

Southeast Michigan Synod • ELCA

## Assembly 2021

### Conference 10

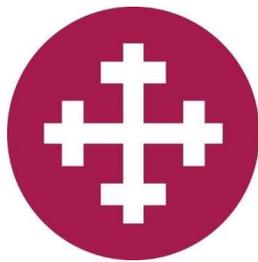
**Pr. Alex Clark – Emmanuel/Ypsilanti**

Emmanuel – Ypsilanti – Rev. Alex Clark  
Holy Faith – Saline – Rev. Andrea Martin  
King of Kings – Ann Arbor – Rev. Marie Duquette  
Lord of Light/ Lutheran Campus Ministry at UM – Ann Arbor – Rev. Elizabeth Friedman  
St. Mark – Ypsilanti – Vicar Anna Taylor-McCants, Vicar Vera McEwan  
Trinity – Ann Arbor – Rev. Lori Carey, Rev. Sara Freudenburg  
Zion – Ann Arbor – Rev. James Debner, Rev. Vicky Lovell  
Zion – Chelsea – Rev. Kathy Tulman, Rev. Kurt Hutchens

It has been a blessing to serve as Dean of Conference 10 in 2020. This was a year of immense transformation for Conference 10, which I describe below. Overall, 2020 was a year of breaking down the silos that typically separate congregations in “normal” times. It was a period of realizing what we can accomplish by sharing resources.

Due to COVID-19, Conference 10 pastors banded together to share education, worship, PPE, food, volunteers, and other needed resources. All adult ed. and confirmation classes were taught jointly over Zoom. Motivated from the unrest and racial inequalities brought on by the pandemic and police brutality, Conference 10 congregations took part the “Dialogues on Race” series by Sparkhouse in July and August. Many of the rostered leaders marched together in multiple BLM protests in Washtenaw County. Most congregations stood in solidarity with Conference 6 – the city of Detroit congregations, and worked together with BRRICK leadership to both educate and inform our congregational responses to systemic racism. Other adult ed. topics offered over Zoom were, to list a few, worship music, affordable housing in Washtenaw County, the synod partnership with the ELCJHL, and Samaritas Refugee Foster Care.

There were many changes to the roster in 2020. Early in January, Vicar Vera McEwan (now Pr. Vera McEwan) served at St. Mark/Ypsi until February, when she moved to the Pacific Northwest to start a new call. In February, Vicar Anna Taylor-McCants (now Pr. Anna Taylor-McCants), served as intern at St. Mark until November, and stayed on to preach through December. In May, Dean of Conference 10 - Pr. Kathy Tulman, retired from Zion/Chelsea and moved with husband John to Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Soon after, Zion/Chelsea extended an interim call to Pr. Kurt Hutchens. In November, Pr. Sara Freudenburg left Trinity/Ann arbor and took a call at Emmanuel/Livonia.



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Throughout the year, rostered leaders gathered regularly over Zoom. Sometimes to work and plan, and other times to sip and chat. In May, the whole roster gathered on Zoom to bid Dean Kathy Tulman a fond farewell.

Conference 10, with all of the adversity brought on by 2020, never stopped proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All Conference 10 churches were faithful to their calling to spread God's love, whether that took place in a building, out on the church lawn, or online. Together, we continue to build one-another's ministry by sharing resources well into 2021 and beyond.

Faithfully,

Pr. Alex Clark – Dean of Conference 10