

Northeastern Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee
 Episcopal Candidate Information Form 2016



General Information

Name	Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
Conference Membership	Baltimore Washington
Nominated by	Baltimore Washington Annual Conference and NEJ Black Methodist for Church Renewal
Years able to serve if elected	22

Work Experience

List all appointments	St. Matthews: Highlandtown, Calvary: Annapolis, Discippler Guide: Washington Region, District Superintendent: Greater Washington, District Superintendent: Baltimore Metropolitan
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Personal Development

Influential Books&Renewal Study	Bass, Diana Butler, <i>Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening</i>; McKenzie, Vashti, <i>Journey to the Well</i>; Seuss, <i>Oh, the Places You'll Go</i>; Thurman, Howard, <i>Jesus and the Disinherited</i>.
Racial Diversity Training	Several diversity training events while serving as a School Psychologist, GCORR training for the BWC Cabinet, GCORR training I organized for my district clergy, Keynote Speaker for GCORR Vital Conversations video study.
Language Facility Special Interests	Language Facility: English Interests: Social justice (particularly inclusion, economic, and racial), VIM, Africa University, leadership development.
Self-Care	Prayer/Meditation, acupuncture, travel, accountability partners in and out of the church, time with my husband.

Personal Assessment

Gifts & Evidence of God's Grace	Spiritual Gifts: Spiritual discernment, healing, teaching, and administration. Other skills sets: Conflict Transformation and Diversity Training. Evidence of God's grace: My conference endorsing me for the episcopacy on the first ballot.
Indication of Effectiveness	My district had 11 churches with historic arrearages for pension and health benefits, each incurring debt of over \$20,000.00 a year. With my help, 10 of these churches are no longer incurring this debt. My district has made consistent improvements in its apportionment payments and in 2015 was the district with greatest improvement in apportionment giving in the BWC. During the unrest in Baltimore, in addition to being the public face for the BWC, I helped to mobilize a significant mission response from BWC churches and worked side by side with pastors and laity to meet urgent needs during the crisis.
Area for Further Development	Maintaining my life, work, and play balance; exercise.
Style of Leadership	My primary 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.

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

Soon after the election of our General and Jurisdictional delegates, several members of our annual conference sought me out to express their belief that I was called to the episcopacy. I promised each of them that my husband and I would spend the summer in prayer. I also asked a couple prayer warriors to join us in a period of discernment. During this period God affirmed my call through comments from persons outside of the church, recollections of comments of former parishioners, and affirmation from all of the persons who joined us in prayer.

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.

During my period of discernment several clergy and lay colleagues shared why they felt I was called and equipped to fulfill the role of bishop. Some reminded me of my lifetime commitment to and love of our denomination pointing out that I attended annual conferences as a youth and young adult, even when I did not have to attend. Clergy who were initially skeptical about my ability to supervise them as a District Superintendent because of my relatively few years in ordained ministry, thanked me for the way I led them in mission and ministry and asked how they could support my new call. Laity reminded me of the theological, economic, and linguistic diversity of my district and how through relationship building I have been able to create a sense of unity and mutual understanding in the midst of our diversity. I developed creative ministry teams and new ministries that have helped local churches more effectively make disciples. I fostered leadership by hiring young adult pastors and putting young adults in leadership positions on district and conference committees. I have encouraged and supported youth and adult Certified Lay Servants and Certified Lay Ministers.

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 believe I have demonstrated the gifts needed to work collaboratively with the College of Bishops to fulfill our church-wide mission. I serve as Spiritual Director for the Cabinet. Part of my role is to care for the spiritual needs of my colleagues by planning regular worship experiences for the entire conference staff and reminding the cabinet of the fellowship – work balance. I have demonstrated an ability to work with bishops with differing leadership styles and would have no problem reminding my colleagues that we are bishops of the whole denomination, called to work together for the mission and ministry of the whole church. I would listen first, speak up confidently when prompted by the Holy Spirit, and remain silent when prudent. I would work on fostering relationships with the bishops with whom I do not already have a relationship, finding out what they think is needed for mission and ministry and sharing my interests and priorities with them. I would urge the college to work on building trust and being a prophetic voice for the church.

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 believe authentic relationship on all levels is key to effective leadership. I have intentionally nurtured relationships with people who are outside of the church so that I do not become culturally disconnected from those outside of the faith. As bishop I would continue this practice of deliberate, authentic relationship building. As a DS, one of the ways I was able to do this was by holding my annual clergy interviews in secular spaces such as community recreation centers, Starbucks, or locally owned cafés. I got to know the employees and regular customers of those places and in some instances was able to have conversations about faith with them. Not everyone is comfortable inviting people outside of the church walls to a relationship with Christ. At times, I am not either. But I have found in those moments when I have felt inadequate, God has equipped me with words and deeds that have made a difference.

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

I believe that those who God has called, God has equipped. My role as bishop, therefore, would be to help laity and clergy to see what God has already done to equip them, and then to help them refine, augment, and sharpen what they see. This involves, first and foremost listening to and for God. It also involves listening to United Methodists, members of other faith communities, and those who are not connected with a faith community in order to discern the culture and evangelism needs of the area. It also involves interpreting census data and any other available information about our ministry area and working with those who are gifted in evangelism and cultural competency to develop a culturally appropriate plan to equip the saints and deploy necessary resources to meet the evangelistic needs of the area. Finally, it involves providing ongoing support, encouragement, and accountability as we work the plan together.