



# Together in Mission and Ministry

News from the Greenwood District



## LOVE NOTES



Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Love  
District Superintendent

## THE FAREWELL

*16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV)

### General conference summary

2019 & 2024

2019 great worship followed by an atmosphere of tension and debate

2024 Great Worship followed by an atmosphere of harmony and some debate. There was a lot of respect of people for one another although it was obvious people from around the world had different opinions.

### Bishop Tracey Smith Malone

During the final morning worship at General Conference, Council of Bishops President Tracy S. Malone said the work done at General Conference the past 10 days is not as important as what the church will do next. She reminded us in her message titled the same to 'Get out of God's way.'

The summary of her message as captured on the General Conference

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- 2024 Apportionments Update
- Greenwood Wesley Fellowship
- August Set-up Meeting

### Connect with Us

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website shared the following:

The resident bishop of the East Ohio Conference grounded her sermon in the words of Psalm 46:1-3, 10-11 (NRSV). She echoed David's bold proclamation that God is our refuge and our strength.

She asked delegates to imagine a United Methodist Church where hope is reborn, and where people are reconciled to one another and committed to build God's beloved community.

"Let us imagine a church where no one, nobody, is marginalized," Malone said. "Let us imagine a church that transcends geography and cultures and languages and borders and barriers and differences. I'm talking about a beautiful mosaic that reflects the kingdom, the kingdom of God."

Today I say to you the actions of General Conference were about much more than the changes to the *Book of Discipline*. While there were not any actions that would have satisfied all United Methodists nor all of those who attended the General Conference, the presence of the Holy Spirit was evident as people with different perspectives and different opinions of what would be the next best move for the United Methodist Church came together. Some of you made the drive to be present one or more days. The atmosphere was one of respect and honor to God and to one another. That was only possible because of the evidence of prayer and presence of God. So I am still encouraged today about the future of the UMC and the future of the body of Christ. There are many questions that will come and many challenges that we will yet face. The changes to our Discipline will cause some to celebrate and others to respond in anger and frustration. In the weeks and months and years ahead we remain the

body of Christ; we remain disciples given the command to go forth and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We are participants in the future, regardless of what we think, believe and know to be true for ourselves. Like Paul's reference in 1 Corinthians 13th chapter, we still only see in part then we will see face to face and now faith, hope and love abide these three but the greatest of these is love.

In July of 2016 I shared at my installation service that above all else as followers of Jesus Christ, we are sometimes talked about, criticized when we have put forth our best efforts and when we have not. When we have done the best we could and still some have been hurt because of what we have done or left undone. Our call is to be faithful to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Eight years later that is still our responsibility in spite of the difficulties of our time, our biblical mandate has not changed and remains the priority as the great commission. You and I have this responsibility to our God as we serve in our specific context. Let us pray for each other and seek God's future for all of us.

I do expect that we will develop FAQs for us to use, as we lead conversations in our church about not only General Conference but also the ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

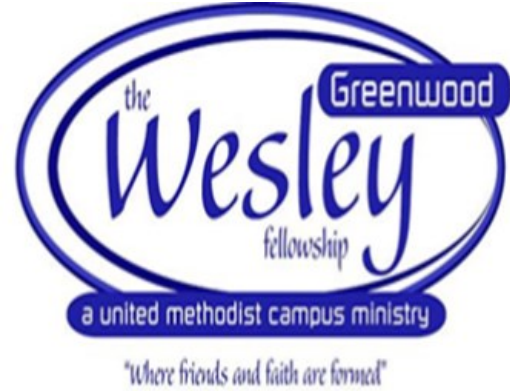
Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen L. Love". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Love  
District Superintendent

## IMPORTANT DATES

Office closed  
May 15—Meetings at Conference Ctr.  
May 27—Memorial Day  
June 19—Juneteenth  
New D.S. Installation—August 25  
2024-2025 Set-up Meeting— August 15



## APPORTIONMENT UPDATE

2024 Apportionment update as of May 8, 2024:

3 churches —100%  
0 churches— 75-99%  
2 churches — 50-74%  
22 churches — 25-49%  
10 churches— 1-24%  
34 churches—0%



May 9: Steve & Laura Keck  
May 14: Hank & Ronna Brooks  
May 20: James & Tamra Evans  
Cameron & Sabrina Levi  
May 26: Arthur & Zenovia Gamble  
May 30: Byron & Thessa Smith

Remember to include support for the Greenwood Wesley Fellowship (campus ministry) in your 2025 budget.

Start planning now to provide meals for the students during their regular gatherings. Fall 2024 semester begins August 19.

Contact Mike Parrish, campus minister, to arrange a meal and to find out other ways of supporting this ministry.



May 1: Jason Wilson  
May 7: Craig Walters (Darlene)  
May 17: Mitchell Wray (Carol)  
John Rogers (Joie)  
May 26: Myron Smith (Thessa)  
May 28: Amy Freeman (Kenneth)