

# Lay Messenger

Lay Servant Ministries

Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

July 2023  
Volume 1, Issue 1

## Greetings from your OIMC Conference Lay Leader

### SEASONS

<sup>1</sup>To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: <sup>2</sup>A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; <sup>3</sup>A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; <sup>4</sup>A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; <sup>5</sup>A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; <sup>6</sup>A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; <sup>7</sup>A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; <sup>8</sup>A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

We are one month over half-way through this 2023 year and in all of its joys for folks, there is also a sense of lingering varied heaviness that has followed in a different way from 2020 now that we are fully awake from pandemic mode. In this first newsletter that I hope to keep up quarterly, the word "Season" popped to my noggin'...all of us, in some form or fashion, traveling in on our mountains or in our valleys, go through the seasons of those terrains. I focus on Laity but never negate our Pastors and Lay Missioners in these writings.

Just as creation undergoes a pruning in its respective seasons (e.g., animals "shed"), I believe I go through pruning, we all go through pruning. Sometimes it is done with the Lord humming gently, continuing to mold us and make us as the Potter to The Clay. But sometimes, it is the Lord fast, furiously and like our Native Mama's brushing or combing our hair, it can smart and ouch! But I find in this latter, it is because of my unwillingness to sit still just like when Mama was combing my hair (count it a blessing if your Mama used a brush! LOL!) This past year, I have been in verses 4 and 7. I think the world of the Body of Christ and humanity as a whole sees verse 8 in love and war and calling for the time of peace and hate. For clarification, hate here is not the arbitrary sense of the word but rather the Hebrew context of "sane" (סָנַע or "saw-nay" in early pictograph, this was a seed and thorn thereby depicting a turning away. We would want to turn away from something that is painful or hurtful. So when God said he "hated Esau", it was not out of meanness but rather it pained Him and He wanted turn of this. Yet, other translations do speak of it literally but I think this to be contemporary and not Godly. By scriptures, I see very much the pictograph language.

No matter your place or space in reading this, may the Lord's voice be heard and I am but a vessel...may your Season whether pruning or just traveling through, be blessed and as the Lord would be in it all. For watering, fertilizing and nurturing...study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (and remembering) but shun profane and vain babblings, for they will increase unto more ungodliness (II Timothy 2:15-16). Wado! God bless and keep you....donadagohvi (Dee KQ



### From The Peoples Path

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bishop Nunn & Laity .....	2
LSM Themes .....	2
Be in the Know.....	2
OIMC Church Highlight.....	3
2024 LSM Training Events .....	3
Training Topics.....	4

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Be in the Know
- LSM Training Events
- Laity Led Training Topics



## BISHOP NUNN'S GREETES LAITY AT THE 2023 LAITY SESSION OF THE 181ST OIMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Each OIMC Annual Conference opens with the Annual Laity Session in conjunction with the Lay Missioners/Pastors Executive Session.

This year, the OIMC Board of Laity was pleased and thankful that Bishop Nunn could provide opening remarks at the 2023 Laity Session. Bishop Nunn provided encouraging and uplifting words spiritually for them and the works that each

fulfills in their callings.

This is time for Laity from across OIMC to come together in brief worship, fellowship and sharing; and, to hear updates from Region Lay Leaders and OIMC Conference Lay Leader of the year and forward.

This year, "volleyed" to share LSM "trivia" as well as were a part of data-mining for future possible training areas.

***What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. II Timothy 1:13***

### BE IN THE KNOW....

*Are Local Church LAY LEADERS required to become Certified Lay Speakers? No*

*Are Local Church LAY LEADERS required to attend Lay Servant Training? No*

**HOWEVER**, the lay leader is urged to become a certified lay servant (BOD: PART VI; Chapter 1; Section VI; ¶251.f)

### 2023 LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES THEME CONTINUES

Did you know that every United Methodist Quadrennium, a set of four theme foci are issued for Lay Servant Ministries? Here they are as follows:

2021: RISE UP! Revive—II Timothy 1:3-7

2022: RISE UP! Reveal—II Timothy 1:8-12

2023: RISE UP! Remain—II Timothy 1:13

2024: RISE UP! Retain—II Timothy 1:14

Remain steadfast in your calling and reap the gifts of faithfulness!





