



Oak Hills United Methodist Church
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June 2024 The Oak Notes

Pastor Article

Since June is Father's Day, I wanted to share an article by Nick Cady that I recently found on the impact that dad's play on the faith of their children. Most of the language in the first three paragraphs is his.

According to LifeWay Research Group, Father's Day is the holiday with the single lowest average church attendance of the year. It is lower than Labor Day, Memorial Day and even the Fourth of July. But Mother's day ranks as the third highest attended service of the year behind the major Christian celebrations of Easter and Christmas. On Mother's Day, it seems, mom's want to be present for the affirmation that is offered in most churches, and their families tend to be there knowing their attendance will honor their mother. But, on Father's day, when dad sets the agenda, church doesn't tend to even make the radar. It ends up being a day at the park, or grilling, or time down at the lake.

That's remarkable considering what we know about the impact that a dad can make on a child's faith. According to stats compiled by Promise Keepers and the Baptist Press, if a mom attends church, but the dad does not, only 1 child in 50 will actually attend church later in life. But if the dad attends (regardless of whether the mom does or not), two-thirds to three-fourths their kids will attend church later in life.

Another study found similar results: When both parents attend Bible study in addition to the Sunday morning service 72% of their kids tend to attend Sunday School later in life. When only the father attends, 55% will come, but when only the mother comes just 15% will follow suit. A third study said it this way: If the child is the first person in the home to come to Christ, there is a 3.5% chance that the rest will follow. If the mother is first, 17% will follow, but if the father is first 93% will come to Christ.

Here's the point: Dads have the single greatest impact

on their kids' faith in the home. There is no comparison. If we want to reach the life of a child for Jesus Christ it starts by impacting the father.

That gives us dads a great responsibility. It means we set the tone and example for what faith looks like in the home. It also means we must take every moment that we have to invest in faith. Over the last year or so, Ashlyn has been looking at colleges. I now know in just a year's time, she will be out of the home and on her own. It's only reinforced how little time we truly have to make a difference for Jesus.

So, I challenge you, don't waste a single moment. Take this Father's Day to invest in your faith. That one act may pay huge dividends not only in your own life, but in the life of your entire family later on as well. There is no greater investment you can make in your spouse. There is no greater investment you can make in your kids or in your grandkids than to introduce them to the life-saving message of Jesus Christ. So, make your worship of Jesus a priority this Father's Day and every Sunday to come. The rest can wait.

I conclude with these words from Deuteronomy 6:5-9: "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

Happy Father's Day,

Pastor Justin



General Conference 2024 Report



The much-anticipated and years-long delayed 2020 General Conference of the United Methodist Church met in Charlotte, North Carolina from Tuesday, April 23 through Friday May 3. The General Conference is the only body that has the authority to speak for the United Methodist Church as a whole. It is made up of 862 delegates from across the world. Delegates are comprised of equal numbers of clergy and lay delegates from each of the Annual (US) and Central (World) Conferences. West Ohio was represented by 7 clergy delegates (elected by the clergy of the West Ohio Conference in 2019) and 7 lay delegates (elected by the laity at the 2019 West Ohio Conference). A few holes that emerged from disaffiliating churches were filled by election at a Special Session of the West Ohio Conference in the Fall of 2023.

Here are some of the most important things that came out of this year's General Conference:

(1) Regionalization: Delegates voted in favor of an amendment to the UMC constitution. The proposed amendment gives the US and each central conference (known as regions) the freedom to adapt certain portions of the *Book of Discipline* to their context for missional effectiveness. Since this is a constitutional amendment, it requires ratification by a 2/3 majority vote of all Annual Conferences.

(2) LGBTQ+ Issues: The General Conference adopted a statement on human rights that includes: "Equal rights, liberties, and protections of all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity." This marks the first time language of gender identity has been included in such statements. In addition, they struck down the decades old ban on homosexuality, voting to allow for the ordination of gay clergy and not to penalize clergy or churches for either holding or refraining from holding same-sex weddings. This leaves it up to each individual church and pastor whether or not they'll conduct homosexual weddings. Moreover, nothing passed by General Conference compels any church to receive a homosexual pastor.

(3) Budget: Due to the impact of disaffiliation, the General Council of Finance and Administration proposed a 41% cut to the budget for the next quadrennium. That means, we will have less bishops in the US and some conferences, including our own, will be sharing bishops in the next quadrennium. However, the conference did

add 2 new bishops in Africa due to the rapid growth of the church there. In addition, General Conference reduced the percent of apportionments requested from local churches.

(4) Social Principles: The General Conference adopted a new and updated Social Principles (as they do at every General Conference). The Social Principles are not church law, but are "a prayerful and thoughtful effort" to speak into the issues of our modern world.

(5) Disaffiliation: The paragraph that allowed for churches to leave the denomination via disaffiliation was removed and a new paragraph was adopted to allow for churches who wish to return.

(6) Deacons: Legislation was passed that now allows for deacons to preside over the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion.

(7) Episcopal Church: The delegates voted overwhelmingly in favor of entering into full communion with the Episcopal Church. This means that we now can recognize episcopal priests to serve Holy Communion in the UMC. The next step is for the Episcopal Church to do the same for us at their next conference.

