

Welcome !

Local Church Leadership

2023



FAQs and Resources to help you be
in local church leadership
in the Cascadia District

Cascadia District – Oregon-Idaho Annual
Conference, The United Methodist Church
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Welcome to Cascadia District!

Who are we?

Cascadia District is one of the four districts that make up the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. We are 47 faith communities, stretching from Warrenton on the North Oregon coast to John Day in Central Oregon. We have 44 congregations, ranging in size from 18 members to 520 members, two Hispanic Ministry Fellowships and a non-traditional faith community with roots in the UM and ELCA traditions in Bend.

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference is part of the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area of the UMC. Our Bishop is [Cedrick Bridgeforth](#). You can find information about the Greater Northwest Area and area-wide programs (such as [COVID-19 response and guidance](#) and [Innovation and Vitality resources](#)) at <https://greaternw.org/>

Who are the Cascadia District Staff?

The **District Superintendent is Rev. Wendy Woodworth**. She does much of her work on the road. You can reach her directly most easily by e-mail at wendy@umoi.org or on her cell phone (503) 290-6653. The **District Administrative Assistant is Linda Grund-Clampit**. She does much of her work at the district office, which is located in downtown Salem (680 State St., Suite 200). You can reach her Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at linda@umoi.org or 503-581-3969.

How do I learn about what is going on in the District?

You can call or e-mail the district office ☺ or . . .the District web-presence is on the Annual Conference website, www.umoi.org The Cascadia District page can be reached directly at www.umoi.org/cascadia This is what you can find on the District webpage:

- Information about Fall Charge Conferences (in season)
- Information about Year End Reporting (in season)
- The Cascadia District Prayer Calendar
- The Cascadia Grants and Loans webpage with information and applications for grants and loans for building improvements and new ministry programs
- Online Church Life Resources
- Links to the Cascadia District newsletter
- Cascadia District churches' apportionment information
- Other district-related news as it happens!

There is a Cascadia District newsletter which is sent out by e-mail. It usually goes out twice a month. We welcome submissions and feedback!

Cascadia District also has a Facebook page. Please "like" us and follow our posts at www.facebook.com/CascadiaDistrict

How do I learn what is going on in the Conference?

The Annual Conference website is a great resource: www.umo.org Spend some time exploring it and getting familiar with what is there! The Annual Conference Journal is another important resource. It is posted on the conference website: www.umo.org/journal You can download an electronic copy of parts or the whole, or order a print-on-demand hard copy.

Kristen Caldwell, Oregon-Idaho Conference Communications Manager, works with Patrick Scriven from the Pacific Northwest Conference and Jim Doepken from Alaska, to compile a weekly Greater NW Area e-newsletter, which is a portal to all things in the Conference, Episcopal area and wider church. Linda has already arranged for that to show up in your e-mail box. There is also an Oregon-Idaho e-newsletter once a month.

If you are on the Finance Committee or are the Local Church Treasurer, Linda also signed you up for the *Inspiring Generosity* Blog, a weekly e-mail from our Conference consultant on all things giving-related, and for the district prayer email. There are other conference-level e-newsletters that you may want to get as well (on camping ministry and new church starts, etc.) You can sign up and choose which ones on the conference website homepage, in the lower right-hand corner, www.umo.org

What are the leadership resources available through the District?

- **District-level groups and committees**
 - *Cascadia District Grants and Loans* is a group that provides grants and loans for building improvements and new ministry program seed money. See their webpage, www.umo.org/cascadiaextension for more information and contacts.
 - *Cascadia District Committee on Ministry* is responsible for oversight of candidates for ordained ministry and licensed local pastors. You can connect with them through DS Wendy or by contacting Rev. Amy Overton-Harris, chairperson (amytumc@gmail.com) or Rev. Laura Beville, registrar (pastorlaura1976@gmail.com)
 - *Cascadia District Lay Servant Ministries* The Lay Servant program trains lay people in skills for doing ministry in your local church and in the community. Classes are offered periodically. Some of the Lay Servants are trained in preaching, and can do pulpit supply. Contact Emilie Kroen, Conference Lay Servant Ministries Coordinator, at ekroen@yahoo.com for more information.

