



Bishop Deb, assisted by Clergy Assistant Rev. Melanie Carey, plays a final time for her Episcopal Area. mic photo by John Woodring

What to do next

- Share *Daily News* with your congregation by printing and posting or emailing.
- Go to Vimeo.com and search for MIUMC to show videos from our week together.
- Put into action what you have learned with your mission teams.

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“Christ has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit..”

-2 Corinthians 3:5 NRSV

ENDING ON A HIGH NOTE

By Kay DeMoss, Senior Writer/Editor

EAST LANSING, Mich. (MIC) --Following 6 days of Michigan Area Annual Conference, the historic first time the two Michigan annual conferences shared life under one roof, the West Michigan Annual Conference ended Monday afternoon, June 13, making beautiful music.

The final hours together wrapped up a short legislative calendar.

- condemned indiscriminate stereotyping of Muslims;
- pledged to long-term solutions for Flint water crisis;
- denounced idolatry of hand-guns and rapid-fire weapons;
- work to keep WMC churches and ministries gun-free;
- advocate for restorative justice;
- commit to Holy Conferencing for witness of authentic unity;
- removed rule binding WMC payment of 100% of World Service Apportionment;
- passed a 2017 budget as printed.

With a prayer by Rev. Dean Prentice, the Conference said goodbye to a virtuoso of an episcopal leader.

After adjournment, Bishop Deb asked if she could play one last piece for The West Michigan Conference. “This is my offering, my hope, my dream and my prayer for you,” she said. Then concludes with her fingers on the keys: *Bind us together, Lord, with cords that can never be broken. Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with love.*

Wrap Up



DISCIPLES
Made in Michigan

A NEW CHAPTER

By Kay DeMoss, Senior Writer/Editor

Another new chapter in the life of United Methodists in Michigan occurred Sunday morning. The Detroit and West Michigan Annual Conferences have welcomed Superintendents from the “other side” as guests in recent years. This was the first time the Full Michigan Cabinet came to the stage as a team.

The Rev. Anita Hahn, Superintendent of the Grand Traverse District, shared a report on behalf of the Cabinet. She



Cabinet Deans Rev. Elbert Dulworth and Rev. Anita Hahn .
Photo by John Woodring

began by noting how the Detroit and West Michigan Conferences have moved beyond “serious dating” and are “making life together work toward eventual marriage.” She observed, “Now we all need to let go so God can fully fill our hands.”

Acknowledging that each District “runs a little different,” Hahn

then listed six things “solid on our hearts that we are passionate about”: 1) building relationships with pastors and churches; 2) to be a companion that guides, leads, and loves; 3) offering training that equips and empowers local congregations; 4) providing conference forms that create solid ground and solid questions; 5) the love of young adults and their empowerment for leadership; and 6) the empowerment of clergy to use the gifts God has given. She concluded her report saying, “I pray you have intentional conversations and listen to one another’s hearts.”

Hello and Goodbyes were plenty: Rev. Melanie Lee Carey left her role as Assistant to the Bishop and was thanked by Bishop Deb and Genie Bank, chair of the Area Episcopacy Committee; Rev. John Boley was welcomed to A2B and Rev. Dwayne Bagley was greeted as the new Superintendent for the Kalamazoo District, following Boley; Rev. Dr. Tara Sutton moved from leadership of the Crossroads District and Rev. John Hice comes to the office in Flint; Rev. Jeff Maxwell retires and Rev. David Kim comes on the Saginaw Bay District.

MI AREA GIVES BIG

Some info that might be of interest from the new North Central Jurisdiction Mission Advocate, Stephen Quigg: “Congratulations to the Detroit Annual Conference for giving well over \$1 million to missions through The Advance in 2015. An even bigger shout-out goes to the West Michigan Conference which was the conference with the highest percentage of churches giving to The Advance (83%) and the highest per capita giving (\$19.20) in the North Central Jurisdiction. Well done, New Michigan Conference, very well done indeed!!”



Keeton Bigham Tsai pours water in memory of those departed from the Michigan Area UMC in 2016
Photo by John Woodring



THANKS FOR A GREAT WEEK!

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