

Northeastern Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee
 Episcopal Candidate Information Form 2016



General Information

Name	Adrienne Brewington
Conference Membership	New York
Nominated by	New York Annual Conference
Years able to serve if elected	12

Work Experience

List all appointments	Hollis: First (2 yrs.); Westbury UMC (8 yrs.); AIEM: District Superintendent, Long Island East District (8 yrs. [Dean 4 yrs.]).
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Personal Development

Influential Books & Renewal Study	Seven Levers; What Are We Fighting For; Emotionally Healthy Spirituality
Racial Diversity Training	Yes – 2x
Language Facility Special Interests	Special Interests: singing, crocheting, film, and skydiving.
Self-Care	I engage in morning and evening prayer, attend to the Wesleyan imperative to pray without ceasing, rigorously honor my weekly Sabbath, and take yearly vacation and renewal time.

Personal Assessment

Gifts & Evidence of God's Grace	My strongest spiritual gifts are Love, Intercession, Discernment, and Healing. Additionally, I have an innate ability to build Christian community wherever I am. Even among the un-churched my presence is often unifying, calming and restorative.
Indication of Effectiveness	The local churches to which I have been appointed became more vibrant, growing both spiritually and numerically. The Westbury congregation, in particular, significantly increased its Christian education program, missions outreach, spiritual depth, professions of faith, and knowledge and understanding of UMC polity and history. Similarly, the district to which I have been appointed has become more cohesive, more grounded in the Spirit and more committed in its missions and outreach as a way of extending the love of Christ. Many of the churches are stronger and, overall, the collective Spirit is lighter.
Area for Further Development	With God's help, I am going on to perfection.
Style of Leadership	Leading from a place of passionate worship, my style is spiritually grounded, joyful, humor-full, collaborative and permission giving.

Questions

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

I first began to perceive a call to the episcopacy six years ago. That year, from time to time, various members of my Annual Conference would stop as we were working or conversing and ask whether I had ever considered being a Bishop. When I replied that I had not, the person who was engaging me would invariably urge me to prayerfully consider making myself available. The turning point came when a clergy person whom I barely knew began to speak to me earnestly on the floor of Annual Conference about five years ago. She took my hand and squeezed it; tears began to flow down her cheeks as she affirmed the gifts she saw in me and encouraged me to move forward.

I was a candidate for the Episcopacy in 2012. Many were praying for me. I knew I had the ability to be an exemplary Bishop. But I was reticent about the call itself. The day before Jurisdictional Conference began, one of my prayer partners called me from his home in Iowa. He said, in essence, “Your call is going to come during the interview process. Keep your eyes open.”

I went through the day of interviews with my friend’s words in the back of my mind, thoroughly enjoying engaging sisters and brothers in Christ in discussions about the future of the United Methodist Church. Shortly before dinner, during an interview, I was responding to a particular question and raised my hand to gesture. I was looking at my hand as I did so. A sudden chill moved down and then up my spine, through my arm and into my hand, which then appeared to be glowing. I heard the words I was speaking as if they were being said by someone else to me. Time appeared to stand still for a moment. I knew in that moment that I was called to be an Episcopal leader and I began to watch for the time that was appointed by God for me to take my place.

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

I have already touched briefly upon my call to the Episcopal office. I know myself to be equipped for the superintending office of a Bishop because that which the BOD indicates is fundamental to Episcopal ministry is part of my default skill set – that is, they are things I am innately able to do by the grace of God. For example, others have told me that I have an anointing for preaching and teaching. Moreover, I have a demonstrated ability to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and to guide and mentor others to effectively do the same. My personal spiritual disciplines and giftedness for creating Christian community empower me to give transformative oversight and order to the life of the communities under my care. I have a desire and commitment to encourage understanding, reconciliation and unity (and, therefore, peace) within the UMC and the church universal. At the same time, I firmly believe Martin Luther King’s statement that true peace is not the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice. I believe that the goal of achieving a peaceful unity must include an intentional movement toward doing justice for all God’s people.

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

I pray that God will allow me to listen deeply to my colleagues and speak honestly and prophetically. I pray that my colleagues will find me to be a trustworthy person of vulnerability and transparency who is willing and able to share the joyful burden of guiding our church into a vibrant future.

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

A true leader must be where the people are. To connect with those not currently active in a faith community, I will continue to find opportunities to be in fellowship with people apart from the life of the church. Depending on the specific context of the area to which I am assigned, that may involve being active in an array of community groups and ecumenical activities, as well as remaining alert for opportunities for Moment Evangelism as I go about my daily routine, carrying a prophetic word of love and hope to those I encounter.

Describe how you would equip the United Methodists of your area for ministry and evangelism in our culture context?

It is difficult to answer this question as presented (particularly in the space permitted), as it implies the NEJ has a single cultural context when, in fact, it is comprised of multiple, intertwined cultural contexts that cannot be fully and effectively evaluated from the outside. I know that ongoing attention must be given to dismantling the “isms” that beset both our secular and church environments as well as helping our members to begin to view and understand the UMC in its emerging global setting. Yet, the specifics of how to equip the saints for ministry will depend upon the specific cultural contexts contained in the area to which I am assigned, as well as the other needs of the communities and people I find when I arrive.