

2022 ENDORSED NEJ EPISCOPAL CANDIDATES



**GIOVANNI
ARROYO**



**THOMAS LADD
BLACKSTONE**



**HECTOR
BURGOS**



**CRISTIAN
DE LA ROSA**



**WENDY
DEICHMANN**



**SANG WON
DOH**



**ANDREW L.
FOSTER**



**ALYCE
WEAVER DUNN**



**ROBERT
ZILHAVER**

NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
2022 Endorsed NEJ Episcopal Candidate Information

CANDIDATE	ENDORSEMENT	PAGE
Arroyo, Giovanni	MARCHA	3-5
Blackstone, Thomas Ladd	New England	6-8
Burgos, Hector	MARCHA - NEJ and National BMCR, GNJ Chapter	9-11
De La Rosa, Cristian	MARCHA and ACLAMEN	12-14
Deichmann, Wendy	Upper New York	15-17
Doh, Sang Won	Greater New Jersey and National Federation of Asian American UMC	18-20
Foster, Andrew L.	NEJ BMCR	21-23
Weaver Dunn, Alyce	Western Pennsylvania	24-26
Zilhaver, Robert	Western Pennsylvania	27-29

Interview Schedule of Episcopal Candidates – NEJC 2022
Tuesday, November 1, 2022

Start Time	End Time	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7	Group 8	Group 9
8:30	8:45	Groups will meet privately before the start of Episcopal Candidates Interviews								
8:45	9:25	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30	10:10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
10:15	10:20	BREAK								
10:20	11:00	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
11:05	11:45	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
11:45	1:15	LUNCH								
1:25	2:05	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
2:10	2:50	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
2:55	3:10	BREAK								
3:10	3:50	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
3:55	4:35	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4:40	5:20	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5:20	7:30	DINNER								

NUMBERING OF EPISCOPAL CANDIDATES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

1. Giovanni Arroyo MARCHA
2. Thom Blackstone NEW ENGLAND
3. Hector Burgos MARCHA
4. Cristian De La Rosa MARCHA
5. Wendy Deichmann UPPER NEW YORK
6. Sang Won Doh GREATER NEW JERSEY
7. Andrew Foster BMCR
8. Alyce Weaver Dunn WESTERN PA
9. Robert Zilhaver WESTERN PA

**NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE**

EPISCOPAL CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM 2022



GENERAL INFORMATION

<i>Name</i>	Rev. Dr. Giovanni Arroyo
<i>Address</i>	7612 Harmans Farm CT
<i>Phone/E-Mail</i>	443-629-4877/ revgarroyo@gmail.com
<i>Conference Membership</i>	Baltimore-Washington
<i>Nominated by</i>	MARCHA
<i>Years able to serve if elected</i>	24

WORK EXPERIENCE

<i>List all appointments</i>	2010-Present The General Commission on Religion and Race (General Secretary (8/2021); Assistant General Secretary (AGS): Advocacy and Monitoring, AGS: Program Ministries & Grant Administrator; 2016-2018; Salem-Baltimore Hispanic Interim Pastor; 2011-2015 Frederick Hispanic Latino Ministries; 2004-2010 Baltimore Hispanic Ministries; 2004-2010 Salem United Methodist Church; 2001-2004 El Camino UMC – Norwalk, CT.
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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

<i>Influential Books & Renewal Study</i>	Dianna Butler Bass, <i>Christianity After Religion The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening</i> ; Miguel de la Torre, <i>A La Familia: A Conversation About Our Families, The Bible, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity</i> , Dr. Elaine Heath course: Wesleyan New Monasticism, Missional Communities, and the Renewal of the Church, Derald W. Sue & David Sue, <i>Counseling the Culturally Diverse: Theory and Practice</i> .
<i>Racial Diversity Training</i>	Intercultural Development Inventory Qualified Administrator who has worked with over 300+ leaders on 1-on-1 on their intercultural skills in the United States and the Philippines. Attended Summer Institute of Intercultural Communication (SIIC) courses on Emotional Intelligence and ongoing staff development. My former programmatic and current role as General Secretary of GCORR is developing the denomination’s training and resources on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and intercultural competency. I have led multiple training pieces in this area, including with Cabinets, Board of Ordained Ministry, Conference staff, Cross racial/cross-cultural pastors, and laity, etc. I have experience working with members of Central Conferences regarding refugees, tribalism, equity, and such. I have and I am currently engaging this work Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Philippines, and Germany. I have been working across the official racial/ethnic caucuses since 2012 in supporting and providing guidance for their advocacy work and leadership development. As General Secretary of GCORR, my

	responsibility is to provide pathways for our denomination on Racial Diversity that is beyond representation. These, I feel, better supports my role as a bishop.
<i>Language Facility Special Interests</i>	Spanish, Disability Ministry, LGBTQAI+ Inclusion, Racial/Ethnic Communities self-determination, Global Migration, Anti-Racism
<i>Self-Care</i>	Spending time with family/friends, travel, movies, reading, meditation, and massages.

PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

<i>Gifts & Evidence of God’s Grace</i>	Social/global awareness, bridgebuilder across differences, teaching and preaching, empathy, pastoral care, listening to and affirming others,
<i>Indication of Effectiveness</i>	Expanded GCORR programmatic work to be more global focused; Administered and expanded a multi-million global grant program; revitalized congregations in Baltimore City and led cross-racial/cross-cultural ministry toward fruitful community engagement.
<i>Area for Further Development</i>	More self-care strategies and stress-management.
<i>Style of Leadership</i>	Participative leadership style that allows everyone on the team to get involved and work together collaboratively. We all bring some level expertise to the table.

QUESTIONS

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

- I believe that the community plays an important role in our discernment process. For the past years, the community has invited me to explore the call to the episcopacy as they see something I had not recognize in my life and leadership. Due to the external call validation, I entered a season of prayer, discernment, and conversation with leaders to explore the call. God is calling me to the office of the episcopacy to bring the gifts of unity, healing, bridgebuilding and my whole identity (Latino, gay, Christian, pastor, etc.) to lead the church in this time of transition to establish the fundamental elements of who we will be as we restructure our institutional church from an ethnocentric to ethno-relative framework. Una iglesia que honra mi lengua nativa tambien - a Church that honors my mother tongue also.

As delineated in paragraph 403 of The Book of Discipline, please share how you are called and equipped to fulfill the responsibilities of a bishop. Please elaborate on ¶ 403.1 and e-f.

- My faith informs and continues to challenge me in living out personal piety and social holiness. I am committed to a communal act of worship that will galvanize us to commit to a faithful life of discipleship and servant leadership. My leadership embraces our Wesleyan theology and history as a place to launch our teaching of being the Church. I come to serve with a vision of a church that liberates the oppressed, seeks genuine relationships and loves one another. My experience as a General Secretary of the Church pivots me to claim a prophetic voice within and outside the Church when accountability must be experienced, and change must occur. My 21 years of ministry at local and general Church have given me the tools to administer the order and life of the Church efficiently and effectively.

What are the spiritual and missional gifts and priorities you would bring to the whole jurisdiction as an episcopal leader?

- I am gifted in rooting myself in diverse ministry contexts, learning, seeing the various perspectives, and maximizing their strengths. I come with a heart to love God and neighbor by ensuring that we are a church that speaks truth and love and lives it out in their action. The NEJ needs to expand our binary mindset towards a faithful multicultural ministry that goes beyond race/ethnicity and acknowledges and honors our diverse identities. It is time for self-determination among communities of color so they can experience relevant and contextual ministry. I will bring an anti-racist and intercultural competent lens to our work throughout the jurisdiction. I will continue the work of dismantling systems, policies, and practices that have excluded my LGBTQIA++ siblings and me.

