



April 16, 2021

Registration Open for 2021 Virtual Annual Conference

The 52nd session of the West Ohio Annual Conference will be held virtually via Zoom Webinar. Registration is now open.

The theme of Annual Conference is "Run the Race with Perseverance" based on the scripture Hebrews 12:1-2.



The dates and times are:

- Sunday, June 6, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm and
- Monday, June 7, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.

Registration is required for clergy and lay members of the Annual Conference. Registration is now open and will end at May 5 at 5:00 pm.

As part of the registration process you will be able to select if you would like to receive the *Book of Reports* electronically or a printed copy by mail.

There will be three training/practice sessions that you will be able to choose to participate in during registration. The sessions are scheduled for 90 minutes each and are:

- May 13 at 9:00 am
- May 18 at 12:00 pm
- May 26 at 6:00 pm

Information sessions will be held virtually prior to Annual Conference so you will have the opportunity to learn more about the recommendations before conference. Dates and times for these sessions will be announced soon.

If you are a Clergy member and unable to participate, you must seek permission from the Annual Conference Secretary Rev. Amy Haines to be excused. You can make your request online by [clicking here](#).

If you are unable to fulfill your role as Lay Member to Annual Conference representing a local church, you should contact your pastor. Lay Members At Large should contact

their [district office](#). [REGISTER HERE](#)



Registration Open for Clergy Session

The West Ohio Conference will host the Annual Clergy Session virtually on **May 19, 2021**. All Clergy members of the Annual Conference and Laity on the Board of Ordained Ministry are invited to participate.

The objectives of the Clergy Session include caring for those who will have new credentials for Commissioning and Ordination and those who have changed status in the past year, such as retirees.

Clergy Session is an important aspect of holy conferencing that reminds us that we are in this work together, accountable to and in collegial relationships with our fellow clergy throughout West Ohio and throughout the United Methodist connection.

Registration is open until **May 12** for Clergy Session. All registered will receive the agenda, Zoom link, and Voter ID by May 17. In order to ensure that you receive all related information, please register by the May 12th, 5:00 pm deadline. li

[REGISTER HERE](#)_{ck}

Capitol Area North District Conference and Pre-Annual Conference Briefing

Tuesday, May 25th, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Join us on Zoom for our annual District Conference and a briefing about Annual Conference this year. All district clergy and laity are welcome to attend! Save the date and watch for more details.

**Community Ministries
Spring Grants Available
Applications due TODAY**

The UMCM Outreach Grant program exists to help local UMC congregations launch new outreach ministries in their communities and help existing outreach ministries grow and reach new people in new ways. Ministries are eligible to apply for 3 years, whether consecutive or not. Funding preference will be given to new(er) ministries. Eligible ministries are those that are focused on transforming communities, sustainability, and fostering discipleship. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available. **Applications are due by April 16th.**

[Information and the spring grant application can be found here.](#) Contact Rev. Karen Cook with any questions, kcook@wocumc.org.



Learn about all of our spring grants here!

United Methodist Community Ministries 2021 Missional Emergency Grant Application Communications & Outreach

Who Can Apply:

Due to the recent Coronavirus Pandemic, Community Ministries is opening up a third phase of grant funding. **This grant is for up to \$1000, available for Capitol Area District Churches to help with communications and outreach.** These funds are to support you in aligning with the conference initiative to “help your church enhance your social media/communications/technology capabilities.”

We know that technology currently plays a significant role in our life together as the church and will continue to do so even as the pandemic abates. These grants are specifically targeted toward assisting local churches in reaching beyond our walls to build discipleship pathways for church members and members of the community. Examples include expanding online worship capacities, website and social media building, and growing communications ministries in the church and beyond so that we can better fulfill our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Instructions:

- Complete a grant application for the missional need for which you are requesting funds. All questions must be answered.
- Your grant application should be limited to two pages, single spaced, font size 12.
- Grant applications will be reviewed and voted on by the UMCM Local Outreach Support Committee, based on the merit of the request as it relates to the current Coronavirus Pandemic. Funds will be disbursed on a timely basis.
- Email your completed application to Karen Cook, kcook@wocumc.org

[Link to Grant Application](#)

Multiply Minis: Trainings to Multiply Your Impact!

