

Northeastern Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee
 Episcopal Candidate Information Form 2016



General Information

Name	Cathy Hall Stengel
E-Mail	cathyhallstengel@gmail.com
Conference Membership	Upper New York
Nominated by	Upper New York Annual Conference
Years able to serve if elected	Twelve years

Work Experience

<i>List all appointments</i>	<p>Lead Pastor, Rush United Methodist Church July 1, 2014- Present</p> <p>Conference Superintendent, Upper New York AC July 1, 2007- June 30, 2014</p> <p>Lead Pastor, Penfield United Methodist Church July 1, 2004-June 30, 2007</p> <p>Lead Administrator and Contextual Education Faculty - United Theological Seminary, Buffalo Campus 1996-1999</p> <p>Pastor at the following United Methodist Churches:</p> <p>Harris Hill UMC – 1997-2004 Carlton UMC – 1992-1997 Medina UMC – 1988-1992 Portville UMC – 1985-1988 Allens Hill/Canadice UMC – 1983-1985</p>
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Personal Development

<i>Influential Books</i>	Henri Nouwen- <u>Reaching Out</u> , Patrick Lencioni- <u>Naked</u> , Helen Bruch Pearson- <u>Do What You Have the POWER to Do: Studies of Six New Testament Women</u> , John Stahl-Wert/Ken Jennings <u>Ten Thousand Horses</u> , Brene Brown <u>Rising Strong</u> , Reggie McNeal- <u>Missional Renaissance</u> ,
<i>Renewal Study</i>	
<i>Racial Diversity Training</i>	Two sessions of Racial Diversity training offered in our Annual Conference, Four Years on the Worldwide Nature of the Church Study Committee provided an opportunity to learn about and listen to our United Methodist global community.
<i>Language Facility Special Interests</i>	
<i>Self-Care</i>	Walking, biking, reading, regular medical screenings and appropriate treatment, writing retreats, kayaking, time with family, travel, reading fiction, animals

Personal Assessment

<i>Gifts & Evidence of God's Grace</i>	Deep Wesleyan theology and Leadership, Leadership Development, Adaptive & Technical Leadership, Cohesive Team Development & Management, Conflict Response & Management, Creative Organizational Implementation, Preaching/Public Speaking, Human Resource Development, Deep listener and life learner, Cross generational/cultural relationship skills, Administrative Organization & leadership, D. Min in Pastoral Supervision from United Theological Seminary
<i>Indication of Effectiveness</i>	All congregations served have grown in size, health, organization, finances, and understanding of connectional ministry of UMC. Congregations, seminary,

	superintendancy, connectional work has increased vibrancy and openness in relationship, work and spiritual development. All work environments have resulted in increased health, more joy and better communication.
<i>Area for Further Development</i>	As a middle class Caucasian, a woman of privilege, I will always be challenged to listen, learn and be led by those who are not me.
<i>Style of Leadership</i>	Cooperative, Collegial, Transparent and Self-Aware. My role in leadership is always to help those around me grow into their potential. That will only happen if we go about it together.

Questions

Describe in detail the process which lead you to discern the call to the office bishop.

My awareness of the needs of the general church leadership has increasingly matched the gifts I know myself to have. My desire to help, to participate in helping the church to become healthier became a sense of call to find a way, a direction, a place to make a difference. When I learned of my nomination, I prayed, and prayed. Ultimately I realized that I bring gifts and the right thing to do is to make those gifts available, for such a time as this.

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.

Having studied this paragraph, reading it prayerfully, I know myself to embody and be capable of this call – leadership, inspiration, unity, passion, guarding the faith, administration, organization, working together for a healthier, more relevant and vibrant UMC. My work in pastoral supervision, mentoring the superintendancy have richly equipped me.

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?

In short – I would be collaborative, respecting their knowledge, their experience, desiring their trust and guidance. I would learn about their initiatives, their successes and potential challenges, hoping and praying always to build upon the foundation they have established, bringing to that foundation my voice, my experience and my passion so that together we can guide this church into the future, as uncertain as it might be. I would hope that these colleagues would hold me in prayer, trust my call, and be grateful for the gifts I bring, as I would theirs.

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

I would preach and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in worship, in teaching, and in shared prayer and study. I would look forward to worshipping in local churches, hearing the leaders, preachers and youth as they proclaim Christ, as well as bringing my voice, my passion, my trust into local churches. I would gladly travel and visit, listen and learn, offering encouragement, prayer and good news, so that together we can be about transformation. It's a be inspired/inspire journey. Raising up those who draw others, inspiring clergy and laity to be the gifted preachers and teachers they have been called to be, that is my call and journey. My life has been saved through faith, healing, courage, risk taking and God's blessing. I believe others have a story to tell to the nations and I want to give them the chance.

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

First, it's about listening and learning the culture/context. I am a very adept student of culture, community, communication and organization. I want to hear the dreams, experience the visions that are already present, and then help to equip leaders who can mentor, guide, teach, inspire those indigenous dreams of faithfulness, excellence and change to become reality. My passion for expression of the gospel in ways that all can hear provides me with the opportunity to encourage and inspire others to do the same. In a culture where people wonder how to "talk" faith, encouragement and inspiration can guide to "living" faith. Clergy who can find confidence in their gifts, trust in the Holy Spirit, belief that district and conference leaders will support them, along with willingness to take risks – these are transformational leaders. I want to meet them, be inspired, pave the way for them, and celebrate them as disciple making, life changing pastors and laity.