

Michigan Conference United Women in Faith

8th Annual Celebration October 16 - 17, 2026

Hope United Methodist Church 26275 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield, MI 48076

Theme: "UNSTOPPABLE: Bold Together!"

Message: "The Boldness of Deborah"

**Friday, October 16, 2026 Registration 3:30 PM Leadership & Development Program 4:00 PM
Dinner 6:00 PM \$10 No charge to attend the program unless you join us for dinner.**

Rene Johnson, Social Action Coordinator, and Rev. Alice Fleming Townley will co-lead the presentation. Rev. Townley will focus on building capacity, confidence and connections for people of faith to impact justice-oriented policy and Rene Johnson will present "Roles for Social Change." Please join us for a very informative discussion about "Social Action" and how we can all get involved!

Friday, October 16, 2026 United Women in Faith Officer & Leadership Training 7: 00 PM

Saturday, October 17, 2026 8th Annual Celebration Registration 9:00 AM Program 9:30 AM

Rev. Cornelius Davis, Jr. is the current pastor of Scott Memorial United Methodist Church in Detroit, Michigan. He will be the Keynote Speaker at our 8th Annual Celebration. He has served at several United Methodist Churches. He also served as District Superintendent in the former West Michigan Conference. Rev. Davis recently received the "MLK Drum Major for Justice Award" presented by the Greater Detroit District's MLK Celebration Committee. This honor recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions by advocating for equity, fairness, and compassion. Rev. Davis is an avid supporter of United Women in Faith. Rev. Davis is a dedicated pastor and shepherd. Please join us in celebrating the good works of the United Women in Faith!

**Hampton Inn Southfield West Bloomfield, 33096 Northwestern Hwy,
West Bloomfield MI 48322 Phone: 1 248 671 6500**

Hotel Rooms – Special Rate \$109 plus tax; two queen beds per room; complimentary breakfast. Special Rate is available from Thursday, October 15, 16 and 17, 2026.

**Cut-off Date for the special rate is Monday, September 21, 2026. Register Early!!
Mention "United Women in Faith" or "United Methodist Women." The "Block" is
subject to losing rooms if there is not a steady flow of reservations. A Credit
Card is needed to secure your room; your card will not be charged until you
arrive for your stay.**

MISSION FOCUS will benefit the Hope UMC Clothes Closet. Due to many requests from many services in their community, they are requesting that the following items be donated:

Diapers of all sizes. Newborn-up to 10 lbs #1 18 lbs #2 10 - 22 lbs #3 13 - 26 lbs
#4 15 – 34 lbs #5 20 – 37 lbs #6 35+ lbs #7 41+ lbs Pull-ups, Toddlers & Training Toddlers

Please register by Saturday, October 10, 2026

Registration Form for Mailing Attached



United
Women
in Faith

Scan QR Code to register online:



8th Conference Annual Registration Form
Registration Deadline is Saturday, October 10, 2026
MAIL REGISTRATION TO: SALLY MESSNER, Registrar
1072 N. Stonehill Drive, Charlotte, MI 48813
P: 269-783-6334 E: sallymessner@yahoo.com

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

**Email required if you wish to receive annual meeting materials.
NO hard copies will be available at the meeting.**

Please Check One: ☐ Local Officer ☐ District Officer ☐ Conference Officer

District _____ Office held _____

Home Church and City _____

Please check events attending:

☐ \$10.00 – Friday Dinner Officer Training/Leadership Development (no charge for training)

☐ \$20.00 - Saturday Celebration Lunch Included

_____ TOTAL DUE (Make checks payable to: Michigan Conference UWF)

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Child care needed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Names and ages of children: _____

Lodging is on your own. Hotel rooms are available at:

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REV. CORNELIUS DAVIS, JR.

Rev. Cornelius “Neil” Davis, Jr. is a native of Birmingham, Alabama where he received his early education. His family moved to Detroit, Michigan where he continued his education in the Detroit Public School system graduating from Northeastern High School.

Pastor Davis began a 10-year military career with the U.S. Army as an administrative and personnel specialist of classified records. He served in Darmstadt, Germany, Central NATO Headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany, and Ft. McClellan Alabama. Sgt. Davis received the Good Conduct Award, Recognition for Meritorious Service and the Medal of National Defense before being honorably discharged.

Rev. Davis pursued a second career spanning 14 rewarding years in Social Services beginning with the Urban League of Battle Creek, Michigan. As Program Coordinator, his primary responsibility was enhancing the quality of life for African-Americans and the disadvantaged through education, employment, cultural enrichment and advocacy. Additionally he served as the Director of the “I Have a Dream” Foundation of Battle Creek, charged with the preparation of 83 inner city children to successfully graduate from high school moving on to post high school education.

Rev. Davis received his call to ministry and his third career over 34 years ago. His passion is Urban Ministry where God can work through him to help people enhance their quality of life through a relationship with Jesus Christ thereby making them disciples for the transformation of the world -- through teaching, preaching and equipping people for community ministry engagement. His first ministry assignment was as an Associate Pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Evanston, IL providing Christian education and Pastoral Care for a 4,000 member congregation. He has pastored the congregations of Chicago Rust United Methodist Church; Grand Rapids Plainfield United Methodist Church, Lansing Faith United Methodist Church and South Lansing Ministries, before being appointed as District Superintendent (DS) of the Kalamazoo District of the West Michigan Conference, United Methodist Church by Bishop Jonathan Keaton.

As DS, he served as the Chief Missional Strategist supervising over 65 clergy and their congregations. He is also the current Chairperson of the Michigan Area Black Methodists for Church Renewal and Co-Chair of the Committee on African American Ministries.

Rev. Davis’ desire to return to Detroit and his passion for pastoring in an urban setting was granted when Bishop Deborah L. Kiesey appointed him as Senior Pastor of Hope United Methodist Church in Southfield, Michigan in July, 2014. On September 20, 2015, he went on leave-of-absence and returned to ministry on February 1, 2016 where he was appointed interim pastor at Farmington 1st United Methodist Church. On July 1, 2016, Rev. Davis was appointed to Scott Memorial United Methodist Church, in the city of Detroit, where he currently serves as Senior Pastor.

Rev. Davis has earned a Bachelor of Science, Management and Human Resources, Spring Arbor College; Masters degree in Public Affairs and Administration, Western Michigan University; and Masters of Divinity from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. He is married to Lela Brown-Davis for over 37 years. They have adult children.

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS



Alice Fleming Townley coordinates annual advocacy days for the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church. Hundreds of people travel from across the state to Lansing to talk with lawmakers and work together for change. The advocacy skills and relationships that participants build in the process expand capacity for ongoing justice-related collaborations. In this workshop she will share history, key learnings, and inspiration as together we continue seeking justice.

Alice has been an elder in the United Methodist Church for over 25 years. She is now appointed as executive director of the Fleming Townley Collaborative. She and her husband Mike live in East Lansing, Michigan and have two young adult kids.



Rene Johnson has been involved with social justice issues since she was a student in the 1970s. She protested the war in Vietnam, advocated for women's rights, supported environmental protection, and signed a charter to establish a charter of the NAACP in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. She serves on the Michigan Conference Board of Justice by virtue of her office as Conference Social Action Coordinator for the United Women in Faith.