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 7, 2018

The West Ohio Conference United Methodist Men present a Video Conference on Overcoming Major Obstacles to Discipling Men

Join Rev. Ben Shaeffer, president of the WOC UMM, for our first UMM Brown Bag Zoom Video Conference on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 from 12:00 PM to 12:45 PM. We will have a live presentation and an interactive discussion on the topic of overcoming the major obstacles to discipling men today. If you have been struggling trying to engage men in becoming followers of Jesus Christ who are engaged in transforming the world then this video conference is designed for you! We hope that pastors and lay leaders will join us as we kick off our Third Tuesday Brown Bag Lunch Video Conference Calls to create a vision, capture momentum, and sustain change in our local ministry with men.

Brett Clemmer, President of Man In The Mirror, will be with us to present and guide us through our time together. His passion is to make the church relevant to younger men and men on the fringe. In his writing and speaking, Brett breaks through the resistance that many men feel toward spiritual topics with his use of personal stories and humor.

HOW TO JOIN:
Topic: Ben Shaeffer's Personal Meeting Room
Date: January 15, 2019 12:00 PM to 12:45 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/3377874941
One tap mobile
+16465588656,3377874941# US (New York)
+16699006833,3377874941# US (San Jose)
Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Dear Father in heaven, accept us as your children, whose lives are under your protection and who turn to you for strength. In the midst of all the struggles and temptations in this world keep us certain of your love and goodness. Grant that we may help your name to be honored on earth and your salvation to spread over all the world. May we help that the hope you have given us brings light and strength for our own lives and for all whom you love in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Let us remember in prayer those grieving the loss of their loved one, and remember in thanksgiving the life and ministry of:

Rev. Verra Mae Gales, who died Wednesday, December 26, 2018. Verra was a retired pastor from The West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church having served Mt. Auburn, Trinity Charge, and Residence Park churches and Wesley Community Center. Verra’s obituary will be available within a few days at www.jonesclarkfh.com/listings.

Rev. Julia Ronngren, who died Thursday, December 27, 2018. Julia was a pastor from The West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church having served Faith Fellowship, DeGraff and Payne St. Paul churches. Surviving Julia is her husband Todd, as well six siblings: Gregory (Janet) Hilliker, Jenny (Curt) Byrd, Rebecca (Richard) Batterbee, Beverly (Randy) Radcliffe, Elizabeth (Michael) Jarvis and Andrew (Nicole) Hilliker; sister-in-law Shelley Mosier; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. Preceding Julia in death were her parents, Herbert Ward and Mary Esther Hilliker and brother, William “Skip” Mosier.

Relatives and friends will celebrate Julia's life at 11:00 am, Saturday, January 19, 2019 at West Unity UMC, 311 N. Liberty St., West Unity, OH 43570. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that those planning to express sympathy consider making a memorial contribution to UMCOR, a relief agency of The United Methodist Church.

Save the date!

Leadership Day
Date: February 23, 2019
Location: Delphos Trinity
Gathering is at 8:30 am-12:30 pm

Registration coming soon!
Former Felon Turned Inspirational Speaker Shares Insights at Lifetree Café

One man’s journey from rock bottom to the top of the business world will be discussed at Lifetree Café on January 9 from 6:30-7:30pm.

The program, titled “Second Chances: From Down and Out to Up and at ’Em,” features the filmed story of author and entrepreneur Weldon Long.

A high school dropout and addict, Long was in prison the third time when he decided to change the direction of his life.

“I was desperate, and desperate men do things,” says Long. “I became obsessed with changing the course of my destiny…and I did.”

“People who are struggling with their position in life are often searching for a second chance,” explains Lifetree Café national director Craig Cable. “We want to create a safe place for these people to come have a genuine conversation about what it takes.”

Admission to the 60-minute event is free. Lifetree Café is located at the Bachwell Center, 116 N. Washington Street, Van Wert, OH. Please enter on Court Street and park behind the Courthouse.

