



Quilted by Connection

Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

July 11-15, 2016



JOURNAL

Of The

TWENTIETH NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

Of

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Held At

**THE MARRIOTT PENN SQUARE
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA**

July 11-15, 2016

Edited by

Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Salsgiver, Secretary

Assisted by Sharon Darlynn McCrae

CERTIFICATION

This certifies that the following pages constitute the official Journal of the Twentieth Session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church, held at The Marriott Penn Square, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, July 11-15, 2016 including the officers, personnel, Tables, committees, representatives on boards and agencies that acted during the conference or were elected by it; proceedings of business sessions; communications and other matters ordered printed by the Jurisdictional Conference.

Sandra L. Steiner Ball
President, Vision Table

Thomas L. Salsgiver
Secretary, Northeastern Jurisdiction

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QUILTED BY CONNECTION



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by Connection
NEJ 2016 Conference
Lancaster PA

Quilted by Connection is the theme for the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference of the UMC, to be held July 11-15 at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square, Lancaster, PA. Our theme logo pays homage to the culture and history of our host site and churches of the jurisdiction.

Our host site is in the center of the Pennsylvania Dutch Country, well-known for Amish quilts. Like the iconic quilts, the people of the United Methodist Church are a collection of spiritual and cultural expressions connected to each other to form a tapestry of beauty and functionality. As such, the colorful quilt becomes a visual image of the diversity that is central to the identity of the churches of Northeastern Jurisdiction.

Many ideas for the final design were submitted and after months of prayerful consideration, the Compass Rose and the Lancaster Rose quilt patterns were modified to represent the ten annual conferences of NEJ. The dominant colors bring to mind the liturgical colors of the Church year as well as the traditional fabric colors representative of the Lancaster-area Native Americans. One can see hints of the Mariner's Compass and the Guiding Star quilt patterns as well.

THE FUNCTION AND ROLE OF THE JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

There are five United Methodist Jurisdictions that make up the jurisdictions in the United States. The 2012 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, defines the role and function of the jurisdictions.

The five jurisdictions all convene on the same day. The beginning date is set by the Council of Bishops. The ending day and time is up to each jurisdiction. The Discipline names six main functions and duties of each jurisdiction.

1. "To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, and benevolent interests of the Church...." We will hear and read reports from committees and ministries within the jurisdiction that help promote these very important interests. We will also hear and approve the budget and apportionments for the next four years which will undergird and aid our outreach in these areas.
2. "To elect Bishops and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for their support as may be determined by the General Conference." Much of our time will be spent in Holy Conferencing around interviews and the balloting. We will also recognize the retirement of Bishop Marcus Matthews.
3. "To establish and constitute jurisdictional conference boards and choose representatives to the general boards and agencies." The Jurisdictional Nominating Committee will meet on Monday of Jurisdictional Conference to prepare a slate of persons to serve both on Jurisdictional Tables and Committees as well as persons to be representatives to general church boards and agencies.
4. "To determine the boundaries of the Annual Conferences." The report of the Boundaries Committee will be given to the Jurisdictional Conference. It is expected that the boundaries of the Annual Conferences will not change.
5. "To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the jurisdiction." The Jurisdictional Conference will take action on such resolutions that may come before the conference related to the work of the Jurisdiction.
6. "To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a traveling preacher of that jurisdiction from the decision of a trial committee." The Committee on Appeals is nominated by the College of Bishops and voted on by the delegates to Jurisdictional Conference.

Tom Salsgiver
Secretary, Northeastern Jurisdiction

THE NEJ COLLEGE OF BISHOPS

Active and Retired bishops who currently serve, or have served,
one of the Episcopal areas of the Northeastern Jurisdiction



Resident Bishops: 2016-2020

BOSTON

Sudarshana Devadhar
P.O. Box 249, 276 Essex St
Lawrence, MA 01842

HARRISBURG

Jeremiah J. Park
303 Mulberry Dr
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

NEW JERSEY

John R. Schol
205 Jumping Brook Rd
Neptune City, NJ 07753

NEW YORK

Thomas J. Bickerton
20 Soundview Ave
White Plains, NY 10606

PHILADELPHIA

Peggy A. Johnson
P.O. Box 820
Valley Forge, PA 19482

PITTSBURGH

Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
P.O. Box 5002, 1204 Freedom Rd
Cranberry Twp, PA 16066

UPPER NEW YORK

Mark J. Webb
P.O. Box 9, 324 University Ave
Syracuse, NY 13210

WASHINGTON

LaTrelle M. Easterling
11711 East Market Pl
Fulton, MD 20759

WEST VIRGINIA

Sandra Steiner Ball
900 Washington St, East
Charleston, WV 25301

Retired

George W. Bashore
2409 Broadlawn Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

Felton May
3315 Oak West Dr, #123 Ellicott City, MD 21043

Violet L. Fisher
125 Berry Dr, Wilmington, DE 19808

Jane Allen Middleton
PO Box 129, Woodstock, CT 06281

William Boyd Grove
109 McDavid Ln, Charleston, WV 25311

Susan M. Morrison
518 School Ln, Rehoboth Beach DE 19971

Neil L. Irons
5250 Meadowbrook Dr, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

F. Herbert Skeete
1765 Edgehill Ave, Riverdale, NY 10463

S. Clifton Ives
10 Quaker Ln, Portland, ME 04103

Forrest C. Stith
113506 Leesburg Pl, Upper Marlboro, MD 10774

Alfred Johnson
4 Inglewood Ln, Matawan, NJ 07747

Peter D. Weaver
5269 Rockingham Dr, Williamsburg, VA 23188

Ernest S. Lyght
77 Shipp's Way, Delanco, NJ 08075

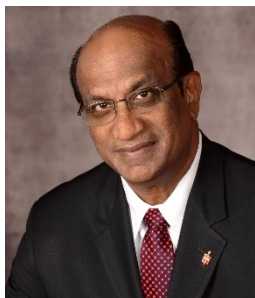
C. Dale White
80 Deaconess Rd, #453, Concord, MA 01742

Susan W. Hassinger
57 Broadlawn Pk, 2B, Chestnut Hill, MA 01387

Joseph H. Yeakel
924 Scovel Ave, Wooster, OH 44691

Marcus Matthews
Executive Secretary Council of Bishops
100 Maryland Ave, NE, Suite 320
Washington, D.C. 20002

BISHOPS ASSIGNED TO EPISCOPAL AREAS 2016-2020



Sudarshana Devadhar
Boston Area

New England
Annual Conference



Jeremiah J. Park
Harrisburg Area

Susquehanna
Annual Conference



John R. Schol
New Jersey Area

Greater New Jersey
Annual Conference



Thomas J. Bickerton
New York Area

New York
Annual Conference



Peggy A. Johnson
Philadelphia Area

Eastern Pennsylvania and
Peninsula-Delaware
Annual Conferences



Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
Pittsburgh Area

Western Pennsylvania
Annual Conference



Mark J. Webb
Upper New York Area

Upper New York
Annual Conference



LaTrelle M. Easterling
Washington Area

Baltimore-Washington
Annual Conference



Sandra Steiner Ball
West Virginia Area

West Virginia
Annual Conference

RETIRED BISHOPS



George W. Bashore



Violet L. Fisher



William Boyd Grove



Susan W. Hassinger



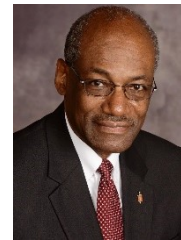
Neil L. Irons



S. Clifton Ives



Alfred Johnson



Ernest S. Lyght



Marcus Matthews



Felton E. May



Jane A. Middleton



Susan M. Morrison



F. Herbert Skeete



Forrest C. Stith



Peter D. Weaver



C. Dale White



Joseph H. Yeakel



Memorials



DAVID FREDERICK WERTZ



Fred Wertz was born in Lewistown, Pennsylvania, on October 5, 1916, son of Jesse Price and Ada Barratt Wertz. While attending Dickinson College (A.B., 1937), Fred served a student appointment at Boiling Springs/ Hickorytown Methodist Church. While attending Boston University School of Theology (M.A., 1939; S.T.B., 1940), Fred served a church in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Ordained deacon in 1940 by Bishop Edwin Holt Hughes and elder in 1942 by Bishop Adna Wright Leonard, Fred Wertz joined the Central Pennsylvania Conference and held the following pastoral appointments: Doylesburg (1940-43); Stewartstown (1943-46); Camp Curtin Memorial, Harrisburg (1946-49); Allison Memorial, Carlisle (1949-53). For two years he was District Superintendent of the Williamsport District and in 1955 he became President of Lycoming College. Fred Wertz was a delegate to the General Conferences of 1964 and 1968.

In 1968, D. Frederick Wertz was elected to the episcopacy by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. He was assigned to the West Virginia Area which he administered for twelve years. In 1980 he was assigned to the Washington Area. He retired in 1984 and then served as Pastor Emeritus at Allison United Methodist Church, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. In 1990 he was re-activated in order to serve for one year as the Bishop of the Harrisburg Area.

Bishop Wertz has been a trustee of several institutions and a recipient of a number of honorary degrees. From 1972-1976 he was the President of the Commission on Religion and Race. In 1976-80 he was President of the General Board of Global Ministries.

On August 25, 1938, Betty Jean Rowe and D. Frederick Wertz were married. They had four children: Robert Gary, Joanne Rowe, Donna Jean and Elizabeth Barratt. They have ten grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren. Betty died at her home in Carlisle on August 8, 1999. She was cremated and interred in the Cumberland Valley Memorial Gardens.

Bishop Fred Wertz died on October 16, 2013, less than two weeks after his 97th birthday. His memorial service was held at the Carlisle (PA) UMC on Saturday, November 2, 2013.

LOIS YEAKEL



Born November 23, 1927, Lois Josephine Shank was the daughter of the late Charles and Esther Maude Shank. Lois was a graduate of Washington Township High School in Waynesboro, PA. She attended Lebanon Valley College and Temple University.

Lois always had a special interest in the concerns of marriage and the family, in people's interaction with the environment, in early childhood education, and a great appreciation for music, art, and growing plants.

She received her bachelor's degree in 1975 and master's degree in 1980 from Syracuse University. She was the director of a preschool in Liverpool, NY, for six years, and she will be remembered for her love of the little children she embraced and for her caring heart for all she encountered.

On March 26, 1948, Lois married Joseph H. Yeakel while he was a college student. Together, they served the church and made their home a place of welcome in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Tennessee and New York. They are the parents of five children: Claudia J. McIntyre (Allen Kvidera), J. Douglas Yeakel (Cecile), Joanna Drushal (J. Richard), Mary Jo Yeakel and Jody L. Kampmeier (Eric), the grandparents of 9 and great-grandparents of 5.

Lois Yeakel died on March 5, 2014, at the age of 86. A service of Faith and Memories was held at Otterbein United Methodist Church in Hagerstown, MD, on March 22, 2014. Her remains will be inurned in the Lakeview Columbarium at Camp Casowasco Camp and Retreat Center in Moravia, New York.



MARTIN D. MCLEE



A native of Brooklyn, New York, the faith journey of Martin D. McLee was nurtured as a youth at Cuyler-Warren UMC. He earned the Master of Divinity degree from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas; the Juris Doctor degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University, Houston; the Master of Science degree in Education from Fordham University, and the Bachelor of Science degree in Health (with honors) from Hunter College, both in New York City.

The recipient of the prestigious Ziegler Award for Preaching Excellence, he was the former senior pastor of the Union UMC, a reconciling and inclusive congregation in Boston's South End. While in New England, he served as adjunct professor of social work at Simmons College and at Brandeis University. He was committed to activism and frequently lectured on issues concerning HIV/AIDS and the faith community, race relations and social justice. He served as an associate pastor at the Hamilton Park UMC in Dallas, Texas, and an assistant pastor at St. Luke "Community" UMC in Dallas. At Southern Methodist University he served as a research associate and as a chaplain's assistant. Martin also served as a Juvenile Justice Advocate and public school educator prior to entering the ministry.

Martin D. McLee was the resident bishop of the New York Area within the Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church. He was consecrated as a bishop on July 19, 2012, and provided leadership to approximately 462 churches in New York and Connecticut. Prior to his election to the episcopacy, Martin served as the superintendent of the Metro Boston Hope District of the New England Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Bishop McLee served as president of the Northeastern Jurisdiction's Multi-Ethnic Center, as well as the vice president of Strengthening the Black Church for the Twenty-First Century Initiative, and on the boards of Drew University, New York Theological Seminary, and the New York Methodist Hospital.

Martin D. McLee died on September 6, 2014. His funeral was held on Monday, September 15, 2014, at The Riverside Church in New York City.

EUNICE TREFFRY JONES MATHEWS



Eunice Treffry Jones was born on April 29, 1914, in Sitapur, India. She was the daughter of missionary and evangelist E. Stanley Jones, and missionary and educator Mabel Lossing Jones. She grew up in Sitapur, where her mother had founded a school for boys that is still in existence today. In 1932, she left India to attend college in the United States, first at the Oberlin College Music Conservatory, then at American University in Washington, where she graduated in 1937 with a BA in English. At her father's insistence, she then attended Baylor Secretarial School in Dubuque, Iowa, where she trained to become her father's secretary and assistant for the next three years.

In 1939, she met a young American missionary named Jim Mathews, who had travelled to hear her father, E. Stanley Jones, speak. On June 1, 1940, Eunice and Jim Mathews were married in the Wellesley School chapel in Naini Tal. During World War Two, Jim Mathews had volunteered for the US Army, CBI (China-Burma-India) Theater, and was made First Lieutenant of the Quartermaster Corps. For her part, Eunice became a typist at the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the forerunner to the CIA.

After the war, the Mathews moved to New York, and Eunice embarked on an entirely new phase of her life, as wife, mother, and homemaker. Daughter Anne, born in 1946, was soon joined in 1947 by Janice, and by son Stanley in 1952. The Mathews family eventually settled in Montclair, New Jersey. Jim Mathews had been elected Associate General Secretary of Missions for the Methodist Church, and began a career of constant global travel. In the summer of 1960, having just returned from a six-week family camping trip across the United States, the family learned that Jim Mathews had been elected Bishop of the New England Conference. The family moved to Massachusetts, while her husband began his episcopal career.

In 1972, the Mathews moved once again, as Jim was appointed to the Baltimore/Washington Conference where he served until his retirement in 1980. In 1985, Bishop Mathews was called out of retirement to serve in Zimbabwe, Bishop Mathews served in Harare for a year, and helped to found Africa University. In 1987, he was recalled a second time to replace a retired bishop in the Northeastern Jurisdiction of upstate New York. He then served another two years as Bishop of the Albany Area. His sixth and final assignment was to the New York City Area. He finally retired in 1996, sixteen years after his first "retirement." Each time, Eunice was his constant companion.

After the death of Bishop Mathews in 2010, Eunice continued to live independently in the Bethesda, Maryland, apartment they had shared since 2000. Eunice Jones Mathews died on February 27, 2016, just two months shy of her 102nd birthday. She is preceded in death by her husband of 70 years, Bishop James K Mathews, and her daughter, Janice Mathews Stromsem. She is survived by her daughter, Anne, her son, Stanley, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Her memorial service was held on March 19, 2016, at Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C.

SESSIONS OF THE NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

First.....	June 18-21, 1940.....	Atlantic City, NJ	Albert G. Judd
Second.....	June 7-11, 1944.....	Ocean City, NJ	Albert G. Judd
Third	June 16-20, 1948.....	Albany, NY.....	Albert G. Judd
Fourth.....	June 11-15, 1952.....	Harrisburg, PA.....	Albert G. Judd
Fifth	June 13-15, 1956.....	Ocean City, NJ	Frank W. Ake
Sixth.....	June 15-19, 1960.....	Washington, D.C.	Frank W. Ake
Seventh	June 14-16, 1964.....	Syracuse, NY.....	Frank W. Ake
Eighth	June 24-27, 1968.....	Buckhannon, WV.....	Frank W. Ake
Ninth.....	July 11-14, 1972	Reading, PA	Frank W. Ake
Tenth	July 13-16, 1976	Bridgeport, CT	R. Andrew Lady
Eleventh	July 15-18, 1980	Selinsgrove, PA.....	R. Andrew Lady
Twelfth	July 17-19, 1984	Annaville, PA	R. Andrew Lady
Thirteenth	July 12-14, 1988	Buckhannon, WV.....	R. Andrew Lady
Special Session	July 14, 1990	Kingston, PA	James M. Perry
Fourteenth	July 14-16, 1992	Reading, PA	James M. Perry
Fifteenth.....	July 16-18, 1996	Amherst, MA.....	James M. Perry
Sixteenth	July 12-14, 2000	Somerset, NJ	Robert M. Daugherty
Seventeenth	July 14-16, 2004	Syracuse, NY.....	Ruth A. Daugherty
Eighteenth.....	July 16-18, 2008	Harrisburg, PA.....	Ruth A. Daugherty
Nineteenth	July 18-20, 2012	Charleston, WV	Ruth A. Daugherty
Twentieth.....	July 11-15, 2016	Lancaster, PA.....	Thomas L. Salsgiver

FUTURE NEJ CONFERENCES

21st NEJ – Baltimore-Washington to host in 2020

22nd NEJ – Western Pennsylvania to host in 2024





2016 NEJ CONFERENCE OFFICERS

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 darmccrae@aol.com

Assistant Treasurer

Jennifer H. Williams
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STAFF FOR THE JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

Daily Christian Advocate Editor/Publisher.....Maidstone Mulenga
 Registrar..... Sylvia Simpson
 Registrar's Office Staff Margie Green
 Election Judge Dight Crain
 Electronic Voting..... Padget Communications
 Head Teller..... Larry McCrae
 Tellers.....Debra Albrecht, Marty Eley, Mike Green, Olivia Gross, Mary Jane Heinbuch,
 Bob Hunsinger, Joyce King, Joanne Salsgiver
 Music Director.....Lydia Munoz
 Local Arrangements..... Judith Ehninger and Volunteers

NEJ CONFERENCE SESSIONS COMMITTEES

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

Convener: Bishop Peter Weaver; NEJ Secretary, Tom Salsgiver
Recorder, Darlynn McCrae; Scribe: Joanne Salsgiver

Youth Representatives: Michael High, Madison Dean

Baltimore Washington: Bishop Marcus Matthews, Delores Martin, Christopher Schlieckert, Edgardo Rivera

Eastern Pennsylvania – Peninsula-Delaware: Bishop Peggy Johnson, Krystal Johnson, Kevin Goodwin, Christopher Kurien, Megan Shitama Weston, Dawn Storm Taylor

Greater New Jersey: Bishop John Schol, Bethany Amey, Stephen Quigg, Eunice Vega-Perez

New England: Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, Christine Wright, Sean Delmore, Rene Perez Avalos

New York: Bishop Jane Allen Middleton, Dorlimar Lebrón Malavé, Fred Brewington, Timothy Riss

Susquehanna: Bishop Jeremiah Park, Anne Horton, John Konieczny, Paul Amara

Upper New York: Bishop Mark Webb, Ashley Riddell, Ian Urriola, Richard LaDue

Western Pennsylvania: Bishop Tom Bickerton, Sharon Gregory, Donald Blystone, Alyce Weaver Dunn

West Virginia: Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, Erin Sears, Richard Shaffer, Mary Ellen Finegan

CREDENTIALS:

Meghan Shitama-Weston (PD); Shirlyn Henry-Brown (PD); Eunice Vega-Perez (GNJ); Erin Sears (WV)

COURTESIES:

Thom White Wolf Fassett (UNY); William Meekins (WPA); Carmen Vianese (UNY); Judi Kenaston (WV)

EXAMINATION OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE JOURNALS:

Christopher Kurien (EPA); Varlyna Wright (GNJ); Melissa Lauber (BW); Rashid Warner (NY)

JOURNAL COMMITTEE:

Ralph Oduor (NE); Michelle Bogue-Trost (UNY); Noel Chin (NY); Anne Horton (SU)



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT - BOARDS AND AGENCIES

GENERAL COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Persons were selected by the 2016 General Conference

Kenneth Ow, 13415 Rippling Brook Dr, Silver Spring, MD 20906 - BW, AS, Lay, Male
 Judy Colorado, 823B Holmdel Rd, Holmdel NJ 07733 - GNJ, AS, Lay, Female

CONNECTIONAL TABLE

Fred Brewington, 275 Moore Ave, Freeport, NY 11520 - NY, AA, Lay, Male
 Judi Kenaston, 200 Brookwood Ln, Beckley, WV 25801 - WV, W, Lay, Female
 William B. Meekins Jr, 1204 Freedom Rd, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066 - WPA, AA, Clergy, Male

GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Edgardo Rivera, 200 Shannonbrook Ln, Frederick, MD 21702 - BW, H, Clergy, Male
 William Martin Campbell, 439 Paris Hill Rd, South Paris, ME 04281 - NE, W, Clergy, Male
 Kathleen Kind, 1381 Plank RD, Suite 104, Duncansville, PA 16635 - SU, W, Clergy, Female
 Riley O'Flynn, 2025 Rainbow Ln, Lima, NY 14485 - UNY, W, Lay, Female, YA
 Dorlimar Malave Lebron, 83 Chestnut St, Saugus, MA 01906 - NY, H, Lay, Female, YA
 Erin Sears, 1024 Meador St, Princeton, WV 24740 - WV, W, Lay, Female, YA
 Donna Vizza, 225 East Horner St, Ebensburg, PA 15931 - WPA, W, Lay, Female, YA
 Shitama Weston, Megan, 136 Bookers Wharf Rd, Centerville, MD 21617 - PD, AS, Clergy, Female, YA

GENERAL BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

Ann Jacob, 114 Kogel Ln, Norristown, PA 19403 - EPA, AS, Lay, Female, YA

DIVISION ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES

Bethany Amey-Sutton, 351 N. Delsen Dr, Clayton, NJ 08312 - GNJ, AS, Lay, Female, Adult Worker
 McKenna Keltz, 510 First St, Dubois, PA 15801 - WPA, W, Lay, Female, Youth
 Ian Urriola, 636 Keyleigh Dr, Webster, NY 14580 - UNY, H, Lay, Male, Young Adult

GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Patricia Pena, 171 Amory St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 - NE, H, Clergy, Female, YA
 Carmen Vianese, 87 Mill St, Nunda, NY 14517 - UNY, W, Lay, Female
 Andrew Chung, 111 College Ave, Greensburg, PA 15601 - WPA, AS, Lay, Male, Youth

GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION& MINISTRY

Krystl Johnson, 9 Patriot Way, Woolwich Twp, NJ 08085 - EPA, AA, Lay, Female, Young Adult

GENERAL BOARD OF PENSIONS AND HEALTH BENEFITS

Tracy Bass, 3470 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006 - EPA, AA, Clergy, Male
Kevin Goodwin, 440 Haystack Dr, Newark, DE 19711 - PD, W, Lay, Male

THE UNITED METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

Maidstone Mulenga (Class of 2020), 11711 East Market Pl, Fulton, MD 20759 - BW, AA, Clergy, Male
Tom Salsgiver (Class of 2024), 303 Mulberry Dr, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050 - SU, W, Clergy, Male

GENERAL COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATION

Melissa Lauber, 9905 Portland Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20905 - BW, W, Lay, Female
Alyce Weaver Dunn, 200 Bloomfield St, Johnstown PA 15904 - WPA, W, Clergy, Female

GENERAL COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

Anna Layman Knox, 315 Church St, Hawley, PA 18428 - SU, W, Clergy, Female, Young Adult
Majesty Hill, 15 Willoughby Ave, Huntington, WV 25705 - WV, W, Lay, Female, Youth

GENERAL COMMISSION/ STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

Eunice Vega-Perez, 134 Winding Hill Dr, Hackettstown, NJ 07840 - GNJ, H, Clergy, Female

OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN UNITY & INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIPS

Names submitted to OCUIR for their selection

Darlynn McCrae, 112 Bright Oaks Dr, Bel Air, MD 21015 - BW, AA, Lay, Female
Christopher Kurien, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482 - EPA, AS, Clergy, Male



ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

William Shillady, Chairperson

Lydia E. Munoz, Vice Chair Conrad O. Link, Secretary

Baltimore-Washington Delegate or Reserve

Conrad O. Link
7101 Stillwater Ct, Frederick, MD 21702
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Eastern Pennsylvania Delegate or Reserve

Lydia Esther Munoz
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Lydiaemo51@gmail.com

Greater New Jersey Delegate or Reserve

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New England Delegate or Reserve

Rebecca Girrell
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New York Delegate or Reserve

William S. Shillady
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bshillady@umcitysociety.com

Peninsula-Delaware Delegate or Reserve (Young Adult)

Samuel J. Mitchell
6915 Robin Dr, Seaford, DE 19973
samman@udel.edu

Susquehanna Delegate or Reserve

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pamara@susumc.org

Upper New York Delegate or Reserve

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West Virginia Delegate or Reserve

Richard Allen Shaffer
1025 Juliana St, Parkersburg, WV 26101
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Western Pennsylvania Delegate or Reserve

Stephanie R. Gottschalk
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Matthew S. Sichel, 2578 Mindi Dr, Manchester, MD 21102



EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Clergy Delegates

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Robert J. Wilt, Jr., 50 Barren Rd, Media, PA 19063
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Lillian Smith, 600 Walker Rd, Wayne, PA 19087
Melinda McKonly, 634 Greenridge Dr, Manheim, PA 17545

Lay Delegates

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GREATER NEW JERSEY

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* Thomas A. Lank, 6358 Woodbine Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19151
Eunice Vega-Perez, 134 Winding Hill Dr, Hackettstown, NJ 07840
Jisun Kwak, 514 N Main St, Elmer, NJ 08318
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Drew A. Dyson, 15 Fawn Run, Bloomsbury, NJ 08804
Grace S. Pak, 49 Church St, Little Silver, NJ 07739
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Regina A. Hendrickson, 725 Old Corlies Ave, Neptune, NJ 07753

Clergy Reserves

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Steven G. Bechtold, 27 Ames Rd, Morristown, NJ 07960
John D. DiGiamberardino, 103 Broadway, Ocean Grove, NJ 07756



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Jee Hei Park, 41 Conforti Ave, West Orange, NJ 07052
Creed Samuel Pogue, 169 Cumberland Ave, Estell Manor, NJ 08319

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Cynthia Kent, 301 Washington Ave, Belleville, NJ 07109
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NEW ENGLAND

Clergy Delegates

We Hyun Chang, 56 Payson Ter, Belmont, MA 2478
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LaTrelle Elaine Easterling, 19 Clifton Rd, Milton, MA 02186 (Elected Bishop)
Leigh Elizabeth Goodrich, 77 West Washington St, Ste. 1500, Chicago, IL 60657
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Clergy Reserves

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David Andrew Nicol, 46 Kennebec Rd, Hampden, ME 04444
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Rebecca U. Hewett, 19 Vanbuskirk Wy, Sandwich, MA 02563

Lay Reserves

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NEW YORK

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 Allen, Suzanne H. Upper New York
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 Aswad, Hudda E. Upper New York
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 Benz, Dorothee E. New York
 Blystone, Donald C. Western Pennsylvania
 Bogue-Trost, D. Michelle Upper New York
 Boileau, Catherine E. Susquehanna
 Bonner, Jane Eastern Pennsylvania
 Bouwens, Aaron M. Upper New York
 Bragan, Roberta H. New England
 Brewington, Adrienne L. New York
 Brewington, Frederick K. New York
 Bridge, Lawrence D. Western Pennsylvania
 Burkhart, Donna L. Western Pennsylvania
 Cady II, Stephen M. Upper New York
 Campbell, William Scott New England
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 Caterson, Evelyn S. Greater New Jersey
 Chang, We Hyun New England
 Chattin, Terri Rae Baltimore-Washington
 Chin, Noel N. New York
 Cho, KunSum New York
 Chung, Sung S. Western Pennsylvania
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 Colorado, Judy C. Greater New Jersey
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 Cotto, Irving Eastern Pennsylvania
 Cox, Gregory D. Western Pennsylvania
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 Emigh, Joseph A. Western Pennsylvania
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 Fassett, Thom White Wolf Upper New York
 Finegan, Mary Ellen West Virginia
 Fleck, Paul A. New York
 Flippin, Vicki I. New York
 Flynn, Mark W. West Virginia
 Ford, Sarah V. Baltimore-Washington
 Forrester, Gregory A. Upper New York
 Gaines-Cirelli, Ginger E. Baltimore-Washington
 Garrett, Joel S. Western Pennsylvania
 Geer, Faith W. Western Pennsylvania
 Girrell, Rebecca J. New England
 Godwin, Lauren A. West Virginia
 Goodrich, Leigh E. New England
 * Goodwin, Kevin G. Peninsula-Delaware
 Gordy-Stith, Vicki L. Peninsula-Delaware
 Gottschalk, Stephanie R. Western Pennsylvania
 * Gregory, Sharon Western Pennsylvania
 Hall, Omar M. New York
 Harman, Janet M. West Virginia
 Harrell, Oscar W. New England
 Harris, Jordan M. Eastern Pennsylvania
 Heckert, Christopher D. Greater New Jersey
 Heil Jr, Warren A. Susquehanna
 Hendrickson, Regina A. Greater New Jersey
 Henry Brown, Shirlyn Peninsula-Delaware
 Henry, David D. New York
 Hewett, Rebecca U. New England
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 Higgins, Ruth A. Peninsula-Delaware
 Hoffman, Richard C. Western Pennsylvania
 Horne, Edward C. New York
 Horton, Margaret A. Susquehanna
 Hynicka, Robin M. Eastern Pennsylvania
 Ihlo, Jennifer E. Baltimore-Washington
 Ilyes Jr, Paul E. Susquehanna



Jacob, Ann C..... Eastern Pennsylvania
 Johnson, Krystl D..... Eastern Pennsylvania
 Johnson, Scott L. Upper New York
 Jones, Beth E.....Susquehanna
 Jordan, Andrian..... Baltimore-Washington
 Jordan-Griffin, Jason O. . Baltimore-Washington
 Keller, Dennis R.....Susquehanna
 Kellerman, Fred M. West Virginia
 Kenaston, Connor S. West Virginia
 * Kenaston, Judi M..... West Virginia
 Kent, Cynthia.....Greater New Jersey
 Kieffer, Kenneth J..... New York
 Kim, Jaewon New York
 Kind, Kathleen E.....Susquehanna
 Koch, David L..... Eastern Pennsylvania
 Konieczny, JohnSusquehanna
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 Lord, Janet F.....Western Pennsylvania
 Love, Antoine C..... Baltimore-Washington
 Loyer, Milton W.Susquehanna
 Lycett, Jerod.....Susquehanna
 Lyden, Royce A..... West Virginia
 * Marden, Bonnie I. New England
 Martin, John Upper New York
 * Martin, Martha D. Baltimore-Washington
 McCullough, June D. Greater New Jersey
 McKonly, Melinda Eastern Pennsylvania
 McPherson, Seth R.....Western Pennsylvania
 Meekins Jr, William B.....Western Pennsylvania
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Miller, Diane M..... Western Pennsylvania
 Miller, Layne Susquehanna
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 Munoz, Lydia E. Eastern Pennsylvania
 Nelson, Patricia M. Western Pennsylvania
 Nicol, David A. New England
 Nye, Holly E. Upper New York
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 O'Flynn, Riley R..... Upper New York
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 Oh, Jung Sun New England
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 Ow, Kenneth..... Baltimore-Washington
 Pak, Constance Y. New York
 Pak, Grace S..... Greater New Jersey
 Park, Eric S. Western Pennsylvania
 Park, Jee H. Greater New Jersey
 Park, Jong W. Baltimore-Washington
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 Parkinson, Thomas J. Western Pennsylvania
 Pelham, Lawrence Peninsula-Delaware
 Pendleton, Carolyn D. Greater New Jersey
 Perez, René A. New England
 Pogue, Creed S. Greater New Jersey
 Porter, Derrick E. Peninsula-Delaware
 Preuninger, Colleen H. Upper New York
 Price, Joseph T..... Baltimore-Washington
 Quigg, Stephen P. Greater New Jersey
 Quinn, Mittie T. Baltimore-Washington
 Raffauf, Jeffrey A. Eastern Pennsylvania
 Readdean, Shirley E..... Upper New York
 Reisinger, Mark F..... Susquehanna
 Reist III, L Fitzgerald..... Susquehanna
 Riddell, Ashley E. Upper New York
 * Riss, Timothy J. New York
 Rivera, Edgardo Baltimore-Washington
 Robier, Kelly A. Baltimore-Washington
 Rood, Sherri A..... Upper New York
 Rudolph, Melissa C. Baltimore-Washington
 Salsgiver, Thomas L. Susquehanna
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Seth, John W. Western Pennsylvania
Shaffer, Richard A. West Virginia
Shillady, William S. New York
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Shumate, Sherri Greater New Jersey
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Smartt Sears, Denise New York
Smith, Aaron J. Eastern Pennsylvania
Smith, Blenda E. Upper New York
Smith, Lillian. Eastern Pennsylvania
Sprenkle, Charles Susquehanna
Stahlman, Vicki J. Western Pennsylvania
Stains, Joseph R. Western Pennsylvania
Stengel, Cathy H. Upper New York
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Sweet, Marthalyn K. Upper New York
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Thompson, Lenora Eastern Pennsylvania
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Totty, Mary K. Baltimore-Washington

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Townsend, Sarah G. Peninsula-Delaware
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Vega-Perez, Eunice Greater New Jersey
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Williams, Ross E. New York
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Wright, Varlyna D. Greater New Jersey
Young, Evan D. Baltimore-Washington
Young, Wilhelmina J. Eastern Pennsylvania
Zilhaver, Robert F. Western Pennsylvania

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Aiosa, Zach Upper New York
Bender, Dalia. New York
Briselli, Julie Susquehanna
Carter, Hannah. Susquehanna
Dean, Madison West Virginia
Fitzgerald, Jesse Campbell New England
Geller, David. Greater New Jersey
Grace, Laura Western Pennsylvania
Hayden, Joseph Peninsula-Delaware
High, Michael Eastern Pennsylvania

Mancini, Michael Greater New Jersey
McMahan, Robin New England
Muder, Elyse Upper New York
Osbourne-Brown, Kayla. New York
Parker, Courtney H. Peninsula-Delaware
Sears, Allie West Virginia
Slack, Nito Baltimore-Washington
Slavin, Orner Aaron Western Pennsylvania
Tirado, Jose. Eastern Pennsylvania
Wildberger, Erich. Baltimore-Washington

AGENDA

THEME: QUILTED BY CONNECTION



MONDAY, JULY 11

7:00-8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30-11:45 a.m.	Committee on Nominations College of Bishops
10:00 a.m.	Committee on Episcopacy Registration opens
12:00-1:30 p.m.	Lunch
2:00 p.m.	College of Bishops Trainings: Journal Examination Committee, Journal Committee
2:30 p.m.	Trainings: Courtesies Committee, Credentials Committee
3:00 p.m.	Training: Tellers Interview Group Leaders session
4:00 p.m.	Heads of Delegations session
5:00-6:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Welcome
7:05-7:30 p.m.	Act of Repentance
7:30-8:00 p.m.	Exegesis of Scripture text -Ephesians 4:16
8:15-9:30 p.m.	Interview groups meet to organize
8:15-9:30 p.m.	Nominees meet in prayer session
9:30 p.m.	Prayer and Adjourn

TUESDAY, JULY 12

6:30 a.m.	Prayer with Eucharist: Hickory Room
7:00-8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Devotions in small groups
8:45-11:45 a.m.	Small group interviews of Episcopal nominees
8:45-11:45 a.m.	College of Bishop meeting
12:00-1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:45-5:00 p.m.	Small group interviews of Episcopal nominees
5:00-6:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:15 p.m.	Small group interview of Episcopal nominees
9:30 p.m.	Prayer and Adjournment

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

6:30 a.m.	Prayer with no Eucharist: Hickory Room
7:00-8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Holy Communion and Memorial Service
10:00 a.m.	Recess
10:30 a.m.	Opening Session Welcome: Host Bishop, Bishop Johnson Roll Call and Credentials Committee report Adoption of Agenda Adoption of Rules of Order and Plan of Organization (business of plenary sessions)

	Report of Episcopacy Committee
	Certify retirement of Bishop Marcus Matthews
	Certify number of Bishops to be elected
	Ballot #1
	Naming of the Sessions Committees
	Report of Courtesies Committee
11:40 a.m.	Prayer
12:00-1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:45 p.m.	Gathering music
2:00 p.m.	Conference Session
	Report of Ballot
	Ballot #2
	Rules Committee
2:30 p.m.	Report of Committee on Finance and Administration
	Presentation of Proposed Budget
3:00 p.m.	Recess
3:15 p.m.	Conference Session
	Ballot #3
	State of NEJ —Episcopal Address
4:50 p.m.	Prayer
5:00-7:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Gathering Music
7:15 p.m.	Conference Session
	Funding proposals resolution/motions
	Rules Committee if needed
	Committee on Nominations
	Election of Secretary & Assistant Secretary Election of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer
	Celebration of significant makers in the UM Church
	Report of Monitoring Team
	Closing prayer

THURSDAY, JULY 14

6:30 p.m.	Prayer with Eucharist: Hickory Room
7:00-8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:15 a.m.	Conference Session
8:30 a.m.	Worship: Representative of Council of Bishops: Bishop Mary Ann Swenson
9:45 a.m.	Conference Session
	Daily reports of Sessions Committees (Journal, Credentials, Courtesies)
	Report on Committee on Examination of Annual Conference Journal
10:15 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m.	Conference Sessions
	Treasurer's Report
	Resolutions
12:00-1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Gathering
	Recognition of Disciple Bible Study



1:45 p.m.	Conference Sessions Adoption of Budget Committee on Nominations—if needed
3:00 p.m.	Recess
3:15 p.m.	Conference Session Resolutions Designation of Conveners and Locations for Organization of 2017-2020 NEJ Committees
4:30 p.m.	Organization of 2017-2020 Jurisdictional Committees
5:15 p.m.	Dinner
7:15p.m.	Session Continued business Announcement for Jurisdictional Conference 2020 Invitation for 2024 Monitoring Report: Rev. Leigh Goodrich Closing Business Sending forth the Committee on Episcopacy-or whenever final Episcopal election occurs
8:00 p.m.	Celebration Retirement for Bishop (Bishop Matthews) Reception for retiring Bishop

FRIDAY, JULY 15

6:30 a.m.	Prayer with no Eucharist: Hickory Room
7:00-8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Conference Session Daily Report of Sessions Committees
8:45 a.m.	Assignment of Conferences to Episcopal Areas Assignments of Bishops to Episcopal Areas
9:30 a.m.	Closing
9:45-10:30 a.m.	Area meetings with assigned Bishops
11:15 p.m.	Consecration of Bishops
1:00 p.m.	Adjournment

Note: Order of the Day items are in **BOLD** type.

