

2017

**OFFICIAL JOURNAL & YEARBOOK**

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The One Hundred Ninety-Second Session  
(Forty-eighth since Union)  
Grove City, Pennsylvania  
June 8-11, 2017

Editor: John Robert Wilson

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The United Methodist Church

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Our Presiding Officer, Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi



Resident Bishop  
THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE  
PITTSBURGH AREA

The United Methodist Church

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## I. Officers of the Annual Conference

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2. **Erie United Methodist Alliance**  
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The Rainbow Connection Thrift Store  
**VICKI WEBER**, Assistant Manager, 1516 Buffalo Road, Erie PA 16510 .....814/453-4080  
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- Ruth M. Smith Center: **KIMBERLY ADAMS**, Executive Director  
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Curric-u-Phone .....	800/251-8591
Mission Information Line .....	800/862-4246
The United Methodist Development Fund .....	800/862-8633

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ImagineNoMalaria.org .....	615/312-3587
rethinkchurch@umcom.org PO Box 320, Nashville, TN 37202 .....	877/281-6535
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36 Madison Ave, PO Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940 www.gcah.org .....	
<b>Church &amp; Society</b> , General Board of .....	202/488-5600
100 Maryland Ave, NE, Washington, DC 20002 www.umc-gbcs.org .....	
<b>Communication</b> , General Commission on (United Methodist Communications) .....	615/742-5400
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Discipleship Resources / <i>The Upper Room</i> .....	800 927-0433
<b>Prayer Line</b> .....	800/251-2468
<b>Finance &amp; Administration</b> , General Council on .....	866/367-4232
1 Music Circle North, PO Box 340029 Nashville, TN 37203-0029 www.gcfa.org .....	
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<b>Higher Education &amp; Ministry</b> , General Board of .....	615/340-7400
PO Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007 www.gbhem.org .....	
<b>Pension &amp; Health Benefits</b> , General Board of .....	800/851-2201
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Westpath Investment Management www.wespath.com .....	847/866-4100
<b>Publishing House</b> , The United Methodist .....	615/749-6000
PO Box 17890 Nashville, TN 37228-7890 www.umph.com .....	
<b>Religion &amp; Race</b> , General Commission on .....	202/547-2271
100 Maryland Avenue, NE, Ste. 400 Washington, DC 20002 www.gcorr.org .....	
<b>Status and Role of Women</b> , General Commission on (COSROW) .....	800/523-8390
77 West Washington, Suite 1500 Chicago, Illinois 60602 www.gcsrw.org .....	
<b>United Methodist Men</b> , General Commission on .....	615/340-7145
1000 17 <sup>th</sup> Ave South, Nashville, TN 37203 www.gcumm.org .....	



## UNITED METHODIST GIVING PROGRAM

The United Methodist Church has eight apportioned funds, six church wide Special Sundays with offerings and two designated giving programs--all which need your support. In addition, annual conferences take special offerings on Christian Education Sunday, Golden Cross Sunday and Rural Life Sunday. The United Methodist Children's Fund for Christian Mission and the Youth Service Fund provide opportunities for young people to share their resources.

### Apportioned Funds

**World Service Fund** supports outreach through the work of general agencies and other national and international mission programs. It also underwrites a comprehensive television and telecommunications ministry, and pension and salary equalization. 2018 apportionment: \$1,343,538

**Ministerial Education Fund** provides educational support for ordained elders, ordained deacons and diaconal ministers of the church through funding for theological schools, recruitment, professional development and continuing education. 2018 apportionment: \$340,339

**Black College Fund** provides operating funds and capital for 11 historically Black colleges including a medical school. 2018 apportionment: \$181,011

**Africa University Fund** helps support a new university in Africa providing post-secondary education for African students. Africa University is partly funded by World Service Special Gifts in addition to the apportionment. 2018 apportionment: \$40,509

**Episcopal Fund** is for salaries, pensions, office operations, official travel and other expenses for the bishops. 2018 apportionment: \$397,876

**General Administrative Fund** supports general agencies whose work is administrative in nature, the cost of General Conference and other items essential to the operation of The United Methodist Church. 2018 apportionment: \$159,534

**Interdenominational Cooperation Fund** supports United Methodist participation in the World and National Councils of Churches and the Consultation on Church Union. It also pays the travel expenses of United Methodist delegates to those bodies. 2018 apportionment: \$35,489

**Jurisdictional Fund** supports the collective ministries of the conferences in the northeastern United States, including Western Pennsylvania. 2018 apportionment: \$36,648

### Designated Gifts

**Advance Specials** permit churches and individuals to support mission and relief projects with voluntary gifts. Every dollar given to the Advance goes to the project designated by the donor.

**World Service Special Gifts** permit churches and individuals to contribute to approved projects of World Service-related agencies. Every dollar goes to the project designated by the donor.

### Special Sundays with Offerings

**Human Relations Day**, the Sunday before Martin Luther King Jr's birthday observance, supports Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

**UMCOR Sunday**, the fourth Sunday of Lent, provides major support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which aids in refugee ministries, disaster-response ministries and hunger ministries.

**Native American Awareness Sunday**, the second Sunday after Easter, funds urban ministries with Native Americans, scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist seminaries and annual conference Native American ministries.

**Peace with Justice Sunday**, the second Sunday of Pentecost, supports peace with justice ministries through the General Board of Church and Society and the annual conference.

**World Communion Sunday**, the first Sunday in October, supports Crusade Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program, and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program.

**United Methodist Student Day**, the last Sunday in November, provides loan and scholarship funds for United Methodist college, university, and graduate students.

#### Other Special Offerings

**Christian Education Sunday.** The conference determines the date and how the offering is used to strengthen Christian education.

