

NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE 2022

ONE IN MINISTRY TO ALL THE WORLD

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JOURNAL

TWENTY-FIRST

Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference

The United Methodist Church

November 1-4, 2022

The Hotel at The University of Maryland

College Park, Maryland

And

Virtual Special Called Session

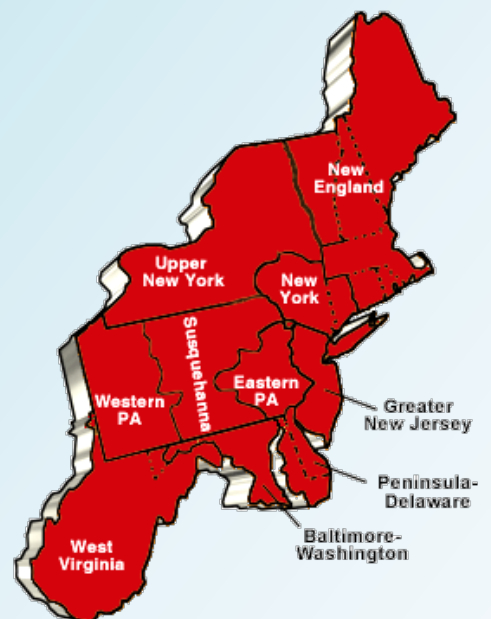
Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference

The United Methodist Church

October 15, 2022

University of Maryland

College Park, Maryland





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VIRTUAL SPECIAL SESSION

Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference
The United Methodist Church
October 15, 2022

Edited by

Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Salsgiver, Secretary
Assisted by Sharon Darlynn McCrae

CERTIFICATION

This certifies that the following pages constitute the official Journal of the Twenty-First Session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church, held at The Hotel at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, November 1-4, 2022 including the officers, personnel, Tables, committees, representatives on boards and agencies that acted during the conference or were elected by it; proceedings of business sessions; communications and other matters ordered printed by the Jurisdictional Conference.

Sandra L. Steiner Ball
President, Vision Table

Thomas L. Salsgiver
Secretary, Northeastern Jurisdiction

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Sandra L. Steiner Ball
President, Vision Table

Thomas L. Salsgiver
Secretary, Northeastern Jurisdiction

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THE FUNCTION AND ROLE OF THE JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

There are five United Methodist Jurisdictions that make up the jurisdictions in the United States. The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, defines the role and function of the jurisdictions. The five jurisdictions all convene on the same day. The beginning date is set by the Council of Bishops. The ending day and time is up to each jurisdiction.

The Discipline names six main functions and duties of each jurisdiction.

1. “To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, and benevolent interests of the Church....” We will hear and read reports from committees and ministries within the jurisdiction that help promote these very important interests. We will also hear and approve the budget and apportionments for the next four years which will undergird and aid our outreach in these areas.
2. “To elect Bishops and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for their support as may be determined by the General Conference.” Much of our time will be spent in Holy Conferencing around interviews and the balloting. We will also recognize the retirements of Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar (New England) and Bishop Mark Webb (UNY).
3. “To establish and constitute jurisdictional conference boards and choose representatives to the general boards and agencies.” The Jurisdictional Nominating Committee will meet on Monday of Jurisdictional Conference to prepare a slate of persons to serve both on Jurisdictional Tables and Committees as well as persons to be representatives to general church boards and agencies.
4. “To determine the boundaries of the Annual Conferences.” The report of the Boundaries Committee will be given to the Jurisdictional Conference. It is expected that the boundaries of the Annual Conferences will not change.
5. “To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the jurisdiction.” The Jurisdictional Conference will take action on such resolutions that may come before the conference related to the work of the Jurisdiction.
6. “To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a traveling preacher of that jurisdiction from the decision of a trial committee.” The Committee on Appeals is nominated by the College of Bishops and voted on by the delegates to Jurisdictional Conference.

Tom Salsgiver, Secretary
Northeastern Jurisdiction

THE NEJ COLLEGE OF BISHOPS



Active and Retired bishops who currently serve, or have served,
one of the Episcopal areas of the Northeastern Jurisdiction

Residential Bishops: 2022-2024

BOSTON

Peggy Johnson, retired (Interim)

HARRISBURG

Sandra L. Steiner Ball and
Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

NEW JERSEY

John R. Schol

NEW YORK

Thomas J. Bickerton

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

PENINSULA-DELAWARE

LaTrelle M. Easterling

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA

John R. Schol

PITTSBURGH

Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

UPPER NEW YORK

Héctor A. Burgos-Núñez

WASHINGTON

LaTrelle M. Easterling

WEST VIRGINIA

Sandra L. Steiner Ball

Retired Bishops

George W. Bashore

Violet L. Fisher

William Boyd Grove

Susan W. Hassinger

Neil L. Irons

S. Clifton Ives

Alfred Johnson

Peggy A. Johnson

Ernest S. Lyght

Marcus Matthews

Jane Allen Middleton

Susan M. Morrison

Jeremiah J. Park

Forrest C. Stith

Peter D. Weaver

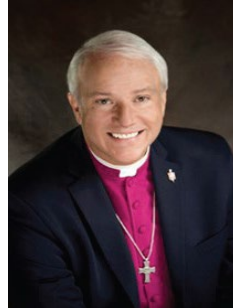


BISHOPS ASSIGNED TO EPISCOPAL AREAS 2022-2024



Sandra L. Steiner Ball

West Virginia and
Susquehanna



Thomas J. Bickerton

New York



LaTrelle M. Easterling

Baltimore-Washington and
Peninsula-Delaware



Peggy Johnson, Retired

New England
Interim



Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

Western Pennsylvania and
Susquehanna



Héctor A. Burgos-Núñez

Upper New York



John R. Schol

Greater New Jersey and
Eastern Pennsylvania



RETIRED BISHOPS



**George W.
Bashore**



**Sudarshana
Devadhar**



**Violet L.
Fisher**



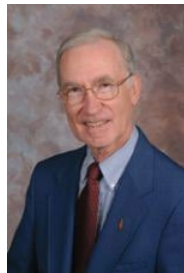
**William Boyd
Grove**



**Susan W.
Hassinger**



**Neil L.
Irons**



**S. Clifton
Ives**



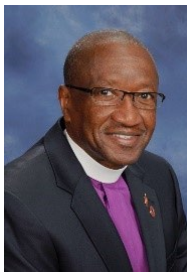
**Alfred
Johnson**



**Peggy A.
Johnson**



**Ernest S.
Lyght**



**Marcus
Matthews**



**Jane Allen
Middleton**



**Susan M.
Morrison**



**Jeremiah J.
Park**



**Forrest C.
Stith**



**Peter D.
Weaver**



**Mark J.
Webb**



MEMORIALS

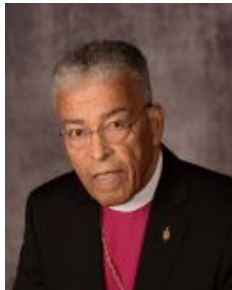
We remember with thanksgiving their lives and ministries.



BISHOP JOSEPH H. YEAKEL was a retired bishop. He passed on July 4, 2021. Lois Josephine Shank and Joe Yeakel were married while Joe was a college student. Lois passed on March 5, 2014.

In 1963 he was elected Assistant General Secretary of the Board of Evangelism with offices in Dayton, Ohio. In 1965 he became the General Secretary of the Board and at the time of church union in 1968, he became the General Secretary of the Board of Evangelism of The United Methodist Church.

The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference elected him to the episcopacy in 1972. He administered the New York West Area, 1972-84, and the Washington (DC) Area 1984-1996. He retired on August 31, 1996. From 1972-1980 and 1988-1996 he served on the General Board of Church and Society, and as President 1976-1980 and 1992-1996. In 1980-88 he served on the General Council on Finance and Administration, and as its President 1984-88. He was President-Designate of the Council of Bishops (1991-92) and President of the Council of Bishops (1992-93).



BISHOP F. HERBERT SKEETE was a retired bishop. He passed on February 11, 2021. Shirley Clarissa Hunte married F. Herbert Skeete on October 4, 1952, while he was serving in the U.S. Air Force.

For eight years, Dr. Skeete was Pastor of Union United Methodist Church in Queens and then for the next twelve years was Pastor of Salem United Methodist Church “in the heart of Harlem.” He was elected a delegate to the General Conferences of 1972 – 1980 and to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conferences 1968-1980. For eight years he was a member of the General Board of Global Ministries, serving as

Vice-President of the National Division. He served eight years as a member of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry where he chaired the Division of Higher Education during the first four years and served as President of the Board the next four years. He attended World Methodist Conferences in Denver, Dublin, Hawaii, and Nairobi, and was a member of the Executive Committee for two years. He served another eight years with the Board of Global Ministries (1988-1996) as President of the Board 1992-1996.

F. Herbert Skeete was elected to the episcopacy at the 1980 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference and assigned to the Philadelphia Area for eight years. In 1988, he was assigned to the Boston Area for eight years. He retired in 1996. He served as interim pastor of St. Mark’s UMC in Harlem, NYC (1997-1998) and continues to serve as Pastor Emeritus at Salem UMC in NYC. In 2002, Herb was reactivated by the Council to serve as Interim Bishop in Zimbabwe for a year.



BISHOP C. DALE WHITE was a retired bishop. He passed on March 29, 2019. On August 25, 1946, Gwen Horton and Dale White were married. Gwen White passed on March 27, 2017.

In 1961, Dale White became Associate General Secretary of the General Board of Christian Social Concerns and served in this capacity for seven years. He then was appointed to East Greenwich, Rhode Island, and after three years was designated District Superintendent of the Rhode Island-Eastern Massachusetts District of the Southern New England Annual Conference. In 1976, C. Dale White was elected a bishop by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, and he was assigned to the New Jersey Area. In 1984 he was assigned to the New York Area. Bishop White was a former director of the General Board of Global Ministries. He was also a member of the Board of Center for Theology and Public Policy, Pax World, the International Coordinating Committee for Religion and the Earth, and Population Communications International.

Bishop White retired September 1, 1992, at which time he undertook responsibilities as Consultant to the General Board of Global Ministries, World Division, coordinating the Africa Advocacy Project. For two years he directed the Urban Gardening Demonstration Project at the Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville. For four years he was pastor of St. Paul's UMC in Newport, RI.



BISHOP FELTON EDWIN MAY was a retired bishop. He passed on February 27, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis May. He was a delegate to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference from 1972 to 1984, and a delegate to General Conference from 1976 to 1984. After his election to the episcopacy in 1984, he was assigned to the Harrisburg Episcopal Area where he served until 1996. In 1996, he was assigned to the Washington Episcopal Area. After retirement in September 2004, he accepted the position of Dean of the Harry R. Kendall Science and Health Mission Center at Philander Smith College, Little Rock, Arkansas.

In 1990, he served as Bishop-on-Special Assignment to organize and coordinate the United Methodist Bishops' Initiative on Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Violence in Washington, D.C. Bishop May served as a member of the General Council on Ministries, the General Board of Global Ministries, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. He also served as chair of the National Shalom Zone Committee, the Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence, the Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation, the General Board of Global Ministries' Finance Committee, the Northeastern Jurisdiction Board of the Multi-Ethnic Center, the Advance for Christ and His Church Committee, and the COB's Emerging Issues Committee.

