

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS TEAM

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2  
3 Preparing for the 2023 Annual Conference Session has required flexibility, faith, and facts. The  
4 team has been diligent in their work believing God will guide us. There are several items that need  
5 to be addressed as we plan for the session, some we know, and some come as surprises.

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7 The evaluations for the 2022 Annual Conference Session were received and studied. They  
8 provided learnings that informed us in shaping the 2023 Session. A big thank you to those who  
9 submitted their thoughts.

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11 The 2022-2023 season is filled with challenges. Among the many are churches and individuals  
12 who have been led to disaffiliate with The United Methodist Church. We work to be faithful and fair  
13 as we discerned and identified members of Annual Conference Session.

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15 Indiana Wesleyan University did not renew the contract to meet on their campus. We did a search  
16 to make sure we could meet the expectations of lower housing costs as well provide meals and  
17 places for people to gather. Ball State University was able to host us in 2023. The number of  
18 petitions and resolutions are not known until 90 days before the session begins. And this year we  
19 waited for the Judicial Council to make a decision as to election of delegates to the General and  
20 Jurisdictional Conferences.

21  
22 God is Good! The team worked hard and the 2023 Annual Conference Session shall be a place  
23 and time we can be together and experience the wonder of God among us. We look forward in  
24 faith, praying forward, trusting God to lead us. There is no turning back when we follow where God  
25 through Jesus leads. We ask that all of us look forward with faith, facing the challenges with prayer,  
26 being flexible as we learn another place to be and demonstrate faithfulness as we adjust to the  
27 changes that surround us.

28  
29 There will be worship.

30 There will be plenary sessions to do our business.

31 There will be ice cream and times to be in community together.

32 There will be times of prayer.

33 There will be teaching moments.

34 There will be a mission challenge.

35 We will honor retirees, remembering those who have entered into eternal rest, and ordain and  
36 commission new leaders.

37  
38 We are grateful for Bishop Trimble and his leadership and encouragement.

39 We are grateful for Larry Whitehead who guides us.

40 We are grateful for Ruth Ellen Needler for her administrative talents and wisdom. Her staff is  
41 amazing!

42 We are grateful for Serena Acker and the communications team.

43 We are grateful to the Session Team members who volunteer their time sharing their skills and  
44 support each other. Thank you, team!

45  
46 See you in June!

47  
48 Cindy Reynolds, Annual Conference Team Chair