*Historical: Nanih Chito*

## OIMC CHURCH HIGHLIGHT: NANIH CHITO

Nanih Chito United Methodist church is in Wright City, Oklahoma. Nanih Chito is a Choctaw word that means Big Hill. Many Choctaw people attended this church through the many years gone by. The exact date of the church origin is not known, however, the trustees of Nanih Chito bought about 15 acres in 1912. Therefore, it has been around at least 121 years.

At the time of purchasing the land the Church was called Nanih Chito Methodist Episcopal Church. It later joined the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC) which is headquartered in Oklahoma City, and it is now called Nanih Chito United Methodist Church.

The old small original church was torn down after the current church was built in 1966 by the local members of Nanih Chito, and currently has a small membership of older individuals. It is in a rural area about five miles east of Wright City, and the property is just beautiful! They do not have a pastor, but are supplied Lay speakers from the surrounding communities.

Members are Choctaw, and so many of the songs are sung in the native language. Many of the members speak the native language. The members range from little children (many are grandchildren) to Elders. Though the congregation is small, but its members love to worship God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Most have grown up in this church.

We have heard blessings in Choctaw which are beautiful. Solomon Tonihka and his grandchildren have sung the most beautiful, soul touching music to several of us as our work team got ready to leave. They are a resilient group who are always looking for new members or returning members to worship the Lord on Sunday mornings. Most of them grew up in the church and have wonderful memories of special times. (PER ARTICLE FOUND IN *THE MESSENGER*—<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/568c163069492e08720740d8/t/644a85984103b051637b15cf/1682605464530/4%3A27%3A23+THE+MESSENGER.pdf>)

**2024**

## LAYSERVANT MINISTRIES TRAINING EVENTS

Now that life has returned to regular functionality, it is the goal of the OIMC Board of Laity to have established 2024 Lay Servant Ministries Training Event dates established earlier than normal to allow notice to the OIMC Conference Office for calendaring as well as get the Save the Date announcements out to all Regions.

Please note, this is Save the Date only and will NOT include any other event information as that will come by January 2024.

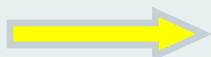
So all of you who attended Basic this year, we look forward to seeing you in the Advance Course in 2024; and Advance in Certification!

We will have to make a decision on Recertification as everyone was grandfathered in and all **who attended the 2023 Recertification Courses** are in good-standing and are not due until 2026. This includes new Certifications as well who attended training this year.

## LAITY LED TRAINING TOPIC INTERESTS



Next door to this column are the Laity led training topics of interest.



These ideas were gathered in during the 2023 Laity Session at Annual Conference held at the Northeast Region Training Center, Preston, Oklahoma (06.09.2023).

This is a general list for now. In the future, due to an upcoming 2024 project, they will be grouped into up to 6 different categories, ranked and then drafted to a survey that will be made available to all Laity.

Thank you to all who participated and submitted these ideas. As a Board who is responsible for all of our Laity's leadership and spiritual growth, we appreciate you! Laity Session is one of the most important Lay led sessions of the year and we hope to see more at the 2024 session in Antlers, Oklahoma at the Southwest Region Training Center.