How do you envision new faith communities which reach those not currently active on a discipleship path?

- As bishop, I would actively engage in conversations with lay and clergy about how we create pathways for discipleship that embraces a variety of approaches for building communities that practice spiritual disciplines that move us toward Christian perfection. Jesus must be relevant to the communities we are accompanying in their discipleship. We must explore how we create communities in and outside our sacred spaces, such as third places. It is vital to develop disciples that lead in the transformation of our society by responding to the social ills that continue to dehumanize our Imago Dei. We will connect with external partners to identify support (Discipleship Ministries, Racial/Ethnic Plans, etc.) and resources that will allow us to expand contextual spiritual formation. Creating relationships is pivotal to discipleship which shares our Christian hope.

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

- It is imperative as a bishop to keep in the forefront the mission of the Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It is vital to our evangelism that we are people of prayer and discernment of what God is calling and equipping us to do. There must be intentionality to understand the contextual needs of the community using research and asset analysis to support, prepare, and send culturally competent lay and clergy that will work towards offering the liberation and love of God. Afterall, grace is our biggest asset.

**NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE**

EPISCOPAL CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM 2022



GENERAL INFORMATION

<i>Name</i>	Rev. Thomas Ladd Blackstone, Ph.D.
<i>Address</i>	60 Lebaron Dr., East Greenwich, RI 02818
<i>Phone/E-Mail</i>	207.551.8169 / thomasblackstone@gmail.com
<i>Conference Membership</i>	New England Annual Conference
<i>Nominated by</i>	New England Annual Conference
<i>Years able to serve if elected</i>	10 (Mandatory Retirement on 8/31/2032)

WORK EXPERIENCE

<i>List all appointments</i>	<p>1986 Appointed to Attend School (Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div.) (86-87); Emory University (Ph.D.) (1987-1991)). Student Parishes: Princeton UMC, Princeton, New Jersey; Avondale Pattillo UMC, Decatur, Georgia</p> <p>1991 First UMC Boothbay Harbor and East Boothbay UMC, East Boothbay, Maine.</p> <p>1993 John Street UMC, Camden, Maine</p> <p>1998 Grant Memorial UMC, Presque Isle, Maine</p> <p>2006 Green Street UMC, Augusta, Maine</p> <p>2014 Pleasant Street UMC, Waterville, Maine</p> <p>2021 The UMC in East Greenwich, East Greenwich, Rhode Island</p>
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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

<i>Influential Books & Renewal Study</i>	<p>Br. Thomas Merton, The Seven Story Mountain Br. Thomas Keating, Open Mind, Open Heart Dr. Howard Thurman, Jesus and the Disinherited Dr. Fred Craddock, Overhearing the Gospel (Dr. Craddock later became my Ph.D. Advisor at Emory University). 1994 Renewal leave in London and Jerusalem 2018 Lilly Clergy Renewal Grant (4 mos): Photography School, travel, 10-day silent retreat. 2022 Co-author of Words for New Weddings, a sourcebook of wedding liturgies using modern and inclusive language</p>
<i>Racial Diversity Training</i>	<p>NEAC BOM Training on White Privilege and Bias Awareness, NEAC Vital Conversations on Racism (participant and group leader), Member of the BOM Monitoring Team.</p>
<i>Language Facility Special Interests</i>	<p>Written French, German, Classical and Koine Greek, Biblical Hebrew, Aramaic, and Syriac. My amateur passion is fine art photography. I've led two workshops on "Contemplative Photography as a Spiritual Discipline." I often integrate photographic images into my practice of preaching and have had a dozen or so images published or included in juried exhibitions.</p>
<i>Self-Care</i>	<p>My wife and I enjoy our small cabin on the coast of Maine, and hiking in the adjacent National Wildlife Refuge. I use photography as a tool to</p>

	achieve mindfulness of God’s creation, I practice contemplative prayer and journaling, and have belonged to multiple clergy covenant groups. Three adult children and a dog keep us grounded
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PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

<i>Gifts & Evidence of God’s Grace</i>	Children and Youth ministry. Preaching. Bible Study. Committee Leadership at District and Conference level, Mentoring Clergy and Candidates, Teaching seminarians and LLP’s, Summer Camp Counselor and Dean. Integrating Art and Spirituality.
<i>Indication of Effectiveness</i>	Recipient, Ziegler Prize in Preaching (NEAC, 2017). Baccalaureate Preacher, Albright College (2013). Resourced two congregations in becoming Reconciling Communities; Seminary Adjunct Prof in NT and Preaching; Course of Study and Licensed Local Pastor School Instructor; Chair, Admin Review Committee (12 years); Member, BOM (6 years); Leadership of UMVIM teams in LA, MS, KY, WV, and ME. Member, Conference Committees: Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Ecumenical and Inter- Religious Concerns, Conference Council on Ministries, Visioning Task Force, UM Camp Mechuwana Site Team. Family Systems training (“Tending the Fire”).
<i>Area for Further Development</i>	I have benefitted greatly from Conference Consultants in the area of Conflict Resolution, and I expect I would do so as Bishop. I have not served as a DS or on the Cabinet, though I have been reappointed six times, including to two troubled parishes (one post misconduct by a clergy person, one riven by conflict).
<i>Style of Leadership</i>	I am a collaborative leader using a team model: encouraging open discussion, articulation of disagreement, and reflective listening. Having received diverse input, I am not afraid to “call the play” when it is my responsibility to do so, or to empower my conversation partners to come to a decision when that burden falls on them. Fear of failure should not paralyze the people of God from acting in love and under Grace

QUESTIONS

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

- I was approached by a discerning colleague in early 2022. She convinced me that the coming years postseparation will require pastoral episcopal leaders in the church who have the gift of preaching the Word of God to a grieving people, even while reorganizing as a fully inclusive denomination. She believes I have those qualities, and my conference family has further affirmed her discernment. Though I am shaken by this possibility, I am prayerfully open to the Spirit’s voice and leading and will offer my best in whatever role my Church sends me to serve.

As delineated in paragraph 403 of The Book of Discipline, please share how you are called and equipped to fulfill the responsibilities of a bishop. Please elaborate on ¶ 403.1 and e-f.

- Spirit: My spiritual health is fed by the sacramental offerings of the Church, which sustain my identity as a beloved child of God and my rootedness in a world of need. My calling is to midwife an experience of the Living God at the heart of each person’s life. (b) Mind: I pursued a Ph.D. in New Testament out of a passion to engage in and encourage critical reflection in our pursuit of Scriptural Holiness and Theological maturity. I’m committed to an intellectual as well as spiritual

upholding of our faith traditions and disciplines. I enthusiastically embrace the role of “teacher” in Christ’s Church. (c) Vision: Visionary leaders see a world that does not yet exist and (by God’s grace) bring it into being. My hope is to be such a leader as the post-separation UMC is birthed, an inclusive community in a divided world. (d) Prophecy: It would be my call as Bishop to hold both Church and our Society accountable to our ideals of Justice, Equity, and Compassion, to speak for those who have no voice, but are beloved by God. (e) Unity: Christian Unity allows for a breadth of opinion while protecting the marginalized from those who would do them harm in the name of uniformity. I would attempt to foster such unity in my Area and graciously release those who do not share such a vision. (f) Administration: To administer the Church is to put “feet” under our vision and ideals, to empower our corporate understanding of grace and justice to exist as a force for good in the world.

What are the spiritual and missional gifts and priorities you would bring to the whole jurisdiction as an episcopal leader?

