

A Glossary of United Methodist Lingo

The church, like all organizations, has its own lingo and for some of us it does get a little confusing, so to let's look at some of the acronyms that you are likely to hear:

CLM – Certified Lay Minister

A layperson who has discerned a call to deepen his or her areas of involvement in the local congregation and who has been through specific training modules to support this call. A CLM may be assigned by the bishop to serve a local church as a lay pastor. In the South Mountain Charge, of which Bendersville is a part, Mt. Calvary is being served by a CLM.

UMC – United Methodist Church

UMH – United Methodist Hymnal

The primary Hymnal that we use.

TFWS – The Faith We Sing

This is a supplement to the United Methodist Hymnal. The Bendersville church does not currently have The Faith We Sing, but we may include a song from TFWS once in a while as an insert in the bulletin.

UMYF – United Methodist Youth Fellowship

UMM – United Methodist Men

UMW – United Methodist Women

BOM – Board of Ordained Ministry

A conference-level committee that is responsible for credentialing ordained clergy.

dCOM – District Committee on Ordained Ministry

A district-level committee that oversees local pastors and leads people discerning a call to ordained ministry in the first steps of their process.

DS – District Superintendent

The pastor appointed to oversee all churches and clergy in his or her district. Our current DS in the York District is Charlie Salisbury.

VIM – Volunteers in Mission

Organizes mission opportunities, both at home and abroad.

CCYM – Conference Council on Youth Ministries

A conference-level group of student leaders.

SPRC or PPRC – Staff-Parish Relations Committee or Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

The local church committee that serves as a liaison between the pastor (or staff, in larger churches) and the congregation. Essentially, the Human Resources division of the local church

UMCOR – United Methodist Committee on Relief

The United Methodist organization tasked with mobilizing relief efforts in the aftermath of disasters and tragedies.

Other terms that you might hear:

Ad Council

Sometimes referred to as Administrative Council, or Church Council, this group is the official governing body of the local church. At Bendersville, Ad Council meets on the first Monday of each month.

Annual Conference (or, simply, Conference)

We use the term Annual Conference to mean two things:

- 1) A geographical area. United Methodists are divided into smaller geographical bodies, each of which is led by a bishop. The Bendersville church is part of the Susquehanna Annual Conference, which is made up of all United Methodist Churches in central PA.
- 2) An annual gathering of clergy and lay representatives from all churches in the geographical area. This gathering usually includes worship, teaching, and business, and typically takes place in June.

Bishop

A clergy person elected by the Jurisdiction to lead the Annual Conference(s) to which they are appointed. Bishops are elected every four years, and usually serve in one Conference for a maximum of eight years, before they are moved to serve another Conference.

Book of Discipline

A book that contains our theological understandings, our constitution, and our structure as a denomination. The Book of Discipline is binding upon all United Methodist Churches

Charge

Sometimes, smaller United Methodist Congregations will be yoked together under one clergy person. Bendersville is part of the South Mountain Charge, a group of three churches (Bendersville, Wenksville, and Mt. Calvary), all served by one pastor.

Charge Conference (or, in some cases, Church Conference)

The annual fall gathering of all churches on a charge, to tend to administrative matters.

District

Each Annual Conference is divided into sub-groups, that are led by a District Superintendent. Bendersville is part of the York District.

General Conference

Every four years, clergy and lay delegates from every Conference worldwide get together to vote on legislation presented. It is only the General Conference who has the authority to change the Book of Discipline. The next General Conference session will be May 5-15, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Jurisdiction

In the United States, regional groupings of Annual Conferences are clustered together to form Jurisdictions. It is within Jurisdictions that bishops are elected.

Quadrennium

A four-year stretch of time.