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# THE ORCN REPORT

*The official publication of the Ohio Regional Church Network*

## Welcome to the ORCN Report

Welcome to our first edition of the ORCN Report. We will be sending this digital newsletter to each of the elders in the Ohio Regional Church Network to keep you updated on what's going on in each of the churches and also what's coming up for regional events. We hope to have quarterly editions and pray this helps us stay connected.

*What's in this newsletter:*

**Church Updates**

**August Elder Workshops**

**June Prayer Summit**

## New Song Church Partners with Equipping Ministries

This winter New Song is partnering with [Equipping Ministries International](#) from Cincinnati to offer a set of three 9am-5pm Saturday classes. These classes will minister to you personally and equip you for ministry to others.

### **February 22**

Creating & Deepening Connection: Empathy and Trust in Everyday Conversations

### **March 22**

Conflict to Connection: God's Intent for Wholeness through Conflict

### **April 26**

Renewing Your Mind: Aligning Beliefs with Biblical Truths

unlike any training you have taken before, these classes are highly interactive, super practical, Biblically based, and fun. These are some of the topics we will cover, how to:

- Connect with others beyond surface conversation
- Identify talking habits that are roadblocks to deeper connection
- Approach those awkward conversations you would rather avoid
- Discuss a disagreement or conflict while managing emotions
- Uncover and heal root heart issues that show up as negative behavior
- And much more

Pastor Ashley & Mary completed these classes in 2024. Their lives were so impacted that they want to share the blessing with all of New Song. The February 2024 marriage event was led by this same group, and attendees said it was one of the best they had ever attended. These three classes are open to all members of New Song above age 13. We hope that you will sincerely consider attending all three Saturdays. While it is recommended to do them all in sequence to get the most benefit, you can attend any or all of the three.

Each class is limited to 40 participants. We expect each class will be full, so we encourage early registration. We will maintain a wait list for anyone who would like to attend once the class is filled in case there are cancellations.

Therapy and counseling are expensive! And that makes this training a real deal. If you were to take all of these classes individually in Cincinnati it would cost \$400 plus travel per person. The church has made a significant investment in this training, because we believe it will benefit us as a community for years to come. The church's cost is approximately \$100 per person per class. Minimum recommended donation is \$50 per person per class. Scholarships are available for those who do not have it in their budget. We recognize this is more expensive when adding multiple family members, so the cost is flexible. We hope couples and families will attend together.

On the registration form you can register for all three classes at once or one-at-a-time. Notice the cost is a donation of your own choosing based on what you are able and desiring to pay. Please complete one registration form for each family member attending.

Lunch, snacks, and drinks will be provided. Please note any food allergies on the registration form. Childcare will be provided. Please note child care needs on the registration form. We hope that you will sincerely consider attending all three of these equipping Saturdays with us. Direct any questions to Ashley McGlone 614-312-9225.



Our journey with Emotionally Healthy Discipleship started at a GCC Pastor's conference over 5 years ago in Minnesota, where the featured speaker was Pete Scazzero. One of our Elders did a deep dive over his sabbatical into EHD, primarily to work through his own emotional health. The experience was so transforming that he introduced it to the rest of the Elders and led them and their wives through the course. From there we decided to make it one part of our discipleship process. The premise of EHD is that you can't be spirituality mature while remaining emotionally immature.

The 2 part course, EHS and EHR, is designed to help you discover a deeper and wider relationship with Jesus and others. They are designed to help people experience beneath-the-surface transformation — spiritually and emotionally. The first course causes you to start digging below the surface of your emotional health, while at the same time teaching you how to slow down to be with Jesus and to hear from Him. The second course EHR, gives a believer 8 practical communication and relational skills to learn how to be present with people. We have found this course immensely helpful for marriages. These two courses have become a large part of our discipleship process. Combined with other formational and theological programs, we have found it to open new doors in helping our people mature in their relationship with Jesus and people. To date we have had 250 participants. For More information on the courses you can contact Rich Hendricks at [richh@linworthroadchurch.com](mailto:richh@linworthroadchurch.com)

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### **Prayer Vigil at Darby Creek**

Often you don't think the first time you do something that it will become a very meaningful and powerful church tradition that promotes unity and draws the church closer to God. However, our annual prayer vigil is one of those events. Years ago when we were raising funds for land and a building our church began to host a prayer vigil. The prayer vigil is a time of continuous prayer by a group of people at the church building. At times the prayer vigil has been 24 hours and other times it has been 12 hours long.