- **Camps!** – The [Camps and Retreat Ministries of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference](#) are not a district program, but we do have three camps within or very near our district boundaries, which are a wonderful resource for local church retreats and programming, as well as personal retreat space! And they are open again after being closed for over a year because of the pandemic. Be sure that you [subscribe](#) to the weekly Camp and Retreat Ministries e-newsletter for the latest opportunities.
 - [Camp Magruder](#) on the Oregon Coast at Rockaway Beach.
 - Camp Magruder has a house on-site which they will rent to clergy for \$75 a night for personal or family retreat time! It can hold a nice size group or just you.
 - [Suttle Lake Camp](#) on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains outside of Sisters
 - [Alton L. Collins Retreat Center](#) in the woods just east of Portland
- **Campus Ministries!** – To connect students from your congregations to UM campus ministry at their schools or to invite students to your church, check out the Campus Ministry page on the Conference website: www.umi.org/campusministries

What are the resources available through the Conference?

- **Stewardship Consulting** – Cesie Delve Scheuermann works as the stewardship consultant for the annual conference. She writes a weekly blog, has a webpage with resources and is available to work with your local church about best practices for inspiring generosity and growing faithful disciples who give!
 - If you aren't already receiving the Inspiring Generosity weekly email, sign up at www.umi.org/stewardship
 - Contact Cesie at inspiringgenerosity@gmail.com
- **Abuse Prevention and Safe Sanctuaries** – The Annual Conference has a Safe Sanctuaries Abuse Policy which requires each local church to have a plan in place to protect children, youth, and vulnerable adults.
 - Learn more and check out the requirements and resources at www.umi.org/abuseprevention
 - For support and to answer questions you may contact Lydia Henry, Conference Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator, at preventabuse@umi.org
 - Your church will be required to make a report on your plan at fall charge conference.
- **Finance and Administration Resources** – the staff of the Conference Finance Office are ready to assist you with questions ranging from *local church payroll* to *leasing/renting out building space* to *shared giving/apportionments* to *health insurance and pension* to *building insurance*. Check out all the resources and staff to contact at www.umi.org/finance.
- **MissionInsite Research** – The Annual Conference has a contract with MissionInsite which allows local churches to access demographic data relevant to local church ministry at no charge to you. Check out instructions about how to access all that at www.umi.org/insite
- **Media Center** - The Regional Media Center (RMC) provides an affordable library of video resources, and other multimedia services, to support the ministry needs of churches in the 21st century. They serve

United Methodist churches in the Alaska, Desert Southwest, Oregon-Idaho, and Pacific Northwest Conferences. They also have ecumenical participation from other denominations. Check out how to join and a link to the Regional Media Center's offerings at www.umi.org/mediacenter

- **Faith Foundation Northwest** – (Formerly Northwest UM Foundation) This is a foundation which serves the whole Greater Northwest Episcopal Area. They promote planned giving programs on behalf of local UM churches, Annual Conferences, and General Church boards and agencies. They provide information and guidance to local churches with regard to permanent funds, and they receive and hold in trust funds for the benefit of local churches. Learn more on their website: <https://www.faith.foundation>

What do I need to get on my calendar?

- **Charge Conferences**
 - The annual fall charge conferences in local churches. An e-mail notice will go out with details about scheduling and required reports to prepare.
 - You can check for the latest information at www.umi.org/cascadiadistrictfallchargeconferences which will be live each year later in August.
- **Cascadia Grants and Loans Annual Meeting**
 - The District Church Extension Society holds its annual meeting in the fall. The local church lay leader and another lay member from each church are members of the Society and it is hoped that they will attend this meeting. Watch for a notice of the date!
- **Year End Reports**
 - The annual statistical reports and a few other reports are due at the end of January. The information will be sent out in late December.
- **Annual Conference Session**
 - This is scheduled sometime in June each year. Information will come out in the Spring.

Who do I ask about?

Linda in the Cascadia District office is always happy to be the person to whom you or members of your congregation turn first when you have a question. But she may be referring you to one of the following Conference-level staff members, and you can certainly contact them directly for assistance. The Conference Office is located in Portland and the main switchboard phone line is 503-226-7031 or 800-593-7539. You can also find many resources on the website, www.umi.org

- For clergy benefits (pension, health insurance) – Meg Kau, Conference Human Resources Manager, meg@umi.org, (503) 802-9224
- Candace Clarke is the Conference Treasurer and Benefits Officer. She oversees the whole area of Conference finance, clergy and staff benefits, and use of physical assets. Her e-mail is candace@umi.org or (503) 802-9222
- Find other Conference staff and their contact information at www.umi.org/conferencestaff

But you can always, always begin with the Cascadia District Office with any question you may have!

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