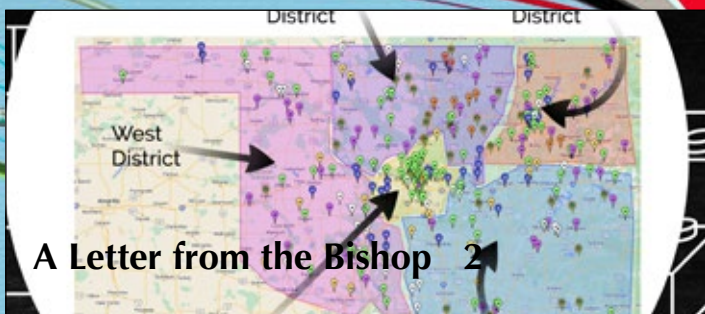


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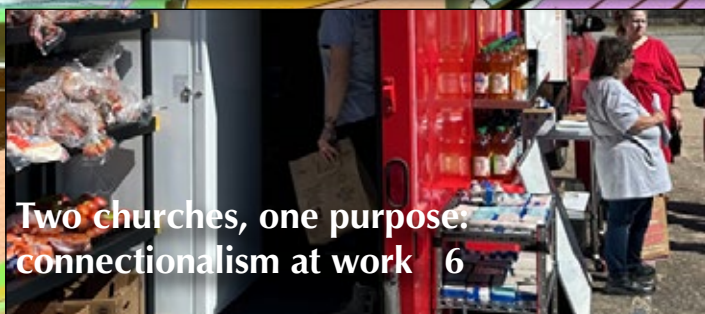
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A Letter from the Bishop

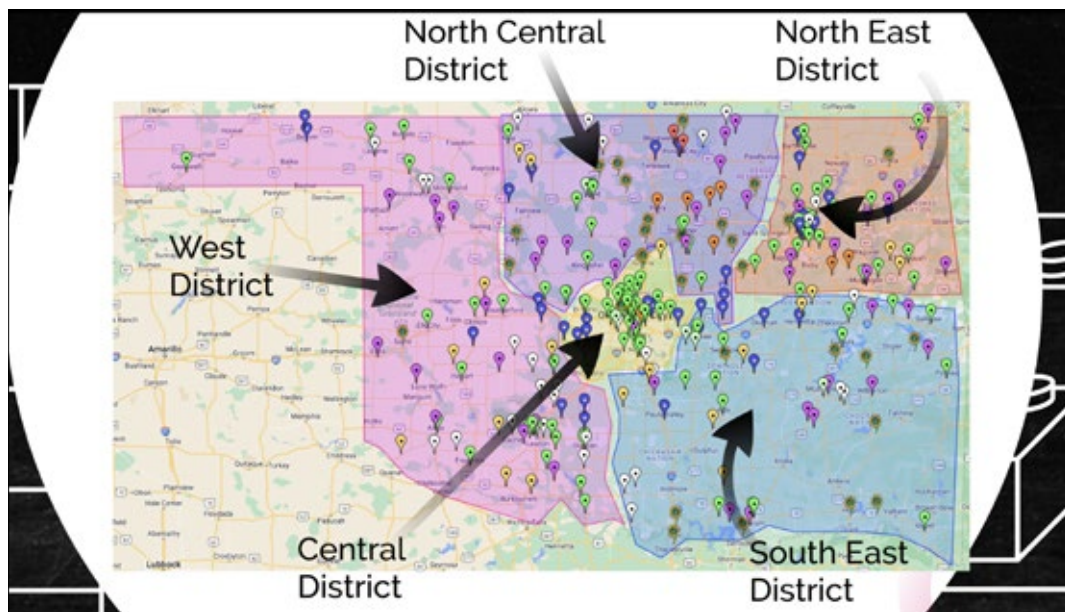
Five new districts established for the Oklahoma Conference of the UMC

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.

