THE MISSION of the West Ohio Conference is to EQUIP LOCAL CHURCHES TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD… A world of JUSTICE, Love, and Peace filled with people GROWING in the likeness of JESUS CHRIST

January 27, 2020

LEADERSHIP DAY COMMUNICATION

Sisters and Brothers in Ministry,

Clergy and lay leadership are invited to join us for a time of leadership training that has relevance for your church and ministry that will have lasting results in your local congregation. We hope you will take advantage of this training that will assist in better equipping you for ministry and administration and will give you tools for enhanced outreach, service, and worship.

Training is being provided for the NWP District on February 8 at Ottawa Trinity UMC. There will then be 14 breakout sessions to choose from with a wide variety of relevant church ministry topics offered. Please see the attached class summaries and details including information on sign-ups. The training is offered free of charge, however sign-ups are necessary. Also, if there are any groups coming from the same church please be sure everyone sign-ups individually. We need everyone's individual information. We encourage you to share this attached information with your congregation as it is beneficial not only for clergy but also for those in lay leadership. Gathering for the training begins at 8:30, welcome and worship at 9:00, and breakout sessions will begin at 9:30 - concluding by 12:15.

You can sign-up for 2 break-out sessions - indicate the number of the session(s) you wish to register for - #s 1-7 are in the first session; 8-14 in the second session. **NOTE: #2 will be the whole morning.** To sign-up either use the Sign-Up Genius link below or attached here or email Lesley at lmoore@wocumc.org or call the district office at 1-800-589-7828. Please include the following information when you sign-up: your name, church name, break-out session #1, break-out session #2. [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4AACA928A7FD0-nwpleadership](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4AACA928A7FD0-nwpleadership)

All pastors and laity are welcome!

Blessings,

Barry Burns
Northwest Plains Leadership Training Day
February 8, 2020
Ottawa Trinity United Methodist Church

8:30 a.m.: Gathering and refreshments
9:00: Welcome and Worship
First Break-Out Session: 9:30-10:45
First Break-Out options:

1 – Capital Campaigns/Endowments led by Bruce Boyd
A topic that is a challenge to talk about in church, but is so important, is how are we preparing our church for the future through Planned giving, endowments, and capital campaigns. Bruce Boyd is an active leader in our West Ohio Conference and a member of the WOC Council on Development. He comes with a wealth of knowledge to help answer questions such as: How does a local church establish an endowment? How do we talk too people about planned giving through estates and other methods? How can this impact our ministry far into the future?

2 – All in Community HOPE Letters – Led by Rev. Amelia Boomershine and Mr. James Clay:: 9:30-Noon
“Let me tell you how valuable a letter is.” Join All In Community’s HOPE Letters and experience the profound, transformative impact your words can have on people in prison who feel forgotten by the world, and perhaps, by God. The good news is, anyone can write letters or sign cards. HOPE Letters is the perfect outreach ministry for any church of any size in any location that is wanting to be Matthew 25 Kingdom-builders. This training provides you everything you need to start a HOPE Letters group that will nurture, from a distance, neighbors hoping to find a caring group of disciples who will welcome them when they return home. This easy outreach ministry is already making a big difference in many people’s lives.
NOTE: This 2 ½-hour training encompasses both morning sessions at the NWP District Leadership Day.

3 – Children/Family Ministries in the small church setting led by Matt Overman
Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” But how do we reach out to children and their families and offer them help, hope and Jesus? Join together with others who reach out to children and families as we discuss and learn about ways to let the children come. In this session we will focus on ways that smaller churches can disciple, equip and reach out in fun, effective, and efficient ways. The session will also include an overview of safe sanctuaries.

4 – Mental Health and Wellness/Suicide Prevention led by Ottawa Pathways Counseling
The annual report from the Ohio Department of Health finds that five people die by suicide every day in Ohio, one young Ohioan dies by suicide every 33 hours, and the rate of suicide has risen by 56% among people 10 to 24 in the past 11 years. “Suicide is the leading cause of death among Ohioans ages 10-14 and the second leading cause of death among Ohioans ages 15-34”, said Dr. Amy Acton, the department's director, in releasing the report. Have you ever been approached by someone who is contemplating suicide? If you have not, chances are you will at some point. Do you know what signs to look for? What do you do, how do you help the person? How do you help the family dealing with suicide? What are your resources? These are some of the questions that will be answered in this session.

5 – SPRC and Church Administration Best Practices led by DS Barry Burns and Administrative Assistant Lesley Moore
The focus of this session will be to provide churches and administrative leaders ideas and tools for effectively leading (S)PPR teams and the administrative ministry of our congregations.

6 – Worship in the large church setting led by Tesia Mallory
Why do you do what you do in worship? How does your church make decisions about what happens on Sunday mornings? Are decisions based on what you’ve always done or based on another church’s worship order? How do you craft worship experiences that guide people into God’s presence? This practical workshop will help you think about the different movements of worship and how to use worship order invite your congregation into a transformational encounter with God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

7 – Navigating Aging led by Otterbein Chaplain Peter Citerin
Chaplain Peter Citerin is the chaplain at Otterbein Homes in Cridersville. He will be leading this class that will focus on how we can help members of our churches and communities navigate the aging process and the medical system that can be so confusing. These needs might impact us in our own families, or they might open up the door for new kinds of ministries to our communities.

8 – Church Finance/Clergy Benefits
The focus of this session is to provide information for churches, church treasurers and financial secretaries on clergy compensation and benefits, year-end W-2’s, workers compensation, and to answer your questions on finances.
9 – Effective Leadership Boards led by Dwight Bowers

Effective Church Boards don’t just “run the church.” They focus on Ministry and how to best accomplish their mission. Focus in this workshop will be upon Disciplinary requirements and “best practices” for leadership in the local church with special attention to the role and responsibilities of the Leadership Board. It will be a practical experience aimed at establishing goals for the congregation, creating structure that supports the church’s mission, and developing and empowering ministry area leaders to accomplish that mission. We will necessarily, then, look at frequent Board practices that hinder or support the accomplishment of local church mission.

