

WESLEYAN DISTRICT WITNESS

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

I hope you have all had a good summer and have taken times for vacations and visiting with friends and families or whatever you do to find rest and relaxation from the everyday work we do. As nice as it is to take some time off, the reality is that work can be good and fun, too, especially when we do our work and jobs in the name of Christ Jesus. He is with us in the fun times, the good times, and the difficult times and the everyday workaday world times. Thank the Lord!

As we get ready for Charge Conference season, I hope you all remember that when we ask someone to take an office in the church, that all we do in the church is for the glory of God, whether that means becoming the new treasurer, the new lay leader, the board of trustees, etc.

And part of being a good member of your local church and/or being an officer means to do that work well, we have to be good listeners. There is too much discord in our world today, too much disunity, too much arguing and strife! The Church, the Body of Christ, is not to be like the world. We are "in the world, but not of it," scripture says. We are to live Christ-like lives and that means to show love, be patient, offer forgiveness, and be kind to one another. If we will listen to one another without judging what the person is saying, but accept them in the Lord, we will grow in our love for one another.

Throughout our WV Annual Conference, each District will be having a "Listening Session" concerning the Commission on the Way Forward (about the human sexuality issue) to help prepare us for the specially called General Conference in February 22-27 in St. Louis. The Wesleyan District listening session will be October 20, 2018 at the West Virginia Wesleyan College, in the Social Hall, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. I hope many of you will try to attend and let us listen to one another and hear what you have to say. It is a LISTENING event; not an interrogation event or a time to argue with one another, but a time to listen to what each person is saying as we sit around tables and talk and listen. Many of the delegates to the Special General Conference will be present and notes will be taken and compiled and given to the delegates.

If for some reason you cannot come to the Wesleyan District Listening event, the Mon-Valley listening event will be the same morning of Oct. 20 from 10 am to noon at the Gateway UMC in Fairmont.

Come with ears to hear and listen; come with a heart to listen to one another with the love of Christ. James 1:19-21 says, *"My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says....those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves and their*

religion is worthy. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

God bless each one of you as you hold all this in prayer before God!

Rev. Mary Ellen Finegan
Wesleyan District Superintendent



There is
therefore now
no condemnation
for those who are in
CHRIST JESUS.

ROMANS 8:1, NRSV

Birthdays and Anniversaries for September

2	Melba Johnson	B	17	William Moyer	B
4	Verl & Carolyn Simmons	A	18	Glenda Fitzwater	B
	Jim & Jani Burrough	A	19	Nancy Cale	B
10	Bonnie Starkey	B		Sierra Himelrick (Ch) J. Short	B
	Ted & Cindy Bessey	A	21	Donald Coleman	B
11	Thomas & Caroly Merrill	A		Deandra Short (Ch)	B
	Marvin Carr	B	22	Stella Faye Moyer	B
12	Steve & Carla Engle	A		Ed & Garnett Balis	A
	Ruth Ann Kniceley	B	23	Stella F. & William Moyer	A
	Charlea Ramsey	B		Andrew Boley	B
	Andrew Rapping	B		Herbert Coston	B
14	Richard & Nancy Justice	A		Sandra Firth	B
	Lynelle Zickefoose	B	24	Adele Cole	B
	Cindy King	B		Kelvin Hudkins	B
15	Brian & Zondra Plum	A		Kim Smailes	B
16	Robert Cole	B	26	Jeff & Kelly Kanode	A
	Tina Horstman	B		Unamae Griffin	B
				James Lang	B



Birthdays and Anniversaries for October

1	Vicky Shreve	B	17	Ron Brown	B
2	Kevin Bender	B		Alycia Short	B
	Robert & Betty Heavner	A	18	Brenda Forren	B
5	Judy Murphy	B	21	Patricia Neely	B
	Betty Heavner	B	24	James (Jim) Finegan	B
6	Gayle Lesure	B		Brian Boley	B
	Karen Brown	B	25	Joe Shreve	B
7	Debra Murphy	B	26	Jim and Alycia Short	A
	Sharon West	B	29	Kathy Boyce	B
9	Tim & Dorcas Conrad	A		Bobbie Rogers	B
	Roger & Patricia Neely	A		Jani Burrough	B
12	Sandra Bender	B	31	Karen Lang	B
	Nancy Justice	B			
13	Sallie Angle	B			
	Leona Sue Winter	B			
14	Esther Dyer	B			
15	Mitch & Mary Ann Griffin	A			
	Cheryl Bramble	B			
16	Billee Scott Mick	B			

ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL DAY!!



