



LATRELLE MILLER EASTERLING ELECTED BISHOP

New England superintendent elevated to episcopacy

By Maidstone Mulenga

DCA Editor

LaTrelle Miller Easterling, Metro Boston Hope district superintendent in the New England Conference, has been elected a bishop of The United Methodist Church. She was elected Thursday morning on the 17th ballot of the 2016 Northeastern Jurisdiction Conference in Lancaster, Pa.

“I always, always, always stand on the side of justice,” she said after she was introduced to the gathering by Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, “but I draw the circle wide enough for all of us to be there - and when I say all, I mean all.”

Devadhar called Easterling “a prophetess, a pastor who leads the church from her spiritual center, and above all, a beloved sister in Christ who always, always has a passion for the marginalized.”

Easterling served three local churches in the New England Conference, including Union UMC in Boston, where she was the first woman pastor in the church’s 200-year history. She was appointed to the New England Cabinet in 2012 and selected as dean in 2016. She has also served as co-chair of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and has twice been elected as a delegate to General Conference. A trained diversity facilitator, Easterling has helped develop curriculum and training materials for the New England Conference.

Bishop-elect Easterling and Bishop-elect Moore-Koikoi, who was elected on the 11th ballot on Wednesday evening, will be consecrated today at 11:15 a.m. at First UMC, Lancaster.

The two new bishops will fill positions left open by the retirement of Bishop Marcus Matthews and the death of Bishop Martin McLee.



Latrelle Miller Easterling reacts to election announcement on Thursday morning. Profile on page 18.

Daily Christian Advocate

The Daily Christian Advocate is the official daily record for the Northeastern Jurisdictional (NEJ) Conference. The NEJ is composed of nine Episcopal areas (composing 10 annual conferences), from New England to West Virginia.

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Corrections

Please email corrections in the Daily Christian Advocate to DCA Editor Maidstone Mulenga (maidstonem@gmail.com)

DCA copy deadline for each day is 5 p.m. Please submit the information electronically.

2016 NEJ Conference Staff

Vision Table

Bishop Marcus Matthews,
Chair

Candace Carter, Vice-Chair

Thomas J. Salsgiver, Secretary

David W. Simpson, Treasurer

Annual Conference Boundaries

Committee Chair

Timothy R. Baer

Episcopacy Committee Chair

Bonnie Marden

Finance and Administration

Committee Chair

Edward C. Horne

Program and Arrangements

Committee Chair

Boyd B. Etter

Rules Committee Chair

Jen Ihlo

Board of Laity Chair or

Representative

Scott Johnson

Ordained Ministry Committee

Chair

Virginia Samuel

Youth

Taylor Hamilton

Helena Cecilia Hamilton-Turner

Young Adult Council

Ashley Riddell

Jeffrey Hooker

Members At Large

Dawn E. Taylor-Storm

NEJ Secretary

Thomas L. Salsgiver

Assistant Secretary

Sharon Darlynn McCrae

Treasurer

David Simpson

Assistant Treasurer

Jennifer Williams

Registrar

Sylvia Simpson

Daily Christian Advocate Editor
Maidstone Mulenga

Friday Agenda

Time	Activity/Group	Meeting Room
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	Heritage
9:30 a.m.	Closing	
9:45-10:30 a.m.	Area meetings with assigned Bishops	
	Baltimore-Washington	Hickory A
	Eastern PA & Pen-Del	Heritage
	Greater New Jersey	Independence A
	New England	Hickory
	New York	Independence B
	Susquehanna	Federal A
	Upper New York	Federal B
	West Virginia	Conestoga 2
	Western PA	Conestoga 1
11:15 a.m.	Consecration of Bishops	
1:00 p.m.	Adjournment	

Future NEJ Conference sites

Baltimore-Washington Conference will host the 2020 NEJ Conference. Western Pennsylvania Conference's motion to host 2024 NEJ Conference was approved.