10 – Children/Family Ministries in the large church setting led by Matt Overman

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” But how do we reach out to children and their families and offer them help, hope and Jesus? Join together with others who reach out to children and families as we discuss and learn about ways to let the children come. In this session we will focus on ways that medium and larger churches can disciple, equip and reach out in fun, effective, and efficient ways. The session will also include an overview of safe sanctuaries.

11 – Mental Health and Wellness/Suicide Prevention led by Ottawa Pathways Counseling

The annual report from the Ohio Department of Health finds that five people die by suicide every day in Ohio, one young Ohioan dies by suicide every 33 hours, and the rate of suicide has risen by 56% among people 10 to 24 in the past 11 years. “Suicide is the leading cause of death among Ohioans ages 10-14 and the second leading cause of death among Ohioans ages 15-34”, said Dr. Amy Acton, the department’s director, in releasing the report. Have you ever been approached by someone who is contemplating suicide? If you have not, chances are you will at some point. Do you know what signs to look for? What do you do, how do you help the person? How do you help the family dealing with suicide? What are your resources? These are some of the questions that will be answered in this session.

12 – Mission Insight led by Barry Burns (must register ahead of time)

Do you know who your community really is or are you remembering it as it once was? We are called to fully engage our community, but to do that we need to have a realistic understanding of who our neighbors really are. This session will work with demographic information to help your church to strategically reach the people in your community for Christ. People taking this session will need to pre-register in order to receive the Mission Insite report for your congregation. We will then together look at what this information means for our congregations.

13 – Worship in the small church setting led by Tesia Mallory

Why do you do what you do in worship? How does your church make decisions about what happens on Sunday mornings? Are decisions based on what you’ve always done or based on another church’s worship order? How do you craft worship experiences that guide people into God’s presence? This practical workshop will help you think about the different movements of worship and how to use worship order invite your congregation into a transformational encounter with God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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SIGN-UP:

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Name; Church Name; Break-Out Session #1; Break-Out Session #2

SIGN-UP DEADLINE: February 5, 2020
My prayer for you is that you may have still more love – a love that is full of knowledge and wise insight. I want you to be able always to recognize the highest and the best, and to live sincere and blameless lives until the day of Christ. I want to see your lives full of true goodness, produced by the power that Jesus Christ gives you to the praise and glory of God. Philippians 1:9–11, (Phillips)

*Lord our God,* we thank you for filling our hearts with such great trust. We thank you for all we are given in our lives, above all that we can come to know Jesus Christ. We thank you that over and over we can draw strength and life from his life. Praise to your name, for our life has a goal and we may find strength and certainty during our time on earth. You will reveal what we hope for, and even now you allow us to keep something of this goal before our eyes. We praise you that your name may become great in our midst and that again and again new life can well up from us, who are poor and weak. May your name be praised for setting this goal before us to strengthen us. Amen.

It's W-2 Time!

2019 W-2s are due to all employees by January 31, 2020. 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).

Highlight for 2019 W-2’s include:

- Moving expenses paid by churches directly to moving companies or via reimbursement to clergy are taxable and must be reported as income (see the moving expense section of IRS instructions completing W-2’s [here](#)).
- If your pastor received health insurance through the Conference Plan (Aetna) they received a contribution to their HSA account that should be reported. Clergy on single plans received $500 in January and July 2018 for a total of $1,000. Clergy on Family-2 or Family-3 plans received $1,000 in January and July for a total of $2,000. If two churches share in the cost of health insurance, adjust accordingly.
- All full time clergy and some 3/4 time clergy receive a $50,000 death benefit through a conference plan. This is in addition to $50,000 available through the denominational plan (CPP). The cost of group life insurance over $50,000 is taxable. The imputed income can be calculated based on the table in IRS Publication 15-B.

- Note: If your pastor is not on the Conference health insurance plan and your church has not established its own qualified plan, direct payments to clergy to offset the cost of health insurance (for example on a spouse or other employer plan) are taxable income.

The resources referenced here and on the conference website should answer most of your questions. However, contact your payroll provider, a CPA or tax preparer if you have technical questions.

**Bill Brownson**  
*CFO & Director of Administration*
2020 Lunch with the DS

In the times of ambiguity and uncertainty, Barry would like to make himself available for dialogue regarding the “Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation.” See the schedule below. **Please bring a lunch/drink** and come and enjoy some fellowship and good discussions.

**Please NOTE:**

- These are separate from the Lunch-n-Learns that are already scheduled - not to confuse the two as they are separate from each other
- No reason to sign-up or register
- Come to whichever fits your schedule – not bound by county

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Putnam County</td>
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<td>01/23/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auglaize County</td>
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<td>Findlay St. Mark's</td>
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<td>Allen County</td>
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<td>Lima Forest Park</td>
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<td>Hardin County</td>
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<td>Mercer County</td>
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<td>Williams County</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>03/30/2020</td>
<td>Bryan Wesley</td>
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*Thank you to the churches noted above for opening your doors for these gatherings.*
The Ohio Chapter of PAUMCS (Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional Structure) was a dream of Bob Storey, Coordinator of Communications for the West Ohio Annual Conference. In 1988, the General Conference approved legislation allowing the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) to sponsor PAUMCS. But Ohio PAUMCS did not become a reality until 1991 when it was established at a gathering at the Green Street United Methodist Church, Piqua, Ohio in October of 1991.

Celebrating over 28 years of service, Ohio PAUMCS is committed to its purpose of recognizing the position of the church administrator as a professional within the church. By providing leadership and educational opportunities around Ohio, the Ohio PAUMCS chapter is linking secretaries, administrative assistants and volunteer staff as an effective support group in local ministry.

