



EAST MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE | 142ND SESSION | JUNE 20 - 21

BOOK OF REPORTS

Welcome to the 142nd Session of the East Michigan Conference!

We are honored to gather with Pastors, Retired Pastors, Church Delegates and guests. As we worship the Lord, reflect upon Scripture, and conduct business, let us anticipate moments of personal revelation, renewal, and rededication of ourselves to the ways God is challenging us to **Saturate** the state of Michigan

- Bishop Kaye Kolde, Presiding
- Rev. Joanna DeWolf, Conference Co-Superintendent
- Rev. Jeff Ford, Conference Co-Superintendent
- Rev. Dr. Dale Woods II, Conference Co-Superintendent
- Brandon Woods (CMC), Annual Conference Secretary

Annual Ministry Reports available at emcfree.org—

Marston Historical Society
FM Financial
Set Free Movement
Wunders
FMWM Africa
FMWM Europe

Free Methodist World Missions
ICCM
Spring Arbor University
Covenant Hills Camp
FMWM Asia



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Pastors and Delegates by Church

Church	Pastors	Delegates
Alpena	Richard George	Mel Jones, Brad McRoberts (R)
Bad Axe	David Castle, Jon Fruytier	Ashlee Mossner, Ryan McIntosh, Arick Schweitzer (R)
Breckenridge, Porter	Ronald Frederick	Tim Maier, Wanda Robertson (R)
Brighton, Green Oak	Karen Tucker	Glenn Euler, Marvin Green (R)
Clarkston, Waypoint	Christopher Horvath, Sharon Freed, Danette Meny	Brett Radlicki, Glen Moore, Kris Klassen Scott Bigger
Clio, New Covenant	Barry Briggs, Kandace Chadwell, Michael Back, Brandon Woods	Dave Hemingway, Jill Lutz, Neita Sudberry, Vicki Tracey, Janet Hausebeck (R), Matt Hyatt (R), Neil Richey (R)
Croswell (AFF)	Joel Webb	
Dansville	Stephen Emanuele	Heather Valley, Matt Valley (R)
Davison	Shane Bengry	Charlie Richards, Larry Baker, Lenny Bartles (R), Brent Taylor (R)
Durand, The Crossing	Lisa Lahring	John Matejewski, Deana Butts (R)
Elsie, Racy	John James	Nancy Smith, Julie Andrews (R)
Fenton, Benchmark	Anthony Chick	Carleen Draheim, Gay Long (R)
Flushing, Cornerstone	Kurtis Koffkey	Sarah Shuck, Barb Heintzman (R)
Flushing, Living Promise	Lyle Calkins	Mike Nahirnyj, George Heffner
Gaylord Family	Josh Angel	Jack Montgomery, Virgil Hughes (R)
Gladwin	Steve Decker	Annette Howe, Coral Beth Rowley (R), Rhonaca Jankoviak (R)
Grayling	Joshua Angel, Kelly Gallagher, Nicole Rockwell	Craig Cobb, Bob Strum, Dave Matthews, Vickie Hart, Loren Cobb (R), Ann Essmaker (R)
Hillman, Pleasant Valley	Mark Ryan	Karen Ryan, Rick Bigham
Kimball, Blue Water	Michael Alexander	Kris Irvine, Tim Owens, Denise Bishop (R), Bruce Alexander (R)
Lansing, Calvary FM Haitian	Ronald Brunache	Joel Charles



Pastors and Delegates by Church

Church	Pastors	Delegates
Lansing, Central	Joanna DeWolf, Erik Kreh	Nehemia Mmbumba, Kay Granskog, Heidi Sheehan
Lapeer	Bruce Lawton, Dale Bigger	Carolyn Miller, Mike Miller, Susan Lovelette (R), Nicholas Bailey (R)
Linden	John Price, J Michael Anderson	Dale Clements, Dennis Bridgeman
Mayville, Pleasant View	Nathanael Gwinn	Greg Stanislawski, Larry Coates (R)
Memphis	Under The Superintendents	Harold Cummings, Michael Hay (R)
Midland	Gene LeForge, Eric Neitzel, Scott Palmiter, Eric Wing	Linda Durfree, Jonathan Hamilton, Toby McGillis, Laura Bailey, Ben Wieber, Dan Goodell (R), Dawn Mack (R), Melanie Kienbaum (R)
Mt Morris, Resilient Hope	Chadwick Short	Brian Lindstrom, Lydia Short (R)
Owosso	William Moull, Jason Marsh	Tammy Pirochta, Jorae Frederick (R)
Oxford	Robert Johnson	Sandi Gillett, Gayann Reynolds (R)
Roscommon	David Stevens	Bernice McGillis, Tracy Keller (R)
Saginaw, First	Jason Evans	Courtney Wright, Rod Boys (R)
Sandusky, Countryside	Kyle Gerrild	Cathy Markey, Tim Torp, Bill Kiley (R)
Standish	Burton Kincaid	Fred Faust, Roy Barshaw (R)
West Branch, Ogemaw Hills	David Kurtz, Lisa Kurtz, Elizabeth Rohrer	Kay Frank, Zack Bedtelyon, Dustie Montbriand, John Jurgensen, Jason Colvin, Bruce Tyree (R), Arnie Schroeder (R)
Wheeler	Lyle McCoon	Barb Sanger, Dawn McCoon (R)
Williamston	Allen Berger, Sherri King	Daryn Cobb, Karen Lockwood, Denise Derke, Jeremy Killinger (R)
Wolverine	Stephen Evoy	Brian Nadeau, Debbie Burdick (R)





