

Western Reserve Circuit Writer



Western Reserve District Newsletter

July 2023

Annual Conference 2023 Recap



The 54th session of the East Ohio Annual Conference met at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. During the conference, [Annual Conference 2023](#) members:

- approved the **re-districting** of the East Ohio Conference from 10 districts to four effective January 1, 2024,
- approved a 5% increase across all pastoral **minimum salary** categories,
- approved the **2024 Conference budget** of \$9,428,531, which is a reduction of 3.5% over the 2023 budget,
- approved a sexual ethics policy, a parental leave policy, and a professional standards policy,
- approved the **disaffiliation agreements of 237 churches** effective the end of June 2023, and
- approved three resolutions.

The AC 2023 services and celebrations commemorated 48 saints who joined the Church Triumphant since last year's conference, celebrated the ministries of 40 clergy who are retiring this year, and the commissioning of five clergy and the ordination of nine.

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The Annual Conference webpage: [2023 East Ohio Annual Conference \(eocumc.com\)](https://eocumc.com)

Annual Conference Recap Video: <https://vimeo.com/835082475>

Read the AC 2023 recap article: <https://eocumcnews.com/2023/06/10/annual-conference-2023-faith-hope-love/>

Western Reserve District of The United Methodist Church
440-352-2083 WRDistOffice@eocumc.com
www.eocumc.com/WesternReserve

[District News and Events]

Oasis Churches



With the conference roll out of Lighthouse Churches, <https://www.eocumc.com/lighthousechurches/index.html> many, if not all, of our Western Reserve Oasis Churches will be choosing to be part of the larger program. **The intent is the same, just the name is changed.** We are still intending to welcome people from churches that have left the UMC (as we would welcome any visitor) but with a recognition of the hurt they may be feeling. See a list of our Oasis Churches (some have already become Lighthouse Churches) on the next page. If your church is interested in becoming part of our WR Oasis or the conference Lighthouses, contact Lisa in the district office for more information.

Lighthouse and Oasis Churches

Western Reserve churches that have said YES! to being an Oasis Church

Amboy	Leon
Andover	*Painesville
Ashtabula First	*Perry
*Chapel	Shoregate
*Geneva	Southington
*Harpersfield	*Windham
Hope Ridge	Your church here??
Jefferson	*Lighthouse Churches



Where's the DS?

Rev. Brady will be:

July 2: preaching at New Leaf

July 14: Lake County Captains game

July 9: preaching at Mentor Plains

July 27: Oasis/ Lighthouse churches

July 12-14: GCUMM

July 30: Amboy anniversary

HISTORY

Camp Klein History & Hike

Ages 50 and older, Fee: \$5

Learn the history of Camp Klein (1952-1997), the current Environmental Learning Center site, through an artifacts and photos presentation followed by a short 'then and now' hike of the property.
min 10, max 25

Sat., Aug. 19, 9 to 10:30 am, Jordan Creek Park

Those who remember Camp Klein may be interested in the History & Hike program offered by Lake Metroparks on 8/19. Here is the link for registration: [Register For A Program | Lake Metroparks](#)

New Appointments

Linda Bradley, Andover co-pastor

Steve Stultz Costello, Mentor

Tammy Palermo, Mentor deacon

Jill Scott, Mayfield assoc.

Ivy Smith, Mentor assoc.

Scott Walsh, Willoughby Hills

Itinerating Out

Paige Boyer, Lodi (FL)

Mikayla Doecker, Vermillion Grace (FL)

Darlene Robinson, Crestline (MO)

Sondra Snoder, Fields (NC)

Retiring or Ending Ministry

Max Beery

Jan Fillmore

Karen Hollingsworth

Vernon Palo

Withdrawn

Dennis Laferty

Ron McIlvaine

Renae Meggitt

MaryAnn Rufener

Upcoming Dates:

7/3-4: District Office **Closed**

July 22-29: **Youth 2023: BOLD**

7/14: **WRD goes to the Lake County
Captains Game**

Take me out to the ballgame!