EPISCOPAL BALLOTS TAKEN AS NEEDED EXCEPT AT TIMES
FOR OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS LISTED AS ORDER OF THE DAY.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION
NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016 ... 7:00 PM

Bishop Peggy Johnson, host bishop of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference welcomed Delegates, Reserves, Youth Representatives, Bishops, and Visitors. Boyd Etter (PD, Clergy), Programs and Arrangements Chairperson welcomed all to the NEJ and introduced the Programs and Arrangements Committee. Act of Repentance service followed, which included the Jingle Dress Dance/Prayer: Tara Tietz, Cherokee, Shea & Tarawyn Tietz, Cherokee and Mohawk. Dance translation: *This prayer is for her, this one for him. Some for sons, others for daughters. Prayers filled with tears from mothers, heartfelt prayers of fathers. Each jingle a special prayer, no prayer greater than another. Each jingle sings, as they hit one another and a chorus of requests for healing and safety of warriors far away are lifted up to Creator, carried on the beat of the drum, given life by dancing feet upon the earth. Creator, we dance for healing. Hear the prayers that the jingles sing out to you. We dance the prayers of your people.* Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball spoke about the Wampum Belt, which was a gift from Dr. Alisa High at the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference. She stated that Dr. High asked the College to carry the belt wherever they met so that their prayers would be carried with them to meeting places and the College would be reminded of their leadership responsibilities. Bishop Ball said that the Bishops have been faithful to carrying the belt to be in prayer, for harmony, friendship, for repentance, and reconciliation with the Native and Indigenous peoples of the Jurisdiction and around the world including other people. The service continued with a song called Red Sky, accompaniment: Barry Lee, Munsee & Barbara Christy, Munsee/Seneca EPA CONAM Chairperson. Delegates were called to remember the many massacres of Native Americans and those that took place in Lancaster, PA including the Conestoga Massacre. The service concluded with a responsive confession, sharing tobacco healing prayer bundles, made by the EPA CONAM and prayer led by Cynthia Kent. A prayer shawl was presented to Bishop Peggy Johnson from EPA CONAM.

Bill Lentz (EPA, Clergy) introduced the Bible Study leader, Dr. Greg Carey. A professor of New Testament at Lancaster Seminary, Dr. Carey led an interactive Bible study based on Ephesians 4:16. Included in Dr. Carey's presentations were 4 questions for the delegates to consider - What does love look like in conflict? Is connection a gift or a goal? From whom are you most alienated in the Methodist connection? What spiritual gifts do they offer you?

After announcements, the meeting adjourned with interview groups gathering to organize for Tuesday's interviews and Episcopal Nominees meeting in a prayer session.

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2016

Interviews with Episcopal Nominees. Delegates, reserves and youth representatives met in eight assigned Interview Groups from 8:45 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. All interview groups dialogued with each of the eleven Episcopal Nominees. Twenty-five minutes were allotted for each interview session. Episcopal Nominees interviewed were: Adrienne Brewington, We Chang, Irving Cotto, LaTrelle Easterling, Cathy Hall Stengel, Joseph Kenaston, Ken Kiefer, Jisun Kwak, Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Derrick Porter, Rebekah Sweet.



WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016 . . . 8:30 A. M. - HOLY COMMUNION AND MEMORIAL SERVICE

Quilted by Connection was the theme of the Twentieth Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference held in Lancaster, PA at the Marriott Penn Square Hotel. The first official session of Jurisdictional Conference was opened with a service of Praise and Worship, Holy Communion and the Memorial Service. Preacher was Bishop Marcus Matthews. Bishop Matthew's sermon title was "Staying at the Table" and the sermon text was Ephesians 4:11-13. Celebrants for the Eucharist included Bishop Matthews, Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball and Rev. Thomas Lank. The Memorial Service honored Bishop Frederick Wertz, Mrs. Lois Yeakel, Bishop Martin McLee, and Mrs. Eunice Jones Mathews. Bishop Wertz was assigned to the West Virginia Area for 12 years and then the Washington Area for 4 years. Bishop McLee was elected in 2012 and was assigned to the New York area where he served until his death in 2014. Mrs. Lois Yeakel was the wife of Bishop Joe Yeakel. Active in the churches she and her husband served, she had a passion for children's ministry. Mrs. Eunice Mathews was the widow of Bishop James Matthews, and daughter of the evangelist E. Stanley Jones and a committed wife, mother and Christian.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016 . . . 10:30 A. M.

Presiding: Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball Assisting: Bishop Ernest Lyght

CALL TO ORDER: The business session was convened by Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball with greetings, welcome and call to order. She thanked Bishop Ernest Lyght for assisting and also thanked Tom Salsgiver, NEJ Secretary, and Darlynn McCrae, Assistant Secretary for their work.

STATEMENT: Surrounded by active and retired Bishops who stood with her, Bishop Ball indicated that the College of Bishops would like to begin the Jurisdictional Conference by reading a Call to Action statement:

STATEMENT FROM THE NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION COLLEGE OF BISHOPS DELIVERED AT THE OPENING OF THE 2016 NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION CONFERENCE BY BISHOP SANDRA STEINER BALL, PRESIDENT OF THE NEJ COLLEGE OF BISHOPS - Wednesday, July 13, 2016

As we gather for this Jurisdictional Conference many persons have been confronted and consumed with the overwhelming reports of shootings and violence. Life taken! Trust broken! Anger and fear growing. Frustration and despair looming. We believe that God's heart breaks as our hearts break with these acts of violence - fed and complicated by fear, prejudice, racism, and privilege. We pray for each family and each community affected by profound loss and grief. We pray for the ripple effect of these acts of violence that strip away certainty of safety, sanctuary, value, and trust.

The death of young black males in encounters with white law enforcement officers calls for response. The loss of life within our Hispanic/Latino community and among our brothers and sisters identifying with the LGBTQ community in Orlando, calls for response. The death of police officers protecting the rights of persons to peaceably protest, points to a destructive cycle of violence and retribution, and calls for response.

We, the College of Bishops of the Northeastern Jurisdiction stand together to respond, and our response is not just for the moment. Our response is a commitment to acknowledge our participation in the sin of institutional racism and to have ongoing conversations within the College about racism, privilege, and oppression. Our response is to give leadership and develop plans to continue these conversations within and among the Jurisdiction and with the leadership of the annual conferences to which we are assigned. The purpose of these dialogues will be to talk about our own racism and prejudices, to heal the wounds that have been caused by racism, privilege, and oppression, to train our leadership and churches in intercultural competency; and lead them to celebrate diversity. We will lead and offer training for leaders in the craft of building bridges across cultures and ethnicity so that all those whom we profess to acknowledge as created in the image of God and persons of sacred worth, will truly feel welcome and find the safety, sanctuary, value and trust these recent and ongoing acts of violence have robbed from them. We in the college will hold one another accountable for this action, reporting to our Conferences at their annual sessions and providing a report to the 2020 Jurisdictional conference. At the Jurisdictional level we will partner with both the Multi-ethnic center and the Vision Table in our on-going response.

Together, we claim the need to listen more deeply and to seek greater understanding for those who cry out for justice. We commit ourselves to seeking justice, supporting faithful law enforcement officers, and empowering the movement of people toward more healthy community engagement within the areas we serve.

Because we believe that all persons are created in God's image, from our United Methodist faith perspective, all people matter, all are valuable. In these particularly violent and life taking incidents and times, however, we need to intentionally lift up that black lives really do matter and the lives of all persons of color really do matter. The lives of our LGBTQ brothers and sisters really do matter. The NEJ College of Bishops believes that in the midst of the chaos, fear, and violence, there is a rich opportunity for the church to be the church. We seek to be the leaders of this church. We seek justice, repentance and reconciliation. We seek not just to love peace, but to be peacemakers. God's people need us to be bearers of peace.

At the beginning of this Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, we ask you to join us. Join us as we make this response not just for the moment, but effecting the future. Our hope is that, together, Bishops, clergy, and laity, we might be quilted together more strongly in our work of allowing God to transform us, so that we might go out with God's great transforming love – to bring healing, hope, and peace to the world.

As a beginning, we would ask that you think and reflect with us on these questions. How will you be a peacemaker in the midst of the storms of violence and destruction? How can you be a peacemaker and at the same time work for justice? What can you do to help develop a sense of well-being and harmony in your life, in the lives of neighbors, strangers, friends, and communities? What social problems move you to want to make a difference by building bridges, making connections, valuing people? Blessed are the peacemakers! Blessed are the peacemakers! Blessed are the peacemakers! In the midst of all the storms encountered and perpetuated in this life, please think on these things! This work begins



with each one of us - first individually and then collectively. We your bishops, will not only be thinking on these things, but are moving in response. We seek your prayers and support as we take this action.

"But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the Head, into Christ, from whom the whole Body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the Body's growth in building itself up in love." (Ephesians 4:15 -16)

The statement was received well, and celebrated with a standing ovation and numerous positive responses. After the Bishops returned to their seats, Bishop Ball read the NEJ theme scripture, Ephesians 4:15-16, offered prayer and invited Bishop Peggy Johnson forward to thank her and the host team /various committees for their hard work. Bishop Johnson welcomed all to the NEJ, which was being held within the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

ROLL CALL, CREDENTIALS REPORT, ADOPTION OF AGENDA: NEJ Secretary Tom Salsgiver (SU, Clergy) announced the following: 172 delegates present and eligible for voting; 20 Youth present. It should be noted that the NEJ is the only Jurisdiction that is intentional with including youth. Three bishops sent regrets for being unable to attend: Bishop George W. Bashore, Bishop C. Dale White, and Bishop Alfred Johnson (who is attending the Western Jurisdictional Conference on behalf of the NEJ College of Bishops). In addition to the roll call, Tom moved the adoption of the agenda, as printed in the Advanced DCA with the flexibility for adjusting business items when needed. It was seconded, **voted**, and **Approved**. Tom moved to grant permission to the officers, NEJ Committee chairs and presenters who may not be delegates to share as needed during sessions. It was seconded, **voted**, and **Approved**. He noted the Sessions Committees (Courtesies, Credentials, Examination of Journals, and Journal Review) were appointed by the College of Bishops and will function only during the NEJ.

NEJ PLAN OF ORGANIZATION AND RULES OF ORDER: Jen Ihlo (BW, Lay) shared that the Rules of Order were needed to conduct business and vote. The Rules committee completed review of the Plan or Organization and Rules of Order, which needed to be rearranged to make provision for articles and new sections to be added; clarify language; and make several substantive changes. After describing changes, edits and discussions, motion made to adopt Rules of Order (ADCA, pp 32-39) Articles 1 through VII, Rules 1 through 43 – except Rules 34, 35, 36. Motion to amend Amendment to Rule 38 on page 38 line 39 made by Tim Riss (NY, Clergy) - "Substitute 'Been' for 'Withdrawn or' so that it reads "Any ballot for a nominee who has been elected shall be invalid". **Vote was taken** for support of the amendment, **Not Approved**. A motion to adopt Articles 1 through VII, Rules 1 through 43 with the exception of Rules 34, 35, 36 was made and seconded. **Approved**.

EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE REPORT: Bonnie Marden (NE, Lay), Chair gave the report found on page 42-43 of the Advanced DCA. Bonnie recognized and thanked the Committee on Episcopacy for their work. Bonnie requested the body to recognize the three retired bishops who provided Episcopal leadership in the New York Annual Conference after the passing of Bishop Martin McLee: Bishop Neil Irons, Bishop Ernest Lyght, and Bishop Jane Middleton. Because of the 2016 General Conference held all of the jurisdictions at their current levels, the NEJ will not lose an Episcopal area – will retain 9 Bishops. Bonnie made a Motion that the NEJ certify the election of two bishops and certify the retirement of Bishop Marcus Matthews. **Approved**. Fred Brewington (NY, Lay), member of the Episcopacy Committee moved the adoption of the College of Bishops' statement. It was unanimously seconded. **Approved**.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE AND ELECTRONIC VOTING: Bishop Ball reminded the NEJ that for Matters of Personal Privilege, persons were to place messages in writing and submit to the NEJ Secretary for placement on the agenda. Bishop Ball reminded delegates about nominees and others that may receive votes during balloting. The Bishop reminded the body that anyone that is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church is eligible to become a bishop. The Bishop reviewed the instructions found in paragraph 405. She called on Maidstone Mulenga (BWC – DCA editor) who provided instructions for both the electronic voting device and the write-in process. After several tests using the keypad, the Body began the voting process. Tom Salsgiver, NEJ Secretary, reminded the Body that there were 172 delegates credentialed to vote and that for an election there must be 60% valid votes cast in order to be elected Bishop.

BALLOTING: Bishop Ball led the Body in prayer before voting. **1st Ballot:** delegates were to vote for two persons. She also instructed tellers to distribute write-in paper ballots as needed.

Bishop Ball thanked the NEJ for their participation. Closing prayer and grace provided by Ellis Conley (WC, Clergy).

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016 . . . 2:00 P.M.

Presiding: Bishop Jane Middleton Assisting: Bishop F. Herbert Skeete

CALL TO ORDER: Bishop Jane Middleton called the afternoon session to order and thanked Bishop Skeete for his assistance for the afternoon.

BALLOTING: Results of Ballot #1 - Ballots Cast: 173; Invalid Ballots: 2; Valid Ballots: 171; Needed to Elect: **VOIDED** because 173 ballots were casted. Prayer by Bishop Middleton before **Ballot #2** taken.

RULES: Jen Ihlo (BW, Lay) thanked and acknowledged the entire Rules Committee. She moved to the Plan of Organization/Nominations Committee and Related Provisions so that the Nominating Committee could make its report. She moved the adoption of Art. IV, Youth Reps, pp. 22-23; Art. V, Young Adult Council, pp. 23-24; Art. VI, Standing Committees, pp. 24-28; and Art. VII, Sessions Committees, pp. 28-30. The Rules Committee added, rearranged, and clarified language, which Jen explained in great detail. A new section was added to read on page 27, line 30 . . . “Except that, in the case of episcopal areas, the committee shall recommend to the college of Bishops and the Jurisdictional Episcopacy committee, the names, numbers, and boundaries of episcopal areas.”

Motion by Ian Urriola (UNY, Lay): Amend Rule on page 22 of ADCA, line 44 under voting for youth representatives, move to strike out “not” in that line so that our youth representatives shall be entitled to vote and voice. Motion was seconded. Jen moved to microphone to explain that this motion would require a referral to the Rules Committee before the Body could act on it. She did point out for clarification that youth representatives do not vote because they are not elected by their annual conferences as delegates. If they’re elected as delegates by their annual conferences, then they do vote. Over the years, it was never intended for anybody to exclude youth, it became legal and disciplinary issues. The motion was referred to the Rules Committee.



Creed Pogue (GNJ, Lay) moved to amend Article 6, Section I-3 regarding Finance and Administration to add to page 26 of the ADCA, line 29 a new sentence, “Also any members of the General Conference on Finance and Administration who reside within the bounds of the Conference are members with vote. They shall not be eligible to serve on any agency receiving budgetary funding.” Creed explained that this would have the jurisdiction match language that is already in the Book of Discipline for Annual Conferences CFAs. Motion was seconded. The motion was referred to Rules Committee.

BALLOTING: Results of Ballot #2 - Ballots Cast: 169; Invalid Ballots: 1; Valid Ballots: 168; Needed to Elect: 101. **No election.** Since some of the ordained elders received 9 and more votes, they could distribute their bios before the next ballot was taken.

RULES: A Question was raised about funding for youth representatives since it was removed from Rules or the reasoning. Jen explained that expenses to be paid for youth were covered in the new Policy section on page 31 – lines 32-34 of the Advance DCA. Question about the required audit every 2 years – is it a review audit or full audit? The NEJ CFA Chair, Ed Horne (NY, Clergy) explained the current practice: the first 3 years of the quadrennial is a review audit with the 4th year being a full audit. The Body voted on Article. IV, Youth Reps, pp. 22-23; Art. V, Young Adult Council, pp. 23-24; Art. VI, Standing Committees, pp. 24-28; and Art. VII, Sessions Committees, pp. 28-30. **Voted and Approved.**

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT: Chairperson Ed Horne (NY, Clergy) reviewed the CFA report on pages 11-12 in the Advanced DCA. The CFA committee voted to continue funding for Anna Howard Shaw Center, Multi-Ethnic Center, Korean-American Ministry, and Volunteers in Mission and will include an evaluation to assess effectiveness and how they are progressing toward their goals. Vision Table will be asked to take on this evaluation responsibility. A Motion by Kevin Goodwin (Pen-Del lay) was made to request CFA to include in the 2016-2020 NEJ Budget the amount of \$240,000 to cover the lost income to EPA if the NEJ aligns PD with BWC at the 2016 NEJ Session. It was seconded. **Voted and Approved.** The chair recommended the NEJ approve the budget of \$1, 347,375.00.

BALLOTING: Bishop Middleton called for **Ballot #3**. Following her prayer, Lydia Munoz (EPA) requested clarity around one of the Episcopal Nominees. Bishop Middleton responded with the following statement: *Advisory Statement Regarding Complaint Process. “Our Book of Discipline states that ordination is a sacred trust (para. 363, 2012 BOD). Whenever a person is accused of violating this trust, the bishop is required to review and process the allegations under the strict time frames stipulated in our disciplinary procedures. The bishops have responsibility to guard the integrity of any complaint process by ensuring appropriate levels of confidentiality and limiting conversations which may damage the potential of a just resolution being achieved, which is the primary purpose of any complaint procedure. The provision of a suspension (para. 363.d, 2012 BOD under which we are operating is an appropriate action to protect the persons and ministry involved in a complaint procedure. A suspension requires a review and vote by the Board of Ordained Ministry executive committee. As stated by the NEJ Vision Table, a suspension does not limit one’s ability to serve or be elected to positions within the Church (para. 334, 2012 BOD). While the work of reviewing the allegations is taking place, it is important and appropriate to provide prayerful support for all persons involved in this situation.”*

BALLOTING: After Bishop offered prayer, **Ballot #3** taken.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT: Chairperson Ed Horne (NY, Clergy) continued with two recommendations, which are made at each NEJ (printed on page 14 of the ADCA): 1). The

Finance and Administration Committee recommends that the Rev. David Simpson be nominated as Treasurer and the Rev. Jennifer Williams be nominated as Assistant Treasurer of the NEJ for the 2017-2020 quadrennium. Bishop Middleton stated that a vote would be taken at a later point. 2) The Committee requests reaffirmation of the policy that requires full payment of Annual Conference jurisdictional apportionments as stated in Article III 2c of the Conference Rules adopted at the 1992 NEJ Conference. Bishop Middleton also stated that the recommendation would receive action at a later time. In closing, Ed thanked the committee, staff, and officers for their hard work.

RULES: During the afternoon break, Rules Committee will consider recommendations and report back to the Body.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016 . . . 3:15 P.M.

Presiding: Bishop Marcus Matthews Assisting: Bishop Forrest C. Stith

CALL TO ORDER: Bishop Marcus Matthews called the meeting to order with prayer.

BALLOTING: Results of Ballot #3 - Ballots Cast: 171; Invalid Ballots: 3; Valid Ballots: 168; Needed to Elect: 101. **No election.**

INTRODUCTIONS: Bishop Matthews thanked Bishop Stith for his assistance and invited him to introduce the preacher for Thursday morning. Bishop Stith stated that it was the custom in the NEJ to share and exchange Bishops each quadrennium for the time of the jurisdiction. The NEJ was honored to have as our guest, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, who comes from the Western Jurisdiction. She serves in many capacities including, the ecumenical officer of the church for this quadrennium, she has worked in discipleship ministries, and multi ethnic ministries. Bishop Stith also recognized Bishop Swenson's husband, Jeff.

STATE OF THE JURISDICTIONAL EPISCOPACY ADDRESS: Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar (New England) delivered the state of the church address. The address is provided in the Appendix of the journal.

RULES: Jen Ihlo (BW, Lay) returned to give an update on the Rules per a motion made by Ian Urriola (UNY, Lay). Delegates were directed to page 22, line 44 of the ADCA. The motion was made to remove the word "not" to entitle youth representatives to vote. Jen explained earlier that non delegates (including youth) could not vote. The Rules Committee upheld the rule that only those people who were elected by the annual conference could vote – so they opposed the amendment. Tom Price (BW, Lay) and Creed Pogue (GNJ, Lay) stressed the importance of annual conferences to elect youth as part of their delegation.

BALLOTING: Ballot #4 taken. Bishop Matthews offered a moment of silence prior to voting.

RULES: Jen Ihlo resumed discussion of the amendment from Creed Pogue (GNJ, Lay), which was to amend Article VI, Section I-3, ADCA, page 26, line 29 ... "Also, any members of the General Council on Finance and Administration who reside within the bounds of the Conference are members with vote. They shall not be eligible to serve on any agency receiving budgetary funding." Bishop asked to take a vote on the amendment, when Fred Brewington (NY, Lay) requested that the question be separated. Instead, Creed Pogue accepted the 1st sentence and withdrew the 2nd sentence for the amendment to read, "Also, any members of the General Council on Finance and Administration who reside within the



bounds of the Conference are members with vote.” Jen read the new amendment. Motion passed. Jen gave a thorough review of the Plan of Organization.- Art. 1 Org. of NEJ Conf. ADCA. pp 15-19; Art. II Vision Table, ADCA, pp 19-21; Art. III College of Bishops, ADCA, pp 21-22; Art. VIII Disciplinary Committees, ADCA pp 30-31; Art. IX, NEJ Policies ADCA pp 31-32. Two new provisions: Deadline for petitions and resolutions to be submitted 21 days before the NEJ meets to the NEJ secretary (DCA & ADCA, pp 31, lines 20-21); Bishops cannot move folks off standing committees (ADCA, p. 32). Following explanations for other changes, new sections, and a correction on pp 31 line 6 that should read Commission on Archives rather than Committee on Archives and History. Jen moved for adoption of the Plan of Organization. Creed Pogue (GNJ, Lay) questioned pp 31, lines 20 through 25. **Vote taken: Approved.**

BALLOTING: Results of Ballot #4 - Ballots Cast: 171; Invalid Ballots: 1; Valid Ballots: 170; Needed to Elect: 102. **No election.**

COURTESIES COMMITTEE: William Meekins (WPA, Clergy), Tom White Wolf Fassett (UNY, Clergy), Carmen Vianese (UNY, Lay) and Judi Kenaston (WV, Lay). William Meekins invited the committee to come forward to welcome guests: Fran Kleeberg, Episcopal Services at GCFA; Geri Reist, Secretary of The General Conference; Dight Crain, former NEJ Treasurer; Amy Valdez Barker, Executive Secretary of the Connectional Table; Leavey Bautista, Assistant General Secretary of General Board of Church and Society; Beth Capen, Judicial Council; Dennis Blackwell, Judicial Council.

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA PRESENTATION: Christopher Kurien (EPA, Clergy). A commemorative booklet was presented to the NEJ (delegates and Bishops). EPA also presented monetary gifts: \$10,000 gift to Africa University in support of Bishop Matthews; \$7,000 to create an endowment for Lumina for needy children in Lancaster in honor of Bishop Peggy Johnson; \$7,000 to Imagine No Malaria. Extra books will be available for sale at \$10 each.

CLOSING: Bishop Stith provided the closing prayer and dinner grace.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016 . . . 7:15 P.M.

Presiding: Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar Assisting: Bishop Cliff Ives

CALLED TO ORDER: Bishop Devadhar called the session to order and recognized Bishop William Boyd Grove who had joined the conference. Bishop Devadhar thanked Bishop Ives for his assistance and asked him to open this evening session with prayer.

BALLOTING: Bishop Joe Yeakel offered prayer prior to the ballot being taken. **Ballot #5** was taken.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: EPA Youth, Michael High and Jose Tirado, thanked the Body for the opportunity to attend the NEJ and requested that youth pray over the delegates and next ballots, which was led by Jose.

RESOLUTION: THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON DELEGATION (Not Approved)

Presented by: Charles Parker and the Baltimore Washington Delegation

Financial Implications: Yes

Whereas, the United Methodist Church (UMC) is in the midst of a deep disagreement about the nature of human sexuality that has led to disciplinary language that specifically discriminates against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) people; and Whereas, for more than 40 years, the UMC has been unable to resolve this disagreement and remove this discriminatory language through the ordinary processes of General Conference; and

Whereas, the Annual Conference is the fundamental legal and organizational body of the UMC, where clergy are ordained into the orders of elders and deacons, and local church property is held in trust; and

Whereas, as an expression of this autonomy, Boards of Ordained Ministry and Annual Conferences around the connection have challenged the right of General Conference to proscribe their actions regarding questions of human sexuality and the disciplinary language that discriminates against LGBTQ+ people; and

Whereas, the 2016 session of the General Conference adopted a resolution at the recommendation of the Council of Bishops to establish a special commission to explore re-writing the disciplinary language on human sexuality that discriminates against LGBTQ+ people, with particular attention to regional perspectives; and

Whereas, while clergy pensions are held in individual accounts that are managed by the corporate entity known as "The General Council of Pension and Health Benefits", executing these possibilities may have significant legal implications for the pension, health benefits, church property trust documents, and other connectional programs of the church.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference (NEJ) of the UMC shall establish a task force to explore options, evaluate legal implications, and gather data that will inform decisions by Annual Conferences within the NEJ, the NEJ, and the Special Commission regarding various options for connectional relationships with the General church and other Methodist denominations.

Be it further resolved that the NEJ Vision Table shall, not later than September 30, 2016, form said task force by appointing not fewer than nine nor more than 18 persons to serve on the task force, at least one-third of whom shall be members of Annual Conference Councils on Finance and Administration, Boards of Trustees, and Pension and Health Benefits; and

Be it further resolved that the NEJ Council on Finance and Administration shall budget no less than \$20,000 for said task force to do its work over the quadrennium; and



Be it further resolved that the Task Force, once established, shall elect its own chairperson, establish its meeting schedule, and report its progress at least annually to the Vision Table, with a final report due to the Vision Table no later than their first meeting in 2018. The Vision Table shall disseminate the final report of information to the Annual Conferences of the Jurisdiction, the Bishop's Special Commission, and the delegates of the NEJ.

Charles Parker (BW, Clergy) presented the resolution from the Baltimore-Washington Conference found on pages 16-17 of the Monday, July 11 DCA (as printed above). This would establish a task force to “explore options, evaluate legal implications, and gather data that will inform decisions by Annual Conferences . . .”. Ed Horne (NY, Clergy), who is the chair of CFA, shared that the group met to consider the amendment and decided that it would not support the resolution because of the cost, legal fees and pension matters. CFA did not see this as work of the NEJ but of the General Conference. While it did not support the resolution, CFA urged the General Church to respond. Charles stated that since the general church has not been proactive, it was requesting the NEJ to step up and that it would be acceptable to receiving a lower dollar amount. Bill Shillady (NY, Clergy) stated that this information was already in place, which would make a task force unnecessary and that Annual Conferences may wish to vote against it. Creed Pogue also urged defeat of the resolution citing that it was unnecessary. **A vote was taken. Not Approved.**

RULES: Jen Ihlo (BW, Lay) updated the Body on where they were with the Plan of Organization.- Article. 1 Org. of NEJ Conf. ADCA. pp 15-19; Article. II Vision Table, ADCA, pp 19-21; Article. III College of Bishops, ADCA, pp 21-22; Article. VIII Disciplinary Committees, ADCA pp 30-31; Article. IX, NEJ Policies ADCA pp 31-32. She had previously discussed general edits and changes. **Voted and Approved.**

Jen moved the adoption of the remaining Rules of Order in the ADCA on pages 37-38: Rule 34 (Nominations of Bishops) edits were just clarifying language; Rule 35 (Nominee advocacy) attempted to clarify language, which was enacted during the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference; Rule 36 (Publicity regarding Episcopal nominees) and changes represent Rules Committee understanding that the goal was to allow conversations with nominees but not campaigning. There was a pause for balloting.

BALLOTING: Results of Ballot #5 - Ballots Cast: 172; Invalid Ballots: 1; Valid Ballots: 171; Needed to Elect: 103. **No election.**

RULES: Jen Ihlo (BW, Lay) continued. Jen offered Rules 34, 35, 36 for vote. Gerry Reist (SU, Clergy) submitted an amendment for Rule 34, page 37 of the ADCA to read on line 20, “Shall recognize nominations made by racial and ethnic caucuses listed in The Book of Discipline and by their NEJ related caucuses” and amend line 23 to read “not listed in the current edition of The Book of Discipline” Jen said that the Reist amendment was submitted to the Rules Committee earlier, which they met to discussed and do support. **Voted and Approved.**

Creed Pogue (NJ, Lay) directed attention to Rule 35 on page 37, lines 35-37 of the ADCA to make an amendment. Her provided a substitute 2nd sentence, which would read, “Mass-produced advocacy materials, mass mailings by electronic or postal means, paid social media campaigns, campaign paraphernalia, and fundraising for the purpose of campaigning for supporting/opposing a nominee for the Episcopacy are prohibited.” Creed understands that this amendment will need to be referred. There was a pause for balloting. Bishop May offered the prayer prior to voting. **Ballot #6 taken.**

BALLOTING: Results of Ballot #6 - Ballots Cast: 172; Invalid Ballots: 0; Valid Ballots: 172; Needed to Elect: 104. **No election.** Bishop Hassinger offered prayer prior to voting. **Ballot #7** taken.

RULES: Jen Ihlo (BW, Lay) updated the Body on where it was in terms of adoptions. One amendment had passed, which the Rules Committee considered and accepted to Rule 34. A second amendment would need to be discussed for consideration by the Rules Committee. Jen recommended that a vote be taken for Rule 34 and 36. A **vote** was taken and **Approved**.

RESOLUTION: RULES FOR STANDING COMMITTEES (Not Approved)

Presented by: Tom Price, Baltimore Washington

Financial Implications: Yes

(Found on page 16 of the DCA, Monday, July 11.)

Whereas, it is important for the church to have confidence and trust in leadership at all levels,

And Whereas, supervision of those at the highest levels of authority in the church can be problematic for many reasons,

And Whereas, our Discipline currently calls for greater protection from even the appearance of impropriety of church pastors than it does for Episcopal leaders,

And Whereas, our Episcopal leaders actually carry greater burdens of responsibility, both temporal and spiritual than their local church colleagues,

Be it Resolved that:

The Northeast Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church shall amend their rules regarding the Committee on Episcopacy to conform more closely to the rules regarding the Committee on Staff Parish Relations in the Discipline as follows:

*1. (Paragraph 258 e) The committee shall meet at least quarterly. It shall meet additionally at the request of the (college of) bishop(s), or the Chairperson of the committee. (Three of the four meetings may be held **via telecommunication** to control additional cost to the NEJ.)*

*2. (Paragraph 258 g) The duties of the committee shall include the following:
To encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the (bishops) and their families.*

To promote unity in the (Jurisdiction)

To confer with and counsel the (bishops) on matters pertaining to priorities in the use of gifts, skills, and time and priorities for the demands and effectiveness of the mission and ministry of the (Jurisdiction.)

The desired outcome is that these changes will create a more consistent understanding of relationships and duties among those with responsibilities for support and supervision of Elders, Provide for stronger and more independent support and guidance for Episcopal leaders, and create transparency for the purpose of building trust within the church.



There was a pause in discussing this resolution for a report of **Ballot #7**.

BALLOTING: Results of Ballot #7 - Ballots Cast: 172; Invalid Ballots: 1; Valid Ballots: 171; Needed to Elect: 103. **No election.** Bishop Susan Morrison offered the prayer prior to voting. **Ballot #8** taken.

Tom Price (BW, Clergy) presented the resolution that was in the Monday, July 11, 2016 on page 16 of the DCA (as printed above). Changes to the resolution were focused on items 1 and 2 starting at lines 25. Ed Horne (NY, Clergy) from CFA recommended that on line 26, it read – “Three of the four meetings shall be held via telecommunication to control additional cost to the NEJ”. Tom Price accepted that as a friendly amendment. Jen Ihlo shared that The Rules Committee is opposed to the resolution in its entirety and does not support micro-managing the Episcopacy Committee. **Vote taken. Not Approved.**

BALLOTING: Results of Ballot #8 - Ballots Cast: 172; Invalid Ballots: 1; Valid Ballots: 171; Needed to Elect: 103. **No election.**

PERSONAL PRIVILEGES: Cathy Hall Stengel (UNY, Clergy) asked for a moment of personal privilege to withdraw as a nominee.

Jerod Lycett (SU, Lay) moved that the Body not adjourn until at least one person was elected. Bishop Devadhar received this as a suggestion.

BALLOTING: Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball offered prayer prior to voting. **Ballot #9** taken.

NOMINATIONS REPORT: Bishop Weaver presented the NEJ Nominations report on behalf of the NEJ Nominating Committee. There are 130 persons to be elected and Bishop spoke about team effort in selecting persons for balanced representation. The Nominating Committee was asked to stand to that they might be recognized. Bishop Weaver presented the list that is found on page 4 of Wednesday's DCA. He listed names and corrections. There was a pause for balloting.

BALLOTING: Results of Ballot #9 - Ballots Cast: 171; Invalid Ballots: 1; Valid Ballots: 170; Needed to Elect: 102. **No election.** Bishop William Grove offered prayer prior to voting. **Ballot #10** taken.

NOMINATIONS REPORT: Bishop Weaver continued with corrections to the report. In addition to the corrections, Bishop Weaver explained that some of the persons serving on General Boards and Agencies have already been elected by General Conference or the prospective board. Others will need to be elected by the NEJ. There was a pause for balloting.

BALLOTING: Results of Ballot #10 - Ballots Cast: 172; Invalid Ballots: 2; Valid Ballots: 170; Needed to Elect: 102. **No election.** Bishop Violet Fisher offered prayer prior to voting. **Ballot #11** taken.

