



CAPITOL AREA DISTRICTS

West Ohio Conference

July 13, 2022

Bias Opinion

Your Values Articulate Your Difference

The accelerating rate of change means a vision is only helpful for 2-3 years. That means, organizations, including the church, need to be reinventing themselves every 2-3 years to continue to thrive. While those statistics may give us reason to pause, a vision serves an important role. A vision can give us a lens to make decisions, guide our activities, and encourage us to live in new ways.

Our mission, on the other hand, defines who we are and guides us toward living our purpose. It's not merely the footer on our websites or a poster on our entrance walls. It's our central guiding purpose.

But there is another organizational lens that I believe sets the church apart from other organizations. Today, I want to invite you to consider what the church values.

[Continue Reading...](#)

Hope in the Ordinary: Integrity

This week's ordinary moment focuses on integrity. When people of faith live with integrity, their faith guides who they are and how they lead. Episode 238 highlights one person who not only lead with integrity but inspired others to do the same.

The focus of this series, "Hope in the Ordinary," is simple. Throughout summer, each week we'll share a short devotion in the pattern of read, reflect, respond, and return. These ordinary moments will be stories from our own lives and the world. They'll also be universal in speaking to our common humanity and need for hope. This is the first in that series. This is the fifth in the series.

[Continue Reading and Listen to Episode 238](#)

Becoming

Dear friends in Christ Jesus:

Grace to you and Peace from Jesus Christ.

I want to begin by thanking you one and all for a meaningful Annual Conference. We got a lot done and covered a lot of territory. I am thinking about not only our online sessions, but also the dispersed worship services that enabled us to connect with several local churches and communities in the Annual Conference. Kudos to all of the volunteers and staff of the conference as well as the local church staff and volunteers that went above and beyond.

Our theme of ***Becoming*** helped give shape to our time together. I pray it will continue to be a touchstone as we continue to answer the question I raised in my Episcopal Address: ***Who Do We Choose to Be?*** We get to answer that question every minute of every day that we draw breath. I believe and will continue lead to help us all respond missionally to that question.

I rejoice that in the midst of what for many is uncertainty, chaos and anxiety in the institution called the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church we continue to keep serving in obvious and unlikely places. We continue to plant, water, and watch the Triune God "give the increase." I could not be more grateful to all of you who for example have literally reshaped your congregational life to be in ministry with **returning citizens**. Who would have "think it" that over the last six years West Ohio United Methodists would have given \$7,447,729.00 through the **Light the Way Campaign** to support congregational redevelopment, new church planting and the start of an endowment for new church development. But the real story is never the money. It is the people reached and the lives changed. That is happening every day here in West Ohio because of your belief in the Gospel and your generosity.

We have a lot of balls in the air missionally and institutionally. Among the latter is the work that must necessarily go on around disaffiliation of local congregations and clergy who no longer want to remain in the covenant community of United Methodist clergy. It is my hope and prayer that no United Methodist would leave our church. But for those who choose that path, our Conference Trustees diligently developed and reported to the Annual Conference their work around disaffiliation. The following link will take you to their report [Book of Reports](#).

The District Superintendents are prepared to fulfill their role both with local congregations and clergy. The Offices of the Bishop, Ministry and Finance and Administration also have key responsibilities in this area. All of these offices (staff and governance) are working collaboratively to help implement these new and necessary processes run smoothly. In the next 7-10 days there will be clear, concise information to help you in these matters posted on the conference website. Any posted material will be updated, as necessary.

I expect to call a Special Session of the Annual Conference for November 19, 2022, 10:00 AM – Noon to deal with requests for disaffiliation. Consider this a "hold the date" notification. My expectation is that we will convene online.

That said, let me say again what I have said a number of times that no local church need vote on anything with regard to leaving the UMC. In all of the kerfuffle around these

matters, it is astounding to me that a few local congregations who are spending time considering disaffiliation when it is clear to me that they have not discerned their mission in their Zip Code. Again, this is not the case for all but is surely the case for more that I wish it were. It is noteworthy how much misinformation floats around, mostly on social media, that people take at face value to be true when it is patently untrue.

