

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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September 11, 2020

Sisters, Brothers, and Siblings,

Greetings to you on behalf of the Annual Meeting Planning Team!

Who would have known a global pandemic would be something we'd be navigating this year? Seriously, if any single one among us knew, please contact me because I have a bunch of questions!

I'm writing to officially announce and invite you to the **55th Annual Meeting of the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ** and, as a result of the aforementioned pandemic, alert you to a few changes for this year.

Due to my affliction with a combination of Pandemic Brain and low-grade General Disorganization, I neglected to announce the meeting within the time stated in the bylaws to meet around our usual time. Thankfully, the Planning Team is making adjustments and the Board of Directors has approved the new date for our Annual Meeting this year, which is **Saturday, November 14th**. That allows the timing of this letter to meet the requirements in the bylaws.

As you update your calendars, you'll also notice the Annual Meeting is scheduled for one day and not the typical two days. Because of continued efforts to prioritize everyone's safety and wellness, we're taking the precaution many other UCC Conferences and the National Setting have taken and will be **moving our meeting online**. While this certainly cannot be the same kind of meeting we've had in the past, bumping into folk from different parts of the state as we reunite, the Planning Team is eager to use this opportunity to highlight other aspects of this Conference we've all come to know and love.

Because we won't have to carve out time for travel to or move from space-to-space within a physical location, we're able to structure the online version in a shorter span *without* losing the essential elements needed to fulfill the Annual Meeting's requirements. We believe this will allow us to literally connect in ways we haven't yet known we could because we've never needed to until now.

More details as they emerge, so please continue to watch Conference communications and/or the website for the latest information. As all of that unfolds, I also invite you to hold our wonderful staff, the Planning Team, and the whole Conference in your prayers as they and we exercise our trust in God to make a way for us in this bizarre wilderness.

Wild (and appropriately spaced) Blessings!

Rev. Phiwa Langeni

Moderator, Michigan Conference UCC

Founding Pastor, Salus Center UCC – Lansing

Ambassador for Innovation & Engagement, UCC National Setting