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>(11,003.42)</b>	<b>65,423.95</b>	<b>(59,699.12)</b>	<b>83,074.59</b>
<b>Other Income / (Expense)</b>				
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	1,320.92	0.00	0.00
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	41,026.49	53,894.93	2,688.64	0.00
<b>Total Other Income / (Expense)</b>	<b>41,026.49</b>	<b>55,215.85</b>	<b>2,688.64</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>30,023.07</b>	<b>120,639.80</b>	<b>(57,010.48)</b>	<b>83,074.59</b>

## Balance Sheet

North Central Jurisdiction of UMC

As of June 30, 2024

<b>Account</b>	<b>Jun 30, 2024</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2023</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2022</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2021</b>
<b>Assets</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>				
Money Market Share	90.99	90.99	90.99	409,937.06
North Central Jurisdiction	234,576.22	214,048.78	300,825.41	238,873.88
Regular Share Savings	170,540.72	170,540.72	167,167.13	92,106.19
UMF Investment Account	422,610.06	381,583.57	327,688.64	0.00
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>827,817.99</b>	<b>766,264.06</b>	<b>795,772.17</b>	<b>740,917.13</b>
Accounts Receivable	52,242.92	62,153.80	18,106.49	15,018.09
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>880,060.91</b>	<b>828,417.86</b>	<b>813,878.66</b>	<b>755,935.22</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>				
<b>Liabilities</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable	31,297.98	9,000.00	115,100.60	146.68
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>31,297.98</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>	<b>115,100.60</b>	<b>146.68</b>
<b>Equity</b>				
Current Year Earnings	30,023.07	120,639.80	(57,010.48)	83,074.59
RESTRICTED - Congreg Developers Reserve	17,322.04	18,000.04	18,000.04	18,000.04
Retained Earnings	801,417.82	680,778.02	737,788.50	654,713.91
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>848,762.93</b>	<b>819,417.86</b>	<b>698,778.06</b>	<b>755,788.54</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>880,060.91</b>	<b>828,417.86</b>	<b>813,878.66</b>	<b>755,935.22</b>

## Statement of Cash Flows

North Central Jurisdiction of UMC

For the 42 months ended June 30, 2024

<b>Account</b>	<b>Jan 2021-Jun 2024</b>
<b>Operating Activities</b>	
Receipts from customers	748,821.39
Payments to suppliers and employees	(656,960.71)
Cash receipts from other operating activities	98,930.98
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>190,791.66</b>
<b>Financing Activities</b>	
Other cash items from financing activities	(678.00)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>	<b>(678.00)</b>
<b>Net Cash Flows</b>	<b>190,113.66</b>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	637,704.33
Net cash flows	190,113.66
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	827,817.99
<b>Net change in cash for period</b>	<b>190,113.66</b>

## 2024-28 Budget Proposal

The Mission Council proposes the following budget to guide the NCJ ministries for the next quadrennium.

### **Apportionments**

Mission Council recommends a 10% decrease in the total apportioned to NCJ Annual Conferences to align with contractions happening at all levels of the connection.

GCFA allocates the general church apportionment share to each annual conference. This calculation derives from the local church statistics reports and reflects disaffiliation's impact in the several conferences. Effectively, general church apportionments calibrates each conference's financial capacity relative to the other NCJ conferences. BY NCJ Financial Policies, NCJ apportionments are allocated to the annual conferences at the same ratio as the general church apportionments.

Consequently, an annual conference with higher than average disaffiliations will see an NCJ apportionment decrease by more than 10%, while an annual conference with less than average disaffiliations will see less than 10% decrease in apportionments.

Our proposed allocation uses the general church apportionments proposed for 2025, following the actions of general conference.

An estimated apportionment amount was communicated to annual conferences in time for proposing their 2025 budgets but before the Mission Council decision to reduce the total by 10%. The amount proposed here for each annual conference is less than that prior estimate.

