

THE UNITED METHODIST APPALACHIAN MINISTRY NETWORK

We envision a society where all people in Appalachia are valued. One in which all are offered discipleship for Jesus Christ and where all have the opportunity to realize God-centered spiritual, social, and economic potential. The mission of the United Methodist Appalachian Ministry Network is to advocate for Appalachia within the structure of the United Methodist Church and to empower social justice through leadership development and collaboration with ministries and organizations that serve the region.

Spring Board Meeting, April 2023 was held in Zanesville, Ohio. The workshop entitled “Conflict Transformation” was led by Wendy Lybarger, Missional Specialist for the West Ohio Conference. This presentation is available on our Facebook page. The Board awarded \$2250 in hunger and poverty grants.

Fall Board Meeting, October 2023 was held virtually. UMAMN board meeting: The workshop entitled: “Building Bridges of Hope: The Role of the rural churches in Building Recovery Ecosystems” was led by Rev. Matthew Johnson, Director of Faith-Based Initiatives for the Fletcher Group. The Board awarded \$500 in hunger and poverty grants.

2023 Hunger and Poverty Grants served 200 children (weekly while schools are in session), 360 seniors, and 130 families: The goal of UMAMN is to provide support to ministries that address systemic causes of poverty, hunger, racism, and other social issues in the region. (Engaging in ministry with the poor) Three Hunger and Poverty grants were awarded. These projects focus on poverty issues in the region where resources are normally not provided for by government or local agencies. UMAMN strives to fund projects that fill the gap in impoverished areas and underserved populations.

- First UMC, Murphy NC – for Soul Table – A Community Dinner that is held monthly
- First United Methodist Church, Leechburg PA – ‘No child left hungry’ – an elementary school healthy snack and education program
- No Family Turned Away - Food Panty Elberton GA

2023 UMC Conference Contributions: MS: \$3000. NY: \$2500, East Ohio: \$2000, Susquehanna, PA: \$3000. A copy of the 2023 budget and audit will be provided to the Conference Treasurer’s office.

2023 Advance Special Contributions: \$ 5,051.25- *Appalachian Ministry Network – Advance Special # 982041*

Executive Board Members: Rev. John Baney, Board Chair, Susquehanna PA Conference; Erin Rice, Recording Secretary, Kentucky Conference; Rev. Joy Wigal, Treasurer, West Ohio Conference; Sharon Kirtdoll, Finance Secretary, East Ohio Conference; Betsy Harkins, Finance Committee, Western PA Conference; Deaconess Erie Stuckett, Membership Chair, Mississippi Conference; Rev. Lee Ann Dunlap, West Ohio Conference; Gayle Lesure, West Virginia Conference; Roena Littlejohn, New York Conference, Deb Baney, Susquehanna Conference, and Rev. Mike Feely, Holston Conference, TN.

Angela Kirtdoll Bates, Executive Coordinator
Kirtdoll.umamn@gmail.com – 1616 Blue Avenue Zanesville, Ohio umamn.org