Friday, July 14, 2023 — 7:00 pm

Western Reserve District is going to the ballgame! We have reserved a block of tickets to the Lake County Captains baseball game on one of their Faith Nights. The game will be followed by **fireworks!!** If you ordered tickets, Lisa will be contacting you a week before the game.

Details:

- Lake County Captains Classic Park is located near Rts. 2 and 91 at 35300 Vine St. in Eastlake
- Directions and parking information here: <https://www.milb.com/lake-county/ballpark/directionsandparking>; bring cash for parking (\$8-10)
- There are a variety of concession stands available which accept cards or electronic payment. ***If you have cash, you may exchange cash for a concession card at the gift shop.***

Contact Lisa at the district office with any questions.
440-352-2083 or WRDistOffice@eocumc.com.

Conference News and Events

UMC Disaffiliation News

(adapted from an article by Rev. Andy Call in the Church of the Saviour UMC (NC) newsletter)

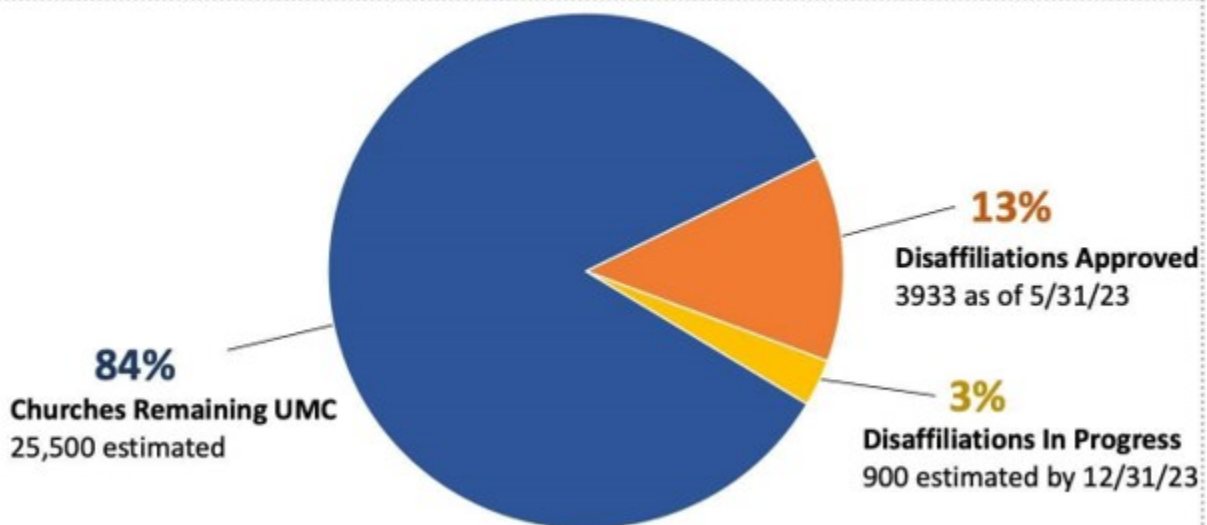
“During the recent meeting of the East Ohio Annual Conference, the conference approved the disaffiliation of 237 churches from the United Methodist Church. Those churches voted earlier this spring to leave the denomination, and the conference vote was the final step in that process.

“Prior to disaffiliation, there were 651 churches in the East Ohio Conference. 237 of those churches chose to leave the denomination, 36.4% of the churches in the conference. 144 of those churches reported fewer than 25 in average worship attendance. Most (not all) were in rural, less population-dense areas. Their giving represents 26% of the conference budget.” A total of 16 churches in the WR District disaffiliated; 3 at the 2022 Annual Conference, and 13 this year. There were no disaffiliations in Lake County and one in Geauga County. There are now 35 churches in the Western Reserve District.

“Across the denomination, the impact is less pronounced than in our own conference. The graphic below reflects data current as of May 31. The total number of disaffiliations is now approximately 5,300, but the graphic still represents a fairly accurate picture of the impact on the denomination worldwide.”

UMC Disaffiliations

Book of Discipline Paragraph 2553



To read the full article, click [HERE](#).