- I am a caregiver to God’s children in the church. As a bishop, I would be called to empower the church by the telling of narratives that reveal the Gospel, allowing our churches and leaders to see ourselves through God’s eyes. During my possible decade of active episcopal service I would prioritize (1) completing the separation of the church in an efficient, compassionate, and loving manner; (2) repenting of the harm we have done to the marginalized and excluded, articulating our core values and commitments to a radically inclusive ministry patterned on the life and ministry of Jesus, and (3) Creating and fostering a transforming spiritual encounter with God at the center of every United Methodist’s life and community. (E.g., Art, Fellowship, Covenant Groups, Bible Study, Contemplative or Intercessory Prayer, Meditation, etc.), not allowing the institutional tail to wag the spiritual dog.

How do you envision new faith communities which reach those not currently active on a discipleship path?

- Church plants exist as viable “third” places in people’s lives, focused less on buildings and endowments and more as gatherings of the spiritually passionate and hungry.

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

- Promoting knowledge of the Biblical story and the Wesleyan emphasis on personal and social holiness. Every lay and clergy person should be empowered to tell our story accurately, passionately, and with a kind of poetry that invites others to live and serve in a hurting world at our side.

**NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE**

EPISCOPAL CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM 2022



GENERAL INFORMATION

<i>Name</i>	Héctor A. Burgos Núñez
<i>Address</i>	68 Applegate Way, Chesterfield, NJ 08515
<i>Phone/E-Mail</i>	609.661.1768 hburgos@gnjumc.org
<i>Conference Membership</i>	Greater New Jersey (GNJ)
<i>Nominated by</i>	MARCHA – National Hispanic Caucus, NEJ and National BMCR, GNJ Chapter
<i>Years able to serve if elected</i>	20 years

WORK EXPERIENCE

<i>List all appointments</i>	<i>District Superintendent (DS), Central District, GNJ (present) Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM), GNJ (2015-19) Interim Executive Director, NextGen Ministries, GNJ (2016-18) Director of Worship & Urban Ministries, GNJ (2014-15) Lead Pastor, Oasis UMC, Pleasantville NJ (2009-14) Associate Pastor, FUMC, Tuckerton NJ (2005-09) Assistant Pastor, West Creek UMC, NJ (2004-05)</i>
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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

<i>Influential Books & Renewal Study</i>	Books: <i>Responsible Grace: John Wesley’s Practical Theology</i> , Randy L. Maddox <i>Leading Beyond the Walls: Developing Congregations with a Heart for the Unchurched</i> , Adam Hamilton <i>Tempered Resilience: How Leaders are Formed in the Crucible of Change</i> , Tod Bolsinger <i>How to Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey Toward Racial Justice</i> , Jemar Tisby <i>Team of Rivals, The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln</i> , Doris Kearns <i>Daring Greatly</i> , Brené Brown. Renewal Studies: <i>The Sacrament of Rest, Sabbath</i> , 2018 <i>Spiritual Entrepreneurship</i> , 2015 <i>Indigenous Hawaiian Spirituality in Christianity</i> , 2010
<i>Racial Diversity Training</i>	<i>Fear-less Dialogues: A New Movement for Justice Outward Mindset Inclusion, The Arbinger Institute Developing Intercultural Competence Using the Intercultural Development Inventory, GCORR Implicit Bias, GCORR</i>
<i>Language Facility Special Interests</i>	Languages: Spanish and English Special interests include leadership development, racial and organizational equity, evangelism, contextual worship, and strategic communications in a digital era.
<i>Self-Care</i>	Daily devotional times, healthy eating and exercise, regular medical checkups, therapy, and coaching; at least one weekly day off for rest and renewal; yearly vacation times with family and friends; music, reading, gardening, and hiking.

PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

<i>Gifts & Evidence of God’s Grace</i>	I receive and experience God’s grace through varied spiritual disciplines, including but not limited to public worship and the sacraments; my family, friends, and mentors who support my calling, hold me accountable, and sustain me in leadership.
<i>Indication of Effectiveness</i>	1) Sustainable progress in all local church appointments, including church planting. 2) As DCM led the 2013-18 GNJ strategic plans that increased highly vital congregations from 14% to 32% and created the GNJ’s 10-year cultural competence plan. 3) As DS, led the district to a record shared-giving and billings fulfillment from 84 and 86% in 2018 to 93 and 97% in 2021.
<i>Area for Further Development</i>	I am working on the life and ministry balancing act and continuously growing in intercultural competence to relate effectively across cultures.
<i>Style of Leadership</i>	<i>Adaptive Leadership.</i> I can acclimate to a constantly changing environment. By God’s grace, I desire to continually improve myself, the church, and the world to reflect God’s image. I seek to inspire, align, equip, mobilize and encourage others to achieve meaningful change and progress toward God’s mission and vision.

QUESTIONS

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

- In 2018, I prayerfully began sensing the call to offer myself to serve the church in the role of bishop. I initially shared this with my spouse and nuclear family, who affirmed and supported it. I also conferred with my parents, mentors, colleagues, and close friends, who strengthened my sense of calling. In 2019, my name was lifted by the NEJ chapter of MARCHA and affirmed by their national assembly as someone with the faith, character, spiritual gifts, skills, and experiences to serve faithfully in the role of bishop. The journey towards discerning the call to the office of bishop has been humbling as I take a bold step in faith to new possibilities. In all, I am reassured by the Holy Spirit and those around me that by God’s grace, in Christ, I am more than enough. I am unconditionally loved and able to lead God’s people towards God’s vision of a future with hope for the world through the witness and mission of the United Methodist Church.

As delineated in paragraph 403 of The Book of Discipline, please share how you are called and equipped to fulfill the responsibilities of a bishop. Please elaborate on ¶ 403.1 and e-f.

- I feel called to serve in the office of bishop in the pattern of the prophet Nehemiah, whose journey guides my leadership in ministry. This sense of calling is affirmed by colleagues and trusted mentors. During my period of discernment, several laity and clergy shared they see me as someone who sees people and listens to their hopes and aspirations, seeks God’s guidance and wisdom, and then casts a God-led vision of hope for the church and the world. They reminded me of times they saw me inspire and mobilize people to work to realize God’s vision. And they witnessed me lead through significant change and conflict with grace, determination, and resilience. They also celebrate my readiness to innovate and experiment with new strategies and methods so that God’s new creation continues to emerge.

What are the spiritual and missional gifts and priorities you would bring to the whole jurisdiction as an episcopal leader?

- In my journey as a follower of Christ, I nurture the spiritual gifts of knowledge, wisdom, compassion, shepherding, teaching, administration, and leadership. In conversation with people about my calling to serve in the episcopacy, I have learned they value specific gifts and graces they see in me, including a deep love for Christ and God's people and a passion for sharing Christ with others. Inspiring preaching and teaching. Vision and an integrated ability to think big- picture and work strategically on details to move the vision forward. They mentioned experiencing me as a good communicator and a courageous, prophetic voice. Also, they said I create community, collaboration, and confidence in the leaders around me that unleashes creativity, innovation, and positive results. People also noted my good sense of humor, down-to-earth attitude, and grace to carry these gifts with humility. My priorities as an episcopal leader will include being a pastor who leads the church to continually grow in knowledge, experience, and outward expressions of the love of Christ. I also envision strategically organizing, overseeing, and evaluating the overall ministry of the church to ensure the church is recruiting and deploying a new generation of effective clergy and laity leaders, equipping leaders and congregations for transformational ministry, being a good steward of the resources entrusted to us by God to fulfill the mission; and promoting unity that embodies the radical and all-inclusive grace of Christ.

