

**Regional Leadership Training Day with the  
Hocking River and Olentangy River Districts  
Thursday, January 29, 2026  
Crossroads Ministry Center, 2095 West Fair Avenue,  
Lancaster 43130**

9:30 AM Check-in and Refreshments

10:00 AM Welcome and Worship

10:15 AM Workshops #1 and #6

11:00 AM Workshops #4 and #7

11:45 AM Lunch and Learn Workshop #3  
(Box Lunch will be provided)

12:45 PM Workshops #2 and #5

1:30 PM Closing Worship

**1. Finance and Trustees, William Brownson**

You will learn accounting basics, clergy payroll and administration, expected reporting, and controls to keep your funds safe

For Trustees: Corporate Duties: Assets, Property and Risk Management

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

## **2. Fresh Expressions, Brad Aycok**

**Description:** Fresh Expressions (FX) move beyond the walls of the church to create authentic community in everyday places of life, especially among those who feel forgotten or marginalized. In this workshop, you'll discover practical ways to start a Fresh Expression and explore models that can bring new life to your congregation and reach the unchurched and dechurched in your community.

## **3. Staff Parish Relations, DS Jim Wilson and DS Mark Chow**

**Description:** Discover how the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee greatly impacts the life of the Church, the Pastor(s) and pastoral family. This workshop provides an overview of the unique roles and numerous responsibilities of this crucial church team.

## **4. Discipleship and Small Groups, Beth Ortiz**

**Description:** 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.

## **5. One Board Model, Beth Ortiz**

**Description:** 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 one board) and offers practical information and guidance for congregations, discerning whether it fits their context.

## **6. Next Generation and Youth Ministry, Ann Marie Carley**

**Description:** Learn about the realities of ministry with children, youth, and young adults in and across the Ohio Episcopal Area and viable steps to engage emerging generations in today's world. This workshop is for anyone who works with emerging generations or leadership wanting to engage emerging generations. Participants will leave with facts, ministry concepts currently working well, and easy next steps.

- 7. What does it mean to be a Connectional church? Why should we pay apportionments? And where did we go so wrong?** Join **UMFWO Executive Director Susan Black** and Director of **Connectional Ministries 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.