



Three Rivers Current

A Publication of Three Rivers District Union
of the United Methodist Church



Issue V, Vol 14 Editor: Joy Snyder

www.eocumc.com/threerivers

AUGUST 2018



Were the Disciples leaders or followers...or both?

How are we to apply the attributes of leadership in our churches?

If we are to serve as leaders we must govern diligently. [Romans 12:6] By accepting a leadership position one must be a diligent, steady worker. Many times this becomes a painstaking commitment. An effective leader considers the outcome of decisions and how they affect all parties involved. The leader's work should be done in earnest and energetically for the cause. Our cause in the church is that of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Leadership must be laced in prayer. God has called many to be leaders. *"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you."* [Hebrew 13:17]

If being in a leadership position has become burdensome, then the joy is lost and the mission is no longer effective. As you consider the leadership positions within your churches, prayerfully discern God's call upon your lives and how you can be a blessing to others.



-- Susan McCurdy, Three Rivers District Lay Leader

Editor's Note: Charge Conference is upon us and each church, in collaboration with your pastor, will be considering nominations for leadership and in turn servant leaders will be considering how to employ their gifts to influence the vitality and ministry within their local church and beyond. *"By virtue of our baptism by water and the Spirit, God calls all Christians to faithful discipleship. As we grow to maturity in faith we respond to that call within our own contexts."*¹ **We thank Susan McCurdy** for sharing words of encouragement for this season of planning and development while Dr. Call is on sabbatical. Dr. Call will resume office hours August 13 when he returns from his spiritual renewal leave.

THREE RIVERS VOLUNTEERS-IN-MISSIONS UPDATE:

Preliminary contact has been made with C.R.O.S.S. Ministry, an UMVIM project in Charleston, WV, about three hours from Coshocton. This non-profit ministry focuses on repairing/renovating homes for the needy, the elderly and veterans. This ministry parallels recent Three Rivers VIM trips. We are considering either the week of September 16 - 22 or the week of September 23 - 29. If interested contact [John Hill](#) ASAP with your preferred week. Spots are limited. \$150 per person fee helps cover costs. Scholarships are available.

EOC VIM TRIP TO RED BIRD MISSION

The conference has room for UMVIM members to join them at Red Bird Mission in Kentucky on Sunday, August 26 through Saturday, September 1, 2018. Two potential projects are painting the church and/or insulating a room. \$150/person charge covers the cost of travel, food, & lodging. Contact [John Partridge](#)

¹ [Discipleship Ministries Guidelines for Nominations and Leadership Development](#) [Guidelines for all leadership positions are available through [Cokesbury](#) or by contacting the district office.]

COUNCIL OF BISHOPS AMEND THEIR CALL FOR THE 2019 SPECIAL SESSION

In response to [Judicial Council Decision 1360](#), the Council of Bishops (COB) has amended its call for the Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The amended call issued by COB President Kenneth H. Carter notes that, “The purpose of this Special Session of the General Conference shall be limited to receiving and acting upon a report from the Commission on a Way Forward and recommendations of the Council of the Bishops.”

The Commission on a Way Forward has offered the following three plans:

- *The One Church Plan* would allow decisions about whether to ordain LGBTQ clergy or to allow same-gender unions to be made closer to conference and congregational level. The plan would remove the restrictive language against the practice of homosexuality in *The Book of Discipline*, and would also give assurances to pastors and conferences who in good conscience cannot perform same-sex weddings or ordain “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy that they don’t have to do so. The Council of Bishops recommends The One Church Plan as the way forward for The United Methodist Church.
- *The Traditionalist Plan* would affirm the current language in *The Book of Discipline* and seek to create swift and strong penalties for violations and create exit plans for churches that disagree.
- *The Connectional Conference Plan* would allow conferences to choose among three connectional conferences for affiliation. The connectional conferences would align based on theology or perspective on LGBTQ ministry – be it traditionalist, progressive or allowing for a variety of approaches. This plan would require multiple amendments to the denomination’s constitution.

The Special Conference materials will be available in the official languages of General Conference no later than November 26, 2018. To help the Church prepare for the Special Session of General Conference, the Commission on a Way Forward has posted 10 videos about its work on the Commission’s [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.