NOMINATIONS REPORT: Bishop Weaver continued with the report for General Boards and Agencies. Joan Carter Rimbach (BW, Clergy) raised a concern that the Nomination's report did not reflect diversity on the Vision Table. Bishop Weaver assured her that this would be addressed.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Robin Hynicka (EPA, Clergy) read a personal statement that supported inclusion of women of color:

As we move together in discerning who in these turbulent and troubled times, who will lead us at every level of our jurisdiction, I am moved to recall the scene at the foot of the cross of our crucified Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In that turbulent and troubled time, women of color were present and ready to care for the Body of Christ. This image cuts across my patriarchy, white privilege, economic excess, and heterosexist normality. I pray that this image of women of color at the foot of cross inform all of us but especially those of us who look like me as we discern who will lead us in caring for the Body of Christ today!"

BALLOTING: Results of Ballot #11 - Ballots Cast: 171; Invalid Ballots: 3; Valid Ballots: 168; Needed to Elect: 101. There was an election at 8:55 p.m. of Cynthia Moore-Koikoi with 108 votes. Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi was greeted by her husband, Rev. Rafael Koikoi, Bishop Marcus Matthews, Bishop John Schol and the Baltimore-Washington Conference delegation as soon as the results were read. She was warmly greeted on stage by the NEJ College of Bishops. Bishop Moore-Koikoi addressed the Jurisdiction with words of thanks and praise for the journey.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson offered prayer prior to balloting. **Ballot #12** taken.

Bishop Devadhar declared a 10 minutes recess.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016 . . . 9:25 P.M.

Presiding: Bishop Jeremiah Park Assisting: Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball

CALLED TO ORDER: Bishop Park called the session by inviting the Jurisdiction to sing Blessed Assurance. He then offered prayer. He thanked Bishop Steiner Ball for assisting in presiding.

BALLOTING: Results of Ballot #12 - Ballots Cast: 167; Invalid Ballots: 0; Valid Ballots: 167; Needed to Elect: 101. **No election.**

PERSONAL PRIVILEGES: Kennith Kieffer (NY, Clergy) asked for a moment of personal privilege to withdraw as a nominee.

BALLOTING: Bishop Jeremiah Park offered prayer prior to voting. **Ballot #13** taken.

RULES: Jen Ihlo (BW, Lay) returned to the microphone to speak about the election of non DCMs by the delegations. The motion, "Move to remove the Vision Table from the Nominations Report for the purpose of allowing the delegations to look again at the non-DCM members of the Vision Table tonight (July 13) with an eye toward diversity on the Vision Table. She felt that would address Joan Carter Rimbach's concern about ethnic balance. **Vote taken. Approved.**

Personal Privilege: Rebecca J. Girrell (NE, Clergy) requested that the College of Bishops, when appointing the DCM, please be mindful of the need for diversity among this group. Currently of the 10 DCM's, 7 are white and 8 are men.



BALLOTING: Results of Ballot #13 - Ballots Cast: 170; Invalid Ballots: 0; Valid Ballots: 170; Needed to Elect: 102. **No election.**

PERSONAL PRIVILEGES: We Hyun Chang (NE, Clergy) asked for a moment of personal privilege to withdraw as a nominee.

William B. Meekins (WP, Clergy) asked for a moment of personal privilege to withdraw as a nominee.

BALLOTING: Bishop Park offered a prayer prior to voting. **Ballot #14** taken.

NOMINATIONS REPORT: Bishop Weaver continued with the Nominating Committee report. Jen Ihlo reminded the delegates that the Rules call for the non-DCM representative from the Annual Conferences to the Vision Table to be elected by the delegation. Jen Ihlo moved that the Vision Table nominations be excluded from the Nominations Report for the purpose of having each Annual Conference delegation meet Wednesday night or Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m. to bring any names for the Vision Table that will help with making sure the Vision Table has diversity. Another vote would be taken to accept the overall Nominating Committee report. Blenda Smith (UNY Lay) indicated that on the report that was presented, the category of Native American was listed. This will be cared for as is persons with disabilities. **Vote taken. Approved.**

BALLOTING: Results of Ballot #14 - Ballots Cast: 172; Invalid Ballots: 0; Valid Ballots: 172; Needed to Elect: 104. **No election.** Bishop Park offered prayer prior to voting. **Ballot #15** taken.

ELECTION OF NEJ OFFICERS: The order of the day is the election of the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer of the Jurisdiction. The Rules say that the Secretary and Assistant Secretary are elected upon nomination by the College of Bishops. The College nominates Thomas Salsgiver as Secretary. **Vote taken** and it was **Approved** for the election of Thomas Salsgiver as Secretary. The College of Bishops nominates Darlynn McCrae as Assistant Secretary. **Vote taken** and it was **Approved** for the election of Darlynn McCrae as Assistant Secretary. Rules for the Jurisdiction say that the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer are elected upon nomination of the College of Bishops in consultation with the Jurisdictional Committee on Finance and Administration. The College nominates David Simpson as Treasurer. **Vote taken** and it was **Approved** for the election of David Simpson as Treasurer. The College nominates Jennifer Williams as Assistant Treasurer. **Vote taken** and it was **Approved** for the election of Jennifer Williams as Assistant Treasurer.

BALLOTING: Results of Ballot #15 - Ballots Cast: 170; Invalid Ballots: 0; Valid Ballots: 170; Needed to Elect: 102. **No election.**

PERSONAL PRIVILEGES: Madison Dean (WV, Youth observer) and Jose Tirado (EPA, Youth) requested to pray before the next ballot was taken. Jose led prayer prior to **Ballot #16**.

Ballot #16 was taken.

NEJ BUMP, NEJ BMCR, NEJ-BLF: Joe Daniels (BW, Clergy) – The Body was asked to review the resolution, “Call to Action to the NEJ and the NEJ College of Bishops” as printed in the July 12 DCA on page 8. Joe Daniels requested to make a substitute motion. The Bishop ruled that we would have to perfect the first resolution represented and then deal with the second. Joe made a motion to suspend the rules so that the second resolution could be considered instead of the first. **Vote taken. Not Approved.**

The substitute document was handed out. A motion was made to replace the original document found on page 8 of the DCA, July 12 with the document that was handed out. **Vote taken. Approved.** Body agreed to address this critical issue on Thursday, July 14.

BALLOTING: Results of Ballot #16 - Ballots Cast: 171; Invalid Ballots: 0; Valid Ballots: 171; Needed to Elect: 103. **No election.**

PERSONAL PRIVILEGES: Joan Carter Rimbach (BW, Clergy) moved that the delegation extend the session time for 30 minutes to continue voting. It was seconded. The Body **voted** electronically. **Vote taken. Not Approved.**

Jason Jordan Griffin (BW, Clergy) moved to extend voting for another 15 minutes. **Vote taken. Not Approved.**

Judi Kenaston (WV, Lay) requested that voting to continue in the morning and that delegates not stay longer. Tanya Bennett (GNJ, Clergy) suggested that the Body take another ballot before dismissing. It was decided that the Body would not stay any later and would resume business in the morning.

A Point of Question was raised about the understanding that the delegations must meet prior to 7:30 a.m. so that nominations to the Vision Table can be given to the Nominating Committee. The Chair confirmed that delegations must meet either tonight or early tomorrow morning to meet the 7:30 a.m. deadline.

The secretary reported that The Memorial Offering totaled \$4,310.32 for Lumina.

Wednesday's session adjourned with prayer by Bishop Park.

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016 . . . 8:45 AM

Presiding: Bishop John Schol ... Assisting: Bishop Felton May

CALL TO ORDER: Morning session called to order by Bishop Schol. Bishop Schol introduced Bishop Felton May who will be providing assistance during this session. Bishop May offered the beginning prayer.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGES:

Adrienne Brewington (NY, Clergy) asked for a moment of personal privilege to withdraw as a nominee.
Derrick Porter (PD, Clergy) asked for a moment of personal privilege to withdraw as a nominee.
Jinun Kwak (GNJ, Clergy) asked for a moment of personal privilege to withdraw as a nominee.
Rebekah (UNY, Clergy) asked for a moment of personal privilege to withdraw as a nominee.
Joseph Kenaston (WV, Clergy) ask for a moment of personal privilege to withdraw as a nominee.

Bishop Schol offered prayer for those candidates who withdrew as a nominee.

CERTIFICATION: NEJ Secretary, Tom Salsgiver (SU, Clergy) certified 172 voting delegates.

PRAYER: Baltimore-Washington youth Eric Wildberger and Nito Slack prayed prior to **Ballot #17** being taken.



WORSHIP: Bishop Mary Ann Swenson delivered the morning message. Her title was “Disconnect in order to be refreshed in our reconnection”.

RECOGNITION: Bishop Schol recognized the former NEJ Secretary, Ruth Daugherty, from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

YOUTH: Madison Dean (WV, Youth observer) shared a reflection about being called into the ministry and giving God control for the journey. Upper New York Youth prayed over the delegates.

RESULTS OF BALLOT #17: Cast 168; invalid-0; valid-168; needed to elect 101. **There was an election at 10 a.m. – LaTrelle Easterling received 119 votes.** Congratulated by her husband, Marion and New England Conference Delegation, Bishop Easterling was escorted to the stage by Bishops Devadhar and Weaver. After praising God for the opportunity to serve as an Episcopal Leader, she was greeted by the College of Bishops.

REV. JOE DANIELS (BW, CLERGY) CONTINUED WITH THE LEGISLATION THAT WAS INTRODUCED LAST EVENING. REV. DANIELS INTRODUCED SOME EDITS TO THE DOCUMENT.

The following resolution contains all the approved amendments as voted by the NEJ.

RESOLUTION IN THE FORM OF A CALL TO ACTION TO THE NEJ AND THE NEJ COLLEGE OF BISHOPS

We applaud, appreciate and fully support the College of Bishops opening challenge to us and to the church. The clear willingness of the College of Bishops to lead us toward the healing of the wounds of racism affirms and underscores the purpose and Call to Action in our original resolution/petition. We therefore stand in solidarity with the College of Bishops and those who stood together with our Bishops as their statement affirmed the value of all life and especially Black lives. What we’ve heard from our Bishops gives even more authenticity and purpose to the vision, goals and objectives found in Our Call to Action printed in the July 12, DCA. However, after prayerful consideration and undeniable moving of the Holy Spirit in this the 2016 gathering of the NEJ we have re-written with greater specificity the original document.

Following the slaughter and carnage of Black lives and officers of the law last week, several persons representing the following groups in the NEJ; Black United Methodist Pastors, (BUMP), and Black Leadership Forum, (BLF), (including several delegates) gathered for an emergency conference call Sunday evening. As a result of this conversation along with consultation with the Executive Director of the Multiethnic Center for Ministry and the strong encouragement of NEJ-BMCR Coordinator/Chairperson, it is clear that the time to act is NOW.

It was unanimously agreed that it is time to break our silence. The people of faith called United Methodist have not mobilized nor been pro-active enough. While there have been pronouncements, calls to prayer, moments of silence and candlelight vigils, we have not moved from rhetoric to action. Racism, white privilege and white supremacy which are inconsistent with the kingdom of God, are still the order of the day. To those viewing from within and from outside, the Church appears to be complicit in perpetuating a culture of racism and white privilege.

Therefore, in an effort to address, confront and otherwise demand systemic, fundamental and institutional change both within the church and the world we strongly encourage that the NEJ College of Bishops, the lay and clergy leadership of the NEJ and each Annual Conference to do the following:

- 1. To confront y/our racism, and affirm that, while all lives matter in God's eyes, in the current cultural and social context of this country, Black lives and all lives of Color **really do** matter.*
- 2. That the NEJ College of Bishops collectively and as individuals commit to lead the Church in healing the wounds caused by unchecked racism, white privilege, and internalized oppression.*
- 3. That District Superintendents and staff of all conferences comply with #1 above.*
- 4. To initiate ongoing internal and external conversations on White Privilege, White Supremacy, racism and oppression, including Internalized oppression on every district, sub-district, and within each local church. Realizing that viewing each other through the eyes of Christ and remaining at the table during the hard/difficult discussion is the only way/path to new genuine relationships and partnerships. Out of this new and more sustainable relationships and partnerships will emerge.*
- 5. To initiate training in areas of racism, white privilege and white supremacy, and racial equity for the entire College of Bishops, as well as the District Superintendents and Annual Conference staff and lay leadership within the NEJ. Furthermore, these areas shall also be a focus of all NEJ-sponsored leadership events and efforts, such as See Know Love. Those groups and agencies such as Volunteer in Mission, Association of Conference Lay Leaders, Young Adult Council, and MEJ Youth are urged to hear this call as well and to incorporate training and conversation around systemic racism and cross-racial and cross-cultural power dynamics into their gatherings and ministries.*
- 6. To evaluate and address the impact of structural and institutional racism on people of color in the NEJ: particularly in response to the study in Section 4 of the next section, with regard to*
 - a. The closing of Black churches, and*
 - b. How current ordination processes in the annual conferences affect black persons interested in ordained ministry.*
- 7. That each Annual Conference provide an annual update on work in all of the above to the NEJ Committee on Episcopacy, the Vision Table, and the Multiethnic Center, and share experiences that may be helpful to others in the NEJ.*
- 8. That each Annual Conference provide a written report to be included in the 2020 NEJ Advance Daily Christian Advocate. This report should include its (1) progress within the 2017-2020 Q and (2) plans for the 2021-2024 Q.*
- 9. The College of Bishops, the Vision Table, the Multiethnic Center for Ministry, and each Annual Conference should identify and develop funding to support this proposal.*

In addition, we encourage the College of Bishops, the Vision Table, and the Multiethnic Center identify and provide seed funding for the implementation of the following goals to be accomplished by the end of the 2017-2020 Q.



1. *Those areas with a significant demographic of people from African descent should reflect a proportional number of Black leaders, both lay and clergy at every level of the Jurisdiction and Annual Conference.*
2. *To establish at least one new Faith Community of African descent focused on engaging black children, youth and young Adults in every Episcopal Area in the NEJ, which has a ten-mile radius with a black population of 30,000 or more.*
3. *To increase the number of viable and sustainable Black Church's and ministries in the NEJ.*
4. *To study the impact of structural and institutional racism on black people in the NEJ, in particular:*
 - a. *Closing of Black Churches*
 - b. *The impact of the ordination process on the number of black persons interested in ordained ministry.*
5. *To study the impact of structural and institutional racism on black people in the NEJ, in particular:*
 - a. *Closing of Black Churches*
 - b. *The impact of the ordination process on the number of black persons interested in ordained ministry.*
6. *To encourage UM related seminaries within the NEJ to intentional recruit and offer resources to more students of color, to offer an urban ministries track that is contextual to the Black Lives Matter movement and initiate training for faculty in the areas of racism, White Privilege and White Supremacy.*

There have already been far too many black lives taken at the hands of those who are charged to "protect and serve". In the profound words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "...we are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now..."

Finally, it is as true today as it was during the civil rights era that: "...In a real sense, all life is inter-related. All of human kind are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied to a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be, until you are what you ought to be; and you can never be what you ought to be, until I am what I ought to be..." (MLK, Jr.).

TODAY IS THE TIME FOR ACTION!

(Submitted by; NEJ BUMP, NEJ BMCR, NEJ-BLF) Joseph Daniels, Varlyna Wright, William Meekins, Lillian Smith, Denise Smart-Sears, Tracy Bass, Derrick Porter

Point of Personal Privilege: Michael High (EP, youth) asked that in part of the document to remove the closing of black churches and look at it as the closing of churches.

Rev. Daniels asked that the document, with edits be accepted in 3 parts.

Section I: Vote taken. Approved.

Section II: Stephanie Gottschalk (WPA, Clergy) offered an amendment. **Vote taken. Approved.**

Cynthia Taylor (BWC, Lay) offered two amendments. **Vote taken** on both amendments. **Approved.**

Bill Westbrook (PD, Lay) offered an amendment. **Vote taken. Not Approved.**

Rich Shaffer, (WV Lay) offered an amendment. **Vote taken. Approved.**

Vote taken on Section 2. **Approved.**

Section III: Jose Tirado (Eastern PA, Youth) offered an amendment. **Vote taken. Not Approved.**

Dorlimar Lebron Malave offered an amendment. **Vote taken. Approved.**

(All amendments that passed are included in the Resolution above.)

Jen Ihlo (BWC, Lay) moved that the NEJ Secretary call the roll by each delegation and ask if they will commit and pledge themselves to the work of the passed legislation, CALL TO ACTION TO THE NEJ AND THE NEJ COLLEGE OF BISHOPS. It was second. **Vote taken. Approved.**

Bishop Schol asked each delegation if they would take authority to go back to their annual conference to implement the Call the Action. Youth Delegates and Bishops also pledged and committed themselves to working with their annual conferences to implement the Call to Action.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGES:

Shirley Readdean (UNY, Lay) stated that she was overwhelmed by the historical event that she witnessed ... election of two Ebony female Bishops in the NEJ.

Julian Archibald (UNY, Lay) asked if the NEJ could share its work around the Call to Action with the Pan Methodist family. He suggested that the College of Bishops talk with the Bishops of the Pan Methodist Family and share this document so that we could work together.

PRAYER: Bishop May sealed the Call to Action covenant with prayer. The Jurisdiction concluded this session by singing "Guide My Feet".

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016 . . . 10:30 AM

Presiding: Bishop Tom Bickerton ... Assisting: Bishop Clifford Ives

CALL TO ORDER: After calling the session to order, Bishop Bickerton asked Bishop Mary Ann Swenson to update the NEJ on her missional journey. Bishop Swenson will attend the AME Zion Quadrennial Session



in Greensboro, NC and will eagerly share with them and other Pan Methodist churches the **RESOLUTION IN THE FORM OF A CALL TO ACTION TO THE NEJ AND THE NEJ COLLEGE OF BISHOPS** that was approved.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Bishop Bickerton opened the session with a heart-warming story about grace, which was lovingly demonstrated by his father in his teen years. Bishop Bickerton challenged the Body to also model grace in their interactions with the church and community. He stated that God has given us the keys to be the best church that we can be by lovingly modeling His grace. Bishop Ives centered the body in prayer.

RESOLUTION: RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS' COMMISSION

Presented by:

Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, Baltimore-Washington

Rev. Charles Parker, Baltimore-Washington

Kenneth Ow, Baltimore-Washington

Rev. Lydia E. Muñoz, Eastern Pennsylvania

Rev. Vicki Flippin, New York

Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, New York

Dorlimar Lebrón Malavé, New York

Steven Dry, New England

Financial implications: none

WHEREAS the 2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference recognizes that The United Methodist Church is deeply divided on matters of theology, social holiness, and discrimination against persons on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, so as to hinder our ministry in Christ, and

WHEREAS the strong stance taken by several Annual Conferences and Boards of Ordained Ministry within the Northeastern Jurisdiction make it clear that, without greater regional flexibility and contextuality, our Jurisdiction-- and we believe our denomination-- risks quickly becoming unsustainable as one body,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference affirms the decision of the General Conference in adopting the proposal "A Way Forward" by the Council of Bishops;*
- 2. The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference recommends to the Council of Bishops' Commission that the Commission's proposal include a plan for restructuring the denomination so that regional bodies such as Annual Conferences, Jurisdictional Conferences, continent-wide conference bodies, or other options such as the Commission may decide "shall have the power to make such changes and adaptations of the Book of Discipline as the special conditions and the mission of the church in the area require..." consistent with the power granted Central Conferences in Book of Discipline paragraph 543.7;*
- 3. The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference intends to begin living into greater regional flexibility and contextuality, equipping for ministry and mission in the specific area of the Northeastern United States in part by recognizing the principled choices and actions of the Annual Conferences and Boards of Ordained Ministry in its region without challenge.*

Resolution presented by Ginger Gaines-Cirelli (BW, Clergy) found on page 14 of Monday, July 11 DCA edition (as printed above). Ginger made an editorial change to the document – to delete the last two words, “without challenge” in item #3. She explained that the resolution creates space for ministries with people in particular contexts. Following speeches, the resolution was to amend item #3 by deleting “without challenge” and adding ... and with expanded power to make contextual based adaptation of the Book of Discipline to ensure full inclusiveness. **Vote taken. Approved.**

Creed Pogue raised a Point of Order regarding the petition because he believes it is asking us to endorse actions that are contrary to The Discipline. Bishop Bickerton replied that the College had reviewed it and found it to be in order. The College recommended the removal of the words “without challenge”. To recognize is not to endorse. Therefore, the College of Bishops determined that the petition is in proper order.

Point of Personal Privilege: Dorothee E. Benz (NY, Lay) asked that the Conference recognize that what we are talking about are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. And, it would be important to name this.

Mark Flynn made a motion to amend the resolution by deletion of item #3. **Vote taken** electronically. Results: Yes – 63; No-98. Amendment **Not Approved.**

Sean Delmore (NE, Lay) presented a motion for substitution for item #2, line 33, after the semicolon, add ... “and with expanded power to make contextual based adaptations of the Book of Discipline to ensure full inclusiveness”.

Voting by electronic ballot. **Vote taken.** Yes- 98; No-63 **Approved.** **Vote taken** by electronic ballot on amended petition. Results: Yes – 109; No –56. **Approved.**

Point of Personal Privilege to recognize Dr. HiRho Park a staff member of the GBHEM.

RESOLUTION: STOP THE CHURCH TRIALS: A MORATORIUM BY BISHOPS (Ruled Out of Order)

Presented by:

Dorothee Benz, New York Annual Conference

Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, New York Annual Conference

Vicki Flippin, New York Annual Conference

Dorlimar Lebron Malave, New York Annual Conference

Financial Implications: None

WHEREAS, the jurisdictional conference is charged “[t]o promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, and benevolent interests of the Church...;”

WHEREAS, the jurisdictional conference is charged “[t]o make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the jurisdiction...;”

WHEREAS, punitive complaints and prosecutions of persons who are either LGBTQI clergy or have performed same sex weddings have harmed “the evangelistic, educational, and benevolent interests of the Church...” within the Northeastern Jurisdiction;



WHEREAS the Northeastern Jurisdiction should be a place where LGBTQI persons can find safe space, an arena for the expression of and celebration of their individual gifts in service and ministry, enjoy the blessings of family and marriage, and participate fully, openly, and equally in the full life of the church; and

WHEREAS the Northeastern Jurisdiction declares itself to be in solidarity with and in support of LGBTQI lay persons, clergy, candidates for ministry, and their families, and further declared as its sacred duty the protection of the full and equal participation of LGBTQI lay persons, clergy, candidates for ministry, and their families in the life of the church; and

WHEREAS LGBTQI people are finding welcoming communities in the United Methodist Church and in the Northeastern Jurisdiction they are finding clergy, laity and congregations embracing them joyfully as members of the body of Christ, as United Methodists in good standing, and as gifted children of God entitled equally to all the ministries, ceremonies and sacraments of the church; and

WHEREAS our welcoming spirit is harmed by punitive prosecutions that cause younger generations, including LGBTQI individuals, to question their place in a church that practices discrimination while proclaiming its doors to be open; and

WHEREAS despite forty-four years of negative UMC teachings and punitive policies regarding LGBTQI persons and those who minister with and for them, resistance to the denomination's harsh and discriminatory policies is increasing and taking on new forms, and large numbers of LGBTQI clergy have publicly declared themselves; and

WHEREAS the 2016 General Conference not only failed to overcome this impasse; it was itself brought to crisis by the collision of forces seeking to strengthen the system of discrimination and punishments with forces demanding that the discrimination and the punishments cease; and

WHEREAS in response to that crisis and at the insistence of the General Conference, on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, the Council of Bishops responded by presenting to the General Conference a proposal entitled An Offering of a Way Forward From the Council of Bishops; and

WHEREAS An Offering of a Way Forward From the Council of Bishops contains the following statements:

- 1. We understand that part of our role as bishops is to lead the church toward new behaviors, a new way of being and new forms and structures which allow a unity of our mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" while allowing for differing expressions as a global church.*
- 2. We recommend that the General Conference defer all votes on human sexuality and refer this entire subject to a special Commission, named by the Council of Bishops, to develop a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph in our Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality. We continue to hear from many people on the debate over sexuality that our current Discipline contains language which is contradictory, unnecessarily*

hurtful, and inadequate for the variety of local, regional and global contexts. We will name such a Commission to include persons from every region of our UMC, and will include representation from differing perspectives on the debate. We commit to maintain an on-going dialogue with this Commission as they do their work, including clear objectives and outcomes. Should they complete their work in time for a called General Conference, then we will call a two- to three-day gathering before the 2020 General Conference.

3. We will continue to explore options to help the church live in grace with one another – including ways to avoid further complaints, trials and harm while we uphold the Discipline. We will continue our conversation on this matter and report our progress to you and to the whole church. and;

WHEREAS the 2016 General Conference 2016 adopted the proposal of the Bishops, and the process outlined therein is unfolding; and

WHEREAS the initiation of or continuation of punitive actions against LGBTQI persons seeking to live as equal members of the United Methodist Church or the initiation of or continuation of punitive actions against clergy who minister with LGBTQI persons serves to inflict further harm, as has been acknowledged by the Council of Bishops in An Offering of a Way Forward, and to poison the atmosphere for the dialogue that has been initiated;

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2012) prescribes that “Bishops elected by or administering in a jurisdictional conference shall be amenable for their conduct to their jurisdictional conference.” ¶ 523, Discipline;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Northeastern Jurisdiction hereby imposes a moratorium upon Bishops within the Northeastern Jurisdiction on initiating and processing of complaints and initiating of investigations and trials based upon the sexual orientation or marital status of faithful United Methodists or involving clergy for conducting same-sex weddings. Submitted by:

Vicki Flippin (NY, Clergy) presented the resolution: **STOP THE CHURCH TRIALS: A MORATORIUM BY BISHOPS**, found on page 12 of the July 11 DCA (and as printed above). She shared the challenge of being in ministry to the LGBTQ as clergy, which motivates the need for the petition.

Bishop Bickerton shared a statement from the College of Bishops. While the College believed the NEJ Conference is the setting to have healthy conversations around these types of challenges as presented by Vicki, their review of the petition also offered some challenges. Their statement was that unless the resolution is amended the petition as presented it is out of order. The rationale is that it calls Bishops to act contrary to the Judicial process provisions found in paragraphs 363 and 2701 as well as Judicial Council decisions 1111, 1120, and 1220. Specifically, judicial council decision 1120 states that an annual conference may adopt a constitution on human sexuality that is aspirational in nature. An annual conference may not negate, violate or ignore the decision even when there are conscientious objections to those provisions. The same application applies to the work of a Jurisdiction. In addition, the paragraph would call upon Bishops to violate specific responsibilities of an Episcopal leader especially in paragraphs 414.9, 415.2 and 415.3 of The Book of Discipline. The statement continued that unless there are amendments or substitutions made in subsequent discussion of this petition that make the mandated language more



aspirational in nature, the resolution will be out of order and thus null and void. Bishop Bickerton stated his willingness to receive any amendments or substitutions to make the petition in order.

Paul Fleck (NY, Clergy) sought a Ruling of Law. His question, “Why would the attached resolution be declared out of order? Specifically, in light of the Bishop’s amenability to the Jurisdictional Conference for their conduct pursuant to paragraph 523 of the Discipline and in light of the Constitutional authority granted to the Jurisdiction to prescribe rules and regulations for the Jurisdiction pursuant to paragraph 27.5 of the Discipline, why can’t a jurisdiction impose a moratorium on bishops from initiating and processing complaints and initialing investigations and trials a based upon the sexual orientation of United Methodist Clergy or based upon whether clergy conduct same sex weddings?”

Bishop Bickerton stated the Ruling of Law was properly before the Body for vote, which takes 1/3 votes. Paul Fleck reminded Bishop Bickerton that there is not a threshold for voting according to the Judicial Council, which was confirmed by the College.

Bishop Bickerton ruled the request out of order because it was a request based on a parliamentary decision and not on a paragraph of the Book of Discipline. The leading question was a request why the resolution would be ruled out of order. Paul Fleck then appealed the decision of the Chair. Bishop Bickerton explained that as they go through an appeal of the decision of the chair (the request for a decision of Law is made), it must be made in specific reference to Disciplinary matters that are before the Body. The current situation is not a Disciplinary matter but rather a parliamentary decision and the request is out of order. Bishop Bickerton informed the Body that there has been a call for the question of the decision of the chair. **Vote taken. The decision of the chair is sustained.**

Returning to the Resolution, Gere Reist (Clergy, SUS) made a motion ... “requests the CFAs of the Annual Conferences of the jurisdiction state that there are no funds available for initiating and...” **Electronic vote taken.** Results: Yes – 96; No - 64. **The amendment was Supported.**

Bishop Ives asked that the Body keep Bishop’s Bickerton’s father and the family in prayer.

COURTESIES: William Meekins (WP, Clergy) recognized Dr. HiRho Park, GBHEM; Dr. Arthur Pressley, Multi Ethnic Center; Joann McClain, Council of Bishops Assistant; Greg Forrester, General Secretary of UMCOR.

Bishop Bickerton thanked the body for the important and honest discussion that was held this more. WPA Youth provided the closing prayer and grace.

The session adjourned for lunch.

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016 . . . 1:45 PM

Presiding: Bishop Tom Bickerton ... Assisting: Bishop Clifford Ives

CALL TO ORDER AND SPECIAL GUEST: Bishop Bickerton called the NEJ to order and invited special guest, John Zimmerman (Western Pennsylvania Conference), an instructor with BeADisciple.com to the stage. John reported that The Disciple Institute now offers the Disciple Academy, which takes high school and college age students through the Bible. It is also developing a new stand-alone resource, “Call to Discernment”, for young people at TimothyCircle.com, to be launched next year. The Institute offers

professional studies in youth ministry with a Master's Degree in Youth Ministries (100% online, affordable, easily attainable, and full of information). Disciple Bible Study celebrates 30 years, John updated the NEJ on its work and a new fast track study that condenses the regular Disciple Bible Study to 24 weeks.

Moment of Personal Privilege: Laura Grace Orner (WPA, Youth) asked for a moment of privilege to reflect on both the resolution on racism and the resolution on the discussion on stopping church trials.

RESOLUTION: STOP THE CHURCH TRIALS: A MORATORIUM BY BISHOPS: Bishop Bickerton continued the unfinished business of the resolution found on page 12 of the July 11 DCA.

Paul Fleck (NY, Clergy) moved to amend the final Whereas clause on page 13 of the July 11 DCA to read following the word Discipline to read as follows, ... semi colon; paragraph 525 of the Book of Discipline prescribes that the Jurisdictional Conference shall have powers and duties as prescribed in the Constitution, and paragraph 27, Article V of the Constitution mandates that the jurisdictional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference: 1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary and benevolent interests of the church and 5. To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the church within the jurisdiction subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Conference." And then further under the resolve after the word weddings ... and will promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary and benevolent interests of the church. **Vote taken.** Yes-109; No-54. **Approved.**

Bob Wilt (EP, Clergy) also provided an amendment – page 13, lines 40-41, to add . . . hereby recognizes its Annual Conferences and Boards of Ordained Ministries who have entered into covenant with their assigned Bishop to declare a moratorium on initiating . . . **Vote taken.** Results: Yes – 58; No – 104. **Not Approved.**

Bob Zilhaver, (WP, Clergy) make a motion to refer this resolution to the College of Bishops for a better understanding of supervisory procedures related to this petition. **Vote taken.** Results to refer: Yes – 71; No – 91. **Not Approved.**

Prior to the vote on the referral, Bishop Violet Fisher offered prayer.

After a moment of silent prayer, Bishop Bickerton called for an **electronic vote**. Results: Yes – 108; No – 58. **Approved.**

Bishop Bickerton announced that that College did not want to hinder the important conversation that had taken place. They recognized and acknowledged the pain, various positions, and opinions as the church tries to find ways to be unified. Bishop Bickerton said that he regrettably declared the petition out of order.

Charles Parker (BW, Clergy) thanked Bishop Bickerton for the healthy conversations, but appealed the chair's decision for ruling the petition out of order.

Fred Brewington (NY, Lay) stated that at the time Bishop Bickerton made a statement that the matter was improperly before the delegates, it was an unamended, untested, unregulated, and undocumented petition. The petition had changed in its character from the first time than it was now. Fred said that he did not see any conferral or recognize that there was any further research done on whether or not the petition was or was not out of order. As such, given the paragraphs that was cited including paragraphs 27 of the constitution, it mandates that the NEJ care for the evangelistic component of its responsibility as a



jurisdiction. He asked as a point of order that the Bishops would consider that before ruling out of order and before the delegates challenge the Chair's decision so that they have that before them.

Bishop Bickerton asked Charles Parker (BW, Clergy) to consider Brewington's recommendation because the College did not have an opportunity to confer about the amended document. Bishop Bickerton would appreciate the opportunity to allow the college to weigh in on the amended document. If allowed to do that, then a decision about whether or not the college sees it in order would be decided and greatly appreciated. Charles Parker (BW, Clergy) was in agreement as well as the delegates.

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016 . . . 3:15 PM

Presiding: Bishop Peggy Johnson ... Assisting: Bishop John Schol

CALL TO ORDER: Bishop Johnson called the afternoon session to order. As part of her introduction, the Bishop introduced the deaf community that was present. Bishop also reminded the Conference that the NEJ is the only jurisdiction in the connection that includes a line item for deaf ministries. The Conference gave permission for Karen Miller, the President of the NEJ UM Congress of the Deaf. The prayer was given using sign language and Karen's interpreter spoke the prayer. Bishop Johnson thanked Bishop Schol for his assistance.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The NEJ Treasurer, David Simpson (BW Clergy) thanked all conferences, NEJ boards and agencies for meeting all apportionment goals in full and for exercising faithful stewardship. David announced that the NEJ is in a sound position as indicated in the distributed copies of the balance sheet and income/expense summary to delegates and Bishops. Treasurer's report **Approved** and **Accepted**. David reported that all funds have been transferred from Dight Crain, the former treasurer to David Simpson.

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION REPORT: Ed Horne (NY, Clergy) is the NEJ Chair of the Council on Finance and Administration Committee. He reported that there were no additional proposals for the report as found on pages 11-12 of the ADCA. Projected apportionments for this quadrennium has been forwarded to all annual conferences by the NEJ Treasurer David Simpson. Conferences were reminded of the importance of apportionments, which helps the NEJ meet the budget. Ed moved the expense line item of \$1,347,375.00 (which will be apportioned to Annual Conferences) for approval. **Vote taken. Approved.**

JOURNAL REPORT: Ralph Odour (NE, Lay), Anne Horton (SU, Lay), Noel Chin (NY, Clergy), Michelle Bogue-Trost (UNY, Clergy) provided the report. All were in order. The committee gave special recognition to Darlynn McCrae, assistant treasurer for her diligent and hard work with the minutes of the conference.

RESOLUTION: ACTION OF NON-CONFORMITY WITH THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (Ruled Out of Order)

Presented by:

Steven Dry, New England Annual Conference

Ken Ow, Baltimore-Washington

Sherie Koob, Baltimore-Washington

Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, Baltimore-Washington

Lydia Munoz, Eastern Pennsylvania

Tracy R. Merrick, Western Pennsylvania
Faith Geer, Western Pennsylvania
Vicki Flippin, New York
Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, New York
Dorlimar Lebrón Malavé, New York
Financial implications: none

The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference as a body affirms our commitment to become a fully inclusive church. Therefore, the Northeastern Jurisdiction encourages the Annual Conferences within its bounds to take the following actions:

That the Annual Conferences of the NEJ not conform or comply with provisions of the Discipline which discriminate against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual persons, including marriage (161.B), the incompatibility clause (161.F), ordination and appointments (304.3), homosexual unions (341.6), AC funding ban (613.19), GCFA funding ban (806.9), chargeable offenses pertaining to being “a self-avowed practicing homosexual” or to officiating at weddings for couples regardless of the sex of the partners (2702.1b,d).

That the Northeastern Jurisdiction and its member Annual Conferences not participate in or conduct judicial procedures related to the Discipline’s prohibitions against LGBTQI persons.

That the Annual Conferences of the NEJ insist that any benefits available to clergy and employees and their families are available to all clergy and employees and their families, regardless of the sexes or genders of the partners, and requires the District Superintendents to inform all clergy under their supervision of this right.

Steve Dry (NE, Lay) presented the resolution found on page 14 of the DCA for Monday, July 11 (as printed above). He stated that the purpose of the resolution was to have a principled discussion as to whether or not we as a jurisdiction are going to continue to do harm by discriminating against the LGBTQ people in the Northeast Jurisdiction.

