



AND A TIME TO REPENT

NEJ says sorry to Native Americans

By Erik Alsgaard
DCA Staff

“This was your land first; this wasn’t our land.”

Bishop Peggy Johnson helped set the tone for 2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church with these words during an Act of Repentance Monday night. Johnson serves as the resident bishop of the Philadelphia Area which encompasses the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conferences.

The Act of Repentance was a gesture of healing and reconciliation between The United Methodist Church and Native Americans. The 2012 General Conference mandated Annual and Jurisdictional Conferences

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Photo by Jerry Wojemuth

Members of CONAM and other Native Americans at the service last evening.

Episcopal nominees face group interviews today

By Maidstone Mulenga
DCA Editor

The two elders who will be elected as the newest bishops at the 2016 NEJ Conference will join a College of Bishops which is facing the challenge of dealing with a jurisdiction in membership decline.

That is why the 11 candidates who will be interviewed today by the groups of delegates will confront the question of what they would do to stem the hemorrhaging of members in the jurisdiction and the denomination as a whole.

The candidates will each get a chance to introduce those accompanying them and give a brief opening statement before the group asks them questions. They will also give a closing statement at the end of each interview.

Questions are likely to touch such subjects as how the new bishops plan to inspire the denomination to reach younger and more diverse people.

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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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Tom Salsgiver, Secretary
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Editor

Maidstone Mulenga
Director of Connectional Ministries/
Assistant to Bishop
Baltimore-Washington Conference

Graphics

Kayla Spears
Communications Strategist
Baltimore-Washington Conference

Bulletin Board



Coming in Wednesday's DCA information about musicians at this year's NEJ Conference.

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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.

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Tuesday Agenda

Time	Activity/Group	Meeting Room
6:30 a.m.	Prayer with Eucharist	Hickory Room
7:00-8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	
8:30 a.m.	Devotions in small groups	
8:45 a.m.-11:45 a.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)	Commons on Vine
	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
12:00-1:30 p.m.	Lunch	
1:45 p.m.-5:00 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)	Commons on Vine
	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
5:00-6:30 p.m.	Dinner	
7:15 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)	Commons on Vine
	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
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	

Bishop Matthews to retire after 42 years of ministry

By Erik Alsgaard
DCA Staff

Bishop Marcus Matthews, episcopal leader of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, is the only Northeastern Jurisdiction bishop retiring in 2016. After 42 years of ministry – the last 12 years as a bishop – Matthews will serve in retirement as the Executive Secretary of the Council of Bishops, based in Washington, D.C., for the next four years.

As the bishop was set to retire, he made it known that he and his wife, Barbara, did not want any gifts given to them directly. Instead, he asked that any and all gifts be given as monetary donations for a new Wellness and Fitness Center on the campus of Africa University, where the bishop has served as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees and where he currently serves as the Interim Chair.

In response, members and friends of the Baltimore-Washington Conference raised about \$317,000 in a “Love Offering” for the bishop. Ground breaking ceremonies for the new building were held in early June, which Bishop and Barbara Matthews attended.

Matthews is originally from Florence, S.C., where his home church, Cumberland United Methodist Church, was a pivotal influence in his life. He graduated from South Carolina State College, and later was employed by Cumberland UMC as a community developer in the first wave of the Black Community Developers program of the General Board of Global Ministries. He was later selected by the Ford Foundation’s Leadership Development Program to conduct a year-long study of religious institutions such as the Delta Project in Mississippi, The UMC General Commission on Religion and Race, and a project with juveniles in Syracuse, N.Y.

Matthews then enrolled at Wesley Theological Seminary and served as a student intern at Douglas Memorial UMC in Washington, D.C. for a year. He became an assistant pastor at Asbury UMC in Washington, D.C., where he continued as an associate for two years after his graduation from Wesley. Upon graduation, he served as pastor of Jones Memorial UMC in Washington, D.C., where he oversaw the building of a new sanctuary and established a community development program. He earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from New York Theological Seminary. Matthews was pastor of Epworth Chapel UMC in Baltimore, from 1982 to 1986, when, during his pastorate, Epworth received 272 new members.

In 1986, he became district superintendent of the Baltimore East District and in 1991 was named Conference Council Director, a position he held until being named Washington West District superintendent in 1999.