Missing information for Vision Table/Board of Ordained Ministry

Investigation

Chairperson: William B. Meekins, Jr., WPA

Vice Chairperson: Lorene Wilbur, NE

Secretary: Megan Shitama Weston, PD

Appeals

Chairperson: Jen Ihlo, BW

Vice Chairperson: Lawrence Pelham, PD

Secretary: Alyce Weaver Dunn, WPA

Program and Arrangements

Chairperson: Tony Love, BW

Vice Chairperson: Vicki Stahlman, WP

Secretary: Shirlyn Henry Brown, PD

Boundaries

Chairperson: William Shillady, NY

Vice Chairperson: Lydia E. Munoz, EPA

Secretary: Conrad O. Link, BW

Episcopacy Committee

Chairperson: Bonnie Marden, NE

Vice Chairperson: T.R. Chattin, BW

Vice Chairperson: Tom Link, GNJ

Secretary: Tim Riss, NY

Secretary: Sharon Gregory, WP

Finance and Administration

Chairperson: Sherri Rood, UNY

Vice Chairperson: Rosa Williams, GNJ

Secretary: Marlon Tilghman, BW

Rules

Chairperson: Jen Ihlo, BW

Vice Chairperson: Janet Harman, WV

Secretary: J.J. Warren, UNY

2016 NEJ Conference Boards and Agencies

General Council on Finance and Administration	Ow, Kenneth	BW	AS	Lay	Male
General Council on Finance and Administration	Colorado, Judy	GNJ	AS	Lay	Female
Connectional Table	Brewington, Fred	NY	AA	Lay	Male
Connectional Table	Kenaston, Judi	WV	W	Lay	Female
Connectional Table	Meekins Jr., William B.	WPA	AA	Clergy	Male
General Board of Church and Society	Rivera, Edgardo	BW	H	Clergy	Male
General Board of Church and Society	Campbell, William Martin	NE	W	Clergy	Male
General Board of Church and Society	Kind, Kathy	SU	W	Clergy	Female
General Board of Church and Society (YA)	O'Flynn, Riley	UNY	W	Lay	Female
General Board of Church and Society (YA)	Lebron Malave, Dorlimar	NY	H	Lay	Female
General Board of Church and Society (YA)	Sears, Erin	WV	W	Lay	Female
General Board of Church and Society	Vizza, Donna	WPA	W	Lay	Female
General Board of Church and Society (YA)	Shitama Weston, Megan	PD	AS	Clergy	Female
General Board of Discipleship (YA)	Jacob, Ann	EPA	AS	Lay	Female
Division on Ministries with YA - Adult Worker	Amey-Sutton, Bethany	GNJ	AS	Lay	Female
Division on Ministries with Young People - Youth	Keltz, McKenna	WPA	W	Lay	Female
Division on Ministries with Young People (YA)	Urriola, Ian	UNY	H	Lay	Male
General Board of Global Ministries (YA)	Pena, Patricia	NE	H	Clergy	Female
General Board of Global Ministries	Vianese, Carmen	UNY	W	Lay	Female
General Board of Global Ministries (Youth)	Chung, Andrew	WPA	AS	Lay	Male
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (YA)	Johnson, Krystl	EPA	AA	Lay	Female
General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits	Bass, Tracy	EPA	AA	Clergy	Male
General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits	Goodwin, Kevin	PD	W	Lay	Male
The United Methodist Publishing House Class 2020	Mulenga, Maidstone	BW	AA	Clergy	Male
The United Methodist Publishing House Class 2024	Salsgiver, Tom	SU	W	Clergy	Male
General Commission on Communication	Lauber, Melissa	BW	W	Lay	Female
General Commission on Communication	Dunn, Alyce Weaver	WPA	W	Clergy	Female
General Commission on Religion and Race (Youth)	Hill, Majesty	WV	AA	Lay	Female
General Commission on Religion and Race	Layman Knox, Anna	SU	W	Clergy	Female
General Commission/ Status and Role of Women	Vega-Perez, Eunice	GNJ	H	Clergy	Female
OCUIR	McCrae, Darlynn	BW	AA	Lay	Female
OCUIR	Kurien, Christopher	EPA	AS	Clergy	Male

BW: Baltimore-Washington

NE: New England

SU: Susquehanna

WV: West Virginia

EPA: Eastern Pennsylvania

NY: New York

UNY: Upper New York

GNJ: Greater New Jersey

PD: Peninsula-Delaware

WPA: Western Pennsylvania

AA: African American
Adults

AS: Asian American

H: Hispanic

W: White

NA: Native American

Y: Youth

YA: Young

NEJ Nominating Committee 2016 Report

Annual Conference Boundaries

BW Delegate or Reserve	Link, Conrad	W	Clergy	Male
EPA Delegate or Reserve	Munoz, Lydia	H	Clergy	Female
GNJ Delegate or Reserve	Dyson, Drew	W	Clergy	Male
NE Delegate or Reserve	Easterling, La'Trelle	AA	Clergy	Female
NY Delegate or Reserve	Shillady, William	W	Clergy	Male
PD Delegate or Reserve (YA)	Mitchell, Sam	W	Lay	Male
SU Delegate or Reserve	Amara, Paul	AA	Clergy	Male
UNY Delegate or Reserve	Sweet, Becky	W	Clergy	Female
WV Delegate or Reserve	Shaffer, Rich	W	Lay	Male
WPA Delegate or Reserve	Gottschalk, Stephanie	W	Clergy	Female
WPA (Youth)	Landman, Mollie	W	Lay	Female
WV Young Adult Council (YA)	Sears, Erin	W	Lay	Female