### **Jurisdictional Conference Meeting Expenses**

The budget anticipates a regular NCJ Conference in 2028 at a cost closer to average costs.

The Council of Bishops has signaled, but has not called, a Special Session of General Conference for 2026. The NCJ College of Bishops recommends we prepare for a possible related North Central Jurisdiction session to follow in 2026. As of today, no final decision has been made about these potential sessions. Mission Council has proposed a contingent budget line for the possible meetings.

The Mission Council proposal reserves funding sufficient for a centrally located 2026 NCJ Conference meeting using 2 hotel room overnights held at a local church to conserve costs, should such a session be called. The final decision on how where and how a meeting is convened is vested elsewhere and voting on the budget neither directs nor limits the authority of those bodies. If no 2026 jurisdictional session is called, the budget proposal would reduce the amount available for such a session to \$0 and the amount available for program ministries is increased by \$100,000 to \$460,000. The balance of budget authority unused should an NCJ session not be called, beyond that re-assigned to programming, would be retained in the reserves of the NCJ.

### **Explanation of Expense Categories**

The Episcopacy Committee, Mission Council, and Mission Council Executive Committee all have annual in-person meetings. The budget has been increased to \$20,000 for the NCJCOE and all Mission Council meetings.

College of Bishops meetings are largely reimbursed by the GCFA, but because GCFA has changed policies on allowing some expenses and/or participation by retired bishops, there is \$2,500 a year budgeted to cover any unreimbursed costs.

The jurisdiction faces contraction from 9 Episcopal Areas to 6. Episcopal Areas can apply to the Mission Council for assistance for transition costs. The unused portion of these funds would be made available for the Mission Council to use on other programming.

Traditionally, the NCJ budgeted \$500,000 per quadrennium for programming. These funds could either be used in grants supporting NCJ ministries such as the NCJ Volunteers in Mission work, or in programs sponsored directly by the Mission Council, such as the delegation gatherings of recent years. For the 2024-28 quadrennium, the Mission Council recommends establishing a budget of \$360,000 which would be increased by up to \$40,000 for any portion of the Episcopal Area transition funding not used in that purpose and by up to \$100,000 should an NCJ session not be held in 2026.

Financial Management expenses include costs of accounting software, NCJ insurance policy, checks and bank fees, and a stipend. The budget increases by an inflation assumption.

### **Deficit Spending**

The proposed budget has expenses in excess of revenues. While there are sufficient resources to meet the anticipated needs of this budget, there are not enough resources to continue such a strategy into the 2028-2032 quadrennium.



**BUDGET PROPOSAL**  
**2024-2028 Quadrennium**

<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>Apportionments</b>			<b>Annual Amt.</b>	<b>Change from 2020-24</b>
Dakotas	24,928		6,232	-8%
East Ohio	68,656		17,164	-19%
Illinois Great Rivers	83,680		20,920	-6%
Indiana	133,680		33,420	-18%
Iowa	69,392		17,348	-10%
Michigan	113,024		28,256	-3%
Minnesota	56,656		14,164	8%
Northern Illinois	64,896		16,224	11%
West Ohio	114,880		28,720	-24%
Wisconsin	56,256		14,064	6%
less uncollected	(23,582)			
<b>APPORTIONMENT INCOME</b>	<b>762,466</b>			
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
North Central Jurisdiction Meetings				
2028 Regular Session	310,000		West Ohio next, Minnesota follows	
2026 Session (possibly)	195,440		if called. If not called, \$100,000 added to program	
NCJ Journal and Secretary Expenses	2,500			
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>507,940</b>		
Meetings of Jurisdictional Committees				
Committee on Episcopacy	80,000		20,000	annually for in-person meeting
Mission Council	80,000		20,000	annually for in-person meetings
College of Bishops	10,000		Should GCFA not cover all expenses	
Jurisdictional Court of Appeals	5,000		Only if necessary	
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>175,000</b>		
Program Ministries				
Mission Council program and grants	360,000			
designated for Episcopal Area Transition	40,000		unused portion available for programming	
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>400,000</b>		
Jurisdictional Administration				
Archives	4,000		rental of space for archives	
Communications, Website, etc.	5,000		Communicator and Online services	
Financial Management Expenses	33,500		Insurance, Bank fees, Software, Stipend	
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>42,500</b>		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,125,440</b>			
<b>Income over (under) Expenses</b>	<b>(362,974)</b>		<b>Use of Reserve Funds</b>	