Matthews was elected bishop on July 14, 2004, by the Northeastern Jurisdiction on the first ballot and was assigned to serve the Philadelphia Episcopal Area. In 2008, he was assigned to the New York West Area. In Upstate New York, Bishop Matthews successfully led the uniting of two Episcopal Areas and four Annual Conferences into one Episcopal Area and one Annual Conference: the Upper New York Annual Conference. He served the Upper New York Episcopal Area until 2012 when he was assigned to the Washington Episcopal Area and the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

Bishop Matthews farewell celebration will be held Thursday evening.



Bishop Marcus Matthews and his wife, Barbara. BWC file photo

Continued from page 1, Episcopal Interview

Another key subject is likely to center on how to deal with economic realities and what decisions bishops will make to bring financial stability to the church.

With the issue of human sexuality taking center stage, candidates will mostly likely face questions on what steps they have taken to make the church more inclusive and what additional steps they might take if elected as bishop.

The official candidates are:

- 1) Adrienne Brewington - Long Island East District Superintendent, New York Conference;
- 2) We Hyun Chang - Pastor of Belmont-Watertown United Methodist Church, New England Conference;
- 3) Irving Cotto - Northeast District Superintendent, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference;
- 4) LaTrelle Easterling - Metro Boston Hope District Superintendent, New England Conference;
- 5) Cathy Hall Stengel - Pastor of Rush United Methodist Church, Upper New York Conference;
- 6) Joseph Kenaston - Southern District Superintendent, West Virginia Conference;
- 7) Kenneth J. Kieffer - Connecticut District Superintendent, New York Conference;
- 8) Jisun Kwak - Delaware Bay District Superintendent, Greater New Jersey Conference;
- 9) Cynthia Moore-Koikoi - Baltimore Metropolitan District Superintendent, Baltimore-Washington Conference;
- 10) Derrick Porter - Wilmington District Superintendent; and
- 11) Rebekah Sweet - Northern Flow District Superintendent, Upper New York Conference.

2016 Episcopal Interview Facilitators and Rooms

Group	Episcopal Interview Group Facilitators	Room
1	JF Lacaria (WV) Andrian Jordan (BW)	Federal A
2	Lawrence Pelham (PD) JJ Warren (UNY)	Federal B
3	Roena Littlejohn (NY) Kathy Kind (SUS)	Independence A
4	Jordan Harris (EPA) Sherri Rood (UNY)	Independence B
5	Leigh Goodrich (NE) Royce Lyden (WV)	Commons on Vine
6	Lauren Godwin (WV) Eric Park (WPA)	Hickory B
7	Thom White Wolf Fassett (UNY) Becca Girrell (NE)	Conestoga 1
8	Christie Latona (BW) Chris Hackett (GNJ)	Conestoga 2

Electronic voting for 2016 NEJ Conference

The 2016 Jurisdictional Conference will use electronic handsets to register votes quickly and accurately. This device will be used for balloting during the Episcopal elections and for other business, when requested by the Presiding Bishop.

It is hoped that this will reduce the amount of time involved in making important decisions regarding voting for Bishops. It will also increase the accuracy of the balloting process while complying with the procedures outlined in The United Methodist Book of Discipline of The United Methodist church, 2012 and the NEJ Rules.

On the first ballot (and subsequent ballots until there is an election) you will vote for 2 candidates. Using your keypad you will be instructed to enter the 3 digit number for each candidate. Nominee numbers will be entered one at a time. You will have a total of 60 seconds to vote for 2 candidates. When the voting is complete, the Presiding Officer will close the ballot.

Delegates will receive a list of ballot numbers to use throughout the election process. You will also receive a ballot summary sheet to keep track of the voting.

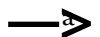
The 11 persons that have been nominated by an Annual Conference or an approved caucus according to our rules will be assigned the lowest numbers on the ballot. Additionally, all Elders who are elected Delegates or elected Reserve Delegates to this conference will be assigned a number as well.