Upcoming Dates in District

Sept 3	District Office closed for Labor Day Holiday.
Sept 4	6:00 Dinner at Parish House for Upshur Pastors and Staff of Parish House
Sept 5-7	Cabinet meeting at Charleston
Sept 7	District Office goes to full days on Fridays. 8:30 – 4:30 p.m
Sept 7-9	Circuit Rider Weekend, UM Men, Jackson's Mill. Registration on Conf. Website
Sept 14-15	D.S.'s and Chairs of DCOM's to meet at John XXIII for training on Sept 14. Sept 15, DCOM members, CLM Directors, Chairs DCOM for all day training. Check calendar on Conf Website. www.wvumc.org
Sept 15	UM Woman Fall District Meeting at St. Matthew, Weston
Sept 17-19	Stonewall Jackson Resort, Academy on Faith and Money/Conf Website
Sept 17	Candidates to complete UMCARES for Oct 5-6 Retreat.
Sept 20	Pastor Interviews, Christ (Sutton) 9 a.m. till 2:30 p.m.
Sept 24	Clergy Meeting at First (Buckhannon), 10 a.m-Noon with Lunch. Lauren Weaver, Spiritual Life Coordinator at WVWC will be the speaker.
Sept 25	Pastor Interviews, Broad Street, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sept 26	Pastor Interviews, First (Elkins), 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Sept 26	CLM's. Module 3 from 6:30 – 9 p.m., Chapel Hill UMC
Sept 27	Order of Elders 10:00 a.m. at Broad Street UMC with Bishop Order of Deacons 10 a.m. at St. Matthew/Bishop in P.M. till 4 p.m. Lunch with both groups at Broad Street
Sept 28	Pastor Interviews Makeup day at First (Buckhannon)
Sept 29	Lay Academy, Chapel Hill, and CLM Module 3 session. Must be preregistered
Sept 30-Oct 2	Cabinet at Life UMC, Fairmont, WV
Oct 5-6	Candidacy Retreat at John XXIII in Charleston
Oct 10 and 13	Module 4, CLM Studies at Chapel Hill/6:30-9 Wednesday/9-3 Saturday
Oct 6-13	D.S. on Vacation
Oct 14	Undie Sunday at the Local Churches
Oct 15	WVCC Annual Assembly St. John XXIII. 4 tracks to choose from. See Conf Website
Oct 3-Dec 6	Fall Charge Conferences are scheduled. Check District Website for Places and times, OR call the District Office
Oct 20	Listening Session for Wesleyan Dist at WVWC Social Hall 3-5 p.m. Pastors and persons from their churches should attend to discuss The Way Forward. Events will be held in all districts, if you cannot make this one. Check conf calendar.
October 26	First (Buckhannon), Annual Spaghetti Dinner for Crosslines. 5-7 p.m.
Oct 25,26, 27	Diversity & Inclusion Summit. See Conf Website.
Oct 25-27	Annual Meeting, UM Woman, Mt. Pleasant, Mineral Wells, Candle Burning
Oct 29-31	Cabinet Meeting – Charleston
Oct 31	Stigma Reduction at Fairmonth High Tech. 8:30 p.m. Cont. Education
Nov 2	8:30-3:30, Healthy Bodies/Healthy Spirits Broadcast from 5 different cities in WV. Closest to us is Morgantown at Pierpont Church of the Nazarene, 52 Harner Run Rd, Morgantown. Please register online at Conference Site.
Nov 3	UM Women, Salem UMC, A Day Apart/Candle Burning

Nov 22-25	District Office closed for Thanksgiving Break
Nov 29	5 p.m. Dinner and 6 p.m. Charge Conf. for Upshur Parish House/at Parish House
Dec 1	District Christmas Luncheon, Broad Street UMC, Weston. Reg. by Nov 19
Dec 24-Jan 2	Dist. Office closed for Christmas/New Year's Holiday.
Jan 4, 2019	Close out of all Receipts at Conference Center



Remember these from our district in prayer: Cliff and Mary Ann Schell; Sam and Nancy Cale III; Mitch and Mary Ann Griffin; Mary Ann is undergoing chemo treatments every other week in Morgantown. She has developed an infection and they are trying to identify it and recommend treatment. Pat Mick, widow of Roy Mick. She has had health problems and is adjusting to life without Roy. Very difficult for her. David Thompson and Jane Thompson. Jerry Boyce who has continuing problems and kidneys were not operating as they should.. Josie Tenney; George Hamrick having continuing health problems; Jimmie Joe Johnson with Cancer; Curtis and Virginia Saville, Don Coleman; Alvie Loyd at Big Otter Nursing Home; Dorcas Conrad,. Remember Doris Baker (widow) who has some spots on lung which are being diagnosed. Prayers for Karen Mitchell, wife of Randy Mitchell. Don and Glenna Fitzwater. Jeff Zickefoose, Kevin Bender, Nancy and Don Killingsworth, Dave & Vicki Bowen, Ralph Miller, having surgery at UHC on Sept. 10, and Bonnie Starkey, Wilda Godwin as she adjusts to her new setting at Serenity Care in Buckhannon.