Episcopacy

BW Ordained Clergy Delegate	Chattin, Teri Rae	W	Clergy	Female
BW Lay Delegate	Martin, Delores	AA	Lay	Female
EPA Ordained Clergy Delegate	Taylor Storm, Dawn	W	Clergy	Female
EPA Lay Delegate	Ehninger, Judith	W	Lay	Female
GNJ Ordained Clergy Delegate	Lank, Tom	W	Clergy	Male
GNJ Lay Delegate	Caterson, Evelyn	W	Lay	Female
NE Lay Delegate	Marden, Bonnie	W	Lay	Female
NE Ordained Clergy Delegate	Chang, We	AS	Clergy	Male
NY Ordained Clergy Delegate	Riss, Timothy J.	W	Clergy	Male
NY Lay Delegate	Brewington, Frederick	AA	Lay	Male
PD Ordained Clergy Delegate	Porter, Derrick	AA	Clergy	Male
PD Lay Delegate	Goodwin, Kevin	W	Lay	Male
SU Ordained Clergy Delegate	Leland, Larry	W	Clergy	Male
SU Lay Delegate	Bender, Lisa	W	Lay	Female
UNY Ordained Clergy Delegate	Allen, Bill	W	Clergy	Male
UNY Lay Delegate	Johnson, Scott	AA	Lay	Male
WV Ordained Clergy Delegate	Kenaston, Judi	W	Lay	Female
WV Lay Delegate	Finegan, Mary Ellen	W	Clergy	Female
WPA Ordained Clergy Delegate	Zilhaver, Bob	W	Clergy	Male
WPA Lay Delegate	Gregory, Sharon	AA	Lay	Female

Finance And Administration

Clergy-NE	Nicol, David	W	Clergy	Male
Clergy-UNY	Rood, Sherri	W	Clergy	Female
Clergy-BW	Tilghman, Marlon	AA	Clergy	Male

Annual Conf. Treasurer-WPA	Bridge, Larry	W	Lay	Male
Layman-PD	Westbrook, Bill	W	Lay	Male
Layman-BW	Moore, Charles	W	Lay	Male
Layman-EPA	Harris, Jordan	MR	Lay	Male
Laywoman-SU	Horton, Anne	W	Lay	Female
Laywoman-GNJ	Williams, Rosa	AA	Lay	Female
Laywoman-NY	Benz, Dorothee	W	Lay	Female
Youth –WV	Dean, Madison	EA	Lay	Female
Youth-UNY	Aiosa, Zach	W	Lay	Male
Young Adult-EPA	Wims, Tamara	AA	Lay	Female
Young Adult-UNY	Urriola, Ian	H	Lay	Male

Board of Ordained Ministry

Chair Conf. Board Ordained Ministry or their rep.				
Deans/Presidents of UM Seminaries in the NEJ				
Deans/Presidents of UM Seminaries in the NEJ				
Deans/Presidents of UM Seminaries in the NEJ				
Deans/Presidents of UM Seminaries in the NEJ				
Representative from College of Bishops				
Representative from College of Bishops				
Member at large, named by committee for inclusivity				
Member at large, named by committee for inclusivity				
Member at large, named by committee for inclusivity				
Deacons and Laypersons shall be represented on committee				
Deacons and Laypersons shall be represented on committee				
Deacons and Laypersons shall be represented on committee				
BW Delegate Chair or Designee	Hunt, Tony	AA	Clergy	Male
EPA Delegate Chair or Designee	Knerr, Gary	W	Clergy	Male
GNJ Delegate Chair or Designee	Korkuch, Tom	W	Clergy	Male
NE Co-Delegate Chair or Designee	Deemers, Mark	W	Clergy	Male
NE Co-Delegate Chair or Designee	Yoo-Yun, Cho-Chang	AS	Clergy	Female
NY Delegate Chair or Designee	Lebron Rivera, Lydia	H	Clergy	Female
PD Delegate Chair or Designee	Townsend, Rob	W	Clergy	Male
SU Delegate Chair or Designee	Elliott, Suzanne	W	Clergy	Female
UNY Delegate Chair or Designee	Russell, Sue	W	Clergy	Female
WV Delegate Chair or Designee	Green, Sharletta	AA	Clergy	Female
WPA Delegate Chair or Designee	Wagner, Amy	W	Clergy	Female

