



Three Rivers Current

A Publication of Three Rivers District Union of The United Methodist Church



Issue VI, Vol 15 Editor: Joy Snyder

<http://www.ecumc.com/threerivers/>

AUGUST 2019



GREETINGS THREE RIVERS DISTRICT!

What a joy it is for me to serve as your new district superintendent! I am looking forward to meeting you, getting to your churches, and exploring the beautiful landscape of this district. During July, my wife, Amy, and I have been settling into the district parsonage, and getting familiar with Coshocton and the surrounding area.

Even though I am joyful I am fully aware that these are challenging and uncertain times for the church. However, being a student of history I have to say that the church has faced many, many challenging and uncertain times throughout history, and has come through them all! *Thanks be to God!!*

The key factor in moving through those historic challenging and uncertain times has always been due to God's people getting re-focused and re-centered on the primary mission *To Make Disciples for the Transformation of the World!*

I believe this is the same tried and true strategy we need to continue employing in order to face and move beyond the challenges of this present age. Let us commit to this strategy that calls us in a world of hate to offer love; in a world at war to offer peace; in a world of suffering to offer healing; in a world of brokenness to offer grace; and, in a world of judgment to offer mercy. In doing this we offer not ourselves, but our savior, Jesus Christ.

As long as I am your district superintendent I will journey alongside you to keep this mission at the center of our service to Christ, and in doing so, by God's grace, we will face and move through these challenging times together.

Don't forget, God is with us!

Rev. Ed Fashbaugh

VIM STORAGE BUILDING UPDATE

This spring the Three Rivers District announced a capital funding project for District Missions. It has become necessary to erect a building to secure the two District mission trailers. A goal of \$16,400 was established with matching funds up to \$6,000 designated towards the cost. **To date we have received \$5,560.** Thank you so much for your generosity. Churches and individuals are being asked to please consider a donation to this project. Make checks payable to "Three Rivers District UMC" marked "Pole Building Project" and mail to the District Office at 415 Walnut St, Coshocton, 43812. "Together we can make this happen!"



UPDATE ON RECOVERY EFFORTS IN WEST LAFAYETTE

Rev. Matt Anderson (WL UMC) and Pastor Dan Eggan (Isleta/Fresno UMCs) have worked tirelessly with Mayor Bordenkircher and a variety of organizations. The initial steps were rescue-phase as they secured foundations and did mold remediation along with providing supplies donated by businesses and neighbors. The East Ohio Conference Disaster Committee authorized \$2,000 of apportioned dollars to provide West Lafayette with additional temporary staffing to assess the needs for recovery assistance for the village and surrounding areas. If you know someone that is still in need of assistance please call (740-545-7834) or stop by the [mayor's office](#) to pick up an application. Once the applications are prioritized there will be opportunity for Three Rivers Volunteers in Missions and others from around the conference to begin with the recovery/rebuild phase.



Prior to anyone arriving at a worksite, please contact the [office](#), [Matt Anderson](#) or [John Hill](#) so that we may coordinate the response and monitor safety. There is also a [participant's health and liability form](#). It is important for volunteers to be current with their shots. If your church would like to be a part of the rebuild effort, send a completed VIM form to the district office. You can download the forms here [3R's Volunteer in Missions Team application](#). Having names, contact information, as well as the skill inventory/assessment will allow for the best team assignments to projects. Additionally, the district has received five non-flood related requests for home repair. May your church prayerfully consider becoming a Volunteer in Mission (VIM) team.

The West Lafayette United Methodist Church established the "Flood Relief Fund" in conjunction with The Home Loan Savings Bank. Last week WTNS Coshocton radio sponsored a "Day of Caring" along with the Coshocton Foundation. **To date, \$105,000 has been donated!** It is anticipated this week, that final details will be established by board members on how to 'fully and fairly' distribute funds to aid flood victims in their rebuilding efforts at which point our coordinators will start to assign VIM teams as best suited to the need.

SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

It has been inspiring to see images on Facebook of some of church youth and adult mission trips! It is amazing to see how many people are out in the world being God's agents of transformation! Please help the Conference tell your mission story by filling out the form online at <https://tinyurl.com/EOCUMVIMreport>. You can also send stories and pictures to [Kathy Dickriede](#), Conference UMVIM Coordinator. It will be helpful when you share about your mission and ministry trips and locations so that others can learn from your experiences and be inspired to participate in a future mission journey! A list of upcoming Missions Journeys can be viewed at <https://www.eocumc.com/missions/mission-trips.html>. If you cannot go on a trip, you can support East Ohio Missions scholarships through a donation to Fund 9046, UMVIM Leadership.



UMVIM TEAM LEADER TRAINING

The next UM Volunteer in Mission Team Leader training will be held at The Urban Mission in Steubenville on Saturday, August 17. Registration deadline is August 14, more details [here](#) or call district office.

EAST OHIO 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

Bearing Fruit that Lasts: Called, Committed, Connected

Excerpts from article by Rick Wolcott, Director of East Ohio Communications

Bishop Tracy S. Malone welcomed East Ohio Annual Conference to Lakeside highlighting the joy of making a commitment to take up residence in God's love and extend that love to others. "Being committed to Christ commits us to one other. We are bound together in the life, death and resurrection of Christ. We are bound through the covenant of our baptism. Friends, this is who we are," Bishop Tracy S. Malone said in her Episcopal Address.



The 50th session of Annual Conference included 691 clergy and 727 lay members. The Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion recognized 49 saints who joined the church triumphant in the past year. The Celebration of Retirement saw 35 clergy feted for their combined 868 years of service. "Think of the difference you have made in so many lives," Malone said. "All you've given and all you have received is blessed." The Service of Commissioning and Ordination began with a procession of nearly 200 clergy, showing their covenant to one another as ten clergy were commissioned and seven were ordained.

Keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. F. Douglas Powe, Jr., director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary, reflected the East Ohio Conference vision: being, making, and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ; being God's agents of transformation in our communities and throughout the world; and being bold and courageous leaders in reaching new people, younger people, and a more diverse people.

In addition to the mission and ministry reports, elections were held for General/Jurisdictional Conference delegates. A complete list can be read in the [full report](#) as well as the passage of resolutions and petitions.

East Ohio Conference Financial Report showed a continual decline in membership, attendance, professions of faith and baptisms. However, small groups or classes as well as those serving in mission and ministry increase; indicating a growing desire to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those in need and to grow in spiritual disciplines and understanding. A complete detail of the business, elections and financial report can be [read here](#).

The Midwest Mission Distribution and Eastbrook Mission Barn trucks left Lakeside with \$12,000, medical supplies and other donations:

- 850 cleaning buckets
- 750 hygiene kits
- 540 school kits
- 1,325 personal dignity kits
- 185 baby palettes
- 300 hospital gowns



The Annual Conference offering at Lakeside was \$24,958 not including donations sent directly to the Conference office. Each of the following ministries will receive one-third of the offering: Urban Mission in Steubenville, the general fund at Africa University, and the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. An Additional \$7,391 was raised during the 5k Run /1-mile Walk for missions.

Annual Conference 2020 is slated for June 15-18, 2020, and will underscore the importance of being connected to God and to our neighbors if we are to bear fruit by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

THREE RIVERS' MEMBERS-AT-LARGE FOR 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Below are the results from the 2019 TR Spring District Conference.

Numbers are contingent upon the 2020 equalization formulas to be determined next spring.

ALAN, Kristian	GOODWILL, Pam	McMILLIN, Nicholas	SPIKER, Dixie
BERAN, Kate	HILL, John	MILLER, Carol	TOPE, Janice
DARNER, Michelle	LEHNER, Bee	MORRISON, Karen	VANCE, Roma
DICKINSON, Fred	LOCKE, Karen	RUHL, Phil	WINKLE, Marge
DUNLOP, Wayne	MAAG, Patty	SCOTT, Nancy	WINKLE, Marshall

DID YOU KNOW THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE SAYS...