Bishop John Schol responded with a statement crafted by the College after it read the resolution. They cited the following issues with this resolution which in the Bishops’ understanding makes this resolution out of order so that the body knows exactly what they are working with: 1. The title places the resolution out of order. 2. Decision #1292 ... Items 2 and 3 are out of order because the legislation specifically talks about not following the Book of Discipline. Bishop Schol shared a Judicial Council ruling Decision 1292 that a Body cannot pass legislative action that encourages actions or refraining from actions that are contrary to the Book of Discipline (a Body cannot take an action that would encourage people to not follow the Discipline or to do things that are incompatible with the Discipline). Based on the Bishops’ understanding, Items 2 & 3 are out of order. Items 1 and the last paragraph 4 are okay in terms of Jurisdictional action today.



Bob Zilhaver (WP, Clergy) made a motion that this resolution be referred to the Bishops Commission on Human Sexuality that will be formed. It was seconded. **Vote taken.** Results to refer: Yes – 66; No – 98. **Not Approved.**

Steven Dry (NE, Lay) offered a prayer for the leadership as they prepared to vote.

Sarah Townsend (PD, Youth) prayed as well prior to voting.

After the prayer, the conference voted on the resolution. **Vote taken.** Results to approve: Yes – 91; No – 74. **Approved.**

After the vote, Bishop Johnson ruled the resolution out of order. Vicki Flippin (NY, Clergy) raised a point of inquiry and she requested that the College of Bishops reconsider their decision and join the Jurisdiction in non-conformity with The Discipline. Bishop Schol stated that according to parliamentary procedure, when the chair is challenged, both the chair and person asking the point of inquiry both have an opportunity to say why it is or is not out of order. The body then will vote on whether it is or is not in order.

Fred Brewington (NY, Lay) clarified that Vicki Flippin invited the College as a whole to reconsider and did not make a motion to challenge the ruling out of order or challenge the Chair's ruling.

Bishop Johnson will invite the College for conversation regarding reconsideration of the ruling that the resolution was out of order. The College will report back during this Jurisdictional Conference.

Bishop Bickerton reported to the Jurisdiction that the College conducted a thorough review of the resolution, Stop the Church Trials, as amended. The title is not compatible with the content of the petition. If a motion is made to strike the title, then the motion is properly in order. Motion was made with a second to strike the title. **Vote taken** by electronic ballot. Results: Yes - 111; No – 53. **Approved.** This petition remains unnamed.

NOMINATIONS REPORT: Bishop Weaver thanked the Conference Delegations for working hard to revisit persons for the Vision Table found on page 7 of Wednesday's DCA. The work was needed so that the NEJ Committees can organize. Each Conference Delegation reviewed the recommendations for persons to serve on the Vision Table. With the changes made by the delegations that were reported to the Committee on Nominations, the Body received the Vision Table report.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Rene Perez (NE, Clergy) and Irving Cotto (EP, Clergy) provided a statement

I am René Perez and this is my brother in Christ, Irving Cotto. We celebrate and rejoice as we adopted a resolution that will make our life together more just, particularly for our African American communities which have experienced injustice, violence and discrimination. As Latinos, who are people of all colors and languages, we stand against any type of racial or gender discrimination.

Our greatest joy was to witness the election of our two African American sisters as bishops. We thank God for the opportunity to be here, and both of us were honored with having being able to be considered for the office of bishop. As Latinos we want to share with you our struggle in realizing that, Even when Latinos represent the largest ethnic minority in

the US totaling more than 55 million across the nation and 19 million in the NY alone. Unfortunately, we are often forgotten, including when it comes to the episcopacy.

Latinos/as love Jesus and have been a part of the Methodist movement at least since 1738. More than ever we count our blessings. Our journey isn't over.. "God indeed is not done with us yet." And we continue to offer our gifts to the larger church. So, we long for the day when we will see a Latino/a bishop in this jurisdiction an active and contributing member of the college of bishops. We believe this is possible. Again, thank you for opening the space and allowing us to share our vision for the church.

The secretary gave directions for the organization of committees for the next quadrennium.

COURTESIES: Following announcements, William Meekins gave the courtesies report: Leigh Goodrich, Director of Education and Leadership at the General Commission on The Status and Role of Women; Jose Martinez, General Secretary, Board of Pensions.

Courtney Parker (Pen Del, Youth) offered the prayer for the organization of the committees and grace for dinner.

Break for NEJ Committees to organize. Dinner afterwards.

Thursday, July 14, 2016 . . . 7:15 PM

Presiding: Bishop Mark Webb ... Assisting: Bishop Ernest Lyght

CALL TO ORDER: Bishop Webb called the NEJ evening session to order and introduced Bishop Ernest Lyght who is assisting him in presiding. Youth from Susquehanna and Greater New Jersey opened the session with prayer for the delegates, Bishop Matthews, and the tragedy in Nice.

TASK FORCE: Over lunch, the College of Bishops met and appointed a 5-member task force to begin immediately working with the legislation that was approved around Black Lives Matter. The College is looking forward to the work that will come out of the task force.

BOUNDARIES / TRANSFER: Kathleen Kind (SU, Clergy) submitted the following request to the NEJ ... "In June 2015, the AC session for both Susquehanna and Western PA affirmed the transfer of Fishing Creek and Riverside UM churches from the Williamsport District of the Susquehanna Conference to the Kane District of the Western PA conference as of July 1, 2016. Prior to these AC sessions, both Fishing Creek and Riverside church conferences voted affirmation for the transfer as per para 41 on May 10, 2015. According to Disc para 40, boundaries of an annual conference shall be determined by the Jurisdictional Conference – a vote is required by NEJ to ratify this transfer." It was moved and seconded that the 2016 NEJ affirm the transfer of these two churches from the Susquehanna Conference to the Western PA Conference. **Vote taken. Passed.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Jeff Raffauf (EP, Clergy) requested A Decision of Law regarding the untitled resolution in whether it is in order considering paragraphs 20, 523, and 525 of our Book of Discipline as well as Judicial Council's decisions 96 and 886 among others. Bishop Webb stated that it was his



understanding that a decision of law request has been made. Bishop Webb confirmed that indeed the decision of law had been received (Par. 2610.1-20).

RULES: Jen Ihlo (BW, Lay) informed the Body that delegates have approved everything in the Plan of Organization and approved all Rules of Order except for Rule 35.

The last time that the Body was considering the Rules, Creed Pogue, (GNJ, Lay) offered an amendment, which the Rules Committee needed to consider. Creed's motion to Rule 35, lines 35-37 found on page 37 of the DCA so that it would read: "mass produced advocacy materials, mass mailings by electronic or postal means, paid social media campaigns, campaign paraphernalia and fundraising for the purpose of campaigning or supporting / opposing a nominee for the episcopacy are prohibited." That motion had been made and seconded and the Rules Committee met to consider the amendment. While they had some misgivings about where we end up with regard to language, they wanted to be sure they were not campaigning but allowing people to have conversations and not being too restrictive. The Rules Committee accepted the Creed Pogue amendment to Rule 35 and present it to the Body.

After speeches, there was an amendment to the amendment: to delete the word "paid" before social media campaign on page 37, line. It will now read - mass produced advocacy materials, mass mailings by electronic or postal means, social media campaigns, campaign paraphernalia, and fundraising for the purpose of campaigning or supporting / opposing a nominee for the episcopacy are prohibited. **Vote taken. Approved.**

Rule 35 with the approved amendment to the amendment was presented for a vote. **Vote taken. Approved.** This means that all Rules are now completed and approved.

RULES COMMITTEE AND EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE REPORT: Jen Ihlo (BW, Lay) spoke about the work of these two committees who were tasked in 2012 to review how Episcopal Nominees were selected by their conferences to bring back the possibility of a unified episcopacy endorsement process. Jen said that although committees cannot dictate to annual conferences what process to use, they provided a uniform overview from each conference. The joint task for makes a recommendation that "Each Annual Conference, UM Caucus or group that endorses a nominee for the Episcopacy shall provide, along with the biographical information for the nominee, information about the process used to endorse the nominee(s) recommended for election. The form and type of information to be shared shall be developed by the NEJ Episcopacy Committee, following consultation with the NEJ Rules Committee, so that the information will be uniform. This form shall be developed and posted on the NEJ website no later than June 30, 2018. This information about each candidate shall be published on the NEJ website along with the biographical information for that candidate. **The Body received and affirmed the report.** The Body also gave Jen permission to make editorial leave to make grammatical changes as needed.

NON CONFORMITY RESOLUTION REQUEST MADE OF THE COLLEGE IN THE PREVIOUS SESSION: Bishop Schol and Bishop Johnson presented a statement from the College. Although they recognize the resolution is out of order per their rules, they also recognize the hard work that went into the preparation, presentation and discussions around the resolution.

Charlie Parker (BW, Clergy) ask for an appeal of the decision of the past chair regarding the ruling that this resolution is out of order. **Vote taken.** Results: Yes - 73; No - 94. **The decision of the chair is affirmed.**

Bishop Webb has 30 days to respond to the REQUEST FOR A DECISION OF LAW and will place that response on the NEJ website. The Decision of Law will be sent to the Judicial Council.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Grace Pak (GNJ, Clergy) and other Asian American delegates presented a statement, "Calling Northeastern Jurisdiction to be more inclusive"

We, the Asian-American United Methodists in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, are standing here to celebrate God's blessings that we've witnessed at this Jurisdictional Conference. We want to celebrate that our church is increasingly and marvelously getting diverse and inclusive. We are excited to be part of the momentous occasion of electing two African-American women bishops. How exciting it is also to be a part of a new movement where we made bold and prophetic resolution and call to action to dismantle racism! We have experienced God's kingdom in our midst through our effort and work to bring more diversity and inclusiveness throughout the nomination process. The civility and welcoming conversation that happened around LGBTQI + concerns demonstrated holy conferencing at its best where all voices were heard and respected. Most of all, we were grateful to offer two Asian-American episcopacy candidates who testified for us that God calls people from all corners of the world for the kingdom work. We have experienced that God, truly, is with us. That God, truly, is good.

However, we are not there yet! We are not there yet. We acknowledge that diversity is still a work in progress in our church of Jesus Christ in our Jurisdiction, and it gives us much hope that we can face the ongoing challenges of racism, immigration issues, social and economic injustice. It takes everyone to work together to fulfill God's vision for the church and the world. We are standing here with you to affirm our commitment and to offer our gifts and graces to continue the work of bringing God's kingdom in our midst.

Prayer (In Tagalog, in Korean, and in English): We thank you Oh God for the amazing display of your presence and grace throughout this jurisdictional conference. Bind us together in the love of Jesus Christ so that we can make your kingdom come here in our midst and in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The secretary made announcements for the evening.

CLOSING: Bishop Webb thanked the Body for the evening's session.

BISHOP MARCUS AND MRS. BARBARA MATTHEWS RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

The Matthews were honored by their former and current conferences – Eastern Pennsylvania, Upper New York and Baltimore-Washington. The evening including slides from each conference, music and reflections. A desert reception followed at the end of the evening session.

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016 . . . 8:30 PM

Presiding: Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball ... Assisting: Bishop William Boyd Grove

CALL TO ORDER AND THANKS: Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball called the session to order by acknowledging and thanking the musicians who have supported worship and praise. The musicians were led by Lydia Munoz (EPA, Clergy). Yong Kwan Jung, on keys; Calvin Sellers on bass; Marcus Johnson on drums; Dorlimar



Lebron Malave on guitar; Jeremy Graff on guitar; Julian Wamble, soloist. Bishop Steiner Ball also thanks Bishop William Boyd Grove who will be assisting her in this session.

RESOLUTION: GLOBAL CONNECTION PLAN (To refer)

Report from Tracey Merrick (WPA, Lay) and Denise Smartt Sears (NY, Clergy). Resolution to refer Global Connection Plan to Special Commission, CT, and Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters. Referral - Explanation: Page 17 in the Monday, July 11th Daily Christian Advocate.

During the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference, a resolution dealing with the global structure of The UMC was referred to a task force to be named by the College of Bishops. The NEJ Global Structure Task Force developed and proposed the Global Connection Plan to the 2016 General Conference. General Conference did not adopt any of the various restructuring proposals, including the Global Connection Plan.

After General Conference adopted the Council of Bishops Plan for a Way Forward, the task force decided to refer the Global Connection Plan to the Special Commission, the Connectional Table and the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters as a suggested structure for the future of the church.

Since the task force believes these organizations will give the Global Connection Plan more attention if it is forwarded by jurisdictional conferences, we are asking this conference to make that referral to the three committees I have just identified. We have also connected with colleagues in the NCJ and WJ who have submitted a slightly modified resolution to their jurisdictional conferences referring the Global Connection Plan to the same three committees.

The Global Connection Plan consists of two parts: the Concept Proposal beginning on page 19 and a series Constitutional Amendments beginning on page 23. In addition to referring the Plan to the three organizations, the resolution also asks them to provide a response indicating how they used the Plan in their work. We believe this is an important follow-up step. In case you are not familiar with the Global Connection Plan Denise will take a couple of minutes to summarize it...

Proposal - Explanation:

High Level structure:

Global Connectional Conference

- Similar to General Conference but would only focus on global matters
- Responsible for the Global Book of Discipline and would determine what sections could be contextualized by the Connections

4 Connections: Africa, Asia, Europe, North America

- Responsible for equipping for ministries within the Connection and for dealing with matters unique to the Connection
- Responsible to Connectional Books of Discipline for those sections the Global Connectional Conference gives permission for contextualization
- Responsible for recommendations to the Global Connectional Conference

12 Regions:

- Jurisdictional and central conferences would become regions
- All regions would have the same responsibilities
- Africa 3, Asia 1, Europe 3, North America 5
- Responsible for election and assignments of bishops

Annual Conferences - unchanged

What issues does this proposal address?

- The UMC and General Conference do not focus on global issues of importance to the central conferences
- US matters dominate the UMC and General Conference agenda and waste time of central conference delegates
- Inequalities exist between the jurisdictions and the central conference:
 - opportunities to shape the future of The UMC
 - opportunities to contextualize the Book of Discipline
(central conferences can and jurisdictions cannot)

We believe this proposal addresses these issues and is a possible way forward for The UMC, and, that it may be useful for the Special Commission, the Connectional Table, and the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters as they work on global matters during the next quadrennium. Thank you very much for entrusting this key work to our group and for your consideration of this referral request. – Tracey Merrick and Denise Smartt Sears.

A motion was made and seconded to refer the Resolution and Connectional Plan to the Bishop's Commission that is being formed, the Connectional Table and the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters. **Vote taken. Approved.**

RESOLUTION: COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS (To Refer)

Presented by: Tom Price, Baltimore Washington

Financial Implication: None

Whereas, it is important for the church to have confidence and trust in leadership at all levels,

And Whereas, supervision of those at the highest levels of authority in the church can be problematic for many reasons,

And Whereas, our Discipline currently calls for greater protection from even the appearance of impropriety of church pastors than it does for Episcopal leaders,

And Whereas, our Episcopal leaders actually carry greater burdens of responsibility, both temporal and spiritual than their local church colleagues,

Be it Resolved that:

The Northeast Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church shall amend their rules regarding the Committee on Episcopacy to conform more closely to the rules regarding the Committee on Staff Parish Relations in the Discipline as follows:

- 1. (Paragraph 258 a) No (Conference) staff member or immediate family member of a (bishop) may serve on the committee. Only one person from an immediate family residing in the same household shall serve on the committee.*

The desired outcome is that this change will eliminate even the appearance of conflicts of interest in the critical area of supervision of the highest levels of leadership in the



church and provide for stronger and more independent support for Episcopal leaders, and create greater transparency for the purpose of building trust within the church.

Kenneth Ow (BW, Lay) presented the report, which asked that the Episcopacy Committee have the same membership type rules that the Staff Parish Relations have. Jen Ihlo reported that the resolution was referred to Rules, which it opposed. A motion was made and seconded to refer all of this resolution to the Rules Committee for their consideration and report in 2020. **Vote taken. Approved to refer.**

INVITATIONS: Maidstone Mulenga (BW, Clergy) invited the NEJ to the Baltimore-Washington Conference for the 2020 NEJ. Alyce Weaver Dunn (WP, Clergy) moved that the 2024 NEJ be held in the Western PA Conference. **Vote taken. Approved.**

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Lenora Thompson (EP, Lay) made a motion that the following statement be adopted by the NEJ:

In light of the eloquent statement from NEJ College of Bishops and in light of the proposal presented to NEJ and the College of Bishops from BMCR and others for a call to action, propose that the College of Bishops request three things happen when we return home:

- 1. The full statement from the College of Bishops be placed on every conference website.*
- 2. The area bishop should request that all pastors distribute the full statement in their local churches.*
- 3. In each episcopal area, the full statement should be placed as an ad in at least one local newspaper.*

It was seconded. **Vote taken. Approved.**

MONITORING REPORT FOR THE NORTHEAST JURISDICTION: Leigh Goodrich (NE)

I'm Leigh Goodrich, Sr. Director of Education and Leadership at the General Commission on The Status and Role of Women. I have been monitoring this Conference over the past several days, not just for gender inclusion, but for the inclusion of race, age, and differing abilities.

First, I would like to acknowledge that this year is the 60th anniversary of full clergy rights for women. It is important for us to remember that over 60 years ago it was a violation of the Discipline to ordain a woman.

My monitoring job has been made easier due to the self-monitoring that this part of the culture of this group.

Our bishops began our time together reminding us that black lives matter; and reminding us that gay lives matter. However, that intention requires action, and you held this Jurisdiction to its commitment. When our Vision Table lacked racial diversity, you sent the nominations committee back to try to do better. In the interview process you ensured that candidates received questions from both men and women of all races, ages, and geographies. You charged our bishops to increase the gender diversity of our DCMs. You

charged our Jurisdiction to elect Hispanic and Asian bishops for next quadrennium. And still we have growing edges.

Our jurisdictional committees are still largely white. This is because our delegations are largely white. So there is a challenge our Annual Conferences to elect more diverse delegation. We lack differently abled persons on our jurisdictional committees as well, and aspire to improve on that next quadrennium. There is an opportunity for more youth and young adults to be part of our delegations, and in our jurisdictional committees. Native Americans are still under represented on our boards and agencies.

Our worship has included expansive language for God, and inclusive language for the people of God. We are still reluctant to use feminine pronouns or acknowledge the feminine side of God in prayer and worship. Still, this Jurisdictional Conference has been unprecedented in historical significance.

You presented and passed legislation to combat racism by addressing systemic, fundamental and institutional change within the church and beyond her walls. You presented legislation that encourages our NEJ to begin living into a greater regional flexibility and contextuality, particularly as it relates to LGBTQ persons. You encouraged open conversation about the difficult questions surrounding sexual orientation with legislation asking for a moratorium on trials and nonconformity with the Book of Discipline. Our Bishops were intentional about letting these discussions unfold, and allowing the body to fully explore the breadth of these concerns.

We commend them for that. Whether the legislation is in order or out of order, the Jurisdiction experienced true holy conferencing. This resulted in the open and honest exploration of possibilities about how we might live together in the diversity of the kingdom of God.

Finally, and perhaps most significantly, you elected two black women bishops. Across the United States, our denomination has gone from 0 to 4 active black female episcopal leaders. That is cause for celebration!’

We have much to celebrate, change is in the air, but there is still plenty of work to be done before we reach the New Jerusalem. However you choose to live out the next quadrennium, may the Love and Life of Christ accompany you. Thank you.

THE SECRETARY GAVE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

CLOSING: This completes the business and resolutions. Closing prayer by Bishop Grove. The jurisdiction was invited to the celebration party for Bishop and Barbara Matthews.



FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016 . . . 8:30 AM

Presiding: Bishop Jane Middleton ... Assisting: Susan Hassinger

Friday, Bishop Middleton called the meeting to order following the song, How Great Thou Art. She thanked Bishop Susan Hassinger who is assisting. Bishop Middleton asked Bishop Matthews to pray for the tragedy in Nice with Lydia to follow up with the song, I Believe written by Mark Miller.

SESSIONS COMMITTEES

Credentials: Shirlyn Henry Brown provided the credentials report - all were blessed with 172 in attendance. **Approved.**

Journal: Michele Bogue-Trost reported a slight discrepancy with the presiding bishop for Thursday. Noel Chin asked that the Body please accept the minutes for Friday. **Approved.**

Courtesies - **No report.**

Examination of Journal Committee: Melissa Lauber said that all were in compliance with the Discipline. **Approved.**

IN APPRECIATION

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Bishop Mark Webb for the retirement celebration | • Padget Communications |
| • Sign Language interpreters - Carol Stevens and Leo Yates | • Amy Botti |
| • Sylvia Simpson and registration staff | • Maidstone Mulenga and the DCA staff |
| • Host committee shared by Judy Ehninger | • Darlynn McCrae |
| • Tanya Bennet, worship committee and musicians | • Tom Salsgiver |
| • Hotel staff | • David Simpson |
| • Tellers | • Jen Williams |
| • Dight Crain | • All of the Delegates |

CELEBRATION OF NEJ EPISCOPAL ASSIGNMENTS 2016: Bonnie Marden. With responsive readings and music, and prayer, the following assignments were made:

- West Virginia, West Virginia Area, Sandra Steiner Ball
- Baltimore-Washington, Washington Area, LaTrelle Easterling
- Upper New York, New York Area, Mark Webb
- Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh Area, Cynthia Moore Koikoi
- Peninsula-Delaware and Eastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Area, Peggy Johnson
- New York, New York Area, Thomas Bickerton
- Greater New Jersey, New Jersey Area, John Schol
- Susquehanna, Harrisburg Area, Jeremiah Park
- New England, Boston Area, Sudarshana Devadhar

Bonnie Marden made the motion that the assignments for bishops to Episcopal Areas and Conferences be made for the 2013-2016 quadrennium. The NEJ approved, affirmed and accepted the assignments of these lead stewards.

DEACONS: Kevin Goodwin (PD, Lay) asked that the NEJ celebrate all Deacons in the NEJ. They received an ovation.

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS to the close captioned stenographer, Audio technicians, Videographers, and Communicators.

MOTIONS: Tom moved that the 2016 NEJ receives all reports printed in the DCAs. It was seconded. **Vote taken. Approved.**

Tom made the motion that the 20th Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference adjourned at the conclusion of the Service of Consecration at First UMC, Lancaster. It was seconded. **Vote taken. Approved.**

Tom indicated that when the journal is completed, it will be placed on the website. There will also be an opportunity for folks to order a journal on line. Tom thanked the delegation for their gentleness toward the new secretary of the Jurisdiction.

Delegations were given directions where to meet with their Bishops.

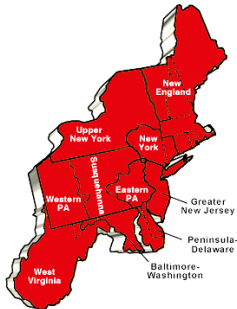
CLOSING: Bishop Middleton gave the closing prayer.



**NEJ
Boundaries**



REPORT: ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES COMMITTEE



After two quadrennia of significant Annual Conference boundary changes and adjustments due to downsizing the number of Annual Conferences in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, the Jurisdictional Annual Conference Boundaries Committee experienced very little work this quadrennium. No requests to alter Annual Conference boundaries were received from any of the Annual Conferences or the Episcopal leadership of the Jurisdiction.

One action, however, noted and reported here, did alter the boundary between the Susquehanna Annual Conference and the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference. This was the result of the transfer of the Fishing Creek United Methodist Church and the Riverside United Methodist Church (both located in Potter County of Pennsylvania) from the Susquehanna Annual Conference to the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference. With the required two-thirds vote of the Churches and the Annual Conferences involved, approval of the transfer was given effective July 1, 2015. This was effected in accord with “Paragraph 41. Article V. Transfer of Local Churches” of the 2012 Book of Discipline.

Please note that the “2016 Northeastern Jurisdiction Annual Conference Boundary Descriptions” has been updated to reflect this change.

Rev. Dr. Timothy R. Baer
 Chairperson, Committee on Annual Conference Boundaries

2016 NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES DESCRIPTIONS

Baltimore-Washington

District of Columbia.

State of Maryland west of the Susquehanna River, except for Garrett County.

State of West Virginia: counties of Berkeley; Jefferson; and Morgan; in Mineral County (Calvary and Holy Cross Churches, Ridgeley); in Hampshire County (Otterbein Church, Green Spring).

British Territory of Bermuda.

Eastern Pennsylvania

State of Pennsylvania: counties of Berks; Bucks; Carbon; Chester; Delaware; Lancaster; Lebanon; Lehigh; Monroe; Montgomery; Northampton; and Philadelphia; in Columbia County (the township of Conyngham, the borough of Centralia, and, in the township of Beaver, Davis Chapel near Zion Grove); in Luzerne County (the townships of Black Creek, Butler, Dennison, Foster, Hazle, and Sugarloaf, the city of Hazleton, and the boroughs of Conyngham, Freeland, Jeddo, West Hazleton, and White Haven); in Northumberland County (the townships of Coal, East Cameron, Mt. Carmel, Ralpho, Shamokin, West Cameron, and Zerbe); and in Schuylkill County (the town of Joliet in the township of Porter, and all of the other townships except Eldred, Hegins, Hubley, the balance of Porter, Upper Mahantango, and the borough of Tower City).

Greater New Jersey

State of New Jersey.

State of New York: counties of Rockland (except the village of Sloatsburg); Orange (the towns of Deer Park, Greenville, and Minisink); and Sullivan (the towns of Highland and Lumberland).



State of Pennsylvania: county of Pike (the townships of Delaware, Dingman, Lehman, Milford, and Westfall).

New England

State of Connecticut: east of the Connecticut River.

State of Maine.

State of Massachusetts.

State of New Hampshire.

State of Rhode Island.

State of Vermont.

New York

State of Connecticut west of the Connecticut River.

State of New York: counties of Bronx; Columbia (except the hamlets of Chatham Center, Niverville, and North Chatham); Delaware (except the towns of Davenport, Deposit, Franklin, Hancock, Masonville, and Sidney); Dutchess; Greene; Kings; Nassau; New York; Orange (except the towns of Deer Park, Greenville, and Minisink); Putnam; Queens; Richmond; Suffolk; Sullivan (except the towns of Highland and Lumberland); Ulster; Westchester; Albany (the towns of Coeymans [except Grace Church in the village of Ravena], Rensselaerville, and Westerlo; Schoharie (the towns of Blenheim, Broome, Conesville, Fulton, Gilboa, Jefferson, and Summit).

Peninsula-Delaware

State of Delaware.

State of Maryland: east of the Susquehanna River.

Susquehanna

State of New York: community of Hancock.

State of Pennsylvania: counties of Adams; Bedford (except the townships [and encompassed municipalities therein] of East St. Clair west of PA Route 56, Harrison, Juniata, Lincoln, Londonderry, Napier, Union, and West St. Clair); Blair; Bradford (except the community of Wilawana and the township of Litchfield); Centre; Clearfield (except the townships [and encompassed municipalities therein] of Beccaria, Bell, Bloom, Brady, Burnside, Chest, Ferguson, Greenwood, Huston, Jordan, Penn, Pine, Sandy, and Union); Clinton; Columbia (except the townships [and encompassed municipalities therein] of Beaver and Conyngham); Cumberland; Dauphin; Franklin; Fulton; Huntingdon; Juniata; Lackawanna; Luzerne (except the townships [and encompassed municipalities therein] of Black Creek, Butler, Dennison, Foster, Hazle, and Sugar Loaf); Lycoming; Mifflin; Montour; Northumberland (except the townships [and encompassed municipalities therein] of Coal, East Cameron, Mt. Carmel, Ralpho, Shamokin, West Cameron, and Zerbe); Perry; Pike (except the townships [and encompassed municipalities therein] of Delaware, Dingman, Lehman, Milford, and Westfall); Potter (except the townships [and encompassed municipalities therein] of Clara, Oswayo, Pleasant Valley, Roulette and Sharon); Schuylkill (the townships of Eldred, Hegins, Hubley, Porter [except the community of Joliet], and Upper Mahantango); Snyder; Sullivan; Susquehanna (except the borough of Little Meadows); Tioga; Union; Wayne; Wyoming; and York.

Upper New York Annual Conference

State of New York: counties of Albany (except the towns of Rensselaerville, Westerlo, and Coeymans, but including Grace Church in the village of Ravena in the town of Coeymans); Allegheny; Broome; Cattaraugus; Cayuga; Chautauqua; Chemung; Chenango; Clinton; Columbia (the hamlets of Chatham Center, Niverville,

and North Chatham); Cortland; Delaware (except the town of Hancock); Erie; Essex; Franklin; Fulton; Genesee; Hamilton; Herkimer; Jefferson; Lewis; Livingston; Madison; Monroe; Montgomery; Niagara; Oneida; Onondaga; Ontario; Orleans; Oswego; Otsego; Rensselaer; St. Lawrence; Saratoga; Schenectady; Schoharie (except the towns of Blenheim, Broome, Conesville, Fulton, Gilboa, Jefferson, and Summit); Schuyler; Seneca; Steuben; Tompkins; Tioga; Yates; Warren; Washington; Wayne; and Wyoming.
State of Pennsylvania: the village of Wilawana and the township of Litchfield in Bradford County; and the borough of Little Meadows in Susquehanna County.

West Virginia

State of Maryland: Garrett County.

State of Pennsylvania: Independence of Washington County

State of Virginia: Mountain Grove of Bath County

State of West Virginia: except the counties of Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan; excepting also Calvary and Holy Cross Churches of Ridgeley, Mineral County; and Otterbein Church of Green Spring, Hampshire County.

Western Pennsylvania

State of Pennsylvania: counties of Allegheny; Armstrong; Beaver; Butler; Cambria; Cameron; Clarion; Clearfield (except the towns of Clearfield, Curwensville, Ramey, and Shawville); Crawford; Elk; Erie; Fayette; Forest; Greene; Indiana; Jefferson; Lawrence; McKean; Mercer; Somerset; Venago; Warren; Washington (except the town of Independence); Westmoreland; in Bedford (that portion west of Routes 31, 56, 96, and 220); and in Potter (townships of Clara, Oswayo, Pleasant Valley, Roulette and Sharon – including the boroughs of Oswayo and Shinglehouse).

Rev. Dr. Timothy R. Baer, Chairperson – Annual Conference Boundaries Committee

REPORT: COMMITTEE ON APPEALS



The NEJ Committee on Appeals met on February 8, 2014, to receive Notice of an Appeal In the Matter of Rev. Frank Schaefer (Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference). Due to the resignation of William (Scott) Campbell, President of the Committee, and the Disciplinary mandated recusal of those officers and members from the Philadelphia Area, the Committee elected Jen Ihlo (Baltimore Washington Annual Conference) as President and Alyce Weaver Dunn (Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference) as Vice President. Following the resignation in March of the Committee Secretary, Greg Johnson (Susquehanna), Leigh Goodrich (New England Annual Conference) was elected Secretary.

The Committee heard oral argument in the Schaefer appeal on June 20, 2014. After prayerful and lengthy deliberation, we issued our written decision on June 24, 2014. In summary, the Committee unanimously concluded that the penalty fashioned by the trial court was illegal and, as such, the penalty was vitiated. Understanding that the Discipline (§ 2715.8) allowed the Committee the option to determine a penalty, an 8-person majority concluded that the Rev. Schaefer should be suspended, without compensation, from the exercise of all duties and functions of a pastor, and from the enjoyment of all privileges of a member in full connection of the Annual Conference, for a period of 30 days, which suspension was deemed to have commenced on November 19, 2013 and ended on December 18, 2013. Furthermore, the Committee concluded that pursuant to § 2711.3 of the Discipline, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference shall



restore Respondent's credentials immediately and compensate Respondent for all lost salary and benefits dating from December 19, 2013.

This summary in no way captures the work and dedication of this Committee in reaching the decisions in this matter. As noted in the opinion, the Committee members had diverse views on issues related to human sexuality, leading to difficult and heartfelt, but respectful conversations. We also prayed frequently throughout our deliberations and we were profoundly united in the belief that our task was to pursue a resolution that was just. Discipline, ¶ 2701.

Committee members participating in the decision included: Jen Ihlo, President (Baltimore Washington); Rev. Alyce Weaver Dunn, Vice-President (Western Pennsylvania); Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt (New York); Scott Johnson (Upper New York); Rev. Matthew Lake (Susquehanna); Royce Lyden (West Virginia); Rev. Lyssette Perez (Greater New Jersey); Rev. Joan Reasinger (Western Pennsylvania); and Rev. Brian Shockey (Baltimore Washington).

The entire decision of the NEJ Appeals Committee may be found at <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/committee-on-appeals-reaches-decision-in-schaefer-case>.

On October 25, 2014, the Judicial Council upheld the decision of the NEJ Appeals Committee. Judicial Council Decision 1270.

Respectfully submitted,
Jen Ihlo, President

REPORT: COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY - 2012-2016 QUADRENNIUM - FEBRUARY 2016



The 2012-2016 NEJ Committee on Ordained Ministry (COM) had its first meeting in October 2012 at BWI airport in Baltimore. Under the direction of Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar the election of officers was held and an ambitious agenda for the work of the NEJ COM during the 2012-2016 quadrennium was developed. To begin with, this agenda included the sharing of best practices relative to the ordination process elements starting from candidates' declaring their sense of call to their pastor. The members unanimously agreed to meet in person at least once a year and to participate in up to two two-hour additional conference calls each year to share reports and also to plan for the next day long meeting (spread over two days).

At the NEJ Committee on Ordained Ministry's second face-to-face meeting in the spring of 2013 the Board agreed to travel to the three United Methodist seminaries in the jurisdiction -- Boston University School of Theology; Drew Theological School; and Wesley Theological Seminary -- over the next two years. The goals of these visits were to experience the faculty, staff and students at each seminary over the course of the visit; to understand the unique features of each school; and to dialog about specific topics with the faculty of each seminary. All of these goals would result in better knowledge of and working relationships between the annual conferences and seminaries of the NEJ.

The seminary visits and topics of conversation were as follows:

- Spring 2014 – Drew Theological School. Denominational requirements for the Mission and Evangelism courses were discussed along with issues of online education relative to Theological education. The NEJ Committee on Ministry members met with Drew's Evangelism Professor, Dr. Leonard Sweet, and faculty from Biblical Studies, Religion and Society, and Wesleyan Methodist Studies. In dialog with staff from GBHEM, conversations were held about the RIM program with COM members and jurisdictional leaders of RIM from NEJ annual conferences.
- October 2014 – Boston University School of Theology. Conversations centered on how to have difficult conversations and NEJ Committee on Ordained Ministry members met with faculty in Biblical Studies; Contextual Education; Pastoral Care & Psychology; and Theology and Ethics. The group spent several hours with the Rev. Dr. Thomas Porter, Founder and Former Executive Director of JUSTPEACE.
- April 2015 – Wesley Theological Seminary. COM members met with President McAlister- Wilson and Lovett Weems on entrepreneurship and innovation in theological education. We addressed the spiritually formative integration of community and academics in seminary with Associate Dean Asa Lee; traveled to downtown DC to see the intentional covenant residence and to hear about innovations in Urban Ministry; and discussed our Wesleyan heritage and our current ordination process.

In light of these rich meetings, the NEJ Committee of Ordained Ministry members committed themselves to returning to their annual conferences and helping to organize and promote a process of having difficult conversations that would help strengthen the church and help the church avoid church trials. Members also shared that because seminary visits gave them a view of contemporary theological education, they would be better able to understand and relate to their students in seminary in the future. The visits would also allow for better ongoing working relationships between annual conferences, Boards of Ordained Ministry and seminary faculty and administrators; and would enable COM members to better encourage candidates to attend a UM seminary in the future.

Having taken for itself the mandate to be change agents in the denomination, the NEJ COM members decided to write legislation for General Conference that addressed issues of full inclusion for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer persons in the whole life of the United Methodist Church. The COM itself was not of one mind about the current Disciplinary language about inclusion of these persons in the full life of the church. In order to be able to do justice to a thorough process of dialog and conversation, the COM agreed to meet in Hershey, PA in September of 2015. After lengthy discussion, proposed legislation was drafted and approved by consensus.

The proposed legislation went too far for some COM members; it fell short for others. Because of the length of time the NEJ COM had spent together leading up to the September 2015 meeting, the relationships within the COM remained intact even in the face of disagreements – strongly held – about the proposed legislation. This witness to being able to differ in love and stay in relationship is a powerful testimony to the power of Christ to unite us and, we hope, will serve as encouragement to others as well.

