



MAY CIRCUIT

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Kenaston Serves WV Conference through General Conference Commission

By Whitney Cherry

General Conference is set to take place in Portland, OR, May 10-20, 2016, with the disciple-making theme of "Therefore, Go..." General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church which meets once every four years. The conference can revise church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs. The purpose of General Conference is to gather delegates, as representatives of the church, for worship, prayer, and fellowship in a spirit of Christian Conferencing.

Judi Kenaston, who serves as the West Virginia Annual Conference Secretary also serves in a tremendous way as Chair of the Commission on General Conference, and has spent the last eight years working diligently toward the outcome of the 2016 General Conference.

"It's been a tremendous privilege to serve as chair of the Commission on the General Conference. I originally was elected to the Commission at General Conference 2008. Last quadrennium, I served as the chair of the Rules Committee, which was a tremendous learning experience. It was the first time the Rules were part of the Commission rather than an independent committee. In 2012, I was elected to chair the entire Commission."

"On the threshold of another General Conference, the world and the church have changed significantly," Kenaston said. "I love the process. I love the way the church works. I like reading the legislation. I really get excited by the workings of the church and seeing our connection work together in the global church."

According to the Report of the Commission on the General Conference, the Commission is tasked with the design and plan for the 2016 General Conference.

Kenaston said, "It's really exciting to have this opportunity - and to represent the West Virginia Conference in the wider church."







~ We Remember ~

Mary Jane Bayer, widow of Rev. D. Edward Bayer, died Sunday, March 27.

T. Sterling Evans, (R-Diaconal), died Tuesday, April 5.

The Monthly Circuit

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CALENDAR

Conference Event Highlights - The role of the Conference Calendar is to share the events and business of conference level agencies and ministries.

May

5 The Right Start Training Event
10 - 20 General Conference

June

4 - 5 We Care 150: Native American
Ministries Bike Ride
9 - 12 Annual Conference

July

11 - 15 United Methodist
Jurisdictional Conference

September

16 - 17 Bishop's Summit on
Diversity and Inclusion

View the conference calendar online at
wvumc.org/events



Conference Camps

By Rev. Shea James

Camping season is just around the corner! The West Virginia Annual Conference wants to be sure you are aware of all of the camping opportunities available to our children and youth this summer.

We are blessed to have two district

camps and one conference camp. Our district camps, as well as our conference camp, welcome campers from across the conference and beyond. So invite family, friends, and loved ones from near and far to join your kids or grandkids at camp this summer!

These facilities are available throughout the year for all church events, retreats, family reunions, and more!

Asbury Woods- Western District- Salt Rock, WV

Mission Statement: Asbury Woods is a spiritual sanctuary of natural beauty where people can experience Christian community, God's love, healing, renewal and empowerment for mission and ministry in the world.

Asbury Woods is a beautiful camp located just outside of Huntington in Salt Rock, WV and is the Western District's camp. They will offer four weeks of camp this summer. This camp is excited to share the love of Christ as well as their recently renovated lodge with campers! While at Asbury Woods campers will enjoy campfire time while making s'mores and singing songs, crafts, swimming in the pool, worship, and fun games!

- **Day Camp, June 26-30.**
- **Elementary Camp, June 26-31.**
- **High School Camp, July 3-8.**
- **Jr. High Camp, July 10-15.**

For information about reserving the camp or summer camp, please contact the camp managers at asburywoods@zoominternet.net or **304-948-1020**. You can find Asbury Wood's facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Asbury-Woods-121120761274193/?fref=nf>.

Crossroads- Little Kanawha District- Parkersburg, WV

Mission Statement: The mission of Crossroads United Methodist Camp is to provide a positive Christian environment where people of all ages are encouraged, equipped, and commissioned on their journey of Christ-like holiness. The camp is a natural setting where people experience knowledge in their belonging with God, get filled by God, and leave prepared to serve God. Crossroads is a rustic camp with a rich spiritual heritage. The camp is located in the Little Kanawha District outside of Parkersburg, WV. They will be offering two weeks of camp this summer for older children and youth. Crossroads camp is excited to help children and youth grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who are prepared to serve their communities and the world. Campers at Crossroads enjoy water games, crafts, worship, and campfire time!

- **Older Elementary. Grade completed 2-5. July 17-20.**
- **Middle school/high school camp. Grades completed 6-12. July 10-15.**

For more information about reserving the camp or summer camp, please contact the site Manager Daryl Tucker at **304-464-4230**. Website with camp application: <http://lkdumc.org/crossroads-camp/> You can find Crossroads' Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/CrossroadsUnitedMethodistChurchCamp/info/?tab=page_info.