- “The pastor shall be the administrative officer [of the charge conference], and as such shall be an ex officio member of all conferences, boards, councils, commissions, committees, and task forces, unless restricted by the Discipline.” (The Charge Conference)
- Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) may only meet with the pastor or DS present. (Para. 258.2.e)
- It is only a charge or church conference if the DS says it is. (Para. 246)
- The pastor may have access to giving records for purposes of leadership, stewardship, and membership care. (Para. 340.2.c.2.c)
- The bishop makes appointments of pastors to churches. (Para. 425.1)

SPRC TO MEET WITH REV. FASHBAUGH

These meetings are for members of S/PRR committee only. Submit your LCPA/LCPL forms two weeks prior to the district office. [Download forms here.](#) Below is the August schedule. September dates listed on next page. **A complete fall schedule** including charge conferences and instructions can be viewed [here.](#)

Day	Date	Time	PPR/SPR Consultations 2019	Location
Thurs	8/8	6:00 PM	Irish Ridge/Birmingham	NCT Christ
		7:00 PM	Calvary/Kings	
		8:00 PM	NCT Christ	
Wed	8/14	6:00 PM	Nellie Chapel/New Guilford	Prairie Chapel
		7:00 PM	Conesville/New Moscow/Tyndall	
		8:00 PM	Prairie Chapel	

CONFERENCE FORMS AND CHURCH DATABASE

Want to learn more about using EZRA and the church dashboard? How about all those charge conference forms? Join us at **Coshocton Grace UMC** on Monday, August 5 from 5:00 – 7:00 PM for a refresher on these and other administrative tasks for the local church. Clergy, staff and laity are welcome. [Please RSVP to the district office by July 31](#) so we can plan accordingly. PIZZA and drinks will be provided.



AUGUST OFFICE HOURS: Regular Summer Office hours are 9 AM to 4 PM Monday – Thursday.

The office will also be closed August 19 – August 31. If you need assistance contact the following districts:

August 19 – 22. [Mahoning Valley](#) (330-270-3400)

August 26 - 29. [Southern Hills](#) (740-255-5691) or [Mid-Ohio](#) (419-522-3881)

SEPTEMBER 2019

They will extol the fame of Your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of Your righteousness. Psalm 145:7

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	3	4 SPRC MTGS @ Plainfield 6p Kimbolton 7p Fresno & Isleta 8p Plainfield & Orange	5	6	7
8	9 Lay Committee Meeting 6 PM Dist. Office	10	11 SPRC MTGS @ Danville 6p Wesley Chapel 7p Howard 8p Danville	12	13 Resume Reg. Hours Mon-Fri 9 AM-4 PM	14
Clergy Ethics Training: 9 AM – 4 PM -- Watch for details						
15	16	17 SPRC MTGS @ Amity 6p Jelloway & North Liberty 7p Gambier Epw. & Ebenezer 8p Amity	18	19 SPRC MTGS @ Fredericktown 5p Green Valley Chpl 6p Batemantown & Berlin 7p Waterford/Salem 8p Fredericktown	20	21
22	23 SPRC MTGS @ West Union 6p Tippecanoe & Pleasant Grove 7p Lakeland Parrish 8p West Union	24 dCOM Training 9 AM – 1 PM Conf Office	25 SPRC MTGS @ Millersburg 6p Sugrcreek/Baltic 7p Killbuck/Blissfld 8p Millersburg	26	27	28
29	30 SPRC MTGS @ Nashville 6p Loudonville & Lakeville 7p Perrysville 8p Nashville	SAVE THE DATE October 5-6 <u>Three Rivers District Youth</u> 24 hour justice experience retreat. More info coming soon October 19 <u>TR District Certified Lay Training</u> At Fredericktown UMC. Book: Spiritual GIFTS Registration will be sent out in August. November 16 <u>Project Feed</u> in Newcomerstown (2-5 PM)				



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CAN YOU HELP US SAVE MONEY?

If would like to help the district office save postage and paper, you can request to receive a digital copy of this monthly newsletter (IN FULL COLOR) by contacting the district office. In addition, you can also elect to get a weekly email, "**What's Happening?**" This e-news will include Three Rivers District information, announcements, special events, church/ community programs and other related news. If you no longer wish to receive paper (hard) copies of the monthly newsletter, you can also help us save on postage by notifying the district office (740-622-880) and we will remove your address from the list.