In 1999, Bishop May served as a member of the White House Presidential Mission on Children Orphaned by AIDS, which traveled to Africa. The mission's study of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa led to a Clinton Administration recommendation that U.S. spending in response to the crisis of AIDS worldwide be increased by \$100 million. He was also a participant in the White House's Faith Leaders for One America Initiative, the UN Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders.



JACK DALE MIDDLETON, spouse of retired Bishop Jane A. Middleton, passed peacefully on December 22, 2021. He was born on December 22, 1939. It is said that only those who are great die on their birthdays and in the eyes of his family and all who knew him, Jack was the greatest.

Jack married his college sweetheart, Jane Stewart Allen Middleton, on October 15, 1961, a marriage which lasted over 60 years.

As a devout United Methodist, he was an active lay person, participating in almost a dozen volunteer in missions in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Jack's passions were his family, his faith, his cars (all things cars), issues of justice, his friends, and current events. He was a member of the Automobile Historical Society and the Madison Avenue Sports Car Racing and Chowder Society. His extensive collection of automobilia, books, whole runs of magazines, and cars was sold at auction in 2019.

He adored his family, his children and grandchildren, the family he married into and his many cousins.



THE REV. SHERRIE DOBBS JOHNSON, spouse of retired Bishop Alfred Johnson, passed on March 27, 2020.

She served at all levels of The United Methodist Church including being a former district superintendent.

Initially a communicator, she directed public relations at the United Methodist Publishing House in Nashville, Tennessee, and later at what is now Clark Atlanta University, a United Methodist-supported historically Black college.

She served as managing editor for United Methodist Women's Response Magazine in New York City from 1981 to 1991 before becoming an ordained elder in the Greater New Jersey Conference. She later was pastor in local churches in New Jersey and New York.

Andris Salter, a UMW executive and Johnson's friend of more than 20 years, described Johnson as a loving, kind woman with a great sense of humor. "She loved good coffee, good food, good friends and to dance. She loved parades and fireworks," Salter said. "Usually on the Fourth of July, she went to several communities just for the fireworks. She brought fireworks, wherever she went."

- <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/2020-remembering-notable-united-methodists>



GWENDOLYN "GWEN" RUTH WHITE, spouse of retired Bishop Dale White, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 27, 2017. On August 25, 1946, Gwen Horton and Dale White were married. Bishop C. Dale White passed on March 29, 2019.

From the beginning of their ministry, Gwen played a leading role in church music programs, playing the organ, singing, and directing choirs. After Dale was elected UMC Bishop in 1976, they lived in the Princeton NJ area for eight years, then in the New York area for eight years. During Dale's years in the episcopacy, she traveled extensively with him to Africa, China, the Philippines, Korea, India, Bangladesh,

Pakistan and the Middle East, studying world hunger and peace and justice issues. Gwen has served on the Commission on the Status & Role of Women in the So. New England Conference, the No. New Jersey Task Force on Spiritual Formation, the New York Conference Task Force on Spiritual Formation, and was a delegate to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 1976. Gwen was an Honorary Board Member of Ehwa Women's University in South Korea, and she served for two years as Director of Spiritual Formation on the staff of Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville TN. Gwen was a nationally known retreat leader for over 25 years and a member of the Guild for Spiritual Guidance. She also shared leadership with Bishop White in seminars for clergy on marriage and ministry, and spiritual formation. In 2015, Gwen received a Lifetime of Discipleship Award from the Preachers' Aid Society of New England in honor of her many decades of service to the UMC.



DIGHT W. CRAIN (known to many as Nicky) passed peacefully on May 21, 2022. He was predeceased by his beloved wife Rev. Janet M. Crain, to whom he was married for 53 years.

Dight graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1958, where he met Janet while both were musicians in the concert band. He had a beautiful tenor voice and a lifelong love of music, singing in church choirs and the Linden Ponds singers. Dight was a lifelong member of The United Methodist Church and actively participated as a layperson on a local, regional, and international basis. He worshipped and sang in

the choir for much of his life at Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church in Natick, where his great-grandfather and grandfather had been ministers and where his wife Janet became the first ordained Deacon in New England in 1996.

Dight served 11 years on the United Methodist General Board of Pensions; he was a delegate to the quadrennial General Conference (the international governing body of the denomination) from 1972 to 2000 and a delegate to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference from 1968 to 2000; and he volunteered as Treasurer and Business Manager of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference for 27 years. In retirement he worshipped and sang in the choir at Carter Memorial United Methodist Church in Needham.



THE REV. DR. SHIRLYN HENRY BROWN departed this world peacefully on Friday, December 10, 2021.

Dr. Brown realized her true calling was to the ministry and first accepted the call as a dedicated member of Lee Haven UMC and Whatcoat UMC. She received her Master of Divinity from Palmer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania in 2005 and her Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC in 2011. She was appointed an Elder in the United Methodist Church in 2008.

Dr. Brown was a faithful servant leader in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference for nearly 20 years, including pastoring Crisfield-Mt. Pleasant UMC, Pocomoke City-Mt. Zion UMC and Preston-Hurlock UMC churches, serving as Director of Connectional Ministries and Easton District Superintendent and, at the time of her passing, as Senior Pastor of Ezion-Mt. Carmel UMC, United Methodist Campus Pastor at Delaware State University and Director of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference Local Pastor Licensing School. She was lovingly known to many as “Pastor B” for her passion for kingdom building, kingdom living and devotion to Jesus Christ. Pastor B had a true passion for teaching and always looked for ways to incorporate theatre and the arts in her call to ministry. She was a true servant leader, teacher and shepherd, always mindful of “her flock” and helping them realize a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.

In addition to her ministry, Pastor B served in various roles at Delaware State University for over 20 years, including most recently as United Methodist Campus Pastor, Theatre Director and advisor to the DSU Theatre Honor Society and Drama Club and adjunct theatre professor.



TOM PRICE, member of the Baltimore-Washington Conference Delegation, passed on April 23, 2020 after a long battle with cancer. He always knew his life was in God’s hands.

He began working in his local UMC directing a youth choir that grew into a 100-voice ensemble, Joyful Noise! In 1998 he was hired by the BWC as Director of Youth Ministries. There, he led an extremely active CCYM as well as produced ROCK, the youth retreat of the BWC which eventually attracted up to 7,000 youth annually. After a few years, Director of Video Production was added to his BWC portfolio. Several of Tom’s videos received awards from UMAC for video excellence.

For seven years, along with his wife, Becki, he founded and ran “United for Children”, a ministry dedicated to the relief and development of children in Zimbabwe orphaned by the devastation of AIDS.

Tom was a delegate to three General Conferences – 2008, 2012 and 2016 when he was first elected laity and consequently served on the NEJ Episcopacy Committee. In that capacity, he was blessed to invite Bishop Easterling to the BWC.



FAITH WESTON GEER, member of the Western Pennsylvania Conference's General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation in 2016, passed on February 26, 2019 – while her colleagues and friends on the delegation were in St. Louis for the 2019 General Conference.

Faith served the global church tirelessly and passionately. She visited Zimbabwe several times as a member of The Nyadire Connection (TNC); was elected to the WPA Jurisdictional and General Conference delegation for five quadrennium; served on the board of the Reconciling Ministries Network and as the co-chair of the Parents' Reconciling Network; held the position of Candidacy Registrar for the Western Pennsylvania Board of Ordained Ministry; and served as Vice-Chair of the Conference United Methodist Women.

At St. Paul's, Faith was known for her tireless dedication to the congregation and its ministry. She was the first person to welcome new people when they entered the doors, and the last one to turn the lights off at night. Faith created a sense of belonging and meaning for everyone around her – attending to their needs, nurturing their gifts, inviting them to get involved, and tending to the many details of ministry.



WARREN A. HEIL, JR (General Conference Lay Delegate) of Elmhurst Twp. Passed on October 26, 2018.

Warren was a devoted member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Scranton. He loved church and his Lord and Savior as much as he loved his family. With God's guiding hand, he became a delegate to former Wyoming Conference at the age of 12. He continued to be a delegate through the merger into the Susquehanna Conference. As God led him on his journey, he quickly became a delegate, not only on the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference level, but as well as the United Methodist Church General Conference, which brought people from around the world together.

Warren was a member of the Covington Independent Volunteer Fire Company and the Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Co. He was also a member of the Lackawanna County Fire Police, the Northeast PA Volunteer Fireman's Federation, where he served as a treasurer, and a member of Six County Fireman's Association. In his youth, Warren was a Boy Scout with Pack 132 and a member of the Order of the Arrow.



SESSIONS OF THE NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

First	June 18-21, 1940	Atlantic City, NJ	Albert G. Judd
Second	June 7-11, 1944	Ocean City, NJ	Albert G. Judd
Third	June 16-20, 1948	Albany, NY	Albert G. Judd
Fourth	June 11-15, 1952	Harrisburg, PA	Albert G. Judd
Fifth	June 13-15, 1956	Ocean City, NJ	Frank W. Ake
Sixth	June 15-19, 1960	Washington, D.C.	Frank W. Ake
Seventh	June 14-16, 1964	Syracuse, NY	Frank W. Ake
Eighth	June 24-27, 1968	Buckhannon, WV	Frank W. Ake
Ninth	July 11-14, 1972	Reading, PA	Frank W. Ake
Tenth	July 13-16, 1976	Bridgeport, CT	R. Andrew Lady
Eleventh	July 15-18, 1980	Selinsgrove, PA	R. Andrew Lady
Twelfth	July 17-19, 1984	Annville, PA	R. Andrew Lady
Thirteenth	July 12-14, 1988	Buckhannon, WV	R. Andrew Lady
Special Session	July 14, 1990	Kingston, PA	James M. Perry
Fourteenth	July 14-16, 1992	Reading, PA	James M. Perry
Fifteenth	July 16-18, 1996	Amherst, MA	James M. Perry
Sixteenth	July 12-14, 2000	Somerset, NJ	Robert M. Daugherty
Seventeenth	July 14-16, 2004	Syracuse, NY	Ruth A. Daugherty
Eighteenth	July 16-18, 2008	Harrisburg, PA	Ruth A. Daugherty
Nineteenth	July 18-20, 2012	Charleston, WV	Ruth A. Daugherty
Twentieth	July 11-15, 2016	Lancaster, PA	Thomas L. Salsgiver
Special Called Session	October 15, 2022	Neptune, NJ	Thomas L. Salsgiver
Twenty-First	November 1-4, 2022	College Park, MD	Thomas L. Salsgiver
Twenty-Second	July 8-12, 2024	Pittsburgh, PA	Thomas L. Salsgiver



2022 NEJ CONFERENCE OFFICERS

SECRETARY

Thomas L. Salsgiver, SUS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Darlynn McCrae, BWC

