

A Re-Districting Message from Bishop Tracy S. Malone



“So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation, everything old has passed away; see everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation.” - II Corinthians 5:17-18

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Hear the good news! God is always making all things new! All of this ... new life, new perspectives, new opportunities, new direction, and a new future with hope ... is from God!

We continue to make great progress in implementing the Re-Districting Plan, transitioning from 10 to four districts beginning January 1, 2024. The restructuring of the districts will re-direct more attention to the local church, provide greater stewardship, alignment, and flexibility of resources, generate more opportunity for creative ministries, strengthen the possibility for the revitalization of churches, and increase the efforts of starting fresh expressions and new faith communities.

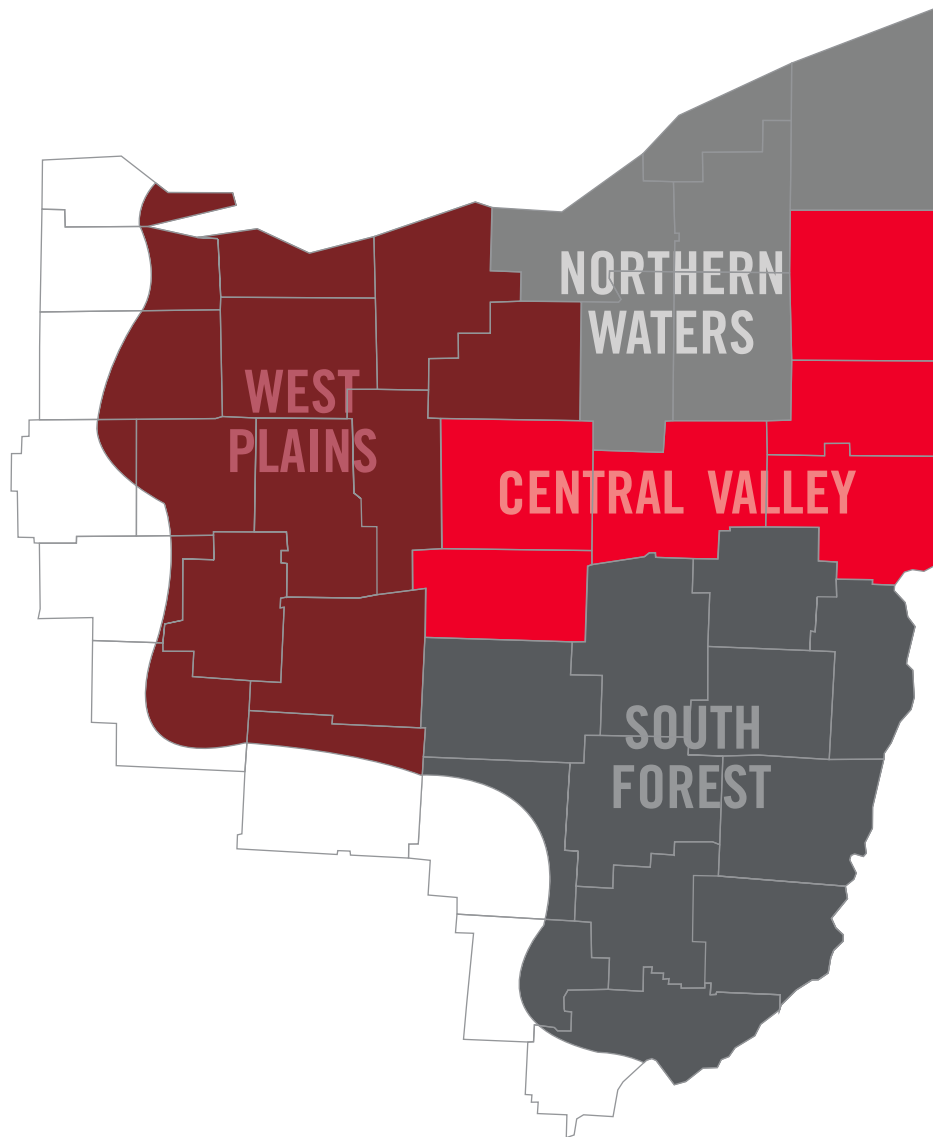
Districts are an integral part of the East Ohio Conference structure and are made up of communities of people, laity and clergy, who work together regionally to share the Good News of the Gospel, to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, and to fulfill our shared mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”. Districts facilitate our collective witness and strengthen the connection with each other, with other churches, and with the communities in our mission fields.



