



# Great Miami River District

*News from The United Methodist Church*

**News and Notes :: May 8, 2024**



## General Conference Legislative Recap



During worship on the final day of General Conference, East Ohio Conference Bishop (and new President of the Council of Bishops), Tracy Malone, challenged delegates to "get out of God's way." She declared the work of the delegation important – but not as important as what the church will do next. "We go forward surrendering to the power of the Holy Spirit, entrusting God to lead us and to show us God's vision for the next expression of The United Methodist Church," Malone said.

A few of the many highlights over the 10-day conference include:

- Delegates approved legislation that would restructure the denomination to be more contextual in different regions served by the church.
- An overwhelming majority voted to remove from the Book of Discipline discriminatory language and bans related to ministry by, with and for "self-avowed practicing" gay and lesbian people.
- Bishop Tracy S. Malone, resident bishop of the East Ohio Conference, became the first Black female president of the Council of Bishops.
- Bishop David Wilson, resident bishop of the Great Plains Conference, became the first Native American bishop to preside over the General Conference.
- Delegates approved a compromise regarding apportionments. Conferences will shift from their current base rate of 3.29% to a base rate of 2.6% for 2025 and 2026.
- Delegates approved a 2025-2028 budget of \$373.4 million.
- Delegates approved the first overhaul of the denomination's Social Principles in nearly 50 years.
- Delegates removed Paragraph 2553 from the Book of Discipline, ending the disaffiliation policy that was added by the special 2019 General Conference.



[Please click here](#) to read about all the good work done in Charlotte April 23-May 3, 2024.

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### Great Miami River District Spring Conference

Our annual District Conference will be held **Sunday, May 19 at 3-5 PM at Middletown Christ UMC, 700 S. Marshall Rd, Middletown**

45044. We will celebrate the many milestones of ministry that have taken place over our first year as the Great Miami River District. We will also recognize those serving on our district leadership teams, fellowship together and worship God through song and scripture.



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### One-to-Ones begin June 13

Pastor Jenn appreciates all of the Great Miami River District clergy. She says that "your dedication, passion, and commitment to shepherding the church has not gone unnoticed." Jenn invites clergy serving churches and in extension to meet with her, not just for assessment but to also to celebrate, reflect, and support the ministry that you are doing in your church, ministry setting and community.



This year you have the option of meeting on Zoom or in person at the GMD office in Cincinnati (7388 E Kemper Rd, 45249). Additional dates have been added to the Sign Up Genius. [Click here](#) to register for your spot.

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### Annual Conference Volunteer Opportunities

You and your church are invited to be active participants in this year's Annual Conference. Please read below for ways that you can be involved before and during Annual Conference. For more information about Annual Conference including the online Book of Reports, Bishop and Cynthia Palmer's Love Offering, Recommendations Listening Sessions sign ups, Event registrations and more, [click here](#).



#### ***Greeters, Parking Lot Assistants, Golf Cart Drivers, Lunch & Picnic Hosts***

If you are attending and can take a shift welcoming folks, driving a golf cart, or assisting with distribution of lunches, please sign up! We need you! [Sign up here](#).

**Ushers** Ushers are needed for hospitality, assisting conference members and staff as needed, and setting up the conference space prior to the daily events, etc. If you can help, please contact [usherwoc@butter.toast.net](mailto:usherwoc@butter.toast.net) with your name and phone number.

#### ***Annual Conference Prayer Vigil***

Sign your church up today to support the work being done at Annual Conference through prayer! Intervals of 30 minutes are available throughout Annual Conference for your congregation to be in prayer. As the time draws closer to Annual Conference you will be given prompts to help guide your time with God. You can [sign up here](#), or [share this link](#) with others in your congregation.

#### ***Mission Opportunities***

There is still space available for people to work in mission together on Wednesday afternoon, May 29th. Registration deadline for these opportunities is May 23.

[Amina's Dream Sewing Ministry](#) (3 spots left)

[Church for All People Fresh Market 12:30 pm Shift](#)

[Church for All People Fresh Market 3:00 pm Shift](#)

[Church for All People Free Store](#)

[Urban Farm Church](#)

[The Charitable Pharmacy](#)

#### ***Buckets of Blessings Challenge***

This year's mission collection is for the Bishop's **Buckets of Blessings Challenge**, where we will see which district can contribute the most buckets of cleaning supplies! Also called Home Care Kits, these buckets include liquid household cleaner, dish soap, liquid laundry detergent, and a scrub brush, all in a 5-gallon bucket. [Click here for more on how to make MMDC Home Care](#)

[Kits](#). For his final Annual Conference as West Ohio's Bishop, let's make sure we shower Bishop Palmer with Buckets of Blessings! Donations can be brought to the Mission Truck at Annual Conference.

## EDUCATIONAL and SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

### Super Serve Saturday - a monthly serve opportunity

Don't miss the May 18th opportunity to serve before Super Serve Saturday takes a break June-August. These monthly events are a way for families, multiple generations, small groups, youth groups, friends and people of all backgrounds to put their faith into action by serving in the community.



On May 18 there are 3 organizations and 5 projects to choose from.

[Click here to view the Sign Up Genius to learn more about each and to sign up your group](#)

Saturday, September 21 will be the next serve date. By then we hope to have at least one project in all 7 counties of the Great Miami River District. If your organization or one you know of wants to get involved, please contact [Nancy](#) at 513.421.2057.

Super Serve Saturdays have something for every age and ability - no superpowers necessary - just a willing, humble and flexible spirit and heart for all!

### Preschool Training Day May 23, 10am-4pm

Mark your calendar for Thursday, May 23 for a training at the West Ohio Conference Center in Worthington. The training will be approved by Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA) for use in credentialing.

Storytelling, theming, and prayer as professional development will be the focus of the day. Come share your thoughts and ideas with other leaders in the preschool world. Enjoy conversation over lunch, which will be provided. To register, please email [lmoore@wocumc.org](mailto:lmoore@wocumc.org).



## Vacation Bible School Opportunities



**Grace & Possibilities Circuit**  
*Just Like Me*  
June 10-14  
Click [here](#) for more details



**Loveland UMC**  
*Breaker Rock Beach*  
June 17-21  
Click [here](#) for more details

## CLASSIFIEDS

[Click here](#) to view/respond to the ads below

[Click here](#) to submit your own classified ad

### Employment

Children's Ministry Program Coordinator - *Shiloh UMC*

Children & Youth Director - *Hope UMC*

Director of Music - *Fairview UMC*  
Youth Director - *Sulphur Grove UMC*  
Young Family Ministries Director - *Friendship UMC*  
Director of Youth Ministries - *Friendship UMC*  
Treasurer - *Memorial UMC*  
Administrative Assistant - *Hyde Park Community UMC*  
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry - *Scioto Ridge UMC*  
Serve Director - *Kettering Christ UMC*  
Director of Communications - *Church of the Saviour UMC*  
Youth Director - *Church of the Saviour UMC*  
Administrative Assistant - *Aldersgate UMC*



**Free to a Good Home** Bibles, books, robe, stole - *Rev. Gary Boucher*  
Allen Organ - *Jacksonburg UMC*

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[Conference social media](#), and [WestOhioUMC.org](#)  
for the latest news and events.

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