Spring Heights- WV Conference Camp- Spencer, WV

Mission: Our mission is to provide settings in which the development of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ can take place through people, program, community and environment to the end that all persons may grow in their understanding of God.

Spring Heights is a beautiful 950 acre camp nestled in the mountains just north of Spencer in Roane County, WV. Spring Heights is excited to develop Christian leaders and help campers encounter God by exploring creation every day. While at Spring Heights campers can ride horses, canoe, walk a prayer labyrinth, gather at the campfire, worship, do Bible Exploration, go swimming, climb high or low ropes, create crafts, hike, watch wildlife, mountain biking, sports, and games.

Spring Heights offers camping opportunities for children and youth ages 5-18 years old. This summer there are 7 and a half weeks of camp running June 12 - August 2. Camping options include: Day Camp, Classic Camp, Special Ops, Mini Classic, Girl Power (girls only!), Wise Guys (boys only!), Adventure Bound, Water Warriors, Hold your Horses, Wranglers, Jockeys, Night Owls, Camp Outrageous, Leaders in Training, Crafty Critters. There is something for everyone at Spring Heights!

For more information about these camp opportunities visit the website: <http://www.springheights.org/> or call **304-927-5865**. You can find Spring Height's facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/SpringHeightsFB/?ref=ts>.





Five Great Reasons to Have a Will

Do you have a Last Will and Testament? While a surprising number of people find ways to procrastinate concerning this important step in estate planning, there are compelling reasons to get this task completed. If you do not have a will, many of the decisions regarding your estate will be made by the government instead of by you.

1. A will gives you the ability to choose who will care for your dependents. If you have minor children, it is important to designate in your will who you would nominate to replace you in this important role. Without a will, the state will appoint a guardian, and it may not be who you would have chosen.
2. In a will, you have the power to select who will be trusted to complete your affairs after your death. The personal representative of your estate will have the responsibility for winding down all of your affairs, appraising your estate, and making distributions to your heirs. If you do not have a will, any person interested in your estate could become the personal representative. It may not be the person you would have selected, and it may not be someone who has your interests or those of your heirs in mind.
3. The will is the means by which you can designate how your possessions will be distributed. No matter what size your estate is, you need to have a will so that your wishes are followed. Please do not assume that your loved ones will receive the benefit of your estate in the manner you intend unless you have a will.
4. A will is a way to leave a legacy. It serves as a testimony to your beliefs. You can include a Christian Preamble that gives voice to your faith, and then provide bequests to benefit your church and other charities so that your actions illustrate your faith. Without a will, the probate court will make no provision for gifts to the charities and church that are close to your heart.
5. A will is a gift of reassurance to those who are left behind. Without a will, you may place unnecessary burdens on those who will care for your estate. A will can lower estate settlement costs, reduce estate taxes and streamline probate. It can also help to reduce dissension among potential heirs, since your wishes will be clearly stated. Most of all, it will provide the assurance to your loved ones that they are carrying out your wishes.



How can the Foundation help? Call us to request bequest language to be used in your will and information concerning the Christian Preamble. We would be glad to meet with you to consider the possibilities of how to include a Trust in your will to benefit the church or charity of your choice.

Consider the possibilities.

**The United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc.
1-800-788-3746 ext. 45**

MAY CIRCUIT



You're cordially invited to become a Kingdom Builder. The Congregational Development Team of the West Virginia Annual Conference would like to invite you to partner with us as we dream big dreams for new faith communities in West Virginia and Garrett County, MD.

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Kingdom
BUILDERS



We believe that there is great potential for the church in our conference to reach new people in new ways. Less than 20% of the population claims a relationship with any particular church presently. Clearly there is a need to create something new – to deliver the ancient gospel message in new ways to a new generation.

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Kingdom Builders have a vision for finding these new pathways and exploring new options. Kingdom

Builders are invested in the creation of this new way, through prayer, effort and financial investment. Cash flow is limited in any newly developing faith community and pioneers who can offer their gifts for this work can make a huge difference.

We've partnered with the United Methodist Foundation of WV, Inc. in order to make online and regular giving to the Kingdom Builders a possibility. In the short term, this will result in funds more readily available for new and emerging ministries. In the long term, our vision is of a fully endowed movement that allows us to become more nimble in responding as the Spirit prompts.