Throughout the quadrennium, the NEJ COM has, at each meeting, continued to talk about multiple issues related to the development and screening of candidates for ministry; best practices throughout the jurisdiction; and ways that the NEJ COM can continue to strengthen the ties between the annual conference Boards of Ordained Ministry within the jurisdiction for the betterment of the church.



At the last “in person” meeting of the NEJ COM, to be held in West Virginia, the COM will review its history and work and write a document to be given to the next NEJ COM in order to pass along wisdom gleaned over the quadrennium and to share the NEJ COM’s accomplishments and work to be continued. Present at that meeting will be current NEJ COM members and any persons serving as Chairs of Boards of Ordained Ministry in the next quadrennium now known.

Through the work of the NEJ COM for the 2012-2016 quadrennium, relationships between annual conferences have been strengthened; knowledge about best practices that impact candidates for ministry and the church itself has been gained; collegiality and commitment to dialog has developed; relationships between annual conferences and jurisdictional seminaries have been nurtured; and witness to the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to unite persons of faith even in the midst of difference of opinion has been offered.

We remain grateful for the privilege of being able to offer leadership to our church in this way and for the support – financial and otherwise – of the jurisdiction Vision Table across the quadrennium.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Samuel Cetuk, Chair NEJ COM 2012-2016

REPORT: NEJ COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY – 2016



During the 2012-2016 quadrennium, the Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy worked with the College of Bishops to fulfill our disciplinary responsibilities and to discern God’s vision for fruitful and effective ministry and leadership in our jurisdiction. As we worked to support our Episcopal leaders and the Conferences they serve, we encountered amazing gifts and opportunities already present across our jurisdiction. We also grappled with the opportunities and decisions we are being called to address as our membership changes and our opportunities continue to grow. During this quadrennium, we experienced the loss of an active bishop, Bishop Martin D. McLee, and worked with the College and the New York Annual Conference to offer support during this time of transition. Our collaborative work early in the quadrennium helped in this difficult time and set the stage for our other work including evaluation, data gathering, analysis and conversation that have positioned the Jurisdiction for strategic thinking about Area boundaries.

The Committee met four times at our annual Jurisdictional meetings and representatives from the Committee met two additional times for ongoing conversation and dialogue about strategic visions for strengthening the jurisdiction through the configuration of our Areas. Each conversation approached these topics with vision and a commitment to position the jurisdiction for fruitful ministry and effectiveness. Decisions made by the Judicial Council and the General Conference will provide guidance for our next steps together. We give thanks to all those who have prepared plans and documents, shared ideas and explored possibilities, sought clarification and advocated for our jurisdiction. All will be well and the people of the NEJ will respond with grace and resilience to whatever the future holds.

The Committee addressed our responsibility to evaluate the Bishops by interviewing them in a variety of formats, seeking to support their visions and the different ways each Bishop is leading and using their gifts. Area representatives on the Committee met with their resident bishops and encouraged open and honest

conversation about goals, hopes and needs. We are blessed by our Bishops' gifts, their vision and their commitment to both their personal growth and to equipping the Conferences for effective ministry in the current age. We acknowledge that the realities of Conferences and ministry in this time are requiring new skill sets and abilities for all leaders and our Bishops are seeking to be both visionaries and stewards of God's gifts in each Annual Conference.

The Committee initiated a new evaluation tool requesting that each Conference use the same tool at least twice during this quadrennium. The tool generated significant data and stimulated constructive conversation in many settings and offered a common evaluative model across the jurisdiction. At the same time, we identified several limitations to this tool and variations in its implementation that impacted its usefulness. We give thanks to all the Conference leaders who offered input and helped us with this experiment which we hope can be improved and built upon in the future.

In addition, each Conference prepared and submitted an Area Profile equipping the Committee with demographic information, hopes and challenges identified by each Conference. We are grateful to each Area's Committee on Episcopacy that generated these profiles and for their careful and insightful presentations about each Annual Conference.

Members of the Committee also worked with the Rules Committee to bring a report on the ways Annual Conferences identify, support and endorse episcopal nominees. We believe the information shared will help the jurisdiction understand the diverse methods used by each Annual Conference.

The Committee on Episcopacy is also responsible for the orientation of interview group facilitators during Jurisdictional Conference. We are grateful to the volunteer facilitators who share their gifts and time to support this discernment process.

This Committee also has responsibilities during the processing of complaints against bishops and we have fulfilled those responsibilities when called upon this quadrennium.

With great sorrow and gratitude for our time together, we celebrated the life of Bishop Martin D. McLee as he entered the Church Triumphant on September 6th, 2014. We express our deepest gratitude to all those who took on more responsibility and work, who managed through transition, who shared in our grief at his loss. We especially thank retired Bishop Neil L. Irons (July 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014), Bishop Ernest Shaw Lyght (October 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014), and Bishop Jane Allen Middleton (January 1, 2015 to the present) for their faithful service and support for the people of the New York Annual Conference during the second half of this quadrennium.

Bishop Middleton and her spouse, Jack, must be thanked for their sacrificial commitment to the church in serving as the interim bishop. We were blessed that Bishop Middleton knew the New York Annual Conference well since she had been a leader in that area. She also brought with her a commitment to healing, to set a standard of excellence, and to prepare the area for the next Episcopal leader. It is with great pride in the resilience of the New York Conference and the willingness of so many persons to come together and offer their support that we say, as Bishop McLee often said, Thank you beloved brothers and sisters!



We also celebrate with joy the lives and ministries of Bishop David Frederick Wertz and spouses Lois Yeakel and Eunice Matthews as well as other parents and extended family members of our College of Bishops and Committee on Episcopacy members.

Each year, the Committee and the College spent time together to worship, learn and engage in missions. A Stop Hunger Now packaging demonstration led to greater jurisdictional participation in this international feeding ministry started in a United Methodist church in 2000. Stop Hunger Now warehouses were opened in Philadelphia, March 2010; New England, June 2012; Pittsburgh, January 2015; and New York, December 2015 with projections that over 550,000 meals will be packaged by United Methodists in the NEJ!

The Committee initiated a conversation about donor cultivation that generated great ideas and strategies for expanding financial resources for Conferences and additional support for the “Imagine No Malaria” campaign, which has helped the death rate from malaria fall from one every 30 seconds to one every 120 seconds since 2007. The leadership of our Bishops in this denominational campaign deserves celebration as this project truly embodies our denominational mission to transform the world.

While the College of Bishops and the Committee on Episcopacy have very different roles and responsibilities, we believe our partnership is an important way we develop a shared sense of vision and action plans for the people and churches of the Northeastern Jurisdiction. We celebrate the openness and commitment to explore new forms of collaboration within the Jurisdiction, among Conferences and ministry areas, and across boundaries. We have been blessed by the gifts and talents available to us, and by this opportunity to serve all of God’s people in this blessed part of the United Methodist Church. Thanks be to God!

With our deepest gratitude to the faithful, generous and wise members of the NEJ COE 2012-2016, we submit this report to the 2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference,

Bonnie I. Marden, Chair
Ellis Conley, Vice-Chair
Demetrio Beach, Secretary

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE



The finances of the Northeastern Jurisdiction continue to be in excellent condition. During the first three years of the quadrennium, all Annual Conferences paid their apportionments in full, totaling 75% of the four-year apportionments received as of December 31, 2015. Expenditures for that period were at 72%. We are confident that our Annual Conferences will continue this faithful trend in 2016 and meet their full shared ministry commitments for the quadrennium.

Where possible, the Finance Committee encourages Annual Conference Treasurers to remit apportionment payments through bank transfers.

One of the first tasks of the new quadrennium was to transition to a new Treasurer, from Dight Crain to David Simpson. We are very grateful to both of these dedicated servants who worked so hard to make it

a smooth and successful succession. In the process, the Finance Committee established several new policies for the handling of expenditures and reimbursement requests that have enhanced our accountability and security.

The Finance Committee met the Jurisdiction's commitments to the four major program agencies in our budget and has funded the work of the various committees and program areas, as well as supporting the NEJ Great Leadership Event in 2015 and the Young Adult Restoration Generation in 2013. With the approval of the Vision Table, the Committee also provided funds for the NEJ Global Restructure Taskforce that was established at the 2012 NEJ Conference and was appointed by the College of Bishops.

In reviewing the costs of financial audits of Jurisdictional finances and the relatively limited amount of transactions undertaken, the Committee recommended to the Vision Table that annual audits no longer be performed. Instead, year-end finances were reviewed by the CFA's Audit Committee for each of the first three years of the quadrennium. A formal audit will be conducted at the conclusion of 2016 and results will be reported to the Finance Committee within the first six months of 2017.

The Treasurer's report for January 1, 2013-June 30, 2016, will be available at the Jurisdictional Conference in Lancaster.

The Finance Committee worked to develop the budget for the 2017-2020 quadrennium. The budget was approved by the Vision Table at its meeting in February, 2016, and is before the Jurisdictional Conference for approval at its session in July, 2016.

The Committee presented a budget totaling \$1,147,375, an increase of \$94,450 from the current quadrennium, or .09%. However, in light of the prospect of the NEJ's loss of a bishop and the likely realignment of episcopal areas that would ensue, the Vision Table, with the affirmation of CFA, added \$200,000 to the budget. This was an item that had been in the 2008-2012 budget for the Jurisdictional realignment establishing the Upper New York Conference that we had been able to eliminate from the 2012-2016 budget.

Thus, the total budget proposed by the Finance Committee and approved by the Vision Table is \$1,347,375, an increase of \$294,450, or 28%.

This breaks down in the following budget sub-sections:

The Sessions portion of the budget shows .005% decrease (\$1800) due to another anticipated reduction in the number of delegates for the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference.

The Administrative Section of the budget shows a .05% increase (\$13,050), reflecting modest increases and some budget lines offset by decreases in other line.

The Program Section of the budget increases by .04% (\$18,200). This results from decreases to two program agencies, increases in several other program lines, and the addition of two new lines: Native American Ministries and Episcopal Leadership Conclaves. This latter addition of \$55,200 comes largely from reducing the Leadership Development line, to which the Bishops' Conclaves had been charged during the current quadrennium. This re-categorization will give the College of Bishops full control of the expenditures for their ongoing training without seeking funds from other program lines.



The Judicial Process Fund and the Pastoral Care Fund are re-funded to their required levels as well.

Much of the Finance Committee's work during the quadrennium was devoted to evaluation and review of the four program agencies funded by the 2012-2016 NEJ budget. These bodies are the Anna Howard Shaw Center at Boston University School of Theology, the Multi-Ethnic Center of the NEJ, the Korean-American Ministry of the NEJ and the NEJ Volunteers in Mission.

The NEJ Conference in 2012 provided funds for the first two years of the quadrennium (2013-2014) for each of the program agencies at the same annual level as they were allocated for the previous quadrennium (2008-2012). Funding for 2015-16 was contingent on an evaluation by the Vision Table and the Finance Committee. In 2014, the Finance Committee undertook an evaluation process of each agency--including meetings with representative of those agencies and onsite visits--to determine how it was impacting the ministry of the NEJ and its progress in meeting the goals and objectives stated in the agency's original budget submission. Based on those reviews, all agencies were allocated the funds that had been set aside for them, totaling \$250,000.

This process led the Finance Committee to a closer working relationship with the four agencies and also to the establishment of goals for the final two years of the quadrennium. Based on the progress made towards those goals and in light of the significant portion of the budget allocated to these four agencies (37% of the total budget), the Committee acted upon their budget requests for 2017-2020. Two of the agencies remained at the same level in the budget as the current quadrennium and two were reduced.

We were very fortunate that the taskforce of the Finance Committee that was charged with this evaluative process possessed persons who are highly-skilled in program assessment and financial oversight. Since this happenstance cannot be guaranteed in the future, the Finance Committee recommended to the Vision Table the establishment of a taskforce appointed by the Vision Table that would be charged with the ongoing evaluation of these four agencies in the future and report its findings both to the Vision Table and to CFA.

In closing, I wish to thank the members of the NEJ Finance and Administration Committee for their diligence, dedication and good humor as we have worked collegially to oversee and to maximize the impact NEJ funds. It has been a joy to work with each of them. And much gratitude as well to our skilled and faithful Treasurer, David Simpson, and to our highly-capable Assistant Treasurer, Jennifer Williams, who have given countless hours to the financial ministry of the NEJ. As I conclude my eight years as chair of the Committee, I am honored to call these good folks my friends.

Recommendations

- The Finance and Administration Committee recommends that the Rev. David Simpson be nominated as Treasurer and the Rev. Jennifer Williams be nominated as Assistant Treasurer of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference for the 2017-2020 quadrennium.
- The Committee requests reaffirmation of the policy that requires full payment of Annual Conference jurisdictional apportionments, as stated in Article III 2c of the Conference Rules adopted at the 1992 NEJ Conference.

Faithfully submitted,
Edward C. Horne, Chairperson

NEJ POLICY ON REIMBURSEMENT RELATING TO COMMITTEE MEETINGS

TRAVEL OPTIONS: There is an expectation that committee members use the most economical option of travel when possible.

1. AIRFARE & TRAIN: Coach fare. We encourage committee members to purchase their tickets at least 21 days or more in advance for cost savings.

2. AIRLINE FEES: The NEJ will reimburse the following:

- a. Curbside baggage check-in for those with physically handicapping conditions.
- b. Fee for checking one bag of luggage.
- c. Seat Selection Charge for a regular seat.

3. AUTOMOBILE MILEAGE RATES

- a. \$.28/mile for an individual traveling alone.
- b. \$.44/mile to the driver for TWO committee members in the same car.
- c. \$.485/mile to the driver for 3+ committee members in the same car.

4. RENTAL VEHICLE: The cost of the vehicle plus fuel will be reimbursed, not to exceed the designated Jurisdictional reimbursement per mile.

5. MEALS: Meals, excluding alcohol, purchased at a reasonable cost to and from NEJ committee meetings will be reimbursed.

6. HOTEL FEES & INCIDENTAL CHARGES: NEJ pays for the room charge and applicable taxes for the meeting. All other fees and charges are paid by the room occupants(s).

7. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE: Committee members are expected to arrive and depart on the day of meetings.

8. YOUTH: Youth under the age of 18 or still in high school may room with another youth of the same gender, or with a parent and/or guardian. (See Safe Sanctuaries by Joy Melton)

9. TRAVEL ADVANCES

- a. A member who requests reimbursement for airline tickets purchased 30 days or more before a meeting will be reimbursed upon submission of proof of payment and a copy of the itinerary for the ticket, with the understanding that he/she will reimburse NEJ the cost of the ticket if the member does not attend the meeting.
- b. Tickets purchase less than 30 days before a meeting and those more than 30 days who do not request reimbursement, will be reimbursed by the voucher process.



NEJ TREASURER'S REPORT

July 14, 2016

2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, Lancaster, PA

Report to the Treasurer, David W. Simpson

I extend greetings of grace and peace and prayers for justice, healing and hope as we gather for prayer, discernment and action at this 2016 Session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. As we continue to stitch together this sacred patchwork of diverse ministries in the Northeast, as we work toward wrapping up the ministries of our committees, boards and agencies for this quadrennium, and as we begin to look forward to what the future holds, I join with you in prayer for God's continual guidance and blessings on our work.. I also offer prayers of thanksgiving for the faithfulness of each of our Annual Conferences and all the NEJ boards and agencies for meeting our apportionment goals in full and for exercising faithful stewardship of the resources placed in our care. In that light, I am pleased to announce that the NEJ is in sound financial position and share with you the financial results of the NEJ for the period January 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016

On January 1, 2013, the NEJ had total assets of \$483,945.15 consisting of \$87,323.30 in Operating Funds, \$331,736.40 in Reserve Funds and \$64,885.45 in Special Funds

As a result of the retirement of Dight Crain and my election as NEJ Treasurer all operating accounts, Special Funds and some Reserve accounts were relocated from the Middlesex Savings Bank in Massachusetts to the Howard Bank in Maryland. The funds were consolidated into three funds, an Operating Funds checking account, and a Money Market Fund for restricted funds and accrual funds. Both of these are held in the Howard Bank. The third fund is what we call our Reserve Account and is held in the Susquehanna Loan Fund and consists of a series of five interest bearing certificates the number of funds.

Beginning in January 1, 2013 we also moved from a manual bookkeeping system to Quick Books so the financial report is in a different format.

As of June 30, 2016 the NEJ assets totaled \$598,911.87, including \$23,565.76.76 in the Howard Checking account, \$300,345.11 in the Howard Money Market account and \$275,000.00 in the Susquehanna Loan Fund. This is a net increase of \$114,966.42 since the beginning of the quadrennium on January 1, 2013.

On the income side, please note that we continue to receive faithful support from all the Annual Conferences who are current or paid forward in their apportionment schedule. Thank you for your faithfulness. Total income for the quadrennium to date is \$1,172,263.87 compared to income budgeted to date of \$919, 190.04. The actual receipts over budgeted income is due almost entirely to registrations for the See, Know. Love Transformational Leadership Event held in October of 2015, and is of course offset by event expenses. Interest income of \$17,782.59 is minimal as expected in the current market but it is still a plus since none was budgeted.

Total expenses of \$1,057,368.32 are slightly over budget of \$921,309.34. Even though several line items show deficits or surpluses against budget most are the result of ordinary seasonal timing of expenses, including some prepaid expenses for this Conference Session. We expect that all will be in balance by year-end.

We should note that we have been able to maintain a strong financial position while absorbing some unbudgeted expenses including items such as:

Global Structure Task Force (\$13,098)

Liability Insurance, (\$2369)

Episcopal Funeral Expenses (\$11,000)

Supplemental budget for Board of Ministry, (\$1500)

Supplemental budget for Judicial Process (\$13,000)

I want to thank CFA Chairman Ed Horne, Assistant Treasurer Jen Williams, the members of the CFA, the College of Bishops and many of you for your prayers, patience and support during the quadrennium as we tried to learn the job and follow the example set by my predecessor, Dight Crain.

Respectfully submitted

David W. Simpson, Treasurer

 2017 – 2020 NEJ APPORTIONMENTS

CONFERENCE	2016 WS APPORT	% of NEJ TOTAL	2017-2020 NEJ APPORT**	ANNUAL REPORT**	% of NEJ TOTAL	2013-2016 NEJ APPORT	% of NEJ TOTAL	2009-2012 NEJ APPORT***
Baltimore-Washington	\$1,822,016.00	15.54%	\$209,352	\$52,338	14.60%	153,727	14.68%	\$176,188
Eastern PA	\$1,220,417.00	10.41%	\$140,228	\$35,057	10.79%	113,611	10.89%	\$130,701
Greater New Jersey	\$1,321,998.00	11.27%	\$151,900	\$37,975	11.50%	121,086	11.58%	\$138,982
New England	\$832,938.00	7.10%	\$95,706	\$23,926	7.10%	74,758	6.64%	\$79,693
New York	\$1,013,127.00	8.64%	\$116,410	\$29,102	8.90%	93,710	8.90%	\$106,817
Peninsula-Delaware	\$734,289.00	6.26%	\$84,371	\$21,093	6.20%	65,281	5.80%	\$69,611
Susquehanna	\$1,553,211.00	13.25%	\$178,466	\$44,617	13.20%	138,986	12.13%	\$145,583
Upper New York	\$1,123,138.00	9.58%	\$129,050	\$32,263	9.70%	102,134	11.79%	\$141,503
West Virginia	\$829,426.00	7.07%	\$95,302	\$23,826	7.30%	76,864	6.97%	\$83,653
Western PA	\$1,275,792.00	10.88%	\$146,590	\$36,648	10.80%	113,716	10.62%	\$127,460
	\$11,726,352.00	100.00%	\$1,347,375	\$336,844	100.09%	1,053,873	100.00%	\$1,200,191

* Rounded to two decimal places for readability

** Rounded to whole dollars yielding 100% - includes \$200,000 for potential area alignment

*** Includes \$200,000 for conference realignments / mergers

Note: Slight variances may appear in the numbers for the last two quadrennium as a result of Excel rounding computations

3rd QUARTER BALANCE SHEET

	September 30, 2016
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Howard Checking	34,227.03
Howard Money Market	125,573.26
Susquehanna Conf Loan Fund 2%	275,000.00
Total Checking/Savings	434,800.29
Accounts Receivable	
11000 · Accounts Receivable	(10,632.75)
Total Accounts Receivable	(10,632.75)
Other Current Assets	
PayPal	1.00
Total Other Current Assets	1.00
Total Current Assets	424,168.54
TOTAL ASSETS	424,168.54
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	419,172.21
31500 · Temp. Restricted Net Assets	
31550 · Pastoral Care Fund	25,000.00
31560 · Judicial Process Fund	39,946.57
Total 31500 · Temp. Restricted Net Assets	64,946.57
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	190,827.45
Net Income	(250,777.69)
Total Equity	424,168.54
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	424,168.54



NEJ BUDGET WORKSHEET 2017-2020

		<u>2009-2012 Budget</u>	<u>Expended to 12/13/11</u>	<u>2013-16 Request</u>	<u>2013-16 Finance Com Budget</u>	<u>Expended to 9/30/15</u>	<u>2017-2020 Proposed</u>
1. SESSIONS							
a.	2016 Sessions	\$ 305,000.00	\$ 12,940.00	\$ 305,000.00	\$ 287,000.00		\$ 287,000.00
b.	2012 Journal	\$ 4,900.00	\$ 4,562.85	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00		\$ 4,500.00
c.	Sessions Contingency	\$ 23,250.00	\$ 610.00	\$ 23,212.00	\$ 21,800.00		\$ 20,000.00
Sub-total Sessions		\$ 333,150.00	\$ 18,112.85	\$ 332,712.00	\$ 313,300.00		\$ 311,500.00
2. ADMINISTRATIVE							
a.	Vision Table	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 46,270.08	\$ 53,000.00	\$ 53,000.00	\$ 30,812.43	\$ 58,000.00
b.	Rules Committee	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,160.40	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00
c.	Program & Arrangements	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 35,370.00	\$ 54,200.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 20,806.76	\$ 38,000.00
d.	Finance & Admin.	\$ 20,600.00	\$ 17,635.10	\$ 25,250.00	\$ 23,750.00	\$ 7,117.79	\$ 23,000.00
e.	Boundaries Committee	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00
f.	Episcopacy Committee	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 39,070.16	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 35,423.75	\$ 45,000.00
g.	Board of Ordained Ministry	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 2,939.69	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 11,046.33	\$ 15,000.00
h.	Secretary's Office	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 8,225.66	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 19,800.00	\$ 8,484.77	\$ 23,325.00
i.	Treasurer's Office	\$ 14,900.00	\$ 8,805.61	\$ 16,975.00	\$ 17,975.00	\$ 12,717.39	\$ 24,500.00
j.	Archives & History	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 3,600.00
k.	Administrative Costs	\$ 13,740.00	\$ 2,644.51	\$ 14,912.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 48,310.47	\$ 26,750.00
l.	Connectional Ministries						\$ 4,000.00
Sub-total Administrative		\$ 252,540.00	\$ 166,121.21	\$ 266,037.00	\$ 239,625.00	\$ 177,419.69	\$ 272,675.00
3. PROGRAM BUDGET							
a.	Anna Howard Shaw Center	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 17,500.00
b.	Multi-Ethnic Center	\$ 136,000.00	\$ 102,000.00	\$ 136,000.00	\$ 136,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 120,000.00
c.	Korean-American Ministry	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 120,000.00
d.	Volunteers in Ministry-NEJ	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 62,500.00	\$ 100,000.00
e.	Deaf Ministry	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,444.60	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,127.30	\$ 7,500.00
f.	Vision Table Priorities	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 25,953.05	\$ 73,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00
g.	Council on Youth Ministries	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 17,209.78	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ 31,000.00
h.	Young Adult Council	\$ -	\$ 5,051.93	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,110.00	\$ 20,000.00
i.	Leadership development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 47,922.83	\$ 20,000.00
j.	Episcopal Leadership Conclave						\$ 55,200.00
k.	Native American Ministries						\$ 7,000.00
Sub-total Program		\$ 508,500.00	\$ 339,159.36	\$ 537,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 297,160.13	\$ 518,200.00
4. AREA RE-ALIGNMENT BUDGET							
a.	Upper New York	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 240,000.00	\$ -	\$ -		
b.	2013-16 Funding	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
c.	2016-2020 Realignment						200,000
Sub-total Realignment		\$ 200,000.00	\$ 240,000.00	\$ -	\$ -		200,000
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET		\$ 1,294,190.00	\$ 763,393.42	\$ 1,135,749.00	\$ 1,052,925.00		\$ 1,302,375.00
5.							



2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference

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Cash Basis

Northeastern Jurisdiction Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January 2013 through September 2016

	Jan '13 - Sep 16	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
2013 Apportionment Income				
Baltimore-Washington	38,431.75	38,431.75	0.00	100.0%
Eastern Pennsylvania	28,165.75	28,165.75	0.00	100.0%
Greater New Jersey	30,275.50	30,275.50	0.00	100.0%
New England	18,689.50	18,689.50	0.00	100.0%
New York	23,427.50	23,427.50	0.00	100.0%
Peninsula-Delaware	16,320.25	16,320.25	0.00	100.0%
Susquehanna	34,746.50	34,746.50	0.00	100.0%
Upper New York	25,533.50	25,533.50	0.00	100.0%
West Virginia	19,216.00	19,216.00	0.00	100.0%
Western Pennsylvania	28,429.00	28,429.00	0.00	100.0%
Total 2013 Apportionment Income	263,235.25	263,235.25	0.00	100.0%
2014 Apportionment Income				
Baltimore-Washington Conf.	38,431.75	38,431.75	0.00	100.0%
Eastern Pennsylvania Conf.	28,165.75	28,165.75	0.00	100.0%
Greater New Jersey Conf.	30,275.50	30,275.50	0.00	100.0%
New England Conf.	18,689.50	18,689.50	0.00	100.0%
New York Conf.	23,427.50	23,427.50	0.00	100.0%
Peninsula-Delaware Conf.	16,320.25	16,320.25	0.00	100.0%
Susquehanna Conf.	34,746.50	34,746.50	0.00	100.0%
Upper New York Conf.	25,533.50	23,406.13	2,127.37	109.1%
West Virginia Conf.	19,216.00	19,215.96	0.04	100.0%
Western Pennsylvania Conf.	28,429.00	28,429.00	0.00	100.0%
Total 2014 Apportionment Income	263,235.25	261,107.84	2,127.41	100.8%
2015 Apportionment Income				
Baltimore-Washington Conference	38,431.75	38,431.75	0.00	100.0%
Eastern Pennsylvania Conference	28,165.75	28,165.75	0.00	100.0%
Greater New Jersey Conference	30,275.50	30,271.50	4.00	100.0%
New England Conference	18,689.50	18,689.50	0.00	100.0%
New York Conference	23,427.50	23,427.50	0.00	100.0%
Peninsula-Delaware Conference	16,320.25	16,320.25	0.00	100.0%
Susquehanna Conference	34,746.50	34,746.50	0.00	100.0%
Upper New York Conference	23,407.05	25,533.50	(2,126.45)	91.7%

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Cash Basis

Northeastern Jurisdiction Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January 2013 through September 2016

	Jan '13 - Sep 16	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
West Virginia Conference	19,215.96	19,216.00	(0.04)	100.0%
Western Pennsylvania Conference	28,429.00	28,429.00	0.00	100.0%
Total 2015 Apportionment Income	261,108.76	263,231.25	(2,122.49)	99.2%
2016 Apportionment Income				
Baltimore Washington Conference	28,824.75	28,823.82	0.93	100.0%
Eastern Pennsylvania Conference	28,165.75	21,124.30	7,041.45	133.3%
Greater New Jersey Conference	22,708.50	22,703.61	4.89	100.0%
New England Conference	14,019.00	14,017.15	1.85	100.0%
New York Conference	17,572.50	17,570.63	1.87	100.0%
Peninsula-Delaware Conference	8,162.75	12,240.19	(4,077.44)	66.7%
Susquehanna Conference	0.00	26,059.88	(26,059.88)	0.0%
Upper New York Conference	12,766.98	19,150.13	(6,383.15)	66.7%
West Virginia Conference	14,411.89	14,412.01	(0.12)	100.0%
Western Pennsylvania Conference	28,429.00	21,321.76	7,107.24	133.3%
Total 2016 Apportionment Income	175,061.12	197,423.48	(22,362.36)	88.7%
2016 NEJ Sessions				
LUMINA Offering	4,080.32			
PayPal	95,000.00			
West Virginia Flood Relief	5,909.06			
2016 NEJ Sessions - Other	20,959.50			
Total 2016 NEJ Sessions	125,948.88			
PROGRAM BUDGET				
Leadership Development				
Great Event	185,509.00			
Total Leadership Development	185,509.00			
Total PROGRAM BUDGET	185,509.00			
46430 - Interest Income	18,097.13			
Total Income	1,292,195.39	984,997.82	307,197.57	131.2%



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Northeastern Jurisdiction
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January 2013 through September 2016

	Jan '13 - Sep 16	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Expense				
2013 - 2016 EXPENSES				
ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET				
Administrative Contingency				
College of Bishops				
Misc.	107.95	0.00	107.95	100.0%
College of Bishops - Other	19,762.05	0.00	19,762.05	100.0%
Total College of Bishops	19,870.00	0.00	19,870.00	100.0%
Global Structure Task Force	13,898.23	0.00	13,898.23	100.0%
Misc	768.60			
NEJ Insurance	2,359.00	0.00	2,359.00	100.0%
Administrative Contingency - O...	35,598.55	15,937.50	19,661.05	223.4%
Total Administrative Contingency	72,494.38	15,937.50	56,556.88	454.9%
Archives & History	2,700.00	3,375.00	(675.00)	80.0%
Board of Ordained Ministry				
Lodging	3,444.75			
Travel	8,958.43			
Board of Ordained Ministry - Ot...	0.00	11,250.00	(11,250.00)	0.0%
Total Board of Ordained Ministry	12,403.18	11,250.00	1,153.18	110.3%
Boundaries Committee	0.00	8,437.50	(8,437.50)	0.0%
Directors of Connectional Min.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Episcopacy Committee				
Administrative Expense	226.32	0.00	226.32	100.0%
Lodging	4,413.75			
Meals	2,301.89			
Travel				
Parking	72.00			
Travel - Other	8,238.48	0.00	8,238.48	100.0%
Total Travel	8,310.48	0.00	8,310.48	100.0%

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Cash Basis

Northeastern Jurisdiction
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January 2013 through September 2016

	Jan '13 - Sep 16	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Episcopacy Committee - Other	24,620.79	39,375.00	(14,754.21)	62.5%
Total Episcopacy Committee	39,873.23	39,375.00	498.23	101.3%
Finance & Administration				
Administrative Expense	80.29			
Meals	1,026.90			
Misc	61.00			
Travel				
Tolls	14.00			
Travel - Other	6,376.49	0.00	6,376.49	100.0%
Total Travel	6,390.49	0.00	6,390.49	100.0%
Finance & Administration - Other	4,687.25	22,265.63	(17,578.38)	21.1%
Total Finance & Administration	12,245.93	22,265.63	(10,019.70)	55.0%
Judicial process	53,943.23	0.00	53,943.23	100.0%
Pastoral Care Fund	22,578.72	0.00	22,578.72	100.0%
Program & Arrangements				
Lodging	2,205.27			
Meals	1,736.06			
Misc	322.00			
Travel	10,314.86	0.00	10,314.86	100.0%
Program & Arrangements - Other	15,874.58	35,625.00	(19,750.42)	44.6%
Total Program & Arrangements	30,452.77	35,625.00	(5,172.23)	85.5%
Rules Committee				
Travel	2,931.33			
Rules Committee - Other	101.80	3,281.25	(3,179.45)	3.1%
Total Rules Committee	3,033.13	3,281.25	(248.12)	92.4%
Secretary's Office				
Administrative Expense	9,892.53			
Travel	2,976.74			

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Northeastern Jurisdiction
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January 2013 through September 2016

	Jan '13 - Sep 16	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Secretary's Office - Other	0.00	18,562.50	(18,562.50)	0.0%
Total Secretary's Office	12,869.27	18,562.50	(5,693.23)	69.3%
Treasurer's Office				
Administrative Expense				
Audits	4,500.00			
Office Supplies	193.74			
Postage	41.63			
Administrative Expense - Other	16,908.02			
Total Administrative Expense	21,643.39			
Misc	0.00			
Travel	371.13	0.00	371.13	100.0%
Treasurer's Office - Other	1,440.60	16,851.56	(15,410.96)	8.5%
Total Treasurer's Office	23,455.12	16,851.56	6,603.56	139.2%
Vision Table				
Administrative Expense	700.26			
Meals	1,327.36			
Misc	152.50			
Travel	13,876.93			
Vision Table - Other	17,031.45	49,687.50	(32,656.05)	34.3%
Total Vision Table	33,088.50	49,687.50	(16,599.00)	66.6%
ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET - Other	143.40	0.00	143.40	100.0%
Total ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	319,280.86	224,648.44	94,632.42	142.1%
PROGRAM BUDGET				
Anna Howard Shaw Center	30,000.00	28,125.00	1,875.00	106.7%
Council on Youth Ministry	28,169.73	28,125.00	44.73	100.2%
Deaf ministry NEJ	2,127.30	4,687.50	(2,560.20)	45.4%
Korean American Ministry	120,000.00	112,500.00	7,500.00	106.7%

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Cash Basis

Northeastern Jurisdiction
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January 2013 through September 2016

	Jan '13 - Sep 16	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Leadership Development				
Administrative Expense	(2,517.45)			
Great Event	185,136.66	0.00	185,136.66	100.0%
Lodging	117.70			
Leadership Development - Other	42,375.91	45,000.00	(2,624.09)	94.2%
Total Leadership Development	225,112.82	45,000.00	180,112.82	500.3%
Multi-Ethnic Center	136,000.00	127,500.00	8,500.00	106.7%
Program Ministries 2015-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Vision Table Priorities	5,825.00	19,687.50	(13,862.50)	29.6%
Volunteers in Mission NEJ	100,000.00	93,750.00	6,250.00	106.7%
Young Adult Council				
Travel	175.00			
Young Adult Council - Other	2,305.53	9,375.00	(7,069.47)	24.6%
Total Young Adult Council	2,480.53	9,375.00	(6,894.47)	26.5%
Total PROGRAM BUDGET	649,715.38	468,750.00	180,965.38	138.6%
SESSIONS				
2012 NEJ Journal	0.00	4,218.75	(4,218.75)	0.0%
2016 NEJ Sessions				
LUMINA Offering	4,100.32			
West Virginia Flood Relief	5,909.06			
2016 NEJ Sessions - Other	362,405.30	269,062.49	93,342.81	134.7%
Total 2016 NEJ Sessions	372,414.68	269,062.49	103,352.19	138.4%
Sessions Contingency	0.00	20,437.49	(20,437.49)	0.0%
Total SESSIONS	372,414.68	293,718.73	78,695.95	126.8%
Total 2013 - 2016 EXPENSES	1,341,410.92	987,117.17	354,293.75	135.9%
Total Expense	1,341,410.92	987,117.17	354,293.75	135.9%
Net Income	(49,215.53)	(2,119.35)	(47,096.18)	2,322.2%

REPORT: INVESTIGATIONS



The NEJ Committee on Investigation is tasked with the responsibility of investigating and processing complaints against bishops. I am happy to report that the Committee has not met in this quadrennium.
Rev. Dr. Karin Walker, Chair

REPORT: PROGRAM AND ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE



The Program and Arrangements Committee includes one representative from each of the Annual Conferences in the Northeastern Jurisdiction. Their work has been enhanced by a diligent Host Site Committee comprised of laity and clergy from the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences. The Committee has been ably supported by our NEJ Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer. Bishop Peggy Johnson, our host Bishop of the Philadelphia Area, has provided constant encouragement and inspiration during this period of preparation! The staff of the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square has been most hospitable in hosting our more recent meetings. The facilities are certainly conducive to the Holy Conferencing to which we are called.

The theme for the 2016 sessions is “Quilted by Connection,” based on Ephesians 4:15-16: “Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love” (NRSV). Quilting reflects the Pennsylvania Dutch culture surrounding our host city, Lancaster, Pennsylvania! Members of the Committee created a logo which celebrates our unity in Christ across the Jurisdiction.

