



OUR MISSIONAL STRATEGY

I am now officially past the halfway point in my term as your District Superintendent. Over the past three years I have spent a lot of time gaining a more thorough knowledge of our district—worshiping in most of our churches, visiting, listening. At our Annual Conference in June, Bishop Malone reminded us of the “four areas of focus” for our denomination: (1) developing principled Christian leaders; (2) creating new places for new people; (3) eliminating poverty; (4) improving health globally. Then Bishop Malone asked each congregation to do something bold in the next ministry year that would make a difference in our community or area.

In conjunction with that (and with feedback from our District Mission Strategy Team), I have developed a district mission strategy that I believe aligns with those four areas of focus. The missional strategy is:

- to provide direction, support and accountability to churches and clergy of the district in their fulfillment of our shared mission “to make and mature disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” in and through the communities served by churches of the Three Rivers District;
- to work with leaders of Three Rivers District (clergy and laity) to identify means by which to make a tangible difference in the real needs of real people in our communities;
- to foster healthy collaboration and partnership among churches within the district to fulfill our shared mission;
- to provide support for equipping and deploying laity and clergy from our local churches through training, resources, and ministry opportunities.

Our district (like all UM districts) constitutes a large mission field. We cannot be all things to all people and do it well. So I want us to focus our energy on how to have greater reach. Here are four core beliefs that underlie this strategy:

- every church has a unique purpose to discover and live out in ministry and mission;
- vitality in ministry is found through engagement between the church and the community;
- empowered laity and energized clergy are essential to engaging the world with Christ’s love;
- there is a power of partnership experienced in the coming together of clergy that is a key strength for us as United Methodists.

I will be working with our District Mission Strategy Team, our District Lay Leaders, and our district pastors and laity, to implement this plan. I ask that you and your church embrace it as well.

Dr. Bradley S. Coe

THE PASTORAL CARE OFFICE IS OFFERING SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

For over 50 years the Pastoral Care Office has been a valuable resource to the East Ohio clergy, full-time church professionals, and their families; assisting them in personal and church-related issues as well as community crisis. The ministry has expanded to include "Spiritual Direction" where you can profoundly reflect on God, yourself and your experiences. This program offers many benefits such as incorporating more spirituality into your daily routine, discerning God's will in difficult situations, facing challenges grounded in God's love and grace, voicing your hopes, struggles and questions of faith in a confidential atmosphere. The image of three chairs reminds us of the presence of the Holy Spirit along with the directee and director. Your director will journey alongside you as a spiritual companion as you develop a deeper relationship with God. The spiritual direction program is not the same as clinical and pastoral counseling and a fee is often required. A number of spiritual directors have been meeting monthly for the past year under the Pastoral Care Program of the East Ohio Conference. Access the profiles of the Spiritual Directors for EOC [here](#) or call 866-456-3600. [Download the Spiritual Direction Brochure.](#)

CARING FOR PASTOR BURNOUT*

According to the Ministering to Ministers Foundation, more than 1,600 U.S. pastors (all-denominations) are terminated each year. Nearly one in four face a forced exit during their ministry with only half returning to full-time church-related positions. Work, family, health or financial stressors are listed as top causes. Being proactive can help prevent a crisis. Burnout is a common mental health condition best treated by mental health professionals, just as physical ailments are best treated by medical professionals.

These are the signs of burnout according to the Mayo Clinic:

- Being overly cynical or critical; acting irritably toward others
- Lacking motivation or energy to be productive
- Lacking satisfaction from achievements; appearing disillusioned.
- Using food, drugs or alcohol to feel better
- A change in sleeping or eating habits; headaches or other physical complaints



If you see the signs, speak privately to your pastor, encouraging them to speak to a family member and to contact their District Superintendent. When the pastor seeks help, your role transitions to one of support. Counseling takes time and energy, so offer to perform duties at the church or in their home to free the leader to focus on healing. If necessary, the D.S. will advise how to address the issue with the congregation. Circumstances outside of the church may be contributing to the problem. Respect personal boundaries and don't pry about the recovery process. That's the counselor's job. Think how your pastor helps church members. He or she deserves the same. [*statistics and resources at www.umcom.org]