Pray for our churches and also for our country and all our officials. We also remember our foreign countries as they deal with terrorism in so many places. Pray for peace in our world.

Pray for the Council of Bishops as they meet and make plans for the February 2019 General Conference in St. Louis. Pray for an amicable solution to our differences within the UMC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WESLEYAN DISTRICT'S NEW WEBSITE!!

Please visit us at: www.wesleyandistrictumc.org



Educational Funds for 2018

Our District goal for the 2018 Educational Fund is \$11,751. Please try to meet our goal for 2018, which has been assessed by the Conference. **There has been a change.** The Memo on the check should say **"Educational Funds"** and be made to Wesleyan District. Please mail to us at: P.O. Box 230, Buckhannon, WV 26201. We appreciate your stewardship in meeting these goals for the District and the Conference. Since our goal is higher than last year, we ask that smaller churches pay no less than \$50 even though they have received a smaller amount on the Fair Share sheet. Thanks so much for your help. **PLEASE GIVE THIS TO TREASURERS! The conference has said that if you wish to receive credit for your individual churches, you may mail the check to them made out to the Conference Treasurer. The money may also be added to your Fair Share checks that you send.**

PROMO FUND 2018

Appreciate your help with keeping your church/charge up to date on their funds. Our payout was **92.10% during 2017.**

Checks are to be sent to the **Wesleyan District Office, P.O. Box 230, Buckhannon, WV 26201, made out to Wesleyan District.** Thanks for your good work in supporting our District. We have already had 8-10 churches send promotional fund monies for 2018 to the Conference Treasurer. If you wish to have credit on your individual churches you may send the money on your Fair Share slip made out to the Conference Treasurer.

I have spoken with the Treasurer's office and they will accept the money either way. We receive a check for your funds paid to the Conference Treasurer once a month.

FAIR SHARE 2018

Our year of 2017 is finished and our District paid out at over 91.10% which was a little less than the 92.74% in 2016. Let's strive to meet a goal of 100% payout in 2018.

Each year our churches should strive to pay as much as possible towards 100%. We thank those of you who met the 100% goal this year and many years in the past. We give thanks for those of you who raised your efforts from the previous year towards that goal.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS!! MESSAGE FROM CONFERENCE TREASURER

The new rate for travel allowance is: 54.5 cents per mile. Please give this message to your treasurers.

Certified Lay Minister Classes

Persons who are in the CLM classes, Module 3 will at Chapel Hill
September 26, from 6:30 – 9 p.m. Cost is \$40.
Module 4 will be held in October 10 and 13 at Chapel Hill

Clergy Meeting – September 24

Please plan on being at First (Buckhannon) from 10 – noon with lunch provided
Lauren Weaver from WVWC will be talking to everyone as part of the program.
Please place this date and time on your calendar!!

District Pastors, Retirees, and spouses

Our yearly Christmas Luncheon will be held at Broad Street on

December 1 at 11:30 gathering, with lunch at Noon

Entertainment will be provided. Register by November 19

Flyer and Registration will be on District Website later

United Methodist Women Schedule for 2018

Sept 15, 2018	Fall District Meeting at St. Matthew UMC in Weston Registration 9-10 (Otterbein UMC) Coffee Hour (Orlena and Johnstown UMC)
Oct 25-27	Annual Meeting, Mt. Pleasant, Mineral Wells, Candle Burning Register early.
Nov 3, 2018	A Day Apart at Salem UMC Registration: Wayside UMC East Elkins Charge Coffee Hour: Trinity (Glenville)



Apportionment Payout for 2018

The following churches have paid 100% thus far this year:

Alton; Bridgeport UMC; Bristol UMC; Coplin UMC, Crawford UMC; Elijahs Chapel UMC; Fairview UMC (Braxton); Fairview UMC (Lewis); Fall Run UMC; Hacker Valley UMC; Ireland UMC; Israel UMC; Jerry Run UMC; Johnstown UMC; Mace UMC; Macedonia UMC; Meadow Valley UMC; Mt. Nebo (No Sutton); Mt. Union UMC; Mt. Zion UMC (Newlon); Orlena UMC; Pine Grove UMC; Spruce Lick UMC; Tanner UMC; Valley Bend UMC; Waldeck UMC.

