Michigan Conference UCC Mission, Vision, and Values Statements



<u>Mission</u>

The Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ (MC) brings churches closer together and closer to God, equipping pastors and congregational leaders through ministries of support, guidance, and leadership development.

<u>Vision</u>

The MC is known throughout the UCC for the health, vitality, and integrity of its ministerial leaders and congregations. The MC models faithful covenant, binding together the local faith communities in its care as they seek to interpret and heed the voice of the Holy Spirit as they live out God's love and justice.

<u>Values</u>

A Leadership-Cultivating Conference

The MC prioritizes creating a fertile, healthy environment for those discerning a call to, entering, and continuing in ministry. It embodies hospitality to pastors at every phase of the ministry lifespan. The MC recognizes that answering the call to **discipleship** is not an event, but a process, and not a path to be traveled alone.

A Responsive Conference

Congregations will know that, when they seek support, the MC is a place to which they can reach out for compassion, advice, encouragement, and resources. Congregations **trust** their MC leaders to listen for understanding and offer faithful help in times of need. The MC's leaders tend carefully to those relationships at all times, nurturing collegial connection among pastors and with the MC.

A Justice-Seeking Conference

Inspired by Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, the MC works tirelessly toward transformation and liberation. The MC lives out its theology in its **inclusive culture**. Its leaders come from a wide range of backgrounds and are committed to cultivating wholeness for all God's creation. The MC advances opportunities for renewal that embody God's love and justice.

A Relationship-Driven Conference

The MC works from and through meaningful relationships among individual leaders, congregations, and its wider network of peers and partners in the UCC and beyond. These relationships are characterized by **radical welcome**, always inviting more (people, communities, ideas) to join around the table and to discern the Holy Spirit's work.