

Daily Christian Advocate

The Northeastern Jurisdiction Conference of The United Methodist Church



Quilted
by Connection
NEJ 2016 Conference
Lancaster PA

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Monday, July 11, 2016

11 elders vie for 2 bishop positions

By Maidstone Mulenga

DCA Editor

Two new bishops will be elected during the 2016 Northeastern Jurisdiction Conference and eleven elders are praying and hoping to be among those to be elevated to episcopacy.

Six women. Five men. Four white Americans. Four African-Americans. Two Koreans. One Hispanic. Nine district superintendents. One former district superintendent. One pastor.

The 11 official nominees for the two vacant episcopal offices in the Northeastern Jurisdictional (NEJ) are as diverse as the jurisdiction itself. The two vacancies have been created by the retiring of Bishop Marcus Matthews of the Washington Area and the 2014 death of Bishop Martin McLee of New York Area. Due to declining membership, NEJ faced a possible reduction in bishops. However, General Conference 2016 opted to keep the same number of U.S. bishops while the UMC studies the issues. Here is a glance at the nominees.

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Adrienne Brewington



We Chang



Irving Cotto



LaTelle Easterling



Cathy Hall Stengel



Joseph Kenaston



Ken Kieffer



Jisun Kwak



Cynthia Moore-Koikoi



Derrick Porter



Rebekah Sweet

Bishop Johnson welcomes NEJ Conference participants



Welcome!

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ from the Philadelphia Area of the United Methodist Church, which includes the Eastern PA Annual Conference and the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference. We are pleased to be the host area for the 2016 NEJ Conference in beautiful Lancaster, PA. This is the mother-land of much historical treasure in our denomination as well as a patch-work quilt of diversity in ethnicity and heart. We celebrate our theme of "Quilted by Connection" with you during this conference. We are quilted together by threads of love that come from the Spirit of God that unites us in one calling, one faith, and one baptism. As we work together in connection we can accomplish far more

than we can ever imagine in the area of mission and ministry. With the diversity of our giftedness working together we will reach more and more people for Christ. May your days in Lancaster be blessed and know that we have been preparing and praying for you with great anticipation and joy!

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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Color coding of name badges

The following are the ribbon colors:

Bishop – Dark Purple
Bishop's Spouse – Light Purple
Bishop's Asst – White
Bishop's Admin – Tangerine
Delegate – Red
Reserve Delegate – Dark yellow
Youth Delegate – Brown
Visitor – Dark Green
Local Committee/volunteers – Lime green
Judicial Council - Black
Press – Light green
Staff - Teal
Exhibitor – Light Yellow
Secretary – Royal Blue
Treasurer – Royal Blue

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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.

Certification of NEJ Conference Delegates

Questions of the delegate qualifications are addressed by the Vision Table as stipulated in the Plan of Organization, Article II, Section 4.h (2012 NEJ Journal, p. 218). On Sunday, July 10, the Vision Table reviewed the qualifications of delegates to the 2016 NEJ Conference and certified all delegates as elected by their respective annual conferences.

The Vision Table is composed of up to 39 members, as follows:

3 Bishops, selected by the College of Bishops, one of whom shall be designated by the College as Chair of the Vision Table;

2 representatives from each Annual Conference, ten (10) of whom shall be the Directors of Connectional Ministries(DCM) from each Annual Conference and one representative selected by the annual conference delegation;

Committee chairs of Programs and Arrangements, Finance and Administration, Board of Ordained Ministry, Annual Conference Boundaries, Rules and Board of Laity.

It also includes two youth, 2 young adults, NEJ Secretary and NEJ Treasurer.

Monday Agenda

Time	Activity/Group	Meeting Room
8:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.	Nominating Committee	Federal Room
	Registration - Prefunction Area, Level 3 below Native American Mural	
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Episcopacy Committee	Independence
11:45 a.m.	Lunch	
2:00-2:30 p.m.	Tellers / Training	Susquehanna Board Room
2:40-2:55 p.m.	Examination of Journals / Training	Susquehanna Board Room
3:00-3:15 p.m.	Journal / Training	Susquehanna Board Room
3:20-3:35 p.m.	Courtesies / Training	Susquehanna Board Room
3:40-3:55 p.m.	Credentials / Training	Susquehanna Board Room
3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Facilitator/Interview group leaders	Commons on the Vine
4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Heads of Delegation Meeting	Federal Room
5:00 p.m.	Dinner	
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	General Session	Heritage
8:15 p.m.-9:30 p.m.	Interview Group 1 (Number on name tag)	Federal A
	Interview Group 2 (Number on name tag)	Federal B
	Interview Group 3 (Number on name tag)	Independence A
	Interview Group 4 (Number on name tag)	Independence B
	Interview Group 5 (Number on name tag)	Hickory A
	Interview Group 6 (Number on name tag)	Hickory B
	Interview Group 7 (Number on name tag)	Conestoga 1
	Interview Group 8 (Number on name tag)	Conestoga 2
8:15 p.m.-9:30 p.m.	Endorsed/Nominated Episcopal Candidate Prayer time	Susquehanna Boardroom
9:30 p.m.	Delegation Meeting (if desired) – Baltimore-Washington	Hickory A
	Delegation Meeting (if desired) – Eastern Pa & Pen-Del	Heritage
	Delegation Meeting (if desired) – Greater New Jersey	Independence A
	Delegation Meeting (if desired) – New England	Hickory B
	Delegation Meeting (if desired) – New York	Independence B
	Delegation Meeting (if desired) – Susquehanna	Federal A
	Delegation Meeting (if desired) – Upper New York	Federal B
	Delegation Meeting (if desired) – West Virginia	Conestoga 2
	Delegation Meeting (if desired) – Western PA	Conestoga 1

Lancaster Seminary professor to lead Bible study



The NEJ Bible study leader is Dr. Greg Carey, a biblical scholar, educator, lover of grace and dignity as well as a frustrated golfer, who has been a professor of New Testament at Lancaster Seminary since 1999. His publications include numerous studies on the Book of Revelation and ancient apocalyptic literature, rhetorical analysis of the New Testament, and investigations of early Christian self-definition. An Alabama native, Carey is a graduate of Vanderbilt University (PhD. 1996), Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div. 1992) and Rhodes College (BA, 1987). Part of Dr. Carey's faith journey includes his experience with the global church. "Ecumenism does not mean 'least common denominator'. Ecumenism testifies to the church's rich diversity. Each ecclesial stream bears its distinctive nutrients...All of us, one body with many gifts."

