

Northeastern Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee  
 Episcopal Candidate Information Form 2016



**General Information**

Name	Derrick E. Porter
Conference Membership	Peninsula-Delaware
Nominated by	Peninsula-Delaware Conference Delegation
Years able to serve if elected	16

**Work Experience**

List all appointments	1995-1996, New Castle-Mt. Salem; 1997-2009, Wilmington: Mt. Joy; 2010-2016, Wilmington District Superintendent
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**Personal Development**

Influential Books & Renewal Study	Strength to Love: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rich Christians In A World of Hunger: Ronald J. Sider, The Purpose Driven Church: Rick Warren, Total Quality Management Training
Racial Diversity Training	My diversity training has consisted of Nurturing and Wholeness in Community, and the Intercultural Development Inventory.
Language Facility Special Interests	Language: English. Special interests: Leadership, Self-Improvement, Management, and Theology.
Self-Care	This is an area in which I need improvement.

**Personal Assessment**

Gifts & Evidence of God's Grace	I am a pastor with a pastor's heart. I am a preacher who can feel God's pleasure when I truly preach the Word
Indication of Effectiveness	The Wilmington District strengthened and stabilized several churches through strategic appointments. We have raised apportionment giving from 84% to 94%.
Area for Further Development	Self-care and stress management are areas in which I am seeking to grow. I am also seeking to develop a culture of prayer in my life and the life of the district.
Style of Leadership	I am a leader who is a team builder. I am a believer in the power of the collective genius. Most of all I am a prayerful leader.

**Questions**

- Describe in detail the process which lead you to discern the call to the office bishop.** *During the last three and a half years I have had a running conversation with God about the episcopacy. I would continually feel the prompting of the spirit to run for the episcopacy. I responded to that prompting with every reason I could think of as to why I am not the one for the job. Finally I agreed to make myself available for the episcopacy and seek the endorsement from my annual conference. At that very moment I had peace. Though I had peace I still did not know what the actual purpose of my possibly becoming a bishop would be. I thought maybe it was just the journey in the process that God wanted me to experience and learn from. Either way, I have submitted to this new call in my life. Part of this journey consisted of my being a delegate to General Conference. During General Conference I witnessed a God moment, when George Howard went to the microphone and implored the council of Bishops to lead us out of this impasse and maintain the unity of the church. The entire room of delegates resonated with this earnest request. The Council of Bishops developed a path going forward that was approved by the body. This path calls for conversation on the issues on human sexuality and the global church. As I mentally and spiritually digested all that happened, I realized that I was called to such a time as this and that I am uniquely qualified to be at the table in that conversation. Because of my personal theological journey I understand, respect and appreciate both sides of*

*the theological divide. I can speak with integrity to how both sides see and engage the issues. It is through this love, empathy and sympathy for everyone involved and my ability to communicate these things without extreme bias that I would become a vital part of the conversations to be held and the solutions to be sought. This, coupled with my work on the NEJ Global Structures Task Force, would make me an asset to this historic process to shape the future of the United Methodist Church.*

- **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.**

*e) A passion for the unity of the church I have had the privilege to be the District Superintendent of a district that has two distinctly different areas, New Castle County, Delaware and Cecil County, Maryland. One has the largest urban center in our conference with sprawling surrounding suburbs and the other is largely rural. Like the Bishop, I am everyone's DS. I strive to hear them in their context, appreciate their viewpoints, and find places of meeting and agreement both in scriptural and practical terms. I believe even with our differences, at the core, we do have many things in common. We share the human experience and the journey with our Lord. In these commonalities we find places to connect and communicate.*

*f) The ministry of administration: This is the ministry in which one is nearly guaranteed to make some people mad or everyone mad. In upholding the Discipline we maintain the order of the church with unifying rules and procedures. It seems simple enough, but in practice it is much more complicated. Our system is not set up to be punitive. Our system is structured on the understanding that we will keep covenant with one another. We view violations of this covenant understanding as an anomaly and assume breeches to be infrequent at best. Violations are dealt with through a cumbersome administrative process that is both costly in economic resources, time and clergy resources. The current dilemma, as we face more and more violations of this covenant, is our capacity to adjudicate these matters. This I believe will be one of the primary administrative matters faced by any Bishop in the next quadrennium.*
- **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 foresee us sharing training and leadership resources and opportunities across annual conference boundaries to strengthen evangelism and vitality efforts in the NEJ. I would seek to supplement their skill sets with my own gifts. By supporting and coordinating efforts with one another we could create a synergy that results in vitality for the NEJ.*
- **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?** *As a bishop I would fully utilize my pulpit opportunities to preach the transformational and salvific love of Jesus the Christ. I would encourage and implore all clergy to endeavor to direct the activities of their ministries to be transformational and salvific in their particular context. At all times and in all places we are to lift up Christ and the salvation and the life of Kingdom servanthood that He offers.*
- **Describe how you would equip the United Methodists of your area for ministry and evangelism in our culture context?** *I would emphasize prayer evangelism, revival, and going after the last, the least and the lost. Prayer evangelism, because I have seen it work; revival because it will transform the church; and reaching out to the last the least and the lost, because it will bring them in and all the demographics above them.*