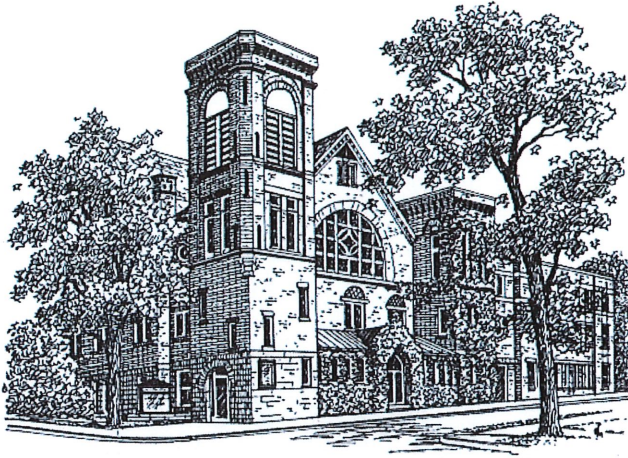


GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
100 CENTRAL AVENUE  
OIL CITY, PA 16301  
(Address Service Requested)

8/22

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Oil City, PA 16301



# GRACE NOTES

August 2022

## Grace United Methodist Church

100 Central Avenue, Oil City, PA 16301

**Pastor Ron Geisler**

**Phone:** 677-3013 (office) 677-3345 (parsonage)

**Church Office Hours:** M-Thurs 9AM – 2:00PM

**E-Mail:** [church@graceoilcity.org](mailto:church@graceoilcity.org)

**Website:** [www.graceoilcity.org](http://www.graceoilcity.org)

**Facebook:** Grace United Methodist Church in Oil City

**TV Broadcast:** Ch 22 Sunday Live 10:00AM,

Rebroadcast 8:30 AM & 8:00PM

**Worship Service Online:** <http://www.graceoilcity.org>

### **SUMMER SCHEDULE**

**Sunday School:** will reconvene in the Fall, Sunday September 11, 2022

**Weekly Sunday Worship Service:** 10:00AM

# Church News

# August 2022

## BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES



OFFICE HOURS  
Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Closed for lunch noon - 1:00 PM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Joel Erion Paul Mills Brian/Deborah Butchart Mark/Shin Patterson	Ashlyn Shuffstall Shelly Thomas	Chaval Russell Sandi Young	Mike Huey Kelsey Ziegler Ian/Erica Sterling	Jennifer Buchholz Chelsey O'Neil Wayne/Jane Britton	Vic Bowser
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Beth Simpson	Dave Henderson Jeremy Hoyle Doug/Mike Webber	Roberta Beightol Doug Eberle Jadie Taft Scott/Marcy Ridgeway	Jim Hepler Nancy Mansfield Brandon/Jennifer Davis Dave/Rhonda Morris	Brian Butchart Nancy Hoyle Bonnie Strain	Sue Downing Greg Hoffman Sue Kirkpatrick Eldean Zimmerman Jim/Carrie Hepler	Danielle Eberle Paula Pikna Ben Webber Dan/Lisa Littler
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Benjamin Stoltz	Gayle Smith	Pete Berry Keller Harry Antonio/Stacielynn Leombruno	Carol Boyle Laura Erion Amber Guyton-Baran Loren McCarthy Jack Weiser Mark/Heather Motter	Cindy Fultz	Ron Geisler Wil Heffernan Ray/Cindy Cornelius	Bonnie Bish Missy Lloyd Paul Siler Alex Womer
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Rina Anderson Eugene Flockerzi	Luke Carothers Randy/Tina Boyd	Vicki McDonald	Chris Gegogaine Dale/Debra Bennett Jack/Karen Warner	Gail O'Neil Doug Webber Bryan Ziegler
28	29	30	31			
Bailey/Danielle Cyphert Brian/Sarah McDonald	Jeff Heeter Jeff Whaley					



# Message

FROM OUR PASTOR

One of my favorite authors and Christian leaders from the past is A.W. Tozer. I recommend all of his work to you. I'd like to share a quote or two from his book simply entitled, *Worship*, and then offer some thoughts. I'm referencing the edition published by the Moody Bible Institute in 2017.