CASTING YOUR VOTE USING THE VOTING DEVICE

- Select the ballot number for the desired candidate. You will find her/his number on the ballot sheet.
- When prompted by the Presiding Office to begin the balloting, you will see the words, "Please vote" on your keypad. At that point, enter the number for the desired candidate. Once you enter the 3 digit number, that number will be displayed on the keypad.
- When you see the desired number on the device screen, press the "send" button. The keypad will then display the wording sending...followed by the number of choices that remain. You will then vote for the 2nd candidate. Your election will be transmitted to the computer and votes will be tabulated.
- The keypad will not allow you to vote for: the same person twice on any given ballot; vote for someone already elected; someone who has withdrawn; or if you enter a number that has not been assigned. If you enter a 3 digit number that is invalid, you will notice the number of choices that remain does not decrease—thereby telling you the number you entered was not a valid number.
- Padgett Communications will tabulate the results. The Tellers under the supervision of the Head Teller will tally any write-in votes (see below) and will add those results to the results from the electronic devices.
- All votes cast will remain secret.
- The Presiding Office will announce results as soon as possible—and we will continue the process until 2 persons are elected.

CASTING VOTES FOR WRITE-IN VOTES

- If you wish to vote for someone for whom no ballot number is assigned, you will vote by using a PAPER BALLOT. You will use the paper ballot for that entire ballot.
- If you wish to have a write-in ballot when instructed by the Presiding Office, please raise your hand and the Teller will give you a paper ballot.
- On the paper ballot you must write the ballot number and the electronic voting handset number for the ballot to be valid.
- You may vote for one Candidate who already has a number and 1 write-in Candidate or you may vote for 2 write-in candidates. The total number of candidates on the write-in ballot must be 2 (if we are electing 2). If we are only electing 1, then you may only vote for 1.
- When you have finished, raise your hand and a Teller will pick up your ballot.
- On the next ballot you may choose to vote for another write-in candidate that does not have



voting number assigned by requesting another write in ballot or you may use your keypad to vote for persons already assigned a number.

VOTING DEVICE DIFFICULTY

- IF YOUR VOTING DEVICE IS INOPERABLE, raise your hand and a Teller will take your device and give you a paper ballot upon which you will vote for your desired candidates using the ballot numbers. If your device fails in the middle of voting raise your hand and you will vote entirely using the write-in ballot. A new device will be delivered to you for the next ballot.

RESERVE DELEGATE KEYPADS

- The Chair of the Delegation is responsible for the distribution of the voting devices for each session and the collection of the devices at the conclusion of each session.
- All delegates are in covenant to vote using only the device given to them. Any delegate observing an unauthorized person voting on a device or who is voting using more than one device should immediately stand and notify the Presiding Officer of an irregularity.
- If the Chair of the delegation is a nominee or becomes a write-in nominee, she/he will have the first elected Lay Person be in charge of the voting devices and all matters pertaining to the election.

INVALID BALLOTS

- The following actions will invalidate a ballot
- Voting for fewer than the number to be elected on that ballot.
- Voting for someone who has already been elected.
- Voting for the same nominee more than once per ballot.
- Voting for someone who has withdrawn.

TEST VOTING

- There will be test ballots prior to the beginning of voting to make sure that everyone is comfortable with using electronic balloting.

REMINDERS

- You must be in the bar to vote.
- You will have 60 seconds to cast your vote for 2 Episcopal Candidates.
- If you choose not to participate in a particular ballot, do not use your keypad for any selection.
- If you make a mistake in voting, press 3 zeros (000) followed by the send button—before the ballot is closed. This will clear ALL of your choices for that ballot and you will need to enter the 3 digit numbers again.
- If you input the incorrect number during the voting and you see it BEFORE you press “send”, press the “DEL” button on the UPPER-LEFT corner to remove one number at a time. Re-enter the correct number and press send.
- Every handset will be tested before the conference, so the probability of failure is very low. If your handset does not work raise your hand quickly and you will receive a paper ballot and you will be issued a new handset before the next ballot.
- If a reserve is seated for a delegate, she/he will use that delegate’s handset.

DO NOT TAKE THE DEVICE FROM THE HERTIAGE BALLROOM.

ALL VOTING DEVICES MUST BE TURNED IN AT THE END OF EACH SESSION.

IF THERE IS A FAILURE TO TURN IN A MACHINE, THE DELEGATE THAT WAS ASSIGNED THE MACHINE WILL BE ASSESSED THE COST OF THE MACHINE.