How do you envision new faith communities which reach those not currently active on a discipleship path?

- I believe that crucial for regenerative ministry is to prioritize planting new faith communities rooted in our relational Wesleyan DNA that are missional, radically hospitable, inclusive, diverse, and that meet people where they are in their journey through life. This kind of faith community will provide a healthy environment where people of all ages can encounter and experience the healing love of Christ, find purpose, and be agents of hope through their witness and servant leadership. Nurturing this kind of ministry will require an intentional investment in the development of apostolic leaders that are spiritual entrepreneurs who can cast a vision of hope and lead a transformational ministry that connects with the needs, hopes, and aspirations of people in the community.

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

- I believe that crucial to equipping the church for ministry is increasing the leadership capacity for impactful ministry in our unique cultural context. I envision laity and clergy being equipped through meaningful experiential learning, coaching, and peer learning using different technologies that allow them to address the realities, challenges, and opportunities in the mission field. Faithful witness and ministry today and into the future require laity and clergy equipped with the tools to, led by the Holy Spirit, 1) constantly grow their faith and be able to share their journey in Christ with others; 2) offer servant leadership that flows out of their spiritual gifts and skills; 3) break down the pervasive walls of racism and exclusion that prevent many people from experiencing the all-welcoming and healing grace of Christ; 4) work for sustainable justice; and 5) grow in their cultural competence so they can build relationships across differences based on mutuality and do ministry in ways that honor the multi-faceted diversity present in our communities.

**NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE**

EPISCOPAL CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM 2022



GENERAL INFORMATION

<i>Name</i>	Cristian De La Rosa
<i>Address</i>	55 Clark St. Lynn, MA 01902
<i>Phone/E-Mail</i>	540 550-9251. cdlrosa@bu.edu
<i>Conference Membership</i>	New England Annual Conference
<i>Nominated by</i>	ACLAMEN (National Association of Latina Clergy women) MARCHA (National Hispanic Caucus)
<i>Years able to serve if elected</i>	I will be able to serve two terms (8-10 years) – God willing.

WORK EXPERIENCE

<i>List all appointments</i>	<p>2011 to Now Boston University School of Theology Associate Dean for Students and Community life</p> <p>2020 to Now – Pastor for First Community UMC in Medford, MA (part time) 2004 -2011 Appointed to study – Ph D Program at Chicago Theological Seminary. 2002-2004 Senior Pastor Calvary UMC in Dallas, Texas.</p> <p>1999-2002 Director of Continuing Education and Ministerial Course of Study at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. Evanston, IL</p> <p>1997-1999 Senior Pastor, Calvary UMC in Lincoln, NE.</p> <p>1992-1997 Senior Pastor of Calvary UMC in Washington DC and Executive Director for Casa Del Pueblo Community Ministry</p> <p>1990-1992 Associate Pastor at Linthicum UMC in Linthicum, MD.</p> <p>1986-1990. Office Manager/Seminar Designer for GBCS of the UMC</p>
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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

<i>Influential Books & Renewal Study</i>	<p>Smith, Linda T. <i>Decolonizing Methodologies</i></p> <p>Isasi-Diaz, Ada Maria, <i>Mujerista Theology: A Theology for the 21st Century.</i></p> <p>Carrasco, David. <i>Religions of Mesoamerica</i></p> <p>Stephen B. Bevans and KatalinaTahaafe-Williams. <i>Contextual Theology for the Twenty-First Century.</i></p> <p>Foster, Elizabeth A. <i>African Catholic: Decolonization and the Transformation of the Church.</i></p> <p>Anzaldua, Gloria, <i>Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza</i></p> <p>David Maldonado, ed. <i>Protestantes/Protestants: Hispanic Christianity within Mainline Denominations.</i></p> <p>Renewal Study includes -Preparation for classes every semester.</p>
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	Preparation for preaching (serve a local church part time. Participation in the American Academy of Religion. Engagement with particular organizing efforts /ministries/programs related to bridging of the church, the community, and the academy.
<i>Racial Diversity Training</i>	GCORR, GBC&S, Industrial Areas Foundation, and several trainings at Boston University required for our diversity and equity initiative.
<i>Language Facility Special Interests</i>	Speak, read, and write Spanish (Native language). Understand Portuguese. I am interested in Liberation Theologies, cultural theory, Postcolonial theory, and the history and practice of the Latino church.
<i>Self-Care</i>	Vacations with family, retreat for self-centering, and spiritual practices.

PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

<i>Gifts & Evidence of God's Grace</i>	God's grace is manifested in the understanding that I am gifted with a Mestiza consciousness within the philosophy of Gloria Anzaldua. This is key to my identity and practices. It involves multicultural sensitivity, flexibility, tolerance for ambiguity, resilience, and ability for build across differences.
<i>Indication of Effectiveness</i>	The fact that I serve as the Dean of Students and Community Life at Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH). The organizing and coordination of HYL A (Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy) almost 20 years ago. The identification and coordination of creative ministries like intentional communities of seminary students at UM parsonages, and the organizing of Raices Latinas Program for Theology, Leadership, and Research at BUSTH.
<i>Area for Further Development</i>	Intentional experience with Asian and native American ministries. I have done a great deal of financial support and advocacy for these ministries but expect to make time for actually engagement within these communities.
<i>Style of Leadership</i>	Contextual and flexible for individual and collective needs. It takes into consideration disciplinary processes and limitations as it seeks to identified necessary transformation so our church can remain meaningful and relevant.

QUESTIONS

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

- Successful ministry initiatives lead to individuals and communities asking if I had considered the episcopacy. After some years I began an intentional consultation/dialogue with family, colleagues, and bishops. I also prayed, read, and studied about this office and its traditions. These steps led to the discernment that I am called to serve as bishop at this time of uncertainty within our church and world. I understand that my response to God at this time needs to be to offer myself to the church for this office.

As delineated in paragraph 403 of The Book of Discipline, please share how you are called and equipped to fulfill the responsibilities of a bishop. Please elaborate on ¶ 403.1 and e-f.

- I am answering this call during very uncertain and complex times. However, it is for such a time as this that we are summoned for a greater transformation of ourselves and our ministries. I believe that it is at these times of flux that we need to consider the best practices from our tradition, glean the essence of our prophetic and transforming interpretation of scriptures today, read our own contexts (signs of our own times), and reason into a possible new future of grace and hope with the abilities to build across differences and remain in dialogue. My hope/expectation is that my experience as clergy, seminary faculty, and community organizer; alongside formal and informal education within the UM institutional guidelines and procedures and the creative meaningful ministries I engaged in up to now, serve as examples of unity and leadership within the discipline of the church but also serve as creative ways to identify limitations and seek our transformation.

What are the spiritual and missional gifts and priorities you would bring to the whole jurisdiction as an episcopal leader?

- My experience in ministry and organizing where I internationally facilitate bridging of the church, the academy, and the community through cooperative initiatives with an emphasis on decolonizing processes. A commitment to justice making through the identifications of places and spaces for making visible and including those that have been made invisible as well as the epistemological retrieval from diverse cultural traditions, particularly those of indigenous peoples of the Americas. My unique social location as a Latina clergy woman with experience at every level of our denomination.

How do you envision new faith communities which reach those not currently active on a discipleship path?

- I will call all local congregations to a process of revisiting their mission statements, practices, and ministries. The invitation will include reading their own circumstances, their immediate geographical areas, and specific sections of our book of discipline dealing with the local church and they will be expected to design a plan for ministry inclusive of assets, needs, and hopes for a new church.

