



2024 Daily Circuit

Thursday June 6, 2024

Good News Great Joy!

Artwork celebrates WVUMC heritage

If a picture tells a thousand words, Ian Bode's piece, "Building Bridges – Making Connections," tells a million stories of the people called United Methodist in the West Virginia Conference.

Bode, a Charleston artist, was commissioned to create an art piece that depicts the West Virginia Annual Conference using his signature graphic style.

Bode's love of West Virginia, use of bright colors, and playful nature capture the diversity of the conference. The commissioned piece celebrates the many ways our people take the church outside the walls and into their communities.

As you look closer, you will find our Methodist heritage on full display, including a cameo by Francis Asbury and the cabinesque figure of Old Rehoboth. Continue searching and you will find more imprints of ministries and mission.



Work in progress



submitted photo
Charleston artist Ian Bode puts final touches on his commissioned piece.

Can you find the disaster response team? Where do you see people singing? Preaching? Celebrating baptism?

Throughout the painting, stars represent our conference mission projects. Hearts throughout the piece show demonstrations of Christian love.

Each glance reveals our continuing commitment to transform the world with the Good News and Great Joy of Jesus Christ.

You will find the artwork, in part and in whole, used throughout the 2024 Conference worship and service booklets.

We invite you to check out the poster as you enter Wesley Chapel. Grab some friends, take a selfie, and share memories on social media. Tell the story of how, at all times and in all places, the West Virginia Conference has been and continues to do the work of Jesus Christ.



West Virginia Conference
The United Methodist Church

Today's Schedule

1 PM

Opening Worship
@Wesley Chapel

Bishop Héctor Burgos
Núñez preaching

3 PM

Clergy Session
@Performing Arts Center

Laity Session
@Dining Hall

5-7 PM

Dinner
Housing Check-in
Annual Conference
Check-in

7 PM

Plenary Session
@Wesley Chapel

Can you find this baptism in the painting?



Special Offerings 2024

The West Virginia Conference is pleased to collect funds for the following initiatives of the conference.



DaySpring Mobile Camping Ministry

Every kid deserves their day at camp. The DaySpring Mobile Camping Ministry creates opportunities for churches to discover youth in their communities, for local volunteers to serve as leaders, for relationships between young people, and to provide camp opportunities to under-served populations.



Board of Ordained Ministry
West Virginia Conference
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Ministerial Education Fund for West Virginia Conference Students

The Ministerial Education Fund works to assist in providing seminary training that leads to ordination and ministerial service in the West Virginia Conference.

Available to certified candidates and licensed local pastors of the West Virginia Conference, these funds are essential to opening opportunities for education by all people who receive a call to ordained and licensed ministry.



Disaster Response Ministries of the West Virginia Conference

In the face of disasters, we are called by Christ to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing. The Disaster Response Ministries of the West Virginia Conference is committed to this ministry of response, recovery, and preparedness.

Seeking Forgiveness

The World Council of Churches began "Thursdays in Black" to show solidarity with all people who have suffered gender-based violence. The movement calls on all people to speak up against this violence.

The initiative is described by the WCC as: The campaign is simple but profound. Wear black on Thursdays. Wear a pin to declare you are part of the global movement resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence. Show your respect for women who are resilient in the face of injustice and violence. Encourage others to join you.

This year, as we join in observing "Thursdays in Black," the West Virginia Annual Conference also seeks forgiveness as it repents of its complicity and complacency in the face of sexual misconduct within the Church.

The formal apology as well as the full acknowledgement of "Thursdays in Black," will follow the State of the Church address. During this time, members of our conference will be available in the Prayer Chapel and Narthex for prayer and support.

Clergy Session Explained

Every year as conference begins, the clergy relocate for a time to the Performing Arts Center to conduct the Clergy Session. A closed session reserved for the ordained, the licensed, and the soon-to-be ordained, the business of the clergy session can seem arcane, but it really is anything but.

The Clergy Session is a gathering of all clergy within the conference, held annually, to determine matters regarding, "ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy." (BOD ¶ 602.C.)

In a usual year, the main matter is final approval of any candidates who have been put forward for work in the ministry. This includes all candidates for local pastors, associate members, provisional, and full members of the conference.

As with any gathering at Annual Conference, the business of the day requires votes of a certain margin, motions for action, and all the things that keep the work of the day moving properly.

It is more than that, though. It is a chance

for the clergy who have served in the conference, sometimes for decades, to support those who are beginning their ministry. As each ordinand stands during the session, the body is allowed to ask any pertinent question. Then the body is asked to share what fruits they have seen in the life of those pursuing ministry.

Stories are shared, and the reality of the connection becomes real in a tangible way. For Elisha, the sign of his authority came in the passing of a mantle from Elijah's shoulders to his own. In this conference, even before the bishop lays hands on any candidate for any form of ministry, they receive the affirmation, prayers, and encouragement of their peers – a foundational representation of our connection.

