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### 2026 Ohio Vision Statement

In 2026, the Ohio Episcopal Area moves forward in collaboration, discipleship, multiplication, leadership development, and global mission – building a unified Spirit-led movement rooted in abundance, trust, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves to prayer, partnership, and courageous action as we form “One Ohio” for the sake of God’s mission in the world.

- Pillar 1: Building Relationships*
- Pillar 2: Shared Mission*
- Pillar 3: Discipleship*
- Pillar 4: Multiplication*
- Pillar 5: Emerging Leaders*

For more information, turn to the next page...



**Barbara will be out of the office on vacation! Until Friday, June 26.**

**Appointments with Mark will take place as scheduled. If you need to talk to someone about an urgent matter, please call the West Ohio Conference office or call the Hocking River District office and you will probably get Lesley Moore from WOC. Remember that the West Ohio Conference and all district offices will be CLOSED this Friday, June 19th to celebrate**



## Register Your Child for an Unforgettable Summer at Wesley Camp & Retreat Center

**Unplug, unwind, and experience God**—that’s the opportunity for campers ages 7–17 at Wesley Camp & Retreat Center this summer. With our Summer 2026 relaunch, we are preparing to welcome campers into a safe, engaging environment that is both Christ-centered and inclusive. Summer camp at Wesley offers an experience immersed in nature and community, far from screens and everyday distractions. Campers are guided by trained young adults who create a supportive atmosphere where they can explore, try new things, and experience God’s presence in meaningful ways. Wesley provides a positive, nurturing environment that promotes personal growth, spiritual development, and genuine connection with others. Each day is intentionally designed to balance recreation, learning, and adventure, with faith formation woven throughout. Campers will be in a safe environment where they can discover their God-given gifts, build confidence, and develop friendships that last long after the week of camp ends.

This summer, join us for a phone-free, unforgettable week of adventure, faith, and fun! Each session will offer a mix of worship and devotions and provide opportunities for campers to experience all the creative and outdoor adventures Wesley has to offer. Each day, campers will dive into hands-on activities tailored to their age group—such as hiking, swimming, crafts, and games—alongside cabin time for reflection and connection. Through both worship and play, we journey together to find courage, joy, and God’s guidance in today’s world. Adventure Awaits! Whether making new friends, creating art under the trees, or singing around the campfire, we want you to join us as we grow in faith and community while having the time of our lives.

**For Ages 7 - 17, Sibling Discounts Available**

### **Full Week: Adventure Awaits – Finding Our Way Together**

*Dates:* June 7–12 | June 14–19 | June 21–26

### **Taste of Adventure Awaits – Finding Our Way Together - Short Weeks**

*Dates:* June 28–July 1 | July 5–8

To learn more or begin registration, visit the new [Wesley Camp and Retreat Center website](#).



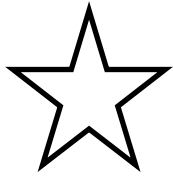
**PILLAR 1: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS** Our Ohio Area must continue healing from past divisions while living into a renewed missional identity. In 2026, we will proceed in building relationships, fostering trust, and strengthening local and global mission partnerships.

**PILLAR 2: SHARED MISSION** In 2026, we commit to living into a unified identity – East and West – becoming “One Ohio” in spirit, purpose, mission, and prayer.

**PILLAR 3: DISCIPLESHIP** In 2026, we will deepen discipleship across the Ohio Episcopal Area. SEED (Seek, Engage, Equip, Deploy) is a shared, Wesleyan framework for forming disciples who follow Jesus Christ in daily life and join God’s mission in the world. SEED is rooted in our baptismal identity and the priesthood of all believers. SEED affirms that every disciple is called into ministry. It is not a program to be added; SEED is a common discipleship language that shapes how congregations listen, learn, lead, and serve.

**PILLAR 4: MULTIPLICATION** In forming 100 new faith communities by 2030, we will live out a movement rooted in the theology of abundance. We reaffirm our commitment to a culture of real discipleship: planting, multiplying, and nurturing new communities of faith for all people – from emerging house-churches to multiethnic ministries and digital expressions.

**PILLAR 5: EMERGING LEADERS** A renewed, Spirit-filled church requires bold investment in youth, young adults, next-generation clergy, and equipped lay leadership. In 2026, we will deepen our commitment to mentoring, leadership pipelines, campus ministry, and equipping laity.



## FOR CLERGY:

Check out this link for a little good news!  
[Discipleship Ministries | Clergy, This May Be My Best Tip Yet!](#)

In addition to the spring grant cycle, the Foundation will be offering Clergy Development grants in the fall for those seeking renewal; and for individual clergy and Licensed Local Pastors seeking educational or personal development opportunities including coaching. For more information about either grant cycle, please [click here](#) or contact UMFWO Program Manager, Maddy DeWitt at [mdewitt@wocumc.org](mailto:mdewitt@wocumc.org).



If you are a pastor who has not yet responded to Barbara about the date and time for your One-on-One interview with DS Mark Chow, please call the office or send an email ASAP to confirm that you will be there. Appointments with Mark begin next week!

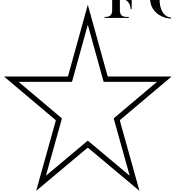


### **FOR PASTORS (AND SPRCS) IN NEW APPOINTMENTS ONLY:**

The itinerant system of The United Methodist Church ensures that every year some clergy across Ohio will receive a change of appointment. Clergy and congregational representatives are encouraged to attend transitions training to aid in having a healthy shift for both pastors and churches. Whether you are a pastor moving to a new appointment or a member of an SPRC team welcoming a new pastor, this training is designed to equip United Methodist clergy with the tools and insights needed for a smooth and faithful transition.