The officers and members invite you to use the attached membership application to renew or begin your association with a group of men and women who are committed to serving at the local church. Individual membership is $25.00 and a staff membership is $40.00. Applications are due by February 15, 2020 to Lorri Philp, 53 Towne Commons Way, Apt. 13, Cincinnati, OH 45215-6139. If you have any questions, please email Lorri at office@cliftonumc.com.

From the desk of . . .

Marielyn Grace
Mission & Communication Coordinator | Connectional Ministries
West Ohio Conference | (513) 505-3807 | www.westohioumc.org
32 Wesley Blvd | Worthington, Ohio 43085

Contingency Notice
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Harry Denman Evangelism Award Taking Nominations

The Harry Denman Evangelism Award, sponsored by The Foundation for Evangelism, honors United Methodists in each Annual Conference whose exceptional ministry of evangelism brings people into a life transforming relationship with Jesus Christ. What distinguishes a Harry Denman Evangelism Award recipient is the commitment to consistently introduce others to the Good News of Jesus Christ in all ministry settings. Their ministry is exceptional for the number of new Christ followers who credit encounters with this person as critical in helping to start or reignite their faith journey. Awards are given to clergy, laity, and youth. Visit (https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/harry-denman-evangelism-award) for more information and to download the nomination form. Please submit nominations to mgrace@wocumc.org by March 15, 2020.
Campaign Vision and Purpose

Our purpose is to multiply the number of vibrant, robust, effective congregations and in turn multiply the number of people who are choosing to live in the hope of Jesus Christ, being shaped from the inside out by the justice, love and peace that Jesus brings to us all.

IF we sincerely believe that God is calling us to offer Christ in a Wesleyan way, passionately and respectfully, that is relevant to our cultural context and inspires hope and new life…

AND we are sincere in asking God to send one more person, family, or child for us to love and disciple…

THEN we are called to come together to plant new churches and nurture congregational vitality in order to reach new people of all ages and life circumstances and connect them with Jesus Christ.

For more information on the Light the Way Campaign contact: Rev. Stanley Ling/sling@wocumc.org, Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey/snkibbey@wocumc.org, Mr. Brad Aycock/bradaycock@wocumc.org

BY GEORGE! Campaign

Thank you so much for your wonderful response to the By George Campaign. We have been able to send in $37,357.91 already, and have more to send. I think the time has come for us to draw this campaign to an end, so we will be sending in our last contribution for now at the end of April. This will give you time to send in your remaining gifts if you are interested. Again, Thank you so much!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Year-end Reports
Instructions have been mailed to each church. Reporting is done online through the EZRA Statistics System. Deadline to enter data is February 28, 2020

IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate Drops
The 2020 IRS standard mileage reimbursement rate is $.575, down from $.58 last year. Please make sure to adjust your reimbursement forms accordingly.

At-Large
Anyone interested in being an At-Large Member (Adults/Young or Youth) to the 2020 West Ohio Annual Conference scheduled for June 7-11, please contact the District Office at 419-523-9901 or email us at nwplains@wocumc.org
HENDERSON SETTLEMENT TRIP
PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO DEADLINE DATES

NORTHWEST PLAINS DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSION TRIP TO HENDERSON SETTLEMENT
Sunday, May 3—Saturday, May 9, 2020
BE A PART OF A MISSION PROJECT! DON’T MISS OUT! GET ON BOARD!

Where is Henderson Settlement? HS is close to the Kentucky/Tennessee border about 35 miles east of Interstate 75.

What is the schedule? Participants need to be at Henderson Settlement before the 7:00 PM orientation on Sunday, May 3. (Eat your evening meal before arrival.) Everyone will depart for home after breakfast on Saturday, May 9.

What will we be doing? There will be construction/maintenance crews (ladies welcome). There is also work to be done in the greenhouse, library, food pantry, senior center and community store.

What is the cost? $360/person with accommodations in the mission dorm. $440 per person for more private housing (Baldinger Dorm, Zuki house). (3 meals Monday – Friday and breakfast Saturday.) Travel and food to and from Henderson Settlement is the responsibility of the participant. No additional insurance is available – your own insurance is the only insurance in effect.

What is to be expected? Weather – hot to cool, rain possible. Be prepared.
- Clothing – work clothes.
- Area – 50%+ unemployment, coal mining, forestry, mountainous.

How do I sign up? Complete and return the registration form with your deposit of $50/person by February 28.
Remaining balance due by April 15. Please make check payable to: Northwest Plains District – Henderson Mission Trip. Send check and registration form to: Northwest Plains District Office, 510 East 3rd St., Ottawa, OH 43075. For more information, contact Ruth Pease at 260.402.1888. A planning meeting for all registered participants will be held to determine who is driving/riding and to answer all other questions. This meeting will be on Sunday, April 26, 2:00 PM at Trinity UMC, 220 S. Walnut St., Van Wert, OH 45891.

Henderson Settlement Mission Trip
May 3 thru 9, 2020

Name(s) ___________________________ (First and Last Names)

Address: ____________________________________________________________ City/State/Zip: __________________________ 

Telephone_________________________ E-Mail: _____________________________

Church name __________________________ 

Work area interest: ____________________________________________________
(Construction/maintenance, electrical, plumbing, painting, gardening, etc.)
West Ohio District Announcement:

Summer Impact 2020

Are you a youth group, women’s group, men’s group, or young adult group, with a desire to serve and learn?

Your group is invited to come and serve for a week (Sunday - Friday) this summer alongside ministries in Cincinnati participating in building projects, day camps, delivering furniture, communing with those who are experiencing homelessness and sickness, and more.

Registration is open to choose from 6 weeks in June and July and the cost is $230/person.