TREASURER

David W. Simpson, BWC

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Jennifer H. Williams, SUS

STAFF FOR THE 2022 JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

Daily Christian Advocate Editor/Publisher..... Maidstone Mulenga
Registrar Sylvia Simpson
Registrar's Office Staff Margie Green
Electronic Voting..... Padget Communications
Music Director..... Lydia Munoz
Local Arrangements Antoine Love and Volunteers

NEJ CONFERENCE 2022 SESSIONS COMMITTEES

CREDENTIALS

Vicki Gordy-Stith, PD

Ralph Oduor, NE

Richard Shaffer, WV

Paul Fleck, NY

COURTESIES

Judi Kenaston, WV

Carlos Rosa-Lauguer, UNY

William Meekins, WPA

Christine McDermott, SUS

JOURNAL COMMITTEE

Sarah Ford, BW

Noel Chin, NY

Robin Hynicka, EPA

Carolyn Pendleton, GNJ



NEJ COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

- Chair: Joseph Kenaston (WV)
- Vice Chair: Renee Mikell (WPA)
- Secretary: Becca Girrell (NE)
- Harriet Olson (GNY)
- Bryant Oskvig (BWC)
- Ana Maria Rodriguez (NE)

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

- Chair: Amy McCullough(BWC)
- Vice Chair: David McAllister-Wilson
- Secretary: Rachel Fisher (NE)
- Seminary Representatives:
 - Tanya Linn Bennett (GNJ): Drew Seminary
 - David McAllister-Wilson: Wesley Seminary
 - Christiann De La Rosa: Boston Seminary
- Annual Conference Representatives:
 - Amy McCullough (BWC)
 - Paul Johnson (BWC)
 - Tracy Duncan (EPA)
 - Michelle Ryoo (GNJ)
 - Megan Shitama-Weston (PD)
 - Jenyoung Choi (NE)
 - Rachel Fisher (NE)
 - Mira Hewlett (SUS)
 - Carmen Perry (UNY)
 - Rick LaDue (UNY)
 - Kelly Schanely (WPA)
 - Pam Gardner (WPA)
 - Scott Sears (WV)
- At-Large members
 - Joan Humphrey (NE)
 - Mittie Quinn (BWC)
 - Doris Dalton (NY)

College of Bishops Representatives

Bishop Thomas Bickerton and Bishop Peggy Johnson

BOUNDARIES COMMITTEE

- Chair: Lydia Munoz (EPA)
 - Secretary: Conrad Link (BWC)
 - Drew Dyson (GNJ)
 - Tiffany French (NY)
 - Megan Shitama Weston (PD)
 - Paul Amara (SUS)
 - Rich Shaffer (WV)
 - Stephanie Gottschalk (WPA)
 - Becca Girrell (NE)
 - Rebekah Sweet (UNY)
- College of Bishop Representative: Bishop John Schol

COMMITTEE ON APPEALS

- Chair: Gail Douglas Boykin (NY)
- Vice Chair: René A. Perez Avalos (UNY)
- Secretary: Ray Hamill (SUS)
- Jennifer Cho (GNJ)
- Laura Figatakes (WV)
- Earl Butterfield (WPA)
- Johnson Dodia (EPA)

COMMITTEE ON APPEALS ALTERNATES

- Tim Riss (NY)
- Paula Amara (SUS)
- Lauren Godwin (WV)
- Denise Nicole Stone (WPA)
- Bethany Amey (GNJ)
- Tiffany Goffe (NY)

COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

- **Baltimore-Washington**
 - Lay: Cynthia Taylor
 - Clergy: Ianther Mills
- **Eastern PA**
 - Lay: Judy Ehninger
 - Clergy: Dawn Taylor Storm
- **Greater New Jersey**
 - Lay: Bethany Amey
 - Clergy: Drew Dyson
- **New England**
 - Lay: Bonnie Marden
 - Clergy: Jay Williams
- **New York**
 - Lay: Fred Brewington
 - Clergy: Noel Chin
- **Peninsula-Delaware**
 - Lay: William Westbrook
 - Clergy: Vicki Gordy-Stith
- **Susquehanna**
 - Lay: Christina McDermott
 - Clergy: Matthew Lake



- **Upper New York**
 - Lay: Caremn FS Vianese Clergy: William Mudge
- **West Virginia**
 - Lay: Judy Kenaston Clergy: Amy Shanholtzer
- **Western Pennsylvania**
 - Lay: Vicki Stahlman Clergy: Bob Zilhaver

COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

- Chair: Denise Smartt Sears (NY)
- Vice Chair: Melissa Rudolph (BWC)
- Secretary: Kathleen Kind (SUS)
- Drew Dyson: (GNY)
- Duk Hee-Han (WPA)
- Amy Shanholtzer (WV)
- Elizabeth Santo (EPA)
- Fred Brewington (NY)

COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION ALTERNATES

- Stephen Cady (UNY)
- Joe Hill (WV)
- Tom Lank (GNJ)
- Rebecca Holland (SUS)

DIRECTORS OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRY (AS OF DECEMBER 2023)

- Christie Latona (BWC)
- Dawn Taylor Storm (EPA)
- Eric Drew (GNJ)
- We Hyun Chang (NE)
- Doris Dalton (NY)
- Jacqueline Davis Ford (PD)
- Kathleen Kind (SUS)
- Aaron Bouwens (UNY)
- Bonnie Glass MacDonald (WV) – Co DCM
- Ken Willard (WV) – Co DCM
- Alyce Weaver Dunn (WPA)

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Chair: Sherri Rood (UNY)
- Clergy: Stacy Cole Wilson (BWC)
- Clergy: (NE)
- Young Adult: Hunter Presti
- Young Adult: Ian C. Urriola (UNY)
- Layman: William Westbrook (PD)
- Layman: Charles Moore (BWC)

- Layman David Koch (EPA)
- Laywoman: (NY)
- Laywoman: Toni Ann Oplinger (SUS)
- Laywoman: Rosa Williams (GNJ)
- Members of GCFA
 - William Williams (GNY)
 - Ken Ow (BWC)

College of Bishop Representative: Bishop Héctor A. Burgos-Núñez

PROGRAM AND ARRANGEMENTS

- Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi – Host, WPA Resident Bishop
- Antoine “Tony” Love – Chairperson, Clergy BWC
- Hudda Aswad – Vice Chairperson, Laity UNY
- Lauren Godwin, Clergy WV
- Anna Layman Knox, Clergy SUS
- Denise Smartt Sears, Clergy NY
- Tanya Linn Bennet, Clergy GNJ
- Chris Kurien, Clergy EPA
- Gary Weaver, Clergy SUS
- Beth Nelson – Local Host Committee Coordinator, Clergy WPA
- Karen Trask, Clergy WPA
- Katherine Fehl, Clergy WPA
- Tom Salsgiver – NEJ Secretary, Clergy SUS
- Darlynn McCrae – NEJ Assistant Secretary, Laity BWC
- David Simpson – NEJ Treasurer, Clergy BWC
- Jennifer Williams – NEJ Assistant Treasurer, Clergy SUS
- Sylvia Simpson – Registrar, Laity BWC
- Margie Green – Assistant Registrar, Laity BWC

RULES

- Chair: Janet Harmen (WV)
- Bryant Oskvig (BWC)
- Mandy Miller (EPA)
- Tom Lank (GNJ)
- Becca Girrell (NE)
- Tim Riss (NY)
- Ruth Higgins (PD)
- Ray Hamill (SUS)
- Stephen Cady (UNY)
- Sung Chung (WPA)

College of Bishops Representative: Bishop LaTrelle M. Easterling



VISION TABLE: List Reflects changes to DCM/Membership December 2023

- Chair: Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball
- Secretary: Tom Salsgiver
- **Baltimore Washington**
 - DCM: Christie Latona Delegate: Edgardo Rivera
- **Eastern PA**
 - DCM: Dawn Taylor Storm Delegate:
- **Greater New Jersey**
 - DCM: Eric Drew Delegate: Cynthia Kent
- **New England**
 - DCM: Ashley Johnson Delegate: Steven Dry
- **New York**
 - DCM: Doris Dalton Delegate: Rashid Warner
- **Peninsula Delaware**
 - DCM: Jacqueline Davis Ford Delegate: Carlton Parker
- **Susquehanna DCM**
 - DCM: Kathleen Kind Delegate:
- **Upper New York**
 - DCM: Aaron Bouwens Delegate: Suzanne Allen
- **West Virginia**
 - DCM: Bonnie Glass MacDonald Delegate: Royce Lyden
- **Western PA**
 - DCM: Alyce Weaver Dunn Delegate: Peggy Ward
- Youth:
- Youth:
- Chair, Program & Arrangements: Antoine “Tony” Love (BWC)
- Chair, Finance & Administration: Sherri Rood (UNY)
- Chair, Episcopacy: Judi Kenaston (WV)
- Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry: Amy McCullough (BWC)
- Chair, Boundaries: Lydia Munoz (EPA)
- Chair, Rule: Janet Harman (WV)
- Chair, NEJ Conference Lay Leader or Designee: David Koch (EPA)
- Vision Table Secretary: Tom Salsgiver (SUS)
- Vision Table Assistant Secretary: Darlynn McCrae (BWC)
- Vision Table NEJ Treasurer: David Simpson (BWC)
- Vision Table NEJ Assistant Treasurer: Jennifer Williams (SUS)

College of Bishops assigned to Vision Table

Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball and Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

DELEGATES AND RESERVES IN ALPHA ORDER

01	UNY	Acevedo, Melysa	41	GNJ	Ehlers, Jane
02	EPA	Adams, Kristine	42	EPA	Ehninger, Judith
03	UNY	Allen, William	43	WV	Estep, Michael
04	SUS	Amara, Paul	44	WPA	Fehl, Katherine
05	GNJ	Amey, Bethany	45	EPA	Fisher, Elizabeth
06	BW	Arroyo, Giovanni	46	NY	Fleck, Paul
07	NE	* Awa, Uchenna	47	PD	Ford, Jacqueline
08	WPA	Bain, Randell	48	BW	Ford, Sarah
09	UNY	Barczykowski, Linda	49	BW	* Frazier, Malcolm
10	PD	Bennett, David	50	NY	French-Goffe, Tiffany
11	GNJ	* Bennett, Tanya	51	UNY	Fuller, Dan
12	UNY	Bogue-Trost, Dona Michelle	52	WV	Fulton, Rachel
13	EPA	Bonner, Hannah	53	BW	Gaines-Cirelli, Ginger
14	NE	Bonnette-Kim, Amanda	54	NE	Girrell, Rebecca
15	NE	Bonnette-Kim, Sandra	55	UNY	Giso, Rachel
16	NE	* Bragan, Roberta	56	WV	Godwin, Lauren
17	SUS	Brennecke, Craig	57	NE	Goodrich, Leigh
18	NY	Brewington, Frederick	58	PD	Gordy-Stith, Vicki
19	GNJ	Burgos, Hector	59	EPA	Grimm McCoy, Susan
20	UNY	Cady, Stephen	60	EPA	Guepet, Monica
21	GNJ	Caldwell, Dale	61	SUS	Hamill, Raymond
22	NE	Calhoun, David	62	WPA	Han, Duk Hee
23	EPA	Cameron, Edward	63	WV	Hill, Joseph
24	NY	Chin, Noel	64	SUS	Hoekstra, Kaytlynn
25	GNJ	Cho, Jennifer	65	WPA	Hoffman, Alexander
26	WPA	Chung, Sung	66	WPA	Hoffman, Richard
27	BW	Colbert, Daniel	67	SUS	Holland, Rebecca
28	BW	Cole-Wilson, Stacey	68	NE	Holston, Claire
29	BW	Collins, Tracy	69	BW	Hunt, Anthony
30	GNJ	Corbett, Kaleigh	70	EPA	Hynicka, Robin
31	GNJ	* Costello, Robert	71	EPA	Johnson Gauld, Krystl
32	NY	Craig, Ann	72	PD	Jones, Karen
33	BW	Daniels, Joe	73	BW	Jones, Nathan
34	NE	* De La Rosa, Cristian	74	GNJ	Jules , Moselle
35	WPA	Dinger , Brett	75	WV	Kenaston, Joseph
36	EPA	Dodla, Johnson	76	WV	Kenaston, Judith
37	GNJ	* Doh, Sangwom	77	NY	Kim, Chongho (James)
38	NY	Douglas-Boykin, Gail	78	SUS	Kind, Kathleen
39	UNY	Dupont, Rachel	79	EPA	Koch, David
40	GNJ	Dyson, Drew	80	EPA	Krall, Clarita



