



HISTORY *of*

THE NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION

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historical traditions remain apparent
in some of our churches to this day”

History of The Northwest Ohio Association

The churches in The Northwest Ohio Association have a rich and diverse history. All four of the main predecessor denominations of the United Church of Christ are represented here. The history includes German, Swiss, Welsh and Hungarian immigrants, as well as the Congregational migration from New England. These historical traditions remain apparent in some of our churches to this day.

JUNE 25, 1957

United Church of Christ was formed.

OCTOBER 25, 1963:

Northwest Ohio Association of the Ohio Conference was created. Trinity Church in Tiffin was the place of this historic gathering bringing together 134 congregations from the Central North Association (CC), the Northwest Ohio Association (CC) and the Northwest Ohio Synod (E&R). Rev. Dr. Paul W. Kohler was elected the first Association Minister (1957-1976) and Rev. Paul Rohrbaugh was the first Association Moderator. A constitution was adopted and Tiffin was named as the location of the Association office.

The original structural make up of the Conference was to be three staff persons for each Association. These included an Association Minister, a Director of Religious Education and a Minister for Parish Programs. The Association became aware of the difficulty in supporting three full-time staff. Lucille Frost was initially hired as the Director of Religious Education. She was succeeded by Ralph Quellhorst who served as Minister for Parish Programs with an emphasis on Religious Education.



MAY 6-7, 1964

The first annual meeting of the Association was held at First Church, Lima.

1974-1977

The "Small Church Cluster Council" was initiated through a grant from UCBHM and generous donations of local churches in the Association. This ministry connected fifteen churches in Seneca and Wyandot Counties. Rev. Robert Haskins joined the staff as the full-time director. The "Small Church Cluster" continues to meet on a voluntary basis.

1977

Rev. Dr. Roger D. Perl came to serve as our Association Minister. They entered into a shared program staff configuration with the Ohio Conference. A staff person would work fifty percent for the Association and fifty percent for the Conference.

1979-1980

Asish Kumar Mondal, Church of South India served as Missionary in Residence. Asish brought gifts of spirituality, global perspective and scholarship to this enriching program.

1987

The Association purchased the office building at 416 Wentz St. in Tiffin. The capital campaign was supported by 100% of our churches.

1989

Rev. Martha Due was elected as the Associate Association Minister after the shared program staff design in the Ohio Conference ended.

1996

Rev. Dr. Roger Perl retired as our Association Minister. Rev. Martha Due became the Designated Association Minister.

1998-2000

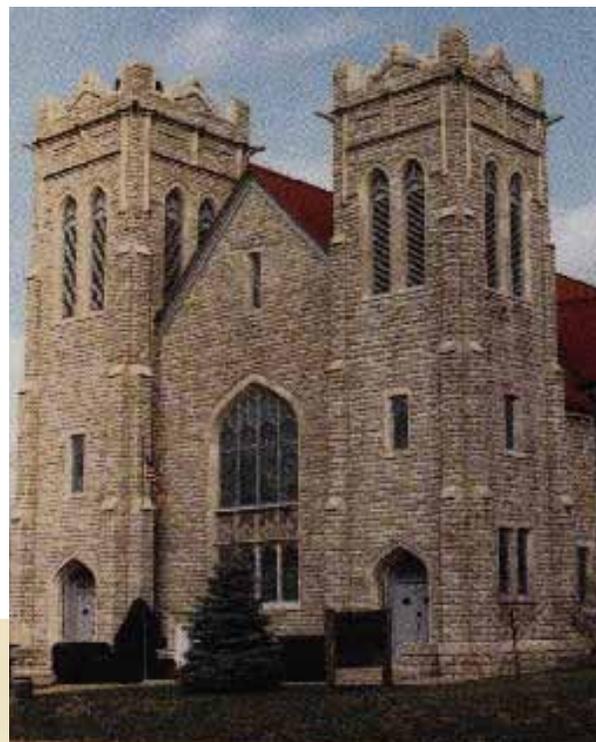
The Association entered a Jubilee Discernment period under the leadership of Rev. Martha Due and Rev. Christine Boardman who was the designated Associate Association Minister. Rev. Barry Bordenkicher began serving as part-time Minister for Nurture and Development in 1999.

2000 - 2005

Rev. Char Burch came as our Interim Association Minister. The Association with assistance from the Center for Parish Development entered a visioning process. We are in the infancy stages of living into our new structure as "A Community of communities."