The heart behind Summer Impact is transformation through serving experiences, meaningful interactions, and individual/group reflection time in order to see the work that God is already doing in Cincinnati and how God is calling us to partner in that Kingdom work. The hope is that teams will return home with a renewed energy and sense of where God is leading them to serve in their own community throughout the year.

Playing on the year 2020 - the next year’s theme is: "2020 Vision: Prophets of the Past and Present" and will emphasize God’s Kingdom work through generations - including this current one!

To find out more information about what your week will look like and to register your group – please email Rev. Kate Smith (ksmith@hpcumc.org) or visit: http://hydeparkchurch.org/summer-impact/
**BROWN BAG Lunch-n-Learns**

Announcing new opportunities for learning and fellowship. Starting in October we will be having a new series of what we are calling Lunch-n-Learns! You are invited to bring a lunch and share in a time of fellowship and learning. We will start at 11:30 am and end by 1:00 pm each time. These will be spread around to all of the counties of the Northwest Plains District throughout the year and you are invited to come to any or all of them that you might be interested in. You can find a schedule of dates and topics here. This is planned for pastors, but everyone is welcome to come and join!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE:</th>
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<th>TOPIC</th>
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<td>January 21, 2020</td>
<td>Bryan Wesley</td>
<td>Protocol of Reconciliation &amp; Grace…</td>
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<td>February 11, 2020</td>
<td>Westside</td>
<td>Understanding Generation Differences</td>
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<td>Twin Oaks</td>
<td>Worship in a Small Membership Church</td>
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<td>March 10, 2020</td>
<td>Salem-Wapak</td>
<td>Financial Policies and Best Practices</td>
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<td>March 24, 2020</td>
<td>John Stewart</td>
<td>Social Media/Technology</td>
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<td>April 14, 2020</td>
<td>Leipsic</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 28, 2020</td>
<td>Marysville UMC</td>
<td>Disaster Response and Preparedness</td>
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From the desk of . . .

Marielwyn Grace
Mission & Communication Coordinator | Connectional Ministries
West Ohio Conference | (614) 505-3807 | [www.westohioumc.org](http://www.westohioumc.org)
32 Wesley Blvd | Worthington, Ohio 43085

The West Ohio Conference will hold an Early Response Team (ERT) training on Saturday, **March 14, 8:00 am-4:00 pm** at Bellefontaine First UMC. ERT volunteers provide support in disaster response situations and must go through specific training with UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). This ensures that ERT volunteers will be productive and caring while causing no further harm or burden on the affected community. Topics covered in the class include the who, what, when, where and how of doing disaster response ministry, as well as hands-on experience in the specific tasks that early responders are expected to accomplish. Volunteers who pass the course will receive a three-year UMCOR badge that allows early access to disaster areas. Cost for the training is $40 for new volunteers; $35 for recertification. Deadline to register is March 8. For more information or to register for the class go to this link. ([https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/event/early-response-training-bellefontaine-first-umc](https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/event/early-response-training-bellefontaine-first-umc)).
NWP Directors of Pulpit Supply

Pastors, if you are in need of Sunday morning pulpit supply and would like to arrange for a Lay Speaker to fill in for you, please contact our District Directors of Pulpit Supply.

- **Linda Hoover** is responsible for the southern part of NWP District including Allen, Auglaize, Hardin, Mercer, Van Wert and Wyandot counties. She can be reached at 567-204-0329 or by email at bhoo-ver1@woh.rr.com.

- **Larry Zuvers** is responsible for the northern part of NWP District including Defiance, Hancock, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, and Williams counties. He can be reached at 419.636.2329 or by email at lzuvers@gmail.com.

Lay Servant Training Events

Lay Servant Ministries is one of the most significant lay leadership development programs already available within the United Methodist connection. Through this system of equipping and empowering, lay servants have the opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who then go and make other disciples.

- **“Methodist Heritage” (CORE)** led by Rev. Brian Arnold/Ministry Teaching Team will be offered on **Saturday, March 7, 8:30am-4:30pm**, at **Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic, Ohio. The FIRM deadline for registration is February 26, 2020.** Register on the district website or attached form on page 12.

- **“Theology of Our Hymns (Advance)”** led by Rev. Steve Rath/Lay Ministry Teaching Team will be offered on **Saturday, March 7, 8:30am-4:30pm**, at **Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic, Ohio. The FIRM deadline for registration is February 26, 2020.** Register on the district website or attached form on page 12.

- **“Lay Servants lead in Prayer (CORE)”** led by Jeff Motter/Lay Ministry Teaching Team will be offered on **Saturday, April 4, 8:30am-4:30pm**, at **Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic, Ohio. The FIRM deadline for registration is March 25, 2020.** Register on the district website or attached form on page 13.

- **“Class TBD (Advanced)”** will be offered on **Saturday, April 4 at 8:30am-4:30pm**, at **Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic, Ohio. The FIRM deadline for registration is March 25, 2020.** Register on the district website or attached form on page 13.

Please help get the word out. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in participating, please register when the time is open to do so!
**Northwest Plains**

Is God Calling You?

The term “servant” best describes what Jesus told his disciples in John 13 after he himself performed duties of the lowliest servant. We are also called to live out our discipleship as servants in leadership! All lay servants are called to proclaim the gospel in many different ways, in leadership and support roles, to help others grow in a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Northwest Plains District Website**

https://www.northwestplainsdistrict.org/
district/northwestplains/

Questions

Please call or email the district office, 800.589.7828, nwpplains@wocumc.org.

or

You may call or email: District Lay Leader, Barbara Lee, 419.738.3402, bcrewspank@bnght.net.

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**District Ministry of the Laity**

**Training Opportunities**

**Methodist Heritage**

Led by: Rev. Brian Arnold

**Saturday, March 7, 2020**

8:30 AM–4:30 PM

Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic

**Core Course**

Methodist Heritage

Leading in Prayer is one of the six CORC courses required for Certified Lay Speaker status. This course also qualifies as an advanced course for acquiring or maintaining Certified Lay Servant status.

