

March 29, 2017

Dear Grand Rapids District Laity,

Soon the United Methodist Church MI Annual Conferences will hold its 2nd joint meeting at the Grand Traverse Conference Center. In addition to the work of the church, delegates will hear about the challenges and hopes of what is planned and unplanned for the new MI Conference. The Annual Conference will vote on the proposal that could make the current 12 districts become 9. Bishop Bard will make the final decision on the boundaries of the new districts. It's hard to imagine all the pieces of this puzzle. I'm thankful for the work of the Design Team to sort this out.

On June 1st, Annual Conference will open with worship at 10:00am. In the afternoon, the Laity Orientation will be held from 2:00-4:00pm. Please register and find more information at <http://2017.michiganumc.org>.

The new MI Conference Board of Laity (BOL) has reconvened recently. The BOL includes representatives of organized lay groups of the church. A priority is to create a coordinated calendar for efficient and effective planning throughout the state. We will encourage and support ministry of the laity. More information can be found in ***The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church—2016. ¶ 631. Conference Board of Laity.***

In April, I'll introduce you to ¶4 – legislation the worldwide United Methodist Church is voting on at Annual Conferences.

Laity, thanks again for all you do. Together we are making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Godspeed,

Suzanne Hewitt
Lay Leader
Grand Rapids District
suzmckhew@att.net
616/361.9565