

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

September 2023



Hurricane winds fueled wildfires on the island of Maui claiming dozens of lives and destroying many communities. United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is coordinating with the California - Pacific Annual Conference to provide a solidarity grant for emergency supplies.

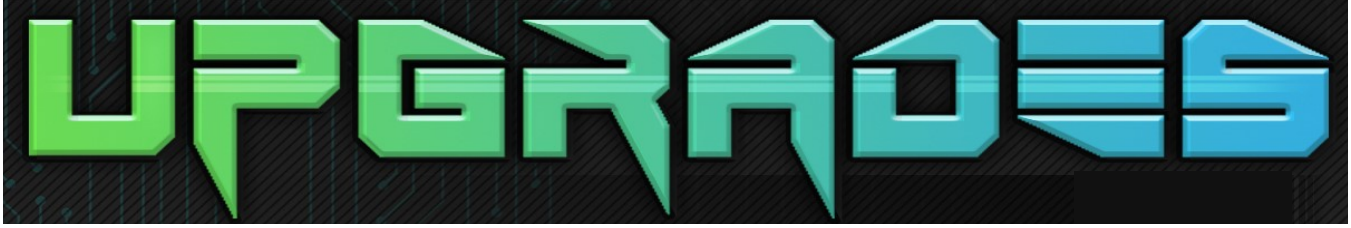
“Prayers for the United Methodist churches on Maui,” said Rev. Steve Court, East Ohio Conference Disaster Response coordinator. “I was in the room training with Angela Overstreet of UMCOR as I witnessed first-hand how she worked with the California-Pacific Conference to provide grants and plan assistance to churches responding to the fires.”

You can help by donating to EOC Fund 1327 - US Disaster Response & Recovery. The conference forwards 100% of donations to this fund to General Advance 901670 for US Disaster Response. Please include “Maui Wildfire Relief” in the memo.

[Donate to EOC Fund 1327](#)

[Learn about EOC & UMC Disaster Response](#)

EOC Website



New Search Features

The Communications office, partnering with the Brick River database system, has updated the way that the church and clergy search functions of the EOC website operate and look. Two new buttons have been added to the website homepage, one for the new church search and one for the new clergy search.

On the church search page users will have the ability to filter searches by district. Also, on this page, users can search based on church name, the city or town in which the church is located, or even the church's GCFA # if they know it. On the clergy search page users can search based on a clergyperson's name, e-mail address, or phone number.

[Visit the church search page](#)

[Visit the clergy search page](#)

New Church Listings on District Web Pages

In addition to the new search functions described above, each district's webpage includes a new listing of all churches within the district. The church listings can be accessed on the sidebar of each district's web page.

The look of both search results and listing results has been updated to create a better user experience. Within a church result users will be able to view a list of all clergy currently serving at the church, all contact and website information for the church, the physical and mailing addresses for the church, as well as a Google map to make it easier for them to find and visit the church. Within a clergy result users will be able to view the church to which that person is currently assigned as well as an image of the clergyperson if available.

New Donation and Apportionment Payment Page

An improved Apportionment Payment and Donation page utilizing the new MyVanco payment processing platform greatly improves user experience. On the updated donate page users can support a specific fund and/or a specific ministry. The new page contains images of the ministries and links to their respective websites that users can access to learn more information.

Donations can be made on a one-time or a recurring basis. Users will just need to add a donation amount, select a payment frequency, denote a start date, and select Add to Basket. Once a payment or donation has been made, confirmation e-mails are sent to both the person donating and the Conference office. There is also the option to share about the fund on social media to spread the word to friends and family.

[Visit the Apportionment Payments and Donation Page](#)

Funding Our Future Zoom Workshop

Many congregations are discovering after three years of the COVID pandemic that there are fewer people participating in their ministries and this has had a profound effect on the finances of the church.

Funding Our Future is a training and coaching process led by Rev. Paul Nickerson via Zoom to help churches develop a comprehensive stewardship and discipleship process.

The one-day online workshop from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 23 includes:

- ♦ How the charitable giving landscape has changed.
- ♦ How to develop a year-round process of stewardship and faith development.
- ♦ How to implement an effective stewardship campaign.
- ♦ Other resources beyond pledging to increase the income of congregations.

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



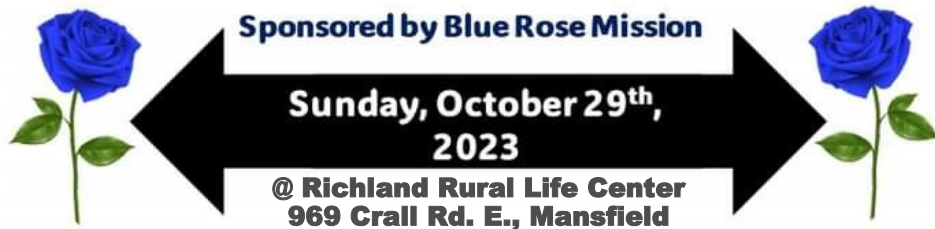
The Bishops' Retreat with Black Clergy is a joint retreat for the Black clergy of the East Ohio and West Ohio Conferences of The United Methodist Church hosted by Bishop Tracy S. Malone and Bishop Gregory V. Palmer. The theme of this year's retreat is "Preach! Preacher, Preach!" The retreat is October 4-6 at Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center in Lewis Center, Ohio.

Cost is \$200/person double occupancy. Single room and commuter rates are also available. Registration includes dinner on Wednesday, Oct. 4, three meals on Thursday, Oct. 5, breakfast and lunch on Friday, Oct. 6. Overnight accommodations for Wednesday and Thursday night are for rooms at Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center. Questions, please call Melanie Thomas at 800-831-3972 ext. 102

[Learn more and register here](#)



1-Mile Fun Run and 5k Race



Registration opens at 1 p.m., 1-mile Fun Run at 1:45, Race begins at 2.

1-mile Fun Run \$5 for kids, \$15 adults pre-registration by October 15 \$20 on race day. Send form (below) and check/money order to: Blue Rose Mission, PO Box 3834, Mansfield, OH. 44907 or pay through Venmo: <https://account.venmo.com/u/BlueRose2020>

T-shirts must be ordered by October 8. A limited supply will be available at the time of the race for \$15. Available in both kids and adult sizes.

All proceeds go towards [Blue Rose Mission's](#) continued work.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Do you want a t-shirt for \$10 Yes _____ No _____

T-shirt sizes Adult: Sm _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2X/\$12 _____ 3X/\$13 _____

Children's sizes: Sm _____ M _____ L _____

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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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