Upon receipt of registration you will be mailed reading material to preview prior to the training event.

Cost: $40 (includes lunch and materials)

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**Theology of Our Hymns**

Led by: Steve Rath

**Saturday, March 7, 2020**

8:30 AM–4:30 PM

Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic

**Advanced Course**

Theology of Our Hymns

This course qualifies as a certification or re-certification course for Certified Lay Servants. This course also qualifies as a re-certification course for Certified Lay Speakers.

Cost: $40 (includes lunch and materials)

Upon receipt of registration you will be mailed reading material to preview prior to the training event.

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The above courses are not open to Lay Servants but are also open to Pastors, Supply Pastors, and others interested in learning more about Methodist Heritage and Theology of Our Hymns.

**Registration Deadline: February 26, 2020**
Saturday, April 4, 2020
Core Course: Lay Servants Lead in Prayer

Prayer is something we learn; it is something that can be taught. For many, however, the only teaching about prayer they ever receive is modeled in Sunday worship. This course may challenge your assumptions, test some of your preconceived ideas, stretch your thinking, enrich your prayer life, and will help you grow in confidence and skill in prayer, both public and personal.

Saturday, April 4, 2020
Advance Course: Grief Seminar

The course will focus on understanding the descriptions, emotions and behaviors of grief, identifying grief issues, complicated grief and family issues. How to walk with those who grieve after the funeral and how the pastor and church family can give support on the journey. How to help families process last day memories, trauma, changes in family and how to ignore the need for additional grief counseling. Participants will also receive ways to deal with anxiety and stress. Other related grief issues will also be discussed. Living In The Different

District Ministry of the Laity
Training Opportunities

Lay Servants lead in prayer
Led by: Rev. Jeff Motter
Saturday, April 4, 2020
8:30-4:30 PM
Leipsic UMC
127 W. Main St.
Leipsic, OH 45856

Grief Seminar
Led by: Elaine J. Clinger Sturtz
Saturday, April 4, 2020
8:30 AM–4:30 PM
Leipsic UMC
127 W. Main St.
Leipsic, OH 45856

Registration Form — Registration Deadline is March 25, 2020

Lay Servants Lead in Prayer
Grief Seminar

Please make $40 check payable to Northwest-Plains District United Methodist Church.
Mail to: Northwest-Plains District UMC, 90 E. Third St., Ottawa, OH 43067.

The above courses are not only open to Lay Servants but also open to Pastors, Supply Pastors, and others interested in learning more about Lay Servant Lead in Prayer and Grief Seminar.
Registration Deadline: March 25, 2020

Questions
Please call or Email the district office, 800.589.7828, nwplains@wocumc.org.

You may call or Email
District Lay Leader, Barbara Lee, 419.738.3402, bjwlapeak@bright.net.

Northwest Plains District Website
https://www.northwestplainsdistrict.org/
District/northwestplains/
On Sunday, February 16, at 4:00 pm, The West Ohio Conference will present, "Crossing the Color Line: 400 Years of Race in America," an afternoon of worship, learning, and discussion about the history of racism in the U.S. The event will include a screening of the documentary, "Underground," which takes viewers on a journey through Black history in America, including the eras of slavery, segregation, and separation. Directed by West Ohio pastor, Rev. Ryan Grace, and produced by Missionary Mariellyn Grace, "Underground" both acknowledges the racism that has separated Black and White people for hundreds of years, and celebrates the ways in which Black and White people have worked together to overcome racial division. Dinner and discussion will follow the worship service. The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held at Perrysburg Grace United Methodist Church, 601 E Boundary St, Perrysburg, OH. Please register on the West Ohio website. Thank you!
The Walk to Emmaus is a global ministry of the Upper Room dedicated to supporting the spiritual formation of Christians and the development of Christian servant leaders for the local church. If you would like to experience this spiritual retreat or learn more about it contact Brad Martin.

I am also looking for clergy who are interested in serving in the Northwest Ohio Emmaus Community. The clergy listing needs updating. If you took your walk in another community, if you took another three-day retreat, or if your contact information has changed, please send the information to Brad Martin, Emmaus Community Spiritual Director | bmartin4477@gmail.com

Findlay Emmaus Walks @ St. Marks UMC, Findlay, OH
http://www.findlayemmaus.org/

Women's Walks /Dates
February 6 – 9, 2020
June 4 – 7, 2020
October 8 – 11, 2020

Men's Walks/Dates
March 12 – 15, 2020
November 5 – 8, 2020

Sidney Emmaus Walk @ First UMC, Sidney, OH
http://www.sidneyemmaus.org/

Women's Walks/Dates
#80 - 02/20/2020 - 02/23/2020
#81 - 06/11/2020 - 06/14/2020
#82 - 10/15/2020 - 10/18/2020

Men's Walks/Dates
#75 - 03/12/2020 - 03/15/2020
#76 - 11/05/2020 - 11/08/2020

NW Ohio Emmaus Walks @ Widewater, Liberty Center, OH
http://www.nwoemmaus.com/

Women's Walks/Dates
#89— April 30-May 3, 2020

Men's Walk/Dates
#73—April 2-5, 2020

Chrysalis is a three day experience of spiritual renewal open to members of any Christian denomination, ages 15 to 24. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way. Chrysalis is meant to inspire, challenge, and equip youth for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work.

St. Andrew's UMC, Findlay
Girls Flight #53
February 21-23, 2020

Boys Flight #53
March 6-8, 2020

http://www.findlaychrysalis.org/

Greene Street UMC, Piqua
http://www.westohiochrysalis.com/

Delta UMC, Delta
http://www.nwoemmaus.com/
West Ohio Conference “Traction Tracks”

....to help your congregation gain traction and begin to move forward towards new vitality!