(8) Nominations: Delegates elected a slate of people to serve on general committees and boards.

More information and daily recaps can be found online at www.umnews.org & www.westohioumc.org.

Pastor Vacation



Pastor Justin will be on vacation from Monday June 17 to Sunday June 30 for rest and relaxation. Amit Dutta has agreed to preach for us on Sundays June 23 and June 30. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, you may contact Rev. Scott Meeker from Zion Community Methodist Church at 513-617-5952. You may also contact Scott should a pastoral emergency arise while Pastor Justin is at Annual Conference from May 29-June 1. For all other church related questions please contact the church office (513-574-1131), Lay Leader Bob Schloss (513-702-7118), or Board Chair Mary Flannery (513-378-7085).

Administrative Board Topics of Interest

(1) We continued our discussion around what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ by exploring Jesus' strategy for disciple-making and several characteristics of a disciple in the gospels. In June, we hope to compile this data into a working definition and picture of what we mean when we say the word disciple.

(2) The trustees are finalizing bids for painters for the Wilke Chapel youth after-school project. We have received a \$5000 Go Grant from the West Ohio Conference for this project. Remaining funds (after painting) will be used to get area rugs, furniture, and game equipment for the room. If you have old video game systems, gently used board games, ping-pong paddles/net/balls, a foosball table, a basketball hoop, or a pool table you would like to donate, please talk to Ali. Also, we would like to report that we have been advanced to the second round of consideration for a grant from United Methodist Discipleship Ministries for this project. The grant application is for \$15,000 for the 2025 calendar year. We plan to launch the youth after-school ministry with the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.

(3) Congrats to Avery Hearn on her graduation from Oak Hills High School and Holly Helton on the completion of her L.P.A. If you know of any other 2024 graduates, please let the church office know.

(4) Linda Wise is in need of additional counters to help her count the offering after church on Sundays. If you would be interested in helping, contact Pastor Justin. A background check must be completed.

(5) Mary Atkinson (with the help of David Glassmeyer) continues to make progress on catching up the profit and loss statements after her fall. We hope to have updated year to date numbers for you soon.

Announcements

5/29-6/1 – West Ohio Annual Conference

6/3 – Trustees, 6:30 p.m.

6/5 – UMW Luncheon, 12 pm

6/9 - Family Board Game Night, 6-9 pm

6/10 – Finance 6:30 pm; Board Meeting 7 pm

6/16 – Happy Father's Day

6/17-30 - Pastor Vacation

6/22 – Sports Card Show, 9 am - 3 pm

6/26 – Community Dinner, 6 pm

6/28 – Arts and Crafts, 7 pm

7/7-11 – Vacation Bible School – 6:30-8 pm

Bible Studies

Sunday School 9 am

Women's Group: Mon 10 am

Pastor's Study (Mark): Wed 2 pm

John's Study: Thursday, 10:30 am

TOGA: 1st and 3rd Thursday @ 5609
Green Acres Ct. Cincinnati, Ohio
45248

Worship – Sunday, 10:30 am

Sissy's Pantry – Wed 6:30-8:00 pm

Zoom Prayer – Thursday, 11 am



Online Giving

Do you know you can now give on our church website? Simply go to www.oakhillsumc.org and click give

in the bar at the top of the page or scan the QR code below and go directly to our online



OHUMC Family Ministries



VBS: This year's Vacation Bible School will be held from Sunday, July 7 to Thursday, July 11 from 6:30-8 p.m. Each night will include a time of worship, a Bible story, crafts, and games. Our theme is "On the Case," a detective theme exploring the parables of Jesus Christ. Lessons include spending time with God is how we grow (Parable of the Sower), using our gifts is how we serve (Parable of the Talents), spending time with others is how we care (Parable of the Good Samaritan), and sharing our story is how we love (Parables of the Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, and Lost Sons). We are currently in need of volunteers to serve as crew leaders and to help with decorations beforehand. If you can help in any way

Youth Room/After School Program: We are working toward launching an after-school ministry when school starts back up in the fall. We are looking for donations of old but working video-game systems/games, gently used board games that teens will enjoy, ping-pong paddles/net/balls, and a foosball or pool table. Over the next few months we will be painting and updating Wilke chapel in preparation for this ministry. We have received a Go Grant of \$5000 for this project.

Back to School Bash: The Back to School Bash will be held on Saturday, August 3 from 1-3 p.m. Each ministry in the church is asked to run a game and to pick a school supply to distribute. A follow-up discussion will be held on Sunday, May 19 after church. All teams should have a representative present.

The Youth group recently took a trip to Western Bowl for a fun afternoon of bowling.

In July we will be going to the Zoo.

We are planning big things with the youth group with a goal of starting an after school program in autumn. The new Youth room has been painted a beautiful shade of blue thanks to Danielle Rickert Painting. We're currently looking for:

- *Used Game consoles and games
- *Rugs
- *Bookshelves
- *Board and Card Games
- *Pool Table (to purchase at a discount rate)

Please reach out to Ali at church or via email at Godsnation1935@icloud.com. If you can donate these items or know someone that can.

Thank You,

Ali