EOC Delegation Offers Listening Posts

The East Ohio delegation, which was elected by Annual Conference, has scheduled the following five listening posts to hear the thoughts and concerns of clergy and laity heading into the Special Session:

- Sat., Sept. 8; 10am – 12:30pm [Wildare UMC](#)
- Sat., Sept. 29; 10am – 12:30pm [Cambridge Christ UMC](#)
- Tues., Oct. 9; 6:30 – 9:00 pm [New Phila First UM](#)
- Sat., Oct. 20; 10am – 12:30pm [Ashland First UMC](#)
- Tues., Nov. 6; 6:30 – 9:00 pm [Aldersgate UMC](#)

REGISTER 

Pre-registration is not required, but is helpful for us to plan hospitality.

Please register yourself and any guests coming with you.

The delegation also has established the email address of eoc2019gcdelegation@eocumc.com should you wish to contact each of the delegates.

Questions that may help direct you in how to share your thoughts and concerns with the delegation include:

- What are signs of hope/or causes of anxiety for you surrounding the 2019 Special General Conference?
- What are signs of hope, or causes of anxiety, for you in a particular plan in the proposed report?
- What would your picture of The United Methodist Church look like for the next generation?
- What do you want us as delegates to be aware of or take into consideration?

Recommended reading: [Be Strong and of Good Courage](#) and [Wonder, Love, and Praise - Sharing a Vision of the Church](#)

MOVING EXPENSE PAYMENTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS NOW TAXABLE INCOME

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act –effective January 2, 2018 through December 31, 2025 – temporarily eliminates tax deductions and the exclusion from gross income that were available. Given the itinerant nature of The United Methodist Church, this change impacts your clergy. Moving expense payments and reimbursements – whether made directly from the church to the moving company or reimbursed to the clergy person – **must now be included in gross income, creating tax liability.** In addition, these payments are now subject to self-employment taxes. Clergy should plan to make additional tax payments to cover the liability. Clergy are responsible for reporting these taxable amounts even if the church fails to report them to the IRS. Information on this change and other tax resources can be found on the [GCFA website](#) or view the [move information resource](#) on the Wespath website.



Photo from [Nicolas Huk](#) with permission

East Ohio Payroll Services

All East Ohio Conference local churches are eligible to enroll in this program. **The deadline to enroll for a January 2019 start date is Thursday, November 1, 2018.** The \$1,000 set-up fee will be waived for the churches that submit paperwork to the office of Financial and Administrative Services by November 1, 2018. To enroll, contact East Ohio Financial & Administrative Services at (330) 966-7581 or [visit their website](#).

Developing Effective Leadership

Town and Rural Resource Program of the East & West Ohio Conferences invite all Small Membership Church

- Worship Teams
- Worship Leaders
- Lay Servants & Speakers
- Certified Lay Ministers
- Part-time & Fulltime Local Pastors
- Associate Members
- Student Pastors
- Provisionals
- Deacons & Elders to:

WORSHIP!!!

Plan, Enhance and Enrich: Doing a Lot with Little!

**Sat., Sept. 15, 2018
9:00 am—4:00 pm
at
Christ UMC in
Baltimore, Ohio**

**Just south of I-70, exit 122
Registration begins at 8:30**



Featured Speakers:

Rev. Robin Knowles Wallace is Professor of Worship and Music in the Thomas H. Taylor Chair at Methodist Theological School in Ohio and author of *Worshiping in the Small Membership Church* (Abingdon, 2008) and *Worship in the Small Membership Church*

with Rev. Terry Heck (*Discipleship Resources*, 2007). She grew up in United Methodist parsonages in several rural and town & country churches and has served a wide variety of churches in five states as a musician. She has taught in the Course of Study program for over twenty years, directing it for 4 years. She will offer *Theology of Hymns for the 21st Century* and *Creative Worship Planning*, along with a break-out session on *Planning for Advent*.



Rev. Jackson Henry is the Director of Music Ministries with Discipleship Ministries of the UMC. He grew up in a 2-point charge in Tennessee, and served in a variety of settings, including small, medium, and large membership churches, and campus music ministry. Jackson is an ordained deacon within the Tennessee

Conference of the United Methodist Church. He will 'Zoom' in with us focusing on 'Doing a Lot with a Little.' He will explain in detail the various UM resources available online (many are free). A highly sought-after presenter and musical clinician, he is a well-known collaborative pianist who has performed with artists from around the U.S. & Europe.