## OFFERINGS DURING CONFERENCE

Our Conference offering will be taken during the Friday Recognition of Retirement Service. Options for electronic giving will be provided as well. This year's offering recipients are the 31:8 Project and the Midwest Distribution Center.

**31:8 Project:** [31:8 Project's](#) mission is to equip and challenge society to proactively address issues regarding human trafficking. Based in Bismarck, North Dakota, 31:8 offers informative seminars, conducts research, and creates curriculum applicable to all levels of education and forms of human trafficking. Donation support activities like the Bakken Human Trafficking Summit, mentorships for survivors of human trafficking, and the Demand Reduction Program—an education partnership designed to reduce recidivism.

The [Midwest Distribution Center](#) (MDC), located in Chatham, Illinois, serves as a hub for United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) disaster response. It is one of several relief supply depots across the United States and plays a crucial role in flood recovery efforts by:

**Storing and Distributing Supplies:** The MDC warehouses and ships essential items such as cleaning buckets, hygiene kits, and other relief supplies to flood-affected areas.

**Coordinating with Local Agencies:** The center collaborates with local churches, community organizations, and UMCOR's network to ensure timely and effective distribution of resources.

**Supporting Long-Term Recovery:** Besides immediate relief, the MDC assists with long-term recovery by providing materials for rebuilding and repair efforts in flood-impacted regions.

## PLENARY SPEAKERS

**Dr. Ashley Boggan** is the General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History. In this role, she ensures that the UMC understands its past in order to envision a more equitable future for all Methodists.

**Dr. Paul Chilcote**, a retired United Methodist elder from Indiana, is a Fellow of Wesley House, Cambridge. He was a founding faculty member of Africa University in Zimbabwe. An award-winning author, he has published nearly 40 books on topics ranging from Wesley, Methodist, and women's studies to Christian spirituality, discipleship, mission and evangelism.

**Rev. Tyler Sit** is the founding pastor of New City Church, a church in Minneapolis that is led mostly by queer people of color. New City became the first 'built from scratch' church plant to charter in Minnesota United Methodism in decades.

## **THURSDAY/FRIDAY LUNCH N LEARN SESSIONS**

**Clergy Well-being** – Healthy leaders are important to creating healthy systems and organizations. This Lunch N Learn will focus on what some of our conferences are doing to support holistic clergy well-being and how that's impacting our congregations and connection.

**Practical Church Leadership** – In 2018, Dakota Wesleyan University partnered with the Dakotas Conference to address the growing need for strategic and administrative leadership development. The Non-Profit Church Leadership Certificate program (now called Practical Church Leadership Certificate) was created. Professor and Program developer, Dr. Alisha Vincent will guide a discussion around preparing leaders to adapt and manage churches in today's environments where business and nonprofit acumen are imperative. She also will be sharing what they've learned by evaluating outcomes and feedback from participants from 7 annual conferences as well as the ELCA

**Innovation in Ministry** - From Fresh Expressions to micro churches to incarnational ministries, United Methodists are discovering new ways to be church. Newly appointed as a strategy and innovation coordinator for the Minnesota Conference, Rev. Erica Koser will facilitate this Lunch N Learn conversation, inviting participants to share the new ways they are seeking to be church and build beloved community in their contexts. She will share her story of serving as the executive director and pastor for Connections Ministry and Shelter church as well the work that is emerging through her new role to re-center our evangelistic focus, bolster racial justice initiatives, and resource leadership development effort.