*"God has never actually needed any of us – not one."*

*"...we should not be concerned about working for God until we have learned the meaning and delight of worshiping Him."*

*"God is trying to call us back to that for which he created us – to worship Him and enjoy him forever!?"*

*"We are saved to worship God."*

*"[God] intended to make worshipers out of rebels; He intended to restore to men and women the place of worship which our first parents knew when they were created."*

*"True worship must be a constant and consistent attitude or state of mind within the believer."*

*"But the living God, in the space of a short second of time, can reveal himself to the willing spirit of a man."*

*"Worship must always come from an inward attitude. It embodies a number of factors, including the mental, spiritual and emotional. You may not at times worship with the same degree of wonder and love that you do at other times, but the attitude and the state of mind are consistent if you are worshiping the Lord."*

*"God asks us to seek his face in repentance and love, and we then find all of his gracious fullness awaiting. In God's grace, that is a promise for the whole wide world...What we need among us is a genuine visitation of the Spirit. We need a sudden bestowment of the spirit of worship among God's people."*

Church, worship is your response to God's amazing grace of salvation. When you worship you express love to God for what he has done in your life through Jesus Christ. This sort of worship is continual, happening in each and every moment of life. This sort of worship happens in your home, at work, watching a baseball game. It is 24/7. Tozer offers one more thought on this. "If



*you cannot worship the Lord in the midst of your responsibilities on Monday, it is not very likely that you were worshipping on Sunday!"*

Daily worship spills over into Sunday when all of God's family gathers to worship him. Individual worship looks forward to corporate worship. Corporate worship fuels individual worship! That's why the author of Hebrews reminds us to "not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

So, here in the depth of summer, I encourage you to the regular practice of daily worship and corporate worship. Be attentive to God moment by moment and then come together with your church family on Sunday to praise him together! See you at church this week.

Pastor Ron

## SUMMER SERMON SERIES

**Continuing into August**



Church, have you ever wondered why we do what we do? Why do we receive communion each month? Why do we worship in different ways? Why do we give? Serve? Invite? Love? Believe it or not, there's a reason for our methods. This summer, Pastor Ron will be teaching us what the Bible says about these subjects (and even a few more). We'll understand why we do what we do and what all of this means for Jesus.

Join us in worship during August @ 10am.



# PARISH REGISTER August 2022



The following members of Grace Church have been hospitalized since the previous edition of Grace Notes: Rodney Campbell Sr.

**Please keep these members in prayer:** The family of James R. Teifer who passed away on July 14<sup>th</sup>. He was a member of Grace Church since 5/29/77 and his parents were Bob and Shirley Teifer (both deceased). Rodney Campbell Sr. has been transferred to Oil City Healthcare & Rehab, 1293 Grandview Road, OC if you would like to send him a card.

"We would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. Especially the "Kitchen Crew" for the memorial dinner. It was greatly appreciated."

*Judy Guyton and family*

## Our August Servants

**Worship Leaders - TBD**

### Counting Team

Frank & Cindy Fultz, Arnie Jones, Jim & Loraine Puleo, Jim & Nancy Whaley

### Ushering Team

Captain – Lynne Delaney, Rina Anderson, Cyndee Clayton, Kim French, June Reisinger