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

- I plan to facilitate a collective and inclusive process every local congregation will identify the best practices in our Wesleyan tradition, recognize particular contextual needs, and build for a meaningful and relevant future. It will involve discernment, retraining of clergy, lay leadership formation, and the securing of financial support for every single ministry effort that is designed for the building of a diverse and inclusive church that builds across differences thinking of future generation.

**NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE**

EPISCOPAL CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM 2022



GENERAL INFORMATION

<i>Name</i>	Wendy J. Deichmann
<i>Address</i>	14794 Providence Pike, Brookville OH 45309
<i>Phone/E-Mail</i>	937.570.9213 / wjdeichmann@gmail.com
<i>Conference Membership</i>	Upper New York Conference
<i>Nominated by</i>	Upper New York Conference
<i>Years able to serve if elected</i>	Up to 8

WORK EXPERIENCE

<i>List all appointments</i>	2001-Current: Faculty, United Theological Seminary 2007-2015: President, United Theological Seminary 2005-2007: Academic Dean, United Theological Seminary 2001-2005: Faculty, United Theological Seminary 1994-2001: Faculty, United Theological Seminary and Ashland Theological Seminary 1990-1993: Pastor, UMC of Orchard Park, NY 1987-1989: Faculty, Colgate Rochester Divinity School 1984-1987: Student, Drew Graduate School (1984 Probationary Member; 1989 Full Member)
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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

<i>Influential Books & Renewal Study</i>	Holy Bible Church History
<i>Racial Diversity Training</i>	Yes
<i>Language Facility Special Interests</i>	English, some French, a little German Nature, History, Art, Human cultures
<i>Self-Care</i>	Prayer, Family, Friends, Outdoor activities

PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

<i>Gifts & Evidence of God's Grace</i>	Faith, Prayer, Teaching, Serving, Joy, Spiritual discernment, Relationship-building, Vision, Preaching, Administration, Encouraging, Learning, Arranging, Maximizing, Ordering, Delegating, Self-discipline, Creativity.
<i>Indication of Effectiveness</i>	Strongly favorable evaluations and other feedback for teaching, pastoral and other ministerial service. Promotions. Success in renewal and oversight of historic United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.
<i>Area for Further Development</i>	Patience with myself, sabbath-keeping, always much to learn.

<i>Style of Leadership</i>	Collegial, Consultative, Transparent, Transformational, Strategic, Outcomes oriented.
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QUESTIONS

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

- Though I did not initiate it, I have prayerfully allowed the process to go forward because (1) I believe in the role of the Annual Conference in spiritual discernment around this process and (2) although I enjoy immensely the work I am currently doing, I believe that service in the church as a bishop may be the best (if God ordained) and most needed use of my gifts at this time.

As delineated in paragraph 403 of The Book of Discipline, please share how you are called and equipped to fulfill the responsibilities of a bishop. Please elaborate on ¶ 403.1 and e-f.

- For 8 years I served in an oversight role as president and CEO of a UMC-related theological school. When I began this work, the school was struggling and threatened with closure. When I finished my work in this role, the school was thriving, growing, and strong. During this time, I remained active in my home conference, overseeing a UM Course of Study school and serving as a trustee of the Conference. I have also served on the (then WNY) Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and as pastor of the United Methodist Church of Orchard Park in the (then) Buffalo District. I served as an Associate Pastor at Christ UMC in Lakewood, NJ, (Youth Ministry Director) and Assistant Pastor at the UM Church of the Resurrection in Rochester, NY. I have also participated in the life of The UMC in Asia through a teaching program in Vietnam and in Africa in Sierra Leone and Mozambique.

One of my current responsibilities is teaching the required courses for UM candidates for ordination: United Methodist Doctrine and Polity, History of the Methodist Movement; and The Evangelical United Brethren. I am deeply committed to the doctrine, discipline, and order of our denomination, and am well familiar with these essential subjects.

I am committed to the mission of the UMC and a disciplined life as demonstrated in roles of pastor, president, and professor. I would continue these commitments in the role of bishop.

I believe the church at large is and must be committed to our commonalities as Christians more than our differences for the sake of our shared witness and mission as disciples of Jesus Christ. The word “United” in “United Methodist,” originally came from the German word for “unpartisan.” Unity of the church rests in our oneness in Jesus Christ.

Proper administration functions like an invisible but necessary backbone to the life of the rest of the body. Discipline, ordering, raising up and consecrating of servant leadership--these all cultivate long-term life and direction for the church. I believe that my previous responsibilities recruiting and overseeing staff, faculty, and student life at a UM seminary are great preparation.

What are the spiritual and missional gifts and priorities you would bring to the whole jurisdiction as an episcopal leader?

- I would begin with what are perhaps my most evident gifts: faith, prayer, teaching. I would lead in the direction of modeling and building strong foundations of faith and prayer within the body to foster unity and renewal within the life of the church. Prayer is first because it always means that we are already responding faithfully to the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. The gift of teaching comes into the picture because our Scriptures, our history, and even the Book of Discipline are full of necessary and inspirational resources for teaching that can generate unity

and fuel renewal of the church.

Evangelism. The religion of Jesus Christ is the only sufficiently powerful, everlasting medicine that offers complete healing and real hope for the world and its inhabitants. There is great need for Jesus in our broken, hurting world.

How do you envision new faith communities which reach those not currently active on a discipleship path?

- I would use relationship building as well as tools of marketing in local communities to create opportunities for evangelism and discipleship, to be led by teams that include persons from these targeted need areas. I would envision offering needed services as a witness to the love of God, along with worship and discipleship opportunities such as small groups for prayer, Bible Study, and spiritual growth.

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

- By providing education for ministry, evangelism, and reading cultural contexts, along with joyful celebration of what God is doing in people's lives, communities, and beyond.

**NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE**

EPISCOPAL CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM 2022



GENERAL INFORMATION

<i>Name</i>	Sang Won Doh
<i>Address</i>	1181 Fairfield Rd. Bridgewater, NJ 08807
<i>Phone/E-Mail</i>	908-279-5855/sdoh@gnjumc.org
<i>Conference Membership</i>	Greater New Jersey Conference
<i>Nominated by</i>	Greater NJ Annual Conference; National Federation of Asian American UMC
<i>Years able to serve if elected</i>	20

WORK EXPERIENCE

<i>List all appointments</i>	Church of the Covenant (1998-1999); Monmouth Grace UMC (1999-2004); Knowlton UMC (2004-2006); Epworth UMC (2006-2010); Calvary Korean UMC (2010-2019); Raritan Shore District Superintendent (2019-present)
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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

<i>Influential Books & Renewal Study</i>	To Know As We are Known by Parker Palmer; The Rise of Christianity by Rodney Stark; Marginality by Jung Young Lee; Sources of the Self: The Making of the Modern Identity by Charles Taylor; Comeback Churches: How 300 Churches Turned Around by Ed Stetzer and Mike Dodson
<i>Racial Diversity Training</i>	Cultural competency training by Drew University in 2002; Outward Inclusion by Arbinger Institute in 2021; Anti-racism training by Fearless Dialogue in 2021; Led Anti-Asian Racism rally in GNJ in 2020
<i>Language Facility Special Interests</i>	Languages: Korean, English; Interests: table tennis, singing, empowering leadership
<i>Self-Care</i>	Reading, walking, journaling, quality time with family

PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

<i>Gifts & Evidence of God's Grace</i>	Gifts: Preaching and teaching; Compassionate listening; Strategic planning and implementation; Administration with innovation and creativity; Pastoral presence; Evidence: Awarded Denman Evangelism Award in 2003; Elected Connectional Table Chair in 2016; App. to Cabinet in 2019 and selected as Dean in 2020; Led as Chair of GNJ Way Forward Team in 2019; Endorsed for the Episcopacy in 2022.
<i>Indication of Effectiveness</i>	Revitalizing challenged churches: Monmouth Grace UMC was experiencing long conflict and financial turmoil after a bi-cultural church merger. Under my leadership, the church grew from 100 to 280 in weekly attendance within six years. Calvary Korean UMC had lost

	65% membership in four years and was on the brink of bankruptcy prior to my pastorate. During my nine years serving Calvary, the church reached financial sustainability and grew from a less-than five-hundred average attendance church to a one thousand per Sunday church - becoming one of the fastest growing UMC congregations in 2016 and 2017. Serving the underserved community: Calvary established a non-profit organization called Calvary Outreach Center, a collective of five outreach programs including a Christian Montessori school, summer school program, Korean language school, Senior citizen program, and Korean cultural programs. The center served the underserved community of 1,200 people annually with 6-7 full-time staffs, 25-30 part-time staff, and numerous volunteers with an annual budget of half-million dollars. Connectional ministry: As a District Superintendent, I launched and organized district clergy small groups. Clergy small groups played a crucial role during the pandemic and denominational uncertainty. 80-90% of clergy in the district participated. Raritan Valley District contributed the most Shared Ministry in the Greater New Jersey Conference for three consecutive years (2019-2021).
<i>Area for Further Development</i>	Work and family life balance; Exercise
<i>Style of Leadership</i>	Consensus building, visionary, adaptive and collaborative

QUESTIONS

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

- When I was appointed as a District Superintendent, several colleagues affirmed my gifts in turnaround leadership and challenged me to begin a journey for the office of episcopacy. As I played key leadership roles in the conference and particularly was involved in forming a national organization for Korean UM churches that choose to remain in the denomination, I have been strongly encouraged by denominational leaders and several episcopal leaders for the call. I discerned prayerfully for the last six months and made myself available for the call.

As delineated in paragraph 403 of The Book of Discipline, please share how you are called and equipped to fulfill the responsibilities of a bishop. Please elaborate on ¶ 403.1 and e-f.

- The spiritual discipline of daily early morning prayer from my Korean church tradition is foundational to my faith journey. A deep and consistent relationship with the Lord enables me to become a firm, joyful, creative, compassionate, and transformational leader.

The deconstruction of religion and faith has especially accelerated in the Northeast during the pandemic. It is imperative now more than ever to articulate the necessity of Jesus Christ and faith communities in post-Christian America. If elected, I will shepherd and lead the annual conference to rediscover a compelling and beautiful Christian faith that captivates and inspires us into communities rekindled with passion for the mission.

I also have a strong passion for a unified, big-tent-theology Church. I believe that the universal nature of the body of Christ is a great testament to the character of the Church – and is especially needed in today’s politically and ideologically polarized culture. I will continue a prophetic journey with fellow United Methodists to create a graceful community for all. Focusing on missional solidarity and appreciating diverse gifts and graces of a global United Methodist Church, I will endeavor to create a new sense of connectional unity.

Strategic-planning and administration with innovation are my gifts. Setting up attainable goals with simple and focused approaches and successful execution can bring the positive ripple effect to the whole system.

Development of clergy and lay leadership is a strength I've gained through experience as a large church pastor and a DS. Identification of leaders with turnaround DNA and nurturing them are key for the mission.

What are the spiritual and missional gifts and priorities you would bring to the whole jurisdiction as an episcopal leader?

- First, I would cultivate my relationships with other episcopal leaders to learn from their wisdom and enjoy spiritual fellowship and honest conversations on comprehensive areas of ministries. I believe that my turnaround experience in local churches would contribute to the discourse of disciple-making strategy. I would bring the unique gifts of Asian faith communities such as fervent prayer tradition and dedicated discipleship to the wider communities.

How do you envision new faith communities which reach those not currently active on a discipleship path?

- We have lost the art of making new disciples. Many conferences have lost 60-70% professions of faith in the last twenty years. It is my strong belief that holistic small group could provide platform to offer meaningful relationships and a sense of belonging. Cultivation of strong clergy and lay leadership is a prerequisite for effective small groups. The quality of the relationship of the community matters the most. I am open to launch faith communities of fresh expressions. The other area of focus is the next generation ministry. The years of college and young adults are formative times in one's spiritual journey. Once they are exposed to the goodness of the Christian community in those years, they can grow as devoted followers of Jesus for the rest of their lives. Intentional affordable housing for college students with a strong campus ministry could be one of the examples of a life-giving community.

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

- First and foremost, I would listen to clergy and leaders in and out of the church communities of the assigned area with humility and openness. I would help them discern, sharpen, and reimagine the innovative and effective ways of ministry and evangelism. It would be paramount for an episcopal leader to identify and empower leaders with deep faith, entrepreneurship, and unwavering commitment to the mission.

**NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE**

EPISCOPAL CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM 2022



GENERAL INFORMATION

<i>Name</i>	Andrew L. Foster, III.
<i>Address</i>	513 Ellison Drive North Wales PA 19454
<i>Phone/E-Mail</i>	609-605-3481/afoster3rd@epaumc.church
<i>Conference Membership</i>	Eastern Pennsylvania (EPA)
<i>Nominated by</i>	NEJ Black Methodist for Church Renewal
<i>Years able to serve if elected</i>	8

WORK EXPERIENCE

<i>List all appointments</i>	District Superintendent (EPA): 2020-Present, District Superintendent (New England): 2017-2020, Janes Memorial UMC (Senior Pastor): 2009-2017, Grace Community UMC (Senior Pastor): 2003-2009, Janes Memorial UMC (Associate Pastor): 2001-2003, Clearview UMC (Senior Pastor): 2000-2001
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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

<i>Influential Books & Renewal Study</i>	Kimsey House, <i>Co-Active Coaching</i> , Goleman, Daniel: <i>Primal Leadership</i> , Goleman, Brandon, <i>Emotional Intelligence</i> , <i>Bridges</i> , <i>William</i> , <i>Managing Transitions</i> , Kendi, Ibram X., <i>How to be an Antiracist</i> , <i>Kotan</i> , <i>Kay and Bradford</i> , <i>Blake</i> , <i>Impact! Reclaiming the Call of Lay Ministry D. Min.</i> , <i>Marriage and Family Counseling</i> , <i>Palmer Theological Seminary</i>
<i>Racial Diversity Training</i>	GCORR Vital Conversations Training, Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), Cross Racial Cross-Cultural Training, Dismantling Racism, Healing the Wounds of Racism, Co-Active Coaching
<i>Language Facility Special Interests</i>	Language Facility: English Leadership Development, Social Justice, Community Building
<i>Self-Care</i>	Prayer, Fasting, Exercise, Meditation, Sabbath, Music, and Dancing

PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

<i>Gifts & Evidence of God's Grace</i>	Spiritual Gifts: Spiritual Discernment, Preaching, Teaching, and Administration. Adaptive and Technical Leadership, Marriage, and Family Counseling, Coaching, Mentoring
<i>Indication of Effectiveness</i>	Leading small, medium, and large membership churches in 2 annual conferences toward missional vitality. Inspiring and empowering both clergy and laity. Allocating resources for vital and creative ministries.
<i>Area for Further Development</i>	Gain additional conversational skills in Korean and Spanish languages

<i>Style of Leadership</i>	My leadership style is primarily collaborative, affiliative, and consensus building. I am adaptative, curious and authoritative when necessary.
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QUESTIONS

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

- As a life-long United Methodist and 5th generation of ministers of the gospel, along with my unquestioned proven commitment to the United Methodist Church, I believe my pursuit of this office is a serious calling similar to my calling to ordained ministry. It was slow, it was thoughtful, deliberate and bathed in prayer. I believe God has prepared me through service in the United States Air Force and Post graduate counseling studies to understand systems and the ability to navigate in different contexts and cultures. I love the structure and connectional nature of our Church. I have been blessed with many different opportunities to serve the Church at the district, conference, jurisdictional and General Church levels with integrity and excellence. My prior and current ministry gifts for this office have been affirmed by both laity and clergy colleagues through prayerful conversation.