ARCHIVES & HISTORY
General Commission on Archives and History

Local Church Historians' School

Looking Back. Moving Forward.

LAUNCHING AGAIN SEPTEMBER 4, 2023!

Are you ready to discover, document, and share your local church's story?

LCCHS is an intensive, self-paced course wherein you'll learn from leading Methodist scholars, archivists, and historians.

Through this course you'll gain the skills to discover, document, and share the stories of your local church community. Connecting with your cohort, you'll establish and build relationships with fellow Wesleyan time-travelers. Coming alongside you, GCAH offers expert teachers, diverse content, innovative ways to think about our past, and ongoing support for your local ministries and personal vocation.

You and your congregation will benefit from a renewed historical awareness, exposure to unique stories, and a call to deeper connection with those around you... both past and present. Once completed, you will receive a certificate from GCAH.

For more details, and to register, click [HERE](#).





August 9-12

UMVIMNCJ Mission Academy

- Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 12:00 PM through
- Saturday, August 12, 2023, 1:00 PM
- Epworth Forest Camp and Conference Center
- 8531 E Epworth Forest Rd North Webster, IN, 46555

Join the fun August 9-12 at Epworth Forest Camp and Conference Center in North Webster, IN!

Registration is now open. For more details including the schedule of events, and to register, click [HERE](#).

GLOBAL MINISTRIES EARTHKEEPERS

EarthKeepers Training Opportunities in October

If you'd like to act on the call to care for God's creation, Global Ministries' EarthKeepers program can help you to make a lasting difference. EarthKeepers is a training program that equips laity and clergy to launch and grow environmental projects in their communities. When you become an EarthKeeper, you receive training in project planning, community organizing, ecotheology, and antiracism. You also connect with a whole community of United Methodists who are passionate about caring for the earth. Back home, you'll receive ongoing project support and technical guidance as you carry out your project. Training will be held October 5-8, 2023 in three locations: Birmingham Alabama, Denver Colorado and Hartford Connecticut. Except for your transportation to the training location, the cost of the program is underwritten by Global Ministries. To learn more and to apply, go to: [EARTHKEEPERS](#)





Every Summer Has a Story — Make Camp a part of your story in 2023!

Camp is Happening Right Now!

Right now, hundreds of children, youth and adults have been or are attending summer camp here in East Ohio. Camper's lives are being transformed. Campers are experiencing God in creation. Campers are testing their limits in new adventures. Campers are experiencing community and making new friends. Do you want a child from your congregation to be a part of this life-changing experience? Call the East Ohio Conference Camping Office at 1-330-499-3972 extension 108, or visit us on the web at www.EOCSummercamps.org.

Western Reserve District Campership application can be found at <https://www.eocumc.com/westernreserve/pdf/Campership.pdf>

Save the Date!

"Finding Our Way"

Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors Retreat

Lakeside Chautauqua

Sunday, August 20 – Wednesday, August 23, 2023



Faith for Living Hour each morning, Monday through Wednesday
and an opportunity for dialogue with
The Rev. Dr. James Harnish

Pastor & Author, The United Methodist Church, Longwood, Florida
Author of *Finding Your Bearings: How Words That Guided Jesus Through Crisis Can Guide Us*

Discussion on topics focusing on the specific interests and challenges facing
Associate Members and Local Pastors

Lunch and Dinner on Monday and Tuesday are provided to facilitate group sharing and support.
Plenty of Free Time for Personal Reflection and Meditation.

All Lakeside amenities included.
(Shuffleboard, swimming pool, tennis, pickleball, shuttle service, etc.)

The registration fee of \$80 includes a three-day Chautauqua Pass and Auto Pass
(Regular cost \$135), lunch and dinner on Monday and Tuesday,
and materials for all events scheduled during the retreat.

Register Now for This Year's Retreat!

For more information and to receive a registration form,
contact Dr. Charles Yoost, Senior Director of Religious Life & Pastoral Care
cyoost@lakesideohio.com

Upcoming Youth Events

July 9th at Mentor UMC—1-3 pm

July 16th at Painesville UMC — 1-3 pm Taco Bar!!