West Ohio’s Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI), a focused training/coaching/resourcing initiative of the Episcopal office and cabinet that has included several dozen congregations and pastors over the last few years, has identified a number of key components that we’ve seen can provide a congregation of any size and setting with a dose of traction to begin to move ahead in vitality. To learn more about Traction Tracks go to: https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/news/traction-tracks-

Breakthrough Prayer Initiative Traction Track
Every church recognizes prayer as important. But what happens when a congregation unites to pray collectively and consistently for God to break through in new and miraculous ways? You can launch your congregation into the kind of churchwide breakthrough prayer initiative that fuels the atmosphere of possibility, and the entire focus begins to shift from inward to up-and-outward. It’s easier than you think-and the results will make spiritual history right in your own community and beyond.

Register now for one of the next training sessions!

February 9, 2020 (Sunday) – Lebanon UMC (Ohio River Valley District)
Requirement to attend: Your church’s team must include your lead pastor plus at least 5 persons who have agreed to be the implementation team for your congregation's prayer initiative afterwards. Bring as large a team to the training event (beyond the pastor plus 5 leaders) as possible
2:00pm-7:00pm - 122 East Silver St, Lebanon, OH 45036
Cost: $75.00 per Team (pastor plus 5 members) $10.00 for any additional members (includes lunch and materials)

February 16, 2020 (Sunday) – Stillwater UMC (Miami Valley District)
Requirement to attend: Your church’s team must include your lead pastor plus at least 5 persons who have agreed to be the implementation team for your congregation's prayer initiative afterwards. Bring as large a team to the training event (beyond the pastor plus 5 leaders) as possible
1:30pm-6:30pm 6911 Fredrick Pike, Dayton, OH 45414
Cost: $75.00 per Team (pastor plus 5 members) $10.00 for any additional members (includes lunch and materials)

February 23, 2020 (Sunday) – Ironton First UMC (Shawnee Valley District)
Requirement to attend: Your church’s team must include your lead pastor plus at least 5 persons who have agreed to be the implementation team for your congregation's prayer initiative afterwards. Bring as large a team to the training event (beyond the pastor plus 5 leaders) as possible
2:00pm-7:00pm – 101 N 5th St, Ironton, OH 45638
Cost: $75.00 per Team (pastor plus 5 members) $10.00 for any additional members (includes lunch and materials)

Family Ties: Home, Church, and Community Traction Tracks (four-session training)
Family Ties teaches churches how to rethink and intentionally change your current approach to reach and disciple new children and families at home, in church and within your local community. Connect anew with the next generation! This four-session Traction Track intentionally focuses on developing leadership skills and teaching best ministry practices while leading churches, pastors, staff and unpaid leaders in the most important and proven strategies in creating a Family-driven/Church-empowering ministry.

All 4 consecutive classes will be held at the West Ohio Conference Center
32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington, OH 43085

Requirement to attend: Must bring a Team of Pastor and at least 2 other team member
Cost: $50 per person (includes lunches and materials)
• New sessions begins Saturday, February 8, 2020
• Second session - Saturday, March 7, 2020
• Third session - Saturday, April 4, 2019
• Fourth session - Saturday, May 2, 2019
*Each Session is from 10:00am - 3:00pm
Let us remember in prayer those grieving the loss of their loved one, and remember in thanksgiving the life and ministry of:

Rev. Calvin Rodeheffer who died Friday, December 20, 2019. He was a retired pastor from The West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. He served appointments at Marietta-Gilman, Greenville, and McKendree churches as well as Hill View Retirement Center.

Surviving are his wife, Margery Rodeheffer; children: John E. Rodeheffer (Beverly), Martha Susan McKenney, Stephen C. Rodeheffer (Lynne), and David C. Rodeheffer (Patricia); twelve grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

His memorial service was held in the Hill View Retirement Center Chapel on December 29, 2019.

From the desk of . . .

All In Community will present a Good Samaritan Workshop at Maumee UMC on Saturday, February 15, from 8:30am-12:30pm. This workshop will enhance your church’s care ministry to those who have been a victim or witness of a relational harm or violence and will equip and resource Stephen Ministers, Care Ministers, and Lay Servant Ministers to provide better holistic care with those already in our midst who remain silenced by shame and pain. The first half of the session will provide simple steps, tools, and restorative experiences that can be used to begin caring for victims and justice-involved individuals. The second half of the workshop will provide guidance and an existing model for working collaboratively in a local “Good Samaritan” ministry. Presenters include Reba Collins, All In Community Consultant for the WOC; Dr. Mike Davis, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections Religious Services Chief; and Jami Nathan, Maumee Watershed Stephen’s Ministry Leader. The event is free and open to the public. Register on the conference website.
Local Church and Community Events

NORTHWEST PLAINS DISTRICT
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

OTTAWA TRINITY UMC
137 NORTH PRATT
OTTAWA, OH 45875

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020
1:30 - 4:00 P.M.

SPEAKER: KATHY H. MOORE

Kathy Haynes Moore moved to Ohio in 1975 with her husband Roland so that he could attend the Methodist Theological School in Delaware, Ohio. Over the 45+ years since that move, she and her family have lived in every major metropolitan area of Ohio while serving the Lord Jesus Christ and the church. During these years, Kathy has completed the work to be a Lay Servant, a Lay Speaker, and in 2016 she attended the Academy and became a Certified Lay Minister in the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church.

One of the major and life-changing events in Kathy’s life happened in 1999 while living in Toledo, Ohio. God touched Kathy in a way that changed the trajectory of her life. She survived a major heart attack in the largest artery on the front of her heart known as the widow-maker. This artery now has six stents and has remained open by the grace of our almighty and powerful God.

The impact of this miracle caused Kathy to take bold steps in following God’s leading to organize retreats, classes, healing services, and prayer warriors. Kathy’s favorite scripture is found in Psalms 27:14 “Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He will strengthen your heart. Wait, I say, on the Lord.” Her desire is to always be willing and ready to go where God sends her.