### TV Ministry

#### Director/Graphics/Audio/PowerPoint

Aug 7 – Bill Lamberton/Rodney Campbell/ Tom Eberle/Charlie Motter

Aug 14 – Ian Scheer/John McCullough/Jim Whaley/Leeann McCullough

Aug 21 – Brad Arnink/Rodney Campbell/Jon Sterling/Wesley Scheer

Aug 28 – Ian Scheer/John McCullough/Ian Sterling/Brea Fennick

### Greeters

Captain – June Reisinger

Aug 7 – Jim & Loraine Puleo, June Reisinger, Amy Ziegler

Aug 14 – June Reisinger, Linda Stine, Brenda Chapin

Aug 21 – Jim & Loraine Puleo, June Reisinger, Amy Ziegler

Aug 28 – June Reisinger, Leeann McCullough, Brenda Chapin

### Children's Chapel

Will resume in the fall

### Coffee Bar

Will resume in the fall

Record of our Faithfulness	2021	2022
	June	June
Avg Sunday School Attendance	Summer schedule	Summer schedule
Average Worship Attendance	87	73
Ministry/Operations Offering received	\$13,190	\$10,394
Ministry/Operations Expenses paid	\$15,036	\$15,499
Mission Offering received	\$4,644	\$4,248
Mission Expenses paid	\$1,742	\$11,141

Thank you for your generosity!

Your routine giving supports the ministry of Grace Church.

We encourage your online giving on our website: [graceoilcity.org/giving](http://graceoilcity.org/giving)

## LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE?

How about:

**Greeter**

**Usher**

**Worship Leader**

**Care Team**

**Praise Team**

*Contact the Church Office and let us know!*



# GRACE CHURCH CONTACTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Will resume on 9/4/2022

## WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00 AM

### Contact Us

Email:

[church@graceoilcity.org](mailto:church@graceoilcity.org)

Eva Palmer:

[secretary@graceoilcity.org](mailto:secretary@graceoilcity.org)

Leeann McCullough:

[financialsec@graceoilcity.org](mailto:financialsec@graceoilcity.org)

Allen Frederick:

[dir.worship@graceoilcity.org](mailto:dir.worship@graceoilcity.org)

Pastor Ron Geisler:

[rgeisler@graceoilcity.org](mailto:rgeisler@graceoilcity.org)

### Phone:

814-677-3013

814-677-3345 Parsonage

Website: [www.graceoilcity.org](http://www.graceoilcity.org)



Grace United Methodist Church in Oil City

### Church Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9-2:00

Closed noon-1:00

### Local Public Access TV: Channel 22 -

-Previous week service broadcast at 8:30AM

-Current week service at 10:00AM

-Service rebroadcast at 8:30PM each Sunday

### Web Broadcast:

[www.graceoilcity.org](http://www.graceoilcity.org) – or –  
[streammedia.tv](http://streammedia.tv)

-Sundays at 10:00AM

-Replay Sundays at 8PM

All weekly services are  
available online at:

<https://www.graceoilcity.org/worship-service-recordings.html>

## On the Church Calendar:

Continue to check the weekly bulletins, our website and Facebook pages for calendar updates. Meetings are always being added throughout the month.

**Aug 1** – Trustee Meeting, 7pm

**Aug 2** – Community Block Party, 6-8pm (setup @4)

**Aug 4** – Nominations/Leadership Dev., 11am

**Aug 9** – Super Senior Picnic, Moody Run Park, noon  
(see details on Ministries page)

**Aug 21** – Bell Choir Rehearsal, after worship 11am

**Aug 22** – Grace Notes Articles Deadline

**Aug 28** – Bell Choir Rehearsal, after worship, 11am

**Aug 29** – Grace Notes Mailing Day

*New  
AND Exciting*

## BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL starting in August

If you have always wanted to join the  
bell choir, now is the time!!

First rehearsal will be  
August 21<sup>st</sup> after worship



And now these three remain:  
faith, hope and love.  
But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13



## GRACE CHURCH AUGUST SOAP READINGS

Using the SOAP method of Bible reading can keep us on the disciple's pathway. You're invited and encouraged to use the following Bible passages each day of the month. Here's a quick reminder of SOAP.

**S** – Scripture. Use the ones listed on the calendar

**O** – Observation. What is God speaking through these verses? What do these verses mean?

What do you observe in your reading? Jot these observations in a journal or notebook.

**A** – Application. How does what you read apply to your life, right now? What is God saying to you? What principles can you apply to your life today?

