



“UNCHARTED TERRITORY”

This is a descriptive term for where we are when we find ourselves in a place we’ve never been before. As I write this article, we are on the brink of the special session of General Conference, the focus of which is “finding a way forward.” Specifically, how do we move beyond the impasse The United Methodist Church is experiencing over questions of human sexuality as it relates to ordination and same-gender unions.

Recently I completed reading Tod Bolsinger’s book, Canoeing the Mountains. In it, Bolsinger uses the story of Meriweather Lewis and William Clark and their expedition to discover a “northwest passage” as an analogy for how Christian leaders must adapt when they find themselves in uncharted territory.

I think “uncharted territory” is an apt description of wherever we are finding ourselves on the “after” side of General Conference. But it’s also a fair description of where the people of faith find themselves in today’s world. What Lewis and Clark were able to do was develop an “adaptive leadership” style that would serve them as they moved “off the map.” Key among adaptive leadership principles are “confidence” and “courage.” Undergirding both of those, as it relates to leadership in the church, is a reliance on the truth that this is God’s church and God’s future. And wherever the church and the future take us, we can be assured that God will be with us.

In his book, Bolsinger cites a TED Talk with novelist Chimamanda Adichie in which he reminds us that “unless we are exposed to the diversity of the world, our default mental models will create a ‘single story’ of the world, a narrative to help us make sense by making simplistic assumptions that make us comfortable and keep us from having to change.” The danger, says Adichie, is that with a single story, we make assumptions about people who are different from us that allows us to keep them marginalized.

Wherever we have landed by the time you read this, we almost certainly will find ourselves in “uncharted territory.” Most likely we will not be able to function well there with a “single story” view of the world. When there are no rivers and streams to run, we may need to climb some mountains. But we are not in this alone. Let us be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, who (when you think about it) has always seemed to lead us into uncharted territory.

Dr. Bradley S. Call

THREE RIVERS SPRING DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 3PM at Roscoe UMC in Coshocton

Following the business session and an address by Dr. Call there will be a reception in celebration of Brad and Sue Call’s ministry to the Three Rivers District.





BISHOP MALONE'S POST GENERAL CONFERENCE MESSAGE

(View and download video of the message at <http://www.eocumc.com/eogc19/index.html>)

Dearly beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The General Conference has completed its work and by a majority vote, passed the traditional plan with some parts that were ruled unconstitutional. The delegates voted to refer it to the Judicial Council for review at their next meeting but as of now our existing Discipline language is maintained.

Now, some are pleased with the outcome of the special session and some are deeply hurt and disappointed. My heart weeps for the brokenness experienced within the body of Christ. We could not find a way forward of being church that would allow for the contextual differentiation that we were all hoping for and a way to keep as much unity as possible. Now, we need to take the time to process what has happened and the implications of the decisions that are critical for how we move forward.

Friends, please know, that any procedural changes that will have some effect will not take place until January 1, 2020. So, we have time. So, let us breathe.

What I love about our beloved United Methodist Church is our beautiful diversity and our global connection and witness. And as a global church, what is challenging is that we have differing views of human sexuality and understandings of our LGBTQi brothers and sisters.

But despite our differences, as a United Methodist Church we do believe that all persons are of sacred worth. Our doors are open to persons of all ages, races, nations, ethnicities, gender and sexual orientation. We are one church, one family, one in the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

So, here's what I am hopeful for, what I am asking of all clergy and lay:

1. As we prepare to begin this season of Lent, let us fast and pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us unite and heal our beloved United Methodist Church. Friends, this is all of our work to do.
2. I'm asking that we be calm, stay the course, do not yield to fear, doubt, despair. God is our refuge, a very present help in a time of trouble.

3. Stay focused on the mission, because the mission is still yet alive. Let us keep the main thing the main thing, sharing the extravagant love, grace, hope and peace of Jesus Christ with all of God's beloved children.
4. I am asking that you stay connected with your brothers and sisters in Christ; love one another, care for one another, support one another.
5. I am also asking that you plan to attend one of the post General Conference gatherings that will take place across the annual conference on the weekend of March 9 and 10.
6. I am convinced that the God who has begun a good work in us will bring it to completion, because our God is faithful, and God's love, yes, it endures forever. And I know that there is a balm in Gilead that will heal, restore, and give us hope.
7. And I am convinced that by God's grace we will someday find a way to fully embrace the wideness of our beautiful diversity.

