



# INFORMATION BOOKLET

# WELCOME TO THE 2020 INDIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

This year's Annual Conference is on track to perhaps be one of our most unique. And yet, it will contain many of the same elements to which we are accustomed—a time for worship, celebration, reflection, doing mission and collaborating on the business of the Church.



The 2020 Annual Conference theme is Do No Harm. Do Good. Stay in Love with God. During this time of uncertainty in our world and in our denomination, my prayer is that we follow John Wesley's three simple rules as we commune with one another, even those with whom we may disagree.

As we do each year during Annual Conference, we will celebrate the lives and ministries of those who have joined the Church Triumphant. It is also our joy to celebrate with those who have answered God's call to serve the Church as licensed, commissioned, and ordained clergypersons recognizing the Movement of The United Methodist Church.

We will also live out our call to be missional in communities around Indiana and the world during our annual Missional Offerings. This year, monies raised will go toward Children Matter Most, an initiative near and dear to my heart as it actively impacts the vulnerable in our midst, Stuff the Bus, an offering to help schools around Indiana purchase necessary supplies, and the Cabinet Emergency Fund, which will be used to provide clergy care to those in need.

I encourage you to read carefully through the enclosed material as you prepare for our time together. May you come with eager anticipation of all that God is going to do in our midst. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Be encouraged,

Bishop Julius C. Trimble  
Resident Bishop  
Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church

# WHAT TO EXPECT

As we live into new guidelines brought about by COVID-19, the Sessions Team has made adaptive changes to their original plans. It is important that we provide safety to our members, while still doing the essential work of the Church.

## VIRTUAL MEETINGS

To reduce the number of in-person gatherings, the 2020 Annual Conference sessions will be mostly virtual and shall convene as described below. It will be essential that all members connect and follow the instructions as given.

The Clergy Session, Laity Session, and Spouses of Clergy Gathering will be virtual meetings. Individual emails will be sent out with login information to those groups. The Annual Conference plenary session on August 15 will be a hybrid meeting, with three options to: join from home virtually, join one of 10 regional local churches, or be present at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion. While **we encourage our members to join from the safety of their homes**, there will be a limited number of seats available at regional local churches and Indiana Wesleyan University, on a first-come basis via your online registration. The October 10 plenary session/worship service will be virtual.

- **July 11, 11am ET/10am CT** - Virtual Spouses of Clergy Gathering
- **July 18, 10am ET/9am CT** - Virtual Clergy Session
- **July 25, 10am ET/9am CT, replayed at 6pm ET/5pm CT** - Virtual Laity Session
- **\*August 15, 9:30am-12noon ET/8:30-11am CT** - Annual Conference Plenary Session 1
- **August 15, 2pm ET/1pm CT**- Virtual Celebration of Ministry Worship Service
- **October 10, 9:30am ET/8:30am CT** - Virtual Annual Conference Plenary Session 2
- **October 10, 11am ET/10am CT**- Virtual Celebration of Life Worship Service

\*August 15, 2020: Members of Annual Conference must indicate, at the time of registration, their choice as to how they shall connect/participate/attend on August 15.

**Choice 1** - I will connect from home.

**Choice 2** - I will connect by attending one of the 10 regional sites listed below:

- Auburn First UMC, Auburn
- Carmel UMC, Carmel
- Christ UMC, Indianapolis
- College Avenue UMC, Muncie
- Cross Wind UMC, Logansport
- LaPorte First UMC, LaPorte
- Memorial UMC, Terre Haute
- Newburgh UMC, Newburgh
- Seymour First UMC, Seymour
- Wesley Chapel, Floyds Knobs

**Choice 3** - I plan to travel and attend the session at IWU.

## WHO CAN ATTEND?

Because of safety concerns, the regional locations and Indiana Wesleyan University will only be open to voting members. Only invited guests and participants may attend the virtual worship services.

Guests are welcome to view the livestream sessions on August 15 and October 10. Members of Annual Conference are encouraged to participate virtually at 2pm ET/1pm CT on August 15 for the Celebration of Ministry Worship and at 11am ET/10am CT on October 10 for the Celebration of Life Worship.

## SAFETY CONCERNS

Masks are required at all regional locations and Indiana Wesleyan University.

If you register to participate at a regional site or at IWU, it is requested that before leaving home on August 15 you check for the following symptoms and, if you have any of the following symptoms, connect from home.

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

This year, we will not offer communion, baptisms, meals, childcare or plated offerings at the regional locations or Indiana Wesleyan University.

## REGISTRATION

Voting members will need to register for the July 18 Clergy Session and the August 15 and October 10 plenary sessions separately.

**July 11 Spouses of Clergy Gathering** - registration will be open from June 11 - July 10.

**July 18 Clergy Session** - registration will be open from June 15 - July 6.

**August 15 Annual Conference Session** - registration will be open from June 15 - July 31.

**October 10 Annual Conference Session** - registration will be open from August 29 - September 25.

There is no need to register for the Laity Session as generic login information will be sent directly to you.

There will be **NO walk-ins** accepted at Indiana Wesleyan University or the regional locations.