In January of this year over five hundred elected members of the Oklahoma Conference responded to a survey developed to help our leadership understand the perspectives of United Methodist people across the state on several subjects. One of the topics addressed was the role of the District Superintendent and how the Conference and Districts can support our congregations and ministries in different regions.

Also, in January, the elected members of our Conference voted to reduce the number of Districts from eight to five, and in my last communication to you I shared that effective July 1, 2024, I would be appointing these Superintendents to the five areas:

- Rev. Dr. Tish Malloy to the north central area.
- Rev. Dr. James Kim to the central area.
- Rev. Dr. John Breon to the western area.



- Rev. Dr. Terry Koehn to the northeast area.
- Rev. Dr. Sonja Tobey to the southeast area.

This letter is to inform you of the names and boundaries of those areas beginning July 1, 2024. This decision was made after significant study, prayer, and consultation with the Cabinet and an Advisory Committee on District Boundaries as well as the District Missional Strategy Teams of the current districts. I want to thank all of the laity and clergy of these representative groups for

their engagement in this complex process. Their advice has been invaluable.

Attached you will find an overall map of the entire Conference as well as individual maps and lists of the churches included in each District. Please join me in prayer and support of each area as these transitions are being made.

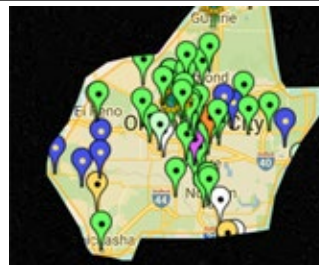
May the Holy Spirit be our guide,

Bishop Jimmy Nunn



To see these maps/lists more clearly, click on any photo and it will take you to a larger version.

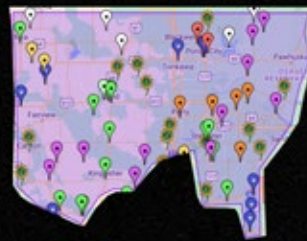
Central District



57 Churches
DS James Kim

Cell Community	McLoud UMC	OKC Clark UMC/ Lazarus Community	OKC St. Matthew UMC
Chickasha Epworth UMC	Minco UMC	OKC Cornerstone UMC	OKC Sunny Lane UMC
Chicklaw UMC	Moore First UMC	OKC Crown Heights UMC	OKC Village UMC
Copier UMC	Moore New Life UMC	OKC First UMC	OKC Wesley UMC
Edmond Acts 2 UMC	Newcastle UMC	OKC Korean First UMC	OKC Wildlife UMC
Edmond Connect UMC	Norman Park UMC	OKC Lakeland UMC	Padmont UMC
Edmond First UMC	Nobles UMC	OKC Lambeth UMC	Pleasant UMC
El Reno Edison Ave. UMC	Norman Bridgeview UMC	OKC Mayfair Heights UMC	Spencer UMC
El Reno Wesley UMC	Norman Goodrich UMC	OKC New Hope UMC	Union City UMC
Friendship UMC	Norman McFarlin UMC	OKC Nichols Hills UMC	Woodland UMC
Griffin First UMC	Norman St. Stephen's UMC	OKC Penn. Avenue UMC	Yukon Church of The Good Shepherd UMC
Griffin West UMC	OKC Chapel Hill UMC	OKC Pulaski City UMC	Yukon First UMC
Hannah UMC	OKC Charles Abbe	OKC Quail Springs UMC	
Jones UMC	OKC Christ Experience UMC	OKC Quail UMC	
Langston New Church & Campus Ministry	OKC Church of the Servant	OKC Southern Hills UMC	