Conference Menu

MONDAY DINNER

Caprese Salad with Buffalo Mozzarella, Tomatoes, Basil and Balsamic Reduction, Thai Glazed Atlantic Salmon with Vanilla Jasmine Rice, Zucchini and Mango Salsa, Chocolate Bunt Cake, regular and decaffeinated Coffee with assorted herbal tea

TUESDAY

Breakfast: Freshly Squeezed Orange Juice, Platter of Seasonal Fresh Fruit & Berries, Penn Square Pastries to Include Croissants, Danishes and Muffins, Creamy Butter, Fruit Preserves and Honey, Cinnamon French Toast of Brioche Bread with Berries Accompanied by Crispy Applewood Smoked Bacon, Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee with Selection of Assorted Herbal Tea

Lunch: Buffet Lunch: Soup, Salad & Potato Buffet, Chicken Corn Chowder and Roasted Tomato Bisque Soup, Salad Buffet to Include Variety of Artisan Lettuces, Croutons, Shaved Parmesan Cheese, crumbled Feta, Bacon Bits, Onions, Cherry Tomatoes, Kalamata Olives, Grilled Chicken, cucumbers, Baby Corn, Hearts of Palm and Assorted Dressings, Idaho Baked Potatoes to Include Sour Cream, Amish Cheddar Cheese, Creamy Butter, Crumbled Bacon, Chives and Chili, Chocolate Brownies and Assorted Cookies, Freshly Brewed Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee with Selection of Assorted Herbal Tea and Unsweetened Iced Tea

Dinner: Baby Romaine Hearts, Caesar Dressing, Shaved Parmesan, Crispy Thin Croutons, Citrus Airline Chicken Breast with Yellow Rice, Mango Chutney, Granny Smith Apple Tart with Caramel Sauce, regular and decaffeinated Coffee with herbal Tea

WEDNESDAY:

Continental Breakfast: Selection of Freshly Squeezed Orange, Cranberry and Apple Juices, Sliced Seasonal Fresh Fruit and Berries, Penn Square Pastries to Include Croissants, Danishes and Muffins, Creamy Butter, Fruit Preserves and Honey, Freshly Brewed Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee with Selection of Assorted Herbal Tea

Lunch: Chicken Caesar Salad with Shaved Parmesan and Focaccia Croutons, Philadelphia Style Cheese Cake with Graham Cracker Crust, Freshly Brewed Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee with Selection of Assorted Herbal Tea and Iced Tea

Dinner: Baby Field Greens, Cherry Tomatoes, Cranberries, Candied Walnuts, Fig Balsamic Vinaigrette, Roasted Pork Loin with Cornbread Stuffing and Baby Vegetables, Lemoncello Mascarpone Cake, regular and decaffeinated Coffee with Herbal Tea

THURSDAY

Breakfast: Executive Continental Breakfast: Selection of Freshly Squeezed Orange, Cranberry and Apple Juices, Sliced Seasonal Fresh Fruit and Berries, Assorted Fruit Flavored Yogurts on Ice, Homemade Granola and a Variety of Cereals, Penn Square Pastries to Include Danishes, Croissants, Muffins and Assorted Bagels, Regular and Low Fat Cream Cheese, Creamy Butter, Fruit Preserves and Honey, Freshly Brewed Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee with Selection of Assorted Herbal Tea, Whole, 2% and Skim Milk

Lunch: Turkey Wrap with Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato and Herb Mayonnaise, Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting, Freshly Brewed Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee with Selection of Assorted Herbal Tea and Unsweetened Iced Tea

Dinner: Watermelon, Frisee, Watercress Salad, Feta Cheese, Red Wine Vinaigrette, Rosemary Marinated Free Range Chicken with Roasted Mushrooms Sauce, Truffle Potatoes with Asiago Cheese, Seasonal Vegetables and Gremolata,, Freshly Brewed Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee with Selection of Assorted Herbal Tea

FRIDAY

Breakfast: Continental Breakfast: Selection of Freshly Squeezed Orange, Cranberry and Apple Juices, Sliced Seasonal Fresh Fruit and Berries, Penn Square Pastries to Include Croissants, Danishes and Muffins, Creamy Butter, Fruit Preserves and Honey, Freshly Brewed Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee with Selection of Assorted Herbal Tea, Whole, 2% and Skim Milk

No Lunch

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 (CCoNAM'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 their CoNAM. In 2016, we will work with the Western PA Conference to reestablish their CoNAM. We will than 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 (GNJ, NY, UNY, Baltimore/Washington and New England). Four will have theirs in 2016 (Pen/Del, E. PA, WVA 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)

Offerings to benefit local mission, flood relief work

There will be two offerings taken at Jurisdictional Conference. During the opening Memorial and Communion Service an offering will be taken for LUMINA. The second offering during the Consecration Service will be received for West Virginia Flood Relief.

LUMINA (Lancaster United Methodist Inner-City Alliance) mission is to share the love of God by equipping and encouraging people who experience poverty and hardship. This critical ministry to the city of Lancaster is a cooperative mission project of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference based in the Southwest District.

Lumina ministry is to encourage children and youth through Christian character building, to empower families through life skill education and to equip those in need with basic necessities and proper clothing for work and school.

WEST VIRGINIA FLOOD RELIEF The second offering will be received at the Consecration Service. The offering has been designated for the flood relief in West Virginia. Many of us in the Northeast have been experienced devastating floods. We know the damage, destruction and emotional toll it takes on people that are affected by the flood waters. We also know that it sometimes takes years to rebuild flooded areas.

The offering that we receive will be used to help clean, mitigate mold and bacteria, and restore 8 United Methodist churches and one parsonage that had flood waters enter the sanctuaries, basements and first floors. It will also support our long-term recovery plan for residents across 12 counties.

Bishop Steiner Ball says, "The offering would be welcome and put to good use. We have a long recovery period in front of us."

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)

Memorial Service to open 2016 NEJ Conference

On Wednesday morning, the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference opens with a Memorial Service and celebration of Holy Communion. The service is to remember those bishops, bishop's spouses and any Jurisdictional delegates that have entered into life eternal during this quadrennium.

The bishops and bishops' spouses are remembered for their faithful service and commitment to the Annual Conferences they served, to the Northeastern Jurisdiction and to the worldwide church. This year the NEJ Conference will celebrate the lives of Bishop Frederick Wertz and Bishop Martin McLee. The conference will also celebrate the lives of Lois Yeakel and Eunice Mathews.

The delegates are those delegates that were seated at the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference and served their delegation, their annual conference, the Northeastern Jurisdiction and the General Church.

There have been no reports of delegates that were seated at the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference that have died during this quadrennium.

We serve a God of the Resurrection who brings new and eternal life. Thanks Be to God!



Name	Adrienne Brewington
Address	275 Moore Avenue; Freeport, NY 11520
Phone/E-Mail	(516) 241-9184 (cell) revvybrew@aol.com
Conference Membership	New York
Nominated by	New York Annual Conference
Years able to serve if elected	12

Adrienne Brewington has served as Long Island East district superintendent in the New York Conference since 2008. She served local churches before her current appointment. Brewington, who was nominated by the New York Conference, says her style of leadership is “leading from a place of passionate worship, spiritually grounded, joyful, humor-full, collaborative and permission giving.”