July 23rd at Willoughby Hills UMC — 1-3 pm

July 30th at Perry UMC — 1-3 pm

August 6th: Canoe/Kayak Outing at Camp Hi Canoe & Kayak in Hiram
1:30 pm start, end time TBD, **MUST RSVP** by August 1st. Talk to your youth group leader for more details (coming soon)

August 13th at Mayfield UMC — 2-4 pm

August 26th at Willoughby UMC — 1:30—3 pm

— Want even more news? —

You can subscribe to the East Ohio Conference E-News or read archived editions by clicking [here](#). Archived editions and the subscription box can be found in the right hand column. E-News is a bi-weekly publication of the EOC.

UM News is the official news gathering agency of the UMC. You can find its page [here](#). You can also subscribe to their [Daily Digest](#) on breaking news that affects the church, or the [Friday Digest](#), a weekly summary.



Hope Ridge United Methodist Church is seeking to fill two nurture/discipleship positions.

1) [Nursery Coordinator / Caregiver](#)

Part Time Sundays 8:30 - Noon and occasional special services

\$55 per session Reports to Pastor

Qualifications

- Experience in caring for children between the ages of 0 to 4
- Minimum 18 years of age
- Satisfactory completion of CPR training for infants and children
- Successfully pass a background check
- Must be able to lift & move objects weighing up to 35 pounds.
- Must be able to bend and reach from the floor to waist and sit on floor.

Responsibilities

- Adhere to Child Protection Policies.
- Provide age-appropriate care to include feeding, changing diapers, assistance with toileting.
- Maintain a safe environment & clean environment, clean toys and remove trash.
- Hold or sit with and cheerfully interact with children through games, stories, play and/or prayer.
- Maintain attendance records.
- Stay until the children are secured with parent/guardian as listed on registration form.
- In the event of an emergency, notify the parent via the communication system
- Maintain professional conduct as well as appropriate personal practices and boundaries as found in the employee handbook while demonstrating love for children along with an appreciation of parental concerns.
- Assist with #Ridgkidz when there are no children in the nursery.

To apply for either position, or for more information email hopeoffice@hoperidge.com.



Hope Ridge United Methodist Church is seeking to fill two nurture/discipleship positions.

2) Children's Ministry Area Coordinator - # RidgeKidz Leader

Part Time – Exempt Position (September – May) Reports to Pastor

#RidgeKidz is Sunday School for children K-5. Classes take place during 10:30 worship.

#RidgeKidz operates from September to May on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th (5th) Sundays

\$500.00 per month (Sept. - May)

Basic Requirements

- Pass a background check administered by Hope Ridge office.
- Must possess a genuine and demonstrable love of children.
- Open to learning and constructive criticism
- Able to maintain professional conduct and personal practices as found in the Hope Ridge Employee Handbook
- Ability to sit or stand for extended periods of time.
- Must be able to crawl, stoop, kneel, or crouch in order to interact with children.
- Must be mobile to include ascending and descending stairs.
- Must have reliable transportation.
- Ability to work independently without supervision.
- Adherence to Hope Ridge Child Protection and Safe Sanctuary policies.

Specific Requirements

- High School Graduate plus proven experience with children.
- 2-5 years creating, editing, presenting Christian children's curriculum.
- 2-5 years teaching Children's Sunday School
- Demonstrated administrative skills.
- Proficiency with MS Office products; Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook

Responsibilities

- Recruit, train, and schedule volunteers to assist with teaching.
- Set up, lead session and reset the room.
- Order supplies and materials as necessary
- Communicate at least bi-weekly with parents re; scheduling, activities, curriculum, etc.
- Research and select appropriate Church School curriculum for ages 5-11
- Work with pastor and Nurture Chair to develop creative and meaningful #Ridgekidz classes and activities.
- Monitor hardware/software needs in the #RidgeKidz ministry area.

Work Schedule

- Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 12 noon and special services/holidays as necessary
- Attendance at 8:45 worship, special services as necessary as well as Ash Weds, Holy Thurs., Good Friday, Easter, Christmas Eve, and Christmas day.
- Attend staff meetings as necessary (Zoom or in person)