2005 - Present

Rev. Daniel L. Busch was called as the Association Minister beginning November 1, 2005

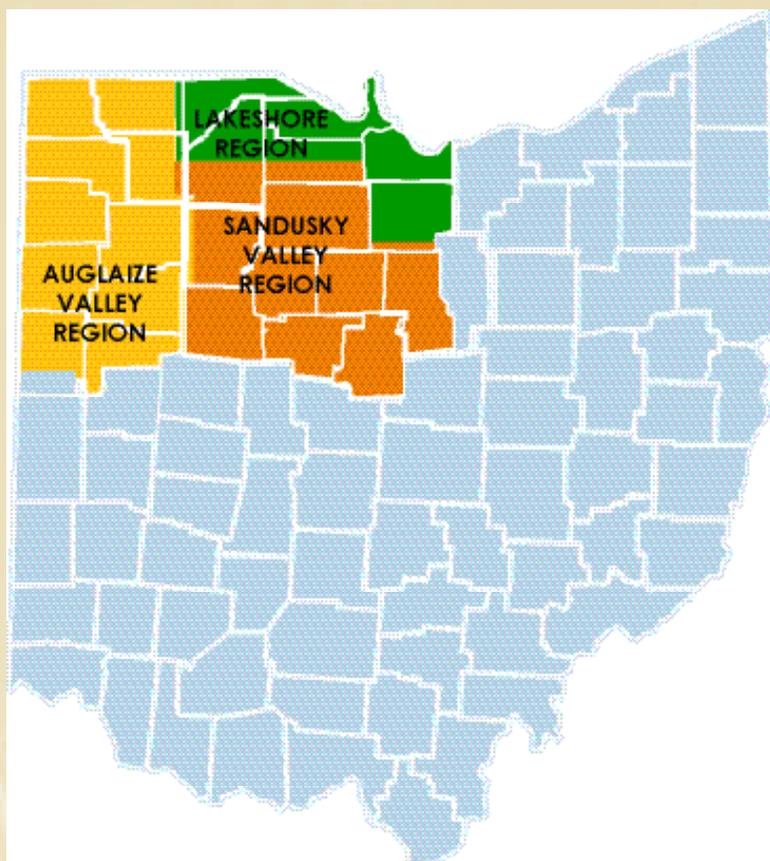


ASSOCIATION GEOGRAPHY

and CONFIGURATION

Northwest Ohio Association of the Ohio Conference

Nestled in the northwest corner of Ohio lies a panorama of rolling plains. The land borders Lake Erie to the north. Characteristics of the Lake Erie plains emerge for about ten miles to the south. These fertile lowlands widen and roll west for more than fifty miles creating the Maumee Valley.



Further west in Ohio the Till Plains make their appearance. Ohio is the eastern most edge of the Till Plains which then expand westward into the Midwest. This gently rolling landscape, interrupted by occasional hills, is one of the most fertile agricultural regions in the United States.

The churches of Northwest Ohio Association have been doing ministry in this charming landscape for almost two hundred years.

NWOA consists largely of small town and rural congregations. Our churches located in and around the city of Toledo provide us with urban diversity. The Association is subdivided into three regions: Auglaize Valley, Lakeshore Region, and Sandusky Valley

Our Association lives out our vision through the work of four Ministry Teams and Three Regional Teams. The ministry teams work in collaboration with and on behalf of the Regions to faithfully carry out the ministry of the Association. The four ministry teams and a synopsis of their area of focus are as follows (this does not mean that all areas of focus are being equally addressed:

FAITH FORMATION

Congregational Transformation; Church Development Team; Congregational leadership development (both lay and authorized); The Lay School of Religion; Spiritual gifts discernment and sharing; Youth Ministries; Spiritual Practices (prayer, praise, worship, etc).

WITNESS AND PROCLAMATION

Worship Planning (plan worship whenever Association gathers); Justice and Peace; Mission Interpretation (OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission), Partners in Mission, (educational and financial support); Ecumenical Connections; CUE (Chicago, United, Eden Seminaries); Women's Programming Clusters.

STEWARDSHIP & CARING

Communication; Resource Assessment (finding out about resources including people and ideas and connect churches in sharing them); Stewardship (theology and practice); Reconciliation (Conflict Response Team); Search and Call Support; Orientation and mentoring for pastors new to the Association.

CHURCH AND MINISTRY

Licensed Ministry; Commissioned Ministry; Ordained Ministry; Ordination; Ministerial Standing; In Care Students; Fitness for Ministry (including Pastoral Misconduct Response Team)

The Northwest Ohio Association Cabinet links all Regions, Ministry Teams and Officers together and is the policymaking body when the Association is not in session.

The Association is accountable for its own governance, budget, staff, programming, and search and call process.

Contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) are received by the Association Office from the local churches.

The Association retains a portion of OCWM and forwards the balance to the Ohio Conference for its ministry and national church support.

Each Spring the Association gathers for worship, learning and business. Each of the three regions has additional gatherings to encourage connection and support among the local churches.

