



Tecumseh United Methodist Church

Christ's compassionate community in Tecumseh;
Loving and serving prayerfully and unconditionally

Wednesday 9 September 2020

Helping the Tecumseh Service Club Help Others

This Sunday (9/13) we are collecting goods and cash to help the Tecumseh Service Club, who helps our neighbors across northeast Lenawee County. **You can help by bringing, this Sunday, the following:**

Laundry Products

... laundry detergent, dryer sheets, and whatever else helps get the clothes clean.

Groceries needed by the TSC anytime:

- canned fruit
- canned meat (chicken, tuna)
- canned soups
- canned vegetables (no corn or beans)
- oatmeal
- Hamburger/Tuna/Chicken Helper
- jams & jellies
- jello & pudding
- macaroni & cheese
- pancake mix & syrup
- pasta & spaghetti sauce

And the Votes Are (Finally) In!

Several months ago, the Michigan Area of The United Methodist Church held its first Virtual Annual Conference. Conference leadership, including our bishop, led sessions using Zoom. Pastor Mark and Ed Follas, our Lay Member to the Annual Conference, participated through the Zoom sessions and during the virtual plenary sessions voted on various resolutions using paper ballots that we mailed to the conference office and tabulated. The results have just been released.

To accommodate the disjoint nature of this year's conference, all resolutions not relating to required business were tabled until next year's annual conference, leaving the following items:

Authorization for the conference's financial management office to do its work: APPROVED

Establishment of a housing/rental allowance for retired clergy or clergy on medical leave: APPROVED

Comprehensive benefit funding plan: APPROVED

Establishment of the past service rate for pensions: APPROVED

An amendment to the conference plan of organization related to the conference leadership council's membership: APPROVED

An amendment to the conference plan of organization related to the membership of the Council on Finance and Administration: APPROVED

One more amendment to the conference plan of organization related to the membership of the Board of Trustees: APPROVED

Equitable compensation guidelines and schedule for clergy compensation: APPROVED

2021 conference budget: APPROVED

Nominations report of conference committee candidates: APPROVED

So much for the exciting stuff voted on (and generally approved) every year. . . But there was also voting that was less routine pertaining to the loss of a number of Michigan Area Conference churches:

Closure of Owosso: Burton UMC: APPROVED

Closure of Ubley UMC: APPROVED

Closure of Muskegon: Unity UMC: APPROVED

Closure of Mulliken UMC: APPROVED

Withdrawal from the denomination by Shabbona UMC: APPROVED

Withdrawal from the denomination by East Boardman UMC: APPROVED

Withdrawal from the denomination by North Adams UMC: APPROVED

Thus endeth the voting report.

Worship Without . . . SINGING?!? (get used to it for now)

Probably the most difficult constraint placed upon us by the need to limit the spread of the Coronavirus as we worship together is the restriction placed on singing. Some churches learned early in the pandemic that allowing their choirs to rehearse was an effective way to pass the virus through the entire choir. Other churches became viral hot-spots, possibly due in part to singing.

Singing does the one thing we need most to avoid right now: it forcefully

disperses aerosolized droplets containing the Coronavirus. John Wesley's admonition to "Sing lustily and with good courage" is just a bad idea right now. Even singing with a face mask in place is not safe due to the force of the expelled breath as one belts out that favorite hymn.

We need to stay safe and avoid harming each other, which means no singing, at least for now.

Church/Charge Conference -- Getting our Forms Done

A defining characteristic of the yearly Church/Charge Conference is the pile of paperwork that gets filled out and sent to the district office. This year is no different (something that the pandemic hasn't changed). The big change this year is that we don't have our administrative assistant, Mary Ann, to wrangle the various forms and reports.

With the conference not far off (9/21), this is a good time to make a status check and see how the paperwork is progressing, so . . .

Form Name	Who	Due	Status	Notes
Pastoral Self-Evaluation	Pastor	9/11	done	
Home Furnishings Allowance	Pastor	9/11	in process	needs salary amt
Members at College/University	Pastor	9/21	done	
Business of the Church Conference	Pastor	9/11	in process	needs salary amt
SPRC Evaluation of Clergy	SPRC	9/11	done	
SPRC/Clergy Joint Dialogue	SPRC/Pastor	9/11	done	
Clergy Compensation Recommendation	SPRC	9/11	in process	
Profile of the Church	Church Council or Pastor	9/11	in process	
2021 Leadership Roster	Church Council or Pastor	9/11	not started	entry into Ezra database
Report of the Finance Comm.	Finance	9/21	in process	
Report of the Trustees	Trustees	9/21	done	
Accessibility Audit	Trustees	9/21	???	
Insurance Worksheet	Trustees	9/21	???	
Membership Report	Membership Sec'y/Pastor	9/21	done	
Leadership Slate	Nominations/Pastor	9/21	not started	
Charge Conference Minutes	Recording Secretary	9/28	not started	

Thank you all for helping get these forms and reports done!

MUSICIANS WANTED FOR WORSHIP

Sunday Mornings

Do you sing?

Do you play any of the following:

Trumpet	Piano	Tuba	Oboe
Crumhorn	Cello	Trombone	Harmonica
Kazoo	Bagpipes	Clarinet	Violin
Guitar	Bassoon	French Horn	Harp
Harpsichord	English Horn		Flugelhorn
Saxophone	Flute	Tin Whistle	Uilean Pipes
Bombard	Fife	Viola	Hardinger Fiddle
Mizmar	Ney	Duduk	Theremin
Bansuri	Shakuhachi		Spoons

Come, join in worship and share your talent
Let Pastor Mark know you want to contribute