



Great Miami River District

News from The United Methodist Church

News and Notes: February 28, 2024

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55th Session, West Ohio Annual Conference, May 29-June 1 Capital University, Bexley



Our theme this year, God is Able, draws inspiration from Ephesians 3:20-21, promising a gathering that celebrates the limitless power of God. Registration for conference members will open March 1.

Pastors, please confirm with your lay members that they plan to attend. If they aren't available, please select a new lay member to Annual Conference or move your alternate up; but be sure to let us know in the district office of any changes you make.

Laity, if you are interested in attending Annual Conference to learn about the business of the conference and represent the Great Miami River District with voice and vote, please complete an interest form by [clicking here](#). With the district now encompassing 7 counties, we are looking for 119 people to serve as at large members. Contact [Nancy Newton](#) for more information. We have room for you.

Plan to submit legislation? It must be received by Conference Secretary [Chris Clough](#) by 11:59pm, Friday, March 1, 2024. Any legislation received after that date will be returned. The maker of that legislation can decide if they want to ask to suspend the rules for consideration of the Annual Conference body.

Harry Denman Evangelism Award Nominations due March 15

The Harry Denman Evangelism Award, sponsored by The Foundation for Evangelism, honors United Methodists in each Annual Conference whose exceptional ministry of evangelism brings people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.



What distinguishes a Harry Denman Evangelism Award recipient is the commitment to consistently introduce others to the Good News of Jesus Christ in all ministry settings. Their ministry is exceptional for the number of new Christ followers who credit encounters with this person as critical in helping to start or reignite their faith journey. One award may be given in each category: clergy, laity, and youth. Questions? Contact [Mariellyn Grace](#).

[Click here for more information and the application.](#)

Pastor, are you looking for support?

Rev. Joe Royer, pastor of Springboro First UMC, and several others are creating a new cluster called **Healthy Directions**. It's open to any pastor who desires to help their church work toward being a healthier church.



Healthy Directions will meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 11am-12:30pm. The location will be centralized based on interest. The next meeting is March 14. Your time together will include conversations around theology, purpose, ministry processes, administrative/ministry team strategies, people skills, church organizational structure, problem-solving and more. This group will celebrate the healthy moments and problem solve the frustrating moments as you work together to support one another.

Want to learn more? Contact Joe at pastor@fumcspringboro.org or 513-463-7378.

2024 Summer Camp Opportunities Offered in Partnership with East Ohio

West Ohio is partnering again this year with East Ohio Camps to provide churches and families with summer camping opportunities. Former West Ohio campers and local churches were mailed the [2024 East Ohio summer camping brochure](#).



Looking for options outside of East Ohio? Consider these collaborative West Ohio partners:

- [United Church of Christ Camp](#) in Bellville, Ohio
- [Michigan United Methodist Camping](#) across Michigan
- [First Community Church Camp](#) in Logan, Ohio

Additional youth options:

- [Senior High Christian Youth Fellowship](#) at Malone University
- [Reach Out](#) for grades 8-12 at Lakeside
- [Lakeside Institute](#) for grades 9-age 20 at Lakeside

If you would like more information about any of the above options, please contact Director of Camps, Retreats, and Next Gen Engagement, Ann Marie Carley: amcarley@wocumc.org.

EDUCATIONAL AND SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

Super Serve Saturday - a monthly serve opportunity

The Great Miami River District is partnering with Hyde Park Community UMC to offer monthly community serve opportunities from September through May. This is a way for families, multiple generations, small groups, youth groups, friends and people of all backgrounds put their faith into action by serving in the community.



On March 16 there are 8 projects to choose from in Hamilton county. We really want to expand the reach of Super Serve Saturday to all of the counties in the Great Miami River District. If you know of any organizations who may want to participate, please contact [Nancy](#) at 513.421.2057. Super Serve Saturdays (S3) take place on the 3rd Saturday of the month. The dates remaining before the break in June are April 20 and May 18. There is something for every age and ability - no superpowers necessary - just a willing, humble and flexible spirit and heart for all!
[Click here to sign up for March 16.](#)

West Ohio Conference Ministry Intern Program

The West Ohio Conference annually supports a Ministry Intern Program designed to assist college students who are interested in serving in a local church setting to further explore a call into ministry. This is accomplished by working in a local church during a seven-week paid Internship. The Internship includes trips to the Ohio Methodist Seminaries and to at least one of the other 13 United Methodist Seminaries in the United States. Students are introduced at Annual Conference and provided many opportunities for networking and ministry engagement to help them in their journey. Mentors and host church partnerships are also needed to complete the experience.



**All In Community Leadership Lab: Personal Leadership
March 9 :: 9am-5pm**



Doing justice-involved ministry is hard. Leading it is even harder. All In Community provides an anchor of support and guidance on the journey. All In Community Leadership Labs are environments for Matthew 25 co-laborers who minister with justice-involved persons and/or who are transforming their own justice-involved journey. Together, we are learning and growing in our mission of restoring hope, supporting journeys toward healing, and transforming lives and communities to reflect Kingdom values of justice and belonging.