Maximizing the Hybrid Worship Experience April 20

Youth Ministry: What's Next? April 27

Children's Ministry: What's Next? April 27



Multiply Minis are live, 90-minute, relevant, timely trainings for ministry leaders and churches to multiply their impact. There are 22 minis from April thru May this year.

Have you ever wondered:

"How are we going to do online worship and in-person worship?"

"What is the future of youth ministry?"

"What's next for Children's ministry, we've

barely been able to connect during the pandemic?" **There's a Mini for that!**

Free for West Ohio Leaders! Join us in April for Multiply Minis devoted to these topics. Click the links to register:

[April 20th Maximizing the Hybrid Worship Experience with Jason Moore](#)

[April 27th Youth Ministry: What's Next?](#)

[April 27th Children's Ministry: What's Next?](#)

If you would like a consultation to determine which Minis might be best for you, please call Allyssa Graves in the Office of Fresh Starts & New Beginnings, 614-505-7405.

Recent Appointments

MTSO hosts a Celebration of Arts that promote Social Justice

Methodist Theological School in Ohio will bring together visual and performing artists for a two-day event centered on the ways social justice is promoted through the arts. "The Art of Justice: A Multi-Genre Celebration of the Arts Within Social Justice Movements," will take place virtually over two days: noon-4 p.m. April 30 and 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. May 1. This special event is cosponsored by two MTSO initiatives, the Theological Commons and the Anti-Racism Task Force.

"The Art of Justice" will showcase music, poetry and visual arts through performances, workshops and scholar-led conversation. Presenters and performers include visual artist David Butler, folk singer Bill Cohen, poet (and MTSO alum) Barbara Fant, and singer Paisha Thomas.

Registration is required. While there is no admission charge, an optional suggested donation of \$25 is requested. Half of all proceeds will go to the Maroon Arts Group, a nonprofit providing a platform for conscious art centered on the preservation and

promotion of cultures of African descent. Learn more and [REGISTER HERE](#). Registrants will be provided with Zoom links for the event.

Church Communications Conference: Leveraging Communication for Greater Connection 2021



Sponsored by UM Communications, this event offers 20+ learning opportunities facilitated by professionals and leaders of innovative church communications. This two-day conference will help church leaders focus on leveraging a variety of communication tools such as social media, digital ministry, and news writing to share their church's story with the members and seekers in their communities. Conference attendees will benefit from trusted and proven tactics shared by communication experts. Workshop facilitators will also help participants identify best practices and techniques to take the next steps toward their communication goals. *Workshops include:*

April 20

- Leading Successful Online Worship
- Sharing Your Congregation's Story: Why it Matters and How to Do it
- Make Your Ministry Look Great with Canva
- Digital Storytelling

April 21

- From Chaos to Discord Inc: Creating Intentional Community Using Online Forums
- Facebook Groups for Churches
- The New Newsletter Emerges
- Living the Word in Virtual Space
- Social Media: Your Virtual Front Door

Date of Event: **Tuesday, April 20th and Wednesday, April 21st**

Time: 10 AM - 2:30 PM on both days

Check out the [Workshop Schedule and Sessions](#) that we are putting together for this experience. More workshops and facilitators are being added daily.

The Zoom Conferencing Links will be sent out to conference participants closer to the event. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at training@umcom.org.

