



Workshop offerings:

- **Coaching and Mentoring as a Method for Discipleship Growth and Leadership Development - session 1**
Rev. Kelly Brown, Superintendent, West Plains District, East Ohio Conference
In this workshop, we'll discuss how coaching methods can be used to help mentor new leaders in a congregation.
- **Simplifying Church Leadership for Mission – session 1**
Rev. Beth Ortiz, Executive Director of Discipleship Ministries, Ohio Episcopal Area
Discover how a streamlined leadership system can strengthen alignment, reduce administrative burden, and empower ministry. This brief workshop introduces the core components of a simplified structure (often referred to as a one board) and offers practical information and guidance for congregations discerning whether it fits their context.
- **Discover FX – session 1**
Terri McClain, Administrator, Fresh Starts and New Beginnings, Ohio Episcopal Area
Fresh Expressions (FX) are about stepping beyond the walls of the church and into the places where life happens. They go beyond the boundaries of ordinary church to build authentic community with people who have often been forgotten, ignored, marginalized, or dismissed. In this workshop, you'll explore how Fresh Expressions can breathe new life into your congregation and help you reach people in your community who are unchurched or dechurched. You'll discover different models of Fresh Expressions and learn practical ways to begin one in your own context.
- **Staff/Pastor Parish Relations – offered twice: session 1 and session 3**
Rev. Wes Souders, Superintendent, Scioto River District
Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen, Superintendent, Great Miami River District
How does the S/PPRC function in the ministry of the congregation? In this workshop, new and seasoned committee members will get a better understanding of the scope of your responsibility. We'll explore best practices and identify ways to incorporate them, learn about healthy communication skills to improve the effectiveness of your work, develop a plan for the yearly work of the team, and get a better understanding of the clergy assessment process.
- **Safer Sanctuaries – session 1**
Rev. Marie Smith, Pastor, Circleville Community Church
Discover how to design your church's policy, how to offer trainings, how to do background checks, how

to hire for children's ministry, and more information surrounding safer sanctuaries.

- **Creation Care Connections – session 1**

Mariellyn Grace, Mission and Communication Coordinator, Connectional Ministries, West Ohio Conference

Learn how individuals and churches can connect with Creation Care resources, within West Ohio and beyond, to better care for God's world at the local level! Resources include the Green Church Movement, EarthKeepers, the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement, Bible studies on climate resilience, and more!

- **Create, Connect, Care: Social Media + AI for Impact & Integrity – session 1**

Kay Panovec, Executive Director of Communications, West Ohio Conference

In this workshop, discover how to craft engaging social media content that sparks conversation and builds authentic community. Then, go beyond the feed—learn how AI can support your broader work, from drafting newsletters and event materials to summarizing meetings and improving accessibility. We'll pair practical techniques with ethical guardrails: transparency, bias awareness, privacy, and responsible disclosure. You'll leave with actionable strategies, prompt templates, and an ethics checklist to help you create, connect, and care—online and off.

- **Small Church Leadership - session 2**

Rev. Kelly Brown, Superintendent, West Plains District, East Ohio Conference

Learn practical ways and methods to develop new leaders in small membership churches.

- **Still Growing: Discipleship Small Groups that Connect Us to God and Renews the Church – session 2**

Rev. Beth Ortiz, Executive Director of Discipleship Ministries, Ohio Episcopal Area

Faith is never finished—and it grows best in community. This workshop explores how Wesleyan-style small groups—simple, relational, and led by laity—create space for continued spiritual growth for long-time disciples and offer a warm, accessible entry point for new people. Discover how gatherings shaped by fellowship, worship, and Scripture can renew seasoned believers while opening doors for others to join the journey, helping the whole church grow in vitality and connection.

- **Sharing Your Impact: Telling the Story of Mission Giving, Connectional Giving and Apportionments – session 2**

Susan Black, Executive Director, CFRE, CAP®, United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio

Rev. Karen Cook, Executive Director, Connectional Ministries, West Ohio Conference

What does it mean to be a Connectional church? Why should we pay apportionments? And where did we go so wrong? Join Susan Black and Rev. Karen Cook as they reveal the critical relationship between mission giving, connectional giving and apportionments and why it matters to every UM church today.

- **Introduction to the Enneagram: Why do we do what we do? – session 2**

Suzanne Bandy, Founder of Rubberband Creations, Ministry Consultant, Coach, Facilitator, and Speaker

Church leaders are invited to explore the inner motivations that shape how they lead and serve. Spirit-led leadership calls us to reflect not only on what we do, but why we do it. The Enneagram is a personality tool that helps uncover these core motivations, offering a pathway toward deeper self-awareness, spiritual growth, and healthier ministry. Join us for this mini-workshop as we discover how the Enneagram can support personal discipleship and Spirit-guided leadership.

