



Late July 2024

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung Assigned to the Ohio Episcopal Area



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Bishop Hee-Soo Jung has been assigned to The Ohio Episcopal Area, including the East and West Ohio Conferences. His assignment will begin September 1, 2024. The announcement was made at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference on July 13.

Bishop Jung is the resident bishop of the Wisconsin Annual Conference and has served in this role since September 2012. He played a key role in Wisconsin's Imagine No Malaria Campaign, raising over \$1 million. He visited every congregation in the annual conference and provided oversight to the planting of over 30 congregations. Under his commitment to increase racial justice and radical inclusion, the Wisconsin Conference has reached 49% of its appointments being served by cross-racial leadership.

Prior to leading the Wisconsin Conference UMC, Bishop Jung served eight years as bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference (Chicago area). He was instrumental in inspiring the Harvest 2020 movement in Northern Illinois, which resulted in many new faith communities. He was committed to immigration justice and the sanctuary movement, and initiated Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON).

Previously, Bishop Jung served as an elder in the Wisconsin Conference, where he was a pastor and a district superintendent. Bishop Jung taught and chaired the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Kangnam University in South Korea. He also served as pastor of congregations in California, Texas, and South Korea.

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He has served as president of the General Board of Global Ministries, chair of the UM Korean National Plan, and a member of the Board of Directors for Bread for the World. Bishop Jung serves as a member of the Ecumenical Forum for Korea at Geneva, Switzerland, and is actively involved in Korea peace and reconciliation efforts. He has served as faculty for the Two-Year Academy for Spiritual Formation since 2005 and has taught in various Five-Day Academy sessions in the U.S. and abroad. Previously, Bishop Jung served as president of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and as a member of the Board of Directors for the General Board of Discipleship, the UM National Hispanic Plan, the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, the General Commission on United Methodist Men and JustPeace.

Bishop Jung is currently Adjunct Professor at Yonsei University in South Korea, and Claremont School of Theology.

Bishop Jung earned a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also holds an M.A. from the Institute of Buddhist Studies, affiliated with the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA; an M.A. from the Dongguk University Graduate School in Seoul, South Korea; and a B.Th. from the Methodist Theological Seminary in Seoul, South Korea.

Im-Hyon, Bishop Jung's spouse, is an elder in the Wisconsin Conference and currently serves as the director of International Relations, Asia & Global Programs, for the Upper Room/Discipleship Ministries. The Jung's are the parents of two adult sons, Jae-Hugh and Jae-Joon, who is married to Brittney. They are also the proud grandparents of Sydney Grace.

Please welcome Bishop Jung to the West Ohio Conference!



LSM Classes Being Offered Around the Conference

Here's the link to check out what classes are being offered across the West Ohio Conference:

<https://www.westohioumc.org/leadership/lay-servant-ministries-class-schedule>

Included this year are the following classes being offered in the Hocking River District:

United Methodist Polity Friday, August 23 from 6-8pm(Zoom) & Saturday, August 24 from 9am-5pm either in person at the district office or by Zoom

Basic Course Friday, October 11 from 6-8pm(Zoom) & Saturday, October 12 from 9am-5pm either in person at the district office or by Zoom

We will be offering an advanced course in the first quarter of 2025. Remember, even if you have completed the Basic Course and all of the Core Courses, you need to take an Advanced Course every 3 years as part of maintaining your certification. Not sure what you need next? Call the Hocking River District office at (740) 677-0136.



PHONE NUMBER FOR HOCKING RIVER DISTRICT OFFICE:
(740) 677-0136



On behalf of the Episcopal Office and the Board of Ordained Ministry, we are pleased to invite you to an essential training event designed for both lay staff and clergy. These sessions aim to reinforce our commitment to maintaining safe and respectful environments within our communities. We encourage you to invite one key lay staff person to attend the Safer Sanctuaries Training with you for the afternoon session. Please read this letter in its entirety

as training locations and registration information are listed below.

