

# CV/NW DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

## EVENT PROGRAM

April 25, 2026 ~ 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Willoughby UMC ~ 15 Public Square, Willoughby 44094

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**09:00 AM**

Gathering

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**09:30 AM**

Worship

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**10:00 AM**

Session 1

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**11:00 AM**

Session 2

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**12:00 PM**

Lunch Fellowship

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**01:00 PM**

Session 3

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See page 2 for session descriptions

~ **STRENGTHEN LEADERSHIP** ~  
~ **BUILD COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY** ~  
~ **EQUIP CHURCHES FOR MISSION** ~

# WORKSHOP SESSIONS

## COOPERATIVE PARISH MINISTRIES – SESSION 2 & 3

PASTOR CHARLENE THOMAS  
PASTOR 5-POINT PARISH, EAST OHIO  
CONFERENCE

*Explore the ministry of cooperative parishes, rooted in Methodist heritage. Learn how churches can partner in mission, share leadership, and strengthen rural and small-membership ministries.*

## FUN WITH FORMS - SESSION 3

LISA HUSTON & MEGAN MYERS  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS  
NORTHERN WATERS & CENTRAL VALLEY

*Questions about consultation forms? This session is for you! We will be covering consultation forms & charge conference forms. You bring the questions - we will bring the answers.*

## INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZING - SESSION 2 & 3

PASTOR MARC TIBBS  
PASTOR, AKRON: CENTENARY UMC

*Community organizing (sometimes known as Thriving Congregations in the church setting) is a set of principles and practices designed to invite organizations to engage in collective, positive change. The principles include how to engage in one-to-one conversations to discover shared values; how to conduct organizational meetings across areas of interest; and how to build power to accomplish shared goals. In Community Organizing 101, Pastor Marc Tibbs will share the essentials of the community organizing process and how it can help make your organization more effective and better able to partner with others to reach shared goals.*

## LEADERSHIP & STRENGTHSFINDER ASSESSMENT

MARIA SHURIK  
LAITY, BRECKSVILLE UMC

*Talent Development professional, Maria Shurik, will engage the group in an interactive work session that will produce practical crowd-sourced & time-tested approaches to Leadership & Volunteer development. Walk away with new friends, ideas, & inspiration to bring back to your churches.*

## MINISTRY FOR THE DIGITAL ERA: ETHICALLY INTEGRATING AI INTO IN MINISTRY - SESSION 2 & 3

BRETT HEATHERINGTON,  
COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST, EAST  
OHIO CONFERENCE

*AI is everywhere, and that can mean in our churches, too. In this workshop, we will walk through what AI is, how it can be utilized as an effective tool within ministry contexts, and some of the dangers to watch out for. You will receive practical applications, guidance in places where AI can help your ministry, and ethical guardrails for making use of AI in your ministry context.*

## SIMPLIFYING CHURCH LEADERSHIP FOR MISSION – SESSION 1

REV. BETH ORTIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OF DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES, OHIO  
EPISCOPAL AREA

*Discover how a streamlined leadership system can strengthen administrative burden, and empower ministry. This brief workshop is appropriate for those just learning about simplified structure (often call one board) and also those already implementing it in their church(es) to learn and review best practices and missional impact.*

## STILL GROWING: DISCIPLESHIP SMALL GROUPS THAT CONNECT US TO GOD AND RENEW THE CHURCH - SESSION 2

REV. BETH ORTIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OF DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES, OHIO  
EPISCOPAL AREA

*Faith is never finished, and it grows best in community. This workshop explores how Wesleyan-style small groups, simple, relational, and led by laity, create space for continued spiritual growth for long-time disciples and offer a warm, accessible entry point for new people. Discover how gatherings shaped by fellowship, worship, and Scripture can renew seasoned believers while opening doors for others to join the journey, helping the whole church grow in vitality and connection.*

## ONE YEAR WORKING FOR JESUS ON THE SPRC – SESSION 1

REV. BRUCE HITCHCOCK  
PASTOR, WILLOUGHBY HILLS UMC

*There are two areas we will cover—first, the duties of the SPRC. Under the Duties, a minor area called Appointments will be covered. Second, the Spirit of the SPRC. Working for Jesus to reach a desired outcome makes all the difference for a church and a pastor who want to succeed in ministry.*