Lifetree Café is a place where people gather for conversation about life and faith in a casual, comfortable setting. Questions about Lifetree may be directed to First United Methodist Church at 419/238-0631 or firstchurch@wcoil.com

Topic for January 16 – “Does God Play Favorites? Why would a caring God bless some and not others?”
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TOURS
Alpine Odyssey 2020
JULY 27-AUGUST 4
IF INTERESTED: REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE FOUND AT THE NWP DISTRICT OFFICE

Join the West Ohio Conference
Alpine Odyssey 2020
9 Day European Adventure to see the Oberammergau Passion Play
July 27 - Aug. 4, 2020

www.eo.travel • 800-247-0017
## Clergy Gatherings

### (January Schedule)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allen Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Old Barn Out Back, Lima</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auglaize Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>RJ’s Coffey Cup, Wapakoneta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defiance Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sherwood UMC, Sherwood</td>
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<td>Hancock Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
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<td>Scrambler Marie’s, Findlay</td>
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<td>Hardin Breakfast</td>
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<td>Table One, Kenton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mercer Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Orchard Tree, Celina</td>
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<td>Fiesta Habaneros, Paulding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Putnam Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Henry’s Restaurant, Ottawa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Van Wert Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
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<td>Van Wert Hospital Cafeteria</td>
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<td>Williams Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Four Seasons, Bryan</td>
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<tr>
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<td>11:30 am</td>
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**Note:** Retired pastors are welcome to attend!

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## Clergy Gatherings

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**Note:** Retired pastors are welcome to attend!
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. George Cooper/gcooper@wocumc.org, Rev. Stanley Ling/sling@wocumc.org, Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey/snkibbey@wocumc.org, Mr. Brad Aycock/bradaycock@wocumc.org

BY GEORGE! Campaign

This spring, we are inviting the congregations of the Northwest Plains District to be a part of a special effort to help Grace Children’s Hospital in Haiti. This hospital that has served countless numbers of children and their families over the years has been devastated by the earthquakes and hurricanes and is in desperate need of help. So, we are inviting you to be part of a special campaign.

If every one of our congregations would challenge their members to give just $1 per week per member, we could rally to give not only a dramatic amount of financial help, but also hope that they are not alone. The money will be collected at the District Office and sent on to Haiti. There will be much more information coming in the form of videos, pamphlets, etc. But we invite you now to begin praying about your congregation being a part of this effort. In a time where we see so much brokenness and disunity, this is one way we can truly show how we can do more together than we can apart. Watch for more information to come!

Summer Impact 2019

Are you a youth group, women’s group, men’s group, young adult group, or an otherwise eclectically congregating group of individuals with a desire to serve and give back this summer?

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

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 and 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 throughout the year.

To find out more information about what your week will look like, cost ($190/person if registered by the end of 2018), and to register please visit: http://hydeparkchurch.org/summer-impact/
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.

- Stephen Brooks is responsible for the northern part of NWP District including Defiance, Hancock, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, and Williams counties. He can be reached at 419.519.3319 or by email at sbrooks1101@roadrunner.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

"Spiritual Gifts (CORE course)", will be offered Saturday, March 2, 2019. More information to come at a later date.

“Conflict Management (Advanced course)”, will be offered Saturday, March 2, 2019. More information to come at a later date

“Lead and Worship (CORE Course)”, will be offered Saturday, April 6, 2019. More information to come at a later date

“Dealing with Grief (Advanced Course)”, will be offered Saturday, April 6, 2019. More information to come at a later date.