Name	We (Hyun) Chang
Address	56 Payson Terrace, Belmont, MA 02478
Phone/E-Mail	(603) 491-9581/ we@neumc.org
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

We Hyun Chang serves as pastor of Belmont-Watertown United Methodist Church in New England Conference. He has served several local churches in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Chang, who was nominated by the New England Conference and the National Federation of Asian American United Methodists, says his style of leadership is “prayerful, collaborative, visionary, prophetic.”



Name	Irving Cotto
Address	922 Parkway Rd. Allentown, PA 18104
Phone/E-Mail	icotto@epaumc.org
Conference Membership	Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
Nominated by	M.A.R.C.H.A.
Years able to serve if elected	8

Irving Cotto has served as Northeast district superintendent in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference since 2012. He served local churches before becoming the conference’s director of congregational development and Latino ministries, the position he held before his current appointment. Cotto who was nominated by MARCHA, says his style of leadership is “flexible, contextual, collaborative.”



Name	LaTrelle Elaine Easterling
Address	19 Clifton Rd., Milton, MA 02186
Phone/E-Mail	(781) 561-5346 reveast@gmail.com
Conference Membership	New England
Nominated by	New England Conference
Years able to serve if elected	20

LaTrelle Easterling has served as Metro Boston Hope district superintendent in the New England Conference since 2012. She served local churches before her current appointment. Easterling who was nominated by the New England Conference says her style of leadership is “inquisitive, collaborative and consensus building.”

Continued on Page 8



Name	Cathy Hall Stengel
Address	1621 Rush Hen TL Rd, Rush, NY 14543
Phone	(585) 406-6447 cathyhallstengel@gmail.com
Conference Membership	Upper New York
Nominated by	Upper New York Conference
Years able to serve if elected	12

Cathy Hall Stengel has served as pastor of Rush United Methodist Church in the Upper New York Conference since 2014. She served local churches and as district superintendent before her current appointment. Hall Stengel, who was nominated by the Upper New York Conference, says her leadership style is “Cooperative, collegial, transparent and self-Aware. My role in leadership is always to help those around me grow into their potential.”



Name	Joseph S. Kenaston
Address	200 Brookwood Lane, Beckley, WV25801
Phone/E-Mail	(304) 661-5010; joekenaston@gmail.com
Conference Membership	West Virginia
Nominated by	West Virginia Annual Conference
Years able to serve if elected	12

Joseph Kenaston has served as Southern district superintendent in the West Virginia Conference since 2013. He served local churches before his current appointment. Kenaston, who was nominated by the West Virginia Conference, says his style of leadership is “collaborative and collegial.”



Name	Kenneth J. Kieffer
Address	40 Kensington Court, Cheshire, CT
Phone/E-Mail	(203) 428-7379 / ctdistrict@nyac-umc.com
Conference Membership	New York Annual Conference
Nominated by	New York Annual Conference
Years able to serve if elected	12

Kenneth J. Kieffer has served as Connecticut district superintendent in the New York Conference since 2009. He served local churches before his current appointment. Kieffer, who was nominated by the New York Conference, says leadership style “begins with modeling. I strive to talk the talk, and walk the walk.”



Name	Jisun Kwak
Address	514 N. Main St. Elmer NJ 08318
Phone/E-Mail	(973) 274-5873/ jisunkwak89@gmail.com
Conference Membership	Greater New Jersey Conference
Nominated by	Greater New Jersey Annual Conference
	National Federation of Asian American UMC
Years able to serve if elected	20

Jisun Kwak has served as Delaware Bay district superintendent in the Greater New Jersey Conference since 2014. She served local churches and as a district superintendent before her current appointment. Kwak, who was nominated by the Greater New Jersey Conference and the National Federation of Asian American United Methodists, says her leadership style “builds consensus and encourages all voices to the table. Passionate and adaptive. Focused but flexible. Diplomatic but does not avoid conflict.”



Name	Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
Address	3502 Southern Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21214
Phone/E-Mail	(443) 310-6480/ revcynthia139@gmail.com
Conference Membership	Baltimore Washington
Nominated by	Baltimore Washington Conference NEJ Black Methodist for Church Renewal
Years able to serve if elected	22

Cynthia Moore-Koikoi has served as the Baltimore Metropolitan district superintendent in the Baltimore-Washington Conference since 2012. She served local churches and as district superintendent before her current appointment. Moore-Koikoi, who was nominated by the Baltimore-Washington Conference and the NEJ Black Methodists for Church Renewal, says her leadership style is “collaborative/affiliative; however, I can adapt my style to be most appropriate for the situation. In times of crisis I use a more authoritative style.”



Name	Derrick E. Porter
Address	36 Talley Ct., Wilmington, DE 19802
Phone/E-Mail	(302) 757-6114 dsdporter@gmail.com
Conference Membership	Peninsula-Delaware
Nominated by	Peninsula-Delaware Conference Delegation
Years able to serve if elected	16

Derrick Porter has served as Wilmington district superintendent in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference since 2010. He served local churches before his current appointment. Porter, who was nominated by the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, says his leadership style is “a leader who is a team builder. I am a believer in the power of the collective genius.”



Name	Rebekah Beth Sweet
Address	P.O. Box 208, Gouverneur, NY 13642
Phone	(315) 535-5149 or (570) 647-8267
E-Mail	rebekahsweet@unyumc.org
Conference Membership	Upper New York Annual Conference
Nominated by	Upper New York Annual Conference
Years able to serve if elected	12

Rebekah Sweet has served as Northern Flow district superintendent in the Upper New York Conference since 2011. She served local churches before her current appointment. Sweet, who was nominated by the Upper New York Conference, says her leadership is “faith-filled; collaborative and consensus-building; equipping and encouraging; engages coaching methods; employs humor, optimism, and vision; strategic thinking.”

Anna Howard Shaw Center 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

Anna: Continued 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

Nominations Committee

Youth Representatives:

Michael High

Madison Dean

Baltimore Washington

Bishop Marcus Matthews

Delores Martin

Christopher Schliekert

Edgardo Rivera

Eastern PA-Pen Del

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 Dunn

West Virginia

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball

Erin Sears

Richard Shaffer

Mary Ellen Finegan

Episcopacy Committee 2012-2016

Baltimore-Washington

Terri Rae Chattin

Tom Price

Eastern Pennsylvania

James B. Todd

Judith Ehninger

Greater New Jersey

Drew Dyson

Evelynn S. Caterson

New England

We Hyun Chang

Bonnie Marden

New York

William S. Shillady

Frederick K. Brewington

Peninsula-Delaware

Derrick E. Porter

Demetrio L. Beach

Susquehanna

Beth E. Jones

Zedna Haverstock

Upper New York

William Gottschalk-Fielding

Stephanie Deckard

West Virginia

Ellis e. Conley

Judi Kenaston

Western Pennsylvania

Joel S. Garrett

Sharon Gregory



**Stop the Church Trials: A Moratorium by Bishops
Within the Northeastern Jurisdiction**

Petition to the 2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference

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:

**Resolution to the Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church
Recommendation to the Council of Bishops' Commission**

Presented by:

Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli – (Baltimore Washington AC)
 Rev. Charles Parker (Baltimore Washington AC)
 Kenneth Ow (Baltimore Washington AC)
 Rev. Lydia E. Muñoz – (Eastern Pennsylvania AC)
 Rev. Vicki Flippin (New York Annual Conference)
 Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt (New York AC)
 Dorlimar Lebrón Malavé (New York AC)
 Steven Dry (New England AC)

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 to the Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church
Action of Non-Conformity with the General Conference of The United Methodist Church**

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.