The Host Site Committee has worked tirelessly to extend radical hospitality to our College of Bishops, delegates, and visitors to the NEJ Conference. All who attend will be blessed by their creativity and generosity. The laity and clergy who live in and around Lancaster will be greeting us warmly and making our stay comfortable as we do Christ’s work in this beautiful setting.

Dr. Greg Carey, Professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary, will serve as our Bible Study leader.

The Worship Team has been preparing services that will keep us spiritually focused and centered throughout the week. The Consecration Service on Friday, July 15, will be hosted by First United Methodist Church in Lancaster.

With you, we anticipate the powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all God has called us to do from our gathering on Sunday, July 10th to our departure to our daily mission fields following the consecration service on Friday, July 15th. To God be the glory as we prayerfully seek to be “Quilted by Connection.”

Boyd B. Etter, Chair
Program and Arrangements Committee

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES



As promised at the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference, the Rules Committee undertook a complete review of the NEJ Plan of Organization and Rules of Order. This review revealed the need for rearranging, editing, additional articles, and new sections for both the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order. Because the amendments recommended for adoption fall within each of these areas, it is difficult to describe each one.

For ease of review, however, we have created three versions of the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order. A color-coded version, which identifies what language was moved will be available for review on the NEJ website. This version also includes footnotes to indicate from where the language was or to where it was moved. The Advance Daily Christian Advocate will contain the usual strikeout/underline version to identify changes as well as a “clean copy” for those who prefer to simply read through the document without the strikeouts and underlining.

The following highlight a few of the amendments. In the current Plan of Organization, information pertinent to standing committees was in several different places, information about what should be included in the Daily Christian Advocate and Journal were in the duties of the Secretary, and information about how the budget should be decided was in the duties of the Treasurer. The amendments include moving relevant information into new sections on the Jurisdictional Conference Budget, apportionments, Daily Christian Advocate, and the Journal. Separate Articles now contain all the information related to Standing Committees, Session Committees, and Disciplinary mandated committees (on Investigations and Appeals).

The amendments also include a new Article regarding a Young Adult Council. This Council was adopted by the 2008 Jurisdictional Conference, but the language was never incorporated into the Plan of Organization. This Article remedies that unintentional oversight.

Some of the recommended amendments relate specifically to the work of the Nominating Committee. The Rules Committee will present these amendments early in the session, with a recommendation that they become effective immediately. These amendments include, for example, a recommendation that a young adult member(s), recommended by the Young Adult Council, serve on standing committees in the same number as youth. Amendments also recommend creation of a Nominations subcommittee regarding members of the Young Adult Council and further recommend that youth and young adult committee members serve for the quadrennium and that their age at the time of appointment determine eligibility.

With regard to the Rules of Order, all the parliamentary rules were moved into an Article on Parliamentary Procedure. Other edits are recommended to clarify what we understood to be the intent of the Conference with regard to Nominee Advocacy. Amendments are also recommended to the voting procedures that take into account the use of electronic voting machines.

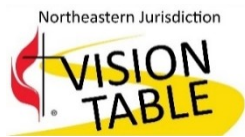
All the recommended amendments to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order were presented to and endorsed by the Vision Table at its February 2016 meeting. They were also presented to the College of Bishops at their February 2016 meeting.



The Rules Committee has made every effort to capture all the edits in the underlining/strikeout version but this was a tedious process that may well include a mistake here or there. We ask for grace in advance for any inadvertent mistakes.

The amended Plan of Organization and Rules of Order is presented for action by the Conference.
Jen E. Ihlo, Chair

REPORT: THE VISION TABLE



During this quadrennium, the Northeastern Jurisdiction Vision Table was very aware of the spirit of Nelson Mandela's words: "Action without vision is only passing time, vision without action is merely day dreaming, but vision with action can change the world."

As part of this report, we want to honor a visionary who served among us, and left too soon – Bishop Martin McLee, of the New York Area, who died Sept. 6, 2014. Bishop McLee was a creative innovator who gave his heart in service to the marginalized in our midst. He embodied our call to serve all of God's people.

In response to God's call to join vision with action, the Vision Table sought to create a picture of leadership for our future, especially for our young adults, that produced passion, new ways of being church, and real transformation in our congregations, communities and beyond.

Drawing on the immense gifts and talents of people from throughout the jurisdiction, the Vision Table created and hosted a one-of-kind conference that pulled together more than 700 emerging and established leaders from the Northeast Jurisdiction, many of whom were chosen to attend and supported by the Directors of Connectional Ministries from our nine conferences.

Led by the Rev. Ann Pearson, of the New York Conference, the "See Know Love" transformational leadership conference was held Oct. 2-4 at the Hershey Lodge in the Susquehanna Conference. The speakers included the Rev. Nadia Bolz Weber, a barrier-breaking Lutheran pastor from Denver; Fiona Haworth, the former Director of Talent for Southwest Airlines; and leaders from the Chapel, a radical discipleship-based United Methodist congregation in Brunswick, Ga. The Rev. Albert Mosely, president of Gammon Theological Seminary, offered theological reflections following each keynote address.

During the conference, participants also took advantage of 30 practicums on topics related to being a transformational leader. Throughout the event, the emphasis was on putting learning into action. "It's not the vision itself that's important, it's what the vision does," said Haworth.

"Our message can't stay just information," said Bolz Weber. "It has to be pulled into the dirt of our experience to have the power of proclamation." In addition, she reminded those present, "the holy things we need for healing and light are almost always the ordinary things right in front of us."

Prior to the See Know Love event, the Vision Table hosted, a day-and-a-half symposium with about 200 members of extended Cabinets from every annual conference joining in a time of learning and challenge, led by Bishop Gary Mueller of the Arkansas Area.

Mueller led the leaders in a process of moving beyond mission statements to "trajectories," which enable individuals, churches and conferences to aim in the direction of God's hopes, dreams and will, moving from our current reality toward God's future. The intent, he said, is for "the church to become the Gospel."

This transformational leadership gathering was the centerpiece of the Vision Table's work and we want to express immense gratitude to and all who contributed to its enormous success.

Meeting annually, the NEJ's 39-member Vision Table also conducted other business this quadrennium and received a variety of reports on finances, the global church, the faithfulness of the annual conference's seeking to pay 100 percent of apportionments, youth and young adult ministries, the Young People's Global Gathering in the Philippines in 2014, the Episcopacy Committee, rules, and the potential re-alignment of episcopal areas caused by a possible reduction of one bishop serving in the NEJ.

A number of strategic challenges still face our Jurisdiction. Among some of the most pressing that the Vision Table has identified are: engaging youth and young adults in ministry, training effective and adaptive leaders, bolstering and celebrating the strength of our diversity, and reversing decline in worship attendance and membership as we create vital congregations.

As always, we pray fiercely that Christ will be in the midst of our vision as we work to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

Bishop Marcus Matthews
Vision Table Chair

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER JURISDICTIONAL REPORT



Ten years after its founding in 1978, the Shaw center was designated as the women's center for the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. Ecumenical in its activities, the center's primary mission is in the four following areas.

Research-to facilitate and initiate research on the historical roles of women in the church and on women's contributions, past and present, to religious/theological studies and to the Christian ministry;

Education-to provide educational opportunities on issues and practices relating to women in ministry, mission and religious/ theological studies;

Support-to support and encourage both women and men striving for equality of opportunity in ministry, mission, and religious/ theological studies;

Advocacy-to advocate for full inclusion of women in ministry, mission, and religious/theological studies based on ethnical and theological principles as they interact with analyses of personal collective experiences.

Executive Summary of the Program:

The research on the Korean immigrant church and theology has begun in 2010 and designed to finish interviews and church study in 2013. The theological analysis and writing process took three years to complete this project. Now it is published with State University of New York Press in September 2015. This is one of the most important research project achievements that the Shaw Center has had. The Northeastern jurisdiction, the UMC and also the Protestant Church in general will find this research useful to understand the complex situations of Korean immigrant church and theology.



We plan to do a new research project on church leadership practices for the next four years. This research project will seek to explore how male and female clergy form and perform their leadership in terms of their spiritual growth. It will give more benefits for the NEJ conference to understand how pastors and church leaders work for the church and exercise their leadership in the church.

To support and empower female clergy, we recruited many female clergy members in the NEJ conference and provided a self-care and spiritual growth program for them. This program began in September, 2012 and has continued until now. This year, many NEJ young female pastors have received great benefits from this program and renewed their spiritual and psychological strength. They expressed great satisfaction for this program and encouraged us to continue it with a passionate enthusiasm. We have decided to continue this program for the next two years. We also have provided several all-day workshops and developed new strategies to encourage female pastors and their ministry.

To educate male and female clergy and lay leaders, we provide educational opportunities on issues of spiritual growth and leadership. Our conference, "Women in the World" is the most famous and powerful program that the Shaw Center has offered since 1985. The 2013 conference theme was "Occupy the Church: Economic Justice for Ministry in the 21st century." The 2014 conference theme was "Leadership: Women and Power Dynamics." The 2015 conference theme was "30 Years and Going Strong: Celebrating Women and the World." We celebrated 30 years of this amazing conference with many NEJ conference leaders. Many NEJ pastors and church leaders come for this wonderful conference every year and are empowered by its rich and profound experience. It also provides more educational opportunities for male and female seminarians to prepare their multicultural/ immigrant ministry in the future.

We advocate full inclusion of clergy and lay people in their own context of ministry and reach out to individual churches in the NEJ. The Shaw Center hosts a weekly luncheon lecture series on Thursdays. Many NEJ pastors are invited and shared their ministerial experiences with students, professors, alums and community leaders. This is the space that NEJ pastors, lay leaders and students are connected and shared their leadership with each other.

We work very hard to provide our excellent research and educate people through the Shaw Center's annual conference, research and various educational programs continuously. As the Shaw Center has worked with Christian leaders, pastors and Bishops in the church, districts, and conferences, we would love to provide more programs together and collaborative work together. All of our programs are closely engaged with the visions of the NEJ and the UMC. With great help from NEJ, the Shaw Center has continued to provide academic and pragmatic programs, courses and research to empower all principled Christian leaders and influence our education for justice and peace. We hope to provide better visions and passions for the world and educate them to work peacefully and collaboratively with our neighbors and strangers in our multicultural modern society.

Respectfully submitted by,
Rev. Dr. Hee An Choi, Director of the Anna Howard Shaw Center
Boston University School of Theology, 745 Commonwealth Ave, Boston, MA 02215

HISTORY OF THE MULTI-ETHNIC CENTER FOR MINISTRY



Established in 1978 at Drew University's School of Theology in Madison, New Jersey, the Multi-Ethnic Center for Ministry (MEC) arose from the Civil Rights Movement as a vanguard for addressing historical racism in the church and society. Its mission has been to help develop critically needed multi-racial/ethnic leaders, resources and ministries throughout the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.

The Center was created to remove barriers and build bridges of progressive, prophetic ministry among races and cultures. For three decades MEC has forged vital partnerships with seminaries, church agencies, conferences, caucuses and the NEJ College of Bishops to help enlist, educate and equip diverse clergy and lay leaders that can serve the needs of an evolving church in a changing culture.

In sponsoring dialogues and ministry events, nurturing leaders and collaborating with partners, the Center has evolved in its strategies, relationships and leadership. The Reverends William B. McClain, Williard Williams and William James were among the first in a procession of transformational leaders who have labored in locations around the jurisdiction, working alongside dedicated board members. Today we strive to become a 21st century Center for Excellence working toward reconciliation among diverse people by renewing our Wesleyan mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of God's multiethnic, multicultural world.

Current Programs

The MEC remains committed to removing barriers and building bridges for the racially and ethnically marginalized by making organizational changes in a number of areas: leadership, location, organizational affiliations and mission fulfillment. At its fall 2015 meeting, the MEC Board of Directors decided to move in a direction that would create stronger institutional connections between the UMC seminaries and colleges, Annual Conferences and agencies within its borders. Although the MEC has always worked with UMC institutions, frequently these projects were episodic and much of the programming was determined by the MEC and its director.

As in recent years, the MEC moved its location several times and places. The Board wanting stronger, ongoing organizational ties to its UMC partners, and locating itself where these partners had more initiative in developing programs, a decision was made to relocate the Center within one of the United Methodist seminaries. Through the efforts of our interim director, in consultation with the bishops on our Board, Drew Theological School, our founding place, has welcomed us back home! This strategic relocation arrangement is more likely to have greater buy-in from all participants as well as a wider range of programs that also reflected the diversity of needs of various contexts and racial/ethnic communities.

During the last quadrennium a partnership began with the NEJ Urban Steering Network of the General Board of Global Ministries. One of the programs of the MEC was a three year project with the UMC seminaries, Annual Conferences and agencies of the General Church. This project, *Jazz in the City*, was not only a course/seminar on urban ministry, but it was an "experiment" on creating stronger working alliances between UMC institutions. The goal of this project was to enhance the ways in which the needs of urban and racially ethnic communities are explored and managed jointly between various UMC institutions. A conversation that began in Philadelphia revealed that far more resources existed among the various UMC groups than the group members realized. Although the problem of greater collaboration and information



sharing among institutions and programs was being addressed throughout the Church in a variety of ways—the Inter-Ethnic Strategy Group, The Connectional Table and The Urban Steering Network—the MEC discovered a unique role as facilitator of these organizations—poised to enhance the conversations between all parties.

The MEC is developing new strategies to increase its effectiveness within the UMC and its hosting communities. These strategies will be achieved through the following methods: co-sponsoring programs with UMC institutions, developing cost sharing arrangements with educational institutions and actively engaging agencies and boards to meld their programs with existing projects within the jurisdiction. Most seminaries and annual conferences have been developing programs of leadership development, interreligious dialogs, social advocacy and conflict resolution for many years. It has been proven that MEC adds to the effectiveness of the programs and ministries as it pursues questions of cultural competence, poverty, gender equality and interfaith dialog.

Another strategy is to broaden its staff numerically, ethnically and by gender. This will be achieved through a cost sharing strategy where the expenses of the work study students are shared by the various educational institutions. Initially the MEC planned to have partnerships only with the theological schools in the Jurisdiction. After conversations with the Board and the Jurisdiction it was pointed out that the UMC seminaries were in urban areas along the east coast. The Center was challenged to develop strategies to be active throughout the Jurisdiction. It was then decided that the Center would attempt to develop partnerships with UMC colleges as well as the theological schools. Currently, the MEC is in conversation with Wesley, Boston and Drew Theological Schools and has begun talks with Albright College in Pennsylvania. The organization plans to identify new alliances with UMC colleges and universities located in the western and northern parts of the Jurisdiction.

Our strategy is to jointly hire at least two work study students in each of the participating schools. These students, along with supervising faculty, would work to develop programs that are consistent with both the schools and the UMC agencies. Many seminary students were accomplished professional before deciding to seek theological education. Some were leaders in fields of health care, business, education and law enforcement. It is intended that these professionals/students, along with their faculty supervisors, will bring needed resources to communities and churches. In hiring work study students to work in admissions to ensure the recruitment of ethnic minority candidates for ministry, the cost and mentoring of these student workers would be shared Boards of Ministry, the Board of Higher Education in Ministry, the theological schools and the MEC. Although each school will decide on the financial aid awards, it is hoped that some of the student time will include some work in admissions. Although the MEC has limited funds, some of the schools have made an initial commitment to provide office space and telephones gratis so the Center is able to stretch its limited budget. It is also hoped that the students will be working along the major program foci of the MEC.

The Board of the MEC has developed four programmatic goals for the upcoming Quadrennium. These foci are: resourcing racially ethnic congregations/communities in transition, developing racially ethnic youth and young adults for leadership, justice advocacy and fostering interreligious dialogues. What is hoped and intended is that through partnerships—with the Boards of Ordained ministry at the Annual Conference and Jurisdiction levels and along with programs that already exists in the Theological schools, the work of selecting and mentoring of persons for cross-racial appointments can be achieved with greater effectiveness. There are some conversations with the Jurisdiction BOOM that have already begun and hopefully a wider conversation will take place in the fall of 2016. Other projects that are in the initial

planning stages are: 1) co-sponsoring leadership development programs organized by Hispanic pastors, supporting initiatives to organize a Jurisdictional group of Black pastors, and programs for the support Asian pastors in cross-racial appointments.

Our Ministry Partners

UMC Seminaries in the NEJ
Boston University School of Theology
Drew University Theological School
Wesley Theological Seminary

NEJ Partners

NEJ College of Bishops
Northeastern Jurisdiction
Annual Conferences
Directors of Connectional Ministries
Urban Ministry Steering Network
Racial-Ethnic Caucuses (NEJ):

- Black Methodists for Church Renewal
- Federation of Asian-American United Methodists
- Hispanic/Latino/Latina Ministries Task Force
- Korean-American Ministries Task Force
- Native American Ministries Task Force
- Inter-Ethnic Strategy Development Group

UMC General Agencies & Initiatives:

- General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
- General Board of Church and Society
- General Commission on Religion and Race
- Korean American Ministries/Mission
- Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century

Respectfully,
Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, President
Dr. Arthur Pressley, Jr, Executive Director

NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE KOREAN-AMERICAN MISSION



Our vision is to be a Jurisdiction led by transforming leaders serving growing congregations and Annual Conferences for the sake of Christ's mission in the world.

"I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35b)

1. A Brief History of the NEJ Korean-American Mission

As the Korean immigrant community grew significantly each year since the early 1970's the 1984 General Conference commissioned the General Board of Global Ministries to respond to the emerging mission opportunity. Subsequently the National Committee on Korean-American Ministries was organized to study and develop an effective structure to meet the impending needs. In 1986, the National Committee on Korean-American Ministries determined that a "Korean mission" should be initiated in each of the five Jurisdictions. Following the guidelines made by the National Committee, the Eastern Seaboard Korean Mission was created to develop Korean churches in the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

Based on the evaluation of eight years of mission work of the Eastern Seaboard Korean Mission, the 1996 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference acted to make the Eastern Seaboard Korean Mission an integral part of the NEJ Conference by naming it Northeastern Jurisdiction Korean-American Mission (NEJKAM). Accordingly, the NEJ College of Bishops has assigned a bishop to give episcopal supervision.

2. Mission of the NEJ Korean-American Mission

The NEJ Korean-American Mission serves primarily as the vehicle for developing new Korean congregations in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, nurturing the existing mission churches, and supporting their pastors. Thus the NEJKAM directly addresses the two critical areas of focus of the United Methodist Church in the Northeastern Jurisdiction: new church start/congregational development and leadership development.

For the record: 70 new Korean congregations have been developed and 17 have become chartered churches in the jurisdiction since 1986. 22 new Korean churches were developed in the last four quadrennia and 5 have become chartered in the annual conferences in which they are located. The rest are either closed, merged with other congregations or have moved to other denominations.

3. New Church Start/Restart

The major goal of the NEJKAM is to develop new Korean churches in the Northeastern Jurisdiction by connecting resources with new church starts in collaboration with the National Korean Ministry Plan, annual conferences, and local churches.

In collaboration with the National Korean Ministry Plan, the NEJKAM provided personnel, programmatic and financial resources to support three new church starts and one restart church in the NEJ during this quadrennium thus far. They are:

1. Woori Korean United Methodist Church, Bayside, New York
2. Alpha Community Korean United Methodist Church, Washington, DC
3. Bethany Korean United Methodist Church, Ellicott City, MD

4. Yobel Korean United Methodist Church (restart), Demarest, NJ

The NEJKAM will continue to connect resources to new church starts and restarts in the jurisdiction.

4. Support for the Mission Churches and Pastors

The NEJKAM provides consultation, supervision and resources in support of the mission churches to move forward to be a chartered congregation or a mission congregation of the annual conference in which they are located. They are:

1. Korean Mission UMC of Rochester, Rochester, New York
2. Hope Korean UMC, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
3. Lighthouse Korean UMC of Philadelphia

5. Leadership Development

The mission of the NEJKAM is directly connected to the vision of the NEJ that calls for transforming leaders and growing congregations and conferences for the sake of Christ's mission in the world. In collaboration with the National Korean Ministry Plan, the NEJKAM provided financial resources to pastors to participate in effective leadership training opportunities for developing small group ministry.

6. Summary of Engagement

The areas of engagement of the NEJKAM are summarized as follows:

- (1) New church development related consultation
- (2) Collaborative engagement with the National Korean Ministry Plan, annual conferences, and local churches for new church development and congregational restart
- (3) Connecting resources
- (4) Nurture of mission churches and their pastors
- (5) Leadership development opportunities
- (6) Supervision of mission congregations and pastors
- (7) Connectional process for the mission churches and pastors
- (8) Exiting and transitional process

7. New Areas of Focus for the 2017 to 2020 Quadrennium

Current Reality: The demographics in the Korean American community in the northeastern region have changed significantly since the early 21st century. While the numbers of the second and third generations of Korean-Americans continue to grow and mature, the numbers of immigrants from Korea have noticeably decreased for the last 15 years or so. It is expected that the trend will continue for the foreseeable future. **New Areas of Focus:** Starting new churches has been the most urgent and essential task of the NEJKAM. However, in light of the demographic change of the Korean community in the USA, the NEJ Korean-American Mission is to give its focus on congregational redevelopment/restart, as well as new church start. It is also to address the emerging ministry of the second and third generations, as well as the ministry of the first generation.

8. Opportunities and Challenges: NEJ Has the Strongest Presence of the Korean-American United Methodist Community in the Connection

The Northeast is one of the major regions in the USA where a large number of Korean immigrants have settled and the metropolitan New York/New Jersey area has one of the largest concentrations of Korean



Americans. It's no accident that the Korean-American United Methodist community has its strongest presence in the Northeastern Jurisdiction. Among the large churches in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and the New York Annual Conference in term of attendance and budget are several Korean churches. The largest one in both conferences is a Korean church. There are presently 77 Korean United Methodist congregations in the jurisdiction, the largest number among the five jurisdictions. There are 230 Korean-American clergy in the NEJ, the largest number by far than any other jurisdiction. The NEJ Korean-American Mission is a significant part of the development of the Korean United Methodist community in the jurisdiction.

The NEJ is called to respond to this exceptional opportunity for mission in and through the Korean-American community and to the challenges that come with it. The NEJ Korean-American Mission is one such response. It will continue to fulfill its tasks by strengthening the mission, ministry, and witness of the Korean-American United Methodist community in the jurisdiction.

The NEJ Korean-American Mission thanks all its partners from the NEJ Conference to the National Korean Ministry Plan to annual conferences and to local churches, which provide various resources, including financial donations, consultations, programs, and personnel support. Special thanks go to Rev. Paul Chang, Executive Director of the National Korean Plan, who also serves as Acting Mission Superintendent of the NEJKAM. Thanks also goes to the mission congregations and pastors who continue to embrace the opportunity and challenge of mission with "work produced by faith, labor prompted by love, and endurance inspired hope."

Thanks and praise be to God!



REPORT: VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION QUADRENNIAL REPORT 2013-2016

Volunteers In Mission began when Jesus, finding Simon and Andrew beside the Sea of Galilee, said, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matt 4:19 NIV). People have answered Jesus' call to mission ever since.

The UMVIM motto, "Christian Love in Action" is taken from 1 John 3:18, in which Christians are asked to love "not in word or speech, but in truth and action". UMVIM trained teams continue to respond to the needs of our world in the name of Jesus Christ and the United Methodist church.

The work of the NEJ UMVIM Board of Directors has been to enhance the ability of the Annual Conferences and local congregations to participate in this ministry. Reflection on our goals shows that we have accomplished a number of these goals, while undergoing elements of change that provided some challenges. During the past quadrennium our long standing jurisdictional coordinator resigned, so we needed to conduct a search and hire a new coordinator, a process taking several months. The new person was not a good fit for the position and worked only 18 months before moving to a position which fit better his gifts and graces for ministry. This meant that we again had to conduct a search for a new coordinator, who was hired in early March and will start work June 1. In the meantime we have been led by an interim coordinator. This search for leadership has taken a lot of time and energy, in spite of which we have continued to function.

Among the accomplishments have been the revitalization of our website, incorporating many ideas and modernization. We think it is now up to date and relevant; we continue to work on it. The insurance program has been incorporated into the website and can now be done totally on line, including the payment. Especially for younger team leaders, the ability to work electronically is very attractive, and we hope this will encourage more teams to use the insurance. It also automatically registers the team, giving the coordinator a better data base.

We have conducted 2 UMVIM/UMCOR Training Academies which were well attended and expanded the knowledge base of more than 100 attendees. These are the first academies held in NEJ for many years. We hope to present an UMVIM “rally” in the coming year where we can meet together and celebrate the many ministries being carried on in the name of Jesus Christ locally and around the world.

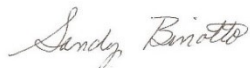
One of the ongoing challenges has been acquiring data on teams, so that we can record accurate statistics on where, when and how many people have been impacted by UMVIM activities, both those on the teams and those hosting these teams. We hope that the implementation of the website registration will aid in this.

The Annual Conference UMVIM coordinators continue to be the backbone of our ministry. Through their active roles in their annual conferences – resourced by the UMVIM NEJ office – they are able to support the mission outreach ministries of their conference churches. These ministries and teams cross conference and jurisdictional boundaries illustrating the true connectional strength of our United Methodist church.

The UMVIM NEJ Board of Directors would like to thank the NEJ for their continued support, participation, and encouragement of this ministry. UMVIM has expanded exponentially and has led to increases in trained/equipped teams, cooperative partnerships with other conferences – domestic and international - and in mission giving.

United Methodist Volunteers In Mission is your local churches’ hands-on witness to the nation and the world. Thank you to so many who have joined us in following the call of our Bishops’ to “Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

In His Service



YOUNG ADULT COUNCIL REPORT



Throughout the past four years, the Young Adult Council of the Northeastern Jurisdiction (NEJ) has worked to build and grow a Council that has struggled to find its purpose in the past. It has been both a blessing and a curse as we navigated the growing pains of this process. Due to a lack of rules and understanding at the beginning of 2012, we came together late in the Quadrennium, but did our best with the time and funds available to our Council. We worked together to create and evolve our place at the table. Through a collaborative effort with Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, we were encouraged and empowered to build.



In this short time, we have looked long and hard at our organization, purpose and vision. We focused our work on the importance of equal representation of clergy and laity on the Council. We also focused on collaborative efforts of Young Adults throughout the various NEJ committees. In the end, after much deliberation about rules, guidelines and vision, we have created and proposed something we pray will benefit the Young Adults and the entire NEJ through the next Quadrennium and beyond.

In addition to work we put into the proposed and heavily revised budget, and reconstructed rules, we also spent our time supporting events throughout the NEJ by volunteering and keeping a presence. And lastly, we worked to support and build up newly formed (and previously existing) Young Adult Councils in multiple Conferences.

Looking Ahead

With the new proposed budget and rule changes, we feel the Young Adult Council in the new Quadrennium will be well prepared for the years to come.

It is our hope that the Council will meet one time each year between 2017-2020; via video conference each quarter for all four years; and plan two special events targeted to Young Adults in the NEJ. This is all in hopes of connecting and building the relationships between Young Adults throughout the area.

The Council will also work to provide leadership and resources to all ten Conferences.

We are thankful for the time and efforts of the current Council in these past few years. It has been a pleasure to work collaboratively with an Episcopal Leader that empowered and supported us every step of the way, and allowed our voices to be heard, and ultimately, to make a change. And are looking forward to what new and exciting things are to come for the Young Adults of the NEJ!

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Jeffrey L. Hooker (Co-Chair)
Ashley Riddell (Co-Chair)

MISSION OF PEACE



The Mission of Peace is a yearly journey of discovery and Shalom to nations in our global community sponsored by the Northeast Jurisdictional Council on Youth Ministries. Each year, every Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in the Northeastern Jurisdiction may select up to four youth to share in this experience. On each MOP, participants worship in churches, meet youth in churches and civic organizations and share with people who have a similar longing for peace and understanding. These times have been the high points of each MOP experience.

The MOP is a life changing experience! It is a journey which leads each participant to discover God's Spirit at work in the world. The MOP visits places of natural beauty and historic importance. It is a journey of discovering God's Shalom. The MOP participates in daily worship. It is primarily a people to people experience in which we learn from our hosts how they live as disciples of Jesus Christ in their country. The MOP meets with people in the host country every day in hopes to become better acquainted. It is a mission which has brought us closer to God's hoped for community where all are sisters and brothers.

Each youth who journeys on the Mission of Peace is expected to share their experience at least five times upon their return. Each MOP'er is looking forward to telling their story of Shalom. They may be contacted individually or through the Conference Youth Coordinator. Those who have journeyed on the Mission of Peace give thanks to God and to all who have made it possible for us to make this journey. We pray daily for Shalom, for understanding between people, and that there may be the chance that others can journey on a Mission of Peace.

Inspired by the preaching of Bishop Dale White, the Mission of Peace was brought into existence by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Council on Youth Ministries (NEJCYM) Legislative Session at Albright College, July 28-31, 1984. Each year since, the NEJCYM Legislative Session has affirmed the priority of the Mission of Peace in order that new understandings of community and shalom might continue to develop. The MOP has traveled to the USSR (86-88, 90), The People's Republic of China (89, 97, 01, 06, 11, 16), Eastern Europe (91,92), Zimbabwe (93, 96, 99), Guyana (94), India (95, 00, 05, 10, 15), Nicaragua (98, 03, 07, 12, 17), Brazil (02, 04), Cuba (08, 13), and South Africa (09, 14).

For more information about the Northeastern Jurisdictional Council on Youth Ministries' Mission of Peace, please contact the MOP Coordinator: Ted Anderson 1100 South Goodman St. Rochester, NY 14620, (585) 340-9525 email: ted@crcds.edu

MISSION OF PEACE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

Our Lord Jesus Christ challenges us to become Peacemakers who will:

- * Explore ideas on the building of peace, particularly stressing and nurturing the development of confidence and trust between people.
- * Understand the unique role of Christians in creating shalom.
- * Dispel myths and stereotypes about people of other cultures.
- * Meet youth and adults to exchange ideas about faith and the role of the Church in the world.
- * Talk about our hopes and fears within a global community.

adopted by the NEJ CYM 1986

NEJ NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES COMMITTEE REPORT



The Committee held their 2015 Annual Meeting at the Edith Macy Convention and Retreat Center in Briarcliff, NY on October 8-10, 2015. The 2016 Annual Meeting will be held at Christ United Methodist Church in Wheeling, West Virginia.

The Executive Committee works on behalf of the Committee throughout the year by having four to five conference calls a year. Items the Committee has worked on in the past year and plan to do in 2016:

1. Continue to update our Bylaws and resources that can be used by the Committee and the Conference Committees on Native American Ministries (CoNAM's).



2. We were happy to have four Directors of Connectional Ministries (DCM's) at our 2015 Annual Meeting.
3. Continue to work with the Presiding Bishop of the College of Bishops to have the Wampum Belt at their meetings.
4. Developed a 2017-2020 Plan of Action.
5. In 2015, we worked with the Susquehanna and the New York Conference in the establishment of their CoNAM. In 2016, we will work with the Western PA Conference to reestablish their CoNAM. We will then have a CoNAM in all of our conferences.
6. The CoNAM's have been working with their Conferences on holding an Act of Repentance Service. Five conferences have had their AoR Services (Greater New Jersey, New York Upper New York, Baltimore-Washington and New England). Four will have theirs in 2016 (Peninsula-Delaware, Eastern Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Susquehanna).
7. We continue to work with Drew Seminary with their class related to Native American Theology and Culture.
8. Working with the Native American Comprehensive Plan (NACP) in the development of a resource to help start and strengthen Native American ministries
9. We encourage our CoNAM's to send their native youth to the Peg Leg Flamingos program which is a program of the NE and NC Regions of the Native American International Caucus (NAIC).

Report written by Ms. Cynthia Kent, Chair of the NEJ Native American Ministries Committee (NEJNAMC)

Plan of Organization And Rules of Order

The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of the Northeastern Jurisdiction (NEJ) shall be subject to the current *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (hereinafter “*Book of Discipline*” or “BoD”).

PART A – PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

Article I –ORGANIZATION OF THE NEJ CONFERENCE

1. Opening Session

The NEJ Conference shall assemble at the time and place arranged by the Committee on Program and Arrangements. The Conference shall be opened with Holy Communion and a Memorial Service, directed by the bishops of the Jurisdiction, and shall thereafter proceed as provided herein.

2. Presiding Officer

The College of Bishops shall select one of their number to preside at each session.

3. Roll Call

The Roll shall be called for by the Secretary to assure that a quorum is present. A quorum shall be a majority of the whole number of delegates elected¹.

4. Calling the Conference to Order

If the Secretary indicates that a quorum is present, the Conference shall be called to order at the conclusion of the Holy Communion and Memorial Service by the bishop designated to preside at the first session.

5. Adoption of Rules

The Rules Committee Chair, on behalf of the Committee, shall propose for adoption the Rules of Order as in force at the preceding session, with such amendments, if any, as the Rules Committee deems necessary. The Rules of Order may be adopted in whole or in part.

6. Jurisdictional Secretary and Assistant Secretary: Election, Terms of Office, and Duties

A. Election

The Jurisdictional Secretary and Assistant Secretary shall be nominated by the College of Bishops and elected by the Conference. Other nominations shall be permitted from the floor. Persons nominated need not be Jurisdictional delegates. If there be two or more nominees, election shall be by ballot. Election shall be by a majority of valid ballots cast.

¹ ¶ 518, 2012 BoD.



A person elected Secretary or Assistant Secretary, who is not a delegate, shall have the privilege of the floor, without vote, but with voice as needed to perform his or her duties.

B. Terms of Office

The quadrennial terms of office of the Secretary and Assistant Secretary shall begin January 1 of the new quadrennium.

C. Duties of Secretary

The work of the Secretary shall be supervised by the Vision Table and supported through the NEJ budget.

In addition to those duties imposed by The *Book of Discipline*, the Secretary shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Serve as custodian of the permanent records of the Jurisdictional Conference and its committees, which records shall be transmitted to any successor in office;
2. Keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the Jurisdictional Conference;
3. Prepare, edit, and distribute the official *Journal* of the Conference;
4. Prepare the roll, other lists, and forms necessary to facilitate the business of the Jurisdictional Conference;
5. Appoint such staff as are reasonably required to carry out the work of the Conference, consistent with the budget for such services as approved by the Conference;
6. Arrange for recording of the business sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference, in consultation with the Committee on Program and Arrangements;
7. Arrange for publication of the *Daily Christian Advocate*;
8. Ensure distribution among the committees of all memorials, resolutions, petitions, and similar communications addressed to the Conference and report directly to the Conference all documents for which there is no other provision;
9. Provide delegates with standardized biographical information on all episcopal nominees (Rule 36), an interview schedule (Rule 37), and the voting procedure established by the Vision Table (Rule 38).
10. Ensure that sufficient resources are available at the conference site to produce information about any additional episcopal nominee(s) who may emerge during balloting and arrange to have such information distributed forthwith to all delegates;
11. Serve on the Vision Table, act as the recording secretary for this body, and maintain its minutes and other documents;
12. Serve *ex officio* (with voice but not vote) on the following committees: Rules, Program and Arrangements, and Finance and Administration;
13. Serve on (or designate the Assistant Secretary to serve on) the following committees with voice but not vote: Credentials, Journal, Examination of Annual Conference Minutes, Courtesies, and Nominations; and
14. Perform such other duties as may be ordered by the Jurisdictional Conference.

D. Duties of Assistant Secretary

The Assistant Secretary shall

1. Perform such tasks as the Secretary may direct;
2. Be familiar with the duties of the office of Secretary;

3. Serve on the Vision Table, with voice but not vote, unless attending in lieu of the Secretary;
4. Serve *ex officio* (with voice but not vote) on the following committees: Program and Arrangements, and Finance and Administration;
5. Serve on the following committees (with voice but not vote), as directed by the Secretary: Credentials, Journal, Examination of Annual Conference Minutes, Courtesies, and Nominations; and
6. Assume the office of Secretary, when necessary, as described in Article I.6.E.

E. Vacancy in Office of Secretary and Assistant Secretary

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Secretary during the quadrennium, the Assistant Secretary shall assume the office of Secretary for the balance of the quadrennium. If the Secretary is unable to perform any duties of the office due to incapacity, the Assistant Secretary shall carry out such duties upon authorization by the Vision Table, until such time as the Secretary is able to resume his or her duties.