The following churches are on track or have paid more thus far this year:

Bealls Mill; Bendale; Berlin UMC; Berry Chapel; Beverly; Big Isaac; Bristol; Broad Street; Center Chapel UMC;; Coffman Chapel UMC; Corley UMC; Doyle Chapel UMC; Duff Street UMC; First

(Clarksburg); First (Elkins); First (Jane Lew); French Creek UMC; Frenchton UMC; Hampton ; Heaston (Hodgesville); Heaters UMC; Highland Park UMC; Horner UMC; Israel; Jerusalem UMC; Kanawha Run UMC; Kesling UMC; Kynette UMC; Laurel Fork UMC; Lost Creek UMC; McWhorter UMC; Meadow Valley; Mercy Chapel ; Miles Chapel UMC; Monroe Chapel UMC; Morrison UMC; Mt. Clare UMC; Mt. Harmony UMC; Mt. Hermon UMC; Mt. Hope UMC; Mt. Morris UMC; Mt. Olive UMC (So. Buckhannon); Mt. Rupert UMC; New Bethel UMC; Otterbein (Glenville); Pleasant Hill (Good Hope); Quiet Dell UMC; Reger Chapel UMC; Rock Cave UMC; Rockford UMC; Rocky Ford UMC; St. Matthew UMC; Stone Run UMC; Straight Fork UMC; Temple UMC; Ten Mile UMC; Tennerton UMC; Tichenal UMC; Trinity (Glenville); Trinity (Smith Chapel-Trinity); Trinity (Stonewall) Troy UMC; Valley Chapel (Mill Creek); Valley Chapel (Waldeck); Valley Head UMC; Vandalia UMC; Waterloo UMC; Wayside UMC; West Milford UMC.

The following churches have paid less than 66.67% thus far this year:

Blackburn UMC; Broad Oaks UMC; Burnsville UMC; Calvary UMC; Chapel Hill UMC; Christ (Clarksburg); Christ (Sutton); Churchville UMC; Clover Fork UMC; Coplin UMC; Coxs Mill UMC; Cutlipsville UMC; East View UMC; First (Buckhannon); Flatwoods UMC; Freemansburg UMC; Gassaway UMC; Gee Lick UMC; Harmony UMC; Hurst UMC; Kynette UMC; Liberty UMC; Lyda Chapel UMC; Mill Creek UMC; Mt. Earnest UMC; Mt. Hebron (Jane Lew); Mt. Hebron (North Sutton); Mt. Lebanon UMC; Nay UMC; North View UMC; Oak Grove UMC; Orlando UMC; Otterbein (Elkins); Phillips Chapel; Pleasant Hill (Braxton); Pleasant Valley UMC (Hodgesville); Queens Chapel (Volga); Queens UMC; Reed Chapel UMC; Reger UMC; (Hodgesville); Rowan Memorial UMC; Salem (Salem); Salem (Wilsontown); Smith Chapel UMC; South Chestnut UMC; Stealey UMC; Stone Coal UMC; Sycamore UMC; Upper Ellis UMC; Valley Chapel UMC (Mill Creek); Vincent Memorial UMC; Wilson Chapel UMC; Woodford Memorial UMC.

If you have already paid the entire amount for 2018, thanks so much for doing this early in the year. We appreciate the efforts of every church in our District toward meeting their goal of 100% in 2018.

Update on Insurance Rates for January 1, 2019

Annual Conference voted to change the proposed insurance amendment presented to the Conference.

The section on prescription drug coverage was presented as: "30% or \$35 whatever is greater" was accepted as "will have a cap of \$100 on the 30%" which has resulted in an increase in rates for both church and pastor starting on January 1, 2019. There is also a change in the Medicare Supplement from \$135 to \$162 per month. Our insurance plan has not had any changes in 9 years and this is a tremendous record for no increases when private insurances have been increase quite steadily each year. Please look at this and plan for the increase with your financial committees. The deductibles have changed for 2019 also. \$2000 for individuals and \$4,000 for families. Churches, if you have employees who do not work 30 hours per week, they cannot be on Conference Insurance Plan. The other change was: If your spouse can purchase insurance from their employer, they cannot be on our Conference Insurance Plan. All of these changes will save the conference a lot of money on the insurance program. It was necessary to make these changes.

If the Pastor is on their spouse's insurance plan and the church agrees to pay a portion of the premium, this amount goes on Line 10 and is counted as salary and will be taxed. The District Office needs to know if this is the case and the amount being paid.

