



## MT Districts Newsletter

This newsletter is sent out on Mondays to all MT Clergy, Retired Clergy and Lay Leaders.



### Annual Conference News

*The MSC 2021 Annual Conference will move to an online only event, hosted as a livestream by GNTV, on October 22 & 23rd*

Over several weeks, the AC Planning Team, in consultation with Bishop Karen, has made the decision to change the AC 2021 Session from a hybrid of in-person and online experiences to online only. Leading this change is our commitment to “Do No Harm.” We feel we can provide the best Annual Conference session through a small onsite team at the Fox Theater in Ogden, UT while the majority of members participate in the comfort of their own offices and homes. The conference will include a livestream to the theater, where Bishop Karen will preside over plenary sessions. Videos and interactive online engagements will offer a chance to participate in mission presentations, fundraising, and plenty of worship experiences.

### Cost & Logistics

Through a generous grant, we are able to offset costs for the online-only AC 2021 session. Conference leadership recognizes the hardships this year continues to bring with impacts on local church budgets. The value of our connection is the ability to strategize together in hard times to support one another.

*The cost for each voting member and each guest who desires to attend the conference through the livestream is \$49. Registration is now open!*

The cost of the Clergy Orders & Fellowship retreat will be reduced to \$25, as this event will be moved to online only on Wednesday, October 20th, two days prior to the opening session of the Annual Conference.

Ordination will take place in person throughout the fall in small, regional groups following a survey of both classes of ordinands. Bishop Karen and the Board of Ordained Ministry will assist in creating meaningful worship experiences for this important moment in our shared life as the Body of Christ.

### Web Pages for 2021 Annual Conference:

[AC2021 Landing Page](#) - you will find updated information here over the course of the next two months with boxes to click on for everything from registration to materials for plenary sessions.

[Sponsors](#) - please visit our sponsors page to connect with the organizations that help support our ministry - we give thanks for our 2021 sponsors!

[Clergy Orders & Fellowship Retreat](#) - here you will find the registration link, along with information from the online clergy session in June, the clergy memorial recognition, and the clergy retirees

### Registration Links:

- AC 2021 - <https://mtnsky-reg.brapp.com/AC2021OnlineSession>
- Clergy Orders & Fellowship Retreat - <https://mtnsky-reg.brapp.com/OnlineClergyOrders2021>

### Questions?

You may contact Jared O’Kegley-Gibson, MSC Events Manager, at [Registration@mtnskyumc.org](mailto:Registration@mtnskyumc.org) with any questions about logistics or registration.

Immediately preceding the Conference, the Communications Team, in partnership with GNTV, will host training sessions to assure all members voting remotely are fully educated on the process.

You may also contact [Communications@mtnskyumc.org](mailto:Communications@mtnskyumc.org) with particular communication needs surrounding the Annual Conference.

*Please contact MSC Event Manager, Jared O’Kegley-Gibson, with any questions. He manages the [registration@mtnskyumc.org](mailto:registration@mtnskyumc.org) email for all event planning.*

### **MONTANA CLERGY CALL,**

The Montana clergy call will be on **Tuesday, 12-1 pm**. The zoom link information is below. The Montana District Leaders strongly suggests you participate with your colleagues as we gain connection, build community, and work collaboratively on the challenges we face during this ministry time. Please see either DS or CRM with questions. Monthly cohorts will use the same link and gather in a breakout room. If you haven’t signed up for a MT cohort, and are interested, please see CRM Eric Strader.

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Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://mtnskyumc-org.zoom.us/j/97488589768?pwd=Y2tCVDMvdU0zRHdlSzhYVGpIb2RiUT09>

Meeting ID: 974 8858 9768  
Passcode: 872640

### **“RENEWING BESIDE STILL WATERS”**

September 24 - 25, 2021

**ZOOM only**

### **IMPORTANT: CHANGE TO WESTERN MOUNTAINS DISTRICT FALL MEETING**

UMW Sisters and friends,

**The decision has been made to cancel the use of Flathead UMC Camp and have the meeting using ZOOM.** With Covid rearing it's ugly head once again and needing 30 registrants to use camp food services we thought it best to just meet virtually once again.

The new registration form is [HERE](#). When you register with this NEW form you will get an email with Zoom Link for Friday night. A separate email will come to you with Zoom link for Saturday.

Please send in your NEW registration for the Fall District meeting by September 15, 2021.

*(If you had already registered, please do so again so you get the Zoom Link)*

“RENEWING BESIDE STILL WATERS” Facilitated by Rev Su Debree. This will be a very meaningful program. Friday from 6-9 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 3:30 pm (lunch break included). Officer elections on Saturday.

