

Northeastern Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee
 Episcopal Candidate Information Form 2016



General Information

Name	We (Hyun) Chang
Conference Membership	Elder in full connection
Nominated by	New England Annual Conference/National Federation of Asian American United Methodists
Years able to serve if elected	20

Work Experience

List all appointments	Faith UMC, Chicopee, MA, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH, First UMC, Manchester, NH, Belmont-Watertown UMC, Belmont & Watertown, MA Teacher at a night school for factory workers in Seoul, Korea
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Personal Development

Influential Books & Renewal Study	<i>The Bible</i> , Writings by Pope Francis, Henri Nouwen, John Cobb Myungsoo Yang, A Clergy Spiritual Renewal Retreat with Marjorie Thompson
Racial Diversity Training	Anti-Racism training as a member of BOOM
Language Facility Special Interests	Korean, English, Singing in a choir,
Self-Care	Sabbath keeping/fasting/cooking/exercise/time with family

Personal Assessment

Gifts & Evidence of God's Grace	Gifts of openness, prophetic spirit, articulation, joy, preaching/teaching the Bible, asking questions, loving people, community organizing, social/global awareness,
Indication of Effectiveness	Organized and launched New England Justice For Our Neighbors. Led an urban congregation to begin homeless outreach ministries in the city and worked with ecumenical and community partners to open a day service center for the homeless. Oversaw a missional merger of two congregations that paved the way to be in mission to and with over 25 recovery groups. Led a 4 year Korea Peace Plan for UMC during 2012-2016. Facilitated two GC/JC delegation as the first elected clergy. Chaired a subcommittee at two GC. Led each congregation that I served to seek and practice a deeper level of discipleship, stewardship, and advocacy.
Area for Further Development	Self-care, third language skill, pace-setting
Style of Leadership	Prayerful, Collaborative, Visionary, Prophetic,

Questions

Briefly describe the process which lead you to discern the call to the office bishop.

After my election as a delegate to GC 2012, there were a number of invitations including the one from New England delegation to consider the office of episcopacy. Every time I was asked, I respectfully yet immediately declined. Since these external calls, I began discerning my inner call through prayer, journaling, trusted conversations, and silence. I paid more attention to the movement of God's Spirit in my work and experiences in the life of the church. My experiences at three general and jurisdictional conferences, my work on the Committees on Episcopacy both AC/JC, my involvement in ministries with the poor and the marginalized in diverse levels of the church and the society, and a prayerful and reflective discernment with the New England delegation helped me discern that there is a need for

leadership both for the church and the society and that I may have gifts to offer to such a leadership to help the Church to move with God's ever inclusive love and restorative justice.

The Role of the Bishop in The United Methodist Church is delineated in paragraph 403 of The Book of Discipline. After reading this paragraph, please share how you are called and equipped to fulfill the responsibilities. Please elaborate on ¶ 403.1 and e-f.

God's deep and abiding relationship with me has been a firm foundation of my being and a horizon of my becoming. This relationship is where and how I feel both called and equipped to fulfill the responsibilities of a bishop with a sense of deep humility and of calm assurance. This sacred relationship will continue to anchor and renew my spirit in a way that invites others to go more deeply and widely with God. This trustworthy relationship will continue to help me to lead the Church to learn and grow together, not just by seeking right answers, but by asking more honest questions. This ever-growing relationship will continue to lead me and the Church to a new depth of God's truth and challenge me and the Church to walk toward a new horizon of God's justice. I would fulfill the responsibilities of the bishop by leading myself and the Church to be led by this open and growing relationship with God.

As an immigrant and a pastor who has been in cross-racial/cross-cultural appointments for over 20 years, I have learned what it means to journey and live in the midst of different biblical, theological, and cultural understandings and convictions. I have experienced the amazing gifts of grace that come alive when we allow ourselves to be in such cross-over experiences and journeys with an attitude of humility and openness. Growing diversity in our global UMC, I believe, should not be a wall that divides us but an opportunity for us to learn and practice a new sense of unity that is able to bring the gifts of grace to our divided church and our globalizing world. I feel especially called and prepared to help the Church to walk in a path of unity that celebrates and enriches the gift of diversity for the sake of God's Kingdom.

I believe that the work of administration becomes the ministry of Christ when it builds trust in the life of the church and leads all in ministry to be authentic and faithful to the Gospel calling. As a bishop I will work together with the annual conference to foster a sense of trust through integrity, transparency, and accountability that is both restorative and transformative. If elected, I will do my best in helping the Council of the Bishops and a new commission to create a Way Forward with new languages in the Book of Discipline so that all in our connection can truly uphold and follow the Discipline with their conscience and faithfulness. I will do my best to uphold the Discipline and order of the church in ways that are authentic to the Gospel and faithful to Wesleyan holiness.

How would you as a new bishop collaborate with your colleagues on the College of Bishops to be spiritual and missional leaders for the whole jurisdiction so that NEJ better fulfills the mission and ministry of Christ Jesus?

I believe that when each bishop brings their own true and whole self to one another, the Council and College of the Bishops becomes a means of grace for spiritual companionship, honest discernment, and loving accountability for the sake of mission of Christ Jesus. As a new bishop, I would bring my true and whole self to the College with honesty and integrity and would work together with the College to foster a deeper sense of courageous community and accountable connection in the life of the NEJ.

How would you as a new bishop share the good news of Christ Jesus inviting, engaging, connecting with persons in your assigned area who are not currently active in a faith community so that you might become a leader and model for making disciples?

I would share the good news of Christ Jesus by following the way Jesus modeled discipleship and ministry. Jesus made disciples by 'going to them and meeting them where they were.' Jesus went to places of suffering and struggles to embody the good news of God's love and justice. I would invite, engage, and connect with the unchurched by choosing to go and be in places where people suffer and struggle and would try to embody God's love and justice through my presence, voice, and action.

Describe how you would equip the United Methodists of your area for ministry and evangelism in our culture context? People love Jesus, whether they are in or outside of the church. I would invite United Methodists to bring Jesus to the core of who we are and what we do both as individuals and the church. I would work together with all to discern and learn new, truthful, and exciting ways to incarnate Jesus into the life of United Methodists. The best evangelism, I believe, is to make Jesus and his boundless love and justice shine in the hearts of suffering people and the dark corners of the world through who and how we are as followers of Christ.