East Ohio Conference
The United Methodist Church

DISTRICT NAMES

The re-mapping of the four new districts of the East Ohio Conference was announced September 27 and an invitation was extended that day to submit potential names of the new districts, which were designated A, B, C, and D in the release. Thank you for your suggestions. After prayerful consideration and discussion with Cabinet, the names of the new districts are: West Plains (A), South Forest (B), Central Valley (C), and Northern Waters (D).



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DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

District superintendents will serve together in teams to facilitate ministry by working closer with our local churches offering spiritual leadership and oversight, clergy and congregational coaching, strategic ministry assessment and development, shared-learning opportunities, leadership and ministry resources, and district communications.

I announce the following appointments of the district superintendents as of January 1, 2024:



Rev. Nestor Nazario
West Plains District
Superintendent



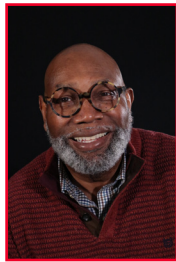
Rev. Donna Van Trees
West Plains District
Superintendent Associate



Rev. Kelly Brown
South Forest District
Superintendent



Rev. Laura White
South Forest District
Superintendent



Rev. Edgar Brady
Central Valley District
Superintendent



Rev. Cara Stultz Costello
Central Valley District
Superintendent



Rev. Bruce Hitchcock
Northern Waters District
Superintendent



Rev. Angela Lewis
Northern Waters District
Superintendent

THERE IS MORE WORK TO BE DONE

The task of remapping the districts, naming the districts, and appointing the district superintendents takes us one more step closer to the implementation of the four new districts in January of 2024. We have determined the general vicinity of where the four district offices will be located but there is more work to be done and there are conversations that need to take place before these details are announced. We have begun the work of training district superintendents on the new leadership structure and other training opportunities will be offered for district leadership teams. And the Re-Districting Administrative Team has met and begun the work of identifying all the administrative matters that need to be addressed.

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In the next few months, there will be more information forthcoming about district structure, leadership, office locations, staffing, and more. To help shepherd the process and to help shape the structure and leadership teams on the districts, we will continue to work in collaboration with the newly formed Re-Districting Administrative Team, the executive directors, the Cabinet, the Connectional Ministries office, and ministry leaders in the East Ohio Conference.

We have set the weekend of January 27-28, 2024, to be the first gathering in each of the new districts. I will join the district superintendents in each district for a time of worship, connection, and celebration.

Beloved, we are on an adventure together to discover the plan God has for us. Although we are treading on some unknown paths, we are treading with trust and confidence in Christ Jesus who leads us and shows us the way.

I invite us to say YES! as we embrace this new thing that God is doing in the East Ohio Conference. Let us bind our hearts together in prayer and with relentless hope as we prepare for this fresh, new expression of being connected in Christ. Let us continue to keep our eye on our mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” And let us continue to live out our shared vision of equipping and resourcing every pastor, local church, and faith community in the East Ohio Conference as we each grow in our capacities to be disciples, to make disciples, and to mature disciples of Jesus Christ; to be agents of God’s healing, hope and transformation in our communities and throughout the world; and to reach new people, younger people, and a more diverse people.

Your Partner in Ministry,
Bishop Tracy S. Malone

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THE PURPOSE OF THE RE-DISTRICTING TASK TEAM

During her Episcopal Address to members of Annual Conference 2023, Bishop Tracy S. Malone shared about having formed a short-term re-districting task team:

“I began conversations with the Cabinet about re-districting long before there ever was a Paragraph 2553. We saw the need and the missional opportunity to re-evaluate the number of districts, district structures, and the role of the superintendents. I formed the team of lay and clergy to assist the Cabinet in studying the number of districts we currently have in light of current church trends and in light of new missional needs and opportunities.”

The team shared its report with Bishop Malone and Cabinet which helped the bishop and the Cabinet to discern its recommendation to the 2023 Annual Conference on reducing the number of districts to better position the East Ohio Conference and increase the capacity for greater discipleship, witness, and mission.