MISSION TRIP REPORTS REQUESTED

Every year United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) coordinators gather information about the mission trips taken by teams from their respective conferences. Conference reports are forwarded to the jurisdictional office, which compiles them and presents a report to the General Board of Global Ministries. This information then becomes a measure of the scope of mission volunteering in The United Methodist Church. If your church, district or other entity participated in a mission work trip this year please print and complete and mail this [Mission Trip Report](#) providing information as accurate as possible.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

August 26: [ERT Emotional and Spiritual Care Training](#)

This class helps equip members of early response teams to provide an intentional focus on the spiritual and emotional needs of persons affected by disasters as well as team members. This will provide practical tools for spiritual and emotional care, the ministry of presence, compassion and the importance of self-care.

September 23 & November 4: [UMVIM Team Leader Training](#)

Learn about leading a mission team locally, nationally, and internationally. Conference UMVIM Coordinator, Kathy Dickriede will lead the training in September and Tammy Kuntz will lead the training in November.

ANOTHER TR MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Three Rivers is exploring the possibility of a mission trip in 2018 to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. You may recognize the MMDC name as the place we send our flood buckets and relief kits each year during annual conference. As a cooperating depot in the UMCOR Relief Supply Network, these supplies are distributed in response to disasters both within the United States and abroad. MMDC provides "hands on" mission experience opportunities for individuals and groups to help provide disaster kits and provisions, as well as educational and medical supplies to those in need both locally and internationally.

MMDC has few staff, so the majority of their mission is carried out by volunteers. There are opportunities for those at peak ability and for those individuals who may have limitations. Approximately 70% of job assignments require no special skills— just a willingness to serve God as led. Volunteers pack kits, sort items, sew, help with mailings, build desks, repair bicycles and sewing machines, and help load/unload supplies. No matter your abilities, there is an important job that needs you!

A date has not been determined yet, but this would be a week-long volunteer opportunity. At this time we are gathering information and looking for those who may have interest. If this is something that you would like to do, please notify the district office. (MMDC is located 4 miles south of Springfield, Illinois.)

UMW SEEKING OFFICERS

The Three Rivers United Methodist Women are in need of three individuals to serve in following roles: PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, & PROGRAM RESOURCE

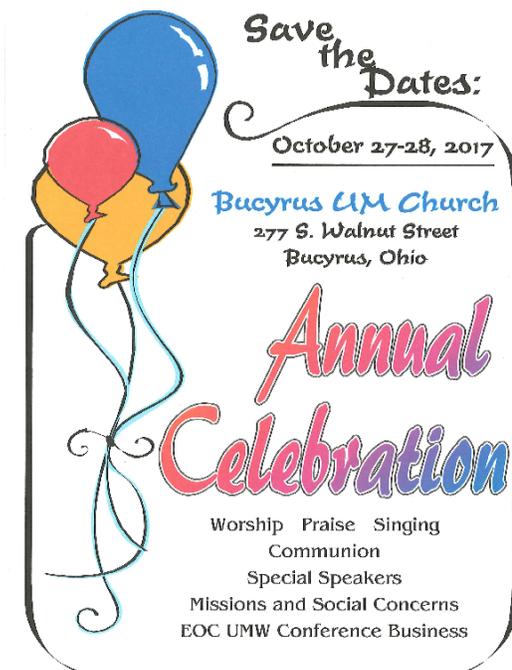
If you can fill any of these vacancies or know of someone you would recommend, please contact me as soon as possible.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Peggy Caudill, 3 Rivers Mission Team Nominations

Phone: 740-622-4772

Email: peg@ohioapples.com



GIFTS OF GRACE: LIVING IN COMMUNITY

Three Rivers District UMW Fall Meeting

Saturday, September 23, 2017

Coshocton Grace UMC (422 Walnut * 43812)

Call for directions if needed

Registration beginning at 8:30 with refreshments.

Resource Room will open at 8:30. Music starts at 9:10 a.m.



