

**DRAFT**

# Merger Document for Church of the Lakes United Methodist and Canal Fulton United Methodist Church

## Item #1 - The Purpose Of The Merger

The Congregations of Church of the Lakes UMC and Canal Fulton UMC have a long history of serving the residents of Stark County by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe that the merging of resources will make us stronger in our united mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world...” Though we will be a newly merged congregation, we will continue to sustain memories and community presence in our appointed mission fields in Western Stark County.

The members of Church of the Lakes United Methodist Church and Canal Fulton United Methodist Church by virtue of a membership vote, have agreed to the merging of their churches. The two churches propose this Merger Document, as created by a Joint Merger Committee, as the full agreement by the parties to achieve such merger.

## Item #2 - Naming

In recognition of the long history of Canal Fulton United Methodist Church in the community, and the historic tie of Church of the Lakes with the Lake Cable community, the church formed by the merger will be to be known as:

**Church of the Lakes, Canal Fulton Campus**  
**Church of the Lakes, Lake Cable Campus**

## Item #3 - Vision Statement

The mission statement of Church of the Lakes is: “We believe the light of Christ Jesus is God’s message of love, forgiveness, hope and wholeness to all. Our mission is to enable people to know Christ and make Christ known through worship, prayer, fellowship, discipleship and service”

The mission statement of the Canal Fulton United Methodist Church is “Sharing God's Love in Canal Fulton since 1808: We are a hope-filled, faithful congregation that has been changing lives for over 200 years.

As we start this next chapter of our journey, our intention is to work with the material of Will Mancini’s “Church Unique” to form a new mission statement as we work on the Vision Frame and identity.

Frame Component	Icon	Irreducible Question of Leadership	Missional Reorientation
Mission		What are we doing?	<sup>m</sup> Mandate
Values		Why are we doing it?	<sup>m</sup> Motives
Strategy		How are we doing it?	<sup>m</sup> Map
Measures		When are we successful?	<sup>m</sup> Marks
Vision Proper		Where is God taking us?	<sup>m</sup> Mountaintop + Milestones

Our intention is to host a visioning retreat in early 2019 and to use the Vision Frame to define a new vision statement.

#### **Item #4 - Strategy**

We are called to extend Christ's love to the community and the world to meet physical and spiritual needs. We believe there is a place here for everyone to safely share their deepest hopes, hurts, insights and dreams. Our mission is to extend ourselves beyond the wall of the church to invite people into a lifesaving relationship with Jesus. We will strive to support all aspects of community outreach including:

- Preschool, child care and after school care
- Recovery Ministry including Celebrate Recovery, Divorce Care, Grief Share, and AA
- Royal Family Kids Camp
- Habitat for Humanity
- Calvary Mission
- Feeding Ministries
- Scouting Ministry
- Recreational Ministry
- Nursing Home Ministry such as Harbor Lights

Church of the Lakes will continue to operate as a permission-giving congregation. Those led by the Holy Spirit will be encouraged to use the Vision Frame to create new church ministries or to propose involvement with community ministries. The guiding principles to evaluate all proposals will be defined in the Vision Frame.

#### **Item #5 – Organizational Structure and Names of Committees**

In regards to funding decisions of committees and ministries, the Leadership team of Church of the Lakes will establish budgets and approve fund raising requests. Further they will evaluate the overall missions and ministries of the congregation by looking at measurable outcomes and making any adjustments as needed. There will continue to be a Staff Parish Relations Committee, a Board of Trustees, a committee on Leadership Development (Nominations), and a Financial Support team to fulfill the requirements of the United Methodist Book of Discipline.

The new Church of the Lakes Leadership team will add a lay leader from the Canal Fulton Campus to join the lay leaders of 8:30, 9:30, 11:00 and Oasis. An additional lay delegate to annual Conference will also be invited to the Staff Parish Relations committee without vote.

#### **Item #6 - Personnel**

On the date of the merger and forthwith, subject to the discretion of the Church of the Lakes SPR and Leadership team, the present staff at the Lake Cable Campus will continue and Pastor Don Ackerman will become part of the clergy team. The present secretary, custodian and organist of Canal Fulton UMC will be retained. The current Church of the Lakes accountant will assume the financial oversight of both campuses. The preschool director at Canal Fulton UMC will continue to serve in her present capacity, but will report to the Childcare Director at the Lake Cable Campus as her immediate supervisor.