Awakening Services at South Buckhannon and Tennerton Charge

Services September 23 through November 11, 2018 starting at 6 p.m. Encourage all to Attend

Theme: The Eight Beatitudes

Sunday, Sept 23	Mt. Olive	Frist Day of Fall	First Beatitude
Sunday, Sept 30	Rocky Ford		Second Beatitude
Sunday, Oct 7	Tennerton	World Communion	Third Beatitude
Sunday Oct 14	Mt. Hope		Fourth Beatitude
Sunday Oct 21	Hampton	Laity Sunday	Fifth Beatitude
Sunday Oct 28	Mt. Olive	Reformation	Sixth Beatitude
Sunday Nov 4	Reger Chapel	All Saints Day	Seventh Beatitude
Sunday Nov 11	Tennerton	Veterans Day	Eighth Beatitude

From the District Superintendent

Local Pastors are not licensed beyond their local church. You must have permission from the Bishop to perform a marriage ceremony in another church under another pastor. Full Elders must get credentialed through the state they will officiate in if they are asked to do a marriage ceremony in another state. WV is through the Secretary of State office.

Every Trustee must be bonded to \$25,000.

Every Treasurer must be bonded to \$25,000. Please send insurance proof to the District.

A 1099 MUST BE GIVEN FOR MOVING EXPENSES PAID BY THE CHURCH FOR THE PASTOR.

Every person in the local churches (including Pastors) working with children must go to a Sexual Ethics Training every 4 years. This is a NEW POLICY.

Local Church Trustees are responsible if a church does not carry adequate insurance and liability.

Churches need to pay Worker's Compensation on all their employees. This will cover your workers in case of a fall or injury at the church/property.

Every church/charge MUST HAVE A PARSONAGE INSPECTION ANNUALLY, AT THE LEAST! The Pastor cannot fill out the charge conference parsonage inspection form by him/herself. Must have the parsonage trustee chair, PPRC chair, pastor, at the least.

Charge Conference material must be in the district office ONE week ahead of time with **ALL SIGNATURES!**

On Salary Sheets, the PPRC and Pastor must meet and fill out the right hand column of the compensation worksheet (salary sheet). Then call the district office and notify us of all changes. We have a macro to fill out the salary among all churches on your charge. If percentages change, please let us know. The completed salary sheet will be sent to you for signatures and for use at charge conference. Please make **3 copies of all papers, one for Pastor, one for D.S., and one for Charge Conference Secretary**, who will be attending the meeting. Insurance rates have risen for 2019 and are included in the charge conference materials. **ALL** Treasurers should receive copies of Salary Sheet and Fair Share sheet which has your apportionment for each church and their Promotional Fund Amount, and amount of Educational Fund assessment, based on your membership at that church.

The ACADEMY ON FAITH AND MONEY will be at the Stonewall Jackson Resort, September 17-18. Please be present! The cost is only \$75 for room and food. This is made possible by the UM Foundation and they pick up any additional costs. This will help you in your local churches!!! More information is on the website and also the registration. Conference events may be found on the Calendar after you sign onto the site. www.wvumc.org

Wesleyan District Delegation Listening Event will be October 20, at WVWC Social Hall from 3-5 p.m. Pastors should be present with persons from their churches to discuss the Commission on the Way Forward. If you cannot make this meeting there will be listening events in all 9 districts. Check the conference website calendar for those dates and times.

On November 2, 2018, 8:30 a.m. till 3:30 p.m. there will be a Healthy Bodies/Healthy Spirits broadcast from 5 different cities in WV. The one closest to us is at Morgantown at Pierpont Church of the Nazarene, located at 52 Harner Run Rd, Morgantown, WV. You can register online.

Please make sure that your apportionment payments are being sent in. Some of you are behind. Please speak with your finance chair and find ways to have fundraisers or to speak to the people about giving to catch up. Conference Apportionments are to be sent to the Conference Treasurer. The District Promotion Fund and the Education Fund are to be made out and sent to the Wesleyan District Office: P.O. Box 230, Buckhannon, WV 26201. Ministry and mission cannot be done without the faithful generous giving to these 3 areas.

Below are Pastor Interviews for 2018. Please note your time and place.