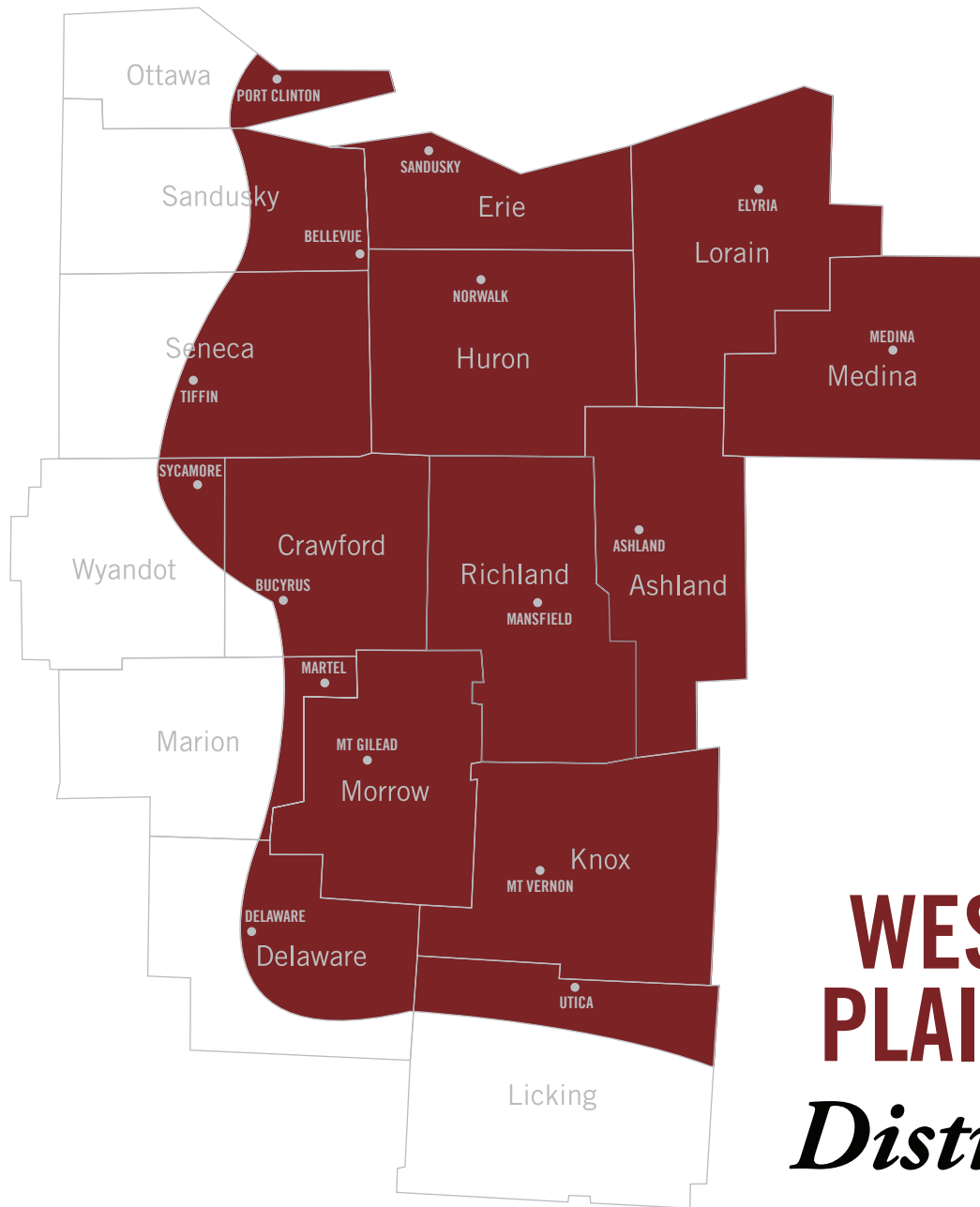
RE-DISTRICTING TASK TEAM MEMBERS

Matt Darrin (convener)
Kimberly Arbaugh
Paige Boyer
Kelly Brown
Kim Green

Earl Kerr
Allen Lafferty
David St. Aubin
Belva Tibbs
Ash Welch



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WEST PLAINS *District*

West Plains District Leadership

Rev. Nestor Nazario, district superintendent

Rev. Donna Van Trees, district superintendent associate

16 Counties
98 Churches



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The United Methodist Church



Rev. Nestor Nazario
District Superintendent



Rev. Donna Van Trees
District Superintendent Associate

West Plains District Churches by County

Ashland County

Ashland: Christ
Ashland: First
Nova
Polk
Red Haw
Savannah

Crawford County

Bucyrus
Crestline: First
Galion: Saint Paul
New Washington
Plankton
Scioto
Tiro

Delaware County

Delaware: Asbury
Galena
Kilbourne
Rural Chapel
Sunbury

Erie County

Huron
Kelleys Island: Zion
Milan Edison Memorial
Sandusky: Trinity
Vermilion: Grace

