



CAPITOL AREA DISTRICTS

West Ohio Conference

January 12, 2022

Hope

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



TransformingMission.org/Blog

Bias Opinion

Hope is a powerful thing.

“It is the belief that the future will be better than the present, along with the belief that you have the power to make it so,” writes Dr. Shane Lopez.

Building hope is essential for these times of complexity and change. It helps people see a way forward when facing uncertainty. It helps people face the future with courage and confidence. It is what people look for in their leaders.

[Continue Reading...](#)



LeaderCast Episode 212: Hope-Filled Encouragement for Christ-Centered Leaders

Encouragement looks different for different people.

- Some people respond to a written word or a phone call.
 - Others to a card or a text message.
 - For some, it's simply your presence.

Whatever you're experiencing today, you can likely use a little encouragement. Join Tim and Sara as they explore and share hope-filled encouragement for Christ-centered leaders.

[Read more and listen to Episode 212](#)



Local Church to Host Rally to Honor Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King

In response to the killing of George Floyd in 2020, Bethel International United Methodist Church in the Capital Area North District made a commitment as a congregation to do the work to stand against racism of all forms.

Along with many events hosted by Bethel to bring people together with the same commitment, Bethel hosts *Micah Mondays*, a weekly physical presence of members of the congregation and community in front of the church as a sign of their stance against racism.

To honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the day we observe his legacy, Bethel invites churches and interfaith groups to participate in *Roadside Rally Against Racism* on Monday, January 17 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm. In addition, the church will be holding a book drive, specifically receiving books featuring diversity and inclusion.

[Click here for more information](#)



Save the Date

(CAN/CAS)
(MIV/ORV)



DISTRICT
LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT

February 5, 2022

THE EVENT WILL BE AN ONLINE-ONLY WEBINAR WITH ONLY THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND A QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION.

Keynote: "Break Dividing Walls" from Ephesians 2:14 NRSV
Mr. Robert Caldwell, Executive Director, AnswerPoverty.Org & Program Director, Growing U.P.

THE OTHER SESSIONS THAT WERE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED WILL BE RECORDED BY THE PRESENTERS AND MADE AVAILABLE IN LATE FEBRUARY

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

(If you already registered for the 2/5 session, you **do not** have to re-register)

YOU CAN ALSO REGISTER FOR THE OTHER DISTRICT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAYS:

Maumee Watershed / Northwest Plains - January 29

Shawnee Valley / Foothills - January 22

For more information, please contact the district offices

[Register Here](#)

All In Community

The United Methodist Church's compassion for the incarcerated dates back to John Wesley's deep involvement in prison reform in the late 18th century,



when he advocated for a humane prison system. *All In Community* (AIC) is West Ohio's modern day, Biblical response to the impact and aftermath of mass incarceration across our West Ohio mission field.

The mission of *All In Community* is to train, resource, and connect WOC churches to embrace our members and neighbors impacted by crime, incarceration, and systems of injustice. All In Community provides resources, trainings, and tools to help you embrace our mutual call as healers of harm, injustice, and broken relationships as experienced by justice-involved families, friends, and neighbors.

[Click Here For More Information](#)

Human Relations Day Is Coming January 16

On January 16, United Methodists around the globe will join in celebrating Human Relations Day, a special offering that supports ministries that bridge the gap between the church and community. Celebrated on Sunday before the national observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday (or on a date that is convenient for your congregation), Human Relations Day is a time to highlight the social justice commitment of The United Methodist Church and to partner in supporting outreach to underserved communities in the United States.

Some 57% of Human Relations Day gifts help support the Community Developers program, which is dedicated to building and strengthening racial ethnic minority United Methodist congregations.

[Read More...](#)

It's Almost W-2 time!

2021 W-2s are due to all employees by January 31, 2022. Information to help with preparing IRS Form W-2 for clergy, which can be complicated, can be found on the [conference website](#). Use the worksheet and example [here](#) as a guide for preparing your pastor's W-2. This sample spreadsheet and W-2 is just that, a **sample**. Your fact set may include more or fewer items to report (for example, moving expenses, which are now taxable if paid or reimbursed, are not in the sample).



[Click here for more information](#)



United Methodist
Foundation *of West Ohio*

What Can the Foundation do for your Church?

As you begin to plan for another year of ministry, consider how the UM Foundation of West Ohio can help you achieve your goals. We've been serving the West Ohio Conference for over forty years, and have a long track record of success helping churches thrive, growing generous givers, and meeting the charitable goals of congregations and donors across the Conference.

Contact us if you are interested in:

Investing in your future by creating an endowment.

Increasing the financial support of your congregation through stewardship resources or coaching.

Encouraging legacy gift planning by hosting a legacy giving seminar or speaker.

Expanding the type of gifts you can receive by handling gifts of appreciated securities from your donors.

Our staff and board members are also available to speak or preach for your worship service, special event, or United Methodist Women or United Methodist Men events. Simply contact us at info@umfwestohio.org and we'll connect you with the right person or resource.

To get to know us better, go to www.umfwestohio.org and explore all that the Foundation can do for you!



HOPE Letters Celebrates Two Years of Encouragement

"I got your letter today and thank you for making me feel like a person again. When I am at my lowest, you can bring me back up to the top."

In December 2021, the HOPE Letters program celebrated two years of correspondence with men and women who are incarcerated. Since HOPE Letters started in December 2019, it has grown from five writers at Grace UMC in Dayton writing to women at the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) to 100 writers from 10 churches and faith-based organizations writing men and women inside five Ohio prisons.

HOPE Letters offer encouragement, faith sharing, and informed mentoring to increase the likelihood that correspondents find meaning while incarcerated, and when released, remain in the community as restored citizens. "HOPE Letters present a chance to touch people's lives with the reality, love, and hope of Jesus while they are in a seemingly hopeless situation," says Pavanne Cook from Gethsemane UMC in Columbus. "It may introduce some to Jesus for the first time or rekindle a relationship with Jesus for others, but it is a one-on-one mission field...one written letter at a time."

For those in prison, the chance of a successful reentry is greatly enhanced by positive, trustworthy relationships that provide direction and support in accessing services to meet needs such as transportation, housing, food, and employment. "Our current group of women represents three UMC's (Richland, Caananville, and First Athens)," says Carlene Triplett. "We reach just a few women, but I am sure many more men and women would like to know that someone cares about them, is praying for

them, and sends them friendly letters once or twice a month. It is a project that takes compassion and persistence but not much time or money."

If you or your congregation are interested in becoming involved in HOPE Letters, contact Reba Collins at allincommunity@wocumc.org.

**Laity Discernment
Retreats**
Registration Deadline is
January 25!



Do you feel God's call on your life but are uncertain how to discern that call or what to do next? If so, then this is the Retreat for you! At the Laity Discernment Retreats, we will talk about call, discernment and what it means to be "called by our baptism." We will learn ways to intentionally enter into a time of prayer about discernment and we will discover Spiritual Rhythms that can help guide our journey. We will also discuss the variety of ways Laity can serve both in our churches and in our communities. February 8, 15 and March 29. [Click here for more information.](#)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Visit our website

Visit our website to find:

Classifieds, Calendar, Resources and more!

<http://www.capitolareasouth.org/district/capitolareasouth/>

or

<https://www.capitolareanorth.org/district/capitolareanorth>

Please share these updates with others in your congregation!

If you have anything you would like to have shared or posted in our Newsletter, feel free to email your request to me by Tuesday at Noon.

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