Pastor Interviews 2018

Thursday Christ (Sutton) Sept 20, 2018

9:00 a.m.	John McQuain	1:00 p.m.	Bill Carr
9:30 a.m.	Doug Smailes	1:30 p.m.	Jeff Kanode
10:00 a.m.	Jim Malick	2:00 p.m.	Rita Cochran
10:30 a.m.	Dean Cole	2:30 p.m.	
11:00 a.m.	Amy Morrow	3:00 p.m.	
11:30 a.m.		3:30 p.m.	
Lunch			

Tuesday Broad Street Sept 25, 2018

9:00 a.m.	Dwayne Brown	1:00 p.m.	
9:30 a.m.	Brian Plum	1:30 p.m.	Andrew Boley
10:00 a.m.	Mina Luzader	2:00 p.m.	Martin Wind
10:30 a.m.	Roger McKee	2:30 p.m.	Peter Dietze
11:00 a.m.	Ron Brown	3:00 p.m.	
11:30 a.m.	Robert King	3:30 p.m.	Kevin Bender
Lunch			

Wednesday First (Elkins) Sept 26, 2018

8:30 a.m.	Stella Faye Moyer	1:00 p.m.	Bobbie Rogers
9:00 a.m.	Brian Seders	1:30 p.m.	Pam Ritchie
9:30 a.m.	Patricia Neely	2:00 p.m.	Jeremiah Jasper
10:00 a.m.	Roger Neely	2:30 p.m.	Dina Andrews
10:30 a.m.	Ted Bessey	3:00 p.m.	Mark McCutcheon
11:00 a.m.	David Thompson	3:30 p.m.	
11:30 a.m.	Kelly Simmons		
Lunch			

Friday First (Buckhannon) Sept 28, 2018

9:30 a.m.	Tim Conrad
10:00 a.m.	Dorcas Conrad
10:30 a.m.	Ed Balis
11:00 a.m.	Dave Bowen
11:30 a.m.	Mitch Griffin
12:00 p.m.	Gayle Lesure

From

Makeup Day

May 4, 2018

From: Bishop Steiner Ball

As Bishops of The United Methodist Church, we affirm that WE ARE OF ONE HEART in our desire to discern the mind and will of Jesus Christ for our leadership and the church. In the Northeastern Jurisdiction and around the world we experience great diversity of thought and practice within The United Methodist Church. In partnership with Bishops from around the world, we will continue to lead collectively and individually to value and provide room for our diversity as United Methodists.

-The Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops

Dear Friends of the West Virginia Conference,

This week, the Council of Bishops met in Chicago to receive the final report from the Commission on a Way Forward and discern the recommendation that would be sent to the special session of General Conference to be held in St. Louis, MO in February of 2019. This meeting was bathed in prayer, dependent on the movement of God's Holy Spirit, and marked by caring and honest conversation.

At the request of the 2016 General Conference, a 32-member Commission was appointed by the Council of Bishops to assist the bishops in their charge to lead the church forward amid the impasse related to homosexuality. The Commission on a Way Forward was asked to explore, design, and recommend a way for being Church that maximizes the presence of a United Methodist witness around the globe, allows for as much contextual differentiation as possible, and creates as much unity as possible. The work and report of the Commission was based upon the [Vision, Mission, and Scope](#) that was given to the Commission to guide its work and included three possible models for moving the church forward.

Following intense prayer, discussion, deep discernment and with deep appreciation for the work of the Commission, the Council of Bishops made and affirmed the following motion.

Motion

Having received and considered the extensive work of the Commission on a Way Forward, the Council of Bishops will submit a report to the special session of the General Conference in 2019 that includes:

- **All three plans (The Traditionalist Plan, The One Church Plan and the Connectional Conference Plan) for a way forward considered by the Commission and the Council.**
- **The Council's recommendation of the One Church Plan.**
- **A historical narrative of the Council's discernment process regarding all three plans.**

Rationale:

In order to invite the church to go deeper into the journey the Council and Commission has been on, the Council makes all the information considered by the Commission and the Council of Bishops available to the delegates of the General Conference and acknowledges there is support for each of the three plans within the Council. The values of our global church are reflected in all three plans. The majority of the Council recommends the One Church Plan as the best way forward for The United Methodist Church.

The Council's discernment process was guided by the over-arching desire to strategically help the General Conference do its work and to honor the General Conference's request for the Council to help the church find a way forward. Therefore, while the Council of Bishops made a recommendation for the One Church Plan, the Council felt it was very important to include all three models worked on by the Commission on a way Forward as a part of the report to the February 2019 called session of General Conference.

The report will go through a final process of perfection and revision that will take several weeks. Following this process and before the report can be publicly released, it must be translated into the official languages of the General Conference. Therefore, the full report will be made public no later than July 8.

Following the date of release, the members of the West Virginia Delegation will be working to set up gatherings in our Districts for continued conversation and prayer. Ultimately the decision on this matter lies with the 800+ clergy and lay delegates from around the world who will convene at the General Conference in St. Louis in February 23-26, 2019.