**P** - Prayer. Close the time in prayerful conversation with God. Thank him for what you learned and for how this applies to you right now.

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During August, we will read through the letters of Ephesians and Philemon. Along with Philippians and Colossians, these letters are called the "prison epistles" and were written by Paul while he was imprisoned in Rome. All of these letters teach us who we are in Christ and how to walk in relationship with him. We begin with the account of the Ephesian church's story in Acts 19.

August 1	Acts 19:1-7	August 16	Ephesians 4:7-10
August 2	Acts 19:8-12	August 17	Ephesians 4:11-13
August 3	Acts 19:13-16	August 18	Ephesians 4:14-16
August 4	Acts 19:17-22	August 19	Ephesians 4:17-19
August 5	Acts 19:23-31	August 20	Ephesians 4:20-24
August 6	Acts 19:32-41	August 21	Ephesians 4:25-28
August 7	Ephesians 1:1-10	August 22	Ephesians 4:29-32
August 8	Ephesians 1:11-14	August 23	Ephesians 5:1-3
August 9	Ephesians 1:15-23	August 24	Ephesians 5:4-7
August 10	Ephesians 2:1-10	August 25	Ephesians 5:8-14
August 11	Ephesians 2:11-18	August 26	Ephesians 5:15-20
August 12	Ephesians 2:19-3:1	August 27	Ephesians 5:21-30
August 13	Ephesians 3:2-13	August 28	Ephesians 5:31-6:9
August 14	Ephesians 3:14-21	August 29	Ephesians 6:10-17
August 15	Ephesians 4:1-6	August 30	Ephesians 6:18-24
		August 31	Philemon





# DAILY S.O.A.P. JOURNAL

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**S** – Scripture. Use the ones listed on the calendar/your study plan

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**O** – Observation. What is God speaking through these verses? What do these verses mean? What do you observe in your reading? Jot down these observations.

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**A** – Application. How does what you read apply to your life, right now? What is God saying to you? What principles can you apply to your life today?

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**P** - Prayer. Close the time in prayerful conversation with God. Thank him for what you learned and for how this applies to you right now.

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# GRACE CHURCH MINISTRIES

## Missions



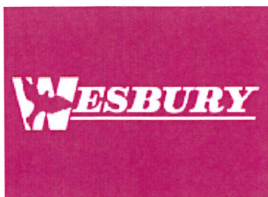
### The Vincik's

Just a quick update on the Vincik family serving as missionaries in the Dominican Republic. Jake Vincik has years of experience in the construction field and Hope for Hispaniola. (HFH) has given him the assignment of building a Christian complex in the Dominican. The complex includes a medical center as well as a housing complex which will serve as a base of operation to house mission groups that come to

this poor country to serve and evangelize the Dominican and Haitian people. Jake informed us that the complex construction has progressed to the point where he can move his family to the center from their rented house. They recently installed a reliable electric service (reliable as defined by the Dominicans) to the complex, an answer to the prayers of many involved with the HFH staff. This will make the work much easier and convenient for Jake, his wife Faye, and their two boys, and be a mission savings. Working with portable generators is tough. God is good!

Last month Pastor Ron was encouraging us to spend our daily study time in the book of Philippians. This short book is one that we tend to ignore, so reading it was enlightening. In this book Paul is writing to the Philippians in a mostly positive tone. He thanks them for sending him helpers and for their generous financial support. He describes how encouraging they had been to him personally. This is the model of how we need to be connected to the missionaries and mission efforts we support. The Vincik family in the Dominican Republic is a good example of putting this teaching into practice. Jake is a solid Christian. He can teach you volumes on how to lead others to Christ. The entire family has made a step of faith to accept this mission and God has done some amazing things through their efforts. Please consider sending them a note of encouragement to let them know you appreciate their sacrifice at ([jake\\_vincik.yahoo.com@send.mailchimpapp.com](mailto:jake_vincik.yahoo.com@send.mailchimpapp.com)) or mailing address PO Box 92, Zelienople, Pa. 16063.

