



**OFFICIAL CALL
TO THE
39th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
UAW CHAPLAINCY CONFERENCE**



May 17-22, 2026
Walter and May Reuther
Family Education Center
Black Lake, (Onaway) Michigan

December 22, 2025

To: All Local Union Presidents, Financial Secretaries, Recording Secretaries, and Local Retiree Chapter Presidents

Greetings,

The 39th Annual International UAW Chaplaincy Conference will be held at the Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center from May 17-22, 2026.

The 39th UAW Chaplaincy Conference will provide resources & training that the delegates will use to support our union, employees, membership & leadership, through the challenges that occur at our locals, regions, places of work, and communities throughout the year.

We thank all locals in advance for supporting this conference. Those who attend will experience great informative general sessions, workshops, fellowship, and networking. The chaplains will return with additional resources that allow them to better serve the people and leadership of their locals, work locations, and communities. The local leadership is encouraged to attend as their schedule permits to experience the conference.

The conference will convene on Sunday afternoon at 4 pm, May 17, 2026, and conclude on Friday, May 22, 2026.

Registration at Black Lake will begin at 1 pm, Sunday, May 17, 2026, in the Lecture Hall. Opening session will begin at 5 pm. Dinner will be served from 6 - 7 pm. Delegates should plan their travel home on Friday, May 22, 2026. It is understood that all delegates must have their respective local unions' approval to attend this conference.

You are reminded that lost time and expenses for delegates who are attending this conference will be the responsibility of the local union and/or the company, where applicable. The only exceptions can be found in the "Special Family Education Center Delegates" section of this conference call letter. The fees for spouses will be the sole responsibility of the delegate and must be paid in advance. All spouses/guests must be registered in order to attend.

Registration

Registration for the 2026 Chaplaincy Conference will take place online through LUIS. The conference registration fee is \$743 per delegate and an additional **\$400** for guests (spouse). Local unions already set up for ACH payments will pay online for both delegates and guests. Please note that it is the delegate's responsibility to pay the local union for any guest fees. If your local union is not set up for ACH, a paper check can be mailed. The deadline to register is Thursday, April 16, 2026. After this date, there will be no refunds given for cancelled registrations. Local unions may replace delegates by Monday, April 20, 2026. All delegates must be approved by their regional director.

Please make all checks payable to: ***International Union, UAW***

Mail to: UAW Chaplaincy Department
8000 E. Jefferson Ave.
Detroit, MI 48214

Online Registration

An online application must be filled out for each delegate, spouse/guest attending the conference. Please note that everything is case sensitive:

Website: <https://conference.uaw.org/chaplaincy.php>
Username: CHAPLAINCY2026
Password: UAWCHAPLAINCY2026

This link will not be available until February 27, 2026

If a delegate or local is unable to register online, please call Jesika Lorenzon at (313) 926-5602 or via email at jlorenzon@uaw.net.

Deadline

The registration deadline is Thursday, April 16, 2026. This is the deadline for both delegates and guests.

Please note the following:

1. It is imperative to register and send payment by April 16, 2026.
2. Chaplaincy Executive Officers, Board Members and Regional Coordinators are designated delegates to the conference.
3. All delegates please wear your regional color shirts on Monday.
4. No certain color for Women's Retreat (Tuesday).
5. Gala Night (Evening Wear) is on Wednesday. This is not a requirement; pictures will be taken.

Subsidies

The International Union will provide room and board at the Family Education Center for **up to five delegates** from each region who are selected by the regional director to receive a subsidy. The local unions of the delegate(s) receiving this subsidy will be required to pay \$150 registration fee per delegate. The International Union is not responsible for lost time or expenses.

Transportation

All delegates are expected to arrive at the Family Education Center by 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, 2026 (except for those arriving by flight; see below) and remain until the conference concludes at 9 am on Friday, May 22, 2026. Arrivals and departures should be arranged accordingly. **Local unions are responsible for all transportation costs.** Transportation will be provided for delegates whose work sites are over 500 miles one-way from the UAW Family Education Center. For delegates over 500 miles one-way there is the option of flying or driving. Upon completion of the conference, travel will be reimbursed in the following manner.