Our Prayer Ministry Leader, Julie Dain, has done a great job of organizing this event. In the weeks leading up to the event, people submit handwritten prayer requests in a basket located near where people come in the church sanctuary. People can put their name on the prayer request card, or it can be anonymous. By the time the prayer vigil date arrives, the basket is filled with prayer request cards. During the same timeframe the people are submitting prayer request cards, people are also signing up to pray in 1-hour increments during the prayer vigil at the church building. They can signup at the church building on the signup sheet or they can also signup via an online signup form. The online signup forms get sent to Julie. She then updates the physical signup sheet with any that have come through the online form. She also updates a digital version of our signup sheet so folks filling out the online form can see where there are gaps in the prayer vigil for which they can signup.

People can also signup to pray at home during the prayer vigil. We provide at-home prayers a list of things for which they can pray. We hope to have at least 3 to 4 people praying in person each hour of the prayer vigil. There is an hourly leader designated for each hour of prayer to make sure things run smoothly. Coffee and water are provided in the refreshments area as well during the prayer vigil.

This event has been such a blessing to our church. It promotes unity in a couple of different ways. First, people who often don't spend much time together are now praying together for an hour. Additionally, the fact that we are all praying over the same cards helps us know more of what others in the church are facing and about the concerns they have. When you do this, no matter the size of church, you feel more connected and united.

More recently, Julie Dain has used the prayer vigil momentum to launch our church into 21 Days of Prayer. She writes and makes available a guided prayer booklet that our church uses to pray over 21 different topics that relate to our church and various ministries (last year's document can be viewed at

**<https://darbycreek.org/21days>).**

Each person attending the prayer vigil can pickup a copy of the prayer booklet. It is just another way to remain united in prayer beyond the prayer vigil. We are looking forward to our 2025 Prayer Vigil that is on April 5, 2025.



## **Grace Point Advisor Weekend and Lead Pastor Transition**

This past month we held our second annual Advisor Weekend with our three outside Advisors. We selected Nick Caruthers from LRC, Duane Fleming from Christian Community Church, and Mike Marette, retired pastor of Grace Summit Church. They reviewed our finances, policy manuals, and updates on recommendations from the year before.

On a Friday evening they met with our elder team and mostly discussed the transition plan from Terry Lewis to Tom Houser as lead pastor of the church when Terry retires in September. The advisors made wise recommendations for as smooth a transition as possible. On Saturday, the Advisors met with each of our paid staff one at a time to discuss areas of concern about the future regarding the transition. Then the Advisors met with Terry, Tom, and one non-staff elder (Anthony Torlone) to share those concerns and give advice.

Having been through two Advisor Weekends, we as an elder team value them greatly.

On the first weekend of September, Grace Point will be 25 years old, and Terry will be 65 years old. GP will host both a retirement party and a 25th anniversary celebration.

## **National Prayer Summit**

On June 18-20 Hometown Church in Minneapolis will once again be hosting a prayer summit for elders that were once united in the GCC National Association. You can register here:

<https://hometownchurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2673054>

The theme this year is the Core Value of "Church Leadership"

## **ORCN summer elder retreat**

**On Friday, August 22/23, ORCN will be offering an elder training with workshops on Friday evening and Saturday morning. Awaken church has offered to host us as a central location for all.**

**Friday evening will be a workshop on sermon preparation and delivery. Many of our churches would like to see more of our elders prepared to craft and present messages on Sunday mornings and other events. This hands-on workshop will be a step in that direction.**

**Saturday morning we will open our Bibles and be led by Pastor Jack Stockdale in a theological discussion about heaven and hell and how to respond to the various positions that are being discussed in Christian circles today.**

**Registration will be available in the summer issue.**