If you feel led to step out and experience a short-term Christian mission trip, Hope for Hispaniola is a great mission group to work with. Believe it or not, **this is the time of the year to begin planning for a winter 2023 trip.** It will be an adventure you will never forget.



### Wesbury United Methodist Community

Thought this would be a good time to remind you that Grace Church supports the Wesbury United Methodist Community senior living complex in Meadville. They publish a quarterly newsletter that you can view on their website at [www.wesbury.com](http://www.wesbury.com). Their next event is a

fundraiser called "Auxiliary Days" which is basically a yard sale held at the picnic shelter located at 31 North Park Street in Meadville. It features something called "Granny's Attic" with all kinds of treasures. They are also planning a travel trip to West Virginia on September 13-16. Could be a super senior adventure!

These are a couple of examples where you can support the community in an active way. Wesbury continues to be a valuable asset to us Methodists in Western Pennsylvania.



# GRACE CHURCH MINISTRIES

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP

## WHY DO WE SING IN WORSHIP?



*"Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 29:2)*

*"Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand" (Psalm 95:6-7)*

Throughout Scripture we are commanded not just to worship, but specifically to sing. There are more than 400 verses in the Bible that reference singing, nearly 50 of them being direct commands.

**Psalm 103**, David cries out,

***"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."***

We worship God in response to what we understand about Him. We worship Him because we are compelled to worship Him, once we realize what He has done for us.

We worship Him because the presence of His Spirit draws us into fellowship with Him and when we are with Him, we worship Him.

WE LIKE THE FAMILIAR SO WHY ARE WE COMMANDED TO SING A NEW SONG?

Three Psalms start with precisely these words — **Psalms 96, 98, and 149** — ***"sing to the Lord a new song."***

**Isaiah 42:10** ("**sing to the Lord a new song**")

**Psalm 33:3** ("**sing to him a new song**").

**Psalm 144:9** "**I will sing a new song to you, O God.**"

The Lord's mercies are NEW every morning. Shouldn't our life and praise reflect the NEWNESS of God's grace and mercy? If God is gracious toward us, if he keeps showing us his power, and wowing us with his works, it is fitting that we not just sing old songs inspired by his past grace, but also that we sing new songs about his ever-streaming, never-ceasing grace.

New Songs in Heaven

In **Revelation 15:3**, we're told that "those who had conquered the beast" sing "the song of Moses" — which is an old song, from **Exodus 15** or **Deuteronomy 32** — but they also sing "the song of the Lamb," a new song. So also, the worshipers of heaven are said to be "singing a new song" in **Revelation 14:3**. And in **Revelation 5:9**, the four living creatures and 24 elders "sang a new song."

**"Worship is an act that develops feelings for God, not a feeling for God that is expressed in an act of worship."—Eugene Peterson**



# GRACE CHURCH MINISTRIES

## TV Ministry

Our TV Ministry Committee and StreamTV send sincere apologies for the delay in returning our live broadcast to local Comcast Channel 22. Issues between StreamTV and Comcast due to a cut fiber optic cable have delayed return of their video feed to the TV channel. Meanwhile, services are always available via our website at <https://www.graceoilcity.org/worship-service-recordings.html>

If you know of anyone interested in serving God through the TV Ministry, we are always looking for additional volunteer servants. Please contact the church for more information.

## *Outreach Event - Community Block Party*

*Our neighbors are invited to join us on Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6-8pm. There will be Games, Clowns, Face Painting, Touch-a-truck, Hot Dogs, Sno-Cones and MORE!! But we still need YOU to come and be a part of this event.....*

*Let's make this a great time for everyone and get to know OUR NEIGHBORS!*



## **Super Senior Picnic – Let's get together and have fun.**

Mark your calendar for **Tues. August 9<sup>th</sup> at noon** for picnic time. We will meet at Moody Run Park (off Rt 257, Seneca) at 12pm. Meat & drinks will be furnished. Please bring a well filled dish to share.