North Central District



61 Churches
DS Tish Malloy

Albia UMC	Eden Chapel UMC	Hominy First UMC	Ponca City Albright UMC
Alva First UMC	Enid Christ	Hunter UMC	Ponca City First UMC
Arlington UMC	Enid First UMC	Jafferson UMC	Ponca City St. Paul's UMC
Caltumet UMC	Enid New Hope	Kaw City UMC	Prague UMC
Canton UMC	Enid Peace Korean	Kingfisher FUMC	Prairie Chapel UMC
Capron UMC	Fairfax UMC	Kremlin UMC	Red Rock UMC
Carmen UMC	Fay UMC	Lost Creek UMC	Shidler UMC
Cashion UMC	First Crescent UMC	Loyal UMC	Skedee UMC
Chandler UMC	Foraker UMC	Morrison UMC	Stillwater First UMC
Cherokee Valley UMC	Garber UMC	Mulhall UMC	Stillwater Highland Park UMC
Cleveland UMC	Geary UMC	Newkirk UMC	Stroud UMC
Cushing UMC	Glencoe UMC	Orlando UMC	Tonkawa UMC
Dacoma UMC	Grainola UMC	Pawnee First UMC	Wakita UMC
Drummond Salem UMC	Hennessey UMC	Parkins UMC	Watonga UMC
Drumright UMC	Hitchcock UMC	Perry UMC	Wellston UMC
			Yale UMC

South East District



60 Churches
DS Sonja Tobey

Ada Ashbury UMC	Gore UMC	McAlester FUMC	Seminole UMC
Bokoshe UMC	Healdton UMC	Masker UMC	Shawnee Bethel UMC
Bowlegs FUMC	Henryetta UMC	Morris First UMC	Shawnee St. Mark's UMC
Calters UMC	Holdenville UMC	Okema St. Paul's UMC	Shawnee St. Paul's UMC
Canadian UMC	Hugo Heritage	Okmulgee First UMC	Shawnee Wesley UMC
Checotah UMC	Idabel UMC	Okita UMC	Tecumseh UMC
Colbert UMC	Kearns UMC	Pauls Valley UMC	Thackerville UMC
Courtney UMC	Kingston UMC	Pittsburg UMC	Tishomingo UMC
Dow UMC	Kiowa UMC	Portaleo UMC	Tuskahoma UMC
Durant First Caddle	Konawa UMC	Purcell Bowman Chapel UMC	Van UMC
Durant UMC	Krebs Grace UMC	Purcell Trinity UMC	Wannette UMC
Edgewood UMC	Lexington UMC	Quinton UMC	Warner UMC
Eufala UMC	Lighthouse UMC	Ringling UMC	Wayne UMC
Fitzhugh UMC	Lindsay UMC	Sallisaw First UMC	Wewoka FUMC
Fl Towson UMC	Marietta UMC	Schulter UMC	Wilburton UMC

West District



67 Churches
DS John Breon

Alfalfa UMC	Duncan St. Paul's	Hulen UMC	Rush Springs UMC
Altus Grace UMC	Duncan Wesley UMC	Indianapolis UMC	Ryan UMC
Altus Highland Heights	Edwards UMC	Laverne UMC	Says UMC
Anadarko First UMC	Elk City UMC	Lawton Aldersgate Redemption	Sentinel UMC
Anadarko St. Paul	Elmer UMC	Lawton Bethel UMC	Sharon UMC
Apache First UMC	Erick First UMC	Lawton Canterbury UMC	Starling UMC
Beecher UMC	Fletcher First UMC	Lawton First UMC	Temple UMC
Bridgeport UMC	Forge UMC	Lawton Heights UMC	Tipton UMC
Buffalo First UMC	Fort Cobb UMC	Lawton New Life UMC	Vici UMC
Cactus UMC	Fort Supply UMC	Lawton St. Paul's UMC	Vida En Abundancia UMC
Chapel Hill UMC	Frederick UMC	Lawton Wesley Chapel UMC	Waffers UMC
Clinton UMC	Gage UMC	Marlow First UMC	Waurika UMC
Comanche UMC	Goodwell UMC	Moorestown UMC	Weatherford UMC
Cordell UMC	Gracemont UMC	Mountain View UMC	Willow UMC
Custer City UMC	Grandfield UMC	Muskogee UMC	Woodward Falls UMC
Cyril UMC	Hinton UMC	Randall UMC	Woodward New Horton UMC
Duncan First UMC	Hubert UMC	Rosston UMC	