Rev. Ryan Grace has filmed documentaries on Appalachia and on Native American areas and their people. He will share how to use PowerPoint, announcements, and media for churches with little or no expertise in media. He is the pastor of Maize Manor UMC, in Columbus, Ohio.

Rev. Barbara Cooper is a music educator & worship innovator, leading worship and music for 35 yrs. in traditional, contemporary, transitional, large, small, rural, urban, & suburban settings. She desires to connect others to God.

Rev. Brooke Hilliard, an Ohio Cokesbury Representative will demonstrate the UM Hymnal ppt. and musical choices. You may order Cokesbury products at a discount.

Plan, Enhance & Enrich your WORSHIP!

Saturday, September 15 in Baltimore, OH

Sometimes we find our worship is more about routine elements than an outpouring of gratefulness and praise to our Triune God. Sometimes our worship requires enhancement, enrichment, updating or a tweak.

In addition to these speakers you may choose one of three break-out session:

- 1.) *Planning for Advent*
- 2.) *PowerPoint and Media in the Church*
- 3.) *Recruit, Form or Create a Worship Team*

Cost is \$25/person or \$20/person with groups of 3 or more from the same charge. Each session includes continental breakfast, lunch, snacks, and handouts. There is 0.6 C.E.U.'s available.

Brochures have been sent to clergy and are also available at the district office. **Registration deadline is Sept. 9th!**

EAST OHIO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

Bearing Fruit that Lasts: Called, Committed, Connected

By Rick Wolcott, director of Communications for East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church



Bishop Malone presided over the 49th session of Annual Conference when 691 clergy and 764 lay members gathered on the shore of Lake Erie. The Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion recognized 63 saints who joined the church triumphant since Annual Conference 2017. The Celebration of Retirement recognized 39 clergy making up the second-largest retirement class in the history of the East Ohio Conference. Ten persons were commissioned and 11 were ordained in the Service of Commissioning for Ministry and the Ordination of Elders and Deacons.

Monday afternoon's theme focused on *being, making, and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ*. The keynote presenter was Stephanie Caro of Ministry Architects, who worked last year with five EOC churches through the Small Church Cohort, a joint effort of Young People's Ministries and Spiritual Formation. Tuesday afternoon was dedicated to *being God's agents of transformation in our communities and throughout the world*. Presentations highlighted East Ohio churches partnering with schools and congregations building community relationships. Connecting Neighbors is bringing together churches, businesses and government agencies while other ministries are addressing poverty, hunger and addiction.

"One of the many things I love about the United Methodist Church is our connection...throughout all corners of the globe," said Dir. of Financial & Administrative Services Vera Rebrovich. "You responded to the call when hurricanes struck. In 2017, donations to UMCOR's Disaster Relief totaled over \$400,000 --- a 553% increase! Thank you for your caring and loving generosity." The following statistics were also shared.

- East Ohio Conference paid General Church Apportionments at 100% for the 13th-consecutive year.
- Proposed 2018 Conference budget is flat for the 14th-consecutive year
- Membership continues to decrease, decreasing 4.7% in 2017 to 137,376.
- Average worship is down 5.7% from the previous year to 50,307.
- Professions of faith have decreased about 47% to 1,030.
- Baptisms decreased approximately 11% in 2017.
- Average weekly attendance in Sunday school increased 4% in 2017.
- There was an 8.6% increase for ongoing small groups and studies in 2017.
- The number of UM Volunteers in Mission teams within the EOC increased 20.4% in 2017 from 91 to 109.
- The number of persons serving in mission/community ministries increased 10.5% in 2017.

The Midwest Mission Distribution Trucks left Lakeside Chautauqua carrying 17,425 lbs. of donations. That is 700 more lbs. than 2017. Included in the donations were:

- \$16,325 and growing
- 610 School Totes
- 10 bicycles
- 3,600 Health Kits
- 350 Misc. Items
- 3 Sewing Machines
- 635 Cleaning Buckets
- 29 Layette Kits

Thanks to the generosity of clergy and laity members of Annual Conference and their congregations, countless lives will be touched because of the money given during these offerings:

- \$24,705.50 was given during the AC offering. Each of the following will receive a third of the offering: Africa University; Preventing Suicide among Young People; and the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.
- \$5,002 was raised for missions by the 3Cs 5k Run /1-mile Walk.