Resolution to the Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church Committee Membership Requirements

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.

**Resolution to the Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church
Rules for Standing Committees**

Presented by: Tom Price, Baltimore Washington
Financial Implications: Yes

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.

Resolution from the Baltimore Washington Delegation

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.

2016 NEJ Conference Resolution – Global Connection Plan

Presented by: The Global Structure Task Force

Whereas, Rev. Sara Baron submitted a resolution to the 2012 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference (“NEJ Conference”) calling for the elimination of jurisdictional conferences in the United States.

Whereas, the 2012 NEJ Conference adopted a motion referring that resolution to a jurisdictional task force which was appointed by the College of Bishops with the expectation that the task force would report a proposal to Northeastern Jurisdiction (“NEJ”) annual conferences prior to the Spring of 2015 so that the annual conferences could consider submitting the proposal to the 2016 General Conference.

Whereas, one of the first steps of the NEJ Global Structure Task Force (“the Task Force”) was to develop the

following guiding principles to guide its work:

- Be Christ Focused - The denominational structure should reflect the teachings of and empower the mission of Jesus Christ.
- Embody Structural Fairness - The denominational structure should provide for greater global equality in the church around access to services, participation in structures, and shaping the agenda of The United Methodist Church. Any plan should provide for an equitable global resourcing and distribution of apportioned funds.
- Extend Community - Everyone, everywhere must be welcome and safe in The United Methodist Church. Any new structure must honor non-essential differences and defend the essential dignity and worth of all God's children.

Whereas, the Task Force prepared two draft proposals which were distributed in 2014 to leaders of the 2012 delegations to the NEJ Conference, the NEJ Vision Table, the NEJ College of Bishops, colleagues in the North Central and Western Jurisdictions, the leadership of the Connectional Table and leadership of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters.

Whereas, the Task Force received feedback from across the NEJ and prepared a final proposal which was distributed in January 2015 to the leaders of the 2012 delegations to the NEJ Conference, the NEJ Vision Table, the NEJ College of Bishops, colleagues in the North Central and Western Jurisdictions, the leadership of the Connectional Table and leadership of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters.

Whereas, at the suggestion of the NEJ College of Bishops, the Task Force submitted the final proposal entitled the Global Connection Plan to the 2016 General Conference legislation coordinator in September 2015.

Whereas, the 2016 General Conference did not adopt the Global Connection Plan or any other restructuring plan for The United Methodist Church but did pass a report from the Council of Bishops which included the formation of a Special Commission to discern future directions for The United Methodist Church.

Whereas, since The United Methodist Church is struggling with how to deal with matters of human sexuality and many across the denomination are discussing a possible a schism in the church, the Task Force would like to offer the Global Connection Plan as an option for dealing with these concerns.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Secretary of the 2016 NEJ Conference forward this resolution and the attached Global Connection Plan (Concept Proposal and constitutional amendments) to the Special Commission which will be organized by the Council of Bishops, the Connectional Table, and the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters with the recommendation that these organizations consider the Global Connection Plan as a possible way forward.

Therefore be it further resolved that the Secretary of the NEJ Conference request that the Special Commission, the Connectional Table, and the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters each provide a response to the Secretary of the NEJ Conference regarding how the Global Connection Plan was used in the work of each of those organizations.

Tracy Merrick, NEJ Global Structure Task Force, Chairperson

NEJ Global Structure Task Force Members: Sara Baron (Upper New York), Scott Campbell (New England), Darlene DiDomineck (At Large), Jen Ihlo (Baltimore-Washington), Sue Jamison (Secretary, Susquehanna), Scott Johnson (Upper NY), Judi Kenaston (West Virginia), Cynthia Ann Kent (Greater New Jersey), Marilyn D. Kinelski (Greater New Jersey), Larry Leister (Eastern Pennsylvania), Tracy Merrick (Chairperson, Western Pennsylvania), Derrick Porter (Peninsula-Delaware), Morais Quissico (New York), Denise Smartt Sears (New York), and Eliezer Valentin-Castanon (Baltimore-Washington)

Legislation Consultant: Kevin Nelson (New England)

**Global Connection Plan
Concept Proposal
September 2015**

The NEJ Global Structure Task Force has developed this proposal for the 2016 General Conference to consider and to designate a representative task force or committee to write the legislation needed to implement its provisions.

An Equitable Global Structure:

A. United Methodist Global Connection

1. The United Methodist Global Connection shall be responsible for global matters pertaining to The United Methodist Church and will not address non-global matters relating to individual connections in Africa, Asia, Europe, or North America.
2. The Global Connection shall be responsible for:
 - a. Constitution of The United Methodist Church
 - b. Global Book of Discipline
 - c. Global Social Principles
 - d. Global Connectional budget
 - e. Global responsibilities of the current General Conference as defined in the 2012 Book of Discipline and in actions of previous general conferences, except for those matters delegated elsewhere
 - f. Hearing reports about ministry successes and challenges from each connection and providing opportunities for the discussion of global issues
 - g. Number and boundaries of United Methodist connections
 - h. Definition of the powers and roles of connectional, regional, annual, missionary, district, and charge conferences
 - i. Number of episcopal areas within each of the United Methodist connections
 - j. Definition of the powers, duties, and privileges of episcopal leaders
 - k. Decisions regarding the funding of connectional and regional conferences
 - l. Global agency statements of purpose, accountability to statements of purpose, and sizes and make-up of global agency boards of directors.
 - m. Definition of the powers and duties of elders, deacons, supply pastors, local pastors, deaconesses, and home missionaries
 - n. Definition of the conditions, privileges, and duties of church membership
 - o. Standards for the election of delegates to the Global Connectional Conference
3. The Global Connectional Conference shall replace the General Conference, which currently “has full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional ... It has no executive or administrative power.” (§501)
 - a. The Global Connectional Conference shall focus on global matters during its quadrennial meeting which shall last less than two weeks.
 - b. The Global Connectional Conference shall be constituted in the same way as the current General Conference, shall be assigned responsibilities that are similar to the current General Conference, shall be subjected to the same Restrictive Rules as the current General Conference, and shall function in ways that are similar to the current General Conference. (§§13-16 and §§501 – 511).
 - c. The Global Connectional Conference shall consist of 600 – 1000 delegates with an

equal number of lay and clergy delegates elected by annual conferences and missionary conferences. The formula for determining the number of delegates from each annual conference shall be the same for all annual conferences and missionary conferences, with the provision that each annual conference and missionary conference shall elect at least one lay and one clergy delegate.