81	BW	* Kraus, Heather	126	GNJ	Quigg, Stephen
82	EPA	Kurien, Christopher	127	BW	Quinn, Mittie
83	UNY	Laird, Rebecca	128	WV	Raines, Judy
84	SUS	Lake, Matthew	129	NY	* Reimer, Katie
85	GNJ	Lank, Thomas	130	SUS	Reisinger, Mark
86	BW	Latona, Christie	131	BW	* Reynolds, Kirkland
87	BW	Lauber, Melissa	132	NY	Riss, Timothy
88	EPA	Lebo, Dan	133	BW	* Rivera, Edgardo
89	SUS	Leight, Williams	134	NE	Rodriguez, Ana Maria
90	BW	Link, Conrad	135	UNY	Rosa-Laguer, Carlos
91	NY	* Littlejohn, Roena	136	BW	Rudolph, Melissa
92	NY	Lockward, Jorge	137	WPA	Saffell, Laura
93	WPA	Lord, Janet	138	SUS	Salsgiver, Thomas
94	SUS	Loyer, Kenneth	139	PD	Samans, Carl
95	SUS	Loyer, Milton	140	BW	Schlieckert, Chris
96	SUS	Mackey, Jason	141	BW	Schlieckert, Sarah
97	NE	Marden, Bonnie	142	WPA	Seth, John
98	SUS	McDermott, Christine	143	WV	Shaffer, Richard
99	WPA	McIlwain, Keith	144	WV	Shanholtzer, Amy
100	WPA	Meekins, William	145	NY	Smartt (Sears), Denise
101	WPA	Merrick, Tracy	146	UNY	Smith, Samuel
102	WPA	Mikell, Renee	147	UNY	Sperry, Andrew
103	EPA	* Miller, Mandy	148	NE	Spicer, Noah
104	BW	Mills, Ianther	149	WPA	Stahlman, Vicki
105	BW	Milton, Sharon	150	WPA	Stains, Joseph
106	BW	Moore, Charles	151	WPA	Stone, Denise
107	SUS	Morris, Richard	152	UNY	Sweet, Marthalyne
108	UNY	Mudge, William	153	UNY	Sweet, Rebekah
109	EPA	Munoz, Lydia	154	UNY	Swords-Horrell, Martha
110	PD	Nichols, Regina	155	NY	* Tavarez, Daisy
111	BW	* Norvell, Laura	156	BW	Taylor, Cynthia
112	NY	Nunes, Marjorie	157	WV	Taylor, Jeffrey
113	NE	Oduor, Ralph	158	EPA	Taylor-Storm, Dawn
114	GNJ	Olson, Harriet	159	EPA	Thompson, Lenora
115	SUS	Oplinger, Toni	160	UNY	Urriola, Ian
116	BW	Oskvig, Bryant	161	GNJ	Vega Perez, Eunice
117	BW	Ow, Ken	162	UNY	Vianese, Carmen
118	WPA	Park, Eric	163	WPA	Ward, Peggy
119	BW	Park, J.W.	164	UNY	Warren, Jeffery
120	WPA	Patrick, William	165	SUS	Waybright, Jacob
121	BW	* Pembamoto, Lutebula	166	WPA	Weaver Dunn, Alyce
122	GNJ	Pendleton, Carolyn	167	SUS	Weaver, Gary
123	GNJ	Pogue, Creed	168	PD	Westbrook, William
124	NE	* Pridgen-Randolph, Charlotte	169	PD	Weston, Megan
125	NY	Prudente, Karen	170	UNY	* Wheat, Harold

171	PD	* Whitney, Jonathan	YOUTH
172	WV	Wilkerson, Kristi	NE Fisher, Calvin (youth)
173	GNJ	Williams, Catherine	WV Lamb, Hannah (youth)
174	NE	Williams, Jay	BW Putney, TJ (youth)
175	GNJ	Williams, William	SUS Raser, Alex (youth)
176	SUS	Wong, Rachel	NE Schad, Galen (youth)
177	GNJ	* Wren-Hardin, Andrea	BW Tharps, Jaelyn (youth)
178	BW	Yates, Leo	
179	WPA	Zilhaver, Robert	

* Reserves at time of NEJ registration

DELEGATES AND RESERVES SORTED BY CONFERENCES

30- BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON		
Mills, Ianther (Chair)	Jones, Nathan	Park, J.W.
Arroyo, Giovanni	* Kraus, Heather	* Pembamoto, Lutebula
Colbert, Daniel	Latona, Christie	Quinn, Mittie
Cole-Wilson, Stacey	Lauber, Melissa	* Reynolds, Kirkland
Collins, Tracy	Link, Conrad	* Rivera, Edgardo
Daniels, Joe	Milton, Sharon	Rudolph, Melissa
Ford, Sarah	Moore, Charles	Schlieckert, Chris
* Frazier, Malcom	* Norvell, Laura	Schlieckert, Sarah
Gaines-Cirelli, Ginger	Oskvig, Bryant	Taylor, Cynthia
Hunt, Anthony	Ow, Ken	Yates, Leo

18 – EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA		
Ehninger, Judith (Chair)	Grimm McCoy, Susan	Kurien, Christopher
Adams, Kristine	Guepet, Monica	Lebo, Dan
Bonner, Hannah	Hynicka, Robin	* Miller, Mandy
Cameron, Edward	Johnson Gauld, Krystl	Munoz, Lydia
Dodla, Johnson	Koch, David	Taylor-Storm, Dawn
Fisher, Elizabeth	Krall, Clarita	Thompson, Lenora



20 – GREATER NEW JERSEY		
Amey, Bethany (Chair)	* Doh, Sangwom	Pogue, Creed
* Bennett, Tanya	Dyson, Drew	Quigg, Stephen
Burgos, Hector	Ehlers, Jane	Vega Perez, Eunice
Caldwell, Dale	Jules , Moselle	Williams, Catherine
Cho, Jennifer	Lank, Thomas	Williams, William
Corbett, Kaleigh	Olson, Harriet	* Wren-Hardin, Andrea
* Costello, Robert	Pendleton, Carolyn	

15– NEW ENGLAND		
Williams, Jay (Chair)	Calhoun, David	Marden, Bonnie
* Awa, Uchenna Joan	* De La Rosa, Cristian	Oduor, Ralph
Bonnette-Kim, Amanda	Girrell, Rebecca	* Pridgen-Randolph, Charlotte
Bonnette-Kim, Sandra	Goodrich, Leigh	Rodriguez, Ana Maria
* Bragan, Roberta	Holston, Claire	Spicer, Noah

15 – NEW YORK		
Brewington, Frederick (Chair)	French-Goffe, Tiffany	Prudente, Karen
Chin, Noel	Kim, Chongho (James)	* Reimer, Katie
Craig, Ann	* Littlejohn, Roena	Riss, Timothy
Douglas-Boykin, Gail	Lockward, Jorge	Smartt Sears, Denise
Fleck, Paul	Nunes, Marjorie	* Tavarez, Daisy

9 – PENINSULA-DELAWARE		
Gordy-Stith, Vicki (Chair)	Jones, Karen	Westbrook, William
Bennett, David	Nichols, Regina	Weston, Megan
Ford, Jacqueline	Samans, Carl	* Whitney, Jonathan

19 – SUSQUEHANNA		
Lake, Matthew (Chair)	Leight, William	Reisinger, Mark
Amara, Paul	Loyer, Kenneth	Salsgiver, Thomas
Brennecke, Craig	Loyer, Milton	Waybright, Jacob
Hamill, Raymond	Mackey , Jason	Weaver, Gary
Hoekstra, Kaytlynn	McDermott, Christine	Wong, Rachel
Holland, Rebecca	Morris, Richard	
Kind, Kathleen	Oplinger, Toni	

20 – UPPER NEW YORK		
Vianese, Carmen (Chair)	Fuller, Dan	Sweet, Marthalyne
Acevedo, Melysa	Giso, Rachel	Sweet, Rebekah
Allen, William	Laird, Rebecca	Swords-Horrell, Martha
Barczykowski, Linda	Mudge, William	Urriola, Ian
Bogue-Trost, Dona Michelle	Rosa-Laguer, Carlos	Warren, Jeffery
Cady, Stephen	Smith, Samuel	* Wheat, Harold
Dupont, Rachel	Sperry, Andrew	

11 – WEST VIRGINIA		
Shanholtzer, Amy (Chair)	Hill, Joseph	Shaffer, Richard
Estep, Michael	Kenaston, Joseph	Taylor, Jeffrey
Fulton, Rachel	Kenaston, Judith	Wilkerson, Kristi
Godwin, Lauren	Raines, Judy	

22 – WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA		
Weaver Dunn, Alyce (Chair)	Lord, Janet	Seth, John
Bain, Randell	Mcllwain, Keith	Stahlman, Vicki
Chung, Sung	Meekins, William	Stains, Joseph
Dinger, Brett	Merrick, Tracy	Stone, Denise
Fehl, Katherine	Mikell, Renee	Ward, Peggy
Han, Duk Hee	Park, Eric	Zilhaver, Robert
Hoffman, Alexander	Patrick, William	
Hoffman, Richard	Saffell, Laura	

* Reserves at time of NEJ registration



2022 NEJ AGENDA

Monday, October 31, 2022

- 10:00 a.m.Registration opens
Committee on Episcopacy
College of Bishops
- 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.Heads of Delegations meet with Tom Salsgiver – Terrapin 2
- 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.Dinner
- 7:00 p.m.Worship
- 7:45 - 9:30 p.m.Interview groups organize

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

- 6:30 - 8:00 a.m.Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m.Interview Groups gather
- 8:45 - 11:45 a.m.Episcopal Candidates interviews
- 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.Lunch
- 1:25 - 5:20 p.m.Interviews continue
- 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.Dinner
- 7:15 - 9:00 p.m.Annual Conference Delegations gather

