

# Footnotes from the Foothills



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March 2021

## New Foothills Superintendent Announced

Bishop Gregory V. Palmer intends to appoint the Rev. Mark Chow as Foothills District superintendent effective July 1, 2021.



“I could not be more pleased that Rev. Mark Chow has accepted my invitation to become a conference superintendent assigned to the Foothills District,” Palmer said. “Mark’s love for Jesus Christ, the church and The United Methodist Church in particular are conspicuous. He serves with love, skill and humility. He has itinerated widely in the West Ohio Conference, and without exception, he is known as a true servant-leader. He and his wife Nancy will be a gift to this ministry.”

Chow, who is currently serving the Zanesville Grace United Methodist Church, has served the church in a variety of ministry settings within West Ohio. His previous appointments include Urbana, associate; Vaughnsville; Oxford, associate; Woodville; assistant to the district superintendent (former Toledo District); Newark First, associate; and assistant to the district superintendent (Capitol Area South District).

Chow holds a Bachelor of Arts in speech-theater from Ohio Northern University and a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary. He was ordained an elder in the West Ohio Conference in 1989.

“I am humbled and honored to serve in this role,” Chow said. “I pray for the grace and courage to lead and look forward to serving the people of the Foothills District and the West Ohio Conference.”

Born in Iowa, Chow and his family lived in Pennsylvania and Kentucky before moving to Ohio where his father, the late Rev. W. Jing Chow, served several churches in Licking County.

He is married to Nancy Schumacher-Chow. Nancy is a cancer survivor. In June 2006, she received a bone marrow transplant as part of her treatment for acute leukemia. Leaders and members of the West Ohio Conference and many others surrounded her in prayer. Thanks be to God, through many prayers and treatments, she was healed.

The Chows are the parents of four adult daughters: Jayme, a culinary teacher in Columbus Downtown High School; Jenn, an audiologist in Chicago; Deborah, a vocal music teacher at Columbus School for Girls; and Molly, a music teacher in Atlanta. They have one grandson, Henry, (and another on the way). They take joy in grandparenting their four grand dogs: Buddy, Ellie, Carol and Britta.



**New! Social Media Grants of up to \$1000 available to Workshop Participants!**

## **From Social Media to Social Ministry: A Guide to Digital Discipleship**

During this month's Leadership Clinic, Bishop Palmer's guest will be Pastor Nona Jones, the globally renowned expert on social media

ministry. Nona will provide her unique point of view on the age of digital discipleship from her bestselling book "From Social Media to Social Ministry." You'll learn practical steps to take your church's ministry and discipleship to the next level, into the digital age. Bring your questions and be prepared to learn.

**During this Clinic, we will launch Communication Grants to begin or enhance your church's communication and social media ministry. Participation in the Clinic will make your church eligible to receive a grant of up to \$1,000. Grants will be awarded first-come, first-served, with an application deadline of March 18.** "We are excited to offer communication support and resources for our churches through this current season of ministry," says Kay Panovec, Director of Communications. To that end, in addition to these grants, the conference will offer FREE cohorts with additional training and personalized coaching for those who want to maximize their church communications. Learn more about the cohorts during the March 4 Clinic.

Nona Jones is an author, speaker, and head of Faith-Based Partnerships at Facebook. An expert in expanding the influence of the Gospel through social technology, she coined the term "Social Ministry," and partners with churches and ministries to help them fulfill the Great Commission through digital impact. [Check out her new book: From Social Media to Social Ministry](#)

Join us **Thursday, March 4, 2021 from 10:00am – 12:00pm** for this live, virtual event featuring a presentation from Nona, an interview hosted by Bishop Palmer, and a live Q&A.

To register, go to [Bishop Palmer's Leadership Clinics - March Edition | West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church \(westohioumc.org\)](#) or search for the event on the West Ohio Conference website.

The cost to attend for West Ohio leaders is \$20 (for leaders outside of West Ohio the cost is \$40).

**DEADLINE to register is Sunday, February 28 at Midnight.**

## **Reminder: Year-end Reports are Due February 26, 2021**

If you have questions about your report or need assistance contact Jack Frost,  
[jfrost@wocumc.org](mailto:jfrost@wocumc.org).

## 2021 Annual Conference

### June 6th & June 7th

The 52nd session of the West Ohio Conference will be held  
**Sunday June 6, 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and**  
**Monday, June 7, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Bishop Palmer and the Planning Committee unanimously decided to hold a virtual conference since the COVID pandemic is still a serious concern. The theme of Annual Conference is “Run the race with perseverance” based on the scripture Hebrews 12:1-3.