As delineated in paragraph 403 of The Book of Discipline, please share how you are called and equipped to fulfill the responsibilities of a bishop. Please elaborate on ¶ 403.1 and e-f.

- Having served faithfully as a Local Pastor, an Elder and District Superintendent in 2 conferences, I believe God has gifted me in the areas that will ensure effective servant-leadership that will strengthen the temporal and spiritual affairs of the United Methodist Church. I will provide, with the help of God, spiritual non-transactional leadership to both laity and clergy while building relationships with people of local congregations, and teaching and upholding the theological traditions of the United Methodist Church. My unwavering love of Christ, God's people and the United Methodist Church will lead to creative ways of shepherding the whole church in hopes of providing unity within the Church.

What are the spiritual and missional gifts and priorities you would bring to the whole jurisdiction as an episcopal leader?

- Having served on the cabinet with 3 different Bishops and served on cabinets in 2 different annual conferences, both equally diverse both theologically and culturally different. I believe I bring a unique perspective to the Council of Bishops and within the Jurisdiction to make things come alive because I have experience in many contexts and cultures. I would also bring to this work a healthy energy and ability to listen well, intentionally learn what the unique needs are by assessing what things would bring life. My ability to be relational will develop trust in the office to cultivate creativity and visionary ministries that would resurrect the region. Additionally, I have served in the United States Air Force, and I believe my perspective in a secular setting for the most part would add value and insight to situations in the church and community.

How do you envision new faith communities which reach those not currently active on a discipleship path?

- I have found most communities will gravitate to the faith by experiencing authentic and consistent leadership. A ministry of presence and building trustworthy non- transactional relationships are critical in disciple making. Having hearts of peace and not war, as well as possessing an outward mindset develops confidence which leads to a healthy community of faith.

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

- I believe one of the greatest stewardship roles I can provide in this office for the Church would be to focus on the Mission and Ministry of the Church. I would engage the Vision Table to assist in strategic planning and coordination of resources through the various general boards, commissions, and agencies to ensure that the available grants would be sought to ensure current vital ministries are well funded to give way for future mission and ministries. I would also engage in a world-wide inclusive diverse equitable and accessible approach that is culturally and contextually relevant.

**NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE**

EPISCOPAL CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM 2022



GENERAL INFORMATION

<i>Name</i>	Alyce Weaver Dunn
<i>Address</i>	1204 Freedom Road, Cranberry Twp. Pa. 16066
<i>Phone/E-Mail</i>	724-776-5499/alyce.dunn@wpaumc.org
<i>Conference Membership</i>	Western Pennsylvania Conference
<i>Nominated by</i>	Western Pennsylvania Conference
<i>Years able to serve if elected</i>	10 years

WORK EXPERIENCE

<i>List all appointments</i>	Associate, Rochester: First (1988-1994); Connoquenessing/Renfrew (1994-2003); Brackenridge: Trinity (2003-2010); Johnstown District Superintendent (2010-2018); Director of Connectional Ministries (2018-present)
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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

<i>Influential Books & Renewal Study</i>	Nouwen, Henri, The Wounded Healer; Bailey, Kenneth E., The Cross and the Prodigal; Tochluk, Shelley, Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk about Race and How to Do It; Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
<i>Racial Diversity Training</i>	Engaged in various trainings as a local church pastor, District Superintendent, and Director of Connectional Ministries. Several IDI trainings with consistent follow-up and improvement on the continuum; collaborated with WPA Program Staff in creating a “Now, Action!” Anti-Racism Pledge Drive in 2020; intentional reading and devotionals
<i>Language Facility Special Interests</i>	Language Facility: English Special Interests: Clergy Coaching, Disability Concerns, Camping & Retreat Ministries, Mentoring Clergy/Laity
<i>Self-Care</i>	Spiritual: Daily devotions - individual and with my husband; Emotional/Physical: Hiking, baking, reading, playing piano, Pittsburgh sports fan, traveling with my husband

PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

<i>Gifts & Evidence of God’s Grace</i>	Spiritual Gifts (Network): Creative Communication, Administration, Teaching, Giving, Mercy Other Skills: Trained Clergy Coach, Musician
<i>Indication of Effectiveness</i>	Faithful leadership for 22 years in local churches inspiring community outreach, a renewed spirit of worship and discipleship of all ages; Board of Ordained Ministry Candidacy Registrar (2004-2008) and Secretary (2008-2010); Cabinet Treasurer (2011-2014) and Dean (2014-2018); 30 years as Dean of Music, Art and Creative Drama

	Camp for youth; Jurisdictional and General Church leadership; Vice Chair (2016) and Chair (2020) of WPA GC/JC Delegation
<i>Area for Further Development</i>	Continued work in cultural competency; attention to selfcare; allotting more time for reading and self-development
<i>Style of Leadership</i>	Servant leader who is highly relational and collaborative; ability to be firm and directive when needed

QUESTIONS

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

- As with every step in my ministry, I did not intentionally seek to enter this process. In 2012, 2016 and 2020, other people nominated me to be an episcopal candidate; after a season of personal prayer and discernment, I agreed to be interviewed by the WPA Delegation. In 2020, my gifts were affirmed by the Delegation to be an episcopal candidate. The delay in the process (pandemic) granted me time for further reflection and prayer. The WPA Annual Conference endorsed me as an episcopal candidate in June 2022. I continue to be engaged in prayer and conversation with my husband, ministry mentor, and trusted friends about this call. Although I am often unable to see myself in a new role, I fully trust the Church’s discernment process, and if elected as a Bishop, I will accept that as verification of God’s will and would fully embrace the role. If God does not intend it, I am content to faithfully remain where God is currently using me. I simply choose to yield my life to God’s will, knowing God will equip and empower me.

As delineated in paragraph 403 of The Book of Discipline, please share how you are called and equipped to fulfill the responsibilities of a bishop. Please elaborate on ¶ 403.1 and e-f.

- Throughout my ministry, God has been perfecting in me the leadership skills of administration, teaching, preaching, and mentoring. As a local church pastor, District Superintendent and Director of Connectional Ministries, I have effectively used these gifts as well as managed conflict and collaborated with others to provide solid ministry. I have always avoided labeling myself so that I can be in healthy relationship with a variety of people; therefore, I have a deep passion for both diversity and unity within the Church and would do my best to model and mold them. I embody a blend of administrative savvy with a relational spirit, ordering my life and ministry well, while at the same time making space for creativity, movement and joy. Standing on my life verse, “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13), and undergirded by a life of faithful ministry, I will wholeheartedly “guard the faith, order, liturgy, doctrine and discipline of the Church.”

What are the spiritual and missional gifts and priorities you would bring to the whole jurisdiction as an episcopal leader?