- d. Concordat churches, affiliated autonomous Methodist churches, and affiliated united churches may elect delegates to the Global Connectional Conference:
 - The Methodist Church in Great Britain may elect four delegates with voice and vote. The United Methodist Church may send two delegates each year to the British Methodist Conference.
 - Other concordat churches may elect two delegates with voice and vote.
 - Affiliated autonomous Methodist churches and affiliated united churches may elect two delegates with voice and without vote. If such a church has more than 70,000 full members it is entitled to send three delegates with voice but not vote.

- 4. The Council of Bishops, the Global Judicial Council, and the global agencies shall serve the entire United Methodist Global Connection.
 - a. The Council of Bishops shall continue to have similar responsibilities and shall function in ways that are the similar to the current Council of Bishops (§§47 – 54 and §§401 – 442).
 - b. The Global Judicial Council shall continue to have similar responsibilities and shall function in ways that are the similar to the current Judicial Council (§§55 – 58 and §§2601-2612). In addition, it shall have the option to review all decisions by connection judicial committees and regional committees on appeal. It shall also handle matters that reference both the Global Book of Discipline and one or more connectional books of discipline.
 - c. The agencies which the Global Connection defines as global shall be structured to fully serve all of the connections and shall establish boards of directors with members equitably distributed across all regions of the Global Connection.

B. United Methodist Connections (Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America)

- 1. A United Methodist Connection shall be established in each of the following: Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America. Each connection shall focus on the church's mission from the perspectives of the regions within the connection by understanding and addressing the contextual implications of nations, cultures, languages, and other important realities.
- 2. Each connection shall be responsible for:
 - a. A connectional book of discipline
 - b. Authorizing provisions within its connectional book of discipline to accommodate the specific needs of the regions within its purview
 - c. Defining needs for the presence and roles of agencies within the connection
 - d. Connectional-specific agencies: agency statements of purpose, accountability to agency statements of purpose, and sizes and make-up of connectional-specific agency boards of directors
 - e. Number and boundaries of regions within the connection
 - f. Episcopal matters: tenure, process of election, methods of assignment, retirement plans, itineracy, and standards of conduct
 - g. Clergy standards: process for ordination, conference relationship, and clergy membership
 - h. Financial matters: connection's budget, pensions, distribution of funds to support regional conferences

- i. Legislation to the Global Connectional Conference regarding the Global Book of Discipline
3. If a connection is organized without regions, the roles and responsibilities of the region shall be added to the roles and responsibilities of that connection.
4. The connectional conferences shall meet quadrennially prior to the Global Connectional Conference.
 - a. Each connectional conference shall consist of the delegates to the Global Connectional Conference from the connection with the provision that no connection conference shall have less than 100 delegates. Additional delegates where needed shall be elected according to the same process, and may be the delegates that were elected to the regional conferences within the connection.
 - b. Connectional conferences shall be organized in ways similar to the Global Connectional Conference and shall function in similar ways.
5. The connectional college of bishops, connectional judicial committee, connectional-specific agencies, and global agencies with a presence in a connection shall serve that connection.
 - a. The connectional college of bishops shall be responsible for leading the connection and shall function in ways similar to the current colleges of bishops. (§48, §51, and §52).
 - b. The connectional judicial committee will deal with questions of law relating to its connection's books of discipline
 - c. The connectional-specific agencies shall be accountable to the connectional conference and their boards of directors shall be elected by the regional conferences in the connection.
 - d. Any global agencies with a presence within a connection shall be organized to be responsive to the needs of the connection and shall be accountable to the connectional conference and the global agency's board of directors..

C. Regions

1. Regions shall be established geographically and all regional conferences shall have the same authority and responsibilities.
2. Current jurisdictional conferences and central conferences shall become 12 regions:
 - a. United Methodist Connection in Africa - three regions:
African Region, Congo Region, and West Africa Region
 - b. United Methodist Connection in Asia - one region:
Philippines Region
 - c. United Methodist Connection in Europe - three regions:
Central / Southern Europe Region, German Region, and Northern Europe and Eurasia Region
 - d. United Methodist Connection in the North America - five regions:
North Central Region, Northeastern Region, South Central Region, Southeastern Region, and Western Region
3. Regions will be responsible for:
 - a. Promotion of the evangelistic, educational, missionary, and benevolent interests of the Church and to provide for interests and institutions within its boundaries
 - b. Number and boundaries of annual conferences
 - c. Boundaries of episcopal areas
 - d. Election and assignment of bishops

- e. Election of members to global and connectional agency boards and regional committees
 - f. Legislation to the Global Connectional Conference regarding the Global Book of Discipline
 - g. Legislation to its connectional conference regarding the connectional book of discipline
 - h. Regional budget
 - i. Organizing as needed to accomplish its work
4. Regional conference meetings will be conducted quadrennially within one year following the meeting of the Global Connectional Conference.
 - a. The number of delegates and composition guidelines of regional conferences will be determined by the Global Connectional Conference. Regional conference membership will consist of equal numbers of laity and clergy and no regional conference shall have less than 100 members.
 - b. The delegates to the Global Connectional Conference shall be considered the first delegates from an annual conference elected to a regional conference.
 5. The regional college of bishops and the regional committees will serve the Church within the region.
 - a. The regional college of bishops will continue to have the same roles as defined in the 2012 Book of Discipline. (§48, §51, and §52).
 - b. The region will establish at least the following committees to support its work:
 - Regional committee on appeals to hear and decide the appeal of a clergy person or a bishop following the decision of a trial committee, and
 - Regional committee on the episcopacy to fulfill the provisions in §§ 524.3 of the 2012 Book of Discipline.

D. Annual Conferences

1. The current configuration of annual conferences across each connection will be retained, unless altered by the region or connection.
2. Annual conferences will be responsible for electing delegates to the Global Connectional Conference, the connectional conference, and the regional conference.
3. The annual conference purpose, composition, organization, responsibilities, and agencies will remain unchanged, unless adapted by its connectional conference. (§§32 – 36 and §§601 – 657).

**Global Connection Plan
Constitutional Amendments
September 2015**

TITLE/SUBJECT MATTER: Global Connectional Conference
DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH: ¶ 8, 13, 14, 15, 16

PETITION TEXT Amend ¶ 8 by revision as follows:

¶ 8. Article I.—There shall be a General Conference Global Connectional Conference for the entire Church with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth...

