

# THRIVE

MISSION: We are the spouses of the clergy of the Indiana United Methodist Church.

Our goal is to give our fellow spouses and their families support, encouragement, resources, and a place where they can be themselves and develop friendships. It is our hope that we can help each other find God's hope no matter what situation we are in, whether we are new to ministry or have many years behind us.

Our group is open to ALL INUMC clergy spouses (both male & female), no matter what point they are at in ministry. Our mission is to support spouses and families of the INUMC Clergy by encouraging personal discipleship and empowering them to foster authentic community through advocacy and fellowship.

2023 GOALS: During 2023 our team focused on "Praying Forward No Turning Back" by continuing to develop and deepen the relationships between spouses of clergy in working to create opportunities for connection as we focused on gathering together more - at the Annual Conference Spouse Gathering, at our in-person 3-day retreat in September and at a mini gathering in Nashville, IN.

## Thrive Retreat

Every year Thrive hosts a 3-day life giving retreat for spouses of clergy. The intended purpose of this retreat is to provide opportunities for spiritual growth, connectedness, and rest. Our 2023 Retreat was held on September 21st - 23rd at Drury Plaza Hotel in Indianapolis. Our theme was "The Chosen Stone" and the supporting scripture for our theme was 1 Peter 2:4-10. Shannon Stringer led the group in several sessions which included putting together a meaningful collect prayer, challenging self-doubt, and some journaling. Those in attendance enjoyed worship, prayer, communion, fellowship and fun together.

## Annual Conference Spouses of Clergy Gathering

The Thrive team hosted the Gathering of Spouses of Clergy at the 2023 INUMC Annual Conference. There were 30-40 spouses in attendance where they participated in some ice breakers, prayer, fellowship, and wonderful music led by worship leader and Thrive friend Amy Cox.

## Moving with a Missional Purpose

The Thrive team offered a breakout session for spouses at both sessions of Moving with a Missional purpose in 2023. This provided support, encouragement, and guidance to help spouses effectively transition into new appointments.

## 2024-2025 GOALS

In 2024-2025, Thrive plans to "Cultivate Joy" by continuing to provide opportunities for connection, growth, education, and support by hosting a Clergy Spouse gathering at Annual Conference and hosting an in-person 3-day retreat on September 19-21. Thrive also wants to work on increasing communication about our events through the INUMC website, Facebook, and conference communications to ensure all spouses of clergy are connected.

## NARRATIVE BUDGET

1 100% of our allocated conference funds go to supporting clergy spouse events that focus on creating  
2 relationships, empowering spouses to be mission minded in their churches and local communities and  
3 providing support during times of uncertainty and change.

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5 Lauren Ice

6 Chair