Our goal is to better prepare our leaders for ministry and to comply with West Ohio Conference policies to serve our congregations and communities effectively. Consequently, all Clergy under appointment, including those in Extension Ministries, Lay Pulpit Supply, and all Certified Lay Ministers within the West Ohio Conference, are now required to undergo a comprehensive background check every four years. Clergy on Leave of Absence are also encouraged to participate in the training and background check updates as they are able. To facilitate this, please register for your preferred training event and complete the "Permission to Release Information" form by August 15, 2024, which can be found here:

[Background Check Form.](#)

The required training is to be fully completed by November 21, 2024.

Scheduled Dates and Locations:

October 17, 2024: Ginghamburg Church - Hosted by Pastor Dennis Miller

October 18, 2024: Kettering Christ Church - Hosted by Pastor Brian Law

October 19, 2024: Athens First UMC – Hosted by Pastors Robbie Scott and Victoria Burgoon

October 22, 2024: Chillicothe Trinity Church - Hosted by Pastor Wes Souders

October 23, 2024: Lancaster First Church - Hosted by Pastor Nikki Baker

October 24, 2024: Epworth Church - Hosted by Pastor Cecil Thompson

October 29, 2024: Christ Church in Columbus (Makeup Date) - Hosted by Pastor F. Willis Johnson

November 1: Digital training becomes available.

For assistance with registration, contact the Hocking River District office.

Training Costs for Clergy, Certified Lay Ministers, and Lay Pulpit Supply:

- **Healthy Boundaries/Clergy Sexual Ethics**

- o Background Check: \$75.00 (required for Healthy Boundaries and Clergy Sexual Ethics)

- o Materials: \$10.00 per participant (required for both trainings)

Lunch: \$15.00 per participant

Training Costs for Lay Staff People:

- **Safer Sanctuaries:** Lay person registration

Lunch: \$15.00 per participant

Lay Ministry Academy

Have you felt a Call from God to do more? Are you seeking ways to be more involved with your church? Are you interested in learning new ways to do old things? This may be the opportunity you have been looking for. Waiting for.

Reach out to us to discuss your next steps in ministry.

Kathy Moore- Kathymoore@wocumc.org
Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministry

Kathy Elasky-**Scioto/Hocking River**
kathyelasky@yahoo.com



[Discover FX - HRD | West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church \(westohioumc.org\)](https://www.westohioumc.org)



Discover FX is coming to your district!

Fresh Expressions are an effective way to build relationships, serve the people within your context and community, and revitalize your church. Fresh Expressions are about going outside of the norm, going beyond the typical boundaries of ordinary church to build human community with and among people with whom the church has forgotten, ignored, marginalized, or dismissed.

Discover FX is a 5-hour immersion into what Fresh Expressions are and how to launch your own expression of church. After the training, optional coaching sessions will be available via zoom to walk with you through launching a fresh expression of church.

Discover what FX can do for your church in a convenient location in your district and learn from your colleagues who are already doing Fresh Expressions in your region.

To help connect your college students, we wanted to make sure you have contact information for ministers who provide spiritual support on college campuses within West Ohio and local congregations with robust young adult ministries in areas where your students may be headed. We encourage you to print this list or bookmark the [College Connections Blog Post](#) in order to share with students headed out for college in a few weeks. Each of the leaders listed would love to connect with students before they even hit campus to help them acclimate to the area, have a listening ear before they arrive, and begin to build community with students already present.