Huron County

Attica: Richmond
Clarksfield
Greenwich United
New London
North Fairfield
Norwalk: First
Willard: First



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West Plains District Churches by County Continued

Knox County

Beulah
Brandon
Centerburg
Danville
Liberty Chapel
Lock Federated
Mt Vernon: Gay St
Mt Vernon: Green Valley
Mt Vernon: Hopewell
South Vernon

Licking County

Utica

Lorain County

Amherst
Brighton
Columbia
Elyria: Cornerstone
Elyria: Zion
Grafton
Henrietta
LaPorte
Lorain: Lighthouse
Lorain: Wesley
Oberlin: First
Oberlin: Rust
Rochester
Wellington: First

Marion County

Martel

Medina County

Bennett's Corners
Brunswick
Brunswick Mount Pleasant
Chatham
Chippewa Church at the Lake
Lafayette
Leroy
Lodi
Poe
Seville
Spencer
Wadsworth
York

Morrow County

Edison: Canaan
Galion Ebenezer
Harmony Chapel
Marengo
Mt Gilead: Trinity
Sparta
Williamsport

Ottawa County

Lakeside
Port Clinton: Trinity

Richland County

Lexington Church of The Cross
Mansfield: Chapel Hill
Mansfield: First
Mansfield: Korean
Olivesburg
Ontario
Plymouth
Shelby: First
Shelby: Trinity
Three Crosses a UM Fellowship

Sandusky County

Bellevue Seybert Memorial
Clyde: First
Green Springs

Seneca County

Melmore
Republic: Trinity
Tiffin: Faith
Tiffin: Pleasant Ridge
Tiffin: Saint Pauls

Wayne County

West Salem

Wyandot County

Sycamore





SOUTH FOREST *District*

South Forest District Leadership

Rev. Kelly Brown, district superintendent

Rev. Laura White, district superintendent

12 Counties
105 Churches



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Rev. Kelly Brown
District Superintendent



Rev. Laura White
District Superintendent

South Forest District Churches by County

Belmont County

Armstrong Mills
Bannock
Barnesville: First
Barnesville: Main St
Belmont
Bridgeport: First
Brooks Run
Flushing
Jacobsburg
Lansing
Martins Ferry
Maynard
Morristown
Powhatan Point
Powhatan Point: Amity
Real Life Community of Faith

Sewellsville
Shadyside: Lincoln Avenue
Thoburn

Carroll County

Carrollton: First
Dellroy
Kilgore

Columbiana County

Salineville

Coshocton County

Canal Lewisville
Conesville
Coshocton: Grace

Fresno
Isleta
Keene
Nellie Chapel
New Guilford
New Moscow
Orange
Plainfield
Roscoe
Warsaw
West Lafayette



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South Forest District Churches by County Continued

Guernsey County

Antrim
Beckett
Cambridge: Center
Cambridge: Faith
Cambridge: First
Chalfants Chapel
Claysville
Cumberland
Fairview
Londonderry
Lore City
Ninth Street
Old Washington
Pleasant City
Quaker City
Salesville
Senecaville
Winterset

Harrison County

Cadiz: Scott Memorial
Scio
Tippecanoe

Jefferson County

Adena
Bell Chapel
Brilliant
Buena Vista
Dillonvale
East Springfield: Christ
Jefferson Co: Mt Pleasant
Rayland
Rayland: Hopewell
Smithfield
Tiltonsville
Toronto: Sugar Grove
Unionport

Monroe County

Greenbrier
Lewisville
Sardis
Woodsfield

Morgan County

Beverly: Ebenezer
Smiths Chapel

Muskingum County

Gaysport
New Concord
Norwich: Bethel
Otsego
Rural Dale
Trinway

Noble County

Ava
Batesville
Belle Valley
Bells
Caldwell
Hirambsurg
Mary Reed Memorial
Mt Ephraim
Sarahsville