As your Bishop, by the grace of God, I will lead, shepherd and guide us through these challenging times and I humbly ask that you commit with me to trust where the Spirit of God will take us. Yes, us. Progressive, centrist, traditionalist, gay, straight, all of God's beloved. And as we go, together, to do Kingdom work, to do kindom work, the making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, God will be with us.

So, here is my prayer, and I invite you to pray with me. Lord, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we are all seated in the heavenly kingdom! So be it.

Amen

FOLLOW-UP SESSIONS

Bishop Malone is calling all lay and clergy of East Ohio to attend one of the informational gatherings listed below where she and other members of the East Ohio Conference delegation will share how we will move forward following the decisions of the General Conference as we live into the mission of the Church and the making of disciples for Jesus Christ.

- **Sat, March 9 @ 10:00 - 11:30AM**
Newcomerstown Christ (648 Oak St * 43832)
- Sat, March 9 @ 2:00 - 3:30PM North Canton Faith UMC
- Sun, March 10 @ 4:00 - 5:30PM Strongsville UMC



Photo by East Ohio Communications

2019 APPOINTMENTS IN THREE RIVERS

Bishop Tracy S. Malone has announced the following clergy appointments for the Three Rivers District effective July 1, 2019. View the complete list, including retirees and those concluding their ministry, on the East Ohio Conference website tab [2019 Appointments and Changes of Status](#).

Ed Fashbaugh as TR District Superintendent
Timothy McCollum at Coshocton Grace UMC

Pamela Marbury at Keene UMC
Steve Smith at Moreland UMC



UMCOR SUNDAY IS A DAY OF COMPASSION AND GENEROSITY.



UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF

Since 1940, UMCOR has been responding to nations in crisis after natural disasters, war and other tragic events. Right now, UMCOR response teams and workers are providing relief in current disaster areas. Your donation today continues the major support for immediate assistance in the wake of disasters. You are helping support ongoing ministries of food, shelter, health and peace.

When you give, you equip Christ's body to serve in His name. Your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday **(formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)** is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need. Make a worldwide impact with your gift. Together we can do more.

Your offering today equips efforts all over the world through UMCOR/ On UMCOR Sunday, we share what we've been given so that others may experience hope and healing. There are many ways to give to UMCOR.

1. Go online and [Give Now!](#)
2. Place money or check in the offering plate on **Sunday, March 31, 2019** designated for UMCOR.
3. **Give by mail:** Make checks payable to GCFA and mark 'UMCOR Sunday' in the memo. Mail the check to GCFA, P.O. Box 340029, Nashville, TN 37203

Donations made on UMCOR Sunday covers all the administrative cost of doing business. This makes it possible for UMCOR to use 100% of all other contributions made throughout the year for donor-specified disaster relief. UMCOR Sunday worship aides, bulletin inserts and social media slides are available at umcsgiving.org.



Pictured above are Three River Volunteer in Mission Team Members



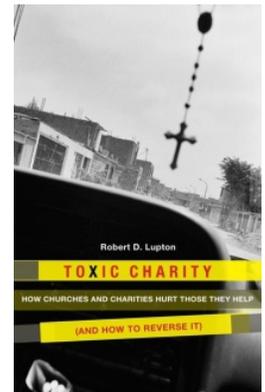
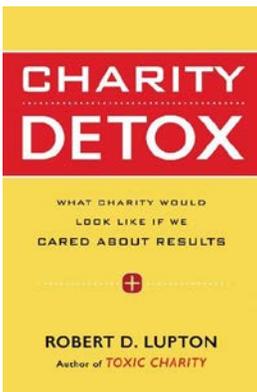
**REIMAGINE CHARITY & CHANGING THE CHARITY PARADIGM
COMBO ALL-DAY EVENT
Saturday, April 6, 2019**

This dynamic training is for those interested in learning how to practice responsible charity and healthy community development. It will be held from **8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 6, 2019**, at **Grace United Methodist Church** located at 422 Walnut Street, Coshocton OH 43812. The **cost is \$20.00** per person, lunch and refreshments are included. The event will be led by skilled seminar leaders from the [Lupton Center](#).