Amend ¶ 13 by revision as follows:

Section II. General Conference Global Connectional Conference

¶ 13. Article I.—1. The General Conference Global Connectional Conference shall be composed of not less than 600 nor more than 1,000 delegates, one-half of whom shall be clergy and one half lay members, to be elected by the annual conferences. The missionary conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.

2. Delegates shall be elected in a fair and open process by the annual conferences. The same formula shall be used to determine the number of delegates of all annual conferences and missionary conferences, provided that no annual conference or missionary conference shall have fewer than two delegates.

3. Delegates may be elected by other autonomous Methodist churches if and when the General Conference Global Connectional Conference shall approve concordats with such other autonomous Methodist churches for the mutual election and seating of delegates in each other's legislative conferences.

4. In the case of The Methodist Church in Great Britain, mother church of Methodism, provision shall be made for The United Methodist Church to send two delegates annually to the British Methodist Conference, and The Methodist Church in Great Britain to send four delegates quadrennially to The United Methodist General Conference Global Connectional Conference, the delegates of both conferences having vote and being evenly divided between clergy and laity.

Amend ¶ 14 by revision as follows:

¶ 14. Article II.—1. The General Conference Global Connectional Conference shall meet in the month of April or May once in four years at such time and in such place as shall be determined by the General Conference Global Connectional Conference or by its duly authorized committees.

A special session of the General Conference Global Connectional Conference, possessing the authority and exercising all the powers of the General Conference Global Connectional Conference, may be called by the Council of Bishops, or in such other manner as the General Conference Global Connectional Conference may from time to time prescribe, to meet at such time and in such place as may be stated in the call. Such special session of the General Conference Global Connectional Conference shall be composed of the delegates to the preceding General Conference Global Connectional Conference or their lawful successors, except that when a particular annual conference or missionary conference shall prefer to have a new election it may do so. The purpose of such special session shall be stated in the call, and only such business shall be transacted as is in harmony with the purpose stated in such call unless the General Conference Global Connectional Conference by a two-thirds vote shall determine that other business may be transacted.

Amend ¶ 15 by revision as follows:

¶ 15. Article III.—The General Conference Global Connectional Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General Global, connectional, jurisdictional, and central and regional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the General Conference Global Connectional Conference and also in the con-

nectional and jurisdictional or central regional conferences.

Amend ¶ 16 by revision as follows:

¶ 16. Article IV.—The General Conference **Global Connectional Conference** shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional, **except for those powers constitutionally delegated to the connectional conferences,** and in the exercise of this power shall have authority as follows:

1. To define and fix the conditions, privileges, and duties of Church membership, which shall in every case be without reference to race, gender, or status.
2. To define and fix the powers and duties of elders, deacons, supply preachers **pastors**, local preachers **pastors**, exhorters, deaconesses, and home missionaries, **which shall in every case be without reference to race, gender, or status.**
3. To define and fix the powers and duties of annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions, and of ~~central conferences,~~ **connectional conferences, regional conferences,** district conferences, charge conferences, and congregational meetings.
4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the Church ~~out the United States of America~~ **around the globe.**
5. To define and fix the powers, duties, and privileges of the episcopacy, to adopt a plan for the support of the bishops. ~~to provide a uniform rule for their retirement, and to provide for the discontinuance of a bishop because of inefficiency or unacceptability.~~
6. To provide and revise the hymnal and ritual of the Church ~~and to regulate all matters relating to the form and mode of worship,~~ subject to the limitations of the first and second Restrictive Rules.
7. To provide a judicial system and a method of judicial procedure for the church, except as herein otherwise prescribed.
8. To initiate and to direct all **global** connectional enterprises of the Church and to provide boards for their promotion and administration.
9. To determine and provide for raising and distributing funds necessary to carry on the work of the Church.
10. ~~To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional conferences and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by the central conferences~~ **regional conferences.**
11. To select its presiding officers from the bishops, through a committee, provided that the bishops shall select from their own number the presiding officer of the opening session.
12. To change the number and the boundaries of ~~jurisdictional conferences~~ **connectional conferences** upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences in each ~~jurisdictional~~ **connectional** conference involved.
13. To establish such commissions for the ~~general~~ **global** work of the Church as may be deemed advisable.
14. To secure the rights and privileges of membership in all **global** agencies, programs, and institutions in The United Methodist Church regardless of race, gender, or status.
15. To allow the annual conferences to utilize structures unique to their mission, other mandated structures notwithstanding.
16. To enact such other legislation as may be necessary, subject to the limitations and restrictions of the Constitution of the Church.

TITLE/SUBJECT MATTER: Connectional Conferences

DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH: New Paragraph

PETITION TEXT Insert new paragraph between ¶8 and ¶ 9, and renumber subsequent paragraphs, as follows:

¶ 9. Article II.—**There shall be connectional conferences in all areas of the globe in which The United Methodist Church operates, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth.**

Insert new Section IV, subsequent to the Restrictive Rules and prior to what is currently ¶ 23, as follows:
Section IV. Connectional Conferences

1 § 23. Article I.—The connectional conferences shall be composed of the delegates from the annual con-
 2 ferences within its boundaries who have been elected to the Global Connectional Conference. No connec-
 3 tional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates, one half of whom shall be lay and one half clergy.
 4 The same formula shall be used to determine the number of delegates of all annual conferences and
 5 missionary conferences. In cases where a connectional conference would otherwise have fewer than 100
 6 delegates, the additional delegates shall be elected in accordance with the above process; these delegates
 7 may be the same as those elected to regional conferences. The missionary conferences shall be considered
 8 as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.

9 § 24. Article II.—All connectional conferences shall have the same status and the same privileges of action
 10 within the limits fixed by the Constitution.

11 § 25. Article III. —Each connectional conference shall meet within a year prior to or in conjunction with
 12 the Global Connectional Conference, at such time and in such place as shall be determined by the con-
 13 nectional College of Bishops or its delegated committee.

14 A special session of a connectional conference, possessing the authority and exercising all the powers
 15 of the connectional conference, may be called by the connectional conference's college of bishops, or in
 16 such other manner as the connectional conference may from time to time prescribe, to meet at such time
 17 and in such place as may be stated in the call. Such special session of the connectional conference shall
 18 be composed of the delegates to the preceding connectional conference or their lawful successors, except
 19 that when a particular annual conference or missionary conference shall prefer to have a new election it
 20 may do so. The purpose of such special session shall be stated in the call, and only such business shall be
 21 transacted as is in harmony with the purpose stated in such call unless the connectional conference by a
 22 two-thirds vote shall determine that other business may be transacted.

23 § 26. Article IV.—The connectional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such
 24 others as may be conferred by the Global Connectional Conferences:

25 1. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the Church within
 26 their boundaries, including to promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, social-concern, and
 27 benevolent interests of the Church, subject to the powers and authority of the Global Connectional Con-
 28 ference. Connectional Conferences are authorized to create a connectional *Book of Discipline*, subject to
 29 the powers that have been vested in the Global Connectional Conference as contained within the global
 30 *Book of Discipline*.