- The strongest gift I would offer as an episcopal leader is a lifelong faith in Jesus Christ. If elected as a bishop, I would bring a commitment to invitational ministry so that others can discover a relationship with the living Christ. The United Methodist Church has always provided formative, safe, beloved space in my life. Therefore, I would prioritize creating such spaces for people of all ages and backgrounds to have faith discoveries. I bring the gift of administration, which blended with my relational spirit, offers a collaborative leadership style which is willing to listen, dialogue and work alongside God’s people. I offer the spiritual gift of teaching as a way to encourage, inspire and guide clergy and laity in their ministry. I offer a heart of hope and love and strive to infuse my leadership with these qualities. Priorities would include the healing of the Church as we journey through these difficult times, as well as it’s re-formation as we discover what God

has next in store for us. □ How do you envision new faith communities which reach those not currently active on a discipleship path? Discipleship must be the foundation and focus of the Church. Envisioning new faith communities needs to be multidirectional: 1) Prayerfully sensing as to where the Spirit is raising up believers and then investing in those places so ministry can flourish; 2) Intentionally learning about our communities and neighbors so we can discover places where new places of ministry can be planted; and 3) Affirming the idea that ministry is not limited to a building but can emerge in creative and dynamic ways and places.

How do you envision new faith communities which reach those not currently active on a discipleship path?

- Discipleship must be the foundation and focus of the Church. Envisioning new faith communities needs to be multidirectional: 1) Prayerfully sensing as to where the Spirit is raising up believers and then investing in those places so ministry can flourish; 2) Intentionally learning about our communities and neighbors so we can discover places where new places of ministry can be planted; and 3) Affirming the idea that ministry is not limited to a building but can emerge in creative and dynamic ways and places.

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

- I would equip United Methodists for ministry and evangelism through a blend of education and experience. First, we need to identify what our cultural context is and who are neighbors are. We need to understand the demographics of our field of ministry and discover places/methods for meaningful connection. Then we need to take our head knowledge and transfer it to our heart - engaging personally in our communities, interacting with our neighbors, affirming their varying cultural backgrounds, mutually discovering our gifts and needs, sharing and receiving life from one another, all interwoven with the sharing of life-giving news of Christ.

**NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE**

EPISCOPAL CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM 2022



GENERAL INFORMATION

<i>Name</i>	Robert F. Zilhaver
<i>Address</i>	30 East Main Street, Suite 202, Uniontown, PA 15401
<i>Phone/E-Mail</i>	814-591-1990 / rzilhaver99@gmail.com
<i>Conference Membership</i>	Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference
<i>Nominated by</i>	Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference
<i>Years able to serve if elected</i>	10

WORK EXPERIENCE

<i>List all appointments</i>	Connellsville District Superintendent 2017-Present; Lakeside UMC 2003-2017; Brookville Evangelical UMC 1997-2003; Timblin/Porter/New Salem 1993-1997; U.S. Army Retired Major (Field Artillery/Special Weapons) 1983-1993
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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

<i>Influential Books & Renewal Study</i>	Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Letters and Papers from Prison; Joseph Braken and Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki: Trinity in Process; John Bunyan: Pilgrim's Progress; John Cobb: Grace and Responsibility; Dante: The Divine Comedy; Richard Foster: Celebration of Discipline; Donald Gowan: Theology in Exodus; Theodore Jennings: Good News to the Poor: John Wesley's Evangelical Economics; C.S. Lewis: The Weight of Glory; Howard Thurman: Jesus and the Disinherited; Paul Tillich: Systematic Theology; Kevin Watson: The Class Meeting; Alfred North Whitehead: Process and Reality
<i>Racial Diversity Training</i>	Conference Anti-Racism Training & CR/CC Appointment TF; Conference Anti-Hate Group 1996-2007 (Author of Initial Legislation); U.S. Army Equal Opportunity Officer Training
<i>Language Facility Special Interests</i>	Undergraduate Degree: Physics/German; Defense Language Institute: Greek
<i>Self-Care</i>	Discipleship Covenant Groups/Partners (Clergy and Lay); Family Time

PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

<i>Gifts & Evidence of God's Grace</i>	Spiritual Gifts: Prophecy, Wisdom, Leadership, Discernment, Miracles, Administration. Evidence of God's Grace: Denman Award; Brooks Foundation Prize (Pastoral Care); Fred Rogers Prize in Biblical Studies; Thomas Jamison Award/Sylvester Marvin Award highest GPA in all departments Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; Bronze Star (Desert Storm); Meritorious Service Medal (Somalia); Humanitarian Service Medal
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	(Hurricane Andrew Relief); Army Commendation Medal (2 OLC) & Army Achievement Medal (2 OLC) for various service including disarming nuclear weapons in Greece.
<i>Indication of Effectiveness</i>	General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (Executive/Finance) 2016-Present; Interagency Sexual Ethics Task Force 2016-Present; General Board of Discipleship (Upper Room/Finance) 2008-2012; Division on Ministry with Young People 2008-2012; Founder and President of Partners in Alliance: A Western PA AIDS Ministry 2000-2018; NW PA AIDS Coalition 2003-2015 (co-chair 2011); Clarion University NW AIDS Alliance Hall of Fame; Dialogue Team 2000-2004 (Co-Chair Service of Hope at 2004 General Conference); Conference Board of Pensions 2012-2017; Conference Finance Administration (Budget Chair/Investment Committee Chair) 2004-2012; Development work including founding Youth Ministry Scholarship Fund, Timothy Fund (seminary scholarship), Richard Burn's Evangelist Endowment, Local Pastor support funds in the Indiana & Connellsville District, funds for a church plant in India, a woodshop and seminary in Paraguay, and a training center and medical clinic in Honduras.
<i>Area for Further Development</i>	With God's help, I am going on to perfection.
<i>Style of Leadership</i>	Prayerful, Collaborative, Systematic, Look for Win-Win

QUESTIONS

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

- The discernment of my call has come through prayer, personal experience and the encouragement of others. The process of discernment through the delegation's process and the affirmation of the annual conference on the first ballot confirmed my call to offer my gifts to the Church in the office of bishop for further discernment by the Jurisdictional Conference.

As delineated in paragraph 403 of The Book of Discipline, please share how you are called and equipped to fulfill the responsibilities of a bishop. Please elaborate on ¶ 403.1 and e-f.

- As a servant leader, a bishop must focus his or her vision on Jesus Christ. Like Paul, I pray my life might be poured out as a libation for the glory of God over the sacrifice and the offering of faith of the people of God (Philippians 2:17). My vision for ministry is to "See and Follow Jesus." I adopted this vision from the discernment of the Western Pennsylvania Conference Youth Ministry Team. My spirit burns to share the saving power of Jesus, teach children, empower young people, share comfort for those suffering from HIV/AIDS, support small membership and rural churches and work for social holiness and justice inside and outside of the Church.

What are the spiritual and missional gifts and priorities you would bring to the whole jurisdiction as an episcopal leader?

- Share insights and experiences from work on cooperative parish ministries to share resources and leadership to further the Kingdom of God; work on sexual ethics and women's ministries from GCOSROW experiences; passion for ministry with children, youth, and families; desire to

continue work on anti-hate groups/anti-racism as well as HIV/AIDs work.

How do you envision new faith communities which reach those not currently active on a discipleship path?

- Insights and experiences from work on regional ministry with a larger church serving as a hub, with spokes of ministries including mission sites, house churches, and small membership churches. Use resources to find, train, and equip persons with giftedness and passion to start new ministries. Focus on discipleship covenant groups for laity and clergy.

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

- Lay servant ministry program must be one of the key areas of focus as well as a focus on children, youth, and family ministries. Providing connectional attractional events/Mission opportunities that provide opportunity to share interests, fellowship, and the gospel with those not in the church culture.