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!
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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women’s Walks</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#106</td>
<td>February 7-10, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>#107</td>
<td>June 13-16, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>#108</td>
<td>October 10-13, 2019</td>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#80</td>
<td>March 14-17, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>#81</td>
<td>November 7-10, 2019</td>
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**Sidney Emmaus Walk @ First UMC, Sidney, OH**
http://www.sidneyemmaus.org/

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<th>Women’s Walks</th>
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<th>Men’s Walks</th>
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<td>Men’s Walk #72</td>
<td>November 1-4, 2018</td>
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**NW Ohio Emmaus Walks @ Widewater, Liberty Center, OH**
http://www.nwoemmaus.com/

**Christmas Gathering**

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**Women’s Walks**

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<tr>
<td>March 28-31, 2019</td>
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<td>September 19-22, 2019</td>
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**Men’s Walk**

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<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 21-24, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 22-25, 2019</td>
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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

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#51-January 25-27, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>#52-July 12-14, 2019</td>
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Boys

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<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#51-February 22-24, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#52-July 26-28, 2019</td>
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http://www.findlaychrysalis.org/

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

**Delta UMC, Delta**

Girls - June 22-24, 2018
http://www.nwoemmaus.com/
Where are you connected?

We have become increasingly aware of the value of having those under appointment as pastors being in some sort of supportive setting like a clergy cluster or other type of group. As we begin a new year, it will be useful to update our list of clergy cluster participants and the other support groups our pastors are a part of.

We are asking each pastor under appointment of any type to let us know what clergy cluster or support group they are connected with. Please drop a quick email or text to Duane Kemerley, DKe-merley@gmail.com, 567.376.9741 with that information. If you are a group leader, please send a list of those currently a part of your cluster/group.

Would you be willing to be a cluster leader? Is there a group theme or affinity/common interest idea that you would like to gather with others to discuss/study/research? Share those thoughts also.

We are looking at a time in the church when there may be many changes and challenges to consider and it is doubly important for all of our pastors to be connected somewhere for useful information and mutual support.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apportionments
- The last day for 2018 Apportionment payments is Friday January 11, 2019. If you have a balance remaining, please drop it off at the District Office BEFORE Friday, January 11—thank you!
- Call Lesley Moore at the District Office/419-523-9901, if you have not received your 2019 Apportionment amounts.

Mileage
- IRS 2019 Mileage Reimbursement rate is $.58/mile.

At-Large
- Anyone interested in being an At-Large Member (Adults/Young or Youth) to the 2019 West Ohio Annual Conference scheduled for June 2-6, please contact the District Office at 419-523-9901 or email us at nwplains@wocumc.org.

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Save-the-date!

Clergy/Laity Spiritual Retreat
Date: April 22-23, 2019
Presenter: Sister Kathleen Flood OP

More information coming soon!
Why Belong to The Preachers’ Relief Society?

Most members of The Preachers’ Relief Society give two answers:

So that The Preachers’ Relief Society can provide help for them and their families if it is needed, and

So that The Preachers’ Relief Society can continue to provide help for their clergy colleagues.

Your membership in The Preachers’ Relief Society makes possible this support for West Ohio clergy and their families.

The Preachers’ Relief Society

The Preachers’ Relief Society is a voluntary, non-profit benevolent organization of clergy and their families in the West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. It is an affiliated organization of the conference.

Begun in 1837, PRS predates pensions and medical insurance in the conference and the denomination. Ministers in the former Cincinnati Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church decided that an organization such as The Preachers’ Relief Society would help “tired, worn-out preachers and their families.”

Almost two centuries later, the phrasing is quaint but the purpose is the same: to bring relief where it is needed. While clergy and their families now participate in pension plans and health care coverage, both sometimes fall short, and The Preachers’ Relief Society stands ready to help its members in situations such as when:

- High deductible medical insurance policies leave a gap before full coverage
- Vision or dental plans require prepayments
- Births or deaths bring extraordinary expenses
- A fire, storm, flood or other natural disaster requires immediate response

On application from a member, The Preachers’ Relief Society may make a grant for these or other needs. The grants are made outright; they are not loans and no strings are attached.

Grants are not for fixed or specific amounts, and they are not guaranteed, but are based entirely upon the needs of members, and so are not IRS taxable.