Additional edits to the Rules found in the ADCA

Despite the best efforts of the Rules Committee to perfect the Rules prior to the deadline for submission in the ADCA, additional necessary edits have been identified. Therefore, in addition to those amendments found in the ADCA, pp. 15-39, the NEJ Rules Committee offers the following amendments to the Rules. Page and line numbers are found in the ADCA.

1. on Page 17, line 50, delete “the audit of the previous quadrennium” and replace with “all audits.”
2. on p. 18, following line 26, insert a new paragraph as follows: “An audit shall be conducted whenever the Treasurer changes.”
3. on p. 20, line 27, delete “on January 1 of the year” and replace with “immediately”.
on p. 20, line 28, insert “quadrennial” before Jurisdictional.
This provision should now read: “The quadrennial term of office for Vision Table members shall begin immediately following the quadrennial meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference.”
4. on p. 20, between lines 50 and 51, insert the following new bullet:
“Establish a voting procedure for episcopal elections (Rule 38).”
5. on p. 21, line 35, delete “One (1) bishop” and replace with “The President of the College of Bishops. (Art. VI.I.5.)”
6. on p. 22, line 36, delete the words “including reserve delegates.”
7. p 24, line 33, delete “on January 1 of the year following the the” and replace with “immediately following the quadrennial”.
8. p. 25, following the end of the sentence on line 30, insert a new sentence as follows: “Any person who misses a majority of called meetings, whether excused or not, shall be referred to the College of Bishops for replacement, either by the College or following the procedures set forth in the Book of Discipline or these Rules as related to the Committee needing a replacement.”
9. p. 27, line 14, insert the following at the end of the sentence: “and whenever the Treasurer changes.”
10. p. 31, line 20, delete “with financial implications or that amend the Rules”.
p. 31, line 21, sentence beginning with “This is to allow”, delete “This is to allow time for the” and insert in lieu thereof the following: “Petitions and/or Resolutions with financial implications or that amend the Rules shall be immediately referred to the”
11. p. 33, line 50, the word “count” at the beginning of that sentence should not be deleted.
12. p. 33, line 50, delete “one-third” and replace with “one-fifth”.
13. p. 38, line 26, delete the word “cases” and replace with “cast”.
14. p. 38, line 36, delete the word “will” and replace with “shall”.

Call to Action to the NEJ and The NEJ College of Bishops

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

It was unanimously agreed that it is time to break our silence. The people of faith called United Methodist have not mobilized nor been pro-active enough. While there have been pronouncements, calls to prayer, moments



Call, continued

of silence and candlelight vigils, we have not moved from rhetoric to action. Racism, white privilege and white supremacy are still the order of the day. To those viewing from within and from outside the church appears to be complicit in perpetuating a culture of white privilege and white privilege.

Therefore, in an effort to address, confront and otherwise demand systemic, fundamental and institutional change both within the church and the world we are calling on the NEJ College of Bishops, (and where applicable the NEJ), to do the following:

1. To confront and confess y/our racism and publically proclaim, affirm and otherwise promote that while all lives matter in Gods eyes, in the current cultural and social context of this country, that Black lives and all lives of Color really do matter.
2. To seek, as a College and as individuals, to heal the wounds caused by unchecked racism and white privilege, and internalized oppression.
3. To require the District Superintendents and staff of all conferences to comply with #1 above.
4. To mandate ongoing internal and external conversations on White Privilege, White Supremacy, racism, Internalized Oppression and race on every district, sub-district, and with in each local church. Realizing that viewing each other through (eyes of) Christ and remaining at the table during the hard/difficult discussion is the only way/path to new genuine relationships and partnerships.
5. To require adequate training in areas of racism, white privilege and white supremacy; for the entire College of Bishops, (current and newly elected), for the District Superintendents and other conference staff.
6. To require that every district, sub-district, and local church engage in ongoing internal and external conversations on race, racism and White privilege. To the end that new relationships and partnerships emerge.
7. To require the necessary annual training in areas of racism, white privilege, white supremacy and internalized oppression, both for the College, each individual bishop, continuing and newly elected, and for the District Superintendents and other conference staff.
8. That each Annual Conference be required to provide an annual update on work in all of the above to the NEJ Committee on Episcopacy and the Multiethnic Center.
9. That each Annual Conference will provide a written report to be included in the 2020 NEJ Pre Committee on conference Daily Advocate. This report shall include 1. Its progress within the 2017-2020 Quadrennium and its plans for the 2021-2024 Qudrenniaum.
10. Funding to be provided by the NEJ in partnership with the appropriate General Boards and Agencies of the United Methodist Church.