North East District



57 Churches
DS Terry Koehn

Bartlesville First UMC	Glengpool, Living Water UMC	Porter UMC	Tulsa New Haven UMC
Bartlesville Oak Park UMC	Haskell First UMC	Pryor UMC	Tulsa Nueva Esperanza UMC
Beggs UMC	Hulbert UMC	Quapaw UMC	Tulsa Sheridan Ave UMC
Bristow UMC	Inola UMC	Salina UMC	Tulsa Southern Hills UMC
Broken Arrow St. Stephen's UMC	Kellyville UMC	Skiesook UMC	Tulsa St. Mark's UMC
Chouteau UMC	Locust Grove UMC	Spauldine UMC	Tulsa St. Paul's UMC
Claremore Grace UMC	Miami UMC	Stillwell First UMC	Tulsa University UMC
Collinsville MeadowCreek UMC	Mounds UMC	Tahlequah UMC	Tulsa West UMC
Community Brookside UMC	Muskogee First UMC	Tulsa Aldersgate UMC	Turley UMC
Cookson UMC	Muskogee Spencer UMC	Tulsa Boston Ave UMC	Verdigris UMC
Coweta UMC	Muskogee St. Paul UMC	Tulsa Canterbury UMC	Vinita UMC
Depue UMC	Muskogee Trinity UMC	Tulsa Faith UMC	Woodall UMC
Drewry UMC	New Cossau	Tulsa Hope UMC	
Fairland UMC	Ochotla UMC	Tulsa Lake UMC	
Pt. Gibson UMC	Oologah UMC	Tulsa Memorial Drive UMC	

Young people faithfully respond to God's call

BY COURTNEY BLACKSTEN

Over President's Day weekend, eight young adults and three sponsors from the Oklahoma Annual Conference traveled to Orlando, Florida, for the Exploration event put on by the Global Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Exploration is an event for young adults ages 18 to 26 "to be in meaningful fellowship, passionate worship, theological reflection, and practical workshops as they discern whether God's call on their life is to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church and what faithful steps they can take in response."

The young people from Oklahoma experienced that and so much more.

Our young people spent time sharing about their calls to ministry and processing all they were experiencing with adults from

our annual conference, including members of the Board of Ordained ministry. They were able to meet one-on-one with bishops from across the United States to share questions and concerns about the future of the church.

During breaks, participants were able to visit booths from all 13 United Methodist seminaries, talk with representatives from GBHEM, and also learn about military chaplaincy. This was a great opportunity for our young people to learn about options for furthering their education and their next steps in ministry.

During their time in Florida, young adults affirmed, refined, and expanded their calls to ministry. High school senior James Bourne is one of the people who feel called to lay ministry. James learned that there are options for furthering his education in youth ministry beyond college.

Alex Porter, a freshman religion major at Oklahoma City University, discerned that he might expand his experience by taking a year between college and seminary to serve as a United Methodist Global Mission Fellow.

High school senior Willa Lee said, "I went into this week knowing what I wanted to do but had a lot of doubts and fears surrounding it, and I feel like God gave me a lot of clarity."

During the weekend, young people had the opportunity to learn about being called to various ministries for both laity and clergy. God calls everyone first to be a disciple, and then to be involved in the life of the church. Both lay and clergy are needed. Everyone's path is different and sacred.

Reflecting on her experience, OCU junior religion major Emma Goins wrote, "Ministry is hard. Hard at any time, let alone in the midst of uncertainties and anxieties, heartbreak and frustration at a church filled with real, flawed humans. And to be 20 in ministry doesn't make it much easier. But let me tell you this... If you've felt like giving up on the future of the church, don't! We are here and ready for new growth, for new ways of representing God on earth. New, dynamic ministries are bridging gaps and meeting new needs. The Church is making a shift. We have to, friends. It's time that we go out and bring Church to the people. And this is exactly what we got to learn about this weekend."