Kathy and her husband Pastor Roland recently retired and returned to Toledo. Kathy enjoys reading, teaching, preaching, and spending time with family and friends.

REGISTRATION FORM

NO FEE DUE FOR THIS “AFTERNOON” MEETING.*

• • Registration for Attendance Deadline: Monday, March 16, 2020 • •

NAME ____________________________

FULL ADDRESS ____________________________

EMAIL ADDRESS ____________________________ PHONE _________

CHURCH/ORGANIZATION ____________________________

*(A good-will offering will be collected for the “Coffee/Dessert Break.”)

Send your Registration Form to the district treasurer:
Susie Closson, 326 Grandview Blvd., Ada, OH 45810. (Phone: 419.634.5457)

In Search of Easter Musical Book “It All Happened in the City”

St. Andrew’s UMC will be presenting the Easter Children’s Musical “It All Happened in the City”. However, we only have 3 books and they are no longer available. So we are asking if anyone would have extra books that we can purchase from them. If you do, please contact Pete Matteson at 419-422-4845, ext. 265.
Forest Park United Methodist Church
Children’s Ministries Director – part time

Position Summary: The Director of Children’s Ministries will focus on making disciples: assuring children are introduced to the love, forgiveness and life giving grace found in Christ Jesus. The Director will lead programming that nurtures and grows children’s personal faith in Jesus.

Responsible to: Pastor

Qualifications and Position Requirements:
- Profess Jesus Christ to be Lord and Savior and show “fruitfulness.”
- 2-3 years Children Ministry Experience
- Ability to work with children and families
- Ability to plan, organize, lead and guide complex projects and spontaneous activities related to children and family ministries
- Competent in basic lay counseling and listening skills appropriate for children ministry
- Competent in Bible teaching and speaking to children and families about Jesus
- Willingness to work cooperatively with others, to maintain a positive outlook and disposition, and to be flexible in solving problems
- The ability to protect the reputation and integrity of others through strict confidentiality.
- Refraining from the indiscriminately sharing personal information is critical. Discretion must be exercised when dealing with the public, children and their parents, and the church leaders and members
- Weekly attendance at worship and/or Sunday School at FPUMC
- Computer literacy a must. Microsoft Office and Layout Design preferred.

Principle Duties and Responsibilities:
- Planning, coordinating, conducting, evaluating and selecting and providing resources for the children’s ministry.
- Build relationships of integrity with children that become the basis of meeting needs, sharing Christ, and involving children in peer ministry to other children.
- Coordinate all aspects of the Pre-Kindergarten through sixth grade ensuring there is opportunity to develop fellowship, spiritual formation, discipleship and the experiencing of Christian community. Various material and age appropriate styles of presentation are encouraged.
- Plan summer activities for children and families, such as VBS, and kick-off/send-off for fall programming, mid-week programming, including but not limited to Upward basketball/cheerleading programs
- Develop relationships and maintain regular communication with parents of the participating children.
- Coordinate roles and responsibilities of volunteer leaders of the Children ministries.
- Adhere to the policies and procedures outlined in the Forest Park United Methodist Church Safe Sanctuary policy, and train volunteers of policies and procedures.
- Perform additional duties as needed and as determined with the pastor

Performance Standards:
- Attend at least one congregational church service per week
- Be involved in a small group.
- Meet at least weekly with the Pastor
- Work with pastor to prepare and administer a children ministry budget/annual goals for the church fiscal year.
- Work with pastor to prepare an annual summary report of the mission, goals, plans and successes in Children ministries.
- Attend meetings for and be prepared to give monthly reports to Pastor as requested.
- Create and submit article and photos for monthly newsletter or online media resources.
- Participate in the life of the church and larger community, as appropriate

Records and Materials:
- The Employee agrees that all materials, resources and computer programs purchased by the Employer as well as all records, print or electronic data, pertaining to the work of the Forest Park UMC Children Ministries position are property of Forest Park UMC.
- The Employee agrees that all equipment provided by the Forest Park United Methodist church remains property of UMC.

Salary Grade
- As recommended by the SPRC and this is a half-time (20 hr/wk) salaried position. Starting salary is $15,000 per year, beginning
- The above is subject to change by the SPRC committee of the Forest Park United Methodist Church

Employee ___________________________ Employment start date __________

I agree to the position description as presented:

Employee ___________________________ Date __________

SPRC Chair ___________________________ Date __________
Director of Children’s Ministries

Interested in working in the Furniture Capital of the World? Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church (www.wesleymemorial.org) of High Point, NC is seeking a full-time Director of Children's Ministries who will work cooperatively with clergy, program staff, and appropriate lay leadership to ensure that children’s ministry opportunities support and strengthen the congregational mission, vision, and goals as well as the vision for the children’s ministry. In addition, the director will work in partnership with the Children’s Ministry Team to design and implement ministries and programs for children’s ministry that include, but are not limited to: Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Special events such as Trunk-Or-Treat, Hanging of the Greens, Children’s Nativity, and Palm Sunday Easter Extravaganza, Bible Explorers (Sunday evening), and Wednesday evening program. The church is also seeking someone who can lead the Children’s Ministry Team in imagining and implementing new initiatives to help children and their families grow spiritually and to grow the children’s ministry numerically.

Qualifications for this position are
- BA or equivalent in Education/Christian Education/Child Development/Family Relations or related field. MA preferred.
- Three years of previous significant, successful experience in developing children and family programs in a medium or large congregational setting.
- Knowledge of theory and techniques required to manage and maintain a vital children’s ministry in a large congregation.
- Current experience in the recruitment, development, and management of a significant number of volunteers.
- Knowledge of planning, coordination, and execution of basic business functions.

Qualified candidates should send a cover letter and resume to wynesia.jackson@ministryarchitects.com.