“A vaccination is here and brings great hope. However, it is unclear as to how many people will be vaccinated by June. So, we must forge on with our plans to care for the business of the annual conference,” said Bishop Gregory V. Palmer. “I have great hope and anticipation that we will come together again in a foreseeable future.”

More details will be made available in the weeks to come.

Churches should have their Lay Members confirmed and up to date so that the appropriate people receive pertinent information as more details evolve. Lay Members and Youth Lay Members At-Large were contacted recently and asked to confirm their intention to participate with the district office by **March 3**.



## Learn Now About How to Engage Your Community

*From Sam Rodriguez, Director of Faith Formation & Community Engagement*

While working at Discipleship Ministries in Church Planting Resourcing, I became acutely aware of the fact that church planting was not that different from a church that is attempting to engage in a new beginning – both are about having a keen sense for the work God is already doing and getting on board. In *Seven Seasons of Planting a New Church*, a strategic paper written by members of Path1, we find the following regarding the Season of Visioning:

“The soil in which God sows the seed of a new church is in the planter or planting church’s heart. Vision offers a shared picture of a preferred future, inspired by God and often first articulated by leaders and then affirmed by God’s people. A vision for starting a new church may arise from a need to reach a geographical area, cultural group, or specific community of people.”

New church planters are encouraged to love their community by living in and among its members. Without a group of people to gather, a planter must engage their community with great intentionality to find the leaders needed to launch the new church.

Those in established churches love their community as well by finding new ways to engage its members and form meaningful relationships. With all that has transpired this past year - including so many changes in how ministry is done during this COVID era - time and energy spent engaging one’s community anew can prove to be wise and bring about new knowledge of how it has changed.

COVID is still well entrenched in our daily lives as it continues to limit our ability to meet face to face. We can claim this moment as a time for preparation for the future. I would like to recommend a book that clergy and laity can read in preparation for when the opportunity eventually arises to engage our community intimately and purposefully.

Leonard Sweet and Michael Adam Beck's book *Contextual Intelligence: Unlocking the Ancient Secret to Mission on the Front Lines* (2019) helps us to use contextual intelligence to connect with our community. Like emotional intelligence and cultural intelligence, contextual intelligence is a skill that can be learned and continually improved upon.

I am setting up time for conversation with clergy and laity to discuss this book. If you'd like to be a part of this conversation, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [srodriguez@wocumc.org](mailto:srodriguez@wocumc.org). I look forward to hearing from you!



Ralph L. Kendall lived a life of service and left a legacy of devotion to family, charity, and community investment. He grew up in Winchester, OH and never forgot the lessons he learned at the side of his father, Wilmer, and mother, Mary, who were both active in Winchester UMC. In fact, Ralph grew up surrounded by at least three generations of the Kendall family in the pews with him each Sunday including his maternal and paternal grandparents. Before his passing, Ralph asked his daughters, Karen, Joy, and Cheryl if

they would help him establish an endowment at the Foundation to benefit Winchester UMC.

The Kendall Family's decision to leave a legacy through the Foundation is just one example of the kind of sacrificial giving typical of members of the John Wesley Legacy Society.

Members of this group have indicated to the Foundation that they plan to remember the West Ohio Conference or its missions, ministries, or churches, as a beneficiary of any of the following estate planning vehicles:

- An endowment,
- a will or estate plan,
- a trust,
- a life insurance policy,
- a charitable lead trust,
- a Donor Advised Fund,
- a retirement fund; or
- a life-income gift (Charitable Remainder Trust or Charitable Gift Annuity).

Members of the John Wesley Legacy Society will be listed in the Foundation annual report and receive special recognition and invitations throughout the year.

Recently, confirmed and suspected John Wesley Legacy Society members received a letter welcoming them to the group. If you believe you should be included among the members, please contact the Foundation office, and speak to Maddy O'Malley at 614-505-3472 or at [momalley@wocumc.org](mailto:momalley@wocumc.org). We will request some additional information for our records, including documentation of your planned gift.

## Online Lay Servant Class - Introduction to Lay Servant Ministry

*Who do you know that would like to explore lay ministry?*

This course is foundational for all courses in lay servant ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship. This course will be offered virtually to anyone in the West Ohio Conference on Zoom by the Capitol Area North and South Districts, over the following dates and times.

Friday, March 12: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
 Saturday, March 13: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
 Sunday, March 14: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
 Friday, March 19: 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
 Saturday, March 20: 9 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

### Registration information



## Monthly Ministry Development

In a world wrecked by big changes, many of us have discovered that consistency and companionship are two things we need most to keep moving forward. In 2021, All In Community is offering three monthly opportunities designed for mutual discipleship and encouraging engagement.