Conference Service

Patrick McNeal (E)

Bradley Older (E)

Retired Pastors

Roger Allen (E)
Lloyd R Ayres (E)
Joseph A Carpenter (E)
Roger Cleeton (E)
Donald F Hawkins (E)
Ralph H Funk (E)
Burton L Kincaid (E)
Beverly Maier (E)
David A Rupert (E)
Michael D Schneider (E)
Ray D Shinabarger (E)
Melvin W Stevenson (E)
James Thompson (E)
James Watt (E)
Tom Wilson (E)

Susan Alvera (E)
Randy J Bennett (E)
Paul A Castle (E)
Robert Daughenbaugh (E)
Charles E Husted (E)
Wilma Kasten (E)
Elden W Lee (E)
Robert L Marshall (E)
Wayne Russell (E)
John R Secord (E)
Faith Staneart (D)
Jerry Sutton (E)
Robert Tucker (E)
Raymond Watts (E)

Paul I Armstrong (E)
Darold D Boyd (E)
Keith Childerhose (E)
George Hansen (D)
Harvey N Fry (E)
Dale A Kessler (E)
Rod A Matthews (E)
Eddie Phillips (E)
Rick Schmidt (E)
Leslie J Sellers (E)
W Keith Staneart (E)
Glenn Teal (E)
John Vannest (E)
Fred W Wibert (E)

Denominational Service

Larry Mark Cross (E)
Brett D Heintzman (E)
Bryan Williams(E)
Tammy Williams (E)
Dale A Woods II (E)
Melvin Stevenson (E)
Eric Carlson (E)

FMWM – Asia
FMCUSA – Light + Life Communications
FMWM – Asia
FMWM– Asia
FMWM – Middle East
Hospital Chaplin
Hospital Chaplin

Released for Ministry Outside the Denomination

Amy Casteel (E)
Eric Casteel (E)
Joseph Cunningham (E)
Richard Freed (E)
Steven Thompson (E)
Larry Wittock (E)
Bradley Button (E)
Phillip Hortop (E)
Bart Leu (E)

Serving another denomination
Serving another denomination
Eureka College, Christian Church Disciples of Christ
One Mission Society
Serving another denomination
Serving another denomination
LRG Impact
Serving another denomination
Serving another denomination





Service Recognition

20 Years

Kelly Gallagher
J. Michael Anderson

25 Years

Joanna DeWolf
Ronald Frederick

30 Years

Dale Bigger
Larry Mark Cross

40 Years

Dale Woods

Memorials

With Gratitude We Remember...

Rev. Herman Yost

May 27, 1932 – June 11, 2024

Rev. Elden Lee

April 21, 1944 – November 30, 2024





Miscellaneous Recommendations from the Secretary

As relates to attendance:

1. That roll call be taken at the beginning of conference business Friday and Saturday by distributing a roster of clergy and lay or reserve delegates. Each individual will mark present.
2. That those members who are serving the conference on special duty at the time of roll be marked present if they inform the secretary of such duty.

As relates to motions, reports, nominations, and voting:

1. That all motions made from the floor be written on standard size 8 ½" x 11" paper, signed and handed to the secretary immediately following action of said motion.
2. That those requesting time to address the Conference Body be limited to five minutes each.
3. That those speaking to motions be limited to three minutes each.
4. That no nominees for positions be accepted from the floor given that all pastors and delegates were provided opportunity to submit names in writing or electronically, and that there exists a Conference Nominating Committee to process potential nominees.
5. The Conference Board of Administration approved the use of electronic voting for the purpose of handling the Miscellaneous Recommendations, Standard Recommendations, and election of Leadership Roles in preparation for Annual Conference.
6. That Karen Burt is the head teller and will select tellers and ballot counters.