Young people are listening to God. They are taking faithful steps to follow where God is leading



The Oklahoma contingent paused for a group photo during Exploration in Orlando, Florida. FROM LEFT: Brayan Martinez, Rev. Jim Perkin, Emma Goins, Willa Lee, KC Curry, Courtney Blacksten, Alex Porter, James Bourne, Madelyn Dixon, Rev. Tiffany Nagel-Monroe, Tristen Kretchmar.

them. And it is exciting to watch as they journey toward ministry.

In reflecting on the weekend, Rev. Dr. Tiffany Nagel-Monroe writes, “I cannot begin to tell you the hope I have rolling out of this past weekend. It was truly a privilege to be in such a space where voices are speaking fresh callings and holy dreams. So many life-giving conversations took place, alongside some pivotal ‘aha’ moments. God is still at work and doing new things. I’m bubbling with excitement for what’s ahead for the church and these incredible young adults.”

At Annual Conference this May, keep an eye out for the young adults present. Ask them

how God is calling them to do ministry in the church. They are on fire for God and for revival in The United Methodist Church!

Courtney Blacksten is the youth director at Acts 2 United Methodist Church in Edmond.



LEFT: A fun group snap by KC Curry. RIGHT: High school senior James Bourne visits with a vendor at the Exploration event. Submitted photo.

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Two churches, one purpose: connectionalism at work

The beauty of the connectional system in the United Methodist Church is that congregations can share resources - be they physical, monetary, or human resources.

While connection is foundational to the United Methodist Church, it can be difficult for church leaders to find common ground and to give up control over ministries.

A vision

"Pastor Tim McHugh of Grace United Methodist Church in Claremore had a vision of a mobile food pantry to help the community," said pastoral assistant Megan Pippin. "This sparked the idea for the mobile food pantry named, 'Givin' with Grace.'"

This mobile ministry can reach beyond the city limits of Claremore, with a mission of serving where the need is greatest.

A need

"Pastor Pam Cottrill of Inola United Methodist Church and volunteers knew their neighbors had a need," said Pippin, "and so the two churches joined forces for the greater good."

The mobile food pantry helped approximately 160 people over the course of three hours on Saturday, March 2. These people are now able to put food on their own shelves at home and have additional resources to reach out to.

A plan

McHugh's main priority with the mobile food pantry is to give dignity back to people who visit a food pantry. This model allows recipients to shop for their own groceries. Often, out of necessity or just because it's tradition, food pantries choose groceries and do not account for food preferences or aversions. This new, innovative way of offering freedom to choose encourages people to take only what they need and will use.

"This is an example of ways that we can see God's grace in the real world, in real time, in real places," concluded Pippin.

A new way

While there is no perfect way to operate a food pantry, the innovative thinking and cooperative ministry demonstrated by Claremore Grace and Inola UMCs proves the connectional system is valuable beyond measure.

Church leaders wishing to start something new - or reenergize something already in existence - can take a lesson from McHugh and Cottrill, and think outside the box - or the pantry.



Young helpers enjoy a snack (TOP) as neighbors line up to shop (BOTTOM). Submitted photos.



Grace UMC in Claremore partnered with Inola UMC for a mobile food pantry pair-up.



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Pastoral transitions

First impressions, homecomings, and more

BY REV. TISH MALLOY

Is your pastor moving to a new appointment or retiring from active ministry? Are you receiving a new pastor? Is your pastor returning to serve your church for another year? Does your current or new pastor have a spouse or family? Several helpful resources are available at [the website](#).

When a pastor leaves we may experience many emotions. And if they have a spouse or family, their move can impact many people in and outside of the church. [“Saying](#)

[Goodbye to a Pastor”](#) is a beautiful way to recognize this transition. This order is recommended for use in the service on the last Sunday the pastor will be leading worship. It can also be used at a fellowship dinner or gathering.

Each year, on the [last Sunday in June](#) all congregations in the OK

Conference are urged to celebrate Ministry Sunday. This service that can be completely led by laity and is intended to celebrate the ministries of your church and to welcome or welcome back your pastor and their family. [“Ministry Sunday”](#) and [“Celebration of an Appointment”](#) resources can support your church in recognizing the significance of these transitions.

friends.

