



Great Miami River District

News from The United Methodist Church

News and Notes: March 13, 2024

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Bob Edwards Memorial Grants Available Application due date: April 19, 2024



The Bob Edwards Memorial Fund Grant Application for Summer Enrichment and Nutritional Support for children is now open.

If your church or agency offers educational, spiritual and nutritional support for children who are under resourced in these areas, the Great Miami River Valley District invites you to apply for a grant to support this important ministry. We will also consider applications for projects related to scouting ministries.

The fund is named in honor of Bob Edwards, a long time supporter of missions, children's ministry, and Scouting. The memorial fund serves to continue his good work.

Please email your applications and accompanying documents by 4pm on Friday, April 19 to: Rev. Justin Fuhrmann at jfuhrma@hotmail.com.

[Download the application here](#) or visit our [website](#) to learn about all the grants offered by the district.

Calling All Laity!!! District At-Large Members Needed for Annual Conference

The district has several At-Large Member positions still available. If you are a member of your church, no matter how young or old, you are invited to attend Annual Conference as an At-Large Member.



Our goal is to have a balanced and diverse group to represent our diverse district. This means that we will do our best to be inclusive in ethnicity, age, demographic context (rural, urban, suburban, small membership church, large membership church) and more.

If you are interested in filling one of the spots, please complete the [Application Form](#). If you know anyone else who would be interested in this position, please share the information and form with them as well. Submit completed applications to Nancy in the district office at nnewton@wocumc.org.

Harry Denman Evangelism Award Nominations
Deadline is 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.](#)

A Story and Invitation from the GMD Justice Network Team

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness."
Micah 6:8



As United Methodists, we understand our call to transform the world involves personal, social, and civic righteousness. The relationships we form in our communities through work in justice and mercy ministries show our love for our neighbors.

You're invited to read a story written by Bobby Woodward from The John Wesley UMC. [Click here](#) to read about his journey and invitation to join the GMD Justice Network Team.

You can answer God's call by connecting your church to other Great Miami River District churches seeking to address social justice issues. The Justice Network Team meets via Zoom every 3 months to share their programs and needs. Contact Russ Naber at naberrb@gmail.com to get started or learn more about the Justice Network.

2023 Statistical Reporting

2023 statistical reporting information was recently emailed out to pastors, treasurers, administrative council/leadership team chairs, and church office administrators. 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 related to these reports, contact Jack Frost, jfrost@wocumc.org.



Annual Reporting

The information for the church and clergy Annual Reports has also been updated recently and is available for access. These reports include the Fund Balance Report, Trustee Legal & Property, Parsonage Inspection, Clergy Self-Assessment and SPRC Assessments. They can be found by clicking [here](#). They are due June 1.

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.

A significant aspect of the conference includes voting on business matters. There will be a time of celebration as it marks the retirement of Bishop Gregory and Mrs. Cynthia Palmer. The conference will also shine a spotlight on the ordination of clergy, symbolizing a commitment to nurturing new leaders and fostering spiritual growth within The United Methodist Church.



Registration is now open! [Click here to sign up](#). Information regarding meals, housing, and special events is posted on the conference website and can be found by clicking [here](#). All members, clergy and lay, must register to attend the conference.

Love Offering to Celebrate the Palmers' Lifetime of Ministry

The West Ohio Conference invites friends, colleagues, and church members to contribute to a personal monetary gift for Bishop Gregory and Mrs. Cynthia Palmer in celebration of their service to our conference and The United Methodist Church.



“Bishop and Mrs. Palmer have faithfully served the West Ohio Conference for the last 12 years, but their ministry extends far beyond their time in Ohio to previous Episcopal appointments in the Iowa and Illinois Great Rivers Conferences, as well as local churches in East Ohio, Eastern Pennsylvania, and North Carolina,” said Rev. Linda Middelberg, Assistant to Bishop Palmer. “As they begin their retirement in Charlotte, NC, to be near their children, we want to send them with a token of appreciation, our love, and thanks from those whose lives they have touched.”

Bishop Palmer is the longest-tenured active Bishop currently serving The United Methodist Church. The Palmers will be presented with the gift at the West Ohio Annual Conference in June 2024. Financial contributions may be made online by [clicking here](#) or by sending a check made payable to West Ohio Conference c/o the Foundation (UMFWO), 32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington, OH 43085 with "Palmers Gift Fund" in the memo line.

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 OPPORTUNITIES

Ministry Monday with All In Community
March 25 at 7pm - Zoom



This month during All In Community's *Ministry Monday* information session on Zoom, they will be sharing about The First 72, an inspirational framework designed to guide community members wanting to make a difference in the lives of those returning home after an incarceration experience.

The first minutes, hours, and days after a person's release from incarceration is a most vulnerable time. When there is not adequate support during the initial phase of reentry, a returning neighbor often responds out of desperation to fulfill needs instead of having hope for a better future.

Being welcomed home is the first step to restoring a returning neighbor's dignity, identity, safety, and self-worth. Join others to learn where gaps in the reentry process can be filled by providing both tangible help and a hopeful presence for returning neighbors.

Advance registration is required. [Click 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](#)

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.

[2024 Ministry Intern Application](#)

[2024 Mentor & Host Church Application](#)

LOCAL CHURCH & MINISTRY PARTNER EVENTS



Wesley Foundation
Spring Cleanup Event
March 16, 2024
Click [here](#) for more details



Clough UMC
Learning to Liberate
March 19, 2024
Click [here](#) for more details



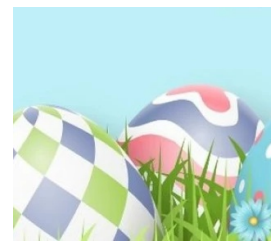
My Neighbor's Place (Westwood UMC)
Immigration Advocacy Training
March 20, 2024
Click [here](#) for more details



Wilmington UMC
Jesus Christ Superstar
March 24, 2024
Click [here](#) for more details



Clifton UMC
Way of the Cross for Justice
March 29, 2024
Click [here](#) for more details



Armstrong Chapel UMC
Easter Egg Hunt
March 31, 2024
Click [here](#) for more details

CLASSIFIEDS

[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 - *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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