Stark County

Wilmot

Tuscarawas County

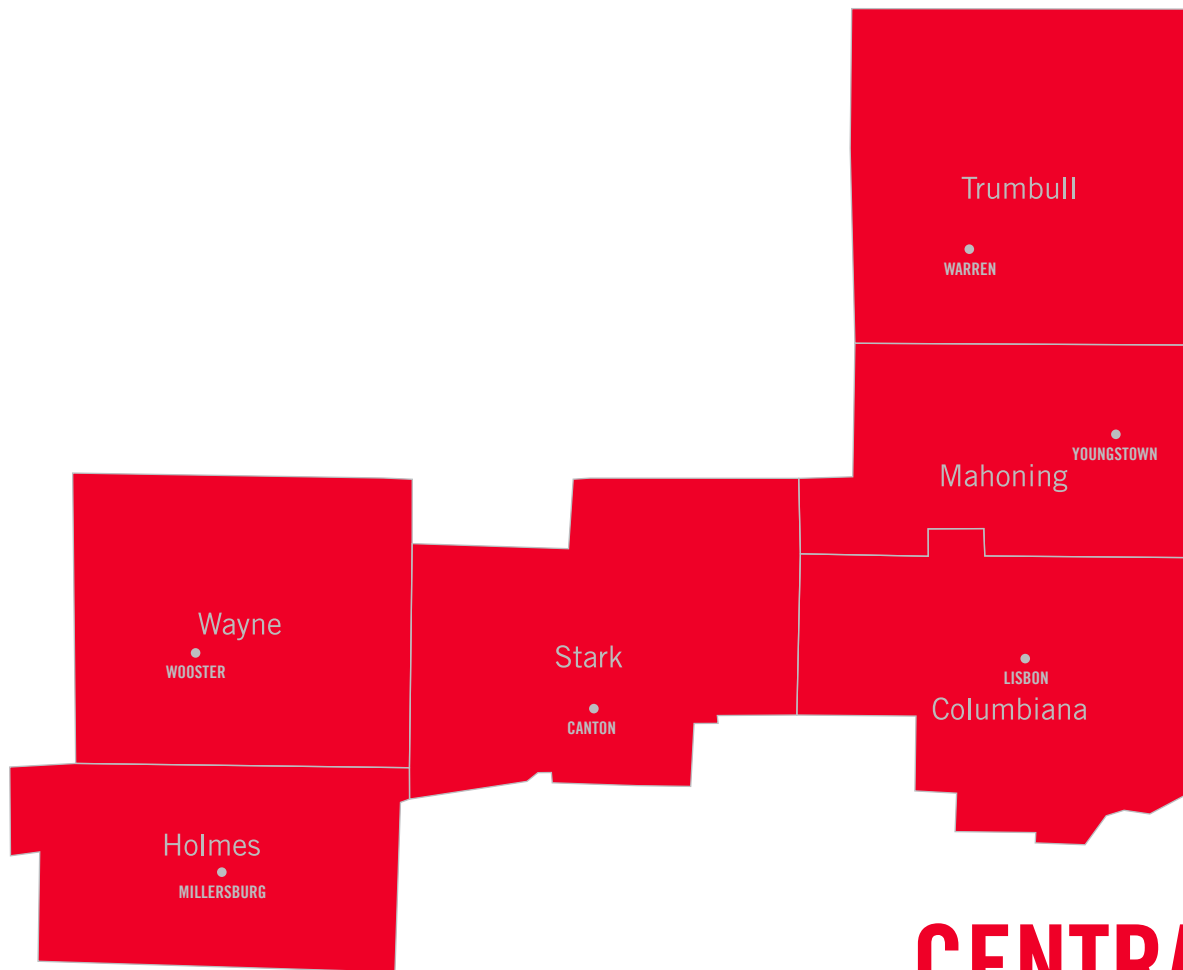
Bolivar
Dover: First
Dundee
Gnadenhutten
New Philadelphia: First
Otterbein
Strasburg
Sugarcreek