31 2. To set the tenure and method of assignment of the episcopacy within the connection, to provide a uni-
 32 form rule for their retirement, to provide for the discontinuance of a bishop, and to fix a uniform basis
 33 upon which bishops shall be elected by the regional conferences.

34 3. To provide for a process of ordination and to set standards for conference membership and conference
 35 relationship, which shall in every case be without reference to race, gender or status.

36 4. To regulate all matters relating to the form and mode of worship, subject to the limitations of the first
 37 and second Restrictive Rules.

38 5. To initiate and to direct all connectional enterprises of the Church within the connection and to pro-
 39 vide boards for their promotion and administration, subject to the authority and powers of the Global
 40 Connectional Conference.

41 6. To determine and provide for raising and distributing funds necessary to carry on the work of the
 42 connection.

43 7. To change the number and the boundaries of regional conferences upon the consent of a majority of
 44 the annual conferences within the regional conferences involved.

45 8. To establish such commissions for the work of the Church within the connection as may be deemed
 46 advisable.

47 9. To secure the rights and privileges of membership in all agencies, programs, and institutions of The
 48 United Methodist Church within the connection regardless of race, gender or status.

49 10. To allow the annual conferences to utilize structures unique to their mission, other mandated struc-
 50 tures notwithstanding.

51 11. To provide a judicial system and method of judicial procedure, subject to the powers of the Global
 52 Connectional Conference and the authority of the Judicial Council, to determine legal questions on the

rules, regulations, and other matters of connectional disciplinary law.

12. To enact such other legislation as may be necessary, subject to the limitations and restrictions of the Constitution of the Church and powers and authority of the Global Connectional Conference.

TITLE/SUBJECT MATTER: Regional Conferences

DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH: ¶¶ 9, 10, 23-31

PETITION TEXT Delete ¶¶ 9 and 10 and replace with a new paragraph as follows:

~~¶ 9. *Article II.*—There shall be jurisdictional conferences the Church in the United States of America, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no jurisdictional or central conferences based on any ground other than geographical and regional division.~~

~~¶ 10. *Article III.*—There shall be central conferences for the church outside the United States of America and, if necessary, provisional central conferences, all with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth.~~

¶ 9. *Article II.*—A Connectional conference shall have the option of establishing regional conferences for the organization of the church in the connection, and, if necessary, provisional regional conferences, all with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that there shall be no regional conference based on any ground other than geographical division. In connectional conferences without regional conferences, the connectional conference will assume the responsibilities assigned to a regional conference. Initially, the number and boundaries of the regional conferences shall match the previous boundaries of the central conferences and jurisdictions. Subsequently, the connectional conferences shall have the authority to change the number and boundaries of regional conferences.

Delete ¶¶ 23-27 on Jurisdictional Conferences and ¶¶ 28-31 on Central Conferences and replace with new paragraphs as follows:

Section IV. Regional Conferences

¶ 23 *Article I.*—The regional conferences shall be composed of as many representatives from the annual conferences and missionary conferences as shall be determined by a uniform basis established by the Global Connectional Conference, provided that no regional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates. The delegates shall be clergy and lay in equal numbers.

¶ 24. *Article II.*—The regional conferences shall meet within the year succeeding the meeting of the Global Connectional Conference at such times and places as shall have been determined by the preceding respective regional conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by their respective College of Bishops.

¶ 25. *Article III.*—All regional conferences shall have the same status and same privileges of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution.

¶ 26. *Article IV.*—The regional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be conferred by the Global Connectional Conference:

1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, social-concern and benevolent interests of the Church and to provide for interests and institutions within their boundaries.

2. To elect bishops for the respective regional conferences in number as may be determined from time to time, upon a basis fixed by the Global Connectional Conference, and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for their support as may be determined by the Global Connectional Conference.

3. To establish and constitute regional and conference boards as auxiliary to the global and connectional boards of the Church as the need may appear and to choose their representatives on the global and connectional boards in such manner as the Global Connectional Conference may determine.

4. To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences, provided that there shall be no annual conference with a membership of fewer than 50 clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the Global Connectional Conference.

5. To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the region, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the Global Connectional Conference and connectional conferences.
6. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a clergy person of that region from the decision of a trial court.
7. To appoint a committee on the episcopacy.
8. To establish and to appoint such other committees as may be necessary.

TITLE/SUBJECT MATTER: Miscellaneous Provisions About Annual Conferences Related to Global Church Structure

DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPHS: 33, 34, 35, 36

PETITION TEXT **Revise ¶ 33 as follows:**

¶ 33. *Article II.*—The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General and the jurisdictional or central conferences Global, connectional and regional conferences, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and...

Revise ¶ 34 as follows:

¶ 34. *Article III.*—The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference Global Connectional Conference and to its jurisdictional or central conference connectional conference and regional conference in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference Global Connectional Conference and connectional conference shall be representatives in that body those bodies. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by ratio for representation in the jurisdictional or central conference regional conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the jurisdictional or central conference regional conference. The additional delegates to the jurisdictional or central conference regional conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference Global Connectional Conference and connectional conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central conference regional conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central conferences regional conferences may act as reserve to the General Conference Global Connectional Conference and connectional conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in attendance at the General Conference Global Connectional Conference or connectional conference.

Revise ¶ 35 as follows:

¶ 35. *Article V.*—The clergy delegates to the General Conference Global Connectional Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference connectional conference and regional conference shall be elected from...

Revise ¶ 36 as follows:

¶ 36. *Article V.*—The lay delegates to General and jurisdictional or central conferences Global Connectional, connectional and regional conferences shall be elected by... ..and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General and jurisdictional or central conferences Global Connectional, connectional and regional conferences.

TITLE/SUBJECT MATTER: Boundaries

DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPHS: 37, 38, 39, 40

PETITION TEXT Insert new paragraph before ¶ 37 as follows:

Section VII. Boundaries

¶ 37. *Article I.*—The United Methodist Church shall organize its work into connectional conferences. There shall be one connectional conference each for Africa, Asia, Europe and North America.

Delete ¶ 37 (the North American Connectional Conference will have authority to maintain these boundaries as regional conferences, but they won't be listed in the Constitution).

Insert new paragraph before ¶ 38 as follows:

¶ 38. *Article II.*—The connectional conferences shall determine the number and boundaries of their regions, upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences within the regional conferences. The initial number and boundaries of the regions shall coincide with the previously existing jurisdictional and central conferences.

Delete ¶¶ 38 and 39.