Led by justice-involved persons and All In Community leaders. Leadership Labs provide theological exploration, reflective practices, tools and resources, and mutual learning environments for more affective leadership. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

PERSONAL LEADERSHIP LAB

In the Personal Leadership Lab, the focus will be on identifying, or re-discovering, the personal values from which we lead and our barriers to leading from our values. In the afternoon, we will discover our [Working Genius](#). Everyone has two God-given geniuses that are our "sweet spots" for finding meaning and joy in our ministry labors. Knowing our geniuses and the geniuses of those we lead helps us be good stewards of God's people.

[Learn more and register here](#)

March 11 Leadership Clinic with Bryan Stevenson



Bryan Stevenson, author of "Just Mercy" will be joining Bishop Palmer on March 11, 2024 from 10am - Noon for an online edition of the Leadership Clinic. An option to view later will also be available. The first 200 to register will receive a copy of "Just Mercy." Bryan Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults. "Just Mercy" was adapted as a major motion picture and the film won the American Bar Association's 2020 Silver Gavel Award as well as four NAACP Image Awards.

[Click here to register](#)

**Family Ministry Network Zoom Meetings
Join on March 14 from 6-7:30pm OR
March 17 from 1-2:30PM**



Do you work with children, youth, or young adults? Join Rev. Ann Marie Carley as she introduces you to the new Great Miami River District Family Ministry Network.

Ann Marie is offering two Zoom opportunities designed to shape the future of ministry with children, youth and young adults in our district with a focus on leaning into our connection. Each meeting is the same; she's offering two options to better accommodate your schedule. Questions? Contact Ann Marie at amcarley@wocumc.org.

[Click here to learn more and register](#)

**The Road to General Conference Webinar #2
Tuesday, March 19 at 12pm**

The much-anticipated United Methodist Church General Conference will be held April 23-May 3, 2024, in Charlotte,

NC. In preparation for this event, Bishop Palmer is holding online Town Halls to answer some of the questions West Ohioans have regarding this important work.



The second webinar is coming up on Tuesday, March 19, at 12pm. Bishop Palmer will answer previously submitted questions he wasn't able to get to last month as well as any new questions you may have. Send them to: townhallquestions@wocumc.org.

[Register here](#)

Is your Congregation Looking to Grow Younger? Saturday, April 13 :: 9am-4pm at Ohio Wesleyan University

West Ohio churches are invited to one-day event on April 13 designed to generate momentum across the generations. You'll hear from leaders who are experts in generating a culture of intergenerational leadership, worship, and sustainable multiplication. The goal is for you to be empowered to cultivate a presence for all generations in your church.



[Click here to learn more and register.](#)

Advanced Lay Servant Ministry Course: Discover Your Spiritual Gifts April 19-20 2024 on Zoom (Friday 6:30-9pm/Saturday 8:30am-5pm) Cost \$15

The early church knew about the gift of the Holy Spirit and the spiritual gifts flowing from the Holy Spirit through the believer. Today, the church is still discovering this. Learn more about how your spiritual gifts support your lay servant ministries. This course is one of the required courses for Lay Speakers.



Harry and Ann Peat will be the instructors. You are to purchase and read the book, "Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts" by Charles V. Bryant prior to the class.

[Register here](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Grants Available to Local Churches - Deadlines are nearing!

Several grants are available to local churches from the General Board of Global Ministries and the Foundation for Evangelism.



- [Equipping the Local Church Grant](#) - to help launch an experiment or initiative to share the Gospel in word and deed, build relationships, and invite others into a discipleship journey with Jesus. *Due February 29.*
- [Racial/Ethnic Local Church Grant](#) - to foster the development and strengthen the witness and ministry of racial/ethnic local churches in the United States. *Due March 1.*
- VBS Mini-Grants - to help with vacation bible school costs such as curriculum, supplies, staff costs, etc. Contact [Maddy DeWitt](#) to learn more at 380-223-9229. *Due March 15.*



[Click here](#) to view/respond to the ads below
[Click here](#) to submit your own classified ad

Employment

Serve Director - *Kettering Christ UMC*
Director of Communications - *Church of the Saviour UMC*
Youth Director - *Church of the Saviour UMC*

Finance Director - *Hyde Park Community UMC*
Administrative Assistant - *Aley UMC*
Administrative Assistant - *Aldersgate UMC*

Needed

Softball Players - *Clifton UMC*

Watch this newsletter, [GMD's Facebook](#),
[Conference social media](#), and [WestOhioUMC.org](#)
for the latest news and events right here in the Great Miami River District!

Great Miami River District of the UM Church | 7388 E Kemper Road, Cincinnati, OH 45249

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