These are indeed critical and anxious days for our beloved United Methodist Church. Yet, let us remember Jesus is Lord of the Church, the mission of the Church is clear, and our calling and opportunity to use the gifts of God's Holy Spirit remain. Indeed, God's promises endure: God will be with us; God will protect us; and God will bless us! We can trust in these promises!

Let us pray and not be paralyzed, let us hope in the midst of our uncertainty, let us care for one another in the midst of hurt, anxiety or confusion, and let us love one another in the midst of disagreement. Additionally, may God inspire us and bless us as we continue to be the church, a church which effectively, and fruitfully brings hope to the world, while continuing to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission to make disciples of Jesus Christ who work together with one another in ministry that is empowered by God to transform this world into the likeness of Christ.

May it be so. I look forward to continuing our ministry and mission together and to celebrating how God is working through the West Virginia Conference clergy and laity to bring hope, healing, and life to the world.

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball

Victoria Manor

The District Office received information from Victoria Manor at 22 Elizabeth St, Buckhannon, Phone 304-473-0913. Owner Carolyn S. Riffle, RN. Please call for more information.

They are striving to provide Assisted Living Facilities as an alternative to Institutional Assisted Living.

Also, if you are a Caregiver and need a respite, for a day, a week, a month, or more, they can provide temporary caregiving. Adult day care services are a welcome respite opportunity for individuals who work or who need stretches of time away from their loved one to complete tasks, socialize, or just to refresh yourself. Your loved one can stay at our Adult Day Care.

We encourage and welcome you to visit our Home and then bring your loved one for a visit. We have rates by the hour, day, or week. Make reservations now, as openings are limited. They can also give hospice, end of life care, and convalescent care in their facility.

Recovery Pathways LLC
4326 Northern Pike, Suite 202
Monroeville, PA 15146

Recovery Pathways is a medication-based recovery clinic headquartered in Pennsylvania. The group is physician owned, We are looking to collaborate with local ministries in the area to serve as a referral outlet for your church members seeking assistance with recovery from dependence. Medications have been shown in numerous clinical studies to assist patients who have become dependent on opioids. Our physicians at Recovery Pathways are trained in the use of these medications.

Opioid abuse has reached epidemic levels across our nation and the need for increased availability of appropriate medical based interventions has reached an all-time high. This, as you may be aware, is especially true in WV where opioid overdoses are up almost 350 percent in the past five years according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. As West Virginia ranks first in the nation in drug use and addiction, we would love the opportunity to partner with your church and support your members. If this is a need you have seen in your church community, we welcome the opportunity to come and speak with you in greater detail. 412-501-5124. E-mail: ben@recoverypathways.net

Benjamin J. Busbey, Director, Recovery Pathway

One Voice, Wyoming County Board of Education, and GRACE

The above organizations are partnering together to bring a week long Recovery Coach Academy to Wyoming County at our One Voice Office in Pineville in the cafeteria.

GRACE provides the WV Recovery Coach Academies for classroom teachers, professional support personnel including school nurses, social workers, school psychologists, school counselors, etc., community members working with schools, parents, grand-families, law enforcement, correctional officers, and veterans.

Registration, materials, and a light breakfast, lunch, and a snack will be provided at no Charge.

Instructors will be John Unger and Marti Steiner.

Each participant will receive a certificate as a recovery coach, 3 free college credits from Blue Ridge Community and Technical College and CEs in nursing (Provider #WV1998-0231RN), school psychology and psychology.

There is a link below that must be used to Register for the class. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call or contact me with any concerns.

Training Academy Dates and Locations.

Sign up today:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSegaZtGUgYDhNa7dpW77xUImVERQKB6E1oZOzTNWACDMYqBoQ/viewform>

Date	Location	City
Sept 4-7 9-5:30	Covenant Community Church 250 Bethany Pike, Wheeling, WV 26003	Wheeling, WV

Sept 10-14	9-4 p.m.	One Voice 155 Park St, Pineville, WV 24874 In the Cafeteria	Wyoming County, WV
Sept 17-21	9-4 p.m.	WV State Police Academy 135 Academy Dr, Dunbar, WV 25064	Charleston, WV

For more information call John Unger on 304-389-1866.

Wesleyan District Communications Update

Hello everyone!



In today's day and age of advanced technology and social media, the United Methodist Church brings a high level of support and advancements to help churches, and the entire connection, to transform the world with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our WV Conference Communications team is in the forefront of some of these advancements and work closely with United Methodist Communications in Nashville, TN, to bring high-tech to the Mountain State and is dedicated to engage people, empower disciples, with one shared story.

To this end, we are dedicated to celebrate our WV Conference ministries via a variety of media. We are also dedicated to providing training and encouragement to local churches so that they may share their own stories of faithfulness.

