



## [Name] United Methodist Church 2023 Church Conference

### Agenda

**WELCOME** Pastor

**CALL TO ORDER** DS/Presiding Elder

**OPENING PRAYER** Lay Leader

**HYMN** "Many Gifts, One Spirit" (UMH #114) or a hymn choice by the church

**SCRIPTURE** Lay Leader

*(Choose one of the following passages or read both.)*

#### **1 Corinthians 12:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. (NRSV)

#### **Matthew 9: 10-12**

<sup>10</sup> And as he sat at dinner<sup>Ⓜ</sup> in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting<sup>Ⓜ</sup> with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' <sup>12</sup> But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.' (NRSV)

## MESSAGE

DS/Presiding Elder

*“I believe the tables of the gospels suggest God’s dream for us and they call us to become whole people who live in a healing and whole community. Our best parables are about inviting those in the highways and hedges to the table, about taking the last seat and putting others before us. . .Perhaps the most remembered scripture about the table is: ‘Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.’ The psalm suggests God is preparing the table and calls us to: ‘come to the table and be God’s table people even in the presence of hurt and division.”*  
*(Bishop Dan Schwerin during his State of the Church address at the 2023 NIC Annual Conference)*

## HOLY CONFERENCING

- How have you experienced God’s love and grace at a table?
- How do you extend Christ’s table in your life and through your mission and ministry?
- How do we become one body in Christ?

### Litany (Unison)

**We are called to be God’s table.**

**We gather as a beloved community**

**Blessed with a theology of abundance**

**To equip vital faith communities**

**That we would make disciples of Jesus Christ**

**For the transformation of the world.**

**First and foremost, we believe God is preparing this table and that collectively, we are at a moment in time that our prayer could be framed as, ‘by Your Spirit make us one in Christ that we may be one in ministry.’ This is, first, God’s table, a table of life in Christ as one body.**

*(Adapted from Bishop Dan Schwerin’s State of the Church address)*

**HYMN** “One Bread, One Body” (UMH #620) or a hymn/song selected by the church

## BUSINESS:

1. Leadership Nominations and Election
1. Clergy Compensation
2. Ministry Recommendations
3. Lay Servant Reports
4. Additional Business

**SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY COMMUNION** Hymnal pages 15-16

DS/Presiding Elder

*(The host pastor prepares the elements. Communion is served in accordance with the church’s practice.)*

**DISMISSAL AND BLESSING** Pastor