

The Calvary Focus

MAY 2024

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General Conference, the highest legislative body in The United Methodist Church, is scheduled for April 23 through May 3, 2024. It will be held at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. Thus, I thought that it would be appropriate to provide an overview, yes this is an overview, because of the timing and ramifications of this conference.

General Conference usually convenes once every four years to determine the denomination's future direction. Between six hundred and one thousand delegates are elected by their annual conferences—half clergy and half laity. In addition, up to ten delegates are sent by Methodist denominations with whom The United Methodist Church has a concordat (two each from Methodist Church of Mexico, Methodist Church of Puerto Rico, Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas, and four from the Methodist Church of Great Britain).

At General Conference, these delegates gather from all over the world to consider revisions to church law and the official ritual of the church, adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues, and elect officers for several churchwide positions. The General Conference also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs for the next four years.

The primary source of legislation is petitions submitted before the General Conference. A petition is a request to the General Conference for official action, whether a change in policy or law, an amendment to the Constitution, a revision in the official ritual, or approval of a statement on a social issue. Any United Methodist layperson or clergy person, or any organization of The United Methodist Church may petition the General Conference.

All proposed legislation is translated into the official languages of General Conference, and all petitions received by the deadline are published in the Advance Daily Christian Advocate, distributed first to elected delegates, and also posted on the General Conference website.

It is also possible for delegates to present petitions directly to the General Conference, either as part of the work of the legislative groups or directly to the floor of the plenary session itself. For such petitions to be considered by the plenary, they must have been received in writing by the conference secretary, translated into the four written languages of the General Conference, and distributed to all delegates at least twenty-four hours prior to the time they are up for consideration by the plenary.

A legislative committee votes to accept, accept with amendments, reject, or refer the various petitions. Every delegate serves on a legislative committee and spends the first week of General Conference focusing on the committee's assignments. These committees make it possible to review and provide recommendations on hundreds of petitions. Petitions approved by the legislative committee move on for consideration by the full body of delegates.

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If an approved proposal has no financial implications, seeks no change in the constitution and receives fewer than ten votes against it in committee, it goes on a “consent calendar.” The same is true with motions to refer, though these go onto a different list of items to make clear the intention is to refer rather than approve them. Consent calendar items are voted on as a bundle without further debate to conserve precious floor time in the plenary session. However, any twenty delegates may ask for an item on a consent calendar to be voted upon separately by the plenary session.

The rules approved for the General Conference guide the conference deliberations. Delegates use secure electronic devices to cast their secret ballots and to request recognition to address the assembly. Votes are not traceable to any specific delegate or delegation. Only the vote totals are recorded and reported.

A simple majority passes most motions. Constitutional changes require a two-thirds majority of the delegates present and voting and subsequent approval by two-thirds of those voting at annual conferences the following year.

My prayer is that these delegates sincerely seek the Lord’s guidance as they make decisions that will inevitably impact the future of the United Methodist Church. Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

ELKHART CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Celebrating
100 YEARS

1924 - 2024



God heals us and love us!!

- 11 Andrew Davis
- 13 Margaret Pettifer
- 14 Aaron Martin
- 21 Nicholas Underwood
- 25 Jack Shanholt
- 27 Abigail Johnson

I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, my anger has turned away from them.

Hosea 14:4

As a father holds his crying child to his cheek when he gets a vaccination or gets hurt, the child quits his crying. God does the same with us when we go through troubled times, when we are hurting, when we are crying because of pain. He holds us to His cheek to comfort us through the situation we are going through.



Bravo Café
May 18, 2024

The Ladies Go to Lunch group will be meeting on Saturday, May 18, at Bravo Café, 5424 Lincolnway East, Osceola . We will leave the church at 12:45 p.m. for a 1:00 p.m. lunch. All ladies are invited to attend. Please call the church office, 574-293-0783, if you are planning to attend. Come and bring a friend or relative. All ladies are welcome.



CHURCH LOCK UP
Jack Shanholt

ELKHART CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

SAVE THE DATES

SATURDAY **01** JUNE
2024

Community Celebration
4 pm to 7 pm

SUNDAY **02** JUNE
2024

Celebration Service
9:30 am



✧ ✧ ✧
Your photos are needed
For our 100-Year Anniversary Celebration

Please bring in any photos you have in the life of Calvary. All photos will be scanned and returned to you the same day. You may also send them electronically to office@elkhartcalvaryumc.org.



We are excited to announce that Calvary's Missions Team is on the move. They have plans to be allocating \$50 to Operation Classroom, \$50 to the INUMC Cabinet Emergency Fund, \$300 to UMCOR, \$300 to Church Community Services, \$300 to the Food Box, and \$300 to Elkhart Calvary Pre-school. If you would like to know more about any of these Missions projects, Pastor Paul would be more than happy to fill you in.

DEADLINE

Do not forget to mark your calendars. The June Focus deadline is Monday, May 20!!!



LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING

Bring in your loose change



Every 5th Sunday we will collect loose coins for missions

Scripture Reader Schedule:

May Schedule:

05/05/2024	Janet Dennison	John 15:9-17
05/12/2024	Deb Bledsoe	John 17:6-19
05/19/2024	Mona Gorsuch	Ezekiel 37:1-14
05/26/2024	Kristen Bujtas	Isaiah 6:1-8

June Schedule:

06/02/2024	Steve Basse	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18
06/09/2024	Jackie Mann	Psalms 138
06/16/2024	Janet Dennison	Psalms 20
06/23/2024	Deb Bledsoe	
06/30/2024	Mona Gorsuch	

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 19 is Pentecost Sunday when we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit and the gift of Christian unity. Also, as emphasis of the Holy Spirit, please remember to **WEAR RED** on Sunday, May 19.



There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions.

These painless screenings go beyond your regular checkup to identify dangerous plaque buildup or blockage, a major risk factor for stroke and heart disease. The screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor.

We are pleased to host Life Line Screening, who will be on site on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at Calvary United Methodist Church to conduct these valuable screenings.

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://llsa.social/HC>

Elkhart Calvary United Methodist Church
2222 West Indiana Ave.
Elkhart, IN 46516

Return Service Requested



Sharing the love of God through words and actions

**PLEASE KEEP OUR WORLD, OUR NATION, OUR CHURCH AND
THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN YOUR PRAYERS**



- Calvary's Website: www.elkhartcalvaryumc.org
- Calvary's Facebook Page: **Elkhart Calvary UMC**
- Prayer Request: elkhartcalvary.prayer@gmail.com

DONATE



- Donate to help Calvary Share the love of God through words and actions:
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/d45a1315-6f3e-4d20-980f-4187bbc0d6e0>