## **Item #7 - Property**

### **A. Buildings and Lots:**

No anticipated changes will occur with the property at Canal Fulton campus. A current list of infrastructure needs for that campus building will be addressed including:

- Replacing the roof
- Adding Air Conditioning
- Sanctuary Renovations including chancel expansion, carpeting, wall covering, energy conservation of windows.

An outside firm will be retained to make a list of renovations and drawings to meet the needs of the Canal Fulton Campus.

### **B. Parsonage at Canal Fulton**

The parsonage will be deeded to Church of the Lakes United Methodist Church including all appliances and fixtures. Pastor Don Ackerman and his family will continue to live in that parsonage. Since Church of the Lakes has no recent history of parsonages, a parsonage committee will be formed to tend to any emerging issues. This committee will report to the Trustees of Church of the Lakes.

### **C. Records:**

The membership roll of Canal Fulton UMC as of the date of the merger will be transferred to Church of the Lakes UMC and added to the database. Membership and baptismal records from Canal Fulton UMC will be gathered, catalogued and added to the database of the combined congregation. Essential history and records will need to be catalogued, archived and stored.

### **D. Inventory:**

The Trustees of Canal Fulton UMC will conduct a thorough inventory of the church artifacts. In conducting this inventory, the Trustees will use the following definition of “artifact” as any object made by human hands; and synonyms for clarification are a **relic, memento, remembrance, souvenir, token, and vestige**. The inventory will be used to determine the final disposition of the artifacts to be either: retained, sold, gifted, returned to the owner or disposed of.

## **Item #8 Financial Assets**

Financial assets of Canal Fulton United Methodist include a checking account at **xxxx** and funds invested with **xxxx**. All financial assets and debts of Canal Fulton UMC will become the assets and debts of Church of the Lakes once the merger is completed.

Church of the Lakes will be responsible for the payment of any taxes, utilities, or other bills that may still be outstanding after the date of the merger. The Finance Committee of Canal Fulton United Methodist will prepare a list of all financial assets and debts as soon as possible. As soon as practical after the date of the merger, the transfer of all financial assets shall be initiated into accounts at Church of the Lakes UMC. Every effort will be made to complete this process as soon as possible with a target of thirty days or less.

## **Other Funds**

**1. Memorial Funds** - These funds will be transferred from Canal Fulton UMC to Church of the Lakes UMC and kept to honor the intent of the giver of these funds as a separate item in the Memorial fund account at Church of the Lakes.

**2. Designated Funds** - These funds from Canal Fulton UMC will be transferred to Church of the Lakes UMC into similarly purposed funds where possible.

**3. Undesignated Funds** - (including the General Funds) - Any funds outside of those detailed in this section will be transferred from Canal Fulton UMC to Church of the Lakes UMC.

**4. Endowment Funds** - Endowment funds will be transferred to the Stark Community Foundation in the account for Church of the Lakes.

**RESOLUTION OF ACCEPTANCE AND INTENT**

**WHEREAS:**

The recognized members from the official membership records of the Canal Fulton United Methodist Church, at an officially called Church Conference on xxxxx voted and passed to authorize the merger of this church with Church of the Lakes UMC

**WHEREAS:**

The recognized members from the official membership records of both churches for said merger received and adopted the above merger document;

**WHEREAS:**

This merger document was prepared with the use of The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (2016) as the guide for procedures:

**NOW:**

The recognized members from the official membership records of Canal Fulton United Methodist Church and Church of the Lakes UMC at an officially called Church Conference on xxxxx, voted and passed to authorize the merger.

**FURTHERMORE:**

The new church will begin functioning as the Church of the Lakes UMC on July 1, 2019 following the favorable vote on this document. All previous entities will cease to exist except as it relates to concluding church business, pending inheritances, endowments, scholarships, and trust funds that will be transferred to the new church as soon as appropriate legal actions can be taken and will legally become the single membership roll of the Church of the Lakes UMC

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this merger document does fairly and with all good faith and knowledge represent the terms and conditions that begin the establishment of Church of the Lakes UMC.

**FURTHERMORE:**

This merger document covers eight (8) items: The Purpose of the Merger, Naming, Vision Statement, Strategy, Structure and Names of Committees, Personnel, Property, and Financial Assets.

**NOW:** Presented to the Bishop and Cabinet of the East Ohio Conference for approval.

**SIGNATURES OF MERGER COMMITTEE:**

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