



CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

The West Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church

Issue #1 • Thursday, June 8, 2023

Welcome To The
**2023 West Virginia
Annual Conference**



Proclaim peace,
bring Good News!
Isaiah 52:7

Annual Conference Welcomes Bishop Moore-Koikoi



Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi will preach at this afternoon's Opening Worship with Communion. Moore-Koikoi was elected as a bishop of The United Methodist Church in 2016 and began her assignment to lead United Methodists in Western Pennsylvania that same year.

Five years later, she and West Virginia Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball joined forces to take on episcopal oversight of the Susquehanna Conference in addition to their respective Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia conferences.

She was a friend to West Virginia long before she and Steiner Ball began their work together. In fact, she was born in Shepherdstown.

"Her vision is of a diverse church that embraces justice and the life-saving love of Christ," the Western Pennsylvania Conference website states. "As a bishop, she's committed to work for that. It won't be easy, she said, 'but I remind myself, God has got this. God is in control.'"

Read the full article about Bishop Moore-Koikoi at www.wvumc.org/2023-ac/

Conference Welcomes Choir's Return And Guest Director

The 2023 Annual Conference will welcome back its greatly missed Conference Choir during Opening Worship Thursday, beginning at 1 p.m.

"I have greatly missed singing in a large choir from all over the Conference, lifting up God's praises in song as a group," said the Rev. Karen Tate, pastor of Vincent Memorial and Broad Oaks UM churches in Nutter Fort, W.Va. "For me, it is a foretaste of heaven's music."

Leading the choir this year and serving as organist will be Dan Stokes, who met his choir members for the first time during their Wednesday evening rehearsal. He said he is excited to work with the volunteers from around the Conference.

A career-long church musician, Stokes, the son of a minister, has served churches in Nashville, Tenn., and Louisville, Ky.

Read the full article about at www.wvumc.org/2023-ac/



Conference Choir Director Dan Stokes prepares for Wednesday evening's choir rehearsal.

What's Happening Today

- 12:45 Choir reports to Wesley Chapel
- 1:00 Opening Worship with Communion, Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Wesley Chapel
- 3:00 Clergy Session, Performing Arts Center
- 3:00 Laity Session, Dining Hall
- 5:00 Dinner
- 5:00-6:00 Annual Conference Check In
- 5:00-7:00 Housing Check In
- 7:00 Plenary Session, Wesley Chapel



Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to read about all that is happening at our 2023 WV Annual Conference

2023 WV Annual Conference : By The Numbers...

- 837** Registered
- 114** Newcomers
- 32** Choir Members
- 9** Youth Members (Ages 12-17)
- One** WVUMC Annual Conference 2023!

Restoration of the steeple of Wesley Chapel was finalized last week!



Resolution On Health Insurance Funding Transition Explained

If approved, the Resolution on Health Insurance Funding Transition will assign insurance costs for clergy who serve full-time charges.

The changes will be introduced over a three-year period. Ultimately, average local church apportionment requirements will be around 26 percent less than previous years. All charges and churches who employ a full-time pastor will be billed annually for the insurance. Future health care payments will be assigned to charges with clergy who are eligible to participate in the program.

What will be the impact to my church or charge if the resolution passes?

Read the full article at www.wvumc.org/2023-ac/



Pastor Jay Parkins explains the elements used in a traditional smudging ceremony, which took place Wednesday afternoon. The ceremony and its prayers are used annually in preparation for our holy conferencing. Committee on Native American Ministries Chair Dr. Elle High is scheduled to lead a Native American Greeting and Land Acknowledgement before Opening Worship in Wesley Chapel. Read the full article at www.wvumc.org/2023-ac/

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

All funds collected during conference worship services and received online through June 30 will be totaled and distributed evenly to three ministries.

Those ministries are the Africa University Tractor Fund, Dig Deep Appalachia Water Project, and the Reparations Fund of the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia.

More than 1,200 students from 36 African countries attend Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Your gift will go toward purchasing tractors for this 30-year-old United Methodist institution and the future of Africa.

Nearly 400 families in West Virginia's southern coalfields live without access to clean drinking water. Your support will strengthen the partnership

established through the 2022 AC Water Resolution between The West Virginia United Methodist Church and Dig Deep's Appalachian Water Project.

In May 2022, an anonymous donor established The Reparations Fund of the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia. Read the full article www.wvumc.org/2023-ac/

AFRICA UNIVERSITY TRACTOR FUND

Your generous support will provide much-needed equipment to assist the education of future farmers and leaders attending Africa University!



AFRICA UNIVERSITY. CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF MINISTRY!



Held in trust by the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, proceeds from the West Virginia Reparations Fund will be used for projects relating to reparations to the African American community.

CLEAN WATER FOR SOUTHERN COALFIELDS

The decline of community populations in southern West Virginia have left many families without access to clean water and adequate wastewater treatment.

Your generous support will enable us to partner with Dig Deep, UMCOR and others to bring clean water to people living in our southern most counties.

Scan the QR Code to give to the 2023 Annual Conference Offering Fund