As relates to the Superintendents and Board of Administration:

1. That the Conference Superintendents be ex-officio members of all committees
2. That any unfinished business of the Conference be referred to the Board of Administration with the power to act
3. That the Annual Conference Minutes be approved by the Board of Administration.

As relates to Conference schedule:

1. That the following is the agenda for conference business.

3:00 pm– Call to Order, Conference Vote for New Conference and Discussion, BOA Report
3:30 pm– State of the Work
4:00 pm– MEG/MAC
4:40 pm– Awards, Memorials
5:00 pm– Appointments, Next Steps
2. That when we adjourn, we do so to meet at the call of the Chair.





Motion To Form a New Michigan Conference:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

- 1. That the dissolution of East Michigan Conference be and is hereby approved;*
- 2. That the current BOA continue to serve for the purpose of winding down the affairs of the East Michigan Conference, complying with all applicable dissolution provisions of the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act and the 2023 Free Methodist Book of Discipline, and, on or before July 1, 2026, transferring to the soon-to-be-formed Michigan conference (“New Michigan Conference”) all of East Michigan Conference’s net assets (after all legal debts are paid or adequate provision for the same has been made); and*
- 3. That the current East Michigan Conference BOA is approved to elect two persons, one clergy and one lay, to serve as representatives from East Michigan Conference on a pre-incorporation board of the New Michigan Conference, together with representatives of the other Michigan conferences, to make such decisions as deemed by such interim board to be in the best interest of establishing the New Michigan Conference as a fresh and faithful expression of The Free Methodist Church USA’s mission and ministries in the State of Michigan.*





Conference Board of Administration (BOA)

Dale Woods, Superintendent Chair
Joanna DeWolf, Ex-Officio Superintendent
Charles Toy, Ex-Officio

Jeff Ford, Ex-Officio Superintendent
Karen Burt, Ex-Officio Finance Director
Brandon Woods, Conference Secretary

Clergy:

Term to Dec. 2025: Bev Maier
Term to Dec. 2025: Bruce Lawton
Term to 2026: Gene LeForge
Term to 2027: Shane Bengry

Lay:

Term to Dec. 2025: Christine Koffkey
Term to Dec. 2025: Dave Lehman
Term to 2026: Sheryl Moore
Term to 2027: Mark Lewis

Ministerial Education and Guidance Board (MEG)

Joanna DeWolf, Superintendent Chair

Beth Miller, MEG Assistant

Clergy:

Term to Dec. 2025: Kyle Gerrild
Term to 2026: Michael Alexander
Term to 2027: Lisa Lahring

Lay:

Term to Dec. 2025: Kelli Page
Term to 2026: Jim Barnhart
Term to 2027: Kay Granskog

Ministerial Appointments Committee (MAC)

Kaye Kolde, Chair Bishop

Jeff Ford, Superintendent; Chair

Clergy:

Term to 2026: Brett Heintzman

Lay:

Term to 2026: Karen Lockwood
Term to 2027: Jim Barnhart

Nominating Committee

BOA Clergy: Bev Maier (2025)
MEG/MAC Clergy: Kyle Gerrild (2025)
AC Clergy: David Castle (2027)

Lay: Sheryl Moore (2026)
Lay: MEG/MAC action item
Lay: Barb Heintzman (2027)



The Board of Administration (BOA) of the East Michigan Conference (EMC) functions as the Executive Committee of the Conference between Annual Conference Sessions. It oversees administrative responsibilities and addresses matters delegated by the conference body, all in alignment with the *Book of Discipline*.

Throughout the 2024–2025 Conference Year, the BOA met nine times via a combination of in-person and Zoom meetings. Prior to each meeting, agendas and supporting materials were distributed to members. Meetings began with prayer, followed by approval of previous minutes and any electronic actions taken since the last session. The remaining time was devoted to informational reports, study topics, and actionable items.

Key Areas of Focus and Action:

Annual Audit:

- Received and approved the 2024 EMC Financial Review conducted by Lewis & Knopf, CPA. A full audit was not required due to the closure of the Expansion Loan Fund.

Conference Budget and Allocations for 2025:

- Approved revisions to the Conference Budget and finalized Annual Church Contributions.

Property Sales and Management:

- Approved the sale of vacant land owned by Gaylord FMC and the sale of 10 acres owned by Blue Water FMC.
- Approved and completed the sale of the Perry property.
- Received full payoff of the Vision Loan for the Pontiac property.

Insurance & Liability:

- Approved the 2025 insurance renewal plans for BCN and BCBSM.
- Verified incorporation status and property insurance coverage for all local churches.