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

Finally, it is as true today as it was during the civil rights era that:

“...In a real sense, all life is inter-related. All of human kind are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied to a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be, until you are what you ought to be; and you can never be what you ought to be, until I am what I ought to be...” (MLK, Jr.).

TODAY IS THE TIME FOR ACTION!

Varlyna Wright (Greater New Jersey)

Lillian Smith (Eastern Pennsylvania)

William Meekins (Western Pennsylvania)

Joseph Daniels (Baltimore-Washington)

Submitted by; NEJ BUMP, NEJ BMCR, NEJ-BLF

Deaf Ministries Report



The Northeast Jurisdiction Deaf Ministries is the most active of all of the Jurisdictions.

It is with thanks to God and to the Northeast Jurisdiction, that Deaf Ministries makes this report of some of the activities for this Quadrennium.

We have been able to Increase of NEJ Deaf Ministries meetings from biennial to annual. This is an opportunity for much needed training and collaboration and support. We were able to secure Deaf Ministry leaders as speakers and trainers including Deaf religious leaders Chad Ettinger from Deaf Missions in Iowa, Rev Chris Hughes preacher and missionary fro Frederick, MD, and Topher

Gonzales a Deaf young Hispanic adult from Texas.

With NEJ support we were able to defray of some of the costs for participation in General Church Deaf Ministry. Th9s included the NEJ President, Karen Miller, and other NEJ members on the General Church committee of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries and United Methodist Congress of the Deaf. Lasander Saunders, Rev. Sandi Johnson, Rev. Leo Yates, Carol Stevens, David Jessop, Rev. Dr. Kirk VanGilder and Karen Miller.

With NEJ support we were able to defray some of the costs for participation in the establishment of a new ecumenical partnership between the Deaf Ministries of the UMC, the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association and the Episcopal Churches of the Deaf. After 2 years of collaboration the ELM organization will be formally recognized at our joint meeting on July 23, 2016. Through this group all expect to be able to more adequately address our common needs and gifts in resourcing and collaborating with each other in Deaf Ministry.

A few of the other highlights of Deaf Ministry in the last 4 years include:

1. International Deaf Ministry mission trips to
 - a. Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf with our Evangelical Lutheran partners 2013. Participants from 3 Annual Conferences in NEJ
 - b. The 3rd World Methodist Deaf Missions conference in Nairobi Aug, 2013. Participants from 3 annual conference in NEJ attended this international event.
 - c. Deaf Ministry Mission trip to Deaf partners in Kenya 2013. Participants from 3 NEJ Annual Conferences.
 - d. Deaf Ministry Mission trip to Deaf partners in Zimbabwe 2014. Participants from 2 Annual Conferences
 - e. Deaf Ministry mission trip to Deaf partners in Zimbabwe and Kenya 2016. Participants from 3 NEJ annual conferences
 - f. Deaf ministry mission trip to new sites in Brazil 2016.
2. Annual Camp for 38 Deaf Adults with Special Needs involving campers and staff from 4 Annual conferences.
3. Development of new and expanding Deaf Ministries by collaboration with existing Deaf Ministries in the Jurisdiction. Such as Deaf Ministries in Pen-Del assisting the development of Deaf Ministry in the Greater New Jersey conference and EPA.
4. Awareness displays and activities at Annual Conferences and NEJ meeting.
5. Took leadership in developing and surveying all of the Deaf Ministries throughout the Connection to identify and start to more effectively resource existing Deaf ministries.

Submitted with much gratitude to the NEJ and to God.

Karen Miller, President of the NEJ Deaf Ministires

Carol Stevens, Deaf Ministries Area Coordinator Pen-Del.