Constitutional Amendments and Resolutions:

Annual Conference members voted on one Constitutional Amendment that had been approved by General Conference 2016. [Click here to read of the eleven EOC proposed resolutions](#) that came before the body:

- Res. 2018-01 - A Call to Discuss Gun Violence to Protect Life - **The motion was approved.**
- Res. 2018-02 - Toward Racial Reconciliation - **The motion was approved.**
- Res. 2018-03 - Addressing Federal Legislation on Israeli Detention of Children - **Not approved.**
- Res. 2018-04 - Advocating for the Rights of Children Living Under Israeli Occupation - **Not approved.**
- Res. 2018-05 - Child Incarceration, The UN Convention on Rights of the Child, and UMW - **Not approved.**
- Res. 2018-06 - Consider Investing in Wespath's "Social Values Choice" Suite of Funds - **Not approved.**
- Res. 2018-07 - Protect Rights to Peacefully Address Injustice w/ Boycotts, Divestment & Sanctions - **Approved.**
- Res. 2018-08 - Reflectively Read and Prayerfully Study the Social Principles of The UMC - **Approved.**
- Res. 2018-09 - Guidelines for GC Delegation Re: 2019 GC - **Motion to withdraw was approved.**
- Res. 2018-10 - Educate and Inform the Conference Concerning Mass Incarceration - **Approved.**
- Res. 2018-11 - A Call for the Conference to Discuss Improved School Safety - **The motion was approved.**

East Ohio 50th Annual Conference will be held at Lakeside Chautauqua June 10-13, 2019. You can read Mr. Wolcott's full report and well as other daily recaps and videos at the [East Ohio Annual Conference website](#).

Three Rivers At-Large Delegates for 2019 Annual Conference

Below are the results from the 2018 TR Spring District Conference.

Numbers are contingent upon the 2019 equalization formulas to be determine next spring.

Alternates

BERAN, Kate	LEHNER, Bee	SCOTT, Nancy	ALAN, Kristina
BOWMAN, Margare	LOCKE, Karen	SPIKER, Dixie	RUHL, Phil
CRIDER, David	McMILLIN, Nicholas	SULLIVAN, Sherrie	MAUCH, Jamie
DARNER, Michelle	MILLER, Carol	TOPE, Janice	LASHLEY, Gail
DICKINSON, Fred	MORRISON, Karen	VANCE, Tim	BROKAW, Perry
DUNLOP, Wayne	MOZENA, Sharon	WINKLE, Marge	MAAG, Patty
GOODWILL, Pam	PAYNE, Joann	WINKLE, Marshall	ELLIOTT, Judy
HILL, John	SCOTT, Maxine		VANCE, Roma

AN INVITATION: To Participate in Reviewing the 2020 Draft Social Principles

All members of the East Ohio Conference (EOC) are invited by the EOC's Board of Church and Society to provide comment on the newest revision of the Social Principles. First articulated over a hundred years ago and endorsed by a wide body of religious denominations, this historic document has been regularly revised to reflect new events and changing circumstances. Still, these statements reflect Wesleyan concepts that translate Christian precepts to the realities of our resources, relationships, and social practices in our local communities and wider world today. You can [access the draft document online here](#) until August 31. After reflecting and prayerfully considering the draft document, individuals may add their perspective and voice by visiting [Social Principles 2020](#) website and scrolling to the bottom of the page. Churches are encouraged to host conversations with this [conversation guide](#). The EOC Board of Church and Society will be hosting a conversation on September 15th. To receive an invitation and details, please email Vitality@eocumc.com or call 1-800-831-3972 x 130. Individuals can then provide feedback using the [Social Principles link](#) or group feedback can be submitted through the [EOC Dir. of Multicultural Vitality](#).