## TRAINING TOPICS—GENERAL LIST

- ◇ How to incorporate young people in a meaningful way—into worship, into leadership or into layspeaking.
- ◇ Ways to put what you learn at Lay Speaking School into practice in your own church.
- ◇ How do we move our ministry into the new technical age?
- ◇ Meditation/Yoga.
- ◇ Mental Health.
- ◇ Prayer.
- ◇ Spiritual Growth.
- ◇ How to teach(?)
- ◇ Lay Speaker Morning Worship Ideas.
- ◇ Lay Speaker Morning Devotion Ideas.
- ◇ What is OIMC?
- ◇ Duties of a Lay Leader.
- ◇ Spirituality in a Changing World.
- ◇ Challenges of Women in Ministry (Lay or Ordained).
- ◇ Understanding UMC Issues.
- ◇ Using Book of Resolutions.
- ◇ Do Advertising Flyers.
- ◇ Email well in advance of when event is happening.
- ◇ Church Outreach.
- ◇ Reaching Young Adults.
- ◇ Membership: How many people are coming to church?
- ◇ Prayer Team: Minister to the lost and needing prayer.
- ◇ NER(?) Men's Group: Building men in ministry.
- ◇ Holistic Training for Lay Servant Ministry is more than:
  - ⇒ Looking but seeing beyond my steps.
  - ⇒ Hearing beyond self.
  - ⇒ Touching beyond self.
  - ⇒ Seeing beyond self.
  - ⇒ Thinking beyond self.
- ◇ Family Dynamics (balancing church and home).
- ◇ Sunday School (can be Monday or Saturday) (Alternative Days/Times)
- ◇ Grief Ministry.
- ◇ Improve reaching young children, teens and young adults in messages.
- ◇ How can messages be better suited for young ears to receive the Word.
- ◇ Our challenge is reaching our young attendees.
- ◇ OIMC History
- ◇ UMC History 101.
- ◇ Methodism Traditions: Baptism, Communion, Affirmation of Faith, etc.
- ◇ OIMC & The UMC: Understanding Off-fering and \$\$\$ Routing.
- ◇ Importance of Archives & History.
- ◇ Importance of Clean Membership Tracking & Monitoring.
- ◇ The United Methodist Church and The United Nations



## UMC LAITY, ARCHIVES & HISTORY

Did you know that you can visit United Methodist archives in Oklahoma City? Yes! Hop over to the library at Oklahoma City University (OCU). Make pre-contact for best efficiency of time and resources to Christina Wolf at [cwolf@okcu.edu](mailto:cwolf@okcu.edu) OR 405-208-5919; also for the Reading Room (required appointment) [dblarchives@okcu.edu](mailto:dblarchives@okcu.edu) Call: 405-208-5067.

I was excited to see my Daddy's name in Conference Journals! The record of the gifting of the land of my home Church, D.D. Etchieson UMC recorded in the 1953 Conference Journal. Not gifted by GS Etchieson but by a gentleman from OKC>

By the way, remember, we were not always "Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference" (new folks tidbit).

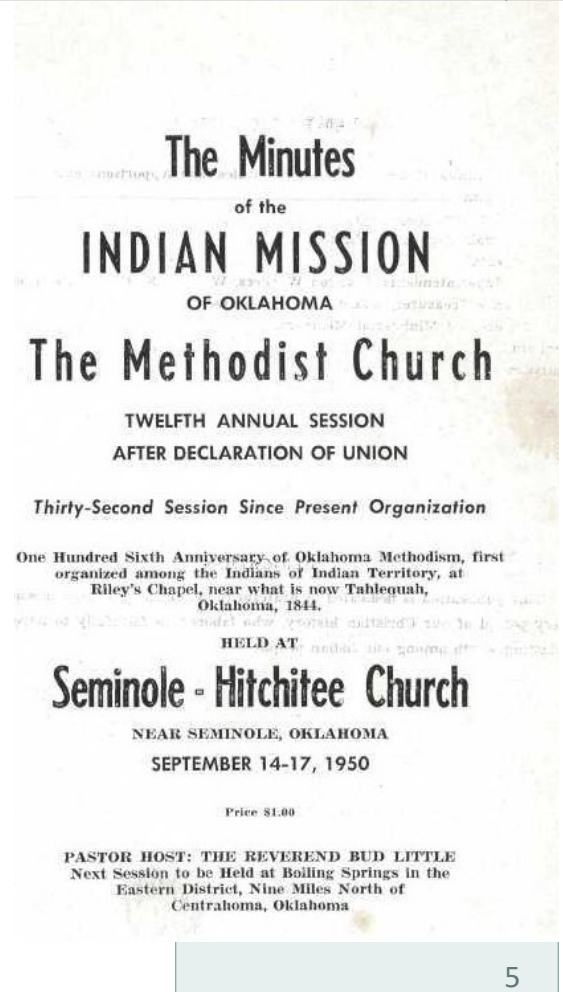
If you love history—you will love the Archives! And, begin/continue building your respective Church's historical life! Yes, it can be time-consuming, sometimes daunting but in the end, sooooo well worth it! We must leave the legacies of who we are to our newbies and our new generations of OIMC members!