Report and Recommendation from the NEJ Episcopacy and Rules Committees

Background

During the 2012 meeting of the NEJ, a motion was made and approved to task the NEJ Episcopacy and Rules Committees with studying and bringing "a report [to the 2016 NEJ Conference] on the Episcopal nomination and endorsement process with a possibility of a unified Annual conference Episcopal endorsement process."

The stated purpose of the Motion, offered by We Chang (Clergy, NEAC) was because "different processes are used in annual conferences and in caucuses and other organizations in endorsing persons as nominees. It would be helpful to have information about processes used and possible suggestions about endorsement."

Findings

All ten annual conferences have prayerful, collective, and multi-step processes regarding episcopal nomination and endorsement.

Commonalities include:

- All conferences' GC/JC delegations initiate a nomination process. They all engage in both written and face-to-face interviews with those whose names are lifted.
- All conferences use peer nomination, self-nomination, and/or nomination from the floor of the AC.

Differences include:

- Some delegations' episcopal nomination/endorsement processes are part of the conference rules and policies, while some are not.
- The minimum requirement for a delegation and/or AC endorsement varies from a simple majority to 66 %.
- Some delegations are required to bring their endorsed nominees to the AC, while some are not.

These commonalities and differences reflect each AC's unique history and culture around this process.

Nomination and election of episcopal leaders are the sacred and crucial work not only of the annual conference but also of the Jurisdiction. Each annual conference engages in deliberate and spiritual discernment processes. However, the current rules and policies of the NEJ do not require that the prayerful discernment engaged in by each GC/JC delegation and/or annual conference to be fully shared with other annual conferences within the NEJ. We believe that the NEJ episcopal interviews, discernment, and election would be richer and more prayerful if the discernment processes of the delegations and Annual Conferences are shared with the NEJ.

It is equally important that the information shared be uniform as to each endorsed nominee.

Recommendation

The Episcopacy and Rules Committees recommend that each Annual Conference, UM caucus or group that endorses a nominee for the Episcopacy shall provide, along with the biographical information for the nominee, information about the process used to endorse the nominee(s) recommended for election. The form and type of the information to be shared shall be developed by the NEJ Episcopacy Committee, following consultation with the NEJ Rules Committee, in order that the information will be uniform. This form shall be developed and posted on the NEJ website no later than June 30, 2018. This information about each candidate shall be published on the NEJ website along with the biographical information for that candidate.

Episcopal Nomination and Endorsement Rules & Procedures Northeastern Jurisdiction

	AC process	Delegation Nomination/sup- port	AC Endorsement
Baltimore-Washington	Delegation recommendation plus self/peer nomination from the floor of AC (nominees from the floor submit a written statement before the vote)	Interviews and endorses candidate(s) with 60% of votes; no requirement to make recommendation	Endorsed with 66% of votes. If there is no election after four votes, no endorsement is issued.
Eastern Pennsylvania	Self/peer nomination & nomination from the floor of AC	Interviews and endorses candidates with 50% of votes	Endorsed with 66% of votes
Greater New Jersey	Self/peer nomination. & No nomination from the floor	Interviews and endorses candidates with 60% of votes	Endorsed with 60% of votes
New England	Peer and self-nomination/ nomination from the floor of AC	Interviews and discerns whom they will support. They make recommendations to AC	An Australian ballot/ endorses up to 3 candidates with 50% plus 1 votes. If there is no election after three ballots, no endorsement
New York	Self/peer nomination, additional nomination from the floor of AC with signatures of 10 lay and 10 clergy	Delegation interviews and endorses candidates.	Endorsed with a simple majority. The AC decides the maximum number of endorsement through a separate vote.
Peninsula-Delaware	Self/peer nomination	Delegation interviews and endorses candidates	66% required for endorsement, no nomination if no one receives 66% in the first three ballots
Susquehanna	Names are lifted for delegation's discernment through self/peer nomination	Delegation interviews and endorses candidates with 75% of votes	60% vote required for endorsement

Upper New York	Nomination at AC in the fall before the election. Peer nomination. No self-nomination	Interviews and endorses candidates	Endorsement with a simple majority
Western Pennsylvania	Self/peer nomination, those who receive votes on the first AC ballot will be additional nominees	Delegation interviews and endorses candidates	Those who receive a majority Endorsement with a e simple majority of votes. No endorsement if no one receives a majority in the first three ballots
West Virginia	Nomination by the delegation through written ballots with those who receive 25% being nominated, nomination from the floor of AC	Delegation interviews those who received nomination from AC and endorses one candidate with 60% vote	Endorsement with a simple majority, if no one receives a majority vote in the first three ballots, there will be no endorsement

Bible Study leader calls for unity, grace

By Maidstone Mulenga

DCA Editor



United Methodists in the Northeastern Jurisdiction were challenged last evening to embraced all in the United Methodism Communion, even those that they are alienated from.