College Campus Ministries Across West Ohio

Bowling Green University-Bowling Green, Ohio

United Methodist Student Organization-Rev. Andrea Curry (revandreacurry@gmail.com)

Bluffton University-Bluffton, Ohio

Refuge 461-Rev. Marcella Ciccotelli (umcpastormarcella@gmail.com)

Central State University-Wilberforce, Ohio

Interfaith Ministry-Rev. Kima Cunningham (kima@mikeandkima.org)

Miami University-Miami, Ohio

Wesley-Rev. Katie Steele (katie@wesleyuc.org)

Ohio Northern University-Ada, Ohio

Campus Chaplain-Rev. David MacDonald (d-macdonald@onu.edu)

Ohio State University-Columbus, Ohio

Jacob's Porch-Sammi Shivener (sammib929@gmail.com)

Short North OSU-Rev. Hannah VanMeter (hvanmeter@shortnorthchurch.org)

Ohio University-Athens, Ohio

Impact-Lindsay Hinze (lindsaynhinze@gmail.com)

Athens First-Rev. Lucy Crawford (lucy@firstumc.org)

Ohio Wesleyan University-Delaware, Ohio

Campus Chaplain-Dr. Chad Johns (cejohns@owu.edu)

Otterbein University-Westerville, Ohio

Faith & Spiritual Life Coordinator-Rev. Lucy Kelly (associate@chmaster.org)

University of Toledo-Toledo, Ohio

Campus Ministry-Rev. Amy Remaklus (tcexecudivedirector@gmail.com)

University of Cincinnati

Wesley Foundation-Rev. Becky Schofield-Motter (director@weselyuc.org)

Wesley Foundation-Jeff Snyder (jeffsnyder@wesleyuc.org)

Xavier University-Cincinnati, Ohio

Campus Ministries-Rev. Peter Matthews (matthewsp2@xavier.edu)

Columbus, Ohio Area Young Adult/College-Age Ministries

King Ave UMC-Gwen DeRosa (Gwendolyn.derosa@gmail.com)

Jerome UMC-Tara Moore (tara.moore@jeromechurch.org)

Bethel International UMC-Rev. Glenn Schwerdtfeger (pastorglenn@mybethel.org)

Columbus Korean UMC-Rev. Kim Sun-young (Sykc31@gmail.com)

Cincinnati, Ohio Area Young Adult/College-Age Ministries

Shiloh UMC-Nathan Cheney (ncheney@shilohumc.org)

Newark, Ohio Area

OSU Newark & Dennison University-Rev. Susan Britton (pastorsusan2018@gmail.com)

WEST OHIO GO! GRANTS



**2025 Go Grant Applications go live on
September 1, 2024 and are due in by October 15, 2024!**

Need help brainstorming your Go Grant ideas? Have questions about your Go Grant ideas? Join us for a WhiteBoard Zoom session over your lunch hour at one of the following dates: Wednesdays at noon. Click on the date to register:

[8.14.24](#) | [8.21.24](#) | [8.28.24](#) | [9.4.24](#)

Feel free to check out our **[Q&A page](#)**

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR JOB OPENING

Our dedicated Finance Administrator, Denise Davis, has been going through ongoing health challenges, and presently has new treatments she will be enduring. She has requested that we find a permanent replacement for her position. We request your thoughts and prayers for her and Randy as they make this difficult journey together.

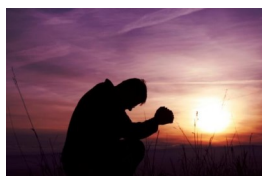
The importance of this work, and the trust and confidentiality it entails (as well as the accounting skills) lead us to ask our Athens 1st faith family for referrals of persons who possess the skills and might like a part time job in this type of work (approximately 20 hours/week). We have attempted to have the job description be reasonably accurate on all that is entailed in the work. Please add this need to your prayers that we find the right person to serve our faith community.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Robbie

To view the detailed job description, **[CLICK HERE](#)**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Get your ticket for this upcoming weekend to see Rev. Scott Blevins, Pastor of New Beginnings UMC, Rock Springs UMC, and Chester UMC, acting as Mr. Webb in "Our Town!"



In grateful memory of the life and service of Pastor Jerry Sutton, who served at St. Paul's UMC in Roseville for 15 years.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Office Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

E-Mails: Office - hockingriverdistrict@wocumc.org

Mark Chow, DS - mchow@wocumc.org

Barbara Conover, Office Admin. - bconover@wocumc.org