Please register to attend this scheduled training opportunity by contacting Joy Snyder at the South Forest District office or Barbara Conover at the Hocking River District office. The training takes place in West Ohio: **Thursday, July 9, 10:00 AM - Noon at Norwood UMC, 23 Colegate Drive, Marietta, Ohio.**

Each SPRC committee should attend this session, with their incoming pastor. If full attendance isn't possible, at least two members from each SPRC team attending will still support the transition.



## FOR LAITY:

Events specifically designed for leaders of the church who are NOT clergy:

### **SCD 2026: See, Create, Disciple August 2-5, 2026**

SCD is the UMC's largest training and resourcing event for revitalization, fresh expressions, new churches, and leadership development. And Ohio is hosting this exciting event in Columbus this summer!

Be inspired by plenary speaker, author, and leader, Rev. Carey Nieuwhof who says, "If you care about the future of the church, this gathering is for you because we're not just talking about what's changing... we're talking about how to lead through it. At SCD, we're going to dig into what it looks like to see where God is already moving, create new pathways for people to meet Jesus, and disciple in ways that actually form lives, not just fill rooms."

#### **What you can expect:**

- 50+ practitioners leading breakouts across ministry and leadership topics
- Bishops and denominational leaders from across the globe
- Practical tools you can take home and apply immediately

Be apart of the HRD team attending this conference! Let Barbara know this week that you are interested in attending, as the district is paying registration costs for a group to register together!



### **Lay Servant Ministries Classes Available**



- Great Miami River District: [Leading Public Prayer](#) - August 16, 18, 20, 23, 26 ONLINE
- Hocking River District: [The BASIC Course](#) - August 21 & 22 IN-PERSON
- Great Miami River District - [Social Justice in Everyday Life](#) - October 4, 6, 8, 11, 13 ONLINE
- Hocking River District: [Teaching Biblical Faith: Leading Small Group Bible Studies](#) - October 30 & 31 HYBRID
- Olentangy River District: [Living Our United Methodist Beliefs, Heritage](#) - November 1, 3, 5, 8, 10 ONLINE
- Western Lakes District: [Come! I Will Tell You a Story, An Introduction to Biblical Storytelling](#) - November 6-7 ONLINE

## **Register for Lakeside Stewardship Conference - Early Bird Registration Extended**

Lakeside Chautauqua is hosting a three-day stewardship and financial wellness conference this August, sponsored in part by the United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio and the Methodist Foundation of Ohio.

Early Bird Registration for this event is now open for the event being held August 10-12, 2026. The event hosts expect both clergy and laity, regardless of experience in stewardship, to deepen their understanding of faithful stewardship as a result of attending. The conference schedule includes workshops and presentations from experienced voices including the Executive Directors of both Ohio foundations, to explore how generosity, sustainability and mission can thrive together.

The event will occur during Lakeside's summer season and attendees can take advantage of all Lakeside has to offer during their stay. Each summer, the community hosts more than 3,000 programs and activities, including concerts, special events, educational lectures and everyday opportunities for leisure, such as swimming, biking and enjoying Lake Erie.

**Keynote Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Stan Copeland is the head of "Church Difference Makers" and a former 27-year Senior Pastor of Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas, one of the most prominent congregations in the denomination. While Copeland has impressive credentials (his church raised \$55 million in 5 capital campaigns and he grew the endowment from \$2.2 to \$30 million), he is a very down-to-earth guy. The principles he lives by are applicable to congregations and ministries of all sizes. Copeland will be leading a dialogue about "The Stewardship Streams to Generosity."

**Registration:** Registration for the Stewardship & Financial Wellness Conference is \$395 before May 15, which includes two overnights, five meals and conference registration. After May 15, the registration fee is \$445. If your spouse or partner is visiting during the conference, you can purchase the meals and admissions to Lakeside for \$195.

**About Lakeside Chautauqua:** Lakeside Chautauqua is a family destination that has pioneered the act of nurturing mind, body and spirit since 1873. As one of the most popular Chautauqua communities in the U.S., Lakeside offers a rich variety of spiritual, educational, cultural arts and recreational opportunities.

Located between Cleveland and Toledo on Lake Erie's south shore, Lakeside is a nonprofit community dedicated to rest, renewal and meaningful experiences for all ages.

**If you need to change your electronic record with the West Ohio Conference, PLEASE** contact the Hocking River District Office at 740-677-0136. Creating a new account creates problems for registration for Annual Conference and other events. If your primary email address or phone number is changed, or you have moved, or gotten married, etc., we need to use the original record and make changes there. Call or email me with any changes, and I am happy to make updates!

If you have historic churches listed on the National Register of Historic Places , here is a grant opportunity. [Ohio History Fund Grants - Ohio History Connection](#). Opens mid-July.

Is your church in Muskingum County? If so, you may be eligible to apply for grant funding through the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio! Applications are presently being sought for wellness projects in the above counties.

[Southeast Ohio Health and Wellness Foundation Fund - Foundation for Appalachian Ohio](#)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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

**E-Mail: Office - [hockingriver@wocumc.org](mailto:hockingriver@wocumc.org)**

**Mark Chow, DS - [mchow@wocumc.org](mailto:mchow@wocumc.org)**

**Barbara Conover, Office Admin. - [bconover@wocumc.org](mailto:bconover@wocumc.org)**



### Ohio School of Ministry

**"Abundant Grace: Fed by Christ, Sent to Feed the World | August 31-Sept 2**

The East & West Ohio Annual Conferences are planning a three-day gathering together for worship, learning, conversation and renewal at Kalahari Resort in Sandusky - and you're invited!

Mark your calendar for now to be renewed at Christ's table, equipped for faithful ministry, and strengthened in community to share God's abundant love with a world in need. [Flyer](#)

[Click here to register](#)