Program and Arrangements

BW Delegate or Reserve	Love, Tony	AA	Clergy	Male
EPA Delegate or Reserve	Cotto, Irving	H	Clergy	Male
GNJ Delegate or Reserve	Bennett, Tanya	W	Clergy	Female
NE Delegate or Reserve	Hewett, Rebecca	W	Lay	Female
NY Delegate or Reserve	Smartt Sears, Denise	AA	Clergy	Female
PD Delegate or Reserve	Brown, Shirlyln	AA	Clergy	Female
SU Delegate or Reserve	Boileau, Catherine	W	Clergy	Female
UNY Delegate or Reserve	Aswad, Hudda	W	Lay	Female
WV Delegate or Reserve (YA)	Godwin, Lauren	W	Clergy	Female
WPA Delegate or Reserve	Stahlman, Vicki	W	Lay	Female
Young Adult – GNJ (YA)	Young, Nadiera	AA	Lay	Female
Youth – EPA (Youth)	Tirado, Jose	H	Lay	Male

Rules

BW Delegate or Reserve	Ihlo, Jen	W	Lay	Female
EPA Delegate or Reserve	Wilt, Robert	w	Clergy	Male
GNJ Delegate or Reserve	Wright, Varlyna	AA	Clergy	Female
NE Delegate or Reserve	Oh, Jung Sun	AS	Clergy	Male
NY Delegate or Reserve	Brewington, Adrienne	AA	Clergy	Female
PD Delegate or Reserve	Higgins, Ruth	w	Lay	Female
SU Delegate or Reserve	Konieczny, John	w	Lay	Male
UNY Delegate or Reserve	Warren, J.J.	W	Lay	Male
WV Delegate or Reserve	Harman, Janet	W	Clergy	Female
WPA Delegate or Reserve	Chung, Sung S.	AS	Clergy	Male
Youth - WPA	Kennedy, Kiersten	W	Lay	Female
Young Adult - SU	Gowe, Bruce	W	Clergy	Male

Vision Table

BWC - DCM	Mulenga, Maidstone	AA	Clergy	Male
BWC- Representative	Latona, Christine	W	Lay	Female
EPA - DCM	Kurien, Christopher	AS	Clergy	Male
EPA- Representative - Youth	Tirado, Jr, Jose	H	Lay	Male
GNJ - DCM	Burgos, Hector	H	Clergy	Male
GNJ- Representative	Kent, Cynthia	N	Lay	Female
NE - DCM	Robinson-Johnson, Erica	W	Clergy	Female
NE- Representative - Youth	Easterling, Miles	AA	Lay	Male
NY - DCM	Curry, Matt	W	Clergy	Male
NY- Representative	Warner, Rashid	AA	Lay	Male
PD - DCM	Gordy-Smith, Vicki	W	Clergy	Female
PD- Representative	Parker, Carlton	AA	Lay	Male
SU - DCM	Salsgiver, Tom	W	Clergy	Male

SU- Representative	Miller, Layne	W	Lay	Female
UNY - DCM	Gottschalk-Fielding, Bill	W	Clergy	Male
UNY- Representative	Allen, Suzanne	W	Lay	Female
WV- DCM	Krimmel, Ken	W	Clergy	Male
WV – Representative	Lyden, Royce	NA	Lay	Female
WPA - DCM	Cox, Gregory	W	Clergy	Male
WPA- Representative	Ward, Peggy	AA	Lay	Female
SU- Youth	Drexler, Jacob	W	Lay	Male
EPA- Youth	Eden, Jessica	W	Lay	Female
Chair, Program/Arrangements				
Chair, Finance/Administration				
Chair, Episcopacy				
Chair, Board Ordained Ministry				
Chair, Boundaries				
Chair, Rules				
Chair, NEJ Con. Lay Leaders				
Vision Table -Young Adult				
Vision Table-Young Adult				
Vision Table NEJ Secretary				
Vision Table NEJ Treasurer				
Vision Table NEJ Asst. Sec. Voice/No Vote				
Vision Table NEJ Asst. Treasurer Voice/No Vote				

Investigation

WPA Clergy Full Connection	Meekins, William B.	AA	Clergy	Male
GNJ Clergy Full Connection	Wright, Varlyna	AA	Clergy	Female
UNY Clergy Full Connection	Stengel, Cathy Hall	W	Clergy	Female
NY Clergy Full Connection	Pak, Constance	AS	Clergy	Female
NE Clergy Full Connection	Goodrich, Leigh	W	Clergy	Female
WV Clergy Full Connection	Conley, Ellis	W	Clergy	Male
BW Clergy Full Connection	Link, Conrad	W	Clergy	Male
NE Lay Observer	Wilbur, Lorene	W	Lay	Female
EPA Lay Observer	Thompson, Lenora	AA	Lay	Female
UNY Clergy Alternative	Mudge, Bill	W	Clergy	Male
SU Clergy Alternative	Kind, Kathy	W	Clergy	Female
EPA Clergy Alternative	Cotto, Irving	H	Clergy	Male
PD Clergy Alternative	Shitama Weston, Megan	AS	Clergy	Female
BW Clergy Alternative	Young, Evan	AA	Clergy	Male
WPA Lay Observer Alternative	Ward, Peggy	AA	Lay	Female