The Board of Trustees has a significant role to play in a time of pastoral transition. [“Trustees”](#) is a great video for you and along with it two checklists titled [“Vacating a Parsonage Checklist”](#) and [“Moving into a Parsonage Checklist”](#) are provided.

And finally, the work of the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee

is essential to times of pastoral transition. The video, [“Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee”](#) is an excellent resource anytime.

Additionally, the articles [“50 Ways to Welcome your New Pastor”](#) and [“50 Ways to](#)

[Improve Pastoral Transitions”](#) are provided to give you ideas that can help your church and your new pastor have a great start.

Rev. Tish Malloy is the Director of Transitional Ministries for the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church.



depositphotos.com

If you are welcoming a new pastor or a new pastor and their spouse/family, be sure to watch the [“Families Matter”](#) video. Single and married pastors as well as preacher’s kids (PKs) all come with different needs and concerns. This video will help members of the church prepare to welcome and care for these new neighbors and

Ways to welcome your new pastor



Appoint a specific liaison person to whom the pastor can go for help or information during the transition.



Show love, regard, and even grief for your departing pastor. This is one of the best things you can do for the new pastor.



Consult the new pastor on any paint, design, or furnishings issues.



Stock the parsonage refrigerator and pantry with some staples.



Take food over for the first few days. Many churches continue the practice of having a “pounding” for the new pastor when persons bring food items.



Give gift certificates to several of your favorite restaurants in the community.



Wear name tags. Even if name tags are not a tradition, the congregation can wear them for a few weeks to help the pastor learn names.



Provide a current pictorial directory of all the church members, if available.



Provide local media with information about the new pastor.



Begin praying daily for the new pastor and family, even as you continue to pray for your departing pastor and family.

Selected from “50 Ways to Welcome Your New Pastor,” by Robert Crossman for the Lewis Center for Church Leadership.



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Register by:	5/29/2023

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WHY: Earn \$100*

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- **Phone:** 1-855-623-9355

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Women in UM History

COSROW is accepting nominations for the 2024 Frances E. Willard Award

The Committee on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) is accepting nominations for the Frances E. Willard Award. The deadline for nominations is April 15.

Historically, women have been awarded this honor for making a distinguished contribution to the advancement of women in ministry in the Oklahoma conference of the United Methodist Church.

Frances Willard was the leader who inspired that award.

According to the National Women's Hall of Fame, Willard, the founder of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), "influenced the history of reform and helped transform the role of women in nineteenth-century America."

Her achievements include graduation from Northwestern Female College in 1859, installation as the first female president of a women's college - the Evanston College for Ladies.

That college merged with Northwestern, and Willard was

named the first Dean of Women and Professor of Aesthetics. She helped in the founding of the Association for the Advancement of Women.

Her temperance work led her to become the second president and first corresponding secretary of the WCTU.

"For Willard," according to the Hall of Fame, "the WCTU was an effective school for women, giving them a chance to achieve identities beyond those of wives and mothers."

Her work in the suffrage movement led her to urge women to work at a local level for the vote. She helped convince women to support voting rights as a way to influence laws governing alcohol use. By helping to weave temperance with suffrage, Willard and others like her served as a springboard to voting rights for women.

Additionally, the WCTU, under the leadership of Willard, supported such progressive ideas as equal pay for women, eight-hour work days, workplace protections for women and children, and many other

initiatives.

Concretely, the organization built homes for women and children, plus free kindergartens. She went on to help found the Illinois Woman's Press Association and was one of the first five women elected to the Methodist General Conference.

Willard achieved so much more in her life, where she modeled leadership and equality for women in ministry and beyond.

To nominate someone for the 2024 Frances E. Willard Award, download the nomination form [here](#).



Frances E. Willard, from the archives of the National Women's Temperance Union.

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Make plans to attend the Church & Society Retreat April 5 & 6, at Canyon Camp. Find registration and more information [here](#).

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