Summer Impact Internship

Do you know (or are you) a young adult that has the drive to work hard and desire to make a positive, lasting IMPACT? Consider applying to be an intern for Summer Impact & serve in Cincinnati, Ohio!

As a way to deepen your love & understanding of God while exploring God’s call on your life, interns will lead groups in serving, study, worship, & reflection.

Applications for this 8-week paid internship are due on February 15, 2020. To learn more about the internship or to apply visit http://hydeparkchurch.org/summer-impact-internship/ or email Rev. Kate Smith (ksmith@hpcumc.org). Summer Impact is a ministry of Hyde Park Community UMC.
Liberty Chapel Youth Pastor
Liberty Chapel is looking for a full-time Youth Pastor. Primary responsibilities would be ministries with Junior High and Senior High Youth along with coordination of ministries at The Rock youth center. Interested persons should send their resume to the church: 9474 County Road V, Liberty Center, OH 43532, 419-533-2881. Attention: Pastor Brad Martin. or to bmartin4477@gmail.com.

The Youth Pastor’s main goal is to lead students through teaching scripture, developing youth ministries, and public relations with the congregation and community. He or she will provide regular short-term small group studies for youth to attend. The primary responsibility of this person is with the Junior High and Senior High Teams, but she or he will also provide resources for Children and Middle School Teams. The Youth Pastor will provide leadership in summer to the Junior High and Senior High Youth Ministries which generally includes mission trips among other activities. He or she will also coordinate ministries at The Rock youth center.

Liberty Chapel United Methodist Church is a rural congregation near Liberty Center, Ohio. About 200 persons join together for worship and praise each Sunday. There is a good age-spread of children, youth, youth adults, and older adults. The church has a strong evangelical heritage, classic and contemporary worship services, a tradition of youth ministry, a youth outreach center in Liberty Center with after school programming and lots of dreams, and a Wednesday night student ministry with youth and children.

TRINITY VAN WERT IS SEEKING WORSHIP LEADER
Trinity United Methodist Church in Van Wert is looking for a Worship Leader for our Praise Team. This position consists primarily of 1 weekly rehearsal and 2 Sunday morning worship services and assisting the Youth Director with the Youth Praise Band. The position is able to be negotiated, but primary responsibilities are:

• Maintaining/developing team atmosphere among the volunteer Praise Team
• Scheduling Praise Team members
• Leading rehearsals to prepare for Sunday morning
• Choosing music for Sunday morning based on Pastor's sermons
• Maintaining music database
• Working with the Youth Director to develop the Youth Praise Band
• Ensuring worship graphics are prepared for worship

While we would like a Leader who is able to lead worship, we have many in our Praise Team that can do so. This position is as much about organization and team building as it is about leading worship. Salary is negotiable in the $110 - $130/week range dependent on experience and availability. Candidates can email resume and references to Pastor Kurt Tomlinson @ krtom14@gmail.com.
**Free Cantata Books**
Middle Point UMC has song books for Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, and Patriotic seasons. Donating. Really good condition. Please call Sandy Moore at 419-968-2443 if interested.

**Portable Sound Lectern**
Zion Grover Hill UMC is looking for a portable sound lectern. Please contact Mike Waldron 419.238.1493 with any leads.

**Copier**
The Coldwater United Methodists Church has a used Duplo DP-A120 copier (so picture below) that is available for any church office or needy organization. Donation to Coldwater UMC would be acceptable as payment. Please contact Scott A. Ault at 937-260-1677.

**Robe**
Women Clergy Alb with various stoles. Size Small. Free for the taking. Can be picked up here at the District Office. Please call at 419-523-9901 or email at lmoore@wocumc.org.
Free Active Shooter Prevention Guide

Recently, attention has been drawn to the unthinkable action of active shooters in a house of worship. UMI is offering this resource to you as a way to prepare you, your church leadership, the congregation and visitors in the event this should occur. Being prepared helps everyone cope with these realities and begin to re-focus attention on core ministries. Conducting the ministries of The United Methodist Church takes on many forms. Our first call to ministry is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This crucial part of our ministry as a denomination begins in the local church. Everything else we do on a daily basis supports this core commission. (Matthew 28:19) There are many supportive actions taking place every day to support the local church. One of them is to insure the church properties so that a church can continue its core ministries in the community.

DOWNLOAD http://tiny.cc/hf6sry

Local Church Officer Job Descriptions

Positions Required in All Congregations

Every congregation must make provision for including these functions according to The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, ¶244, ¶249. Positions may be combined except for the financial functions. "The positions of treasurer and financial secretary should not be combined and held by one person, and the persons holding these positions should not be immediate family members (¶258.4)."

- Nominations and Leader Development Committee (¶258.1)
- Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committee (¶258.2)
- Trustees (¶258.3 and ¶2524 to 2550)
- Finance Committee Chairperson (¶258.4)
- Lay Leader (¶251.1)
- Lay Member of Annual Conference (¶251.2)
- Financial Secretary (¶258.4)
- Church Treasurer (¶258.4)
- Membership Secretary (¶234 and ¶235 to 242)
- Leadership Team (also called Church Council, Administrative Board) Chairperson (¶251.3)

LEARN MORE http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/local-church-officer-job-descriptions

Do you have news or something interesting to share? Know of anyone who would like to be added to our Weekly Bulletin e-mail list? Contact Northwest Plains District via e-mail nwplains@wocumc.org or call 1.800.589.7828.

When e-mailing the district staff, please use the e-mail addresses listed below:

- Rev. Barry Burns, District Superintendent: bburns@wocumc.org
- Rev. Lynda Lockwood, Assistant to the District Superintendent: llockwood@wocumc.org
- Kim Tumblin, Financial Secretary: ktumblin@wocumc.org
- Lesley Moore, Office Administrator: lmoore@wocumc.org