Each offering will harness the collective compassion, wisdom, and innovation from the group gathered online as we seek to bring hope and healing in the midst of harmful circumstances. Mark your calendar and plan to participate in the following monthly events:

**Every Second Saturday Series** – Topics include caring for victims, emerging ministry perspectives and practices, trauma-informed ministry and creating healing communities for reentry. 2nd Saturdays @ 10AM on Zoom. [Register here](#)

**Saturday Circles** – Join the restorative environment of a Listening Circle, where topics include the pandemic's impact, family incarceration, victimization and racial justice. 4th Saturdays @ 10-11:30AM on Zoom. [Register here](#)

**Ministry Mondays** – Learn about specific All In Community ministry pathways such as HOPE Letters ministry, AIC Grants & Community Engagement, and the 72-Hour Pack Pilot Project. 4th Mondays @ 7:00-8:30PM on Zoom. [Register here](#)

For more information, email [allincommunity@wocumc.org](mailto:allincommunity@wocumc.org).



To make up for the fun we missed last Summer, West Ohio camp directors have planned exciting programs for the upcoming camp season.

Ken Overholser, West Ohio Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries said, "We really missed having Summer camp last year. But, we look forward to making up for what we missed. We have great programs planned as we enjoy the outdoors."

Registration is now open for all summer camps. New health protocols as well as limits on capacities have been implemented to insure the safety of all attendees and camp directors.

## Disaster funds needed for Lawrence County



Last week's ice storm caused extensive damage in Lawrence County due to fallen trees, burst pipes, and downed power lines. Many homes are under a boil advisory, and some residents may be without power for weeks to come. In partnership with New Hope UMC in Proctorville and Chesapeake UMC, both located in Lawrence County, the West Ohio Conference is providing funds for bottled water, non-perishable food items, and heating fuel. Donations to the West Ohio Disaster Response Fund allow us to provide immediate relief to communities across West Ohio when disaster strikes. [Click here to make an online donation](#) or mail a check to West Ohio Disaster Response, 32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington, OH 43085.

## Prayer Concerns

Let us remember in prayer those grieving the loss of their loved one, and remember in thanksgiving the life and ministry of:

**Rev. Keun Sang Lee** who died Sunday, February 14, 2021. He was a retired pastor from the West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church currently serving at Athens Korean church. Please remember his wife, Sara and family in your prayers.

To read his obituary and leave condolences online [click here](#).

## FOOTHILLS DISTRICT UMC

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740-677-0136

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## West Ohio VIM Teams Plan Return to Mexico

Four West Ohio Volunteers in Mission teams plan to travel to Mexico in 2021 – in May, July, September and November. Last year, all but

January's team was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic, which contributed to a shortfall in funding for the Methodist ministries in Mexico. With a vaccine on the way, and better safeguards now in place on both sides of the border, the VIM team leaders feel it is time to return. Mission teams to Mexico are coordinated through Manos Juntas, the licensed healthcare ministry of the Methodist Church of Mexico.

Each short-term mission consists of two to three days of mission service along with travel and set up. Each team is comprised of medical professionals (doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, specialists, nurses and dietitians), translators, pastors, educators and people willing to share the love of Jesus. Some teams also include a construction project and/or visiting the children's home. For more information, or to register online, visit [www.westohioumc.org/mexicovim](http://www.westohioumc.org/mexicovim).



## HARRY DENMAN Evangelism Award



## Nominations for Denman Award Due March 15

The Harry Denman Evangelism Award, sponsored by The Foundation for Evangelism, honors United Methodists in each Annual Conference whose exceptional ministry of evangelism brings people into a life transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.

What distinguishes a Harry Denman Evangelism Award recipient is the commitment to consistently introduce others to the Good News of Jesus Christ in all ministry settings. Their ministry is exceptional for the number of new Christ followers who credit encounters with this person as critical in helping to start or reignite their faith journey. Awards are given to clergy, laity, and youth. Please submit nominations by March 15, 2021 to [Mariellyn Grace](mailto:Mariellyn Grace).

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Lunch 12:00-1:00 p.m.**

**E-Mails: Office - [foothillsdistrict@wocumc.org](mailto:foothillsdistrict@wocumc.org)**

**Dennis Miller, DS - [dmiller@wocumc.org](mailto:dmiller@wocumc.org)**

**Steve McGuire, ADS - [smcguire@wocumc.org](mailto:smcguire@wocumc.org)**

**Sherri Rogers, Office Admin. - [srogers@wocumc.org](mailto:srogers@wocumc.org)**

**Check us out on the Web:  
[www.foothillsdistrict.org](http://www.foothillsdistrict.org)**