Speaker: Dr. Tammy Kuntz,
UMVIM-NCJ Coordinator

Kuntz is a provisional deacon serving First UMC of Mansfield as mission interpreter and the North Central Jurisdiction coordinator for United Methodist Volunteers in Mission. She is on the board of directors of United Christian Ministries at Kent State University, where she works as an assistant professor in Music Education. Married to the Rev. Donald Kuntz, she has two adult children and four grandchildren. Her call to Deacon ordination became evident through many types of mission journeys. "As team leader, I encourage others to share in the joy of being in mission with our neighbors around the world," she said.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT UMW FALL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Fellowship/Lunch Please have one person register for your Unit.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 8, 2017

SEND TO: Martha Stuller 1 Fairway Dr, Mt. Vernon, OH 43050

Registration Fee: \$7.00 with lunch

Make checks payable to: **Three Rivers District UM Women**

Church Name _____ Church Phone _____

Person Making Reservations _____ Phone _____

We'll pay for teens and young women under age 23 to attend. Indicate names and ages to register them with "free" under amount.

Please list any dietary restrictions that any of your team members may have.

Name of Registrants		Amount	
Total participants		Total Amount Enclosed	

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CLERGY STOLE

The process of becoming ordained in The United Methodist Church is a road of many steps and stages. After numerous hours of study and service, prayer and interviews, discernment and waiting, a person can eventually find themselves kneeling before their bishop and receiving the orders of a full elder or deacon and the placement of a stole around their neck. But have you ever noticed the difference in how a deacon versus an elder wears their stole? “The stole is not a sign of being a pastor, it’s a sign of ordination to a particular order, elder or deacon,” said the Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, director of worship resources for the General Board of Discipleship. Ordained deacons wear the stole over the left shoulder; ordained elders wear them around the neck and straight down from the shoulders. These difference have several symbolic references.

Considering an elder in full connection we note these characteristics:

1. We remember the prophet Elijah, just before he was taken into heaven, threw his mantle, or “cloak,” over the shoulders of his successor, Elisha. (2 Kings 2) This is symbolic of God’s mission not ending with Elijah, but of being carried forward through another prophet. The mantle of responsibility to deliver God’s word of conviction, comfort, and hope, is carried on by everyone set apart (not set higher, just set apart) as an elder for this special service to the people of God.
2. The way a full elder wears their stole also brings to mind the “yoke” worn by a pair of oxen. The wooden piece worn over the neck as they plow guides the oxen together as they pull the plow through the field. This reminds us that we are “yoked” to Christ for the purpose of delivering the Word of God through preaching and teaching. Christ is the clergy’s guide to ministry. Additionally, the elder is also yoked to the people of God, fulfilling their vow to pastor or shepherd the people God has placed in their care.

The call as a deacon in The United Methodist Church states that they are set apart for the ministry of word, service, justice, and compassion. Therefore a deacon wears the stole over one shoulder and across his or her body as a symbol of servanthood. This symbolism comes from two stories:

1. When Jesus gathered with his friends at the Last Supper he tied a towel around his waist then knelt to wash the disciples’ feet. He said, “For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.” John 13:15. Deacons take a vow of servanthood, to follow the example of Christ in extending the welcome and love of Jesus to those who are last, lost, and least.



2. In the 6th chapter of Acts, Greek followers of Christ complained that Hebrew widows were being provided food. The disciples decided to divide the responsibilities of caring for the growing community of believers so they could be freed to spend more time preaching and praying. The symbolism “to wait on tables” (Acts 6:2) is shown through a towel draped over the arm.

Rev. Lauren Miller, deacon at Mt. Vernon Gay Street UMC, is pictured wearing her stole. The editor also wishes to express appreciation for Rev. Miller's permission to reprint her article first used in the Mt. Vernon Gay St Tower Topics (July 2017) .