## IN REMEMBRANCE....

For this Quarter, I would like to remember and recognize a woman who gave us great character! I remember her from my child & youth days. She was a staple in the formerly known North District around the Grounds and our Hospitality House 8, formerly known as Camp 8..she is Ruby Mildred! She could come off as hard but had a heart of gold from my best memories. She was a constant in HH8 and made sure things were done (in her own way LOL!)

If you would like to give "nod" to a person of memory, drop me a line at: (brief write-up)

[oimclayservantminitries@gmail.com](mailto:oimclayservantminitries@gmail.com)



## CONFERENCE BOARD OF LAITY

Oklahoma Indian Missionary  
Conference

### Central Region

Mary Noah  
3201 NW 36th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112  
Phone: 405.754.7753  
halfchoctaw@rocket mail.com

### Northeast Region

June Marshall  
614 S. Taft Avenue  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
Phone: 918.759.7814  
hjmarshallredbird@gmail.com

### Southeast Region

Gloria Moore  
37385 CR 1575  
Allen, OK 74825  
Phone: 918.260.0674  
tgmooreabc@gmail.com

### Southwest Region

Patricia  
Stoneroad Waysepappy  
6436 NW Columbia  
Lawton, OK 73505  
580.583.1966  
pstoneroad@gmail.com

## YUMMMM!

**YIELDS:** 8 serving(s) **PREP TIME:** 25 mins **TOTAL TIME:** 25 mins

### Ingredients – Creamy Avocado Dressing

1 ripe avocado  
1 small (seeded) jalapeño  
3 tbsp. fresh lime juice  
2 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro  
1 clove garlic  
1/4 c. mayonnaise  
1/4 c. olive oil  
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper



### Ingredients – For Salad

2 heads baby iceberg, cut into quarters through the root  
1/2 c. thinly sliced red onion  
1/3 c. crumbled Cotija cheese  
4 slices cooked thick-cut bacon, crumbled  
3 Roma tomatoes, seeded and chopped  
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

### Directions

#### Step 1

Make Creamy Avocado Dressing: Puree ingredients with 1 tablespoon water in blender or food processor until smooth, 30 to 45 seconds. Season with kosher salt and black pepper. (Makes 1 1/4 cups.)

#### Step 2

Make salad: Top lettuce wedges with dressing, onion, cheese, bacon, and tomatoes, dividing evenly.  
Season with salt and pepper.

## HMMMMM....

### OIMC Lay Leader

Detra Kingfisher-Quinones  
318 W. Keetoowah Street  
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Phone  
918.457.9865

Email  
oimclayservantministries@gmail.com

1. What is the first book of the bible?
2. On what day did God make the plants and trees?
3. Who wrote the book of Genesis?
4. In how many days did God create the world?
5. Who was the first man created?
6. Where did Adam and Eve live when they were created?
7. What is the last book of the bible?
8. Who tricked Eve into eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
9. Who built an ark?
10. Name Noah's three sons.
11. Who was Abraham's wife?
12. Who was Abraham's nephew?
13. What happened to Lot's wife?
14. Who was Isaac's father?
15. Name Isaac and Rebekah's Two sons.
16. What did God change Jacob's name to?
17. How many son's did Israel have?
18. Who was Israel's youngest son?
19. Who wore a coat of many colors?
20. How did God appear to Moses the first time?

**(Answers in the 2nd Quarter Newsletter)**