Washington County

Lowell
Macksburg
New Matamora



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CENTRAL VALLEY *District*

Central Valley District Leadership

Rev. Edgar Brady, district superintendent

Rev. Cara Stultz Costello, district superintendent

6 Counties
96 Churches



East Ohio Conference
The United Methodist Church



Rev. Edgar Brady
District Superintendent



Rev. Cara Stultz Costello
District Superintendent

Central Valley District Churches by County

Ashland County

Loudonville
Perrysville

New Waterford
Rogers

New Springfield: Trinity
North Lima
Poland
Sebring
Western Reserve
Youngstown: Trinity

Columbiana County

Columbiana
East Fairfield
East Liverpool: First
East Palestine: Centenary
East Palestine: Emmanuel
East Rochester
Elkton
Good Shepherd
Lisbon
Mt. Zion Columbiana
Negley

Holmes County

Bigelow
Fusion Community
Lakeville
Mount Hope

Portage County

Atwater
Deerfield
Palmyra

Mahoning County

Berlin Center
Boardman First
Bunker Hill
Canfield
Church Hill



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Central Valley District Churches by County Continued

Stark County

Alliance: Christ
Canal Fulton
Canton: Crossroads
Crosspoint
Crystal Park
East Canton: Mount Tabor
East Greenville
Greentown
Malvern
Massillon: Epworth
Massillon: First
Navarre Otterbein
New Franklin
New Way
Newcomers Chapel Pigeon Run
North Canton: Faith
North Canton: Grace
North Canton: Werner
North Industry
Perry Heights: Trinity
Simpson
The Vine
Union Avenue
Uniontown
Waynesburg: Centenary
Westbrook Park

Trumbull County

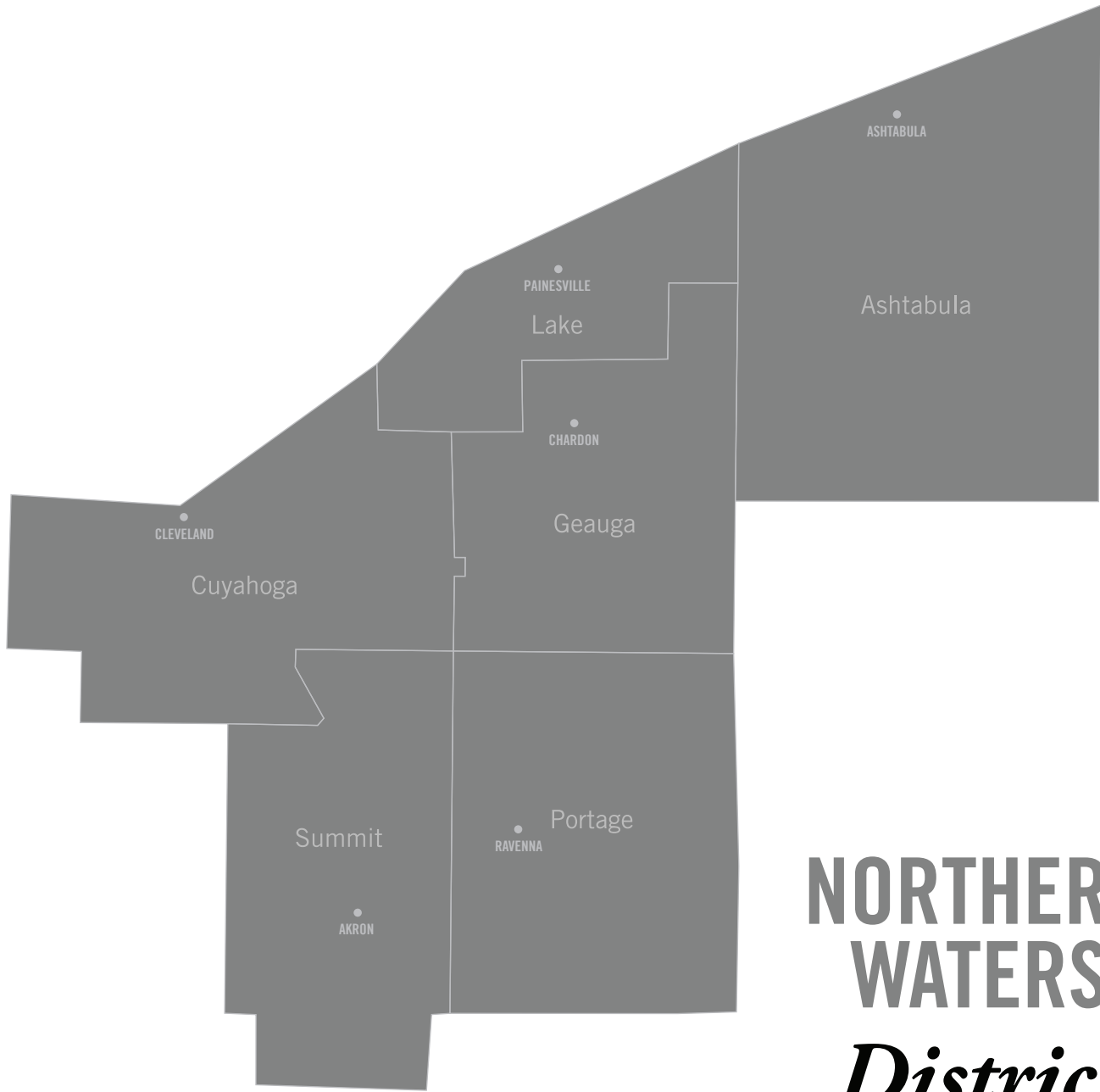
Braceville
Brookfield
Coalburg
Cortland
Fowler
Girard
Gustavus Federated
Howland
Hubbard
McDonald: Woodland Park
Niles: First
Niles: New Hope
Ohltown
Southington
Vienna

