



CAPITOL AREA DISTRICTS

West Ohio Conference

January 19, 2022



God's Presence & Power Bring Hope



TransformingMission.org/Blog

Bias Opinion

God's Presence & Power Bring Hope

The last 22 months have added a whole new level of challenge to your leadership. To state the obvious, it has been difficult at times. In 2020 you had to pivot without warning. You poured your heart and soul into leading others. You gave God your best, waiting for things to return to normal.

Then 2021 came and nothing changed. In fact, you faced even more discouragement and frustration. Now, as you enter 2022, you might be asking yourself, "will this year be any different than the previous two years?"

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Remembering God's Presence and Power



TransformingMission.org/Podcast

LeaderCast Episode 213: Remembering God's Presence and Power

As Christ-centered leaders, sometimes the very thing we forget to do is focus on the one who calls us, equips us, and walks with us.

So, if we can be a reminder of God's presence, in the form of a story, God sightings, asking questions, and encouraging you to pay attention to God, we will.

[Continue Reading and Listen to Episode 213...](#)



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](#)

Learn News Skills

United Methodist Communications offers church training courses to help you gain the knowledge and skills you need to be an effective church leader. Choose from online training or request on-site training from one of our professional trainers and workshop leaders.



[Click here for training opportunities](#)



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](#)

Kentucky Update: Initial Clean-Up Efforts Continue

Initial clean-up efforts continue across western Kentucky after the devastating tornado of December 10, 2021, and will likely take months more due to the amount of debris. Communities are now establishing long-term recovery committees and are just starting to plan for volunteers outside of Kentucky, but a process is not yet in place. The Kentucky Conference of The United Methodist Church will soon be naming a volunteer coordinator so they can make plans to receive Early Response Teams. The Kentucky Conference is asking all those wanting to come help to please wait until the plans are organized so they can safely receive and house teams and have work planned for the teams once they arrive. "On behalf of the West Ohio Conference, please do not go to Kentucky until the proper plans have been established for your safety and so work can be done properly," says Jeff Walker, West Ohio Conference Disaster Response Coordinator. "Please keep all these efforts in your prayers." Donations to UMCOR's U.S. Disaster Response Advance #901670 are still being accepted, by check and online. For more information, visit <https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/disaster-response-news>.

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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