To be abundantly clear I desire no congregation or pastor leave our Zion. I plead with you to seek your information from the most credible sources that have the greatest responsibility to help you get to where you believe you want or need to be. To put it succinctly that would be your bishop, your district superintendent, your conference staff and boards. My most important plea is for you to keep your eye on the mission of ***making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world***. Every minute any of us chooses or are required to work on disaffiliation is time not spent on the core mission.

Disaffiliation is **NOT** our mission. Partnering with the Triune God in participating in the ***new creation*** unleashed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is worthy of all of our time and attention.

Your Servant in Christ Jesus,
+Gregory V. Palmer

Listen to the upcoming episode of the UFC with Brian McLaren on **Thursday, July 14th**, as he talks with the Bishops about "Listening For Understanding". [Click here to listen](#) or where ever you listen to podcasts.



Resources for Pastoral Transitions—Now Available on the WOC Learning Platform!

Are you or your congregation experiencing a pastoral transition this year? If so, make sure to check out the Resources for Pastoral Transitions course now available on

the West Ohio Learning Platform.

Our West Ohio Regional Missional Specialist team has prepared a new video highlighting key dimensions of navigating the transition of pastoral leadership in a local church. They have also gathered a collection of excellent resources on pastoral transition from a variety of sources that will help with an effective and healthy transition in your context.

You can register for this course and check out other helpful resources on the learning platform by following these steps:

1. Navigate to <https://westohioumc.newzenler.com/>
2. Click on Resources for Pastoral Transitions
3. Click Enroll in Course

If you already have an account on the West Ohio Learning Platform, you'll be prompted to log in to register for the course. Please use the forgot password link to reset your password if you don't know it or if you are creating a new account.

If you need any assistance with your account or presenting the material to your congregation, please contact one of our RMSs: Rev. Karen Cook, kcook@wocumc.org; Rev. Sara Thomas,

sarathomas@wocumc.org



New Era for Church and Boy Scouts of America

The United Methodist Church will continue to partner with the Boy Scouts of America, but in a new relationship that should lighten the load for local churches. See the different ways for the Boy Scouts to remain in relationship with the UMC [here](#).

"Why the Idol of Romance Doesn't Work for Anyone" with Pieter Valk

Thursday, July 21st, 2022 from 12-1:30pm EST

What is romance idolatry? To what extent do Americans in general and US Christians, in particular, idolize romance/dating?

During this webinar, Pieter will explore how the idolatry of romance has become commonplace in many Christian circles and how a healthier view of romance can lead to more satisfying intimacy in relationships.

The webinar will be held via Zoom and the cost is \$10! Please visit www.loveboldly.net/events to register.

CLERGYEDUCATION.COM

Walter Cross • July 14 • [Preaching in the African American Experience](#)

Rodney Smothers (copy) • July 19 • [Who Will Do This With Me? Creating A Collaborative Leadership Culture](#)

Ken Willard • August 2 • [Mission, Vision and Purpose: Strategic Planning to Guide a Congregation to New Life](#)

Kay Kotan and Jason Stanley • August 11 • [An Effective Approach to Cooperative Parishes](#)

Nicole Reilley • August 16 • [Digital Ministry for a Non-Digital Native](#)

2021-2022 Appointments

The list of pastoral appointments beginning July 1, 2021 can be accessed [clicking here](#).

Please refer back to these lists as they are updated frequently.

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.

Capitol Area Districts, 32 Wesley Boulevard, Suite 100, Worthington, OH 43085

SafeUnsubscribe™_dkeefe@wocumc.org

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by capitolareasouth@wocumc.org powered by



Capitol Area Districts | 32 Wesley Boulevard, Suite 100, Worthington, OH 43085

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by dkeefe@wocumc.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!