Appeals

Clergy EPA	Kurien, Christopher	AS	Clergy	Male
Clergy NE	Perez, Rene	H	Clergy	Male
Clergy WPA	Dunn, Alyce Weaver	W	Clergy	Female
Clergy SU	Jones, Beth	W	Clergy	Female
1 Diaconal Minister NY	Englehardt, Caroline	W	Lay	Female
FT Local Pastor UNY	Chesbro, Brad	W	Lay	Male
Laypersons BW	Ihlo, Jen	W	Lay	Female
Laypersons PD	Pehlam, Lawrence	AA	Lay	Male
Laypersons GNJ	Caterson, Lynn	W	Lay	Female
Clergy Alternative UNY	Nye, Holly	W	Clergy	Female
Clergy Alternative WV	Green, Sharletta	AA	Clergy	Female
Clergy Alternative GNJ	Lank, Tom	W	Clergy	Male
Clergy Alternative BW	Iannicelli, Rebecca	W	Clergy	Female
1 Diaconal Minister Alternate WV	Fygetakes, Laura	W	Lay	Female
Full time Local Pastor Alternate EPA	Stippich, Robert	W	Lay	Male
Laypersons Alternatives NE	Harrell, Oscar	AA	Lay	Male
Laypersons Alternatives NY	Littlejohn, Roena	AA	Lay	Female
Laypersons Alternatives WPA	Merrick, Tracy	W	Lay	Male

NEJ delegates vow to fight racism in church, community

By Maidstone Mulenga

DCA Editor

Delegates to the 2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, meeting in Lancaster on Thursday morning, pledged to work together as United Methodists to fight the scourge of racism.

The pledge was made after the conference unanimously approved a resolution that called for the church to do more to fight discrimination, to confront racism, and to affirm that all lives matter in God's eyes.

In the resolution brought to the floor by the Rev. Joe Daniels of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, the delegates agreed to join the bishops in leading the church in healing “the wounds caused by unchecked racism, white privilege and internalized oppression.”

The delegates also vowed to help their annual conferences to initiate conversations on white privilege, white supremacy, racism and oppression within district, sub-district and each local church.

The approved resolution also called on the NEJ to evaluate and address the impact of structural and institutional racism on people of color, particularly concerning the closing of black churches and “how current ordination processes in the annual conferences affect black persons interested in ordained ministry.”

As part of their pledge, all the annual conferences will be required to provide an annual update on work to the NEJ Committee on Episcopacy and the Multi-Ethnic Center for Ministry.

The NEJ also agreed to make sure that black leaders are represented at every level of the Jurisdiction; to start more black churches, to increase the number of viable and sustainable black churches and ministries in the NEJ.

The full text of the amended resolution is on page 10.

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 Multi-Ethnic 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 with in 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, white supremacy and racial equity for the entire College of Bishops, as well as the District Superintendents, 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 Volunteers in Mission, Association of Conference Lay Leaders, Young Adult Council, and NEJ 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 Multi-Ethnic 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 Multi-Ethnic 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 Multi-Ethnic 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 encourage UM related seminaries within the NEJ to intentionally 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 to 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 BMCRC, NEJ-BLF)

Joseph Daniels, Varlyna Wright, William Meekins, Lillian Smith, Denise Smart-Sears, Tracy Bass, Derrick Porter

Latino delegates share dream of joining episcopacy

By John W. Coleman

DCA Staff

A group of Latino clergy delegates to the United Methodist Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference thanked the body Thursday afternoon, for the opportunity two of them had, as candidates for bishop, "to share our vision for the church."

The Rev. René Perez of New England and the Rev. Irving Cotto of Eastern Pennsylvania, both district superintendents, addressed the conference together after it had elected two African American clergywomen as bishops. The assembly had also earlier passed a "Call to Action" resolution challenging the jurisdiction and its annual conferences to explore and implement remedies to racial discrimination, while making concerted efforts to support and develop black United Methodist churches.

