



Great Miami River District

News from The United Methodist Church

News and Notes: February 7, 2024

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God is Doing a New Thing

"Then the one seated on the throne said, 'Look! I'm making all things new.' He also said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'" Revelations 21:5 (CEB)

Dear Ones in Christ Jesus:

I am persuaded renewal, revival, and new life are running loose in our local churches of the West Ohio Conference. Our sense of connection is being strengthened. Let me point to two recent signs that give me joy and are cause for all of us to celebrate and praise God. [Continue reading](#)



2023 Statistical Reporting

It's that time of year again - 2023 statistical reporting. Recently an email was sent to pastors, treasurers, administrative council/leadership team chairs, and church office administrators with the information you need to complete your reports.



These reports are due by April 15, and online submission is preferred. Providing accurate information is essential, as this reporting affects how your 2025 apportionments are calculated. You can access all information that you need to complete those reports [here](#).

For questions around these reports contact Jack Frost, jfrost@wocumc.org.

2024 West Ohio Annual Conference: God is Able

The 55th session of the West Ohio Annual Conference is set to convene from Wednesday, May 29 through Saturday, June 1, 2024, at Capital University in Bexley, Ohio. This year's theme, "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. There will be limited guest seating; however, the conference is expected to be livestreamed on the home page of the West Ohio Conference website: westohioumc.org. More details coming soon.

Annual Conference Legislation Deadline is March 1

As stipulated in our conference rules, all legislation must be submitted to and received by the 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.



Legislation should be sent to Conference Secretary Chris Clough: cclough@wocumc.org.

"We Love Jesus and Our UMC" Photo Contest

Contest Theme: Capture moments that showcase your church's love for Jesus and the spirit of The United Methodist Church. [Learn more](#)

Submission Criteria:

1. Photos should reflect the theme of love, faith, and community within the context of the UMC.
2. Images can include church activities, worship services, community service, or any other aspect that embodies the spirit of your congregation or ministry setting. Images should reflect events from January 2023 to February 13, 2024.
3. Submit up to 20 digital images to: WOCMedia@wocumc.org.
4. Include photographer's name, phone number and email address, and photograph location/church.

Submission Deadline: February 14, 2024

How to Enter: Send digital images to WOCMedia@wocumc.org



Educational and Serve Opportunities

Recording now available of Bishop Palmer's General Conference Town Hall

On January 30, Bishop Gregory Palmer held the first of two Town Hall meetings regarding the upcoming General Conference. After his opening comments, Bishop Palmer answered questions that were submitted by West Ohioans. [Watch Now](#)



The second Town Hall is scheduled for March 11 at noon. Registration will open soon. You may submit your questions to: townhallquestions@wocumc.org.

Is Your Congregation Looking to Grow Younger?

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. You'll come away feeling empowered to cultivate a presence for all generations in your church.



Date: April 13

Time: 9am-4pm **Location:** Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware Ohio **Cost:** \$75/person or \$150/team of 3

There are 300 spots available for this event so register early. Questions can be directed to [Ann Marie Carley](#), West Ohio Director of Camps, Retreats, and Next Gen Engagement

[Learn more and Register](#)

The Conection :: A Confirmation Event with Bishop Palmer March 3 from 2-6:30p Ohio Wesleyan University



If you have confirmands from last year, current students, or students who will be entering confirmation this fall, you do not want to miss the **The Connection** with Bishop Gregory V. Palmer on Sunday, March 3.

Confirmands will learn about the history and polity of The United Methodist Church, experience the unique connections of being a part of West Ohio, fellowship, worship, and spend time talking with Bishop Palmer. The afternoon will conclude with a meal shared together.

[Click here](#) to register your group today. If you have questions or difficulty registering, contact Ann Marie Carley at amcarley@wocumc.org.

Lay Servant Ministry Zoom Classes

Basic Course

February 23-24, 2024 -via Zoom; *Deadline to register is February 16*

Friday: 6:30-9pm; Saturday 8:30am-5pm

Cost: \$15.00

Instructors: Harry and Ann Peat



The focus of Lay Servant Ministries is to equip laity to serve in the local and greater church and the foundation is the Basic course. The ministries of Lay Servanthood are Leading, Caring, and Communicating. This class will familiarize you with these ministries and give you the chance to explore each one. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Advanced Course: Discover Your Spiritual Gifts

April 19-20 2024 - via Zoom - Registration Opens In March

Friday: 6:30-9pm and Saturday 8:30am-5pm

Instructors: Harry and Ann Peat

The early church knew about the gift of the Holy Spirit and the spiritual gifts flowing from the Holy Spirit through the believer. Learn more about how your spiritual gifts support your lay servant ministries. This course is one of the required courses for Lay Speakers. You'll need to purchase and read the book, "Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts" by Charles V. Bryant prior to the class. (order from Cokesbury - [here](#) or Amazon - [here](#)). Registration available soon.