In the event the Assistant Secretary resigns, is unable to perform any duties of the office, or is required to assume the role of Secretary for the remainder of a quadrennium, the College of Bishops, after consultation with the Program and Arrangements Committee, shall appoint an Assistant Secretary for the remaining term of that office.

7. Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer: Election, Terms of Office and Duties

A. Election

The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall be nominated by the College of Bishops, after consultation with the Committee on Finance and Administration, and elected by the Conference. Other nominations shall be permitted from the floor. Persons nominated need not be delegates to the NEJ Conference. If there be two or more nominees, the election shall be by ballot. Election shall be by a majority of valid ballots cast.

A person elected Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer who is not a delegate shall have the privilege of the floor, without vote, but with voice as needed to perform his or her duties.

B. Terms of Office

The quadrennial terms of office of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall begin January 1 of the new quadrennium.

C. Duties of Treasurer

The work of the Treasurer shall be supervised by the Committee on Finance and Administration and financially supported through the NEJ budget.

The duties of the Treasurer shall be those normally incidental to the office and others as assigned by the Committee on Finance and Administration. In addition, the Treasurer shall

1. Function as the business manager of the Jurisdiction;



2. Submit quarterly financial reports to the Vision Table, Finance and Administration Committee, the College of Bishops, and such other committees or task forces that meet between quadrennial sessions of the NEJ;

3. Submit a financial report for publication in the first issue of the *Daily Christian Advocate*;

4. Submit a report by October 31 following the NEJ Conference for publication in the *Journal*;

5. Submit a final quadrennial report to the Vision Table at its first meeting in the ensuing quadrennium;

6. Submit a tentative apportionment for each annual conference to the Committee on Finance and Administration, following approval of the budget by the Vision Table;

7. Serve on the Vision Table;

8. Serve *ex officio* (with voice but not vote) on the following committees: Program and Arrangements, and Finance and Administration;

9. Work with the auditor and the Committee on Finance and Administration to complete all audits; and

10. Ensure that bank and other financial records are transferred to a successor in office and that the successor in office, Assistant Treasurer, and Chair of the Committee on Finance and Administration have all necessary access to such records.

D. Duties of the Assistant Treasurer

The Assistant Treasurer shall

1. Perform such tasks as the Treasurer may direct;

2. Be familiar with the duties of the office of Treasurer;

3. Serve on the Vision Table;

4. Serve *ex officio* (with voice but not vote) on the following committees: Program and Arrangements, and Finance and Administration; and

5. Assume the office of Treasurer, when necessary, as described in Article I.7.E.

E. Vacancy in the Office of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Treasurer during the quadrennium, the Assistant Treasurer shall assume the office of Treasurer for the balance of the quadrennium. If the Treasurer is unable to perform any duties of the office due to incapacity, the Assistant Treasurer shall carry out such duties, upon authorization by the Vision Table, until such time as the Treasurer is able to resume his or her duties.

In the event the Assistant Treasurer resigns, is unable to perform any duties of the office, or is required to assume the role of Treasurer for the remainder of a quadrennium, the College of Bishops, after consultation with the Committee on Finance and Administration, shall appoint an Assistant Treasurer for the remaining term of that office.

An audit shall be conducted whenever the Treasurer changes.

8. Jurisdictional Conference Budget

The total budget, as approved by the Vision Table, shall be included in the first issue of the *Daily Christian Advocate*. Additional budget requests or amendments shall be submitted to the Finance and Administration Committee by the end of the first day's plenary sessions.

The Finance and Administration Committee, after considering all budget requests and amendments, shall recommend a final budget to the Conference for adoption *seriatim* by a majority of those present and voting.

Final action on the budget shall be an order of the day. Nothing in this language is intended to prevent further action on the budget, if the Jurisdiction takes action on a matter with financial implications.

9. Apportionments

After the budget is adopted, the Finance and Administration Committee shall recommend the final amount to be apportioned to each annual conference for approval by the Jurisdictional Conference.

10. Daily Christian Advocate

There shall be published a *Daily Christian Advocate (DCA)* for the Jurisdictional Conference. The Jurisdictional Secretary shall arrange for its publication.

The first issue shall be published and distributed to the NEJ Bishops, delegates, reserve delegates, and youth representatives at least two weeks prior to the Jurisdictional Conference session. This issue shall include the names of the NEJ bishops, delegates, reserve delegates, and youth representatives; the total budget as approved by the Vision Table; the tentative amount of annual conference apportionments, based on the budget; report of the Treasurer; membership lists of the committees; reports from all standing committees; and such other information as may be necessary for the orderly procedure of business.

Corrections to the first issue of the *DCA* and succeeding digests shall be signed by the author and sent to the Secretary's desk.

A digest of the previous day's proceedings shall be distributed prior to the first session of each day of the NEJ Conference meeting. Daily editions of the *DCA* shall include substitutions of delegates, petitions, resolutions, motions, and any amendments that require action of the NEJ. Such information, when printed in the *DCA*, shall be deemed to be in possession of the Conference and may not be altered except by action of the Jurisdictional Conference (Rule 18).

The last issue of the *DCA* shall summarize all the actions taken by the Conference and be distributed to bishops, delegates, reserve delegates, and youth representatives.

11. Journal

There shall be an official *Journal* of the Jurisdictional Conference, which shall include a Treasurer's report. The minutes of the day, when approved by the Conference on recommendation of the Committee



on Journal after making the necessary corrections, if any, shall be the official *Journal* of the Jurisdictional Conference. The record for the last session of the Conference shall be corrected and approved by the Committee on Journal.

Article II – VISION TABLE

1. Purpose and Authority

The NEJ shall operate between sessions through the Vision Table in order to fulfill the visioning, strategic planning, coordination of resources, and other functions of the Jurisdiction.

The Vision Table shall have the authority of a Board of Directors under the laws of the incorporation unless otherwise limited by this Plan of Organization and Rules of Order or The *Book of Discipline*. The Vision Table, as needed, may form task forces or groups, which shall meet during the annual meetings of the Vision Table and/or at other designated times. Persons who are not members of the Vision Table may serve on the task forces or groups.

The Vision Table is authorized to take such actions as may be referred to it by the Jurisdictional Conference or as may be necessary to support jurisdictional activities between quadrennial sessions. The Vision Table shall not exercise any powers that require a vote of the Jurisdictional Conference, in accordance with the provisions of The *Book of Discipline* or this Plan of Organization or the Rules of Order.

2. Membership

The Vision Table shall be composed of up to thirty-nine (39) members, as follows:

- Three (3) bishops, selected by the College of Bishops, one of whom shall be designated by the College of Bishops as Chair of the Vision Table for the quadrennium.
- Two (2) representatives from each Annual Conference, one (1) of whom shall be the Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM) from each Annual Conference and one representative selected by the annual conference delegation. If the DCM is clergy, the representative shall be lay, and *vice versa*.
- The Chairperson or designee of the following NEJ committees, boards or associations: Program and Arrangements, Finance and Administration, Episcopacy, Board of Ordained Ministry, Annual Conference Boundaries, Rules, and Jurisdictional Association of Conference Lay Leaders.
- Two (2) youth, selected by the Jurisdictional Youth Council.
- Two (2) young adults (one clergy and one lay), who are the Co-Chairs of the NEJ Young Adult Council, or their designee.
- Jurisdictional Secretary.
- Jurisdictional Treasurer.
- Up to three (3) members, recommended by the Nominations Committee, as needed to assure diversity, and elected by the Jurisdictional Conference.

The Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer, though not members of the Vision Table, shall attend the Vision Table meetings and be allowed voice but not vote, unless attending in lieu of the Secretary or Treasurer.

3. Organization

A. Term of Office

The quadrennial term of office for Vision Table members shall begin immediately following the quadrennial Jurisdictional Conference meeting.

B. Secretary of Vision Table, Minutes, and Other Records

The NEJ Secretary shall serve as Secretary for the Vision Table and maintain the minutes and other records for the Vision Table.

C. Executive Committee

The Vision Table shall have an Executive Committee consisting of seven members: Chairperson of the Vision Table; Jurisdictional Secretary; Jurisdictional Treasurer; the Vision Table representative from the Finance and Administration Committee; and three (3) other persons selected from and by the Vision Table. The Executive Committee shall be authorized to take such actions as may be referred to it by the Vision Table or as may be necessary to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Vision Table between meetings.

Any actions taken by the Executive Committee shall be reported at the next meeting of the Vision Table.

4. Duties and Responsibilities

In carrying out its general powers, the Vision Table shall:

- Meet at least annually;
- Review and evaluate the sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference to determine what changes in procedure or program should be recommended to achieve greater effectiveness of future conferences;
- Establish a committee, which shall be comprised as set forth in Rule 34, for the purpose of determining whether to allow an episcopal nomination to be brought to the Jurisdictional Conference from a group other than national racial and ethnic caucuses, as listed in the current edition of the BoD, or their NEJ-related caucuses (Rule 34);
- Establish a voting procedure for episcopal elections (Rule 38);
- Submit a budget request to the Committee on Finance and Administration covering the estimated expenses and other activities of the Vision Table for the ensuing quadrennium;
- Receive, review and amend, if necessary, and approve at its last meeting before the session of the Jurisdictional Conference, the budget recommendation from the Committee on Finance and Administration for the succeeding quadrennium;
- Approve a budget to be presented to the NEJ Conference by the Committee on Finance and Administration;
- Approve the tentative annual conference apportionments for inclusion in the advance copy of the *Daily Christian Advocate*;



- Review and supervise the work of the standing committees and any task force or group appointed by the Vision Table;
- Receive, consider, and evaluate interim reports from standing committees, and any task force or group appointed by the Vision Table;
- Require, receive, and review, at least annually, reports from all funded program ministries; and
- Provide recommendations for strengthening the programs of The United Methodist Church at the jurisdictional level.

Article III – COLLEGE OF BISHOPS

1. Organization Plan for Vision Table, Standing Committees, and Young Adult Council

Not later than thirty (30) days following adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference, the College of Bishops shall provide to the Jurisdictional Secretary the names of bishops who are designated to serve on the Vision Table and Standing Committees, as follows:

- Three (3) bishops to serve on the Vision Table, one of whom shall be named the Chairperson;
- At least one (1) bishop to serve on each standing committee (Article VI), with these exceptions:
 - The President of the College of Bishops to convene, but not serve on, the NEJ Episcopacy Committee; and
 - One (1) bishop to serve on the Program and Arrangements Committee, who shall be the bishop assigned to the area where the NEJ meeting will be held.
- One (1) bishop to serve as liaison to and for the Young Adult Council.
- Three (3) active bishops, one of whom will be designated by the President of the College as Chair, to serve on a committee established by the Vision Table to decide whether to allow a nomination to be brought to the Jurisdictional Conference if recommended by a group or caucus other than a national racial or ethnic caucus, as listed in the current edition of the BoD, or their NEJ-related caucuses (Rule 34).

These bishops shall be designated, as deemed necessary by the College of Bishops, to meet the needs of the church and to best utilize the mixture of gifts and graces of the bishops in the College.

2. Organization Plan and Nominations for NEJ Session Committees

Not later than 60 days before the meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference, the College shall appoint persons to serve on NEJ session committees, including one bishop to preside over the Nominating committee. Eligibility to serve on these committees shall include those who are authorized to serve on standing committees (Article VI.1), and others, if needed. The College is urged to consider the financial implications of appointing persons to these committees who will not otherwise be present at the Jurisdictional Conference.

3. Appointment of Persons to Serve on the Committee on Investigations and Committee on Appeals

Membership on these committees shall be nominated by the College of Bishops and elected by the

Jurisdictional Conference, as provided by *The Book of Discipline*.² When nominating members and alternates to these committees, the College of Bishops shall ensure ethnic and gender inclusiveness as well as leadership continuity.

The order of alternates shall be determined by the College of Bishops and elected to that order by the Jurisdictional Conference.

Article IV — YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

1. Number and Election

Each annual conference shall be entitled to youth representatives to the Jurisdictional Conference in a number based upon ten percent (10%) of its elected Jurisdictional Conference delegation, with a minimum of two youth representatives from each annual conference. Fractions are rounded to the closest whole number.

The youth representatives shall be elected by each Annual Conference Council on Youth Ministries, Youth Ministry Team, or other annual conference youth organization.

2. Voting

A youth representative shall be entitled to present matters to and have a voice on all matters before the Jurisdictional Conference consistent with the Rules of Order, but shall not be entitled to vote.

3. Recommendations for Election

The Jurisdictional Council on Youth Ministry may recommend guidelines concerning the election of youth representatives to the annual conferences' Council on Youth Ministry, Youth Ministry Team, or other youth organization.

4. Youth representatives to Boards, Agencies, Committees, and the Vision Table

A. Term

Youth elected or appointed to Boards, Agencies, Committees, and the Vision Table shall serve for the quadrennium. The age of the youth at the time of appointment determines eligibility for the quadrennium.

B. Eligibility for Membership

Youth considered for membership on the Boards, Agencies, Committees, and the Vision Table shall come from names offered to the NEJ by each annual conference's Council on Youth Ministries, Youth Ministry Team or other youth organization through the NEJ Council on Youth Ministries and pursuant to *The Book of Discipline*.³

² ¶ 2716, 2012 BoD.

³ ¶ 705.2, 2012 BoD.



C. Vacancies

Vacancies shall be filled by the NEJ Council on Youth Ministry.

Article V -- NEJ Young Adult Council

1. Nominations and Eligibility for Membership

Membership on this Council shall consist of two young adults from each annual conference, one layperson and one clergyperson, defined as not younger than age 18 or older than age 35. Eligibility for membership on the Young Adult Council (YAC) shall include young adults who apply to serve on the YAC, using the YAC application process; and those young adults who are recommended by each Annual Conference delegation.

Members of the Young Adult Council shall be selected by a subcommittee of the Nominations Committee, and elected by the Jurisdiction. This subcommittee shall consist of the YAC Co-Chairs; one member of the NEJ Nominations Committee, selected by the Nominations Committee; one member of the Vision Table; and the Bishop liaison to the YAC.

2. Term of Office

Young adults serving on the Young Adult Council shall serve for the quadrennium beginning January 1 of the year following the meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference. The age of the young adult at the time of appointment determines eligibility for the quadrennium.

3. College of Bishops Liaison to Young Adult Council

The College of Bishops shall select a bishop to liaison with and for the Young Adult Council.

4. Organization

There shall be two co-chairs, one layperson and one clergyperson, and a treasurer elected by and from the membership of the Council.

5. Purpose and Responsibilities

- The Young Adult Council shall
- A. Facilitate connection, communication, and coordination among young adult engagement efforts in annual conferences in the Jurisdiction;
 - B. Seek to offer opportunities for fellowship, leadership development, and ministry for young adults within the NEJ;
 - C. Give voice to the specific needs, challenges, and leadership perspectives of young adults for the benefit of the entire church;
 - D. Advocate for young adult ministries and inclusion of young adult leadership in the church; and
 - E. Submit a report for inclusion in the *DCA*.

Article VI – STANDING COMMITTEES

The NEJ shall have six (6) standing committees, as follows: Rules; Program and Arrangements; Finance and Administration; Annual Conference Boundaries; Episcopacy; and Ordained Ministry.

1. Nominations and Eligibility for Membership

Members of standing committees shall be recommended by the Nominations Committee and elected by the Jurisdictional Conference.

Eligibility for membership on standing committees shall include delegates, reserve delegates, and youth representatives to the Jurisdictional Conference recommended by the Annual Conference delegations; and young adult representatives named by the Young Adult Council.

It is recommended that the elected membership of each committee shall have an equal number of clergy (divided equally between male and female), laymen, and laywomen.

A delegate, reserve delegate, or representative shall serve as a voting member of only one standing committee.

2. Term of Office

The quadrennial term of office on standing committees shall begin immediately following the quadrennial meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference.

3. Recommendations to Jurisdictional Nominating Committee by Annual Conference Delegations

Each annual conference delegation to the Jurisdictional Conference shall recommend to the NEJ Committee on Nominations -- from persons who are delegates, reserve delegates, and youth representatives to the Jurisdictional Conference -- one clergy, one layman, one laywoman, and one youth, for membership on each standing committee. Delegates and youth representatives may be nominated by annual conference delegations to more than one standing committee, but may be elected by the NEJ to only one.

These recommendations shall be submitted in writing to the Jurisdictional Secretary at least 90 days prior to the convening of the Jurisdictional Conference.

4. Organization

Unless provided otherwise herein, each standing committee shall meet at the Jurisdictional Conference as soon after election of committee membership as the Jurisdictional Conference program permits. This initial meeting shall be convened by a bishop designated by the College of Bishops, at which time the committee shall organize by electing a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary. If the chairperson is clergy, the vice-chairperson shall be a lay person, and *vice-versa*.



5. Meetings and Budget Requests

At its initial meeting, each standing committee shall review the written report of its predecessor committee. Each committee shall determine its times of meeting, either during the period of the Jurisdictional Conference as the program may permit, or after adjournment of the Conference as necessary funds may be provided.

Each standing committee, through its chairperson, shall submit a budget request for the succeeding quadrennial to the Committee on Finance and Administration at a date determined by the Committee on Finance and Administration. The standing committee may request the opportunity to make a personal presentation of its budget request or the Committee on Finance and Administration may request the personal appearance.

6. Reports

At least 90 days prior to the convening of the Jurisdictional Conference, each standing committee shall file with the Jurisdictional Secretary a written report of its activities during the preceding quadrennium for inclusion in the first issue of the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

7. Vacancies in Committee Membership

Nominations for vacancies occurring during the session of the Jurisdictional Conference shall be made by the Annual Conference delegation from which the vacancy occurs.

Any vacancy in the membership of a standing committee occurring after adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference shall be filled through appointment by the College of Bishops, after consultation with the Annual Conference delegation from which the vacancy occurs. Such appointment shall be made with due regard to the conditions of eligibility for membership on the committee with the vacancy.

8. Attendance Policy

Persons elected to standing committees who fail to attend two consecutive meetings, without any response or explanation, shall be referred to the College of Bishops for consultation as to their possible replacement. Any person who misses a majority of called meetings, whether excused or not, shall be referred to the College of Bishops for replacement, either by the College or following the procedures set forth in the BoD, this Plan of Organization or these Rules as related to the Committee needing a replacement.

9. Membership and Responsibilities

A. Rules Committee

Membership of this Committee shall include one delegate or reserve delegate from each annual conference, one youth representative, one young adult named by the Young Adult Council, and one bishop.

The Rules Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

- Review and make a recommendation for or against any proposed amendments to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order;
- Report to the next Jurisdictional Conference such amendments to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order as in its judgment are necessary;
- Provide a report to the Jurisdictional Secretary for inclusion in the *DCA*;
- Consult with the NEJ Episcopacy Committee to develop a form to be used by a nominating entity (Rule 34) to describe the process used to endorse the nominee(s) recommended for election.
- Update the Disciplinary references in the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order each Quadrennium; and
- Provide a quadrennial budget request to the NEJ Finance and Administration Committee.

B. Program and Arrangements Committee

Membership of this Committee shall be composed of one delegate or reserve delegate from each annual conference; one youth representative; one young adult named by the Young Adult Council; and the bishop of the Area where the Jurisdictional Conference will be held.

The Program and Arrangements Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

- Select the place and make detailed arrangements for the next meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference, unless the Jurisdictional Conference shall specifically express its desire to meet in a certain place and the committee finds it possible to make arrangements to meet at such designated place;
- Arrange for the details of the physical accommodations of the Conference;
- Arrange for the program;
- Provide delegates with opportunities to meet with and interview each of the persons who have been nominated for the episcopacy;
- Respond to questions that arise with respect to the appropriateness of any pre-Conference communication regarding episcopal candidates;
- Provide a report to the Jurisdictional Secretary for inclusion in the *DCA*; and
- Provide a quadrennial budget request to the NEJ Finance and Administration Committee.

C. Finance and Administration Committee

Membership of this Committee shall be composed of three (3) clergy; one (1) annual conference treasurer; three (3) laymen; three (3) laywomen; two (2) youth representatives; two (2) young adults named by the Young Adult Council; and one bishop. Additionally, any member of the General Council on Finance and Administration who resides within the bounds of the Conference shall be *ex officio* members, with voice and vote.

These committee members shall not be members of any other Jurisdictional Conference committee.

The Finance and Administration Committee shall have the following responsibilities:



- Supervise the NEJ Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer;
- In conjunction with the Vision Table, during the year preceding Jurisdictional Conference, solicit budget requests for the next Quadrennium;
- Develop the sessions, administrative, and program budgets;
- Submit the total budget and recommendation of a formula to apportion the budget to the annual conferences to the meeting of the Vision Table just prior to the meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference;
- Submit the total budget to the Jurisdictional Conference on the first day for information and clarification;
- Review budget requests or amendments by the end of the first day's plenary sessions and recommend a final budget to the Conference;
- Recommend to the Jurisdictional Conference the final amount to be apportioned to each annual conference;
- Develop a process for payment of vouchers, in consultation with the Treasurer;
- Arrange for an audit to be conducted at least every two years and whenever the Treasurer changes.

D. Annual Conference Boundaries

Membership of this Committee shall include one (1) delegate or reserve delegate from each annual conference of the jurisdiction; one youth representative; one young adult named by the Young Adult Council; and one bishop.

This Committee shall recommend to the Jurisdictional Conference and the College of Bishops the boundaries of the annual conferences within the Jurisdiction, provided that there shall be no annual conference with membership of fewer than 50 ordained clergy in full connection, except by consent of the General Conference as provided in *The Book of Discipline*.⁴ In the case of episcopal areas, however, the committee shall recommend to the College of Bishops and the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee, the names, numbers, and boundaries of episcopal areas.⁵

E. Episcopacy

Membership of this committee shall be composed of one (1) clergy and one (1) lay delegate from each annual conference in the Jurisdiction, nominated and elected as provided in *The Book of Discipline*.⁶

The Committee shall be convened by the President of the College of Bishops at the close of the Conference to which the delegates have been elected. Members of this Committee shall serve through the succeeding Jurisdictional Conference.

The Episcopacy Committee shall have the responsibilities described in *The Book of Discipline*.⁷ In

⁴ ¶ 27.4, 2012 BoD.

⁵ ¶¶ 40 and 524, 2012 BoD; Judicial Council Decision 1312.

⁶ ¶¶ 50 and 524.1, 2012 BoD.

⁷ ¶ 524.3, 2012 BoD.

addition, the Episcopacy Committee shall establish a standard format for biographical information of episcopal nominees (Rule 36). The Episcopacy Committee, following consultation with the NEJ Rules Committee, shall also develop a form to be used by the nominating entity (Rule 34) to describe the process used to endorse the nominee(s) recommended for election. This form shall be developed and posted on the NEJ website no later than June 30 two years prior to the meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference.

F. Ordained Ministry

Membership of the NEJ Board of Ordained Ministry shall be as defined in the BoD.⁸

The Board shall meet and organize no later than 90 days after adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference. One bishop, named by the College of Bishops, shall convene the Board.

The work of the Board shall include dialogue among conference boards of ordained ministry, cabinets, and theological schools about effective ministry, support of annual conference Boards of Ordained Ministry, and other such items as will contribute to more effective ministry to, for, and by UM churches.

Article VII -- CONFERENCE SESSION COMMITTEES

The NEJ shall have five (5) session committees as follows: Credentials; Journal; Examination of Annual Conference Minutes; Courtesies; and Nominations.

1. Membership

There shall be two clergy and two lay persons on each of these committees appointed by the College of Bishops, except for the Nominations Committee.

Membership on the Nominations Committee shall be composed of the active bishops of the Jurisdiction; one clergy, one layman and one laywoman from each annual conference of the Jurisdiction who are delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference, selected by their delegation; two youth representatives to the Conference named by the College of Bishops; and two young adults named by the Young Adult Council.

Members of these committees do not require election by the Jurisdictional Conference.

Eligibility for appointment to these Committees shall include those persons authorized to serve on Standing Committees (Art. VI.1), and others identified by the College of Bishops (Art III.2). It is recommended that each committee have an equal number of ordained clergy (divided equally between male and female), laymen, and laywomen.

2. Term of Office

Each NEJ session committee shall be considered discharged upon making its final report to the Jurisdiction.

⁸ ¶ 535, 2012 BoD.



3. Membership and Responsibilities

A. Credentials Committee

This Committee shall review the delegate registrations and report the number of delegates present to the NEJ Secretary.

This Committee shall review substitutions of delegates and youth representatives as reported by the chairperson of the respective annual conference delegation (Rule 5). Such reports from annual conference delegation chairs shall be in writing on a form provided for this purpose by the Jurisdictional Secretary.

The chairperson of the respective annual conference delegations shall report to this Committee the absence of any delegate and the legal reserve delegate to be substituted. A reserve delegate may be seated when the substitution has been reported in writing to this committee, on a form provided for this purpose by the Jurisdictional Secretary.

This Committee shall report substitutions found to be in order in the *Daily Christian Advocate* as soon as practical.

This Committee shall consider questions about delegate qualifications and present recommendations to the Jurisdictional Conference for action.

B. Journal Committee

This Committee shall daily examine the minutes of the day and *Daily Christian Advocate* and report its findings to the Conference with appropriate recommendations, if any.

C. Examination of Annual Conference Minutes Committee

It shall be the duty of this committee to examine the journals of the annual conferences of the Jurisdiction and report upon the same to the NEJ Conference with recommendations in accordance with *The Book of Discipline*.⁹

D. Courtesies Committee

This Committee shall, with due regard to brevity, prepare and present to the NEJ Conference for its action, such complimentary resolutions as occasion may demand. This Committee shall also arrange and propose to the Jurisdictional Conference the presentation of such persons who, in the committee's judgment, may appropriately be given the courtesy of introduction and/or privilege of briefly addressing the body.

⁹ ¶ 527, 2012 BoD.

E. Nominations Committee

The Nominating Committee shall meet immediately prior to the convening of the Jurisdictional Conference. The Committee shall nominate persons to serve on Jurisdictional committees, the Vision Table, General Boards and Agencies, and the UMC Connectional Table.

In all recommendations, the Nominations Committee shall consider annual conference representation and assure diversity. Preference for membership on Jurisdictional committees shall be given to delegates, reserve delegates, and youth representatives who are present at the Jurisdictional Conference, as well as two young adults recommended by the Young Adult Council.

The Nominations Committee shall have a subcommittee to select members of the Young Adult Council. This subcommittee shall consist of the YAC Co-Chairs; one member of the NEJ Nominations Committee, selected by the Nominations Committee; one member of the Vision Table; and the Bishop liaison to the YAC.

Source of persons for recommendation by the Nominating Committee

(1) Standing Committees:

Members recommended to serve on standing committees shall be NEJ delegates, reserve delegates, and youth representatives, recommended by the Annual Conference delegations; and young adults named by the Young Adult Council.

(2) General Boards and Agencies:

Nominations for the general boards and agencies shall be taken from those persons eligible to serve on standing committees and the additional persons recommended by each Annual Conference, following the process described in *The Book of Discipline*.¹⁰

Article VIII. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEES

1. General Provisions

Membership on these committees shall be nominated by the College of Bishops and elected by the Jurisdictional Conference, as provided by *The Book of Discipline*.¹¹

2. Convening these Committees

The Committees on Investigations and Appeals shall each be convened at the site of the Jurisdictional Conference by a bishop selected by the College of Bishops for the purpose of electing a president, vice-president, and secretary.

¹⁰ ¶ 705.1(a) and (b), and 705.2, 2012 BoD.

¹¹ ¶ 2716, 2012 BoD.



3. Responsibilities and Membership

A. Committee on Investigations

This committee shall perform those functions consistent with The *Book of Discipline*.¹²

Persons elected to this committee shall not be eligible to serve on the Committee on Appeals.

B. Committee on Appeals

This committee shall perform those functions consistent with The *Book of Discipline*.¹³ In addition, within 90 days of conclusion of the NEJ Conference, this Committee shall review the Rules of Procedure developed by its predecessor committee and make such modifications as it deems necessary. These Rules shall thereafter be posted on the NEJ website.

In the event the president of this Committee is unable to serve, the vice-president shall preside. In the event a member is unable to serve at a particular time or for a particular case, an alternate, chosen by lot by the College (Article III.3), shall serve in his/her place.

Persons elected to this committee shall not be eligible to serve on the Committee on Investigation.

Article IX. ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The NEJ shall have a Committee on Archives and History, as described and mandated by The *Book of Discipline*.¹⁴

Membership of this Jurisdictional Commission shall be as described in the BoD.¹⁵

Article X. UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The NEJ shall have a United Methodist Women's organization, as described and mandated by The *Book of Discipline*.¹⁶

Article XI. UNITED METHODIST MEN

The NEJ shall have a United Methodist Men's organization, as described and mandated by The *Book of Discipline*.¹⁷

¹² ¶ 2703, 2012 BoD.

¹³ ¶¶ 27.6 and ¶ 2716.1, 2012 BoD.

¹⁴ ¶ 532, 2012 BoD.

¹⁵ ¶ 532, 2012 BoD.

¹⁶ ¶ 536, 2012 BoD.

¹⁷ ¶ 537, 2012 BoD.

Article XII — NEJ POLICIES

1. Petitions and Resolutions

Petitions and/or resolutions shall be submitted to the NEJ Secretary at least twenty-one days prior to the first day of the NEJ Jurisdictional meeting in order to allow time for petitions and/or resolutions with financial implications to be scheduled for consideration prior to consideration of the final budget. Petitions and/or resolutions with financial implications or that amend the Plan of Organization or Rules of Order shall be immediately referred to the relevant Committee – Finance and Administration and/or Rules – which shall consider the proposals and prepare to report on the same to the NEJ.

2. Financial Policies

A. Reimbursement of expenses for delegates

Only the delegates seated at the opening of Conference shall be eligible to receive lodging, meals, and travel at Jurisdictional expense. If, during the Conference, a reserve delegate is permanently seated in place of an original delegate, the original delegate shall make the necessary adjustments in expenses with the seated reserve.

B. Reimbursement of expenses for youth representatives

The expenses of youth representatives shall be paid by the NEJ in the same manner and extent as in the case of an elected delegate.

C. Expenses for Required Attendance of Non-delegates

Any member of a standing committee who is not an elected delegate to the ensuing Jurisdictional Conference, but whose attendance is required for the proper conduct of business at that session of the Jurisdictional Conference, shall be entitled to payment of expenses for the period of required attendance in the same manner and extent as in the case of an elected delegate.

D. Financing

Program activities of boards, agencies, and organizations within or related to the NEJ shall be financed by the participants, unless funding is provided in the Jurisdictional budget or through special funding under Section 1.E of this article.

E. Special Funding

If, between sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference, the Vision Table shall determine that a program activity or event that could not have been presented for consideration at the last session of the Jurisdictional Conference is consistent with the mission of The UMC in the Northeastern Jurisdiction and should be supported, the proponent shall work with the Vision Table to develop, review and evaluate the



cost of the proposed activity or event. If the Vision Table should determine that such cost cannot be financed fully from other sources, it may authorize a special allocation of funds from the current budget. When expenditure of unbudgeted funds is necessary, the Vision Table shall refer the proposed expenditure to the Finance and Administration Committee for its approval and determination of the source of funding.

F. Conditions of Disbursement

Funds authorized in the Jurisdictional budget or allocated under Section 1.E of this Article shall be disbursed by the Jurisdictional Treasurer upon submission of appropriate vouchers. Vouchers submitted by the participants must be approved by the chairperson of the board, agency, or organization and documented by invoices and/or receipts.

3. Unpaid apportionments

Unpaid apportionments from the previous quadrennium shall be due and payable by each annual conference in addition to apportionments of the current Quadrennium.

Apportionment payments received for the current Quadrennium shall be applied first to the unpaid amount of the previous Quadrennium until said amount is paid in full, after which payments shall be credited to the current Quadrennium apportionments.

4. Nominations

Once elected by the NEJ Conference, standing committee members shall not be moved from one committee to another by individual bishops or by the College of Bishops.

PART B — RULES OF ORDER

Article I — Daily Schedule

Rule 1—Daily Order

The daily order for the Jurisdictional Conference shall be as approved by the Conference.

Rule 2—Agenda

After devotional services, the daily sessions of the Conference shall be conducted as follows:

- report of the Committee on Journal;
- report of the Committee on Credentials;
- report of the Committee on Courtesies;
- calendar; and
- miscellaneous business.

Article II—PRESIDING OFFICERS

Rule 3—Duties of the Chair

The bishop presiding shall be the legal chairperson of the Jurisdictional Conference. He or she shall decide points of order raised by delegates or youth representatives, and shall rule on points of order not raised, as necessary to conform to these rules of order.

Rule 4—Deference to the Chair

When the presiding officer stands and calls the Conference to order, no delegate or youth representative shall speak, address the chair, or stand, while the presiding officer stands.

Article III—RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Rule 5—Attendance and Seating Reserves

No member, unless hindered by sickness or otherwise prevented from being present, shall be absent from the sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference. All absentees shall be reported by the chairperson of each annual conference delegation to the Committee on Credentials using a form provided for this purpose by the NEJ Secretary. No reserve delegate shall have the privilege of being seated until the substitution has been approved by the Committee on Credentials.

Rule 6—Directions for Securing the Floor

Any delegate or youth representative desiring to speak to the Conference shall raise the appropriate card and, after recognition, state his or her name, the annual conference represented, and, respectfully address the matter for which the delegate or youth representative sought recognition. The delegate or youth representative shall speak from a microphone as provided, unless requested by the presiding officer to proceed to the speaker's platform.

**Rule 7—Interrupting the Speaker**

No delegate or youth representative who has the floor may be interrupted except for a breach of order, a misrepresentation, or to direct the attention of the Conference to the fact that the time has arrived for an order of the day, a special order, or to raise a question of personal privilege.

Rule 8—Speaking More Than Once; Length of Speech

No delegate or youth representative shall speak a second time on the same question if any other delegate or youth representative, who has not spoken, desires the floor. Likewise, no delegate or youth representative shall speak more than twice on the same subject under the same motion, nor longer than three minutes unless the time shall be extended by the Conference. This limit may be expanded or reduced by majority vote of the Conference at any time.

Rule 9—Question of Personal Privilege

A delegate or youth representative claiming the floor at any time for a question of personal privilege shall be allowed to indicate briefly the nature of the question and, if found in order by the presiding officer, shall proceed until the presiding officer judges that the privilege has been exhausted, but in no event to exceed three minutes.

Should the purpose of personal privilege be to withdraw one's name from consideration for election to the episcopacy, the person shall be allowed to speak for the wholeness of the church, without endorsing any particular candidate.

Rule 10—Voting Area of Conference

Only delegates within the voting area of the Conference when the vote is taken shall be entitled to vote.

Rule 11—Voting Procedure

Voting shall be by such method as announced at the beginning of the session and may include a vote by a show of cards/hands *and* voice, by standing, or by secret ballot. Secret ballots may be taken by written or electronic means.

A vote count may be ordered on call of any delegate or youth representative supported by one-fifth of the delegates present and voting, in which case the delegates shall rise from their seats and stand until counted and/or have an electronic ballot.

No other business shall be in order when a vote is being taken or when the previous question has been called until the process is completed, except such as relates to the vote itself, or that which can be appropriately fitted into the time while waiting for the report of the Secretary regarding a vote.

Article IV—BUSINESS PROCEDURE**Rule 12—Calendar: Regular and Non-Concurrent Reports**

The Secretary shall keep a chronological record of orders of the day and reports of committees (Rule 42). This record shall be called the calendar. The matters of business placed on it shall be considered in order, unless by a two-thirds vote of the Conference an item is taken up out of its order.

Reports recommending non-concurrence shall be kept on a separate calendar to be taken up when the regular calendar is exhausted or at the pleasure of the Conference, except when a minority presents a report recommending concurrence, in which case both shall be included in the regular calendar.

Rule 13--Motion for Adoption of Reports and Resolutions Unnecessary

Whenever a report of a committee signed by the chairperson and secretary thereof, or a resolution signed by two or more members of the Conference, shall be presented to the Conference for its action, it shall be deemed in proper order for consideration by the Conference without the formality of a motion to adopt and a second thereto.

Rule 14—Required Forms for Reports, Resolutions, Motions

When requested by the Secretary, motions, including amendments, shall be presented in writing signed by the author.

Rule 15—Reading of Report and Resolutions

Resolutions, committee reports, and communications to the Conference shall be read by the Secretary, except as provided in Rule 43.