"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 discrim-

continued on Page 19

NEJ says farewell to Bishop Matthews



Delegates and leaders of NEJ last night celebrated Bishop Marcus Matthews and his wife Barbara for their 42 years in ministry. Bishop Matthews served 12 years as an episcopal leader in three areas.



NEJ recommends letting regional bodies adapt Discipline

Delegates use petitions to show disagreement with church law on sexuality issues.

By Erik Alsgaard and Maidstone Mulenga

The Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church approved a restructuring resolution recommending the bishops' study commission on sexuality include a plan to allow regional bodies, such as jurisdictions, to decide for themselves to adapt the Book of Discipline within their own ministry context.

Delegates also approved two other resolutions to show disagreement with church law on sexuality issues. One of those, a petition for "non-conformity" to denominational church law, was later ruled out of order by the presiding bishop.

The third resolution, a proposal to have annual conference councils on Finance and Administration agree that there is "no money" for church trials, was eventually ruled in order after it was amended and the title deleted.

The restructuring resolution, brought by the Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, from the Baltimore-Washington Conference, called for a recommendation to the bishops' "Way Forward" commission that is expected to review all church law related to sexuality.

Creed Pogue of Greater New Jersey argued that moving in this direction would create a more independent, non-connectional church. He urged delegates to vote no.

The Rev. Charles Parker, Baltimore-Washington, disagreed. "I would respectfully suggest that the point of this resolution is to create a space for people who are in different theological places and ministry contexts to be at the same table together," he said. "What this resolution does is to lift up a model. The purpose is to create a wider table... and model it for the denomination."

After further debate, an amendment to add the words, "and with expanded power to make contextual based adaptation of the Book of Discipline to ensure full inclusiveness" was passed. The full motion passed 109 to 56.

Resolution on church trials

The resolution calling for the Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops to stop church trials was deemed out of order before debate began by Bishop Thomas Bickerton, who was chairing the session. But he said he would allow the *continued on page 14*

Bishop Swenson tells NEJ Disconnect to Reconnect

By Jackie Campbell

DCA Staff



Describing quilts that remind her of connections with family and friends in congregations she served, retired Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, in a message during Thursday morning worship at the NEJ Conference, emphasized the need to disconnect from time to time. She said it's important to step away from everyday life to "disconnect in order to reconnect" with God.

"The experience helps us to be spiritually grounded and focused," she said. Her richest memories were mission trips to rebuild burned churches in Alabama, spending time with youth in Israel-Palestine and traveling to global youth events.

"Instead of going solo, we go as a community... to a different place...together we disconnect," we leave behind the familiar, set aside

the distractions...emptying ourselves," she said. "In doing that, we realize there is a poverty of spirit...we empty the self so that we might be filled up by God and God along."

With a group, it is a corporate experience, she said, "when we experience what it means to be the body of Christ quilted together by connection. . .We make a space for God to form a spiritual community."

Bishop Swenson serves as ecumenical officer for the Council of Bishops.

debate to continue to consider possible amendments that could make it in order.

Bickerton explained that the college had reviewed the resolution and that it needed to be more “aspirational” in nature. As printed, he said, it called for bishops to violate the Book of Discipline.

The Rev. L. Fitzgerald “Gere” Reist II, Susquehanna Conference, offered an amendment, which was adopted 96-64. The final paragraph requested that councils on Finance and Administration of the jurisdiction’s annual conferences “state that there are no funds available for 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.”

Opposition to the amendment centered around the interpretation that this amendment was asking those councils to lie.

After the final vote to approve the “Stop he Trials” resolution, Bickerton declared the motion out of order. “I can’t remember having a conversation at Jurisdictional Conference on this level,” he said.

“The college felt it important not to squelch this conversation. We recognize that there is pain around the issue. We acknowledge that in this room there are a variety of opinions. All of our hearts ache as we struggle. Regrettably, I must call this petition out of order, and we’ll move on.”

But after a discussion on the non-conformity resolution, the “Stop the Trials” petition was re-visited. Bickerton said the College of Bishops was aware that the United Methodist Judicial Council reviews petitions in their entirety. “We have looked at the ‘Stop the Trials’ resolution as it was amended,” he said. “Our finding is that the title is not compatible with the content of the petition, and that if a motion is made to amend the title, the petition is properly in order.”

A motion to “strike the title” was made and approved, 111-53, allowing the final version of the resolution to be adopted.

However, Jeffrey Raffauf of Eastern Pennsylvania made a motion for a decision of law regarding the “untitled” resolution, asking whether the approved resolution was in order regarding paragraphs 20, 523, and 525 of the Book of Discipline and the Judicial Council Decision 96 and 886.”

Bishop Mark Webb, who was presiding at that time,

said he will issue a ruling within 30 days.