Renumber ¶ 40 and revise as follows:

~~¶ 40. *Article IV.* ¶ 39. *Article III.*—Changes in the number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas may be effected by the jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America and by the central conferences outside the United States of America~~ regional conferences according to the provisions under the respective powers and pursuant to the respective structures of the ~~jurisdictional and the central conferences~~ regional conferences.

TITLE/SUBJECT MATTER: The Episcopacy Within a New Global Structure

DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH: ¶¶ 46-54

PETITION TEXT Amend paragraph 46 as follows:

~~¶ 46. *Article II.*—The bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional and central conferences~~ regional conferences and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by the General Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each central conference for those elected by such central conference by each connectional conference.

Amend paragraph 47 as follows:

~~¶ 47. *Article III.*—There shall be a Council of Bishops composed of all the bishops of The United Methodist Church. The council shall meet at least once a year and plan for the general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the entire Church and for carrying into effect the rules, regulations, and responsibilities prescribed and enjoined by the General Conference~~ Global Connectional Conference and in accord with the provisions set forth in this Plan of Union.

Insert new paragraph between ¶¶ 47, 48 as follows:

¶ 48. *Article IV.*—The bishops of each connectional conference shall constitute a connectional College of Bishops. Such connectional College of Bishops may meet according to its needs in order to plan for the general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the connection.

Amend paragraph 48 as follows:

~~¶ 48 *Article III* ¶ 49 *Article V.*—The bishops of each jurisdictional and central conference~~ regional conference shall constitute a regional College of Bishops, and such College of Bishops shall arrange

the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within their respective territories.

Amend paragraph 49 as follows:

~~§ 49 Article V~~ **§ 50 Article VI.**—The bishops shall have residential presidential supervision in the jurisdictional or central conferences **regional conferences** in which they are elected or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction **region** to another jurisdiction **region** for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on either of two bases: (a) a jurisdiction **region** that receives a bishop by transfer from another jurisdiction **region** may transfer to that jurisdiction **region** or to a third jurisdiction **region** one of its own bishops eligible for transfer, so that the number transferred in by each jurisdiction **region** shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a jurisdiction **region** may receive a bishop from another jurisdiction **region** and not transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless that bishop shall have specifically consented. (3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the jurisdiction **region** that elected the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the members present and voting of the jurisdictional ~~regional~~ committees on episcopacy of the jurisdictions **regions** that are involved. After the above procedures have been followed, the transferring bishop shall become a member of the receiving College of Bishops and shall be subject to residential assignment by that jurisdictional **regional** conference.

A bishop may be assigned by the Council of Bishops for presidential service or other temporary service in another jurisdiction **region** than that which elected the bishop, provided that the request is made by a majority of the bishops in the jurisdiction **region** of the proposed service.

In the case of an emergency in any jurisdiction or central conference **region** through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops **respective connectional College of Bishops** may assign a bishop from another jurisdiction or central conference **region** to the work of the said jurisdiction or central conference **region**, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that jurisdiction or central conference **region**.

Amend paragraph 50 as follows:

~~§ 50 Article VI~~ **§ 51 Article VII.**— The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church.

The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bishop elected by a central conference of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the central conference electing him shall have determined. **Each bishop shall have such tenure as has been determined by the connectional conference within which said bishop has been elected.**

The jurisdictional conference ~~regional conference~~ shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report to the jurisdictional conference **regional conference** its findings for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall recommend the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the jurisdictional conference **regional conference**.

Amend paragraph 51 as follows:

~~§ 51 Article VII~~ **§ 52 Article VIII.**—A bishop presiding over an annual, central, or jurisdictional ~~connectional or regional~~ conference shall decide all questions of law coming before the bishop in the regular business of a session, provided that such questions be presented in writing and that the decisions be recorded in the journal of the conference...

1
2 **Amend paragraph 52 as follows:**

3 ~~§ 52 Article VIII~~ **§ 53 Article IX.**—The bishops of the several jurisdictional and central **connectional**
4 **and regional** conferences shall preside in the session of their respective conferences.

5
6 **Amend paragraph 53 as follows:**

7 ~~§ 53 Article IX~~ **§ 54 Article X.**—In each annual conference there shall be one or more district superin-
8 tendents who shall assist the bishop in the administration of the annual conference and shall have such
9 responsibilities and term of office as the General Conference **respective connectional conferences**
10 shall prescribe.

11
12 **Amend paragraph 54 as follows:**

13 ~~§ 54 Article X~~ **§ 55 Article XI.**—The bishops shall appoint, after consultation with the district super-
14 intendants, ministers to the charges; and they shall have such responsibilities and authorities as the
15 General Conference **Global Connectional Conference and connectional conferences** shall prescribe.
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Report 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 North-eastern 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 program-

matic 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

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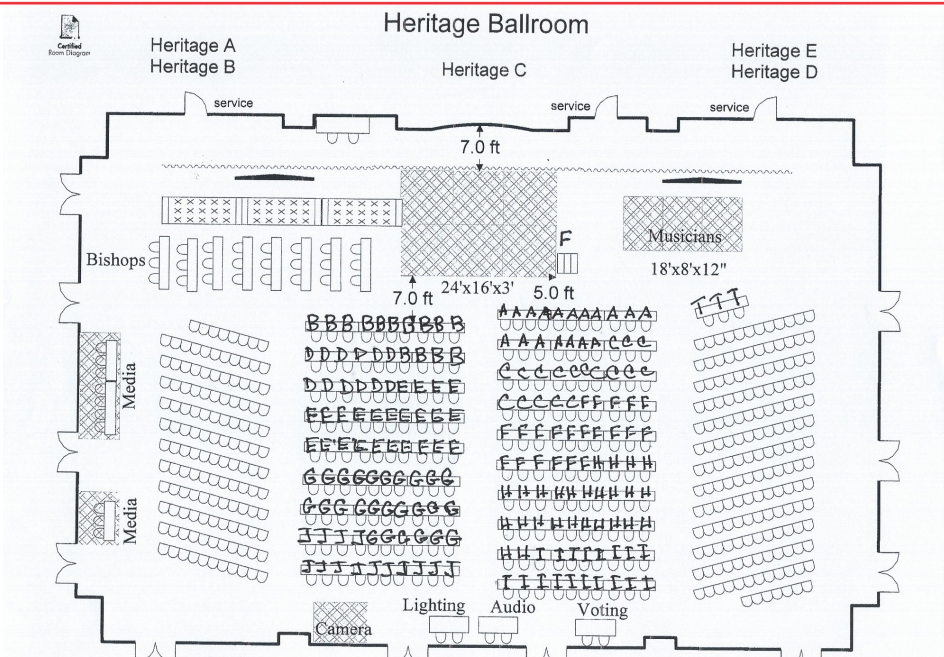
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Seating Chart

- A: EPA
- B: NE
- C: GNJ
- D: PenDel
- E: UNY
- F: Sus
- G: WPA
- H: BWC
- I: NY
- J: WV
- T: Tellers/Asst./Head Teller