**Community Development and Ministry** - What do a grocery store, a tool library, and a café have in common? They are each a part of the beautiful tapestry that is Matthew 25, a local nonprofit working to improve lives in Cedar Rapids, IA, through quality housing, healthy food, education and community building. Birthed out of the United Methodist connection, this organization does a lot, but each effort serves the same mission: to shape a better Cedar Rapids. Co-founder and Community Development Director, Courtney Ball, will share the story of this impactful organization that provides the programs, opportunities, and education needed to improve the health of people and neighborhoods.

**Regionalization**—Educating toward Ratification – The recent General Conference passed historic legislation related to the worldwide structure of the UMC. This legislation includes several Constitutional amendments that require ratification by annual and central conferences. Join Rev. Dee Stickley-Miner and George Howard for a discussion about ideas and strategies for providing your annual conference membership with tools and resources to move forward with ratification.



## **Covenant to Build BeLoved Community**

United Methodism is at a crucial inflection point – facing the challenges of a global pandemic, racial injustice, impacts of climate change, denominational decline, and intradenominational strife. More than ever, we need to lean into the call of Hebrews 10:22-25 (CEB): “Therefore, let’s draw near with a genuine heart with the certainty that our faith gives us, since our hearts are sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies are washed with pure water. Let’s hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, because the one who made the promises is reliable. And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don’t stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.” As the North Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church (NCJ), we covenant to Build BeLoved Community.

Baptism is the foundation of the BeLoved Community, as through it we are called into a covenantal relationship with God, with each other, and with all of God’s creation. It is in the spirit of this covenantal relationship that we affirm our baptismal vows ...

***Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?***

**We do.** We confess our need for God’s grace as we struggle to renounce and reject the spiritual forces and evil powers of colonialism, racism, sexism, classism, and heterosexism. We apologize for the ways the NCJ has and continues to harm people who live in other parts of the world, Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC), people who live in poverty, and LGBTQIA+ people.

Now is the moment to repent of these sins and turn toward the future to which God is calling the NCJ.

time currently scheduled for the regular session of the jurisdictional conference, for the purpose of the election of bishops, acting on nominations for jurisdictional committees and general agencies, budgeting and other necessary matters.

We encourage conferences and local churches to strive for reconciliation and understanding. However, some congregations and clergy may feel called to a different future in the faith. We respect our siblings who depart and desire to do no harm as we anticipate cooperative ecumenical efforts in the future. We grieve each separation. NCJ annual conferences should use existing disciplinary and conference provisions to accommodate local congregations and clergy seeking disaffiliation.

We stand in solidarity with United Methodists around the world who long for a world-wide contextual and regional denominational structure.

We call on the NCJ College of Bishops and Mission Council to immediately begin working with other Jurisdictions, Central Conferences, and the Connectional Table to make regional equity and contextualization a reality. We fully support polity changes, such as the Christmas Covenant or Connectional Table's US Regional Conference proposals, that will lead to regional equity and contextualization.

We recommend Annual Conferences engage in conversations about regional equity and contextualization.

Covenanting to Build the BeLoved Community, we look to 2024 with promise. We pledge ourselves to God's call upon our lives, to each other, and to the future of The United Methodist Church.

- local church's total budgets, clergy salaries, new church starts/revitalizations, church closures, Conference staff, board, task force and committee members, and delegates to GC/JC.
- Alignment of Annual Conference budget with antiracism work, creation of whistleblower policies, on-going training and support for cross racial/cross cultural appointments, prioritization of new church starts and congregational revitalization in communities of color, resources to support the recruitment and development for leaders of color (lay and clergy) and developing programs for youth/young adults of color.

***Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?***

**We do.** We also affirm Christ has opened the Church to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. All people are of sacred worth.

