

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS TEAM

Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

This scripture has guided our work and ministry as we plan for the 2024 Annual Conference Session. We believe God has been and is with us. God's presence gives us hope as we continually seek to be faithful to our mission. We trust the power of the Holy Spirit, and that God is faithful, so we are filled with joy. The theme for this year is "Cultivate Joy!"

We invite you to celebrate with us as we gather in June 2024. Together, we shall cultivate joy.

Why can I say we are filled with hope, joy, and invite you to celebrate with us? There are many blessings I could share, but I will lift up only a couple of items.

Your evaluations from 2023 gave us insights into what works well and where we need to improve. Your participation in shaping the Annual Conference Session gives us joy and hope. Thank you for completing the evaluation, and I ask that you do so in 2024. We celebrate you!

We learned that Ball State University did not meet our needs and spent time in prayer and discernment of where we might gather in 2024. St. Luke's United Methodist Church agreed to partner with us and open their church facilities for the Annual Conference Session. This is the first time the United Methodist Church in Indiana has held their Annual Conference in a local church, though local churches were used before 1968. It gives us hope and joy to do the business of the Annual Conference in the spiritual setting of a local church. United Methodist congregations in Indiana are doing amazing work. We celebrate our local congregations!

We have been blessed with the ministry of Bishop Julius C. Trimble. He and First Lady Racelder Grandberry-Trimble have led and encouraged us to be faithful in ministry amid change and transition. Their faithfulness brings us joy and hope. We celebrate their ministry and wish them well as they retire.

There is so much to celebrate. God's call upon our lives continues to challenge and bless us. Together, we shall cultivate joy and seek to be faithful in our witness and mission for Jesus Christ.

In 2023-2024, the sessions team met eight times to plan and organize the 2024 Annual Conference Session. I want to thank every member of the team and the others who were recruited for their hard work. Together, we offer the 2024 Annual Conference Session, "Cultivate Joy." If you see these people, please say "thank you" and cultivate joy.

Team members and those who are giving leadership in specific areas:

Darlene White, Lynda Preston, Bishop Julius C. Trimble, Lan Wilson, Matt Wolf, Larry Whitehead, David Robinson, Amber Karkosky-Litten, Joe Johnson, Emily Krach, Barb Holcomb, Eric Burton-Krieger, Ann Thomas, Shannon Priddy, Serena Acker, Marcy Patrick, Harriett Wilkin, Andrew Scanlan-Holmes, Lore Blinn Gibson, Meg Jones, and Ruth Ellen Needler

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45 **Come celebrate and cultivate joy!**

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47 **Cindy Reynolds,**

48 **Annual Conference Session Chairperson**