Tuesday Evenings in February via Zoom: Race and Racism in Cincinnati Docuseries

[Church of the Saviour UMC](#) is presenting a docuseries during February telling of Cincinnati's history from the racial margins. It shares a people's history that places storytelling authority in the hands of common people, rather than political leaders or other figures in power.



The dates remaining in this series are Feb 13 and 20 from 6:30-8:30pm. Click [here](#) to register.

Super Serve Saturday - a monthly serving opportunity

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



For February there are 4 organizations and 7 projects to choose from.

Organizations are: New Life Furniture Bank, Meals on Wheels, Wesley Chapel Mission Center and The Center for Respite Care. All of the opportunities are in Hamilton county but we want to expand the opportunity across all 7 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 February 17, March 16, 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 February 17.

Resources

Celebrating Black History Month

February is Black History Month, and in the woven tapestry of The United Methodist Church, African Americans are—and have been—vital, having played a major role in the denomination’s development.



Black History Month has been observed in February in the United States and Canada since 1976. The celebration of Black history was started by historian Carter G. Woodson in 1926 as a weeklong focus to educate American people about African American history. Black History Month is an opportunity to celebrate the gifts and offerings that African Americans contribute to the world and the church through art, music, writing, leadership, and action. [Find resources here.](#)

Did you know?

The Great Miami River District can help you with podcasting, sermon recording and more. We recently set up a small studio at our office (7388 E Kemper Rd, Cincinnati) with microphones and a recording mixer that is available for all pastors and churches to use.



If you've had a dream of starting a podcast - or doing any voiceover, sermon recording, or audiobook work - now is the time to make your dream a reality. Contact [Seth Lindemann](#) or [Nancy Newton](#) to learn more.

Funding Sources

Racial/Ethnic Local Church Grant Applications



The 2024 Racial/Ethnic Local Church (RELC) Grant and the Annual Conference Multiethnic Ministries Grant applications are now available. RELC Grant and Multiethnic Ministries Grant applications will be accepted through March 1, 2024. [Application forms can be found here.](#)

RELC Grants are provided to assist local racial/ethnic congregations with projects and programs on one of three areas: 1) Leadership Development; 2) Church Growth and Development; and 3) Pastoral Salary Support. The maximum RELC programmatic grant is \$15,000 and the maximum pastoral salary support grant is \$12,000. The church's membership must be at least 51% majority racial/ethnic.

Multiethnic Ministries Grants are provided to annual conferences to assist with programs focusing on racial-ethnic leadership development and racial/ethnic church growth and development.

Youth Trip Grant Applications Are Open Deadline to apply: Friday, February 16, 2024



Each of you will be called to do something a little different that suits your group, your context, and the need that God has put on your heart. Regardless of what it is, we want you to know that the Great Miami River District is here to support you.

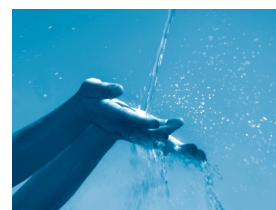
Again this year the GMD is offering **\$1,000 youth mission and spiritual development grants**. We are doing so with an expanded understanding of what a 'youth summer trip' means. You are encouraged to dream, pray, and think in bold and creative ways about how to engage youth in mission, service, and spiritual growth safely this summer. And if you'd like ideas on how to be involved with our local mission partners or smaller rural churches, please reach out to the district office. We would love to share ideas and resources from across the district with you.

[Download the application from the "District Grants" section of the Great Miami River District website](#), or [download the Word file directly](#).

Local Church and Ministry Partner Events



Epiphany UMC
Women's Brunch
February 10
Click [here](#) for more details



Concord UMC
Renewed, Refreshed & Revived
February 11-14
Click [here](#) for more details



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

Employment

Director of Children's Ministries - *Epiphany UMC*

Administrative Assistant - *Aldersgate UMC*

Director of Youth Ministries - *Sharonville UMC*

Children's Ministry Coordinator - *Oakwood 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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