

Mid-Ohio District News



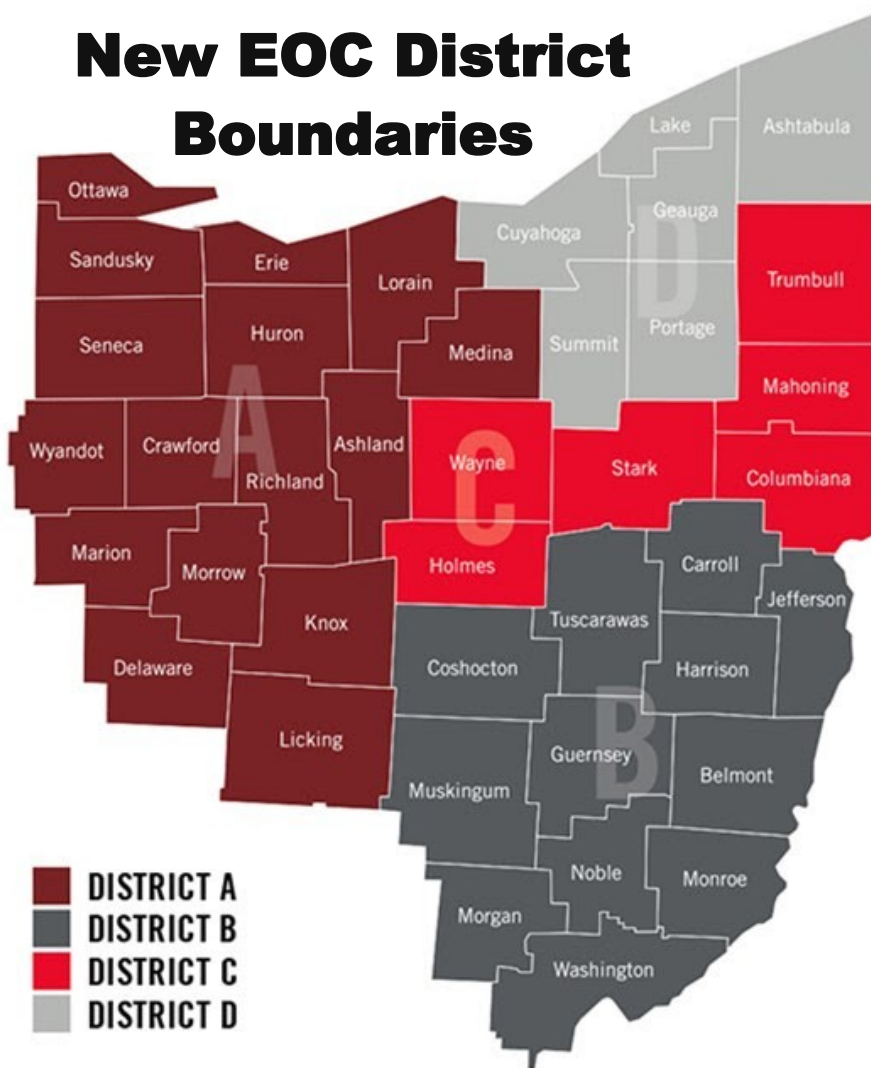
Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors...

The people of the
United Methodist
Church

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

October 2023

New EOC District Boundaries



“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” - Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

In Bishop Malone’s re-districting message she states that God is doing a new thing in the East Ohio Conference and preparing a way for new vitality within our structures and local churches and making provision for a future with hope.

You are invited to submit names for the new districts for Conference leadership to consider. As you pray and consider the new movement in Christ in the East Ohio Conference, you are encouraged to dream and imagine new district names:

- that celebrate that we are one body in Christ and that our oneness transcends boundaries, and
- that recognize that we are one in relationship to Christ, one in relationship with each other, and one in relationship with our shared vision and mission.

Proposed district names that emphasize the mission and ministries of the EOC of The United Methodist Church should be submitted to Executive Director of Communications Rick Wolcott via e-mail at wolcott@eocumc.com by Friday, October 6. The submitted names will be shared with the bishop and Cabinet. [Read Bishop Malone’s full re-districting message here.](#)

Small Churches can have Significant Influence



Data defines your members and community — A lack of research can actually hinder your plans. Put another way, learning about your audiences and their interests adds relevance to your messages, engages each person and inspires action. Let [MissionInsite](#) help you bridge the gap from data to decision. With your data and current demographic information, you can understand your community and the people you serve.

Vision gives direction — Between data and word-of-mouth, you have a foundation of knowledge about the state of your church. So what about the future? Whether your church has seen a turnover in leadership or your original vision statement could use freshening, developing a new vision statement can answer key questions such as:

- For what will your church be known in five years?
- What community-facing ministries will thrive?

From strategy to goals to tactics — This is where you will see your plan take form. Your data and vision shape the outlines of a strategy, which explains what your church seeks to accomplish within a time period. Take this example: “Our church will grow its summer programming for young parents and children by expanding its Vacation Bible School.” Note how that statement references a specific time and ministry. After defining your strategy, your team should develop specific goals, which are the steps involved in your strategy...

More info and the full article, [How a small church can build a big marketing plan](#) by Brett McArdle



Church Website 411 & Social Media 411

People will visit your church online to determine if they will visit in-person. Visit the Communications pages of the East Ohio Conference website to learn best practices for using your church website and social media platforms to share how the ministries of your church are transforming lives in your community and beyond.

Visit the Church Websites 411 page to learn about:

Visit the Social Media 411 page to learn about:

- Creating posts that do no harm but do good
- Best practices for posting to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, and Snapchat and how many times a day, etc.
- Info that should be included
- Types of photos to post
- UMC-themed WordPress website templates

[Visit the Church Website 411 page of the EOC website](#)

[Visit the Social Media 411 page of the EOC website](#)

Grant Writing Seminar

October 23 * 9a - 3p * @ Ashland First UMC

Grant writing strategies and tips for churches and other faith based non-profits. Workshops will be offered in morning and afternoon. You will be able to select your workshop choices at registration. Below is a list of workshop choices and who they will be led by:

- How Can Community Partners Be Involved In Church Giving with Constance M. Clark
- The Power Of Language with Rev. Joy Fenton-Jones & Rev. Gregory Kendrick
- Finding Funders: Be Prepared! with Susan O'Donnel Black
- Making The Ask with Rev. Brian Sheetz

Keynote Speaker will be Rev. Don Ackerman, executive director of Canton for All People and lead pastor of Crossroads UMC. He is committed to the well-being and prosperity of the Great Canton area and founded Canton for All People (C4AP) in 2019. C4AP's vision is to create a whole, healthy, and engaged community where All People are empowered to pursue their hopes, dreams, and aspirations. The organization has raised nearly \$10 million in the past two years towards the development of affordable housing opportunities and economic development initiatives in Canton.

The cost is only \$10 to cover lunch and refreshments! Full details and registration at the link below...

<https://grantwritingseminar.eventbrite.com>

Online Payments from Churches

The Conference offers the ability to make online donations and apportionment payments. To use this service, churches need to pay using an electronic fund transfer from their bank account. Payments cannot be made using a credit card.

If you have questions about online payments, [please e-mail Eva Casey](#), accounts receivable, or call her at (800) 831-3972 ext. 135.



For questions about Financial & Administrative Services ministries and opportunities, please [e-mail Vera Rebrovich](#), executive director of Financial & Administrative Services, or visit the [Financial & Administrative Services](#) pages of the East Ohio Conference website.

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

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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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Visit us on the web at

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