Article V – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**Rule 16—Challenge to Ruling of Presiding Officer**

Any ruling by the presiding officer shall be subject to an appeal to the Conference by any delegate or youth representative, without debate, except that the presiding officer and the person who appeals, in that order, shall each have three minutes for a statement in support of their respective positions. A tie vote in the case of an appeal shall sustain the presiding officer. Any delegate or youth representative who raises a point of order shall cite by number the rule adjudged violated.

Rule 17—Division of Question

Before a vote is taken any delegate shall have the right to call for a division of any question, if it is subject to such division. If no delegate objects, the division shall be made, but if there is objection the presiding officer shall put the question of division to a vote, not waiting for a second.

Rule 18—Alterations of Motions, etc.

When a motion is made and seconded and stated by the presiding officer or a resolution is introduced and seconded, or a committee report is read or published in the *Daily Christian Advocate*, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the Conference, and may not be altered except by action of the Conference.

Rule 19—Non-debatable Motions

The following motions shall be acted upon without debate:

- (1) To adjourn, when unqualified, except to adjourn the conference finally;
- (2) To suspend a rule or rules;
- (3) To lay upon the table;
- (4) To take from the table;
- (5) To call for the previous question;
- (6) To reconsider a non-debatable motion;
- (7) To limit or extend the limits of the debate; and
- (8) To call for an order of the day.

**Rule 20—Right of “The Main Question”**

The main question may be opened to debate under the following motions: to adopt, to commit, to substitute, to postpone, and to reconsider. No new motion, resolution, or subject shall be entertained until the one under consideration shall have been disposed of, except as provided in Rule 11. The foregoing does not apply to secondary motions if otherwise allowable in the existing parliamentary situation.

Rule 21—Precedence of Secondary Motions

If any one or more of the following motions shall be made when one or more other motions are pending, the order of their precedence in relation to one another shall be the same as the order of their listing below:

- (1) To fix the time at which the Conference shall adjourn (subject to amendment, or it may be laid upon the table);
- (2) To adjourn;
- (3) To take recess;
- (4) To raise a question of privilege;
- (5) To call for an order of the day;
- (6) To order the previous question;
- (7) To lay upon the table;
- (8) To postpone to a given time;
- (9) To limit or extend the limits of debate;
- (10) To refer;
- (11) To amend or to substitute (one amendment being allowed to an amendment);
- (12) To postpone indefinitely.

Rule 22—Tabling Related Motions

No motion that adheres to another motion, or has another motion adhering to it, can be laid upon the table by itself. Such motions, if laid upon the table, carry with them the motion to which they adhere, or which adhere to them.

Rule 23—Reference of Section of a Report

It shall be in order for the Conference to refer to a committee a section or a part of a report or resolution that is before the Conference for consideration, or any amendment thereto.

Rule 24—Procedure for Consideration of Substitutes

When a resolution or committee report is properly before the Conference for consideration and action (even if amendments thereto are pending), a substitute therefore may be offered by any delegate or youth representative moving that the same be substituted for the resolution or report under consideration. The presiding officer shall decide whether the motion to substitute is in fact a *bonafide* substitute for all that is under consideration and not a motion to amend by substitution.

If the substitute is ruled in order, the Conference shall then proceed to perfect the original report or resolution, including consideration and action upon any amendments that may be offered to it. The same perfecting process shall then be followed with respect to the substitute. The questions shall be put first on the motion to substitute, followed by the motion to adopt the report or resolution; provided, however, that the motion for the previous question shall not be in order on the adoption of the report or recommendation or on making the proposed substitution until opportunity has been given for at least two delegates or youth representatives to speak on each side of the question of substitution or adoption.

Rule 25—Previous Question

When any delegate or youth representative moves the previous question (that is, that the vote be now taken on the motion or motions pending), that delegate or youth representative shall indicate to what he or she intends it to apply, if any secondary motion or motions are also pending. If the delegate or youth representative does not so indicate, it shall be regarded as applying only to the immediately pending question. This motion shall be taken without debate, and shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting for its adoption, and if adopted the vote shall be taken on the motion or motions to which it applies without further debate, except as provided in Rule 24.

Rule 26—Unlawful Motion After Speech

It shall not be in order for a delegate or youth representative, immediately after discussing a pending question and before relinquishing the floor, to make a motion whose adoption would limit or stop debate.

Rule 27—Exceptions to Majority Vote

A majority of those voting, a quorum being present, shall decide all questions, with the following exceptions:

- (1) One-fifth of those present and voting shall suffice to sustain a call for a vote count (Rule 11).
- (2) A two-thirds vote of those present and voting shall be required to sustain a motion to suspend (Rule 30) or amend (Rule 31) the rules; to sustain a motion for the previous question (Rule 25); to take a calendar item out of order (Rule 12); to set aside an order of the day; to consider an order of the day before the time set therefore; or any motion which adoption would limit debate.

Rule 28—Reconsideration

A motion to reconsider an action of the Conference shall be in order at any time, if offered by a member who voted with the prevailing side. If the motion it is proposed to reconsider is non-debatable, the motion to reconsider may not be debated.

Rule 29—Motions to Adjourn

The motion to adjourn, when unqualified, shall be taken without debate, and shall always be in order, except when

- (1) a delegate or youth representative has the floor;
- (2) a question is actually put, or a vote is being taken and before it is finally decided;
- (3) the previous question has been ordered and action thereunder is pending;
- (4) motion to adjourn has been lost, and no business or debate has intervened; or
- (5) the motion to fix the time at which the Conference shall adjourn is pending.

The foregoing does not apply to a motion for final adjournment of the Conference.

Rule 30—Suspending Rules

The operation of any of the provisions of this Plan of Organization or these Rules of Order may be suspended at any time by two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting. (Rule 27, (2)).

Rule 31—Amending Rules

The Plan of Organization and these Rules of Order may be amended or changed by two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting (Rule 27(2)), provided the proposed change or amendment has been presented to the Conference in writing and referred to the Committee on Rules, which committee shall report thereon no later than the day following.



Rule 32—Robert’s Rules of Order Revised Supplemental Authority

In any parliamentary situation not clearly covered by the Plan of Organization or these Rules of Order, the Jurisdictional Conference shall be governed in its action by the current edition Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised.

Article VI - ELECTION OF BISHOPS

Rule 33—Election Process

The process for the election of bishops shall be governed by the rules set forth in *The Book of Discipline*¹⁸ as supplemented by this Article.

Rule 34—Nominations

In addition to nominations to the episcopacy by an Annual Conference, as provided by *The Book of Discipline*¹⁹, the NEJ shall recognize nominations made by national racial and ethnic caucuses, as listed in the current edition of the BoD, or by their NEJ-related caucuses.

If the nomination is brought forward by a group or caucus, other than as provided in this Rule, a group of not more than six (6) persons comprised of three (3) current bishops (selected by the College of Bishops) and three (3) members of the Vision Table (selected by the Vision Table) shall decide whether to allow the nomination to be brought to the Jurisdictional Conference. The chairperson of this group shall be selected by the President of the College of Bishops.

Other persons may be nominated who receive ten (10) votes, or five (5) percent of the valid votes cast, whichever is less.²⁰

All elders in full connection with any annual conference in the connection are eligible to be elected to the office of bishop.²¹

Rule 35—Nominee Advocacy

Nominees may engage in Christian conversation with individuals and groups, including communication by any means, but shall not initiate these conversations. Mass-produced advocacy materials, mass mailings by electronic or postal means; social media campaigns; campaign paraphernalia; and fundraising for the purpose of campaigning or supporting/opposing a nominee for the episcopacy are prohibited. Endorsements of nominees (Rule 34) by annual conferences; national racial and ethnic caucuses, as listed in the current edition of the BoD, or their NEJ-related caucus; and other organizations related to The UMC are permitted only on those organizations’ websites. Direct, unsolicited communication with NEJ delegates regarding endorsements are prohibited.

Rule 36—NEJ Episcopal Nominee Information

Biographical information of episcopal nominees, approved in writing by the nominee, shall be furnished to the Secretary on or before a date set by the Secretary. The Episcopacy Committee shall establish a standard format for such information that includes pertinent and helpful information, standard as to style and length, and a photograph. The Jurisdictional Secretary shall forward the information to the delegates and the reserve delegates at least two (2) weeks in advance of the meeting

¹⁸ ¶405, 2012 BoD.

¹⁹ ¶405.1, 2012 BoD.

²⁰ ¶405.1, 2012 BoD.

²¹ ¶403.1, 2012 BoD.

of the Jurisdictional Conference.²² No other promotional or informational material shall be exhibited or distributed except as provided in Rule 35.

When a person who is not a nominee of an Annual Conference; a national racial or ethnic caucus, as listed in the current edition of the BoD, or their NEJ-related caucus; or receives ten (10) votes, or five (5) percent of the valid votes cast, whichever is less (Rule 34), the Jurisdictional Secretary shall forthwith prepare and distribute to the delegates and reserve delegates information concerning that nominee.²³

Rule 37—Interviews

The Jurisdictional Secretary shall prepare a schedule that allows delegates an opportunity to participate in an interview process with each episcopal nominee, prior to the commencement of voting. To the extent space is available, reserve delegates and visitors may observe the interviews. Additional interviews may be scheduled by each annual conference delegation, as it desires.

Rule 38—Voting

The Vision Table, in consultation with the Jurisdictional Secretary and the Program and Arrangements Committee, shall establish a voting procedure whereby each delegate shall cast a secret ballot.

If balloting is by electronic method, those nominees forwarded by an annual conference or recognized caucus shall be given a numeric ballot code, in alphabetical order. Following those nominees, all elders who are delegates or reserve delegates shall be assigned numeric ballot codes, in alphabetical order. A list of names and balloting codes shall be provided to the delegates.

Paper ballots shall be utilized for any write-in candidate. Upon submission of write-in ballots exceeding ten (10) votes or 5% of the valid votes cast for an individual, that person shall receive the next available numeric ballot code, if he or she has not already been assigned a code. When a numeric ballot code is added, the Jurisdictional Secretary shall provide that code to the delegates as soon as possible, but in any event prior to the next ballot.

Jurisdictional Conference delegates, in voting to elect bishops, shall give due consideration to the inclusiveness of the United Methodist Church with respect to sex, race, and national origin, as well as to the nature of superintendency as described in *The Book of Discipline*.²⁴

Prior to each ballot, the presiding officer shall ask for a period of discernment and prayer.

In order for a ballot to be valid it shall contain as many names as there are persons to be elected.

Any ballot for a nominee who has withdrawn shall be invalid.

Balloting shall continue until an eligible person receives sixty (60) percent or more of the valid ballots cast and until all vacancies are filled.²⁵

Rule 39—Withdrawal

A nominee, upon being recognized by the presiding officer, may announce his/her withdrawal. The presiding officer, upon request, may permit a withdrawing nominee to make a brief comment, without reference for or against the election of other nominees.

²² ¶405.1, 2012 BoD.

²³ ¶405.1, 2012 BoD.

²⁴ ¶405.2a, 2012 BoD.

²⁵ ¶405.2b, 2012 BoD.



Rule 40—Consecration

Consecration of bishops may take place at the session of the Jurisdictional Conference at which election occurs, or at a place and time designated by the Conference.²⁶ The Consecration Service may include bishops from other Jurisdictional and Central Conferences and representatives from other Christian Communions.²⁷

Article VII - COMMITTEES

Rule 41—Duties and Prerogatives

When a memorial or resolution or any similar item is referred to a committee, it shall be understood that the whole question with which the paper has to do is referred for action. Reports to the Conference upon all matters referred as resolutions, memorials, petitions, etc., shall cite the same, identifying them by the numbers they bear respectively, or in some other suitable manner.

When a committee ascertains that another committee is or should, in its judgment, be considering a subject, which the former is also considering, it shall proceed to arrange for a conference of representative committees in order to settle the question at issue.

Rule 42—Copies of Reports to Secretary

At the close of each meeting, the chairperson or secretary of each NEJ committee shall provide the Jurisdictional Secretary with a copy of all reports adopted for the purpose of presentation to the Conference. The Secretary shall enter said reports onto the calendar in the order received and shall furnish the editor of the *Daily Christian Advocate* with one copy of each of said reports for publication in the next issue.

Rule 43—Published Reports in Possession of Conference

A report of any committee signed by the chairperson and secretary thereof and printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* and succeeding digests shall be regarded as in the possession of the Conference on the day following its first appearance, or any time thereafter, in order for its consideration at the pleasure of the Conference.

²⁶ ¶405.2c, 2012 BoD.

²⁷ ¶405.2c, 2012 BoD.

APPENDIX

2016 EPISCOPAL NOMINEES WITH ENDORSEMENTS/NOMINATIONS



Adrienne Brewington
New York
Annual Conference



We (Hyun) Chang
New England
Annual Conference;
National Federation of
Asian American UMC



Irving Cotto
M.A.R.C.H.A.



LaTrelle E. Easterling
New England
Annual Conference



Joseph S. Kenaston
West Virginia
Annual Conference



Kenneth J. Kieffer
New York
Annual Conference



Jisun Kwak
Greater New Jersey
Annual Conference;
National Federation of
Asian American UMC



Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
Baltimore Washington
Annual Conference; NEJ
Black Methodists for
Church Renewal



Derrick E. Porter
Peninsula-Delaware
Conference Delegation



Cathy Hall Stengel
Upper New York
Annual Conference



Rebekah Beth Sweet
Upper New York
Annual Conference

SUMMARY OF BALLOTS FOR ELECTED LEADERS

	Cynthia Moore-Koikoi	LaTrelle Easterling
Ballot	11	17
Number Cast	171	168
Invalid	3	0
Valid	168	168
Needed to Elect	101	101
Received	108	119

NEJ EPISCOPAL ADDRESS, JULY 2016 – BISHOP SUDARSHANA DAVADHAR

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ of the Northeastern Jurisdiction, I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Will you pray with me? (prayer)

As I begin this Episcopal Address, let us reflect on Paul's words in his letter to the Ephesians:

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." Ephesians 4:4-6 (NRSV)

We are meeting this week in one of the epicenters of the quilting world. Lancaster hosts annual quilt shows with participants from all over the world, so it makes sense that we United Methodists would pick up on the quilting theme to reflect on who we are as we gather together for holy conferencing here in Lancaster.

The American Quilter's Society, sponsor of Lancaster's "Quilt Week," which was held in March of this year

...believes that with inspiration and advice, creative individuals can take quilting projects beyond anything they have previously imagined. That is why inspiration is central to everything they do. The leading authors in quilting choose to publish with AQS, the best in quilt artistry display their work at AQS events, and the newest quilters learn from the knowledge and inspiration of AQS members.²⁸

The tradition of quilting goes back to the earliest days of settlers living in this part of the country. According to the organization, "Quilting in America," based in Lubbock, Texas,

The quilt, as we know it in America, was originally a strictly utilitarian article, born of the necessity of providing warm covers for beds. Quilts were also used as hangings for doors and windows that were not sealed well enough to keep out the cold. The earliest American quilts, made by English and Dutch settlers, were so intimately connected to everyday life of the early colonists that no record of them exists.²⁹

Today, quilting has become a form of art that goes beyond the mere utilitarian use it still has. A quilt is composed of many individual pieces of fabric that are sewn together to form a mosaic picture that reflects the designer's artistic vision or simply tells a story or calls attention to an event, landmark or season of the year.

When we apply the analogy of quilting to our jurisdiction of United Methodism, we, too, come up with a mosaic picture comprised of individual annual conferences representing thousands of individual churches across a vast geography. It is our connection as United Methodists that brings us together despite different points of view, theologies, cultures, accents, races, sexual orientations, and political affiliations as well as

²⁸ <http://www.quiltweek.com/>

²⁹ <http://www.quilting-in-america.com/History-of-Quilts.html>



the great diversity of people who have come to live in the northeast from other parts of the country or the world. There is a rich diversity of individual pieces of cloth that are sewn together. As United Methodists, we are quilted together in connection because of our common faith tradition founded on the love of God in and through Jesus Christ.

When the pieces that have been sewn together are stitched into a quilt, the entire fabric becomes stronger and durable. Without the quilting, the cloth portraits would be vulnerable to fraying and would not stand up to the test of time.

On the screen now is a photo of an 1809 quilt—207 years old! Similarly, our Methodist connection in this part of the United States traces its beginning back 250 years—to 1766 and the very first Methodist societies that were formed in Baltimore and New York. We are here today because of the strength of the stitching that has bound us together for 250 years: “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.”

When Paul wrote these words, he, too, was referring to the quilted connection we hold with one another in our shared faith in Christ. He also makes reference to the one hope of our calling. This is a promise to hold on to and run with, especially in these times. Please allow me to describe some of the stitching that binds us together as witnesses for Christ in our present age in the Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church. There is so much to celebrate. Just as quilters make a beautifully designed warm blanket by sewing together individual pieces of fabric, we become a beautiful creation when we connect our vital ministries and mission across the jurisdiction.

Picture a large quilt. If we start in the upper left corner, we see the block that shows the beauty and strength of our common vision. This past quadrennium, our NEJ Vision Table gathered together our Extended Cabinets, Boards of Ordained Ministry, and young and emerging leaders for the “See/Know/Love” Transformational Leadership Conference in Hershey, PA. Over 600 new and emerging leaders came together for networking and resourcing our church. New conversations and relationships began that planted seeds of fruits that we will see in the years to come.

Now move over one block to the right in this jurisdictional quilt to another piece highlighting our shared mission. This year marks the 30th anniversary of Mission of Peace organized by the Northeastern Jurisdiction Council on Youth Ministries. As Rev. Dr. J. F. Lacaria writes, “The Mission of Peace was created from the combination of Bishop C. Dale White’s challenge to the NEJCYM to venture out and see the church at work in the world, and the wanderlust of Rev. Gordon Shea, Alfred University campus pastor and NEJ youth worker who was always ready to go someplace interesting in the world.”³⁰.

As we are all aware, this journey of *Shalom* has transformed many youth across the jurisdiction and the fruits of their transformation are yielding more and more fruits across the globe. This quadrennium seven bishops and others joined them in their pilgrimage to the Mission of Peace to India. What a marvelous experience it was for bishops, youth, and leaders! It is impossible to express in human language the joy, breadth, and depth of this pilgrimage. In retrospect I wish we had recorded some of the holy conversations and courageous, yet authentic, questions our youth asked bishops during this pilgrimage.

³⁰ John F. Lacaria: *How Have You Found God Today? Exploring the “Shelf Life” of Religious Experience*. Dayton, Ohio: United Theological Seminary, p.12

Moving over one more block, we see another shining light of our shared work as a jurisdiction: the NEJ network of Boards of Ordained Ministry. For years, they have modeled best practices in collaborative ministry and shared resources. Our Cabinets observed the strength of that network at Hershey and are seeking to build a similar connection together for their work.

If we move to the top right corner of our quilt, we celebrate as a jurisdiction each and every one of you! As the church, beautiful people of God, we need to pause and reach out to our neighbors and thank them for their passion for mission. Even though membership has decreased, the total dollars spent for mission climbed from \$33 per member in 1996 to \$40 per member in 2014. Friends, this increase is higher than the inflation rate! Way to go church! Let us celebrate this...reach out to your neighbor and say to him or her, "Thank you for your passion for mission!"

The remaining blocks of fabric represent some of the amazing ministries and initiatives in our NEJ patchwork from each annual conferences. Today, I want to lift up and celebrate these pieces of fabric that together make up our quilted connection in the jurisdiction. When you hear these stories, you will not only be able to see the beauty of each conference; you will also be able to follow the stitching that binds us as members of the Northeastern Jurisdiction – and more importantly as United Methodist siblings in Christ.

Bishop Marcus Matthews shared:

- With more millennials per capita than any other U.S. city, Washington, D.C. is home to a new faith community, Inspire D.C., that is joining the poor and affluent to work together to feed whole communities of people.
- From providing backpacks to making sure children are fed, to combatting bullying, tutoring and even addressing rampant heroin addiction in area schools, the churches of the Baltimore-Washington Conference are reaching out to children in their communities in innovative and transformative ways.
- When violence and racial unrest erupted in Baltimore, United Methodists were in the streets praying with the people and opening church buildings for meals and support. Bishop Matthews, if I may add, this is the model all of us should follow.

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson shared:

- Each January, the Pen Del Youth Rally brings some 4,000 teenagers to the Ocean City, Maryland, Convention Center for worship, music, inspiration and challenge.
- In May of 2015, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the merger of the Delaware and Philadelphia conferences.
- Also last year, the Southeast District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference raised the funds to build a pediatric unit in Mpasa, Congo, to meet the needs of children and families.

Bishop John Schol shared:

- In the last 10 months, the Greater New Jersey Conference chartered a new Ghanaian congregation with more than 200 singing and dancing worshippers and engaged a new Egyptian faith community



that now has more than 60 worshippers. It is the second Arabic language congregation in Greater New Jersey.

- The primarily Anglo congregation at Morristown United Methodist Church is an example of how vital congregations are pursuing God's call. They have a Korean pastor and launched a new Hispanic ministry on Pentecost Sunday.
- Through "A Future with Hope," Greater New Jersey has now worked with 441 families, teamed up with 11,004 volunteers, to repair or build new 234 homes as part of the Hurricane Sandy recovery effort.

Bishop Jane Middleton shared:

- In the New York Conference, First UMC in Flushing received 59 young adults by profession of faith on Easter Sunday.
- Tien Fu, a Chinese congregation in Brooklyn, worships with 500 on Sunday. Because so many of their members work Sundays, they also host a complete worship with a choir on Monday mornings for several hundred more.

Bishop Mark J. Webb shared:

- Upper New York has more than 50 active new faith communities and several more are in various stages of planning.
- A focus on increasing leadership capacity has led to the development of a leadership academy; the preaching academy, Preaching for Power; peer learning groups and more.
- Renovations have begun for a new conference center that will also house a Mission Central hub of more than 10,000 square feet.

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball shared:

- There is good news in the West Virginia Conference! They are reaching more people for Christ! They are walking more people into discipleship. For the first time in many, many years, total worship attendance is not only up, but up by 4.3%. Professions of faith are up by 10%. Baptisms up 11%.
- For the past three years, West Virginia has focused on "raising the blinds" to see where Christ is present in its communities and seeking to join Christ at work there. They are taking the word "can't" out of their vocabulary, and intentionally working on spiritual formation.

Bishop Thomas Bickerton shared:

- Western Pennsylvania celebrates the ongoing partnership with the Zimbabwe Episcopal Area. Since 2010, the “chabadza covenant” has continued to expand ministries in both annual conferences. Relationships are strengthened as they engage with the leaders of both conferences.
- Western Pennsylvania has an ongoing process for formation of church planters that is in its second year. The cabinet along with their Director of Congregational Development and Parish and Community Development team are working diligently toward a vision for new churches and new places for new people.
- Western Pennsylvania celebrated its 8th consecutive year of paying 100 percent of General and Jurisdictional Apportionments.

Bishop Jeremiah Park shared:

- In the fall of 2013, the Susquehanna Conference began a new initiative called Equipping God’s People or ‘EGP’ that is designed to resource lay people to lead their church toward the type of vitality that responds to a rapidly changing world. Groups of laity are invited to come together across districts, clusters or within their own local church to share together in the study and application of exciting ideas that stretch the boundaries of what we think possible for the church today.
- Since 2013, dozens of EGP courses have been offered across the conference and an estimated 500 laity have responded with enthusiasm and passion for doing out-of-the box ministry within their local churches, communities and beyond. The excitement has only continued to build as new courses are set up throughout the year, and new ideas are taking root where laity and clergy combine efforts to envision God’s Kingdom coming to life in new and transformational ways.

And if you will allow me to share what we are celebrating in the New England Conference:

- Our annual pilgrimage to the Taizé Community in France is awakening and renewing faith in youth and young adults. This year’s Laity Address was delivered by Ashley Johnson, a former teacher and Taizé pilgrim, who is now attending seminary at Boston University School of Theology.
- We have drawn on the incredible resources of the boards and agencies of our general church. With assistance from GCFA, we have analyzed and improved our financial practices and goals and now have access to IT resources and support that would not have been possible otherwise.
- Two years ago, we initiated a transitional workshop for every pastor and congregation preparing for a pastoral change. The workshops include a video made by a rainbow of retired bishops and conference leaders to equip churches and pastors in Cross-racial/Cross-cultural appointments in particular. They have been transformational in leading to quicker acceptance and stronger ministries in these vital appointments.

What an amazing quilt! All across the Northeastern Jurisdiction, the rich fabric of our United Methodist heritage is being woven into new and amazing faith communities and ministries that reach out into the future.



The strong stitching in our quilted connection holds us together as we share in a common witness of the truth and love of Jesus Christ for the people living in the northeast. This quilted connection will bear fruit into the future. When we follow the key lines of thread in our quilted connection, we are led to some of the challenges and opportunities for people living in our midst and the ministries we undertake to address them. Let's take a closer look at these key lines of thread, especially as they relate to the four areas of ministry focus of our church.

Engaging in Ministry with the Poor

As United Methodists, we affirm our call to be in ministry with the poor and marginalized. The key word here is "with." We are called to stand "*with* those who are regarded as 'the least of these,' listening to them, understanding their needs and aspirations, and working with them to achieve their goals."³¹ It involves us in the work of advocacy to address the underlying causes of poverty.

According to a report published by UNICEF, "the United States ranks near the bottom of the pack of wealthy nations on a measure of child poverty...In the richest nation in the world, one in three kids live in poverty."³² According to the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan, "Children represent a disproportionate share of the poor in the United States; they are 24 percent of the total population, but 36 percent of the poor population. In 2010, 16.4 million children, or 22.0 percent, were poor. The poverty rate for children also varies substantially by race and Hispanic origin. Poverty rates for blacks and Hispanics greatly exceed the national average. In 2010, 27.4 percent of blacks and 26.6 percent of Hispanics were poor, compared to 9.9 percent of non-Hispanic whites and 12.1 percent of Asians."³³

Our Northeastern Jurisdiction area includes areas of extreme poverty as well as excess wealth. As we engage in ministry with the poor, we need to continue to encourage our churches to find ways to alleviate the devastation of poverty as well as advocate for ways in which we can address its root causes. Residents of New England, where I serve, are less likely to live in poverty than residents of the U.S. as a whole, but poverty has increased in every New England county in the past decade.³⁴ There are important challenges to all of us in the Northeastern Jurisdiction as we continue to focus our energy, time, and resources in ministries with the poor.

Improving Global Health

We, as United Methodists, know that poverty and health are intertwined. Another area of focus of our church has to do with improving global health. We heard the celebrations of our annual conferences that have forged partnerships with sister conferences in Africa and of the lives that have been saved through our focused efforts to eliminate malaria. As we live into the future of this quilted connection, we need to keep fighting diseases and promote wellbeing everywhere and anywhere. We are close to eradicating malaria in Africa, but there are new challenges on the horizon. We need to be ever vigilant in pursuing the end of diseases such as AIDS, Zika, and Ebola; stopping the increasing impact of climate change on global

³¹ "What are the Four Areas of Ministry Focus?" <http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/four-areas-of-focus-overview>

³² Christopher Ingraham, "Child poverty in the U.S. is among the worst in the developed world," October 29, 2014, in *Wonkblog*, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/10/29/child-poverty-in-the-u-s-is-among-the-worst-in-the-developed-world/>

³³ National Poverty Center, <http://www.npc.umich.edu/poverty/>

³⁴ *American Community Survey/Federal Reserve Bank of Boston*: <https://www.bostonfed.org/commdev/c&b/2012/spring/mapping-New-England-poverty-rates.pdf>

health, as well as the rise of gun violence and drug addiction; and preparing for yet to be known maladies. As the government website, “Healthy People” indicates, “Rarely a week goes by without a headline about the emergence or re-emergence of an infectious disease or other health threat somewhere in the world.”³⁵ As one of the four areas of focus for our church, we, too, are called to do what we can and advocate for the prevention of the spread of disease to protect our health and the health of billions of people worldwide. Friends, if I may go off script for a moment, I don’t think we as a jurisdiction have thanked Bishop Bickerton publicly for his vision and leadership in guiding us through the Imagine No Malaria campaign. Will you all please join me in thanking him?

Developing Principled Leaders

As United Methodists, gathered in quilted connection, we reaffirm our commitment to develop principled leaders. As we have asserted as a denomination:

The church needs leaders rooted in Christ, who have a vision for changing the world. Today’s young people have fearless hearts, vibrant ideas and a passion for ministry. Their talents should be nurtured to shape the church’s path into the future. The church must recruit young people — including women and people of color the world over — for ministry, equip them to be effective leaders and be open to where they want to lead us. We also must strengthen lay members, who are ministering at every level of the church.³⁶

We lifted up examples of how some of our newer ministries are developing younger principled leaders. We mentioned . . .

- Baltimore Washington’s Inspire DC as a leadership incubator for millennials.
- Peninsula-Delaware’s Youth Rally providing inspiration and motivation.
- New Jersey’s recruitment of new people through their Ghanaian congregation and the addition of a second Arabic-speaking community of faith.
- New York’s First UMC in Flushing having received 59 young adults through professions of faith.
- Upper New York’s Leadership Academy.
- West Virginia’s increase in attendance, professions of faith and baptisms.
- Western Pennsylvania’s process of forming church planters.
- Susquehanna’s initiative on Equipping God’s People.
- And New England’s pilgrimages to Taizé and how they are providing the entryway for new pastoral vocations.

All of these initiatives are fulfilling the call to develop principled leaders for next generation of the church. We give praise to God.

Creating New and Renewed Congregations

Finally, as United Methodists, we are committed to finding new places for new people. We celebrate the many innovative ways in which this is happening across our quilted connection of the northeast. From dinner churches in Massachusetts to Hot Metal bridges in Pennsylvania and many other new expressions

³⁵ “Global Health,” in <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/global-health>

³⁶ “Developing Principled Christian Leaders,” in <http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/four-areas-of-focus-overview>



of church, we give thanks to United Methodist leaders who are helping create new places where new people can come to know the joy of Christian fellowship and commit their lives to follow Jesus Christ.

Last month as I was watching the live stream of my former home conference, I was thoroughly enjoying it, laughing with joy. My wife Prema kept reminding me to quiet down, but I was so excited to be watching the worship service led by youth and young adults at the Upper New York Annual Conference. It was a worshipful experience and a teaching moment seized by the youth.

However, as much as we celebrate our children, youth and young adults, we as a jurisdiction lost 49% of our children and 32% of our youth and experienced a 58% decline in baptisms between the years of 1996 and 2014. Friends, this is a very serious concern. Harvard professor, Robert D. Putnam explains the gravity of this loss when he says, “Churchgoing kids have better relations with their parents and other adults, have more friendships with high-performing peers, are more involved in sports and other extracurricular activities, are less prone to substance abuse (drugs, alcohol, and smoking), risky behavior (like not wearing seat belts), and delinquency (shoplifting, misbehaving in school, and being suspended or expelled). As with mentoring, religious involvement-when it happens-makes a bigger difference in the lives of poor kids than rich kids, in part because affluent youth are more exposed to other positive influences.”³⁷

These are times of challenge and promise. I believe we are called to continue to improve upon the ministry of church “as we have always known it” while at the same time creating new models of ministry that will carry us forward into the future. We see it happening, and we need to have the courage and fortitude to follow the movement of the Holy Spirit to allow new expressions of church to take form.

During a recent trip to Cincinnati, I visited a wonderful downtown museum on the banks of the Ohio River that honors the many people who helped slaves from the south escape to the north. Coincidentally, this building where we are meeting stands on the site of parts of the Underground Railroad. You can see the evidence on display downstairs. In Cincinnati, “The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center,” includes the largest exhibition of African American quilts ever assembled. On view now and throughout the summer, 85 quilts tell the history of 400 years of slavery. There is one quilt that takes up an entire wall, and it took the quilter 35 years to complete. I am told some quilts that tell a long story are purposely left “unfinished” because the story itself is unfinished.

It is like that for the work of the church. Bishop Joseph Yeakel, addressing this same Jurisdictional Conference 20 years ago, referred to The United Methodist Church as “The Unfinished Church.” It is unfinished in the sense that God is not yet finished with us. It is unfinished because God still has work for us to do and is counting on us to keep going, to keep witnessing, to keep championing the causes that have made a positive impact on our world. One of the points that Bishop Yeakel emphasized 20 years ago is the work of United Methodists that is conciliar. “I’d like to be part of a Church that’s conciliar. Not tied to creeds and faith statements—although we use and need faith statements. But a Church that believes God is still speaking! And so we meet in council to counsel together to understand God’s will. A conciliar Church.”³⁸

³⁷ Robert D. Putnam. *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2015, p. 224.

³⁸ Bishop Joseph Yeakel, “Episcopal Address,” 1996 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, p. 67.

Conciliarism is very much a part of the DNA of Methodism. In his book, the late Bishop David J. Lawson speaks about the early Methodists and conferences, and he reminds us that bathed in prayer, the conference spent five days together asking two fundamental questions: "What to teach?...[and] What to do? or How to regulate the doctrine, discipline, and practice of the ministry and the society."³⁹ He continues to write, "There is a major difference between 'conferencing' and 'legislating.' Conferencing as a style implies open and respectful sharing of ideas and experience as we seek for better wisdom. As our church has grown large and more complex, it was thought that our conferences needed a legislative style. The new style requires parliamentary procedure, motions and amendments, debate and political coalitions. However, we are still at our best when we follow the spirit of 'conferencing.'"⁴⁰

I agree with Bishop Yeakel: I want to be part of a church that is conciliar! I am also thankful to Bishop Lawson for reminding us that, "The originating purpose of the conference was 'to aid in preserving unity, to encourage those who most suffered from mobs and social ostracism, to maintain the organization of the societies, and to allow for the systematic transferring of the pastors from one point to another.'"⁴¹

What a prophetic statement! We cannot talk about unity on the surface without attacking ghosts that ruin the fabric of God's creation. Friends, it is no longer time for the church to do "business as usual." We as a church need to be the clear and loud voices of the voiceless, poor, marginalized, LGBTQIA community, and imprisoned who cannot speak for themselves. We cannot keep silent when black lives are being lost in our neighborhoods, and some people are saying we need more walls when we, the church, should be challenging them to tear down all kinds of walls and helping to build bridges. We cannot ignore our poor churches that are doing transformational ministries in places that need competent pastors. We cannot remain silent as a church when heroin addiction is destroying families and communities, gun violence is threatening our very being, and genocide and terrorism continue to add to our refugee crisis. We cannot remain silent; we need to be active peacemakers or as stated by one of our young adults, Ashley Johnson, "If we are really committed to planting seeds of trust that have the potential to positively change the landscape and diet of our society, we're going to have to get dirty, and we will need all hands on deck."⁴²

What if we took a break from following *Roberts Rules of Order* and instead yielded ourselves completely to the hands of God, trusting the Holy Spirit to take over in our all our deliberations? Church, are we courageous enough to do this or do we fall into the trap like what we saw occur in the General Conference, spending almost three days talking about Rule 44?

What if our annual conferences were a means of grace, transforming hearts and minds to embrace God's vision for the church? What if Holy Conferencing was so clearly our priority that when our clergy and laity returned to their mission stations, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and passionately in love with God, Christ, and neighbors, the people back home asked them, 'What wine did you drink, oops...what grape juice did you drink at the Annual Conference?'"

We are a "quilted connection." We are invited to remember always that we are called to the one hope of our calling, by the one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God of all, who is above all and through all and in

³⁹ David J. Lawson. *Hungering for the Future: Whispers of Hope for a Church in Mission*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996, pp 126-127.

⁴⁰ Ibid, p. 127

⁴¹ Ibid, p. 126

⁴² Ashley Renee Johnson. *Laity Address*, New England Annual Conference, June 17, 2016.



all.” We are called to be one, big, beautiful, pieced fabric. The stitching that unites us holds us together despite differing perspectives on what God is calling us to be and do in this present age. Perhaps we are an “unfinished quilt” because God has more pieces to include in the great mosaic of fabric that tells the story of our faith and lives and history and future. Perhaps we are an unfinished quilt because God has wonderful new ministries for us if only we would listen attentively to the movement of God’s spirit in our midst.

Friends, these are challenging, yet exciting, times to be in ministry. My prayer is that the fabric of our lives remains stitched together as we move forward as people of God in ministry and mission to the northeast—a quilted connection!

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