

Northeastern Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee
 Episcopal Candidate Information Form 2016



General Information

<i>Name</i>	Jisun Kwak
<i>Conference Membership</i>	Greater New Jersey Conference
<i>Nominated by</i>	Greater New Jersey Annual Conference National Federation of Asian American UMC
<i>Years able to serve</i>	20 years

Work Experience

<i>List all appointments</i>	Mendham UMC: Grew from ¼ time to Full-time in four years. Thiells UMC: \$80,000 debt free in one and a half years. Centenary UMC: Worship attendance grew significantly. Gateway North District Superintendent: diverse urban area Delaware Bay District Superintendent: rural area
------------------------------	---

Personal Development

<i>Influential Books & Renewal Study</i>	<i>Embracing Change: Postmodern Interpretation of the I Ching from a Christian Perspective</i> by Jung Young Lee <i>Soul Feast</i> by Marjorie J Thompson,
<i>Racial Diversity Training</i>	Ph.D Religion & Psych emphasizing Cross Racial and Cross Cultural Study, Self & Culture. Adjunct Professor at New Brunswick Theo Seminary on Cross Cultural perspective, Women theology, Asian Theology, and Pastoral Counseling in Multi-cultural setting. Intercultural Competency Training.
<i>Language Facility Special Interests</i>	Learning most needed language(s) of the area I will be serving.
<i>Self-Care</i>	Daily morning scripture based devotion and prayers. Zen meditation. Walk. Travel. Spend time with my elderly parents.

Personal Assessment

<i>Gifts & Evidence of God's Grace</i>	Pioneering soul who became NEJ's first Asian female DS. Deep spirituality that brings calmness and assuredness to tense situations. Prayerful discipline. Peacemaker's spirit combined with trained, effective conflict resolution skills and coaching skills. Inquisitive encourager and teacher . Perseveres as one who completed a Ph.D while serving the local church and being a single mother. Inspiring and relevant preacher .
<i>Indication of Effectiveness</i>	Christian Unity Award recipient for outstanding ecumenical ministry from GNJ Church & Society (2005). First recipient of COSROW's Helenor Alter Davisson Award for outstanding female leadership and influence (2015).
<i>Area for Further Development</i>	Greater knowledge of Conference finance system to compliment my gift for placing skilled people with diverse background and knowledge to work as team in such areas.
<i>Style of Leadership</i>	Partners in ministry describe my style as an empowering leader who builds consensus and encourages all voices to the table. Passionate and adaptive. Focused but flexible. Diplomatic but does not avoid conflict. Good listener. Action-oriented. Motivator and calculated risk-taker. Team builder.

Questions

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

When I was six, with a full heart, I asked my father "what would be the biggest job that I could help people the most?" He responded, president of Korea. I responded "then that is what I want to be." Growing up under the Christian leadership of my parents, my love for personal holiness and piety were cultivated and my desire migrated to wanting to be a leader in the Church. I received a theology and social work degree from Korea's "Ivy League" Yonsei University. I followed my hero, Henry Appenzeller to Drew Theo School to acquire an M.Div. and a Ph. D. While in school I followed my call to ordained ministry and served with passion in a cross-cultural appointment. My ministry consistently bore fruit and I was asked into my first DS appointment to one of the most culturally-diverse, metropolitan districts in the UMC. The next challenge I was given was to superintend a very different, rural and conservative district in southern New Jersey. I received nominations for bishop from both districts I served and from others. When I reflect upon my heart-felt desire for "the biggest job that helps people" and my passion for personal piety, I know God has prepared me to become a bishop.

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.

As bishop I will continue to share my personal spiritual disciplines by expanding the "Call to Prayers" movement I initiated in my district. I will carry on my commitment to teaching through my "Culturally Competent Leadership" and "Digital Ministries" seminars that I currently offer throughout the UMC. My vision is to **go back to the basics** of our Wesleyan heritage by building holiness that embraces both works of mercy and piety in all our churches. I will continue to build on the Vital Congregations movement as I have demonstrated as a key architect of GNJ's resource program, Team Vital. I will continue using my prophetic voice as an advocate at the cabinet table and beyond for minorities in appointment making and as I have done by establishing immigration regulations in GNJ. In my passion for church unity, I will move away from deadlocked debates and refocus all on reaching people who do not know God, who are going to bed hungry, and those who suffer because of injustice. I see this emphasis as a better way to attend to the needs of all brothers and sisters and to make church that welcomes all. I will continue to build on my DS administrative experience, finding and developing the highest quality administrative support. I appreciate that effectiveness in administration is crucial for mobilizing the church to transform lives in the world. Current ministries I organized and lead with such focus include "Feeding God's Lambs" and the "Bridge for Growth" collaborations in my current district.

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? Building these relationship is paramount. First I would embrace and initiate as many opportunities as possible to learn from them. I would engage in honest open and, when needed, challenging discussion about strategic direction and the UMC's perceived identity. Our team building, meaningful dialogue and openness about our work will be important tools for us to move the denomination forward together.

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 In addition to traditional methods, today, inviting partnership is an effective way to make new disciples. Therefore I would motivate and equip churches to engage their communities in mission partnerships. I would also encourage the use of relevant engagement resources such as digital and social media and proudly promote the bright spots of UMC such as our practices of the social justice.

Describe how you would equip the United Methodists of your area for ministry and evangelism in our culture context I would emphasize resourcing the churches and clergy to develop their own gifts and leadership utilizing coaching skills and diverse resource programs rather than one size fits all top down programs. Cultural competency that I offer throughout the denomination would be one of the key leadership quality for churches to be able to embrace, understand, engage deeply with the people in the changing community and prepare the congregation to be able to openly work with the clergy of cross cultural and cross racial appointment.