Be ‘out of order’ with us

Bishop Peggy Johnson, supported by Bishop John Schol, initially ruled the petition on “non-conformity” out of order because it was calling for the jurisdiction’s annual conferences to not conform or comply with provisions of Discipline that discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual persons. It also asked that the jurisdiction not participate in or conduct judicial procedures related to those prohibitions.

When Johnson ruled the resolution out of order after it passed, as amended 91-74, some delegates invited the bishops to consider being out of order with them.

Vicky Flippin, New York Conference, was one of those delegates. After thanking the college for allowing the jurisdiction to have a time of sacred conversation, she urged the bishops to take a bold stance and join in non-conformity.

Johnson replied that the College of Bishops would, in fact, receive the invitation and have a conversation. She said that they would get back to the full body before the end of the conference.

When Bishops Johnson and Schol returned to the stage following the dinner break, the college had not accepted the conference’s invitation. “We know that we are all not of one mind,” said Johnson. “We honor the work of the body, where 60 percent were in favor of this,” said Schol. “And, we also honor the 40 percent who disagreed.”

Dorothee Benz, New York Conference, then issued an appeal of the chair, seeking to have the resolution declared “in order.”

To help understand the parliamentary situation the jurisdiction found itself in, Schol spoke off-the-cuff from the podium.

“We are all struggling,” he said. “We recognize that there are annual conferences and individuals who have very different views of the Book of Discipline.”

Noting that the vote to maintain the current disciplinary language at General Conference is about the reverse of what it is in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, Schol said that the bishops are charged with looking at this issue from both places.

The vote to uphold the decision of the chair was affirmed by a vote of 94 to 73, which meant the non-conformity resolution remained out of order.

Treasurer's report and budget

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 and boards and agencies for this quadrennium, 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 the NEJ is in a sound financial position and to 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

As a result of the retirement of former treasurer, 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.

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

As of June 30, 2016 the NEJ assets totaled \$588,193.23, including \$23,565.76 in the Howard Checking account, \$300,258.72 in the Howard Money Market account and \$275,000.00 in the Susquehanna Loan Fund. This is a net increase of \$104,248.08 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 \$1,104,626.48 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 \$960,503.00 are slightly over budget of \$921,309.34, or \$39,193.66 over projections. 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:

1. Global Structure Task Force (\$13,098)
2. Liability Insurance, (\$2369)
3. Episcopal Funeral Expenses (\$11,000)
4. Supplemental budget for Board of Ministry, (\$1500)
5. 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 worked to learn the job and follow the example set by my predecessor, Dight Crain.

David W. Simpson, Treasurer

7:07 PM
07/13/16
Cash Basis

Northeastern Jurisdiction
Profit & Loss
January 2013 through June 2016

	Jan '13 - Jun 16
Income	
2013 Apportionment Income	263,235.25
2014 Apportionment Income	263,235.25
2015 Apportionment Income	261,108.76
2016 Apportionment Income	113,755.63
PROGRAM BUDGET	
Leadership Development	
Great Event	185,509.00
Total Leadership Development	185,509.00
Total PROGRAM BUDGET	185,509.00
46430 · Interest Income	17,782.59
Total Income	1,104,626.48
Expense	
2013 - 2016 EXPENSES	
ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	
Administrative Contingency	71,478.88
Archives & History	2,700.00
Board of Ordained Ministry	12,403.18
Episcopacy Committee	39,873.23
Finance & Administration	12,245.93
Judicial process	53,793.23
Pastoral Care Fund	22,578.72
Program & Arrangements	30,452.77
Rules Committee	3,033.13
Secretary's Office	12,869.27
Treasurer's Office	23,455.12
Vision Table	33,088.50
ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET - Other	143.40
Total ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	318,115.36
PROGRAM BUDGET	
Anna Howard Shaw Center	30,000.00
Council on Youth Ministry	14,100.00
Deaf ministry NEJ	2,127.30
Korean American Ministry	120,000.00
Leadership Development	225,112.82

7:07 PM
07/13/16
Cash Basis

Northeastern Jurisdiction
Profit & Loss
January 2013 through June 2016

	Jan '13 - Jun 16
Multi-Ethnic Center	136,000.00
Vision Table Priorities	5,000.00
Volunteers in Mission NEJ	100,000.00
Young Adult Council	2,480.53
Total PROGRAM BUDGET	634,820.65
SESSIONS	47,513.56
Total 2013 - 2016 EXPENSES	1,000,449.57
Total Expense	1,000,449.57
Net Income	104,176.91

7:02 PM
07/13/16
Cash Basis

Northeastern Jurisdiction
Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2016

