



# Western Lakes District

*News from The United Methodist Church*

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## WLD Important Information Volume 37-December 6, 2024



### Thank You For Your Apportionments

Thank you to 21 Western Lakes District churches who have already paid 100% of their apportionments for 2024! This was calculated as the end of November. There are more congregations who are on track to give 100% by the end of the calendar year.

Your apportionment dollars are wisely used in so many ways to support Conference and General Church ministries, World Service, North Central Jurisdiction, and Conference/District staffing and operations. In addition, they contribute to the Ministerial Education, Black College, Africa University, General Administration, Episcopal, and Interdenominational Cooperative Funds.

Thank you so much to these Western Lakes District churches who have paid their 2024 apportionments in full: *Casstown, Concord, Kingscreek, Lima Trinity, Mercer, Middle Point, Mt Zion, New Dover, Rhinehart, Ridgeway, Roundhead, Rum Creek, South Charleston, South Solon, St. Paris, Unionville Center, Van Wert First, Versailles, West Liberty, York Center, and Zion.*

### 2025 Planning Resources Available

The 2025 Worship Calendar and the Revised Common Lectionary Calendar with Special Sundays are both available for download at Discipleship Ministries. These resources are helpful for pastors, worship leaders and planners, musicians, choirs, committees, Sunday School teachers, and more.

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)



[Click here for the Advent resources](#)

### 2025 Virtual Laity Discernment Retreats

Do you feel God's call on your life but are uncertain how to discern that call or what to do next? If so, then this is the Retreat for you! At the Laity Discernment Retreats, we will talk about call, discernment and what it means to be "called by our baptism." We will learn ways to intentionally enter into a time of prayer about discernment and we will discover Spiritual Rhythms that can help guide our journey. We will also discuss the variety of ways Laity can serve both in our churches and in our communities.

In 2025, the virtual laity discernment retreat will consist of two, two-hour ZOOM sessions, followed 6 weeks later by a two-hour ZOOM debriefing. In the 6 weeks between sessions, there will be opportunities to read, reflect, and practice Spiritual Rhythms that will lead you to a better understanding of your own call.

"I would recommend a Laity Discernment Retreat to someone who is searching or has questions about how they can serve their community or their church. It can help guide them through the process, provide resources and help provide a sense of peace about what they can be doing right now." -Twila Boyd, 2019 participant

Dates (please plan to attend all 3 sessions):

- Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 6:30-8:30pm
- Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 6:30-8:30pm
- Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 6:30-8:30pm
- [Register Now!](#)

For more information, contact Kim LaRue at [kimlarue@powellumc.org](mailto:kimlarue@powellumc.org).

### West Ohio Conference Family Advent Resources Available

The Emerging Generations Ministry Team is excited to release the 2024 Family Advent Resources. If your congregation is looking for a fun way to engage families throughout Advent, simply click on this link: [Family Advent Resources](#) and download the advent calendar.



This year's calendar follows the lectionary texts and utilizes the UM Discipleship graphics. Social media posts will also be available. Contact [Ann Marie Carley](#) to learn more.

### Leadership Training 2025

[Registration Now Open!](#)

Plan to join us on Zoom if you'll be serving on Finance, S/PPRC or

Trustees, or to explore the One Board Leadership Model.

These one-hour training sessions are for new and seasoned leaders. They will help you understand the duties and responsibilities of Finance, S/PPRC, Trustees, and the One Board Leadership Model, respectively. Each session will include time for Q&A so you can serve effectively in your role.



## LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2025

Live on Zoom from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.:

- **Finance:** Tuesday, Jan 28, 2025
- **S/PPRC:** Wednesday, Jan 29, 2025
- **Trustees:** Friday, Jan 31, 2025
- **One Board Leadership Model:** Tuesday, Feb 4, 2025

recordings will be available on [westohioumc.newzenler.com](https://westohioumc.newzenler.com)

The sessions are scheduled as follows. Please use the link below to register for the sessions that pertain to your role.

- **Finance: Tuesday, Jan 28, 2025**
- **S/PPRC: Wednesday, Jan 29, 2025**
- **Trustees: Friday, Jan 31, 2025**
- **One Board Leadership Model: Tuesday, Feb 4, 2025**

[Register for one or more of the training sessions here](#)

Please Note:

- All sessions will take place on Zoom from 10:30 - 11:30 am on the designated date.
- Please register if you can attend live OR if you'd like to receive access to the recording.
- Each session will last one hour.
- No in-person Leadership Training Day will take place in early 2025.
- All sessions will be recorded and available on the [West Ohio Conference Learning Platform](#).

[Register for the 2025 Leadership Training](#)

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## Virtual Candidacy Summit In January 2025

Do you feel God calling you to ministry in a deeper way? Are you seeking guidance to understand what it means to be called to ordained ministry in the church? If so, the virtual Winter Candidacy Summit Retreat is a place for you! The virtual Winter Candidacy Summit Retreat is an opportunity for candidates to worship, fellowship, meet with a mentoring group, learn in large and small group settings, and reflect with others who are also exploring God's call on their lives. To be eligible, candidates must be recommended by their District Superintendent AND complete all the necessary preparatory work.



[LEARN MORE](#)

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## Scholarship Information Available

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) Scholarships offers financial aid to United Methodist students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. Every year, an average of \$4.5 million is awarded to help students in the United States and abroad pursue their dreams through higher education. With this financial aid, GBHEM is opening pathways for students of all backgrounds to earn their degrees and serve as the next generation of leaders for the church and the world.

GBHEM scholarship applications open in January each year. You may only submit one application per year, which will be screened for all possible eligible programs. You may indicate on the first page of your application which of the below listed programs you would most like to be considered for. Scholarship programs are divided into three categories:

- **General Scholarships**
- **HBCU Scholarships**
- **Ministry as a Career Scholarships**

## 2024-2025 Appointments

### 2024 Appointments

The list of pastoral appointments beginning January 1, 2024, can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Please refer back to these lists as they are updated frequently.



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