



Newly Ordained Deacon Mary Kristine Hagley shares a light moment with Bishop Deb. mic photo by Jeremy Africa

## Today's highlights

- 8:30 AM Legislative Committees
- 10:30 AM Cokesbury Closes  
Memorial Service
- 1:30 PM Corporate Session
- 2:15 PM Plenary
- 5:00 PM Adjourn

 **81° SUNNY!**

*“I will instruct  
you in the way  
you will go; I will  
counsel you with  
my eye upon you.”*

-Psalm 32:8 NRSV

## THE STORY DOESN'T END HERE

By Kay DeMoss, Senior Writer/Editor

EAST LANSING, Mich. (MIC) -- Every Annual Conference has a story. Every story has a beginning and an end. Such was true on Sunday afternoon when the Michigan Area celebrated its historic first Service of Commissioning and Ordination together. The occasion also marked the last time that Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey participated in ordaining leaders for The United Methodist Church.

During the course of the afternoon milestones in ministry were celebrated. See the MICConnect feature of June 15 for full details, including names:

- Elders Orders for two Detroit Conference clergy were recognized;
- 4 were commissioned for work as a Deacon (3 DAC; 1 WMC);
- 8 were commissioned for work as an Elder (5 DAC; 3 WMC);
- 1 DAC Deacon was ordained;
- 13 Elders were ordained (4 DAC; 9 WMC).

Bishop Deb, as in past years, washed the feet of the newly ordained. “Some of you may wonder why I take time to do that,” she reflected. “Let me tell you what it does for me. It reminds me I am always a servant. It is not about me. It is about serving God and about serving those God has called us to serve.”

Earlier, in her sermon, she challenged everyone to servanthood citing Mark 16:1-8: “We want Mark to finish the story. We don’t want to be left with an empty tomb and frightened followers. That’s too much unfinished business.” Then she added, “Mark leaves us exactly where he wanted to. He didn’t want to end the story for us. He wants us to live out that story in our lives.”





## WMC ENDORSES 2

By Kay DeMoss, Senior Writer/Editor



Bishop Deb congratulates Rev. Kennetha Bigham Tsai and Rev. Laurie Haller . Photo by Mark Doyal

By Kay DeMoss, Senior Writer/Editor

Time to vote for endorsement of episcopal nominees was included in Monday’s schedule for the West Michigan Conference. However, on Sunday night, a motion was made for a unanimous vote of acclamation for two nominees endorsed by the West Michigan and Detroit Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

After brief debate, the house passed the motion and by doing so endorsed the Rev. Laurie Haller and Rev. Kennetha Bigham Tsai in their efforts to be elected bishops of The United Methodist Church.

Their names had been placed in nomination by Nichea Ver Veer Guy, Chair of the West Michigan Delegation on behalf of the combined Michigan delegations. No additional names were offered from the floor.

Guy said of Kennetha as she placed her before the body, “Kennetha serves us as Lansing D.S. and serves the denomination on the Connectional Table Executive Committee. An alternate then delegate to the 2012 and 2016 General Conferences, she is a reconciler and empathetic listener.”

Kennetha’s remarked upon endorsement: “This is an experience of deep, deep gratitude and blessings for the welcome of my gifts. I will act with integrity, grace and wisdom for the good of the church in representing you.”

“A person of exceptional spiritual depth,” was how Nichea described Laurie in her nomination. Haller is Senior Pastor of Birmingham 1st UMC and has been a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences since 1996. She is a Trustee at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and served eight years as a director of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. “Laurie is a servant leader with a bold authentic call for saving souls.”

Following endorsement Haller told the conference, “All I want to say is thank you. I am a reflection of who you are.” Bishop Deb then reminded the Conference, “I hope this is more than just a vote. I hope you are really embracing them whatever happens, for they are putting their lives on the line.”

Laurie Haller and Kennetha Bigham Tsai will be among 12 others to be considered for episcopal election at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference in Peoria, IL July 13-16, 2016.

## DAC SAYS GOODBYE



Following the motion to adjourn the combined session of the Detroit and West Michigan Annual Conferences. Rev. Marsha Woolley led members in the song *Make new friends but keep the old ... The more we get together the happier we'll be ... and There's been a sweet, sweet spirit in this place.* Photo by Jeremy Africa

## SWEET TWEET O'THE DAY



Ben Bower @PastorBenBower  
Get pumped! #Clergy #MIUMC16

7h



bb2ukbugs