- **Pulpit, Politics and Protesting – session 2**

Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen, Superintendent, Great Miami River District

Rev. Wes Souders, Superintendent, Scioto River District

There are many strong opinions on whether and how faith and politics should connect. What does a faithful witness for justice look like from a United Methodist perspective? Should that be shared from the pulpit, and if so, when? What about protests? Join us as we discuss best practices for a faithful witness in a divided world.

- **Messy Church: Creating, Connecting, and Celebrating God – session 2**

Windy Robinson, Director of Family Ministries, Epiphany UMC

Thinking about starting Messy Church—or ready to bring new energy to one you already lead? This workshop provides ideas, resources, and inspiration for creating welcoming, faith-filled experiences for all.

- **Corporate Duties: Assets, Property and Risk Management – session 2**

Bill Brownson, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administration, West Ohio Conference

Learn about church real estate matters, insurance, reporting and officially representing your church in contracts and business matters.

- **Leading Where You Are: A Practical Leadership Framework – offered twice: session 2 and session 3**

Julie Carter, Director, Faith Formation & Lay Servant Ministries, Ohio Episcopal Area

This workshop helps participants discover how their God-given spiritual gifts and sense of calling can shape their leadership, no matter their role. Rooted in Wesleyan values of grace and connection, it draws on Brené Brown's definition of leadership: *"Anyone who takes responsibility for finding the potential in people and processes and has the courage to develop that potential."*

- **Welcoming the Stranger: How Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience Inform the United Methodist Response to Immigration – session 3**

Rev. Emily Kvalheim, Attorney, Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio & Co-Chair, Task Force on United Methodist Immigration Ministries of Ohio

*Rev. Becky Schofield Motter, Leader, Sanctuary Coalition; Pastor, Clifton UMC; Director, Wesley Foundation
Imam Ayman Soliman, Former Children's Hospital Chaplain and Asylee*

Join us for an afternoon panel discussion on immigration, shaped by the Wesleyan Quadrilateral. Rev. Emily Kvalheim, will share about her *Experience* as a legal aid immigration attorney, specifically how immigration law and policy changes are affecting noncitizens in our communities. Imam Ayman Soliman will share about his personal *Experience* as a former ICE detainee in the Butler County Jail. And Rev. Becky Schofield Motter will share how *Scripture and United Methodist Tradition* have led her to provide housing and Sanctuary to asylum-seekers in partnership with Clifton UMC and a network of other congregations. Finally, we will invite you to participate in a *Reasoned* communal response, in partnership with the [Task Force on United Methodist Immigration Ministries of Ohio](#). Participants will have the opportunity to write a letter to a detained asylum-seeker and/or send postcards to our policymakers to share what The United Methodist Church believes about migrant justice.

- **What's Your Number? The UMFWO Stewardship Standards – session 3**

Susan Black, Executive Director, CFRE, CAP®, United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio

Every church can improve its stewardship efforts! In this session we will review the UMFWO Stewardship Standards Assessment that covers the five key areas for stewardship success: leadership, education, mission giving, budgeting and accounting. Learn the numerous ways your church can incrementally improve its giving by implementing simple changes over time.

- **Co-operative Youth Ministry – session 3**

Rev. Therese Lehman, Pastor, Walnut Street UMC

Are you struggling with youth or Next Gen programming in your church? Maybe you have a couple of youth, but not enough for a group. Maybe you have the youth but not enough adults ... or even adults but no youth!! The answer is “co-operative” youth ministry. It works ... doesn’t exhaust anyone, saves money and provides a great program for the youth. Come and learn about how to set up a co-operative youth ministry program, hear and share ideas, and be enthused about youth ministry once again.

- **Essentials of Church Financial Administration – session 3**

Bill Brownson, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administration, West Ohio Conference

In this workshop you’ll learn accounting basics, clergy payroll and administration, expected reporting ,and controls to keep your funds safe.

- **Why the Enneagram Matters in Relationships – session 3**

Suzanne Bandy, Founder of Rubberband Creations, Ministry Consultant, Coach, Facilitator, and Speaker

Healthy relationships are built on more than just shared skills—they flourish when we understand the deeper motivations and communication styles that shape how we interact. This workshop introduces the Enneagram as a practical tool for uncovering the unique ways people respond to stress, conflict, and collaboration.

- **Asset Mapping for Mission – session 3**

Rev. Karen Cook, Executive Director, Connectional Ministries, West Ohio Conference

Join us for an engaging session on Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD), where you’ll discover how to harness the strengths and resources already present in your community to drive meaningful change. This session will empower you to shift the focus from community needs and deficiencies to assets and potential. Participants can expect interactive sessions, practical tools, and collaborative exercises that will equip them to identify and mobilize the unique gifts, talents, and capacities within their community.