Wayne County

Apple Creek
Burbank: Trinity
Burton City
Congress Federated
Creston: Canaan
Dalton
Doylestown
Easton
Marshallville
Moreland
New Pittsburg
Oak Chapel
Orrville: Trinity
Rittman
Smithville
Sterling
Wayne Co: Fairview
Wooster
Wooster Church of The Cross



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NORTHERN WATERS *District*

Northern Waters District Leadership

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, district superintendent
Rev. Angela Lewis, district superintendent

6 Counties
112 Churches



East Ohio Conference
The United Methodist Church



Rev. Bruce Hitchcock
District Superintendent



Rev. Angela Lewis
District Superintendent

Northern Waters District Churches by County

Ashtabula County

Amboy
Andover: First
Ashtabula: First
Bulah Calvary
Cherry Valley
Colebrook
Conneaut New Leaf
Geneva: First
Harpersfield
Jefferson
Leon
Monroe
Orwell
Windsor

Cuyahoga County

Bay
Bedford: Hope
Berea
Brecksville
Brook Park
Celebration
Chagrin Falls
Church of The Redeemer
Church of The Saviour
Cleveland: Christ
Cleveland: Cory
Cleveland: Mount Pleasant
Cleveland: Saint Matthew
Cleveland: Saint Paul
Euclid East Shore

Fairview: Grace
Garfield Heights
Han Madang Korean
Independence
Lakewood
Lakewood: Calvary
Middleburg Hts: Pleasant Hills
North Olmsted
Nottingham
Parma: Good Shepherd
Pearl Road
Pepper Pike Garfield Memorial



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Northern Waters District Churches by County Continued

Ridgewood
Rockport
Rocky River
Solon
Strongsville
University Circle
Warrensville Hts: Aldersgate
Westlake
Willson

Geauga County

Chardon
Lighthouse
Mayfield
Middlefield
Lake County
Concord Hope Ridge
Madison Chapel
Madison Park
Mentor
Mentor Plains
North Mentor
Painesville
Perry
Willoughby
Willoughby Hills
Willowick Shoregate

Lorain County

Avon
Avon Lake: Lake Shore
Elyria: First
Fields

Medina County

Granger
Medina
Sharon Center

Portage County

Charlestown
Garrettsville
Kent: First
Lake Brady
Nelson
Portage: Faith
Ravenna
Streetsboro
Windham

Summit County

Akron: Centenary
Akron: First
Akron: Green Valley
Akron: Park
Barberton Lakeview
Christ Woodland
Clearview
Copley
Cuyahoga Falls: First
Family of Faith
Firestone Park
Grandview
Greensburg
Heart 4 The City
Hudson
Johnson
Lakemore
Lockwood
Macedonia
Mogadore
Montrose Zion
Northampton
Peninsula
Redeemer North Hill
South Arlington
Stow
Tallmadge
Twin Falls
Twinsburg: Faith
Wedgewood



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