



Today's highlights

- 8:00 AM Worship-Scott Chrostek
- **Please note time change!**
9:15 AM Plenary Session/Vote #2
- Teaching Session-Jorge Acevedo
- 1:30 PM Plenary Session
- 3:45 PM Corporate Session
- 4:30 PM Mission & Ministries Panel Discussions
- 7:00PM Plenary Session



"...Teach them all I have commanded you."

-Matthew 28:20

GOD LEADS US FORWARD

ADRIAN, Mich. (MIC) — “What we will be has not yet been revealed.” During opening worship Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey repeatedly reassured God’s people with those words from 1 John. Her sermon anticipated the vote to create a single Michigan Annual Conference.

The past was honored as we remembered the lives of 32 saints gone home to glory. The present was acknowledged as Bishop Deb confessed in her sermon, “The last go round was painful but the good that came out of it was an almost organic continuation of the conferences coming together anyway.” The future was anticipated with excitement in the words of the Prayer of Thanksgiving, “We offer ourselves as gospel-claimers, hope-bearers, and justice-seekers.”

Bishop Deb invited the congregation into her recent discovery of an old jewelry box from her childhood. Of particular interest was a stack of old family photos: “I could look at those photographs and see a hint of the adults my brothers and sisters were to become,” she said.

“This is appropriate to where we are now as West Michigan and Detroit annual conferences,” she continued. The Bishop repeated what she had said in the past: “When I came to Michigan the kind of change to bring two annual

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conferences together was absolutely not on my radar. But it was on many of yours.” She reports that after much prayer, listening, and questioning, she discerned a willingness to try again. “Is it time?” Her answer, “I believe it is.”

Given courage by the awareness of God’s love and presence, the Bishop challenged God’s people to live into the Discipline’s vision of an authentic church (Para. 202). She thanked pastors willing to retool with new ways of worship, hospitality, and programming. Members responded with affirmation when she said, “The world needs the church!”

Bishop Deb sent people forth with homework: “Take this question back to wherever you go: “How is God calling you to live faithfully and creatively in this time and in your place?” Our leader foresees missteps and loss— “We will want to return to Egypt, back where it’s comfortable ... but trust in the one God who leads us forward,” she concluded.



Saginaw Bay District Lay Leader Ralph Czerepinski hands in his first General Conference Delegate Ballot during opening plenary session.



#DAC15 SWEET TWEET



Chelsea Spyres @CSpyres · 6h

Up in the cheap seats but beyond blessed to be at #dac15! #visitors #behindthebar



View photo

LEAD GROUPS SHARE

Members, from Sault Ste. Marie to South Lyon, attended one of nine LEAD groups Thursday evening. LEAD is short for Legislation Exploration And Discussion. The groups debate and vote on General Conference petitions or Annual Conference resolutions. The outcome impacts voting on the conference floor. All LEAD groups also entered into dialogue around Resolution #1 (the creation of one conference in Michigan). Here are a few comments heard during the sessions. We have also included the replies of LEAD group facilitators in italics:

- Q: “Why were the two conferences set up this way in the first place?”
A: *“Good question ... look to Jerry DeVine for an answer.”*
- Q: “Does the West Conference realize that the East Conference outvotes them?”
A: *“Remember, the votes will be counted separately when the bags are opened at the Area Ministry Center on Wednesday, June 10th.”*
- Q: “Will the pension investments be the difference between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario with a floodgate opened that means loss of dollars for Detroit Conference pastors?”
A: *“In 2008 we found out we are not as far apart on pensions as we assumed.”*
- Q: “I am an oldie. I’m for it. If anybody has any questions, you have 3-4 years to deal with answers.”
A: *“Correct. If this vote is ‘yes,’ it cannot be undone.”*