Continue to check back for updates. Cost is \$50. [Register here.](#)

Wesley Chapel Mission Center Needs Summer Volunteers

Wesley Chapel Mission Center, a United Methodist-related ministry in Cincinnati, is in need of volunteers for its summer program for children and youth. For six weeks during the summer, Wesley Chapel offers opportunities on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons for children to worship, play, learn, do a craft, have a Bible lesson, and garden. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, the children have fun participating in walking field trips. Volunteers are needed to come alongside the Wesley Chapel staff to build positive, faith-forming relationships with the kids. Individual volunteers and mission teams are welcome, including adults, high school youth, and families. In addition to spending time with the kids, mission teams would help out with neighborhood projects that fit the team's skill set. For more information, or to learn how you can volunteer, contact Kyle Linnemann at klinnemann@wcmcotr.org or 513-721-6204.

Are You Making the Most of Your Endowment?

When it came to money, John Wesley encouraged Christians to "*earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can.*" This rule applies to endowments, as well. As stewards of the gifts provided by your congregations, pastors and church leadership must consider these three basic rules.

If your church has an endowment, are you making the most of it? Are you earning all you can, saving all you can, and giving all you can?

Let's start with earning. Most Endowment Committees or Investment Committees are relatively risk adverse. They don't want to lose anything, so they wind up earning almost nothing. Recently I met with a church that was so scared to do the wrong thing or to lose money, that they simply put their money in CDs and renewed them - for 20 years! We can't be afraid to earn on the money we've set aside for the future needs of the church. At UMFWO, we offer our investors three investment options: Fixed, Balanced and Growth. Many churches choose to invest some or part of their endowment in each type of fund, with Balanced and Growth as the most popular.

Saving means purposefully putting some dollars aside for investment. If you have an endowment, part of good stewardship is making sure it is growing by adding new funds to the principal. Some churches put only bequests in their endowment; others make regular distributions from church offertory. Regardless of what dollars you use, just be sure to

have a plan that includes making your congregation aware of the opportunity to give to the endowment. Reach out to the Foundation to request our Making the Most of Your Endowment packet or request a presentation to your church on our website at

www.umfwestohio.org.

Finally, **giving is part of stewardship, as well.** If we only sock our investments away for a rainy day, we aren't being good stewards. Many church trustees, endowment committees, or leadership boards think of the endowment as a "rainy day fund". If your church is shrinking, you have not baptized anyone new in a long time, or your church has no children's program because there are no children, it's raining! Your congregation doesn't exist to keep up a building or pave a parking lot. Your church exists to reach people for Jesus. How are you giving from your endowment to build new ministries or support new missions? Church endowments at the Foundation are assets that belong to your church; you can access them whenever you need them. Make sure your endowment is designed so that you can use your funds to invest in the vitality of your congregation and its outreach efforts now and in the future.

Want to start an endowment or have questions about your existing endowment?

Contact the Foundation for more information and let us help you earn all you can, save all you can, and give all you can.

Next Generation Leadership Ministry - Intern

It is with great pleasure that we announce the opening of the Next Generation Leadership Ministry Intern Application process. Since its inception, the Next Generations Leadership Ministry Interns have been able to discern calls to Ministry and Service in a variety of ways. The pay for the Internship is \$4000.00 during the summer, starting June 2 and ending July 23 . Internship placements are with engaging local churches throughout the West Ohio Conference. Applicants must be college students **who are available for the duration of the Internship**. **The Application Deadline is April 19.** [Click here](#) for the application.

Next Generation Leadership Ministry – Mentor and Host Church Application

The Next Generation Leadership Ministry Program is now taking applications for Mentors/Host Churches for the summer of 2021. For clergy and congregations with a passion for developing young leaders, this is a great opportunity to mentor a young person who has a desire to serve in the church and explore a call to ministry. [Click here](#) for the application.

For questions, please email Rev. Donnetta Peaks, dpeaks@wocumc.org or call 614-844-6200, ext. 314

Classifieds

Employment Opportunities

[Director of Camps, Retreats, and Next Generation Engagement](#)

[Part-time Office Coordinator, Linworth UMC](#)

[Part-time Youth Leader, Middleburg UMC](#)

Visit our website

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 by Thursday at Noon, jphilipp@wocumc.org.

Capitol Area North District, 32 Wesley Boulevard, Suite 100, Worthington, OH 43085

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