Driving

The driver whose automobile is driven to the center will receive the IRS approved rate for miles over 1,000. Locals sending delegates by car are expected to transport at least three people per vehicle, or multiples thereof. Any deviations must be discussed and approved by the regional director and the Family Education Center in advance of arrival. Delegates driving to the center should plan to arrive between 1 pm and 4 pm on Sunday, May 17, 2026.

Hotel accommodations are: one night for 500 miles or more, two nights for 1,000 miles or more.

Overnight lodging should not exceed \$65 per night for single, or \$80 per night for double occupancy. Delegates are required to bring the necessary receipts with them to the Family Education Center for reimbursement.

Air and Lodging

The link for delegates that are flying will be provided at a later date.

Payment can only be made with a credit card or local union check. A delegate or local union will be reimbursed airfare, minus \$75 per ticket, providing the delegate has been authorized to fly into Detroit.

To assure maximum savings on flight arrangements, flights must be booked by Friday, April 24, 2026. Delegates will be required to arrive in Detroit on Saturday, May 16, 2026. For those who fly to Detroit, a room will be reserved for you at the Courtyard Detroit Metro Airport Romulus Hotel.

The Courtyard Detroit Metro Airport Romulus Hotel is a non-smoking establishment. A \$200 fee will be applied to credit card if non-smoking policy is violated. Delegates will need to provide a personal credit card for incidentals.

Airport shuttle service will be arranged by the Family Education Center to meet delegates outside of the baggage claim when their flights arrive. If for some reason you miss the shuttle, please call (734) 721-3200.

Parking Policy

In an effort to avoid any embarrassment for participants, please be advised of the following Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center policy: Vehicles allowed to park in the FEC must be union-made and have a vehicle VIN number beginning with 1, 2, 4 or 5 (i.e., made in USA or Canada). VIN numbers are located on the driver's side dashboard or door jamb of vehicles. Upon arriving at the FEC, security guards check each vehicle's VIN number. If the vehicle VIN number is anything other than 1, 2, 4 or 5, parking accommodations are available in a lot located adjacent to the FEC's front gate. A FEC bus will transport those delegates to the hotel registration desk.

Bus

For those traveling by air, transportation to the Family Education Center will be provided by the center. At 8:30 am, a charter bus will begin loading outside the Courtyard Detroit Metro Airport Romulus Hotel main lobby. The bus will depart at 9 am to take the delegates to Birch Run for lunch and shopping. Then the delegates will re-board the bus to continue to the Black Lake Complex. A special prayer will be made for Flint as the bus passes by. The bus will leave the center on Friday to return to Detroit at 9 am.

Return Flights

For the return trip on Friday, May 22, 2026, no flight arrangements should be made before 5 pm (EST). The bus will leave the center on Friday to return to Detroit at 9 am.

Cancellations

The regional office should be notified immediately of the names that are cancelling and/or replacement delegates. If no replacement is designated, the registration fee remains non-refundable. In the event of a last-minute change, delegates must be provided with the name of the member they are replacing. Upon check-in at the center, a replacement delegate that provides the name of a last-minute cancellation will be able to use the \$743 paid registration fee. When processing delegates' changes, please remember that airline tickets are non-refundable and non-transferable.

Refunds

Refunds will only be granted for valid emergency reasons until May 4, 2026. **No refunds will be given after May 4, 2026.**

Note: All non-basic expenses are the responsibility of the delegate.

If you have any questions regarding these arrangements, please contact Cynthia Harris at (682) 552-7226.

There will be a Certification/Ordination Training held during the conference. The fee is \$150 (This fee is NOT included in Registration). The training will be on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, and Wednesday, May 20, 2026, from 8:45 am until 4 pm, and Thursday, May 21, 2026, from 8:45 am until 12 pm. Ford employees are eligible to use their ETAP benefits. Please consult your local leadership and complete the necessary paperwork before the conference. Other forms of payment will be check, card, or cash. Please contact Cynthia Harris if you have any questions.

In solidarity,



Laura Dickerson
Vice President and Director
International UAW Chaplaincy Department

LD:CH:pl
opeiu494afl-cio
cc: IEB
Chaplaincy Officers
Chaplaincy Regional Coordinators
Chaplaincy Regional Liaisons
Scott Eskridge
Darryl Goodwin
Cynthia Harris
Stacie Steward