The training will be divided into two sessions. **The ReImagine Charity Seminar** (morning session) introduces the framework for understanding why certain efforts to address poverty are ineffective or at times harmful. The seminar introduces groups to the basic concepts of toxic and responsible charity. This interactive event reveals why traditional charity paradigms are not working and casts a vision on a better way. By looking at real life examples, participating in thought-provoking exercises, and being exposed to compelling teaching, participants come away ready to chart a new course for a more responsible engagement with the materially poor. **The Changing the Charity Paradigm** (afternoon session) complements the morning session and is

designed for groups that have read Robert Lupton’s books and are ready to start changing the way they practice charity. The workshop allows participants to work through real-life initiatives and leave prepared to take the next, best steps into their charity.

Preparation is encouraged, but not necessary, by reading *Toxic Charity* or *Charity Detox* by Robert D. Lupton. Books are available through [Amazon.com](#)



Re-Imagine Charity & Changing the Charity Paradigm Registration

Name: _____ **Church:** _____
Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

\$20 per person - Checks Payable: Three Rivers District, 415 Walnut Street, Coshocton OH 43812

Questions? Contact: Terrie Baker, terriebaker78@gmail.com, 740-294-8198

Joy Snyder, Three Rivers District, 3riversdist@sbcglobal.net, 740-622-8880

Registration Deadline: March 21, 2019

EXPERIENCES PAY OFF MORE THAN MATERIAL GIFTS!

Do you want your kids to really love the gifts you give them? Consider giving them an experience like a week at camp – or give your entire family a week away at family camp. If you want to give them something that will make them feel closer to you, give an experience.

Consider these benefits of a gift of camp:

- **It always fits.** No need to worry about returns if it is the wrong size, color or style.
- If you **GO as a family**, the shared experience will help you **GROW as a family**.
- **Camp memories never expire.** They last a life time and for many campers, they are life-defining.

Get more information at www.EOCsummercamps.org or call (800) 831-3972 ext. 108 to request a brochure.

SHOW A CAMP VIDEO OR TAKE A GROUP TO AN OPEN HOUSE

On the EOC Camps website are [downloadable videos](#) to share with your churches that are guaranteed to generate interest and excitement. Or visit a camp! Each of the East Ohio Campsites will host an Open House where you can see the camp and ask questions about their programs. [Open House Flyer](#)

- **Camp Aldersgate** – Saturday, March 30 (2- 5 PM) Summer Preview
- **Camp Asbury** – Sunday, April 14 (2- 5 PM) Summer Preview
- **Camp Wanake** – Saturday, April 27 (2-6 PM) Resurrection Egg Hunt & Camp Preview Day

Financial Aid Is the cost of camp stretching the budgets of some folks in your congregation? We encourage your church to do whatever you can through fund-raising or special offerings. If need still exists, a limited amount of campership funds are available from the Conference office. [2019 Campership Form](#)

CAMPS & RETREAT MINISTRIES

A successful camp experience requires a great number of qualified staff members. We are looking for outstanding Christian women and men for staff positions (counselors, lifeguards, and, food service, program advisors, administration and maintenance staff.) Visit www.EOCsummercamps.org and click on the [Staff & Volunteer tab](#) for more information.



Or call the camps directly:

- Aldersgate: 330-627-4369
- Asbury: 330-569-3171
- Wanake: 330-756-2333

VISION DAY

Fresh Expressions is a movement that is cultivating new forms of church alongside existing congregations in order to reach a changing world. At its heart, Fresh Expressions is about empowering and equipping God's people to develop creative expressions of church that can reach the increasing diversity of our society. In an interactive format, you will have the chance to discover what it means to be the Church in new and creative ways. On **March 23, 2019** learn how to renew existing congregations through fresh expressions of church and discern what this could mean for your community. Vision Day will be held at Girard First UMC (22 N. Market, Girard, OH 44420) from 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM. The cost is \$25 and up. Scholarships are available for members of Three Rivers District churches. [Register NOW!](#)

New Tax Applies to Nonprofit Employee Parking

Do your church employees park on a lot owned/rented/leased by the church? If the answer is “yes,” then your church may need to pay the new IRS nonprofit parking tax. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (December 2017) states, in part, that tax-exempt employers (such as churches) may need to treat the cost of providing parking to their employees as unrelated business taxable income (UBTI). The provisions are effective starting with the tax year 2018. Churches can legally avoid this new tax if – **by March 31, 2019:**



- its parking facilities do NOT have any spots designated by signs, gates, attendants, etc. as being only for employees/contractors; AND
- its parking facilities are NOT used *primarily* for employees/contractors.

