



Upper New York Conference
The United Methodist Church

MEDIA RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

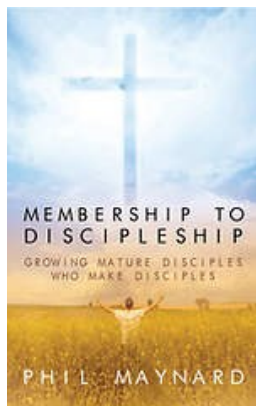
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I am available in person
at the conference center
Tuesday - Thursday from
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
and via email on
Monday and Friday.

Online Catalog

#SEE^{ALL}THE PEOPLE



New Beginnings

Fall always makes me think of new beginnings. Maybe it's because a new school year begins, or we get back into a routine after the days of summer, or the enthusiasm of the local church to begin something new. All of this brings with it a sense of excitement.

As some of you have already heard, after much thought and prayer, I have decided to retire from my position as the Media Resource Director of our conference in November. It has been my pleasure to serve you over these last ten years. I have been blessed to be part of a vital ministry that has the ability to touch the lives of so many people and help them to grow in their faith as disciples of Jesus. I am most thankful for everyone I have met along the way. You have made this much more than just a job for me. I know you will welcome who comes next as they bring new gifts and graces to this position. I'm not sure what God has in store for me, but I am excited and open to the new possibilities.

In previewing and selecting materials for the resource center I have read countless books. Most recently I read *From Membership to Discipleship-Growing Mature Disciples Who Make Disciples* by Phil Maynard. It gave me much to think about as to whether we just add members to our local church or do we create an intentional discipleship system for all who are in a different phase of their relationship with Christ. It also made me think how different it is to just be a member as opposed to being a disciple. What does it mean when we are asked to give of our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness as a part of the church? How do we live into that and help others live into it?

The resource center carries many materials that can support an intentional discipleship system in your local church and help people who are searching, exploring, beginning, growing and maturing in their faith.

Missional Engagement: It's All About Relationships

Junius B. Dotson says that church outreach has generally taken the form of community service or evangelistic efforts. But real missional engagement entails the building of authentic, organic, and consistent relationships that lead to intentional discipleship.

[Read more.](#)

***Please note that all copies of *Faithful-Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph* have already been reserved for this Advent season.**