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

- 6:30 - 8:00 a.m.Breakfast
- 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.Memorial Service and Holy Communion
- 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.Break
- 10:30 - 11:50 a.m.Opening Plenary
Welcome
Roll Call
Adoption of agenda
Adoption of Rules of Order and Plan of Organization
(business of plenary sessions
Report of Episcopacy Committee
Certify retirements
Certify number of Bishops to be elected
Ballot
- 12:00 -1:30 p.m.Lunch
- 1:45 - 2:00 p.m.Gathering Music
- 2:00 p.m.Plenary
Report of Ballot
Ballot (Ballots will be taken throughout the plenaries until
the certified number of Bishops are elected
Adoption of Rules

- Report of Committee on Finance and Administration
- Presentation of the Proposed Budget
- 3:00 p.m. Recess
- 3:15 p.m. State of the NEJ – Episcopal Address
Resolutions
- 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Dinner
- 6:45 - 7:00 p.m. Gathering Music
- 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Plenary
Election of Treasurer & Assistant Treasurer
Election of Secretary & Assistant Secretary
Monitoring reports
GCORR – Rev. Enger Muteteke
GCOSROW – Rev. Mike Conner
- 7:30 p.m. Retirement Celebration and Reception for retiring Bishops
- 9:30 p.m. Annual Conference Delegations gather

Thursday, November 3, 2022

- 6:30 - 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:15 - 8:45 a.m. Worship
- 8:45 -10:00 a.m. Plenary
Daily Report of Sessions Committee (Journal, Credentials,
Courtesies)
Treasurer’s Report
Resolutions
- 10:00 - 10:15 a.m. Recess
- 10:15 - 11:55 a.m. Plenary
Call to Action
Adoption of NEJ Budget
Resolutions
- 12:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:45 a.m. 2:00 p.m. Gathering Music
- 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Plenary
Report Disciplinary Committees
Resolutions
- 4:15- 5:00 p.m. Organization Discipline mandated committees
- 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Dinner
- 6:45 - 7:00 p.m. Gathering Music
- 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Plenary
Continued business
Announcement of Jurisdictional Conference 2024
Monitoring reports
GCOSROW – Rev. Mike Conner
GCORR – Rev. Enger Muteteke



Friday, November 4, 2022

- 6:30 - 8:00 a.m.Breakfast
- 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.Plenary
 - Report of Sessions Committees
 - Final Business
 - Report of Committee on Episcopacy
 - Assignments to Episcopal Areas
 - Assignments of Bishops to Episcopal Areas
- 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.Conferences meet Bishops
- 11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.Consecration of Bishops

NEJ adjourned after Consecration Service

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION CONFERENCE

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

8:30 – 10:00 AM - MEMORIAL SERVICE AND HOLY COMMUNION

Following the Call to Worship and Praise Team, Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar (NE) led the Memorial Service. Bishop Mark Webb (UNY) and Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball (WV and SUS) led the Communion Service. Offerings were collected for the Baltimore-Washington mission project on domestic violence.

10:30 – 11:50 AM - OPENING PLENARY

Bishop Mark Webb called the 21st Session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference to order. He welcomed delegates and all others in attendance to the 2022 NEJ Conference. He stated that the College of Bishops would operate in a team model, with Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball (WV and SUS) to serve with him for the morning session, along with retired Bishop Jeremiah Park. He thanked the administrative staff: NEJ Secretary, Tom Salsgiver (SUS) and the NEJ Assistant Secretary, Darlynn McCrae (BWC) who was working remotely; and Cindy Weaver (SUS) who was assisting Tom for the next two days.

Bishop Webb acknowledged one of the Judicial Council members who was present, Dennis Blackwell (GNJ). Bishop Webb also reported that Beth Capen, another member of the Judicial Council is ill and could not attend. Bishop also thanked Tony Love (BWC) and the programs and arrangements team and the host bishop, Bishop LaTrelle M. Easterling (BWC and PD) who welcomed the NEJ to Maryland and to the Baltimore Conference. She concluded her remarks by offering the Jurisdiction and our work to the power and guidance of God.

After Bishop Webb highlighted the morning's agenda, he called on Tony Love to review voting instructions and to vote on test questions for becoming familiar with voting devices. Bishop Webb emphasized the need for approval of the NEJ Organization schedule before the first ballot could be taken.

Secretary Tom Salsgiver provided details about the organizational process for the NEJ conference by speaking about the bar of the conference, visitors, microphones, and the process for making motions/amendments. He spoke about the credentials committee that will give the number of voting delegates. Wednesday's count was 152 with six youth representatives who have voice but no vote. He reported that nine bishops sent regrets: Bishops Bashore, Grove, Fisher, Hassinger, Irons, Lyght, Matthews, Morrison, and Stith. Lastly, he reminded the body that the Sessions Committees will only be active during the 2022 NEJ.

MOTION #1: Secretary Tom Salsgiver moved the adoption of the agenda with the flexibility of adjusting items as necessary as found on pages 2-4 of the October 31 DCA. It was seconded.

Voting results: Yes: 147 --- No: 2. Motion #1 passed.

MOTION #2: Secretary Tom Salsgiver made a motion to grant permission for NEJ Officers, NEJ Committee Chairperson, and presenters who are non-delegates to speak and make motions as it pertains to their role. It was seconded. **Voting results: Yes: 136 ---- No: 15. Motion #2 passed.**

REPORT: RULES COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Rules Committee, Rev. Janet Harmon (WV) presented the Rules Committee report. Since there was a major rewrite in 2016, there was not much to do other than editorial changes. She directed delegates attention to pages 19-48 of the ADCA.

Janet again reminded the body that the NEJ had an extensive re-write of the rules that were voted on and approved in 2016. The Rules Committee felt that since there was a major rewrite in 2016, there would be just a few editorial changes. She directed delegates to the bold numbers on top of their ADCA, which she would use as references in her report.

- Pages 19-48, all the disciplinary changes have been made from 2012 to the 2016 Book of Discipline;
- Page 34 - line 27 - 28: delete/cross through the words 'five (5)' and words 'Examination of' line 28; NEJ Sessions Committees will have 'four (4)' committees as follows: Credentials, Journal, Courtesies and Nominations.
- Page 35 - lines 36-40; entire item (Section C) is deleted as well as footnote (which means footnotes, etc. will need to be renumbered going forward). This is for the deletion of the NEJ Annual Conference Examination Committee Minutes.
- Page 38 - lines 1 - 44; Article X. The corporate name "United Methodist Women" continues to be the legal name, but they are doing business as United Women in Faith.
 - Line 1; Leave in the words 'United Methodist Women' and delete words 'United Women in Faith'
 - Line 2; remove word 'Faith'
 - Line 4; Leave in the words 'United Methodist Women and delete words 'United Women in Faith'



Janet again reminded delegates of the extensive rewrite of the 2016 Rules. She made a motion for approval of the Rules of Order and Plan of Organization, now as edited/corrected, found on the bolded pages 19-48 of the ADCA so that delegates could proceed with the business of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference meeting.

AMENDMENT #1 (TO MOTION #3): Robin Hynicka (EPA) moved an amendment to Rule #10 that says: The voting area of the Conference shall include the lactation room or area and the lactation room or area shall be so equipped to provide for the full participation of the delegate(s) in the lactation room or area. The motion was properly seconded. Being no discussion on the amendment, a vote was taken.

Voting results: Yes: 141 ---- No: 10. Amendment #1 passed.

AMENDED MOTION #3: A vote was taken about whether delegates would adopt the Rules as amended, edited, and corrected. **Voting results: Yes: 146 ---- No: 4. Amended Motion #3 passed.**

Tom Salsgiver stated that the Program and Arrangements would work immediately to enact the amended motion #3.

REPORT: EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE

Chair Bonnie Marden (NE) presented the Episcopacy Committee report found in the ADCA. She referred the body to page 49 of the ADCA. I have one addition to our report. Please add the name Tim Riss to the end of the report. She spoke about Gratitude, Grace, and Courage that were experienced by the Episcopacy Committee as they performed their collaborative work.

Ilanther Mills (BWC) joined Bonnie to speak about the Apportionment Sustainability Taskforce proposal "for the election of bishops, which they continue to support the original recommendation in 2018 of a 25% reduction to the Base Percentage. The Taskforce believes this change 'creates a more flexible and nimble system and usher in a new paradigm. It recalibrates the connection and encourages collaboration at the general Church level."

MOTION #4: Bonnie moved that the NEJ certify the retirements of two bishops. Tom Lank moved the certification of the retirement of Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar; and Bill Allen moved the certification of the retirement of Bishop Mark Webb. **Results: It was seconded with unanimous approval for the recommendation to certify the retirements of Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar and Bishop Mark Webb.**

MOTION #5: On behalf of the NEJ Episcopacy Committee, Bonnie Marden recommended the election of two bishops for the NEJ.

AMENDMENT #2 (TO MOTION #5): Sam Smith (UNY) made an amendment to change the number of bishops to be elected from two to three. It was properly seconded and there were speeches for and against amendment.

Ken Ow (BWC) spoke about the financial implications because of his work with GCFA. It would heavily impact the episcopal fund to elect more than two / he spoke in favor of one election. Ianther Mills joined Ken to speak about projections and financial challenges of electing more than two bishops.

Rebecca Girrell (NE) sought clarity about the projections so that delegates could discern better.

Bishop Webb paused the discussion because it was time for lunch. After Bishop Peggy Johnson offered grace, the Jurisdiction was in recess until 2:00 p.m.

2:00 PM - PLENARY

Presiding: Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball (WV and SUS) with Bishop Mark Webb (UNY) and Bishop Jeremiah Park (retired).

Before the lunch break, there was a request for more information from GCFA regarding episcopal elections. Ken Ow (BWC) and Ianther Mills (BWC) provided information. Additional details were provided by Sharrah Dass from GCFA, who was a visitor.

A slide show was shown that featured a financial update from GCFA, which included projections and analysis information, which was addressed by Ken, Ianther and Sharrah. GCFA recommended, "to reduce the number of active bishops by nine (9) by the end of Jurisdictional Conference 2022. The current expectation is a reduction of seven (7) bishops at the Jurisdictional Conferences this week. For 2024, further reducing the number of active bishops by another eleven (11) bishops is suggested. Their analysis, 2022 Currently, the number of bishops scheduled to be elected at Jurisdictional Conference is fourteen (14) in the United States and four (4) in the Central Conferences, which amounts to a reduction of seven (7) bishops. To meet the projections made by GCFA, a further reduction of two (2) bishops would need to take place at the Jurisdictional Conferences (North Central, Northeastern, South Central, or Southeastern) for a total reduction of nine (9).

After discussion **CALL THE QUESTION** to end the debate on Amendment #2:

Voting results: Yes (to stop the debate):145 ---- No (to not stop the debate): 5.

The debate stopped and a vote was taken on Amendment #2.

Voting results: Yes (support Amendment #2): 47 ---- No (do not support Amendment #2): 102.

Amendment #2 did not pass.