[Get guidance on the parking issue from the General Council on Finance and Administration \(GCFA\)](#)



United Methodist Women Three Rivers Spring Meeting

Saturday, April 6, 2019 -- 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Gay St UMC (18 N. Gay St, Mt. Vernon)

Mission Awareness: Local units will be sharing their mission projects

Registration Fee: \$7.00 includes lunch

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 28, 2019

Mail to: Martha Stuller 1 Fairway Dr, Mt. Vernon OH 43050

Make check payable to: **Three Rivers District UM Women**

Church Name _____

Church Phone _____

Person Making Reservations _____

Best Contact Phone _____

Fee is waived for young women age 12-23 to encourage attendance. Indicate ages with names & write "free" under amount. Please list any dietary restrictions or needs that any of your team members may have.

Name of Registrants Please have one person register for your Unit.		Amount	
Total participants Attach list if more space is needed for additional names		Total \$ Enclosed	

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>"But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin." 1 John 1:7</p>					1	2
3	4	5	6 Ash Wednesday	7	8	9 <u>General Conference</u> <u>Follow-up with Bishop Malone</u> 10:00 a.m. NCT CHRIST
			CABINET			
10 Day Light Saving Time Turn Clocks 1 Hour Ahead	11	12 Conference Staff Day of Visioning	13 Dr. Call at Cont. Ed.	14 Dr. Call at Cont. Ed.	15	16
					Lay Training	
17	18 Dr. Call at ARAP Mtg	19	20	21 Dr. Call at Bd of Benefits	22	23 dCOM interviews
VIM Trip to West Virginia						
24	25 Lay Servant Committee 6:30 p.m.	26	27 Finance Committee 3 p.m.	28	29	30
31 UMCOR SUNDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clergy Executive Session will be held on May 20, 2019 at Ashland University • Annual Conference will be held June 10-13, 2019. Housing Packets have been mailed. Online registration is open. Visit the AC 2019 website. 					



APRIL 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 UMW Spring Mtg see pg 2
						6 Re-Imagine Charity Event see pg 6
7	8 Superint'dcy Committee 5-7:00 PM	9	10	11	12	13
		CABINET				
14 Palm Sunday	15	16	17	18 Holy Thursday	19 Good Friday District Office closed	20
21 EASTER He's Alive & I Am Set Free	22	23	24	25	26	27 TARRP PANEL 8 AM – 3PM Pleasant Grove Zanesville (more info below)
28 Three Rivers Spring Conf. 3:00 PM @ Roscoe UMC	29	30	TARRP EVENT			
		Keynote Speaker: Bishop Tracy S. Malone				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn how small membership churches can engage in faithful lay ministry. • Also how the decisions made at General Conference 2019 will be lived out. 				
		Cost is \$25/person (\$20 with groups of 3 or more)				
		RSVP by April 15, 2019. Contact district office for brochure				
		CABINET Apr 30–May 2				



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MARCH 2019
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Easy to unwrap and always the right fit.
- 2 GET WHERE YOU WANT GO**
Navigate without getting lost.
- 3 PICTURE THE POSSIBILITIES**
Our selection of photos and videos is way better than Aunt Edna's vacation slides.
- 4 LEAVE YOUR BAGGAGE BEHIND**
You don't need to spend money on a train or plane to connect with Christians around the world.
- 5 INVESTIGATE YOUR OPTIONS**
Using our new calendar, you'll never miss an important church event.
- 6 EXPAND YOUR VOCABULARY**
Read items in a variety of languages. *Muy bueno & très bon.*
- 7 CONDUCT A BACKGROUND CHECK**
Learn more about who we are, what we believe, and how we serve.
- 8 STAY INFORMED**
This just in! UMC.org will have more news from more places including blogs and commentaries. You'll be the star of your small group or Sunday school class.
- 9 DIG IN AND ENJOY**
Satisfy your appetite with our buffet of resources, training opportunities, and online products & services. *Take as much or as little as you like.*
- 10 CELEBRATE ALL THAT IS GOOD**
Everyone is invited to the party! Learn how the UMC is building leaders, growing churches, improving health, and being in ministry with the poor.