LGBTQIA+ clergy and laity are a gift to the Church. We implore all in the NCJ to do no harm and to create a culture in which abundance and diversity can be celebrated and lived. Therefore, we urge all members of the NCJ to avoid pursuing charges for LGBTQIA+ clergy and allies, and request our episcopal leaders dismiss charges related to LGBTQIA+ identity or

***Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?***

**We do.** We pray for God's freedom and power to resist colonialism and racism in all the forms they present themselves.

We stand in solidarity with ongoing efforts of many, who have worked tirelessly to end racism. We recognize this is a journey; that the work of ending racism is ongoing because it is a way of being - as the body of Christ. All of our work as a Church should be done in an anti-racist manner.

We request the NCJ Bishops of Color convene all BIPOC delegates to discuss how to begin to address the trauma in communities of color.

We request that the Mission Council, in conjunction with the NCJ College of Bishops, develop an exercise for the NCJ delegates to engage in a conversation during the next session of the NCJ that seeks to understand the impact of white supremacy and Christian nationalism/white nationalism within The United Methodist Church.

We request the Mission Council evaluate their budget and demonstrate, and report at the next Jurisdictional Conference, how the budget incorporates antiracism work and healing institutional trauma.

The Mission Council must designate sufficient NCJ funds for the purpose of convening Conference Commissions on Religion and Race and Annual Conference antiracism task force representatives in 2022 to operationalize and share a report at the next Jurisdictional Conference:

A racial analysis of: We request the Mission Council in conjunction with the NCJ College of Bishops develop an exercise for the NCJ delegates to engage in conversation to understand the impact of homophobia, transphobia and heterosexism within United Methodist Churches during the next meeting of the jurisdiction.

***According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?***

**We will.** We who will remain and continue to be faithful members of The United Methodist Church, commit to leading the NCJ through this difficult moment. We remain committed to our continuing call to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and by sharing and living the Gospel.

We value episcopal leadership and commit to electing bishops as soon as possible. If and only if the 2020 General Conference, currently scheduled for August 29-September 6, 2022, is postponed or canceled, and the regular session of the jurisdictional conference is subsequently proposed to be postponed or canceled, this special session of the NCJ Conference authorizes the duly elected heads of the conference delegations and the NCJ College of Bishops to work together to call a special session of the jurisdictional conference for November 2-5, 2022, the

officiating same gender weddings. Because we are all beloved children of God, we, in the NCJ, implore all our conference leaders, boards and agencies, to bring no harm to LGBTQIA+ people. We will not restrict God's calling based solely on a candidate's sexual orientation or gender identity. We commit to doing good by pursuing healing and reconciliation with all who have experienced harm and exclusion related to sexual orientation and gender identity.

***With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ.***

***We will surround each other with a community of love and forgiveness, that we may grow in our trust of God, and be found faithful in our service to others.***

***We will pray for each other, that we may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.***

## Locations of Past North Central Jurisdictional Conferences

In the historic list which follows, the name of the conference where the jurisdictional conference was held is given first followed by the specific city in that conference. Note the names of conferences that no longer exist are included.

1940	ROCK RIVER: Chicago	1984	MINNESOTA: Duluth
1944	MINNESOTA: Minneapolis	1988	NORTHERN ILLINOIS: DeKalb
1948	INDIANA: Indianapolis	1992	DETROIT: Adrian
1952	WISCONSIN: Milwaukee	1996	NORTH INDIANA: Fort Wayne
1956	SOUTH IOWA: Des Moines	2000	WISCONSIN: Madison
1960	WEST MICHIGAN: Grand Rapids	2004	IOWA: Davenport
1964	EAST OHIO: Cleveland	2008	WEST MICHIGAN: Grand Rapids
1968	CENTRAL ILLINOIS: Peoria	2012	EAST OHIO: Akron
1972	SOUTH INDIANA: Indianapolis	2016	ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS: Peoria
1976	SOUTH DAKOTA: Sioux Falls	2022	INDIANA: Fort Wayne
1980	WEST OHIO: Dayton	2024	DAKOTAS: Sioux Falls