



**The Alaska United Methodist Conference**  
1660 Patterson Street, Anchorage, AK 99504  
907-333-5050 phone --- 907-333-2304 fax  
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**Bishop:** Rev. Elaine J. W. Stanovsky  
**Superintendent:** Rev. Carlo A. Rapanut

March 2019

Dear Lay and Clergy Members of the Alaska United Methodist Conference,

As we live into the realities of the actions of the special session of the General Conference, I invite you to the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Alaska United Methodist Conference, May 30-June 1, 2019.

*Come, ye that love the Lord, and let your joys be known....  
We're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God*

We will be hosted by Christ First United Methodist Church in Wasilla, Alaska. Workshops are scheduled to start at 10:30 am, Thursday, May 30. The Conference will open with Renewal of Baptism at 9:00 am on Friday, May 31 and end with closing worship and sending forth of clergy and laity to their places of ministry no later than 4:00 pm on Saturday, June 1. Please see the enclosed fact sheet for details and important information.

Lay and clergy members from across the state will explore what it means to love God with our whole **HEART, SOUL, STRENGTH AND MIND**, and **NEIGHBOR** as we love our **SELVES**. We'll dig deeper into our 4-year theme and scripture, Luke 10: 25-28. I will bring an episcopal address and your elected delegates will report on the General Conference during the Friday afternoon plenary. And we'll search for answers to the questions:

- What did General Conference decide?
- What difference does it make?
- How will the Alaska Conference serve God in the future in light of these actions?

A new and exciting thing that happened this year is the collaborative work of the three Annual Conference Worship Planning Teams in the Greater Northwest Area (Alaska, Pacific Northwest and Oregon-Idaho). With the guidance of a worship consultant, they planned worship services for the three Conference sessions that are aligned around our shared theme as an Area. To further strengthen alignment and connection, they also proposed that we have three preachers, one from each Annual Conference, to each preach at one of the three main worship services in each respective conference session.

Together we will experience the fresh presence of God's Holy Spirit in the gathered community in worship, table conversations, and tending the connectional relationships that make us stronger together than we could ever be separately.

**YOUR FULL PARTICIPATION IS ESSENTIAL** at Annual Conference every year, but especially in this CrossOver year, as we move into a new reality together. I invite and expect clergy and lay members to be fully present for the entire scheduled time. Just as lay members often miss work and other obligations to be present, clergy are expected to

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*Our Mission:*

*Held and supported by the transforming relationship with God through Christ, we of the Alaska United Methodist Conference seek to be a community that creates a home for all peoples, finds our hope through grace and journeys together into God's preferred future.*



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prioritize Conference and be ready to be away from their local churches on Sunday, June 2 if necessary. Annual Conference is one of the minimal requirements for clergy. Absences must be reported to the Conference Superintendent and Conference Secretary. Local Churches should make plans to worship without their pastor on Sunday, June 2, as necessary to allow their full participation and travel home.

God is ahead of us on the journey. We seek to follow, to walk together, and to find the way God opens before us.

With faith in Christ,

Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky

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