AUGUST 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Ohio's Sales Tax Holiday: August 3 - 5 these items will be exempt: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing priced at \$75/item or less; including shoes, coats, gloves, & diapers • School supplies priced at \$20/item or less • School instructional material priced at \$20/item or less 			1	2	3 Office Closed	4
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #90EE90; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Ohio's Sales Tax Holiday Weekend </div>						
5	6	7	8	9	10 Office Closed	11 NEW CLERGY PICNIC
12	13 (cc) Clergy Consults (CC) with DS begin by Appointment	14 (cc) SPRC @Freeport 6p. W. Union 7p. Tipp/P Grove 8p. Lakeland Parsh.	15 (cc)	16 SPRC@Waterford 6p. Batemantown & Berlin 7p. Fredericktown 8p. Waterford & Salem	17 Office Closed	18
19	20 (cc) SPRC @Amity 6p. Jelloway & North Liberty 7p. Ebenezer & Gambier Epw. 8p. Amity	21 (cc)	22 (cc) SPRC Holmesville 6p. Bigelow 7p. Moreland 8p. Holmesville & Mt Hope	23 (cc)	24 Office Closed	25 SPRC @Danville 9a Wesley Chpl 10a Howard 11a Danville
26	27 (cc)	28 (cc) SPRC@Millersburg 6p. Baltic & Sugarcreek 7p. Killbuck & Blissfield 8p. Millersburg	29 (cc)	30 (cc) SPRC@ Calvary 6p. Irish Ridge 7p. NCT Christ 8p. Kings & NCT Calvary	31 Office Closed	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 FINANCIAL WELLNESS WORKSHOP: Thursday, September 20 from 9 am – 3:30 pm at Westbrook Park UMC. Sponsored by the Conference Board of Benefits, this workshop will help you review and evaluate your current financial status. Wespath Benefits & Investments partners with EY Financial Services. EY will be giving a presentation on “Achieving Financial Wellness.” The balance of the day will include an overview of Conference-sponsored benefits, inclusive of pension, death & disability benefits, as well as healthcare. <u>SEATING IS LIMITED!</u> No walk-ins can be accommodated. Reservations are required; including spouses. All must register as personalized information is provided. Questions? Call (800) 831-3972 x 103 or Ext. 151. Click here to register.
2	3 Labor Day Office Closed	4	5	6	7 Resuming Regular Office Hours... OPEN on Fridays	8 Listening Post @ 10a Wildare UMC see pg 2 for details
		<div style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> CABINET </div>				
9	10 (cc)	11 (cc) SPRC @ Isleta 6p. Kimbolton 7p. Plainfield & Orange 8p. Fresno/ Isleta	12 (cc)	13 (cc) SPRC @ Canal L'vle 7p. Keene 8p. Warsaw & Canal Lewisville	14	15 SPRC @ Roscoe 9a West Lafayette 10a Grace 11a Roscoe TARRP EVENT See pg 3 for detail
16	17 (cc) SPRC: MtV Gay St 6p. Hopewell 7p. Mulberry 8p. Mt. V Gay St.	18 (cc)	19 (cc) SPRC @ S. Vernon 7p Liberty Chapel & Beulah 8p Green Valley & South Vernon	20 (cc) SPRC@Prairie Chpl 6p. New Moscow, Tyndall, Conesville 7p. Nellie Chapel & New Guilford 8p. Prairie Chapel	21	22
23	24 (cc) SPRC @ Utica 7p. Brandon & Lock Federated 8p. Utica	25 (cc)	26 (cc) SPRC @ Nashville 6p. Perrysville 7p. Loudonville & Lakeville 8p. Nashville	27 (cc)	28	29 SPRC @ Otsego 9a Trinway & Prospect 10a Adamsville 11a Otsego/Bethel Listening Post Cambridge Christ see pg 2 for details
30	IMPORTANT: AVOID INCREASED DEDUCTIBLE. HealthFlex participants and covered spouses <u>must</u> complete the Health Quotient between August 1 and September 30, 2018 to avoid paying a higher medical plan deductible in 2019— \$250 extra (individual deductible) or \$500 extra (family deductible). Primary participant and covered spouse must both take the HQ by September 30 to avoid a higher deductible. Instructions to complete the Health Quotient.					



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3 Rivers Current

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Return Service Requested

UNITED METHODIST FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION:

Summer temperatures may be rising, but so are the CD rates. Right now, United Methodist members may get a rate as high as 2.12% APY for a 12 month certificate of deposit. There are a variety of rates and terms available. The rate for savings is currently ranging between .05% and .30% depending on the balance in the account. If you are clergy within the East Ohio Conference, an employee of the EOC, a member of a local United Methodist Church, or a relative of someone belonging to the groups herein listed, you may participate with the UMF Credit Union. Contact the credit union offices to lock in your rate. Call 1-800-831-3972 or visit www.umethodist.com