Every appointed clergy in the West Ohio Conference (Elders, Deacons, provisional on elder or deacon track), associate members, licensed local pastors, clergy from other conferences/denominations appointed in West Ohio, and clergy from other denominations appointed in West Ohio is eligible for membership in The Preachers’ Relief Society, subject to age limit and conference membership requirements.

Membership is voluntary, not mandatory. Payment of annual dues and continuing conference membership guarantees eligibility for grants. Life memberships are also available.

Membership rates:

Application and one year $25

- Renewal for one year $25
  - Lifetime ages 25-40 $200
  - Lifetime ages 41-59 $200
  - Lifetime ages 60 and above $100

("To become a lifetime member, a person must have been a member of the Society for at least one full year")

Use this contact for dues payments, questions about membership, information about life memberships, and Application for PRS Grant forms.

PRS Membership Application

Detach and fill out this application and send with $25 initial membership fee to address below.

First name: 

Middle name or initial: 

Last name: 

Street: 

City: 

ZIP: 

Telephone: ( )

E-mail: 

I am (please circle below)

Elder Deacon Associate Member Provisional Licensed Local Pastor Clergy from another conference Clergy from another denomination

Mail to:

The Rev. Sharon Hausman
9822 Bradyville Road
Aberdeen, Ohio 45101

Questions?

Telephone 740-621-0973

E-mail: pastor.sharon62@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.

**Choir Robes**
Chattanooga United Methodist Church has approximately 32 green choir robes/white sashes, free to a church that can use of them. For more information please phone Judy Stetler, 419.942.1252.

**Vacation Bible School Materials**
Mt. Cory/Pleasant View Charge has Vacation Bible School materials from two summers available free of charge to any church that needs/wants them—still available is Sonquest Rainforest. Material includes the kits, some of the posters and scenery, music DVD’s, teacher manuals, and some of the materials for crafts are available with the kits. They were each used once. Anyone interested can call 419.302.9641 for more information.

**Handbell Table Covers**
Bryan Wesley UMC has (3) six foot long, two-piece (top and skirt corduroy water-blue handbell table covers with attached pockets and the Velcro to attach to foam pads.. Never used, but also never returned. Please make offer to pastorpeterpaige@gmail.com

**Choir Robes**
Chattanooga United Methodist Church has approximately 32 green choir robes/white sashes, free to a church that can use of them. For more information please phone Judy Stetler, 419.942.1252.

**Choir Sheet Music**
St. Mark's UMC in Lima, has choir sheet music available for you to go through. You are welcome to call and make an appointment to look - just call 419-222-3601. They are free for the taking, but donations would be accepted.

**TV Stand for Sale**
We have recently wall-mounted our media and have 1 TV stand available for $25.00 to the first interested purchaser. Please phone 419/238-0631 x302 for more information. Sherri Arn/Van Wert First United Methodist Church

**Musician Needed**
The Edgerton UMC is seeking a musician for our Sunday morning worship. We have a Clavinova and use the United Methodist Hymnal, as well as The Faith We Sing and other contemporary worship music. Worship is at 9:15 am, and there is no additional responsibility for choir accompaniment. We do provide a small stipend and are willing to have more than one musician sharing the weekly responsibility. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please contact Rev. Susan Kronbach at pastorsusank@gmail.com or 419.957.5810.
St. Andrew's UMC in Findlay, Ohio has about 100 cushions, mostly white, some red, and 24 gold/brown folding chairs to give away. The cushions are stored in 11 plastic tubs with lids, which are also available when you pick up the cushions. If you are interested, please call the church office at 419-422-4845.
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.

**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](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/local-church-officer-job-descriptions)

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*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

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**Paperless Compass Newsletter**

The Northwest Plains District is starting to transition to paperless Compass Newsletters. If you would like a paper copy of the Compass Newsletter, please email nwplains@WOCUMC.org.