

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, WEDNESDAY,  
JUNE 25, 2014**

**UM CHURCH OF THE DUNES TO CELEBRATE  
THE REV. DR. GLENN WAGNER'S APPOINTMENT**

GRAND HAVEN, Mich. – The appointment of the Rev. Dr. Glenn M. Wagner as pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Dunes will be celebrated at a special service at 10 a.m., Sunday, July 6.



A congregational luncheon will follow worship.

Wagner's appointment, which is effective July 1, was made by the United Methodist West Michigan Cabinet and Bishop Deborah Lieder-Kiesey. He has been serving as pastor of Holt UMC since 2006. Prior to that, he was pastor of Community UMC in North Muskegon for 14 years.

"We are looking forward to returning to the lakeshore and to vital ministry with a great congregation," Wagner said. "Church of the Dunes has a passion for life changing Christian service that is a good fit with my core value that in God's math everybody counts."

Wagner succeeds the Rev. Daniel Duncan, who is retiring after 11 years at Church of the Dunes.

Since 1976, Wagner has provided leadership for nine congregations in four states and two countries in nine varied settings: county seat, agricultural, suburban, large church, economically depressed, racially transitioning, highly affluent, British Methodist, former Evangelical United Brethren and former German language conclaves.

The native of Elmhurst, Ill., earned a bachelor's degree from Hope College. He graduated from Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Conn., with a master of divinity and the Mersick preaching prize, and from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill., with a doctor of ministry degree

While in the Muskegon area, Wagner graduated from the Muskegon Area Leadership Academy. He served as vice president of the Community Mental Health Board for Muskegon County, vice president of Hospice of Muskegon-Oceana and on the board of the Muskegon Area Health Project and as chair of the West Shore Committee for Jewish Christian dialogue.

Wagner has traveled extensively throughout his career. He participated in an archaeological dig in Jordan in 1974. He studied at Jerusalem University College in Israel in 2000 and 2009. He has traveled to all 50 states in the U.S. and 32 countries on five continents. He has lived in England, Israel, Lebanon and Taiwan.

Wagner has published numerous articles in church, print, online and denominational publications. He and his wife, Nancy – a Hope graduate and most recently the secretary for the East Lansing City Council – have been married 36 years and have two adult children.

Founded in 1873 in downtown Grand Haven, the Church of the Dunes moved to its present location at 717 Sheldon Road in February 1962. Its mission statement and core purpose read: “The United Methodist Church of the Dunes is a church with outstretched arms, demonstrating the caring of Christ to each other, our community and the world by encouraging growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, challenging and equipping all to be faithful disciples for the transformation of the world. We are a family of faith who seeks to grow in God’s grace and love, challenges and equips all members to be faithful disciples, to share the Good News, and to demonstrate and reflect the love of God.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
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