



## 2022 MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### Communication Prior to Registration

We are back in person! Annual Conference is June 2 – 4, 2022 at Grand Traverse Resort. *Mourning to Dancing* is the theme of the 2022 Annual Conference, based on Psalm 30. Annual Conference begins with Opening Worship and Memorial Service on Thursday, June 2 at 1:00 pm and concludes at 5 pm on Saturday, June 4. Bishop David Bard will preach for Thursday afternoon's opening worship as well as for the Service of Recognition, Commissioning and Ordination on Friday night. A block schedule is posted at [2022.michiganumc.org](https://2022.michiganumc.org)

We're honored to host Preacher and Teacher [Rev. Dr. Ron Bell](#), senior pastor of Camphor Memorial UMC in Minnesota and a regular guest columnist for the *Saint Paul Monitor*. Two of Dr. Bell's most popular books both deal with his work with grief and trauma: *Is There Space for Me Embracing Grief through Art*, and his latest book: *The Four Promises Journeying through Past and Present Trauma*. On his blog site [www.DrRonBell.com](http://www.DrRonBell.com) you can find many of his most popular articles on race, trauma, empathy, and grief. We also welcome the return of Laity Event featured speaker Derrick Scott III, the Executive Director and United Methodist Campus Minister for the Campus to City Wesley Foundation in Jacksonville and St. Augustine, FL.



Rev. Dr. Ron Bell



Carrie Newcomer

The Michigan Conference is thrilled to welcome Carrie Newcomer and pianist Gary Walters for a special private concert for our members Thursday night. Born in Dowagiac, Michigan, Carrie Newcomer is a singer, songwriter, author, and speaker. Over her career, she has produced 19 solo CDs and has received numerous awards for her music and charitable activities. Learn more at [carriewcomer.com](http://carriewcomer.com) You will be required to wear a mask over your mouth and nose during the concert.

### What to Expect at Annual Conference

The Commission on the Annual Conference Session is consulting with public health and medical professionals to create the safest environment possible for Annual Conference. Those attending as members will be required to be fully vaccinated OR have a Negative PCR test result within 48 hours prior to arrival and wear a medical-grade mask when not actively eating or drinking. Members must show a copy of their vaccination record or Negative PCR test result as well as a photo ID as part of check-in. Members of the Annual Conference have been sent details of the [Health & Safety protocols](#), as well as the covenant to sign. A signed covenant is necessary to register for Annual Conference. Infection rates are being closely monitored and the committee remains committed to flexibility and placing safety first. The Commission on the Annual Conference Session is grateful for your cooperation in keeping this meeting safe as an expression of Christian compassion and care for yourself and your neighbors.

### How to Get There

We encourage you to carpool to Grand Traverse Resort. The Cherry Loop shuttle buses return this year, with continuous shuttles from the resort to local hotel hubs in Traverse City. The East Line bus is available from Southfield, Flint or Saginaw to Grand Traverse Resort, then ride a Cherry Loop shuttle to one of the hotels on the route.

The comfortable passenger coach bus will depart early Thursday morning. Plan to arrive 30 minutes prior to the scheduled departure. **Cost is \$35 per person/round trip.** A mask is required on the bus unless you're actively eating or drinking. The bus will stop for lunch (on your own). You can leave your car in a parking lot at each location at your own risk. If you chose to take the shuttle you will need to make reservations for Thursday and Friday night accommodations.

The bus departs Grand Traverse Resort Saturday at 5:30 pm. Order a carry-out meal on the registration form to enjoy on the bus!

## Where to Stay

### Onsite Lodging Options

Options at the Grand Traverse Resort include Hotel Rooms and Tower Rooms (both attached to meeting spaces), and Condos (connected by a complimentary shuttle service). You will be able to request and pay for a double or single occupancy Hotel room, Tower room, or One-Bedroom Condo on the registration form. If family members are staying with you and are not members of AC, they need to register as a visitor and select a double room.

There are a limited number of rooms and condos at the Grand Traverse Resort, and overflow housing offsite is inevitable. You are highly encouraged to find a roommate to share a double room (2 beds) so fewer members to annual conference need to make a daily commute.

You can lower your cost by having a triple or quadruple occupancy in one of these rooms. Complete your registration online, then contact AC Registrar Sarah Vollmer at [svollmer@michiganumc.org](mailto:svollmer@michiganumc.org) to finalize arrangements and room charges. Have your roommates' names ready, as we cannot assign triple and quad roommates.