	Jun 30, 16
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Howard Checking	23,565.76
Howard Money Market	300,258.72
Susquehanna Conf Loan Fund 2%	275,000.00
Total Checking/Savings	598,824.48
Accounts Receivable	
11000 · Accounts Receivable	(10,632.25)
Total Accounts Receivable	(10,632.25)
Other Current Assets	
PayPal	1.00
Total Other Current Assets	1.00
Total Current Assets	588,193.23
TOTAL ASSETS	588,193.23
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	(86,753.00)
Total Equity	588,193.23
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	588,193.23

LaTrelle Miller Easterling is newest bishop

By Beth DiCocco
DCA Staff



Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar celebrates with newly elected Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling calling her a “prophetess and a pastor who leads the church from her spiritual center.”

LaTrelle Miller Easterling is an elder in the New England Conference where she serves as superintendent of the Metro Boston Hope District.

She became district superintendent in 2012, succeeding the late Martin D. McLee, who was elected bishop that year.

Originally from Indianapolis, Rev. Easterling, 51, received her call to ministry while a member of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, where she was ordained a deacon in 1995 and an elder two years later. She graduated from the Boston University School of Theology Summa Cum Laude in 2004.

When asked about inclusivity during the episcopal interview process, Rev. Easterling said, “I know what it feels like to be excluded. I know what it feels like to be present but ignored.”

But getting to know one another can change that, she said.

“Once we get to know each other, it’s almost impossible to hate, it’s almost impossible to continue excluding, it’s almost impossible to remain where you were. We are changed when we hear one another’s story.”

Rev. Easterling served Union UMC and Old West UMC in Boston and Pearl Street UMC in Brockton, MA. She was a delegate to General Conference in 2012 and 2016, and served on the NEJ’s Multi-Ethnic Center Board. She also served on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

When asked about her self-care practices, Rev. Easterling said that along with keeping the Sabbath, she visits to the beach and writes “prayers, litanies, liturgies, songs, laments,” Rev. Easterling said:

“I read the word of God. I am inspired by it. It gives me new life, it gives me energy. It’s one thing to be reading the word of God for sermon preparation, or Bible study preparation, but I’m still a disciple of Jesus Christ. My relationship with Christ is still growing. I need to have my own firm rootedness and connectedness. Sometimes when I read it, I get so excited I have to walk around the room a little bit ...”

Rev. Easterling has a law degree, and before entering full-time ministry worked as a mediator and as a Human Resources Manager and Director.

She is married to the Rev. Marion Easterling, Jr., the pastor of Parkway United Methodist Church in Milton, MA. They are the parents of two sons, Garrett Walter and Miles Teronza.

Asian delegates call for NEJ to be more inclusive



Asian delegates issue a statement on Thursday night calling for the Northeastern Jurisdiction to be more inclusive and welcoming to people of color.

Latino continued from Page 11



Rev. Eunice Vega-Perez offers prayer.

gender discrimination.”

“Our greatest joy was to witness the election of our two African American sisters as bishops,” he continued in a statement written by Perez, along with Cotto and other Latino/a church leaders. “We thank God for the opportunity to be here, and both of us were honored with having been able to be considered for the office of bishop.”

The statement recognized Latinos as “the largest

ination,” read Cotto. “As Latinos, who are people of all colors and languages, we stand against any type of racial or

ethnic minority in the U.S., totaling more than 55 million across the nation,” and as “part of the Methodist movement at least since 1738.” But it also mentioned their “struggle” to become leaders across the church. “Unfortunately, we are often forgotten, including when it comes to the episcopacy.”

Yet, the group assured the conference that after numerous attempts, their quest to elect the NEJ’s first Latino/a bishop would continue, as they continue to offer their gifts to the church. “God, indeed, is not done with us yet,” read Cotto, who was also a candidate in 2012.

“So, we long for the day when we will see a Latino/a bishop in this jurisdiction as an active, contributing member of the College of Bishops,” he continued. “We believe this is possible. Thank you for opening the space and allowing us to share our vision for the church.”

A small group of Latino/a conference leaders stood with Cotto and Perez during the presentation, and one led the assembly in prayer after a standing ovation.

Two new bishops to be consecrated today



Bishop-elect Latrelle Miller Easterling with her husband, Marion Easterling, Jr.



Bishop-elect Cynthia Moore-Koikoi with her husband, Raphael Koikoi.



Northeastern Jurisdiction
The United Methodist Church
The Service of Consecration of Bishops
Bishop Jeremiah Park, preacher
First United Methodist Church
29 East Walnut Street, Lancaster, PA 17602
Friday, July 15, 2016 | 11:15 a.m.