CALL THE QUESTION to end the debate on all motions / amendments before the body, It was properly moved and seconded. **Voting results: Yes (to end all debates): 116 ---- No (to not end debates): 34.**

It passed to end all debates.

The body voted on Motion #5, which was to elect two bishops at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. **Voting results: Yes (to elect two bishops): 109 ---- No (to elect two bishops): 42.**

Motion #5 passed.

Steven Cady (UNY) spoke about delegates who may not remain in the UMC asking them with integrity to abstain from voting.

BALLOT #1: Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball explained the process for voting. Bishop S. Clifton Ives (retired) prayed before voting took place. The first ballot was invalid because of duplicate numbers and a few devices were not working properly.



While Padgett worked on voting issues, Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball moved forward with other business.

REPORT: BOUNDARIES COMMITTEE

Chair Lydia Munoz (EPA) reported that she was the new chair because William Shillady had retired. Lydia and her committee make the following recommendation from the NEJ rules (found in Advance DCA, Issue 1: page 33 article 9.D): “The Boundaries Committee shall recommend to the Committee on Episcopacy and the College of Bishops the names, numbers and boundaries of the Episcopal areas.” The Boundaries Committee has recommended that the total number of the NEJ Episcopal areas effective January 1, 2023, to be aligned with the number of active Bishops including those elected at this Jurisdictional Conference.

Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball thanked the committee for that report and reminded the body that this does not need a vote. It is a recommendation that will go to the Committee on Episcopacy and the College of Bishops. This is for information to those bodies.

MOTION #6: The Boundaries committee moved that the NEJ authorize the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee and the Boundaries Committee to contract an outside facilitator who will organize, convene, and facilitate a joint task force of the Episcopacy Committee, Boundaries Committee, and College of Bishops. This joint task force will be charged with envisioning and recommending the strategic direction and alignment of the Jurisdiction in light of the emerging circumstances, including potential reduction or realignment of episcopal areas, declining attendance and membership, and reimagining of the church in these liminal times.

Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball shared that because the motion had financial implications, it would need to be referred to the finance committee before it could be voted on by the body. The finance committee would review on Wednesday for a vote to take place on Thursday.

REPORT: FINANCE

CFA Chair Sherri Rood (UNY) presented the Finance Report for the NEJ. She directed the body to page 11 and page 15 of the ADCA, which shows the proposed NEJ budget. 2021-2024 for \$1,064,600.00. The budget report was also presented by Sherri. The budget will be voted on Thursday.

Lauren Godwin (WV) noted that the West Virginia apportionments were not listed on page 12 on the report and asked that the correction be noted since they worked hard to pay them.

BALLOT #1: Delegates took their first vote before recess. Delegates were instructed to vote for two.

Announcement: North Central Jurisdiction elected Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, on the first ballot.

3:00 PM - PLENARY

Presiding: Bishop LaTrelle M. Easterling (BWC and PD) with Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton (NY) and Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar (NE)

BALLOT #1 results: Bishop Easterling shared the **voting results: Cast: 152; Needed: 92. Voting results: There was no election.** Jay Williams (NE) received 17 votes and was eligible to distribute his bio to the body. When Jay gives his bio to the secretary, it will be distributed to all delegates and reserves.

STATE OF THE NEJ – EPISCOPAL ADDRESS

Bishop John Schol (GNJ and EPA) spoke about Possibilities and Challenging ministries across the Northeastern Jurisdiction. His address is at the end of this Journal.

BALLOT #2: Bishop Jane Middleton (retired) prayed over Ballot #2. Delegates were instructed to vote for two.

Announcement: Tom Berlin was elected from the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

RESOLUTION #5: Queer Delegates' Call To Center Justice And Empowerment For LGBTQIA+¹ People In The UMC. Kaleigh Corbett-Rasmussen (GNJ) spoke to Resolution #1 and answered questions. She moved for adoption by the body. There were speeches in support and no speeches against it. **A vote was taken. Voting results: Yes: 114 ---- No: 37. Resolution passed.**

All resolutions with any amendments/actions are located at the end of this journal.

BALLOT #2 results: Bishop Easterling shared the **voting results: Cast: 152; Needed: 92.**

Voting results: There was no election.

Personal Privilege: Steven Cady (UNY) requested his name to be removed from balloting.

BALLOT #3: Bishop Peter Weaver (retired) prayed over Ballot #3 and the meal. Delegates were instructed to vote for two.

The body was in recess for dinner.

7:00 PM - PLENARY

Presiding: Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar (NE) with Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton (NY), and Bishop LaTrelle M. Easterling (BWC and PD).

Announcement: Bishop Bickerton shared that the South Central Jurisdiction elected three bishops on the first ballot: Delores Williamston, Laura Merrill, and David Wilson.

BALLOT #3 results: Bishop Devadhar shared the **voting results: Cast: 150; Needed: 90. Voting results: There was an election.** Héctor A. Burgos-Núñez was elected on the third ballot with 94 votes. Bishop Elect Burgos-Núñez was warmly greeted. After Bishop Elect Burgos-Núñez spoke, he took his place with the College of Bishops.

Personal Privilege: Robert Zilhaver (WPA) thanked his WPA Conference and the NEJ for their support. He withdrew his name from future balloting.

BALLOT #4: Bishop Alfred Johnson (retired) prayed over Ballot #4. Delegates were instructed to vote for only one person.



ELECTIONS OF THE NEJ OFFICERS

Bishop Devadhar shared that the following individuals were nominated by the NEJ College of Bishops as NEJ Officers to be presented to the delegates for approval. If they approved the individuals, he asked for a show of hands. Nominated NEJ Officers: Thomas Salsgiver, NEJ Secretary; Darlynn McCrae, NEJ Assistant Secretary; David Simpson, NEJ Treasurer; and Jennifer Williams, NEJ Assistant Treasurer. The delegates gave their approval to elect the named individuals as the NEJ Officers.

REPORTS: MONITORS

Enger Muteteke presented the monitor's report from General Commission on Religion and Race (below)

Good evening Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference delegates and College of Bishops! My name is Rev. Enger Muteteke. I come this evening to bring the monitoring report on behalf of the General Commission on Religion and Race for today's plenary sessions.

Today, and for the remainder of this week, we gather as Christ's Church centering our work on the theme "one in ministry to all the world." This phrase, taken from our Communion liturgy, reminds us that when God's people are together, we are called to be a living, embodied sacrament – one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world. Just as we celebrate Christ's sacrifice of love, reconciliation and forgiveness in Communion, great celebrations were present in our midst!

- We celebrate the rich racial and cultural diversity evident in our worship leadership both in representation and singing in different languages.
- We celebrate the rich racial and cultural diversity in the College of Bishops and their decision to preside in a team approach centering more than one voice.
- We celebrate the rich racial and cultural diversity in our slate of episcopal candidates.
- We celebrate that we are doing God's work in person with 152 delegates present – 6 of whom are youth and almost half of the delegation serving as first time delegates – with our jurisdiction being the only one that ensures youth are represented.
- We celebrate the presence of childcare during our conference session and a well-labeled, private area for new mothers.
- We celebrate the passage of the resolution acknowledging queer delegates' call to center justice and empowerment for LGBTQIA+ people in the UMC.
- We celebrate the naming in the episcopal address of systemic racism, equality versus equity, and implicit bias as challenges the UMC must face and act to dismantle as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Friends, we give thanks and praise to God for how the Spirit of God in Christ Jesus has moved mightily in our plenary time amid our diversity of backgrounds, identities, races and cultures. However, this great diversity we share, as Communion people, poses continual challenges for how we covenant to be together and how we engage holy conferencing. As disciples of Jesus, continually being shaped and perfected by the sanctifying grace of Jesus Christ, our words and actions must match to be authentic in our oneness in ministry to all the world. To this end, I lift up some questions for our collective consideration:

- How are we being mindful of how we truly listen to one another – especially those of a different racial, cultural, church leadership status, and/or theological background?

- How are we willing to move beyond naming and acknowledging our challenges with implicit bias, equity and systemic racism as a Church to examining and assessing the ways in which the stewarding of our own power and privilege adds to these challenges?
- How are we honoring the cultural backgrounds of all clergy and laity? Are we willing to give up seats at tables of power so that those of other racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds can participate to create change?

As we continue our work as Christ's Church – seeking to be one in ministry to all the world, we must continually examine and assess HOW we are being one in ministry with Christ and one another. It is God's extravagant, wondrous, amazing grace that is faithful – in our celebrations and challenges – and graces us to be one faithfully.

Rev. Enger Muteteke
General Commission on Religion and Race Monitor

Mark Conner presented the monitor's report from the General Commission on the Role and Status of Women (below)

Good evening Bishops and members of the conference. I am Mark Conner, a retired elder of the West Virginia Annual Conference. I am serving as the monitor for the General Commission on the Role and Status of Women.

I want to thank you on behalf of GCRSW of the United Methodist Church for your time, dedication, preparation, and willingness to serve as a delegate to this session of the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference.

Our Book of Discipline mandates the responsibilities of GCSRW. One of the many responsibilities is the monitoring for gender inclusion and for reporting those findings back to the Jurisdictional Conference and to the United Methodist Church to assist us as we seek to live into the "beloved community." The goal of monitoring is to help the Conference, its delegates, and its plenary leaders hold the most inclusive sessions possible, where every voice is respected and given opportunity to be heard.

Monitoring is not policing, finger pointing, shaming, or participation in the discussion or vote.

Monitoring is observing with intentionality and reporting back the observations to assist the members of the Jurisdictional Conference in being self-aware of her or his conduct toward one another.

I seek to observe the persons who are called upon to speak, the manner in which speakers address and show respect for one another, and the manner in which others show respect in listening to the speakers.

This is not a report about the October 15, 2022 Special Called Session of the Jurisdictional Conference but I would like to offer a few observations. As a monitor, it was difficult to access the various characteristics of those who were recognized to speak (clergy/lay, ethnicity, or age). What could be noted were a nearly equal number of women and men speaking. Of those who identified their role, more clergy spoke than lay. I noted one Young Adult speaking (although there may have been more). I could not note any youth speaking to any issue.



As large meetings are conducted by means of electronic applications, the conferences will need to carefully develop rules for the governance of these meetings. Care needs to be given to proving time within the formal meeting structure for informal conversation and “the moving of the Spirit” among the body. It is difficult to engage in Holy Conferencing when delegates are in isolation. Although we do not have a breakdown of the official count of delegates here this week, it appears that we have a nearly equal number of women and men in attendance.

I appreciate the attention you have given throughout the day to one another. We experienced a wide range of participation. Lay/clergy; women/men; older adults, adults and young adults all shared time on the floor of the conference. Even though youth have the opportunity of speaking to the body, we have not heard from them, yet.

I appreciate the help of our signers and the addition of the close captioning on the screen. There have, however been sometimes when it can be difficult to read that information from the seats in the back of the hall. (That was especially notable in charts with figures or longer lists of names—especially with the ballot reports.)

I appreciate your careful attention to the work of inclusivity. My hope is that the attention you have given here will make its way into the work we share in our annual conferences and, especially, in our congregations, remembering Bishop Schol’s reminder that equality does not always mean equity. May God’s spirit continue to guide us.