Church Societies and Ministries:

- Closed Snover, Faith FMC (effective April 27, 2025).
- Approved a \$9,980 emergency loan for Racy FMC.
- Received full ELF loan payoffs from The Crossing FMC and Green Oak FMC.
- Allocated \$125,000 to Covenant Hills Camp for deferred maintenance.
- Approved hiring of a new Executive Director for Covenant Hills Camp and endorsed the transfer of finances to be operated at the camp.
- Discussed Hemans and Alpena Camps to become independent 501(c)(3) organizations.

Expansion Loan Fund (ELF) and Vision Fund:

- Closed all accounts related to ELF Investors, ELF Loans, and Vision Investor Funds.
- Transferred ELF Loans to the Free Methodist Foundation (FMF), with the Conference co-signing Promissory Notes and accepting liability in case of church default.



Expansion Loan Fund (ELF) and Vision Fund (Continued):

- Transferred 73% of ELF and Vision Investor Funds to FMF; the remaining 27% was redeemed by account holders.
- Approved the BOA Task Force recommendation and calculation to distribute ELF proceeds to EMC churches to be used for capital debt reduction or future capital projects.

Partnering Strong:

- Maintained partnership with FM Financial Services.
- Continued training and coaching pastors and leaders in developing a disciple making program for their church.
- Facilitated Church Development Network Encounter Weekend for leaders.
- Hosted EMC Prayer Days.
- Provided financial support for Women Pastor's Retreat.
- Organized "Fun, Food, and Fellowship" events for pastors and spouses.
- The Leadership Care Team held monthly check-ins with Elders for encouragement and prayer.
- The Superintendent Team visited many EMC churches, with Superintendent Jeff Ford meeting personally with several pastors and leadership teams.

Annual Conference:

- Approved the Annual Tri-Conference to be held June 20–21, 2025, at The Arbor Church.
- Reviewed and approved the following: Miscellaneous Recommendations from the Secretary, Policy & Procedure Manual, MEG/MAC Recommendations, and the continuation of all EMC Board and Committee positions through December 31, 2025.
- Meeting with all 3 Michigan Conferences to consider a New Michigan Conference.
- Hosted regional "Pie Group" meetings to inform and discuss this consideration.
- Approved a motion to present the New Michigan Conference proposal to the conference body for a vote.
- Appointed Gene LeForge (Clergy) and Charles Toy (Lay) to represent EMC on the New Conference BOA (if New Conference approved).

The Board of Administration has worked prayerfully and diligently to strengthen the financial health and operational practices of the East Michigan Conference. We remain grateful for God's ongoing guidance and provision throughout the 2024–2025 conference year.

Dale Woods, Superintendent Chair



Ministerial Education and Guidance Board Recommendations

Bishop Kaye Kolde, the Board of Ministerial Education and Guidance recommends:

1. That the following persons be received as **Conference Ministerial Candidates**:

Kaylee Grimshaw Britany Miller Nathanael Gwinn Rick Vinton

3. That the following persons be continued as **Conference Ministerial Candidates**:

	Year		Year
Ronald Brunache	2021	Brandon Woods	2016
Jason Marsh	2023		

4. That the following persons be discontinued as **Conference Ministerial Candidates**:

Neal Warren _____

5. That the following persons be **admitted into full membership and ordained elder**:

John Atanda Mmbumba (E) _____ Eric Carlson (E) _____
Joel Webb (E) _____

6. That the following persons be given a **certificate of standing with view to transfer**:

Name	CMC/Deacon/Elder	Conference/Denomination
Emma Delacourt	Elder	Wabash Conf.
Shawn Delacourt	Elder	Wabash Conf.
Rod Mathews	Elder	Wabash Conf.
Doloris Grays-Smith	Elder	Acts 12:24 Conf.

7. That the following persons **credentials be voluntarily deposited in the conference office**:

Daniel Balderman _____ John Waldo _____

8. That the following persons have voluntarily **withdrawn from the conference and the denomination**:

Linda Waldo _____

9. That the following persons **continue to be located**:

James H Dennings (E) Clio, New Covenant _____
Charles Hubbert (E) Clarkston, Waypoint _____
Ryan Leininger (E) Clarkston, Waypoint _____

10. The Board of Ministerial Education and Guidance reviewed and affirmed the character of the located deacons and located elders (with the exception of N/A)

11. The Ministerial Education and Guidance Board has considered the character and performance of all ordained ministers and affirms the integrity and Christian discipleship of the ministerial members of the conference (with the exception of N/A).

[illegible]

[illegible]

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ELEVATING MISSION | EMPOWERING CHURCHES
EAST MICHIGAN CONFERENCE