**Disability Awareness Sunday**, Special offering to promote awareness issues and ministries that provide opportunities for fuller inclusion of people with disabilities.

**Golden Cross Sunday (Red Stocking Sunday)**, The annual conference determines the date and how the offering will be used to support health and welfare ministries.

**Rural Life Sunday.** The annual conference determines the date and how the offering will be used to strengthen the nurture, outreach, and witness of congregations in town and rural areas.

#### Other Conference Special Offerings

**Camping Sunday** supports the summer program in order to reduce registration costs for participants.

**Doors to Hope at Home** for continued support of the six Western PA Conference regional mission agencies, within the Conference boundaries with additional funds to continue and expand their work.

**UMVIM Sunday** support the Conference and Jurisdictional UMVIM offices and programs, with 90% of funds collected going to the Conference VIMship Advance Special, and a tithe of 10% to the Jurisdictional UMVIM programming efforts.

**Youth Service Fund** supports projects of mission and ministry by and for youth as well as administration of the fund.

#### Conference Special Sundays without Offerings

**Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union Month** to promote being good and faithful stewards of God's gifts by learning about the resources and benefits of becoming members of our credit union.

**Retired Clergy Sunday** to honor retired clergy, spouses or surviving spouses

## I Officers of the Conference

### 2018 Special Days and Program Calendar

Jan 6	<b>Epiphany</b> to commemorate the coming of the Magi
Jan 14	<b>Human Relations Day</b> to encourage better human relations; offering funds community developers, voluntary services, and youth offender rehabilitations.
Jan 15	<b>Martin Luther King Jr Birthday Observed</b>
Jan 18-25	Prayer for Christian Unity Week
Feb	<b>Black History Month</b> to celebrate the historical contributions of African Americans to the worship life, mission and ministry of the church
Feb 11	<b>Scouting Sunday</b> to emphasize scouting as ministry to children
Feb 14	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> to begin Christian self-examination for Lent
Feb 17-18	<b>Disability Awareness Weekend</b> to promote issues as well as ministries providing opportunities for fuller inclusion of those with disabilities.
March	<b>Women's History Month</b>
Mar 2	<b>World Day of Prayer</b> to link Christian women of the world in prayer.
Mar 11	<b>Daylight Savings Time begins</b> –Spring Forward
Mar 11	<b>UMCOR Sunday</b> to share the goodness of life with those who hurt; offering funds, programs of relief, rehabilitation and service
Mar 25	<b>Palm Sunday</b> to commemorate Christ's entry into Jerusalem
Mar 29	<b>Holy Thursday</b> to celebrate the institution of the Eucharist
Mar 30	<b>Good Friday</b> to commemorate Christ's death
Apr 1	<b>Easter Sunday</b> to celebrate Christ's resurrection
Apr 25	<b>World Malaria Day</b>
Apr 15	<b>Native American Sunday</b> to recognize Native Americans in society, offering funds to ministries, urban initiatives and seminary scholarships
May 7-13	<b>Christian Family Week</b> to focus on families in the church & community
May 13	<b>Mother's Day</b>
May 5-6	<b>Golden Cross Weekend</b> to further the work of health & welfare ministries in the annual conference (or another date chosen by local church)
May 20	<b>Pentecost</b> to celebrate the birthday of the Church
May 20	<b>Heritage Sunday</b> to call the church to remember the past by committing to God's continuing call
May 27	<b>Peace with Justice Sunday</b> to call the church to peace with justice, offering funds annual conference and General Board of Church & Society peace with justice ministries
May 27	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>
June 7-9	<b>Annual Conference</b> held at Grove City College
June 17	<b>Father's Day</b>
August 11-12	<b>Rural Life Weekend</b> to emphasize the value of rural life & agriculture
Sept 8-9	<b>Christian Education Weekend</b> to call the church to be open to growth and learning
Sept 15-16	<b>Retired Clergy Weekend</b> to honor retired clergy, spouses or surviving spouses
Oct 7	<b>World Communion Sunday</b>
Oct 12-14	<b>Children's Sabbath</b>
Oct 6-7	<b>Camping Weekend</b>
Oct 21	<b>Laity Sunday</b> to celebrate the ministry of all Christians
Oct 20-21	<b>UMVIM Weekend</b> a day for promoting Volunteers in Mission.
Nov 1	<b>All Saints Day</b> to remember departed Saints
Nov 3-4	<b>Youth Service Fund Weekend</b> offering to assist youth programs locally & globally
Nov 4	<b>Daylight Savings Time ends</b> clocks fall back
Nov 18	<b>Bible Sunday</b> to acknowledge the place of the Bible in today's world
Nov 22	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b> to thank God for blessings, commemorating our national heritage
Nov 25	<b>United Methodist Student Day</b> to call the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge; offering funds scholarships & loans
Advent	<b>Doorways to Hope at Home</b> for continued support of the six Western PA Conference regional mission agencies within the Conference boundaries
Dec 24/25	<b>Christmas</b> to celebrate the birth of Christ
Dec 31	<b>Watch Night</b> to usher in the New Year with covenant renewal.

Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church

Plan for Ministry

#### MISSION

To provide leadership, connection, and resources to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

#### VISION

To ignite and sustain a passionate, spiritual connection with Christ among all people in Western Pennsylvania.

#### CORE VALUE

**Our core value is love:** We love the Lord our God with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength and our neighbors as ourselves.

This value is commanded by Jesus, inspired by our Wesleyan heritage including to spread scriptural holiness over the land, and witnessed through our integrity, accountability and inclusiveness.

#### Five Areas of Focus

- Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.
- Creating new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones.
- Engaging in ministry with the poor.
- Stamping out killer diseases by improving health globally.
- Dismantling racism.