**If you have not yet called to reserve your spot, please call Judy Hards @ 814-676-2512 or Donna Books @ 814-676-4423 as soon as possible.**

For those who don't like bugs, bug spray will be provided if needed!!

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**  
**21st Annual Golf Scramble**



On September 10, 2022, Wesley Woods will be having their 21st Annual Golf Scramble at Riverside Golf Course in Cambridge Springs, PA. Dust off your clubs, gather a team, and hit the links for a day of golf! Your fee includes:

- 18 holes of golf on a great course with cart
- Registration @ 8am, shotgun start @ 9am.
- \$70 per person/ \$280 per foursome. (you can pay ahead or at the event).
- Riverside Golf Course, 24537 Route 19, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403

**All proceeds benefit the ministry of Wesley Woods and sending kids to camp!** Register with Matt Judd either by phone (724-316-2631) or email [pastor@glenwoodumc.org](mailto:pastor@glenwoodumc.org).

## Grace Financial Information and Update

**THE MINISTRY AND OPERATIONS FUND HAS A NEGATIVE BALANCE AS OF THE END OF JUNE.**

The Ministry and Operations fund (Local Ministry on your giving envelope) covers expenses such as:

### Programs:

- The Super Seniors' recent bus trip to the Gaither Vocal Band in Erie and their picnic in the park
- The upcoming Block Party which will provide families in our local community with an evening of fun and a Bible for the children to take home
- TV Ministry - a vital program broadcasting our Sunday services locally on channel 22 with an impact, via our internet broadcast, that we cannot even measure.
- Our Youth program provides our youth with a Christian-based foundation for their lives.
- Grace Church Sunday School and Bible Study programs which expand our knowledge and bring us together as a community in Christ.

### Utilities and Support:

- None of the work done at Grace could happen without supplies or a functioning building. To this end, the budget covers Office Supplies, Building Supplies, Postage, Computer Programs & Maintenance, and Church Utilities.
- And the work couldn't be done without Staff, so the budget covers the payroll for our Staff (except for the Youth Director, who is paid from a separate funding source.)

The negative balance in Ministry and Operations does not mean that we cannot pay our bills. If this happens, we temporarily utilize money designated for other purposes to cover our Ministry and Operations budget lines until we receive sufficient donations to bring the fund into a positive balance. It simply means that at the present time Grace Church would benefit from donations which are directed to the Ministry and Operations (Local Ministry) fund.

If you would like to help support this fund, designate "Local Ministry" or "Ministry and Operations" on your giving envelope. If you utilize online giving, you can make a designation there as well.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.**

### A Note of THANKS

TO GRACE,

I JUST WANTED TO TAKE A MINUTE TO SAY A HUGE **THANK YOU** FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP MONEY THAT YOU GUYS HAVE GIVEN ME FOR MY 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH. I AM SO BLESSED & VERY EXCITED FOR THIS NEW OPPORTUNITY IN A NEW CITY. I AM VERRY APPRECIATIVE OF EVERYTHING THE CHURCH HAS DONE FOR ME THROUGHOUT MY ATTENDANCE AT GRACE.

THANK YOU ALL AGAIN.

*MADISON SALVO*

## 2022 Annual Conference

### Anchored In Christ

Submitted by Lynne Delaney

July 20, 2022

Thank you for allowing me to represent Grace an Annual Conference. I take this task very seriously. I look forward to Conference and am always glad to see friends whom I have met at other Annual Conferences. I thoroughly enjoy myself, however there is very much work to be done.

Cornerstone Hotel was very nice. I will say, though for me, that it is not necessary to stay in such an expensive hotel. Less expensive is fine as I am a very simple girl.

Conference on the Lakeshore was very pleasant. We did have the mayor of Erie, Joe Schember as a guest speaker to welcome us to Erie.

I arrived exactly at 8am Thursday (due to a minor accident along the way). My goal was to help with a mission project to inspect handicap ramps. The crew had already left, so I helped to disassemble medical equipment for recycle. We actually opened Conference after lunch with worship.

