

# 2026 Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference

**Presiding Bishops: Bishop David Bard & Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai**

*“Rivers of Grace: Love Boldly”*

Matthew 22:37-38

Peoria Civic Center in Peoria Illinois

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## THURSDAY, MAY 21

1:00-4:00 Clergy Session at Wesley UMC in Charleston Illinois

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## THURSDAY, JUN 4

8:30 Morning Team Meeting

9:00 Prayer Time with Episcopacy Committee

**10:00 Opening Worship**

- Preaching: Bishop David Bard
- Offering: Africa University

11:00-12:00 Conferencing Session #1

- Call to Order
- Voting Practice
- Organizing Motions

12:00 Lunch Break

**2:00 Memorial & Celebration of Life Worship**

- Preaching: Rev. Rachel Gilmore
- Offering: IGRC Camping Ministries

3:00 Break

3:15-5:00 Conferencing Session #2

5:00 Dinner Break

5:00 Annual Conference Festival Choir Rehearsal

5:00-8:00 Midwest Mission Service Project

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**FRIDAY, JUN 5**

- 8:00 Morning Team Meeting
- 9:00 Service of Ministry Celebration**
- Order of Consecration of Deaconess/Home Missioner
  - Recognition of New Certified Lay Ministers
  - Awards and Recognitions
  - Offering: Tom Brown Scholarship at Wiley University
- 10:00-12:00 Conferencing Session #3:
- 12:00 Lunch
- 2:00 Service of Recognition of Retirees**
- Preaching:
  - Offering: IGRC Campus Ministries
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15-5:00 Conferencing Session #4
- 5:00 Dinner
- 5:00 Ordination Rehearsal

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**SATURDAY, JUN 6**

- 7:30 Saturday Morning Prayer Breakfast
- Led by IGRC Black Methodist for Church Renewal
- 9:30 Service of Ordination**
- Preaching: Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai
  - Offering: Bishops' Study Trip for Ordinands
  - Fixing of Appointments
- 12:00 Depart