Rev. Dr. I. Mark Conner
Monitor for the General Commission of the Status and Role of Women

BALLOT #4 results: Bishop Devadhar shared the voting results: **Cast: 151; Needed: 91. Voting results: There was no election.**

BALLOT #5: Bishop Peggy Johnson (retired) prayed over Ballot #5. Delegates were instructed to vote only for one.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Secretary Tom Salsgiver announced the following:

- The retirement celebration will follow after the closing of the day’s session with a reception.
- Annual conferences will have a room to gather after the retirement celebration.
- Thursday session will convene at 8:15 a.m.

Bishop Bickerton gave the closing prayer.

The Jurisdiction gathered for a time of celebration for the retirement recognition of Bishops Devadhar, Johnson, Park, and Webb.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION CONFERENCE
Thursday, November 3, 2022

8:15-8:45 AM - WORSHIP

The NEJ gathered / Praise Team

Message from Bishop Jane Middleton (retired). The message can be found at the back of the Journal.

8:45-11:45 AM - PLENARY

Presiding: Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton (NY) with Bishop LaTrelle M. Easterling (BWC and PD) and Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar (NE). Bishop Bickerton opened the session with a prayer/reading.

Reports from Sessions Committees

- Credential Committee report given by Vicky Gordy-Stith (PD): 155 delegates are seated.
- Journal Committee report given by Sarah Ford (BWC): All is well with the journal – all is in order.
- Courtesies Committee report given by Judy Kenaston (WV): The committee recognized Dennis Blackwell (GNJ) of the Judicial Council; Monitor Enger Muteteke of GCORR; Monitor Mike Conner of GCOSROW; and Sarah Dass of GCFA.

Secretary Tom Salsgiver (SUS) announced that travel vouchers could be processed and checks ready by Friday.

BALLOT #5 results: Cast: 152 cast; 92 to elect. There was no election

- Personal Privilege: Rebecca Girrell (NE) requested permission for non-delegate Thomas L. Blackstone to speak to the delegation. Thomas thanked the delegates for their support and asked his name to be removed from further balloting.
- Dawn Taylor Storm (EPA) requested permission for non-delegate Andrew L. Foster, III to speak to the delegation. He expressed gratitude to the delegate for the journey and asked his name to be removed from further balloting.
- Giovanni Arroya (BWC) thanked the NEJ for their support and withdrew his name from further balloting.

BALLOT #6: Delegates were instructed to vote for one.

Announcement: North Central Jurisdiction elected Lanette Plambeck, and the Southeastern Jurisdiction elected Connie Mitchell Shelton.

REPORT: TREASURER

David Simpson, NEJ Treasurer, reviewed the report as found on pages 12, 13, 14 of the ADCA. David talked about the reserve funds and for which they are accrued. He also talked about the budget and the expenses are accounted for. David thanked the NEJ CFA and the body because at this point the NEJ is in good financial shape.



BALLOT #6 results: Cast: 147 cast; 89 to elect. There was no election. Williams, 60; Weaver Dunn-57; Doh-1; Love-9. Tony Love (BWC) will submit a bio because he received 9 votes. Tony Love would prepare an electronic version of the bio. Rich Shaefer (WV) asked if the bio should have the same length. Secretary Tom Salsgiver explained that the Episcopacy Committee set the formatting for bios.

Rebecca Holland (SUS) asked for an explanation by the Chair regarding LGBTQI+ persons who are candidates for the Episcopacy regarding their ability to run as it goes against The Discipline. The Chair indicated that all candidates that we are voting on are in good standing. Thus, they are eligible to receive votes.

Chair wanted to correct something that he said earlier. NEJ Rule 38 says that “any ballot for a nominee who has withdrawn shall be invalid.” Corrected numbers for the last Ballot #6. There were 148 ballots cast, there was 1 invalid ballot meaning there were 147 valid ballots. Number needed to elect 88.

There was a point of order. **MOTION #6:** Lauren Godwin (WV) made a motion that when there is a write in, there should be both electronic and written bios before a ballot is taken. After discussions, delegates voted on the motion. **Yes 61 and No 85. The motion was defeated.**

Katherine Field (WPA) asked about the status of the Resolutions. Secretary Tom Salsgiver stated that two resolutions had been withdrawn because of conversations between the makers.

RESOLUTION #1: Relating to Child Care during Jurisdictional Conference Events:

Bethany Amey (GNJ) moved the adoption of this resolution. Sherri Rood, Chair of CFA indicated that CFA met, and they would fund this request for Jurisdictional Conferences. **A vote was taken: Yes, to support the resolution – 136; No, to not support the resolution – 13. Resolution was approved.**

Bethany Amey asked for a moment of personal privilege to thank those who have supported and helped her care for her daughter this week.

MOTION #7: Boundaries committee requested that the NEJ authorize the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee and the Boundaries Committee to contract an outside facilitator who will organize, convene, and facilitate a joint task force of the Episcopacy Committee, Boundaries Committee, and College of Bishops. This joint task force will be charged with envisioning and recommending the strategic direction and alignment of the Jurisdiction in light of the emerging circumstances, including potential reduction or realignment of episcopal areas, declining attendance and membership, and reimagining of the church in these liminal times.

CFA Chair, Sherri Rood (UNY), said that it would be helpful to have a dollar amount for funding. Boundaries Chair Lydia Munoz (EPA) proposed \$20,000. Sherri said that the amount could be funded. Lydia asked if the amount could be amended. This matter was deferred so that the two groups could meet to agree on an amount to recommend to the NEJ.

BUDGET on page 15 of the ADCA was brought to the delegates for vote. \$1,141,016.26. **Yes, to approve the budget - 140; No to not approve the budget - 10. The budget was approved.**

APPORTIONMENTS on page 14 of the ADCA. Delegates voted on apportionments for 2021-2024. **Yes to approve apportionments - 130; No to not approve apportionments - 19. Apportionments for each Annual Conference for 2021-2024 were approved.**

Noah Spicer (NE) raised a question. November is Indigenous and Native American Heritage month. It appears that Native American Ministries do not appear to be funded. David Simpson directed delegates to the page where it shows inclusion for Native American Ministries in the amount of \$14,000.

REPORT: Call To Action (CTA)

This report was presented by the NEJ Directors of Connectional Ministries, DCMs. Originally, the Call to Action was adopted by the 2016 NEJ. The report included videos and highlights from each conference around its purpose to “engage in the important work of creating an anti-racist, diverse, equitable and inclusive United Methodist Church.”

Sandra Bonnette-Kim (NE) expressed thanks for the work of the CTA committee. She is grateful for this report. However, she wants to make sure that all understand that racism is not just a black/white issue. Racism is for all. As an Asian, we are always invisible, or we are always seen as a foreigner. As we continue to work and go beyond the black/white issue. Let’s continue to talk about anti-racism we must all work together. Thank you for your work, but we must do better and take another step together.

Announcements: Secretary Tom Salsgiver announced Tony Love’s bio was sent electronically to the delegates. Tom also gave an update about luggage storage for delegates planning for Friday’s Consecration Service.

Bishop Easterling prayed for the meal.
The body was adjourned for lunch.

2:00 P.M. - PLENARY

Presiding: Bishop John Schol (GNJ and EPA) with Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (WPA and SUS) and Bishop Peggy Johnson (retired).

The afternoon session was opened with prayer by Bishop Moore-Koikoi.

Personal Privilege: Denise Smartt Sears (NY) gave a response to the Call to Action report.

Bishop Schol as chair said, “I just want to give a little room in our agenda today for people who feel they want to bear a witness to go to a microphone and share your heart.

This time provided a sacred place and space for people to share the pain, anger, and sin of racism.

Giovanni Arroyo (BWC) offered himself and the Commission on Religion and Race to work and walk with the College of Bishops and the Vision. They are willing to partner rather than just to partner. The body took a 15-minute break before reconvening.

Bishop Schol announced that the North Central Jurisdiction elected Dan Sherwin



Bishop Schol invited the body to turn to the October 31, 2022, DCA, page 21. There is the list of Disciplinary Committees. These committees must be elected by the body. The one change is in the Administrative Review Committee. Carmen Perry is unable to serve. In her place will be Rebecca Girrell. **The Disciplinary Committees were approved with the one change noted.**

Bishop Schol then asked the body to turn to page 23 in the October 31, 2022 DCA where the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy is found. The nominations come from the delegations.

Jorge Lockward (NY) asked whether the first elected are automatically placed on the Committee on Episcopacy? The Secretary responded that it is up to the delegation to determine who will be the chair of the Conference Committee on Episcopacy.

The second question is what if a delegation did not vote on the chair of the delegation. The chair responded, "It really depends on how the Annual Conference and delegation choose the chair".

Jorge Lockward (NY) asked for a point of personal privilege. The role of the COE is critical to the work of our ministry both in the Annual Conference and in the Jurisdiction. This role requires specific and special gifts. I would invite the delegations to have a list of the gifts needed to be chair as they begin to determine the chair. While The Discipline allows for exceptions for District Superintendents to serve when a DS is serving on the Committee, they must carefully understand their role and responsibility as an extension of the Bishop.

Delegates voted to elect members of the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee as listed in the DCA. **Delegates approved the list of the Jurisdictional Episcopal Committee.**

Motion #8: Vicky Gordy Stith (PD) asked for reconsideration to elect two bishops. The motion was to only elect one Bishop, which we have already accomplished. It was properly seconded. There were speeches for and against the motion. There was a parliamentary question regarding the NEJ Rules and Robert's Rule, which Bishop Schol addressed.

Call for the question for reconsidering electing additional bishops. Motion to proceed with 2/3 votes. Delegates went straight to vote: **Yes 136 to support the call to reconsider the motion, and No 16 to not support.** This means that we move immediately to a vote to reconsider vote to change the number of Bishops to be elected.

Moved to the question/Motion to reconsider how many bishops to elect. **Yes to reconsider – 73; No – to not reconsider – 80. The motion did not pass.** We will continue with the election of two Bishops.

BALLOT #7: Delegates were instructed to only vote for one and to not vote for anybody who had withdrawn. Tony Love (BWC non-delegate) was added to the ballot.

Bishop Schol recognized Janet Harmon (WV), Chair of the Rules Committee. Chair Janet Harmon (WV) requested to suspend Rules for only two items:

It takes a 2/3 vote to suspend the Rules. **It passed.**

1. The first item would be placed at: Article I, #12 on page 24.... Meeting On Line. "If the College of Bishops and Program Committee are in agreement, meetings of the NEJ Conference may be held virtually under the following conditions:
 - *the conferencing platform must ensure that all duly elected delegates, and reserves can hear one another,
 - *that their presence is recorded,
 - *they can cast secret ballots and vote,
 - *results of the balloting shown on the screen,
 - *that the name of the next speaker be queued up on the screen for the body,
 - *that it be live-streamed,
 - *that there be arrangements made for visual interpreters.