Following are highlights of Conference

1. First highlight is the re-appointment of Rev. Ron Geisler as our pastor for the next year. Also, his wife Melissa has been re-appointed to her Franklin Charge. I met her at Conference and thoroughly enjoyed her company. It was nice getting to know her and her Lay Delegate.
2. Second; due to the new apportionment calculation formula of 2020 Annual Conference, our apportionment was decreased by \$2,000.
3. Legislation 1

I was assigned to Section 7 which involved all of the legislation concerning Continuing United Methodist Church and Churches exploring the possibility of separating from "United Methodist Church". There was very much discussion within our session. I was involved in the discussions and did everything possible to help every church to make it's own decision as to where to land in the disagreements of the denomination. Following is the result of the discussions both in Session and on the Plenary floor.

The most notable piece of legislation passed was the **Actively Waiting Task Force Petition for an Intentional Missional Alignment Process**. This resolution calls for establishment of "three households" within the Western PA Annual Conference:

A. **Continuing United Methodist Household** will be available to those who aspire to be working in the mission field with members of differing perspectives on human sexuality. This household aspires to: remove sexual orientation as a consideration for fitness for ministry; allow each clergy person to discern if they will or will not officiate for same gender marriages; allow local churches to independently decide whether to host same gender marriages or not; and invite the bishop to use these considerations when making appointments.



- B. **Traditional Household** will be available to those who aspire to be working in the mission field only with members having a more traditional perspective on human sexuality. Therefore, this Household would aspire to: maintain ordination standards pertaining to human sexuality, including prohibition of homosexual practice, and prohibit all clergy and churches from celebrating same-gender marriages.
- C. The **Progressive Household** will be available to those who aspire to be working in the mission field only with members who have a progressive perspective on human sexuality. Therefore, this household would aspire to have the full inclusion of, full affirmation of, and full participation by all people in all aspects of the life of this household and in the lives of its churches, including the ordination and appointment of persons without respect to their sexual orientation or gender identity. Additionally, it would have the celebration of same-gender marriages by all clergy and in all churches in this household.
4. Bishop Moore-Koikoi determined that one piece of legislation, *For Disaffiliation Agreement Pursuant To ¶2553*, was not properly before the body, giving a Ruling of the Chair on this item as a Decision of Law, which will be forwarded to the Judicial Council.
5. Legislation 2

**Legislation pulled from the Consent Calendar and brought to the floor for discussion included:**

- Base compensation. An amendment was offered, but not approved. This motion passed.
- An amendment to the bylaws to make allowances for voting if the body cannot meet in person was passed.
- A motion requesting the Western PA Conference chair of Conference Finance & Administration to urge the General Secretary of General Council on Finance & Administration to stop offering non-binary as a gender option on reporting forms was ruled out of order. But a motion requesting an appeal was passed. An amendment was introduced and subsequently adopted. The main motion was then adopted.
- A Connectional Budget of \$8,338,004, an increase of \$61,464, over the 2022 budget was approved.
- Legislation titled *End Degrading Behavior Against Female Athletes*, focused on excluding transgender athletes competing in female sports, was passed. The motion called for action from the PA General Assembly, the Conference Board of Church and Society, and United Methodist Advocacy in Pennsylvania, although United Methodist Advocacy is accountable to the Bishops of the three Annual Conferences in Pennsylvania. Most college sports in Pennsylvania operate under rules of the NCAA and PA Interscholastic Athletic Association, which are not government agencies.

(Quoted from Annual Conference Wrap-Up)

While at Conference I attended a lunch presentation presented by Wesleyan Covenant Association. It was very interesting and I would encourage anyone wishing to investigate conservative Christianity to attend any of the meetings when in the area.

Again, thank you for permitting me to represent Grace at Annual Conference. If you have any questions, please call or ask in person. I will be willing to attend again next year if you wish me to.

Respectfully,

*Lynne M. Delaney*

Cc: Rev. Ron Geisler, Add Council