



May 19, 2026

Cedar Crest Family:

You are a vital part of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference UMC camping family, a stakeholder in Cedar Crest, and an important part of our beloved community. As such, I want to share some exciting news with you that will be announced later this week in the conference newsletter and in camp communications. After summer camp this year, I will transition to serve singularly in the capacity of Executive Director of Tennessee-Western Kentucky United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministry.

This is a role I have held along with the Cedar Crest Site Director role for these past 8 years. Our conference (United Methodist Churches from Memphis to Crossville and up to Western Kentucky) owns two conference camps, Cedar Crest and Beersheba Springs Assembly; a third, Lakeshore, is a covenant entity. I will continue to provide leadership and will spend more time in fund development, visioning, and strategic planning for the sustainability of camping. The Camping Board of Directors began to imagine this shift a few years ago, and we have discerned together that it is time to step into this deepened commitment to sustainable, faithful camping ministry. The reality is that Cedar Crest needs a full time site director and that Camp and Retreat Ministry needs a full time Executive Director. I am excited for this opportunity and ready to support camping in its next phase! My family and I will be moving to Murfreesboro after this summer camp season.

When I began this work at Cedar Crest in 2013, I was the only full time staff person for 3 years. Now, Cedar Crest has 7 full time, year round staff. These are people whom you've known for years, and they will continue to offer the dedication, hospitality, and attention that you deserve as supporters. I am thrilled to share that the staffing transition ahead of us all comes from within! Audrey Jordan, who has been serving as Program Director since 2023, will serve as the new full time Site Director here at Cedar Crest. Caleb Purdue, who has been serving on staff since 2021 (and a lifelong summer camper here) will serve as Program Director. Madison Causey, on staff since 2021 (MTSU Wesley alum!) will begin to

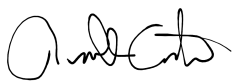


serve as Registrar. Director of Culinary Services Becky Kilian, Grounds and Adventure Camp Director Davis Winstead, and Environmental Education Director Philip Salter are all here, and will continue to offer the leadership and excellence that they have since 2016. Audrey and I will work closely together this summer, onboarding and shifting responsibilities for the season ahead. This transition will ensure that we have coverage at camp during this summer, keeping your campers and their experience first. I will be here this summer, looking forward to seeing you and your campers all summer long!

Last summer was an emotional one for me. Our oldest child went to mini camp for the first time, and his first counselors were all former Cedar Crest campers. That circle of trust was affirmation of the love grown here, that we might know we are loved by God through the love we share with each other. When I begin to share my thanks for your support and your trust these past 13 years, I find myself failing for words. You could send your children anywhere else to camp. Your willingness to be here, come here, and trust Cedar Crest keeps me covered in gratitude. This growth will be able to compound as we transition into this new season in increased capacity.

Some things will not change in this transition. Cedar Crest will continue to embrace excellence through its accreditation in the American Camp Association. It will continue to be a place that celebrates and welcomes the cultural and ethnic diversity of our area. It will continue to be fun. It will remain a place where God's voice can be heard and love shared and faith grown. It is a place where development will continue to open doors to how your families, churches, and communities can support what Cedar Crest looks like these next 13 years. We get to be a part of this next chapter together.

In the meantime, our summer staff are training, the pool is open, and our first week of camp happens in a matter of days!



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