AUGUST 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
**CC = Clergy Consults Please refer to the online schedule for complete listing		1	2 6:30p. Apple Valley Regional Mtg @ Danville	3	4 Office Closed	5 New Pastor Picnic 4-7p
6 Dr. Call preaching at Baltic UMC 10:00 a.m. service	7 **CC SPRC Mtg @ Liberty Chp 7p: Green Vly 8p: Beulah & Liberty Chapel	8 **CC	9 **CC SPRC Mtg @ Danville 6p: Wesley Chpl 7p: Howard 8p: Danville	10 **CC	11 Office Closed	12 Dr Call attend 'Rule of Christ' Training @ EOC center
13	14 **CC SPRC Mtg @ Utica 7p: Brandon & Lock 8p: Utica	15 **CC	16 **CC SPRC Mtg @ Pleasant Grove 6p: West Union 7p: Lakeland 8p: Tippecanoe & Pleasant Grv	17 **CC	18 Office Closed	19 Dr Call attend Critical Response Training @ EOC center
20 Ebenezer UMC 175th Anniversary Dr. Call preaching at 9:00 a.m.	21 **CC SPRC Mtg @ Fredericktown 6p: Waterford & Salem 7p: Berlin & Batemantown 8p: Fredericktn	22 **CC	23 **CC SPRC Mtg @ NCT Christ 6p: Irish Ridge 7p: Calvary/King 8p: NCT Christ	24 **CC	25 Office Closed	26
		Joy Vacation				
27	28 **CC SPRC Mtg @ Plainfield 6p: Kimbolton 7p: Fresno & Isleta 8p: Plainfield & Orange	29 **CC	30 **CC District Office closing at 1:00 p.m.	31 **CC	<i>We can be tired, weary and emotionally distraught, but after spending time alone with God, we find that He injects into our bodies energy, power and strength. ~ Charles Stanley</i>	
		Joy Vacation				

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>"Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons." — Jim Bishop</p> <p>[photo by Amy Snyder]</p>					1 Office Closed	2
3	4 Office Closed LABOR DAY	5 **CC SPRC Mtg @ Prairie Chpl 6p: Conesville & New Moscow 7p: Nellie Chpl & New Guilford 8p: Prairie Chpl	6 **CC	7 **CC	8	9
10	11	FALL CABINET RETREAT			15	16 SPRC Mtg @ Trinway 10a: Otsego & Bethel 11a: Trinway & Prospect
17 Adamsville UMC 175th Anniversary Dr. Call preaching at 10:00 a.m.	18 SPRC Mtg @ Grace 6p: Adamsville 7p: Roscoe 8p: Grace	19 **CC	20 SPRC Mtg @ Nashville 6p: Perrysville 7p: Loudonville & Lakeville 8p: Nashville	21 **CC	22	23 TR UMW Fall Meeting 8:30a -1p @ Grace ----- EOC Bd of Laity Meeting
24	25 SPRC Mtg @ Gay St. 6p: S. Vernon & Hopewell 7p: Mulberry St 8p: Gay St	26 **CC	27 SPRC Mtg @ Canal Lewisville 6p: Keene 7p: W. Lafayette 8p: Warsaw & Canal Lewisville	28 **CC	29	30 SPRC Mtg @ Holmesville 9a: Bigelow 10a: Moreland 11a: Mt. Hope & Holmesville



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CLERGY STOLES ...TELLING A STORY

Stoles are becoming more colorful and expressive. While their diversity has increased, the meaning of the stole remains unchanged. **[Read *Significance of the Stole* pg 5].** United Methodist clergy did not don robes until the latter half of the 20th century. Before the 1960's, suits and ties were the norm. To understand the difference between an alb and a robe watch this humorous video by [Chuck Knows Church](#). While clergy stoles have become more elaborate, many pastors prefer to not wear them at all. For some, the vestments are uncomfortable, others feel



they create a "mismatched" message, especially in contemporary worship settings. Pictured above is the East Ohio Ordination Class of 2017 displaying a wide range of robes and stoles. Traditionally United Methodist stoles exhibited the cross and flame. But recently stoles have become "wearable art," detailing Biblical stories or expressions of personal significance in a variety of colors and patterns representing themes or liturgy. [reference: [UMReporter article](#) by M. Jacobs. Photo courtesy of East Ohio Communications.]