Our team, led by Communications Director Deborah Coble, along with members from each District around the state, brings a huge variety of experience and knowledge to what they do. From writers to videographers, photographers to computer experts, the team is here to empower and equip local churches of our beautiful state as you share the stories of your faith communities.

One such endeavor is the Communications Empower Teams which are being implemented across the state to "walk alongside disciples to build effective websites to share the good news of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Eighteen months ago, we gathered in Weston to start training on how to effectively enable churches and Districts to create websites through a new, cost effective collaboration with UM Communications. As we progressed through the past year and a half, the Team began looking at the level of technical obstacles churches needed to overcome to have these sites and to maintain them. We realized that, for many churches, it wasn't overly easy to share the good news via a website.

This led to our most recent training on August 24th & 25th – a Train-the-Trainer event held at St. Matthews UMC in Weston to educate volunteers to walk alongside these churches in developing a website using templates that are easy to setup and maintain.

The District is looking for churches interested in developing, and feel led to share their stories via, a website AND looking for folks to help walk alongside these churches to encourage and offer support!

If you are interested in becoming part of our team of support staff or your church is interested in seeing how a website can help you better connect with your community, give me a call or email. UM Communications also has a large repository of information, downloads, videos, and hints to better help churches with their online and print presence.

I am happy to take your call or answer your email with any question you may have.

We are also always looking for glory sightings and stories of how your ministry or local church is a "Christ-led, spiritual breath of fresh air that changes the world!"

Our District website in www.wesleyandistrictumc.org

Our WV Conference site is www.wvumc.org

Our Facebook page is *Wesleyan District UMC WV*

Thanks again, and God bless you in your ministry! In Christ, I am

Jim Minutelli, CLM

District Communications Contact

WV Conference Communications Team

304-629-9398

minutellij@gmail.com

Wesleyan District Committee on Lay Ministry

Hello fellow Lay Servants! (...and, of course, Pastors and Laity of the Wesleyan District)



It's that time of year again - time for our Fall Lay Servant Ministry Academy!

I know that there have been many changes to Lay Servant Ministries over the past few years, and you still might be uncertain as to where Lay Servants fit into the overall structure. I took a look at your class records that we have in the District office, and I see that several of you are very close to taking all of the classes you need to certify as Lay Speakers, so let's talk about what we currently need to get certified or stay in line with the guidelines from the 2016 Book of Discipline.

Anyone who wants to be a Certified Lay Servant at any level must first take the basic Intro to Lay Ministry course. If you took this course prior to 2012, you will need to take the current course. Once you have completed the basic course and have taken one advanced course, you have earned the title "Certified Lay Servant."

For those wishing to proceed to become a Certified Lay Speaker, you must then take the Advanced Speaking/Preaching class. Once you complete this course, there are five other advanced courses that are required to become certified as a Lay Speaker – currently Leading Worship, Leading Prayer, United Methodist Heritage, Discovering Spiritual Gifts, United Methodist Polity, and Caring for Those Who Grieve.

After completion of these courses, you must fill out the Report of the Lay Servant to the Charge Conference (which is included in your church's charge conference paperwork each year), indicating your intended status. This will be reviewed by your pastor/SPRC and a recommendation will be made to the District, via your charge conference. Once approved at your charge conference meeting, your report will go to the Wesleyan District Committee on Lay Ministry for final sign-off.

As you are probably aware, there is one more designation that laity can pursue in Lay Servant Ministries.

The Certified Lay Minister is a relatively new tract for those interested in becoming assigned supply or filling the pulpit in a more formal way. It requires a four module course of study and appearance before the District Committee on Ministry for approval. If you are interested in learning more about this program, you can visit our website at www.wesleyandistrictumc.org or contact me.

OK, back to this year's Academy! If you look at the enclosed brochure, you will see that we are offering a new advanced course on Stewardship, being taught by our District Superintendent Rev. Mary Ellen Finegan. It really looks to be a great class, and we hope that you consider taking this course as one of your elective advanced courses.

Remember that all lay servants or lay speakers need one advanced course every three years to stay certified, but you can take one more often if you choose!

I hope this helped clarify some of the requirements or questions you may have had about Lay Ministries. If you have additional questions, concerns, or comments, you can contact me or the Wesleyan District office at 304-472-1095. Together, we are all part of this worldwide connection called the United Methodist Church, and I am more than happy to take your call or answer your email with any question you may have.

Thanks again, and God bless you in your ministry! In Christ, I am

Jim Minutelli, CLM

Director of Lay Ministry

Wesleyan District of the WV Conference

304-629-9398

minutellij@gmail.com