



BAY VIEW ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter to inform you that an individual seeking membership in the Bay View Association has given your name as a reference. As part of the application process, the prospective member is required to provide this form to four references (not relatives), who will provide a written reference letter addressing specific criteria and submit it to the Membership Committee for consideration.

The Association By-Laws outline the following qualifications and requirements for membership:

- Is of good moral character.
- Will support the Association's purpose and objectives.
- Agrees to respect the principles of the United Methodist Church and preserve the history and values of the Chautauqua movement.
- Agrees to support the Association's Mission: *To be an institution in which Christian values and traditions are central; to enrich the human experience for individuals and families within Bay View and the surrounding community through a seasonal program of religious, education, cultural, and recreational opportunities; to provide a Christian perspective in a changing world.*

If you are willing to endorse his/her moral character please write a letter to the committee so stating. If you have knowledge of, or can attest to, the applicant's ability to meet the membership criteria listed above please explain in the letter. All information you provide will be held in strict confidence and will only be available to the Membership Committee, the Board of Trustees, Association staff who work on membership matters and the applicant.

Your letter should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Describe how you know and how long you have known the applicant.
- Describe the applicant's moral character with specific examples of your appraisal.
- If you know, please describe the applicant's involvement in his/her community, including Bay View, if applicable.
- If you are a Bay View member, would you be willing to help welcome the applicant into the Association?

Thank you for your willingness and promptness in assisting with the application process. Please ensure that the reference letter is signed, contains your contact information, and is returned to the Bay View Association. Reference letters can be emailed to memberapps@bayviewassociation.org or mailed to PO Box 583, Petoskey, MI 49770. Questions or concerns can be emailed to memberapps@bayviewassociation.org or by calling the Administrative office at (231)347-6225.

About the Bay View Association: The Bay View Association is a private, voluntary seasonal community with residence limited to May through October. It was founded in 1875 by Michigan Methodists as a camp meeting and retreat for spiritual refreshment. In the late 1880s Bay View embraced the Chautauqua movement featuring intellectual enlightenment and cultural growth. Recognized as a National Historic Landmark, the Association has 445 cottages, two inns, seven parks, and 30 common buildings. Each year members, families, and guests come together to participate, volunteer, give back, relax, and enjoy our four program areas of Education, Performing Arts, Worship and Religious Life, and Recreation The 8-week Chautauqua Assembly Season takes place from mid-June to mid-August.

The Bay View Association does not take race, color, sex, disability, familial status, national origin, religion, religious beliefs or lack thereof, or sexual orientation into consideration when making membership decisions.