

# Mid-Ohio District News



Open Hearts,  
Open Minds,  
Open Doors...

The people of the  
United Methodist  
Church

Visit our website at [www.eocumc.com/mid-ohio](http://www.eocumc.com/mid-ohio)

March 2023

## FUNDING

The Board of Congregational Development and the Connectional Ministries office of Strategic Ministries invite churches and charges to apply for spring micro grants. These grants are for new ministries that seek to reach those not already in the church. Whether they're called small groups, Fresh Expressions, or ministries, sometimes they just need the seed money these grants can provide. Maximum grant amount is \$2,000 – and applications for the grants must be submitted by April 3.

[Learn more and apply by April 3 on the Scholarships/Grants/Aid page of the EOC website.](#)

For questions about Strategic Ministries opportunities, please [e-mail the Rev. Beth Ortiz](#), Connectional Ministries office Strategic Ministries director, or visit the [Strategic Ministries pages](#) on the Conference website.

---

### COSROW Listening Post About Credentialing Process – March 18

The East Ohio Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) is committed to advocating for an equitable credentialing process for all candidates in the Conference. COSROW invites all interviewees to a listening post on March 18 at Faith UMC in North Canton to share your experiences of the credentialing process, including your recent District Committee on Ministry (dCom) interviews and Board of Ministry interviews. This opportunity is outside of your credentialing process, does not involve Cabinet representation, and the feedback received is confidential.

#### United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 777  
Kingdom, OH. 12345



#### CLERGY

This is to certify that the bearer hereof is  
ordained by The United Methodist Church

Reverend John Wesley  
777 Golden Street  
Paradise, Heaven

Ordained: July 1, 0000



[E-mail Rev. Jake Heskett](#), if you have any questions about this listening post.

[Learn more and register to attend on the Events Registration page of the EOC website.](#)



## UMCOR Response to Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has issued a solidarity grant to partners working in Turkey and Syria after the deadly earthquakes that have claimed tens of thousands of lives. International Blue Crescent and Forum for Development Culture and Dialogue will use the funds to provide tents, heaters, blankets, warm clothes, ready-to-eat meals, and first-aid kits to those who have been displaced.

East Ohio clergy and laity can assist in two ways:

- Make Personal Dignity Kits, which Midwest Mission will collect during Annual Conference 2023 to replace the kits it is now sending to Turkey.
- [Donate to EOC Fund 1301 UMCOR International Disaster Response.](#)

[Learn more about how The UMC is aiding in Turkey.](#)

---

## Midwest Mission Collection at Annual Conference – June 8-10

Midwest Mission (EOC Advance Fund 9944) will again have a collection truck at the John S. Knight Center during Annual Conference in June. Full details will be released when the Annual Conference 2023 website goes live on April 3. Please [e-mail Melanie Thomas](#) in the Connectional Ministries office if you have any questions about this collection.

The Midwest Mission is currently well-stocked with United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) kits. For the collection during Annual Conference, the Mission is asking for donations of:

- [Personal Dignity Kits](#)
- [Home Care Kits](#)
- Shampoo (12-19 oz)
- Laundry Detergent (42-64 oz)
- Dish soap (42-64 oz)

[Learn more about creating kits to donate to Midwest Mission.](#)



## Church, Leadership Assisting Community Impacted by Train Derailment

Two weeks ago, the eyes of the world focused on East Palestine as flames and smoke filled the sky of the 4,800-person town near the Ohio-Pennsylvania border following the derailment of nearly three dozen cars of a Norfolk Southern Railway train. The fire burned for days, and many businesses were forced to close because of chemicals that filled the air from the 11 derailed cars that were carrying hazardous materials. Local, state, and national safety agencies converged on the town and set up a command center inside East Palestine Centenary UMC (Mahoning Valley District).

“Thankfully no lives were lost, and no buildings were damaged. At this point, air, water, and soil quality are the major concerns,” said Auman of the work being done by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). “The coordination and degree of response is not like anything I’ve ever seen.”

There is much work still to be done, and many people who want to help.

Remember the simple rules of disaster response found on the Conference website:

### **Do No Harm right now:**

- Do Not “self-deploy” into a region until invited.
- Do Not send supplies and clothes because unwanted items sent into disaster zones become burdens on an already-overwhelmed area.

### **Do Good right now:**

- Pray for the communities impacted by the disaster, the lives forever changed, and those responding.
- [\*\*Make a financial donation to Disaster Response in Ohio Fund 9200.\*\*](#)



### **2022 Audits**

Let’s all practice good stewardship and fiscal responsibility by making sure your annual audit for 2022 is completed and submitted to the district office by the deadline of March 31. Thank You!



## Annual Conference 2023

The 54th session of Annual Conference is June 8-10 at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. The theme for this year's conference is Faith Hope Love and the words from 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (CEB) will guide worship services and business sessions.

Registrations for Annual Conference 2023 will again be online only, beginning Monday, April 3 and ending Friday, May 12.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors... The People of the United Methodist Church

### Mid-Ohio District Office of the UMC

410 Park Ave. West, Suite 2  
Mansfield, OH. 44906-3121

## Contact Us

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

**Mid-Ohio District Office**  
410 Park Ave., W. Suite 2  
Mansfield, OH. 44906

(419) 522-3881  
(419) 522-5485 fax

[midohiodistrict@gmail.com](mailto:midohiodistrict@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.eocumc.com/mid-ohio](http://www.eocumc.com/mid-ohio)

**Please help us be better stewards of our resources and read the newsletter via email or on the website and let us know to remove you from the postal mailing list. Thank You!**

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
MANSFIELD, OH  
44902  
PERMIT NO. 348