## HOW DO I PREPARE?

All presentations will be recorded and on our website by August 1. (<https://www.inumc.org/annual-conference/ac-information/>) It is essential and expected that all members watch these and read the written reports prior to August 15 as presentations will not be repeated that day. If you have questions or concerns regarding a report or presentation, send it to [ac.questions@inumc.org](mailto:ac.questions@inumc.org) no later than five days prior to the session and the presenters will respond during the plenary session for all to hear.

## VOTING

Online voting credentials will be sent to registered voting members a few days prior to the Clergy Session and the August 15 and October 10 Plenary Sessions. You can vote from any electronic device with an internet browser - computer, tablet, or smart phone.



# AGENDA

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

- 9:30 AM** Plenary Session 1  
(Rules and Structure, Consent Calendar, Nominations, Lay Leader Address, United Methodist Foundation of IN Election, Children Matter Most, Trustees, Archives and History, Pension and Health Benefits, Boy Scouts, Emerging Leaders, Blue Ribbon Task Team, Resolutions, Church Charters, 2021 Budget Presentation)
- 12:00 PM** Break
- 2:00 PM** Retiring Clergy Recognition  
Celebration of Ministry Worship Service

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

- 9:30 AM** Plenary Session 2  
(Children Matter Most, Celebrating Legacy Churches, 2021 Budget Adoption)
- 11:00 AM** Celebration of Life Worship Service

\* All times listed are Eastern Standard Time  
\*Schedule details are subject to change





# REGISTRATION

Voting members will need to register for the July 18 Clergy Session and the August 15 and October 10 plenary sessions separately.

## AUGUST 15 SESSION

Online registration will be open June 15-July 31. There are three options for voting members to consider:

### Connect from home

#### Gather at one of 10 regional sites

- Auburn First UMC, Auburn
- Carmel UMC, Carmel
- Christ UMC, Indianapolis
- College Avenue UMC, Muncie
- Cross Wind UMC, Logansport
- LaPorte First UMC, LaPorte
- Memorial UMC, Terre Haute
- Newburgh UMC, Newburgh
- Seymour First UMC, Seymour
- Wesley Chapel, Floyds Knobs

#### Travel to Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion

To ensure social distancing, we will limit the number of persons at each site. Attendance at regional sites and Indiana Wesleyan University is open to pre-registered voting members only on a first-come basis. Anyone electing to gather in-person will be required to wear a facemask. There will be **NO** walk-ins at any of the sites.

## OCTOBER 10 SESSION

Online registration will be open August 29-September 25. This will be a virtual session for everyone, with the exception of a few essential persons for presentations and worship.

## ONSITE REGISTRATION

There will be **NO** onsite registration this year.

## REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee has been waived this year.

Voting lay members should remain the same for both sessions. If there is a change from your 2019 Charge Conference form, the senior pastor of the church should email Lisa Timmerman ([lisa.timmerman@inumc.org](mailto:lisa.timmerman@inumc.org)) with all changes in lay members. Include the person to remove, the person to add, their mailing address, email address and phone number.

## GUESTS

Because we are limiting the number of persons at each site, we are asking guests to watch the livestream from their homes.

[www.inumc.org/annual-conference/registration](http://www.inumc.org/annual-conference/registration)

For questions, call 317-924-1321.



# MISSIONAL OFFERINGS

We will be accepting electronic donations during our Annual Conference Sessions.

## You may donate in a variety of ways:

- Text the word "missional" to give to Children Matter Most, "stuffbus" to give to the Stuff the Bus offering, or "clergycare" to give to the Cabinet Emergency Fund and the amount of your donation to 855-389-1555.
- Give online through Securegive at <https://app.securegive.com/INUMC/-missional-offering>. (Once you log into this site, you can select between the three options below.)

## STUFF THE BUS

The offering will be accepted now through August 22. This year we had hoped to "stuff the bus" with school supplies for the students and teachers of Marion CommUNITY Schools. This school, like some others in our state, has a large number of students who have difficulty obtaining the school supplies they need due to their family's financial position. However, due to COVID-19, our plans have changed. To avoid physically handling school supplies for the Stuff the Bus project, we will accept online donations that will be distributed to the schools to purchase the needed supplies. We are kicking off the donation period now and will close it 7 days following the August 15 Annual Conference Session, August 22.

While supporting the Marion CommUNITY Schools was originally planned because of its proximity to Indiana Wesleyan University, we also recognize there are needs statewide. In response, thirty percent of the donations will go to Marion CommUNITY Schools with the remaining seventy percent divided equally among the 10 districts of the Indiana Conference. Each district ops team will determine which school or schools will receive a donation for the purchase of school supplies.

## CHILDREN MATTER MOST


The offering is being accepted now through October 10 with donations going to Children's Outreach Ministries, Indiana Conference Children's Homes, and camp scholarships.


"'Allow the children to come to me,' Jesus said. 'Don't forbid them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like these children.' Then he blessed the children and went away from there." Matthew 19:13-15

The number of children in Indiana that are food insecure, in poverty and in foster care is startling. We believe it is our job, our responsibility, and our calling to offer hope and to bless all children. That's why Bishop Trimble launched the Children Matter Most initiative in 2020.

## CABINET EMERGENCY FUND

This fund assists clergy and their families when in need. Donations are being accepted now.



 2020 Indiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church