You can partner with us in several ways:

- Stop by the Congregational Development table at the Ministry Fair at Annual Conference. We'd love to talk more to you about the vision for Kingdom Builders.
- Add the work of church planters and kingdom builders as part of your daily prayer life. Pray that the Spirit will create openings in lives and send leaders to the mission field to help new faith communities be born.
- Contact a member of the Congregational Development Team to find out more about our work. Please contact Amy Shanholtzer is the Director of Evangelism and Congregational Development (ashanholtzer@wvumc.org or **304.476.2279**) or Les Fish is the Chair of the Congregational Development Team (fishcoal@cwv.net or **304.574.1651**).
- Contact the United Methodist Foundation of WV at umfwv.org to make an online donation or by sending a contribution to United Methodist Foundation of WV, **PO Box 3811, Charleston, WV 25338**.



From Communications

Top 10 church faux pas that turn off millennials

By Jeremy Steele, UMCOM

The reality in the church world is that many pastors are in a different generation than the millennials they are trying to reach. That can sometimes create tension between generations. Here is a quick list of faux pas compiled using current research and conversations with millennials across the U.S. to help you steer clear of the big ones.

1. Politics

Millennials are much more politically independent than previous generations, making them more sensitive to political statements from the pulpit. Whether conservative or liberal, millennials would rather hear pastors speak about spiritual issues. When pastors break into the political side of things, millennials may disengage, often feeling that pastors are using their captive audience to further their own political perspective.

2. Lack of deep, spiritual content

Like other generations, millennials come to church to be spiritually fed. For them, that means real content. They want to walk away from a worship/sermon experience feeling that they were exposed to new information or a new perspective and challenged to be a different person.

3. Lack of relatable content

The flip side of the deep content they crave is their desire for it to relate to their lives and current cultural trends. Don't get me wrong. They might love learning about first-century eating practices and how those explain a biblical passage. However, if it never makes it beyond the pages of the Bible into their world, the sermon has fallen flat. They appreciate not only understanding the biblical narrative but also how it applies in the current world.

4. Overly negative view of millennials

Often in pop culture, millennials hear their generation referenced as a negative example — whether overtly or subtly. Millennials are very optimistic about their generation, so it is important to be careful in how you frame discussions about generations.

5. Overly negative about the world in general

Millennials are not only optimistic about themselves; they also are optimistic about the world in general. They are turned off by people who talk about how wrong, broken or ruined the world is. They see problems in the world as things that can be changed or fixed. Sermons that paint an overly negative view of the world can create the impression that the pastor does not have confidence in their generation to make a positive change in the world.

6. Not being welcoming

This generation is much more welcoming of all kinds of expressions of sexuality. What bothers them more than the way people choose to live their lives sexually is when the church either directly or indirectly excludes anyone.



7. Hating on social media

Millennials have grown up saturated with social media. For them, Snapchat and Facebook are not cool new gadgets but the normal way people communicate and engage with each other. Social media is a central part of their communication and expression of connection with other people. It does not occupy some digital second place to other types of interactions; it is very much the “real” world for them. If they hear social media being discredited, they hear a person who does not understand their culture and does not care to learn to speak in their native language.

8. Lack of sacredness

Millennials are looking for just about the opposite of what we termed “seeker-sensitive” in the ‘80s. They are not offended by religious symbols. They are not completely turned off by liturgy. Rather, they want to feel as if they have come in contact with something divine. However, they are often not liturgical natives and appreciate guidance during worship. Adding simple explanations like “We are about to prepare for communion by using words that have been used by Christians for hundreds of years all over the world” can help them capture the ancient connection as well as understand why you are doing what you are doing.

9. Being someone you’re not

If you like to use paper instead of an iPad and watch old movies on TCM, own it. Don’t try to be someone you’re not. Millennials have a sort of authenticity radar. When someone is misusing current jargon and cramming their sermon with movie clips that don’t exactly work, millennials can tell and they are not impressed.

10. Lack of passion

If you aren’t excited about what you are saying, they won’t be either. You don’t have to jump up and down, but being genuinely excited about what you are trying to convey is essential in communicating with millennials. Focus on emotions and study the art of storytelling or you’ll lose their attention quickly. If you don’t come across as truly passionate about what you’re saying, millennials will likely tune out.



“Each year our bishop selects a ministry to receive money raised in the Bishop’s Bike Ride, from her office in Charleston to Buckhannon, the site of Annual Conference. This year Bishop Sandra has chosen Native American Ministries, coinciding with our conference-wide Acts of Repentance and Reconciliation with Native and Indigenous People. Our denomination’s commitment to Native American Ministries empower Native churches, pastors and seminarians to serve all people.”

We Care 150: Native American Ministries is a 50-100-150 cycling adventure over one or two days along backroads from Charleston to Buckhannon, June 4-5. Consider riding or sponsoring a rider.

Please contact J. F. Lacaria (jf.lacaria@gmail.com) to ride or find a rider. **Go to www.wvumc.org/events to register.**



Photo by Whitney Cherry



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