**A limited number of Two-Bedroom Condos** are also available onsite. You will be able to complete your registration online, but you must contact Sarah Vollmer at [svollmer@michiganumc.org](mailto:svollmer@michiganumc.org) to finalize arrangements and room charges. Have your roommates' names ready, as we cannot make roommate assignments for the 2-Bedroom Condos.

The hotel requires a valid credit card per room when you arrive. Shared rooms/roommates must stay the same nights or the full single rate will apply. You have the option to extend your stay before or after Annual Conference at the conference rate! These dates include May 30 (Memorial Day), May 31, June 1, and June 4 - 6 (limited spaces post-conference). You can select these dates on the registration form and then pay the hotel directly onsite, including a daily resort fee per room. You will receive a hotel confirmation email directly from the Resort for your extended stay.

**Hotel:** 240 Rooms in six-story hotel attached to meeting space | Standard Hotel Room with WiFi | two Full Beds or one King Bed & pull-out sofa | Rates per night include lodging tax: Single: \$135 | Double: \$70 | \*Triple: \$45 | \*Quad: \$35

**Tower:** 186 modern rooms attached to meeting space | Improved Lighting and WiFi | Spacious bathrooms | All rooms have a mini fridge | 2 Queen Beds OR 1 King Bed with Twin Murphy Bed | Rates per night Include lodging tax: Single: \$189 | Double: \$95 | \*Triple: \$65 | \*Quad: \$50

**Condo:** spacious and quiet | Detached from the meeting space, distances vary | Access to free shuttles, furnished dining area, kitchenette, living room, WiFi | Perfect for those with special dietary needs who need to prepare their own food | Rates per night include lodging tax:

- 1 Bedroom Condo: 1 Bed, 1 Pull-Out sofa | Single: \$189 | Double: \$95 | \*Triple: \$65
- 2 Bedroom Condo: 2 Beds, 1 Pull-Out sofa, 2 bathrooms | \*Single: \$265 | \*Double: \$135 | \*Triple: \$90 | \*Quad: \$70 | \*Five: \$55

\*Contact Sarah Vollmer at [svollmer@michiganumc.org](mailto:svollmer@michiganumc.org) to reserve.

### Offsite Lodging Options

Once the Grand Traverse Resort is full, other hotel blocks will open. You can take a free door-to-door shuttle to select area hotels on the Cherry Loop and avoid taking and parking your car! The full list will be posted at [2022.michiganumc.org](http://2022.michiganumc.org). You must make your own arrangements and follow stated cancellation policies. Note: Equalization members are required to stay onsite. You are responsible for the cost of offsite lodging and are eligible for reimbursement of up to \$70 per night. Complete a voucher with receipt for reimbursement at the Registration desk.

More information: [2022.michiganumc.org](http://2022.michiganumc.org)

**Airbnb, VRBO** and other online booking sites have condos on their site that are part of the Grand Traverse Resort complex. These owners are listing them independently and are not part of the rental pool in our contract. If they are on the Grand Traverse Resort property, free shuttle service would be included.

**Dorm Rooms** are available at Northwestern Michigan College (1701 E Front Street, Traverse City, MI 49686). Configured in suites - two rooms connected by a bathroom, two twin beds, mini fridge, microwave, WiFi, free parking, no shuttle. Linens not included. \$120 per night + 6% tax. Find [more information here](#) and reserve after April 1.

#### **Camping Options:**

[Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park](#)

[Everflowing Waters Campground](#)

#### **Meals**

We've worked very closely with the Grand Traverse Resort's Food & Beverage Manager and Chef to craft delicious meals. Grand Traverse Resort has committed to providing complete menus for those with special dietary needs. If you avoid any of the seven main allergens (dairy, egg, tree nuts, peanuts, shellfish, fish, wheat/gluten), you can safely dine from the special allergen-free buffet line. There will be one buffet line outside of the Michigan Ballroom and one in the Tower/Mackinac/Peninsula Room pre-function space.

Review the menus during registration posted next to each meal in the [More Info] box, and check the special dietary meal option checkbox to receive this throughout the conference. If you have concerns once onsite, please see the Grand Traverse Resort staff.

Meals are served buffet style. As everywhere, food costs have increased since we were there 3 years ago. **Meal prices include a 22% gratuity for service personnel** who have struggled during the pandemic. Like us, they are glad to be back!

Breakfast is \$15 | Lunch is \$18 | Dinner is \$24 | Wednesday Dinner Burger Bar is available for \$20. There are also four onsite restaurants.

