

Mid-Ohio District News

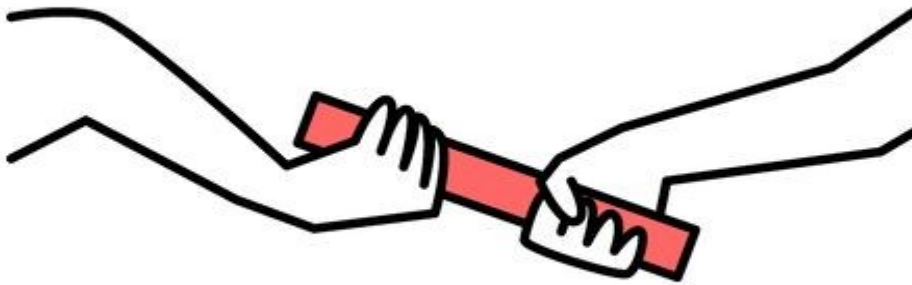


Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
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The people of the
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Church

Visit our website at www.eocumc.com/mid-ohio

June 2023

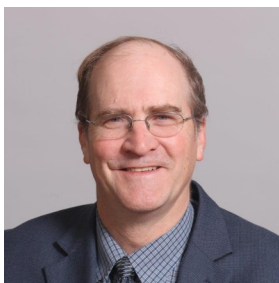


We are pleased to announce the new leaders below to our Mid-Ohio District Leadership Team beginning July 1, 2023.

Betsy Chapman will be assuming the role as our new District Lay Leader, replacing Don Burdsall who will be going into retirement after serving 14 years. Vincent J. Brown will be replacing Sharon Hahn of 12 years as the Associate District Lay Leader and Sharon Sours also after 12 years of service will pass the baton to Diane Harding as our new Lay Servant Ministry Director. As opportunities arise please introduce yourselves to our new leaders and help them feel welcomed as well thank our beloved outgoing leaders for their dedication and inspiring leadership.



Betsy has lived most of her life in Ashland where she graduated from high school. After graduation she continued her education and now has a degree in Religion from Ohio Wesleyan University and a Master's of Divinity from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Her favorite hobbies include reading as many books as possible, singing with the Christ United Methodist Church choir and directing the bell choir there as well, and spoiling her niece and nephews. She is currently working as a payroll clerk at Ashland University and is looking forward to growing in leadership with the Mid-Ohio District of the UMC.



Vincent J. Brown has been active in seven UMC's in Ohio and Indiana since about 1972, and is part of the leadership at Trinity UMC, Mount Gilead, where his family has attended since 1995. He also serves on the board for the local Emmaus Community. His day job for the past 35 years has been in research at Battelle, in Columbus.



Diane Harding is a member of Scioto UMC in the Bucyrus area. She has been a Lay Servant for over 20 years. She is a member of the Mid-Ohio Lay Servant Team and the Mid-Ohio United Women in Faith. She has four children and six grandchildren. She resides in Bucyrus and her favorite Bible verse is: "I've said these things to you so that you will have peace in me. In the world you have distress. But be encouraged! I have conquered the world" ~ John 16:33
Diane is grateful for this ministry opportunity to serve the Lord in this role.



New Young People's Ministries Co-Directors Pastor Christy Suffecool and Tim Beck

The Connectional Ministries team is expanding to better resource and equip local churches in their ministry to and with the youth and young people of their respective congregations and the communities they serve. Pastor Christy Suffecool of Mt. Tabor UMC (Tuscarawas District) in East Canton and Tim Beck of Wadsworth UMC (Canal District) will join the Connectional Ministries office team as co-directors of Young People's Ministries on July 1.

Executive Director of Connectional Ministries Rev. Ed Fashbaugh said that the decision to move from one full-time to two part-time staff members is the result of reimagining the role of the Young People's Ministries director to better serve churches that are challenged with reaching more younger and diverse people.

"What is exciting about this shift is that God has brought us two people who love Jesus and are passionate about young people's ministries but are wonderfully diverse in their own rights. Between the two of them they have experienced youth ministry in many different settings and contexts, and together they bring a wealth of experience and knowledge. I am excited to have Christy and Tim join our team!" he said.

The primary mission of the Young People's Ministries co-directors will be resourcing and assisting local churches, districts, and the East Ohio Conference in assessing and removing barriers to the full inclusion of young people in the life and ministry of the Church. They will also assist in developing strategies and resources for leadership development training, continue building upon existing Young People's Ministries networks and teams, and ensure the resources of Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM), Young Adult Ministry, and the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry align with our shared vision for the East Ohio Conference and the mission of The United Methodist Church.

"Christy and Tim will bring their passion, gifts, and years of experience to help resource and equip local churches for reaching diverse, younger people, and forming them as disciples of Jesus Christ," said Bishop Tracy S. Malone.

[Meet Pastor Christy Suffecool and Tim Beck.](#)

Resilient Leadership Pages Added to the EOC Website

“A resilient leader demonstrates the ability to flourish even in the face of adversity, hardship, and chaos. Resilient leaders develop the necessary skills to pivot from the challenges and work to increase their ability to learn how to lean into the new possibilities and the opportunities for growth. The East Ohio Conference has developed resources for clergy and laity to help increase their capacity for greater discipleship and resilient leadership so that they can respond adaptively to the challenges they face in their personal lives and in their ministry in the local church and in the communities they serve,” said Bishop Tracy S. Malone.



The new Resilient Leadership pages of the Conference website, linked under the Resources tab of the Conference website and on the sidebars of the Connectional Ministries office page and the Strategic Ministries page, bring together in one place information about books, videos, podcasts, and websites that focus on resilient leadership.

[Visit the Resilient Leadership page of the East Ohio Conference website.](#)

Leadership Interest Survey

The East Ohio Conference Leadership Committee has revised and published a Leadership Interest Survey to be completed by those with a desire to serve on a Conference board or committee. Completing the survey does not mean you will be nominated. As vacancies arise in positions nominated by the committee, they will review the names submitted. If you have any questions about the survey or the Leadership Committee, please e-mail Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith, chairperson of the Committee.

[Complete the Leadership Interest Survey](#)



Mid-Ohio District Appointment Changes effective 7-1-23

Matt Anderson - Bucyrus
Amy Barr - Centerburg, Marengo & Sparta
Sue Chidley - Seybert Bellevue (FL)
Lori Douglas Weaver - Savannah, Olivesburg & Nova
Don Ebert - St. Paul
Jim Ellis - Scioto & Plankton
Jebason John Paul - Carrollton First (OV)
Leslie Mahaney - Cadiz Scott Memorial (OV)
Michael Namy - West Salem (FL)
Darlene Robinson - Crestline First
Ryan Skelton - Kilbourne
Jan Sprague - Red Haw & Polk
Sandy Stover - Martel, Canaan & Ebenezer
Paul Turner - Canfield & Poland (MV)
Jenny Whitmore - Ashland First
Bohyun Yu - Mansfield Korean & North Fairfield

Contact Us

Articles for the district newsletter must be submitted by the 15th of each month and are subject to editing and availability.

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