[Click Here](#) for the registration form.

Questions? Please contact Janet Ulrich, President of UMW Western Mountains District. Email Janet at [BlueJayTree5881@gmail.com](mailto:BlueJayTree5881@gmail.com)

Sorry to have to make this change at the last minute, but these are crazy times!



### **Afghanistan Refugee Support in MSC Resettlement Cities**

Do you want to learn how you can help Afghan refugees in Mountain Sky Conference resettlement cities? Please click on the links below for opportunities to ensure a warm welcome for families soon to arrive in the coming weeks and months.

In Denver, CO learn how you can give material, money, or time to help in the effort. Please read more about How to Help Refugees in Colorado and the ways Denver is Preparing to Host Refugees from Afghanistan

In Missoula, MT, International Rescue Committee in Missoula and Soft Landings - Missoula provide services such as housing, enrolling children in school, and job resources.

In Salt Lake City, UT International Rescue Committee is working alongside communities and partners to support Afghans living in Utah.

For more resources and information on global migration and what you can do, please visit [UMC Justice: Global Migration](#).

We will continue to post additional and updated information as we learn of it. If your church is partnering with immigrant neighbors and/or with immigration organizations that are immigrant-led that we can support and learn from, please contact the Mountain Sky Conference Mission Team at [vitality@mtnskyumc.org](mailto:vitality@mtnskyumc.org).

[More detail...](#)

### **Leadership & Vitality Learning Together**



Our faith and life journey is one of continual learning and practicing; discipleship. As we continue to journey together as the Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church, we would like to lift up a few resources for our joint learning, repentance, and work in dismantling racism.

Rev. Bich Thy (Betty) Nguyen, Multicultural Advocacy and Ministries Developer

From Discipleship Ministries of the UMC:

[How to Have a Courageous Conversation: Racism](#)

From the Commission on Religion and Race of the UMC:

**RESOURCE—**

[Implicit Bias: Small Group Facilitator's Package](#)

New resource serves as a supplement to the [Implicit Bias online course](#).

### **NEW PODCAST —**

[Expanding the Table](#)

Episode 1& 2 are out. Episode 3 coming soon!

[More detail...](#)

### **Vital Conversations, Revised**

On the third Thursday every month (with one exception in October) from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, staff members of the Leadership Development, Community Engagement, and Congregational Vitality teams will host guest speakers for Zoom conversations on contemporary and important ministry topics.

Many of you responded to our survey conducted earlier this summer and we have listened. Topics will be chosen from the responses given and organized into 4 quarterly themes for the upcoming year:

Lay Leadership & Servant Ministry  
Courageous Conversations  
Evangelism & Discipleship Pathways  
Whole-Life Discipleship

We moved to a monthly format, instead of weekly, to help with zoom fatigue. We also plan to simultaneously live-cast the zoom meeting on our conference Facebook page to increase the viewing options. And a library of recordings, as in the past, will be available on [Crossroads](#). Finally, we've simplified registration. You will only need to register once and, after that, will receive a reminder email with the link a couple of days before every Vital Conversation. The link will also be available on Crossroads.

[Register for Vital Conversations Here →](#)

This Month's Vital Conversation: Volunteer Recruiting  
Our September conversation will be about volunteer recruiting and servant leadership. This is the season many of our churches are thinking of recruiting for servant leadership in the new year. Many church leaders have also listed volunteer recruiting as one of the biggest challenges! Please join Jeff Rainwater as he welcomes the Rev. Rob Dyer and Renée Wilson to Vital Conversations on Thursday, September 16 at 11:30 am (MT). Rob and Renée will be talking about the current challenges of and best practices for volunteer recruitment. In addition, they will be sharing a new tool in effective volunteer recruitment, [Volunteer Accelerator](#) by [Ministry Architects](#).

Our Guest Speakers: Rob Dyer and Renee Wilson of Ministry Architects

**Reverend Rob Dyer** is Senior Pastor at First United Presbyterian Church of Belleville, IL. Rob has spent the last several years working in the areas of community missions and leadership development in southern Illinois. He has worked at both the local church levels as well at the regional level bringing churches, businesses, service agencies, and individuals together for addressing hunger and homeless issues. Rob also produces a Christian leadership podcast called “[God Complex Radio](#).” Before becoming a pastor, Rob had a successful career as a software developer and manager working with the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. And many years before that, he was a NCAA college mascot. He is used to organizing large numbers of people for transformative experiences, even if it means putting on a tiger costume. Rob lives in Belleville, IL with his brilliant and supportive wife, Sarah, and their four children.