Breakfast is considered optional and not included in equalization member registration. Onsite breakfast options are Sweetwater American Bistro, hotel coffee shop, or Hotel and Tower room service. There are no Focus Meals this year to allow more space between seats. General seating will be in the Michigan Ballroom, meeting rooms or outdoor venues.

#### **Pre-Conference Opportunities – Thursday**

**Golf Tournament** - 4-Person Scramble | 10 Holes | Shotgun Start @ 9 am | \$65 per person

Sign-up is not on the AC registration form. You can [click here](#) to register, or contact Rev. Rich Burstall, 989.348.2974, [gvnit2god@yahoo.com](mailto:gvnit2god@yahoo.com) to register and pay. Proceeds Benefit Campus Ministries of the Michigan Conference.

**5k Run / Walk / Ride** | 11 am Start | \$35 per person

A live event will be held onsite, plus local events held throughout the state on Sunday, June 5. More information to come in mid-March. Proceeds will benefit Child Hunger Relief in Michigan. Sign-up for this is not part of the AC registration for and will be released in March. Check the [2022.michiganumc.org/5kchildhunger/](https://2022.michiganumc.org/5kchildhunger/) site for updates, and how to organize a 5K event at your local church. Last year, over \$54,000 was raised and distributed throughout the state for immediate hunger relief!

**Sightseeing** Traverse City Tourism can help with whatever questions you have and provide a list of options. [Click here](#) for possibilities.

More information: [2022.michiganumc.org](https://2022.michiganumc.org)

**Golf Discounts** are available for the three championship courses onsite. **Spa Discounts** are available including 15% off special services such as massage, facial, mani & pedi. See [2022.michiganumc.org](https://2022.michiganumc.org) for more info.

### Service Opportunities

Volunteers are needed to serve as Ushers & Tellers, 5K timekeepers, Grace Patrol, Registration Desk help, and Stage Hands. Sign up to volunteer through the registration system.

### Clergy Retirees & Conference Equalization Member Rate

**Retired Clergy** will have the \$125 cost of registration waived for Annual Conference. You are responsible for all other expenses. The fee is automatically deducted in the registration program, so the balance is your responsibility.

**Conference Equalization Members** Those persons who are seated because of their positions of conference leadership or selected by the Board of Laity shall have their basic expenses paid by the Annual Conference. Please “take what you need” but also “use what you take.” Equalization members are required to stay at Grand Traverse Resort unless it is sold out, so register early!

Expenses covered for Equalization Members:

- \$125 Registration
- Onsite lunches and dinners between opening and closing of conference
- \$70 per night toward housing for up to 3 nights (this covers the cost of a Hotel Double at Grand Traverse Resort).

Expenses NOT covered for Equalization Members:

- Travel expenses or bus shuttle from the East Side
- Wednesday dinner, Thursday lunch, Saturday dinner and additional breakfasts
- Offsite meals or meals at the Grand Traverse Resort restaurants.
- Housing expenses that exceed \$70 per night (i.e., the additional cost for a Hotel Single or Tower room)

If you select a more expensive room option, or meals not included in the Equalization package, the balance for those expenses will appear at the end of your registration. You are responsible for paying them either immediately with a credit card, or by mailing a check, received by May 5.

When rooms sell out at the Grand Traverse, blocks in local hotels will be made available. You will be responsible for the cost of offsite accommodations, though you will be able to fill out a voucher from the Registration Desk for reimbursement of up to \$70 per night.

### More Registration Need-to-Know

General registration ends May 8, 2022 at 11:59 pm. There are no cancellation refunds after May 8. Registration reopens May 9, with a \$50 late fee, not covered for equalization members or retirees. Payments by check for registration must be received in the Treasurer’s office by May 5 to validate your registration, or your registration will be cancelled and onsite housing given to someone on the waiting list. Reregistration will incur the \$50 late fee. Registration remains open until May 20. Persons registering after May 20 will not be able to participate in Legislative Committees scheduled online for May 24 – 26. Late registration continues after May 26. Meals are not guaranteed with late registration.

### Contact Us!

Email your questions to Conference Events Planner Nancy Arnold at: [narnold@michiganumc.org](mailto:narnold@michiganumc.org). Send registration questions to Annual Conference Registrar Sarah Vollmer at: [svollmer@michiganumc.org](mailto:svollmer@michiganumc.org)

See you on June 2nd!

More information: [2022.michiganumc.org](https://2022.michiganumc.org)