The 2016 NEJ Conference Bible study leader, Dr. Greg Carey, a professor of New Testament at Lancaster Seminary, issued the challenge at the start of the deliberation processes for delegates who will elect two new bishops.

He called the conference's attention to Ephesians 4:16, which says "(Christ) from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." Carey invited those gathered to imagine unity of Christ.

"When we imagine unity, what do we imagine? ... Syrian Church? ... Black Lives matter... the church ecumenically in its wholeness?" he asked the delegates.

He praised United Methodists and their bishops for having such a such a keen appreciation of being a global church, even though divisions in the large church life manifest themselves as we gather together.

United Methodists have a greater "awareness of the global nature of their church" to the extent that "there is no such a thing as an American Methodist Church ... you are a global church," he said.

He noted that the Ephesian text was about Christ abolishing the dividing wall, especially between Jews and Gentiles. The conflict was usually about living together, eating together.

The goal then for Christians today, he said, is to equip the saints for the work of ministry, toward building up the body of Christ, "Until all attain the unity of the faith and the knowledge of God's son, toward the perfect person, toward the full stature of the world."

Posing the question, "What does love look like in conflict?" Carey pointed out that the gift of grace should be the utmost goal of every church and every Christian.

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perform such acts as a way of seeking forgiveness for past atrocities committed against Native peoples.

Native dancers began the worship with a jingle dance in the Ojibwa tradition, with each jingle representing a prayer being lifted to God, according to Barry Lee, a member of First UMC in Phoenixville, Pa., who led the group with his drum.

NEJ College of Bishops President Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball reminded the gathering that at 2012 NEJ, “we were presented with a wampum belt.” The belt, she said, are made of traditional shell beads used the Eastern native peoples. The belts are a living record, she said, used to mark a variety of ceremonies. Steiner Ball serves as resident bishop of the West Virginia Area.

“Dr. High, who presented us this belt, asked the College of Bishops to carry it with us wherever we met,” Steiner Ball said, as a reminder of its leadership responsibilities.

The belt shows the reconciliation between the church and American Indians is possible, she said, and that we can live together in harmony with each other, but only if we speak honestly and respectfully.

“We’ve been faithful in carrying this belt,” she said, and in so doing, “we’ve also remembered repentance and acts of reconciliation between other people, and those acts still needing to be done.”

The gift, she said, pointing to the belt on a candle-lit table, should remind us of the harmony we seek to have as we live with each other and with God.

As the Native singers offered a song, names were shown on the screens in front of the ballroom, listing representative names from massacres of Native people.

“Tea-wonsha-i-ong (an old woman)” - murdered at Conestoga Town.

“Tenseedaagua (Bill Sack)” – murdered at Lancaster Workhouse.

“We are called to understand the legacy of over five centuries of historical trauma, and its effect on Native Americans today,” read part of the liturgy of repentance.

“On behalf of our ancestors, we fall to our knees and repent,” said Johnson. The bishop was given a gift of a prayer dance shawl by the NEJ Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM). The bishop had earlier given symbolic gifts to the dancers.

Each member of the NEJ was given a tobacco prayer bundle which had been prepared and prayed-over before the conference began, Johnson said.

“Tobacco is a sign of healing to Native peoples,” she said. “To accept a gift from our brothers and sisters is a sign of healing.” Members were invited to tie the bundles on their nametag lanyard as a sign that we need each other.

“Never again will we do this to each other,” the bishop said.





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*Effective July 1, Tom Salsgiver will be the new DCM for Susquehanna Conference.
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“... the director of connectional ministries shall ... serve as steward of the vision of the annual conference ...”