Creed Pogue (GNJ) made an amendment that the chat function would remain open unless the body voted to close it. **The amendment was not upheld.**

Rebecca Holland (SUS) who is visually impaired shared that those who use voice over technology would hear the entire chat being read aloud. Rebecca suggested that someone with a disability be part of the committee planning the conference to help ensure concerns are addressed.

The vote on the amendment to leave the chat open the entire time was taken. **The results were 100 No to keep chat open, 51 yes to have the chat open. It does not pass.**

Tom Lank (GNJ) offered an amendment to include, "the speakers in the cue are to be made available for the body to see". **It was properly seconded. The amendment passed.**

Harriet Olson (GNJ) made an amendment to add change the first sentence to read, "If the College of Bishops and Program Committee are in agreement, meetings of the NEJ Conference may be held virtually under the following conditions". This passed and is found in the rule above.

Leo Yates (BWC) asked that any virtual meetings be live-streamed, and interpreters are made available. Janet Harmen as chair accepted that as an addition.

Questions were raised about how the suspension of the rules might affect any ballots taken during that time. Presiding Bishop John Schol said that suspending the rules did not negate all of the rules, rather just the ones, in this case, pertaining to how and when a rules change is presented to the body.

Ian Urriola (UNY) made a motion regarding having 14 days of public comment regarding called meetings. **This motion did not pass.**

This new rule with the amendments were approved and passed.

BALLOT #7 results: Cast 152, Needed 92. There was no election. Weaver Dunn 53; Williams 50; Love 30; and Doh 19

BALLOT #8: Bishop Peggy Johnson prayed over Ballot #8. Delegates were instructed to only vote for one and not for someone who had withdrawn.



BALLOT #8 results: Cast 153, Needed 92. There was no election. Weaver Dunn 53, Williams 51, Love 31, Doh 17.

BALLOT #9: Bishop Mark Webb prayed over Ballot #9. Delegates were instructed to only vote for one and not for someone who had withdrawn.

After the ballot, Janet Harmen continued with the second rule to consider.

2. The second item related to Article VI - Standing Committees (pg. 29ff of ADCA): The Rules Committee proposed the following: That the Standing Committees (which are Rules, Programs and Arrangements, Finance & Administration, Annual Conference Boundaries--NOTE: Episcopacy Committee membership is selected by Annual Conferences and Ordained Ministry committee membership is outlined in the Book of Discipline) **NOT** populate their current committee membership and allow the same individuals to work together for the next eighteen (18) months. At which time, new elections/selections can take place at 2024 Jurisdictional Conference.

There was a question about making this a rule change. However, with the date of 2024, it provides a sunset so that it is only for the next 18 months.

Katherine Felh (WP) made an amendment with the exception of the Program and Arrangements the other committees shall be removed from the rule change.

The amendment failed.

The main motion was approved.

BALLOT #9 results: Cast 151; Needed 91. There was no election. Weaver Dunn 54, Williams 52, Love 30, Doh 14

BALLOT #10: Bishop Jeremiah Park (retired) prayed over Ballot #10. Delegates were instructed to only vote for one and not for someone who had withdrawn.

The committees that need to be organized were given their room assignments along with the Bishop that would organize them.

The body adjourned for dinner.

7:15 PM - EVENING SESSION

Presiding: Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (WPA and SUS) with Bishop John Schol (GNJ and EPA) and Bishop Peggy Johnson (retired)

Following prayer, Bishop Moore-Koikoi shared ballot results.

BALLOT #10 results: Cast 153; Needed 92. There was no election. Weaver Dunn 60, Williams 56, Love 24, Doh 12

BALLOT #11: Bishop Peter Weaver (retired) offered prayer for Ballot #11. Delegates were instructed to only vote for one and not for someone who had withdrawn.

Ballot #11 results: Cast 138; Needed 83. There was no election. Weaver Dunn 56, Williams 55, Love 16, Doh 11

Revisited Motion #6 from Wednesday, November 2: The Boundaries committee moved that the NEJ authorize the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee and the Boundaries Committee to contract an outside facilitator who will organize, convene, and facilitate a joint task force of the Episcopacy Committee, Boundaries Committee, and College of Bishops. This joint task force will be charged with envisioning and recommending the strategic direction and alignment of the Jurisdiction in light of the emerging circumstances, including potential reduction or realignment of episcopal areas, declining attendance and membership, and reimagining of the church in these liminal times.

Because Motion #6 had financial implications with no estimated funding, Lydia Munoz met with CFA/Sherri Rood. After conversations, \$70,000 was requested. Sherri stated that the request could be funded from the realignment budget. **Voting results: Delegates approved Motion #6 with a hand vote.**

BALLOT #12: Bishop Jane Middleton (retired) offered prayer for Ballot #12. Delegates were instructed to only vote for one and not for someone who had withdrawn.

RESOLUTION #2 – Christmas Covenant

Presented by Tom Lank (GNJ) and Ian Urriola (UNY). Tom spoke to the resolution and asked for its adoption. As Tom presented the resolution, he explained that it was aspirational and nonbinding. Ian Urriola (UNY) moved 3 amendments to the Christmas Covenant. The amendments were emailed to delegates.

Stephen Quigg (GNJ) moved that point #3 of the amendments be removed. By show of hands point 3 is deleted from the amendment.

There were two additional points with the following:

1. Amend lines #1-5 of the RESOLVED by replacing these lines with, “ THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northeastern Jurisdiction endorses the regionalization intent expressed in both the Christmas Covenant and legislation from the Connectional Table, including the creation of a U.S, Regional Conference, and urges all Northeastern Jurisdiction delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference, including alternates, to support these regionalization efforts and to make such legislation a priority for the delegation; and”
2. Amend lines 16-20 by replacing these lines with: “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northeastern Jurisdiction urges the General Conference and the Council of Bishops to expedite the process of voting on the constitutional amendments as Annual Conferences necessary to enact regional conferences legislation during regular or special sessions in the summer, fall, or winter of 2023 in the hope that their ratification may be completed by Christmas 2023; and”

After further discussion, **the Christmas Covenant as amended was passed.**

Announcement: The Southeastern Jurisdiction elected Robin Dease.



BALLOT #12 results: Cast 150; Needed 90. There was no election. Weaver Dunn 61, Williams 59, Doh 15, Love 15

Personal Privileges

- C. Anthony Hunt (BWC) requested non-delegate Tony Love (BWC) to speak to the delegates. Tony thanked everyone for their prayers and support and withdrew his name from future balloting.
- Bethany Amey, (GNJ) requested non-delegate Sang Won Doh (GNJ) to speak to the delegates. He expressed deep gratitude for everyone's support and withdrew his name from future balloting.

BALLOT #13: Bishop Alfred Johnson (retired) offered prayer for Ballot #13. Delegates were instructed to only vote for one and not for someone who had withdrawn.

BALLOT #13 results: Cast 152; Needed 92. There was no election. Williams 72, Weaver Dunn 70

BALLOT #14: Bishop S. Clifford Ives (retired) offered prayer for Ballot #14. Delegates were instructed to only vote for one and not for someone who had withdrawn.

RESOLUTION #3 – Leading with Integrity

Ginger Gaines-Cirelli (BWC) spoke to the Resolution and moved its adoption. There were speeches for and against. A vote was taken. **Yes to adopt the resolution – 86; No to not adopt the resolution – 63. It was adopted.**

BALLOT #14 results: Cast 151; Needed 91. There was no election. Weaver Dunn 72, Williams 62

Jason Mackey (SUS) moved to reconsider the number of Bishops to be elected. The Chair ruled that the motion is out of order. Based on Roberts Rules of Order, the body can only reconsider something once. Since we have already reconsidered this matter, it is out of order.

BALLOT #15: Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball prayed over Ballot #15. Delegates were instructed to only vote for one and not for someone who had withdrawn.

Creed Pogue (GNJ) raised a point of order regarding Rule 11 and he requested a standing vote. On consideration of the rule, the Chair ruled that we will not have a standing ballot. The reason is the rule says, "delegates shall rise from their seats and stand until counted and/or have an electronic ballot." Based on the language of "either or" in the rule we followed the rule by having an electronic ballot.

Creed asked to appeal the Chair's ruling. The Chair clarified the rule and her reason for the ruling. With the electronic ballot, we have fulfilled the rule.

BALLOT #15 results: Cast 152; Needed 92. There was no election. Weaver Dunn 74, Williams 61.

BALLOT #16: Bishop Peggy Johnson (retired) prayed over Ballot #16. Delegates were instructed to only vote for one and not for someone who had withdrawn.

Hannah Bonner (EPA) asked for a moment of Personal Privilege regarding the unity of the body. After the Chair talked privately with Hannah, the Chair invited her to speak regarding people feeling outcasts. For all who feel pushed out, can we not all care for one another?

2024 NEJ: WPA offered an invitation for the NEJ to meet in Western Pennsylvania in 2024. The invitation for the Western PA Delegation was offered by both Alyce Weaver Dunn and Vicki Stahlman.

REPORTS: MONITORS

Mark Conner presented the monitor's report from the General Commission on the Role and Status of Women (below)

I stand before you as a monitor for the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. I also stand before you as a white male who continues to learn and hopefully grow in my understanding of the power that my white skin and my sex give to me. This has been a difficult and a long day. I want to thank those who shared your stories and your pain today. I so appreciate your courage in bravely opening yourselves with us. I look forward to the ongoing opportunities to share these stories together and seek your help that I may continue to understand my sin and find ways to journey from guilt to effective work to battle racism. I will also share with GCSRW the challenge to continue their work on the sexism that is a particular part of racism.

In the midst of this important day, I also rejoice in

- The inclusivity of our music leadership. I rejoice in the gift of the music you have shared, and the inclusive language offered in our songs and hymns.
- I celebrate your action to provide childcare for all jurisdictional events—and the funding that will be provided by CFA. I would encourage your advocacy for similar action to be taken by the General Church.
- I celebrate the diversity of our speakers and the passion with which you share your work. I especially appreciate the voices shared by our youth.
- I jokingly celebrate the sounds of the electronic voting pads as you cast your votes. It is a usual sound of music.
- I celebrate the long and hard work of our signers as they offer your work and words in ways for understanding. I have no idea how the caption writers keep up with all our words. Thank you. You make this time more inclusive.

The work that monitors share is not merely counting speakers, although that is a part of the work we do. We seek to continue to work for the inclusion of all persons so that all voices may be heard. May God's spirit continue to work among us.

Rev. Dr. I. Mark Conner

Monitor for the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Enger Muteteke presented the monitor's report from the General Commission on Religion and Race (below)

Good evening, friends. My name is Rev. Enger Muteteke. Again, I come this evening to bring the monitoring report on behalf of the General Commission on Religion and Race for today's plenary



sessions. And by the grace of our Lord Jesus, the tenor of today's sessions did not run me off. I am still here.

Yesterday evening, as I reported before you, I mentioned our theme for this week "one in ministry to all the world" taken from our Communion liturgy. While we are still called to be living, embodied sacraments of Jesus' sacrificial love, I believe we experienced today how difficult it is to truly be one with each other – in our collective cultural and racial traumas, pain, and dis-ease. And yet, there were some celebrations today:

- We celebrate the ongoing racial and cultural diversity in our worship leadership and diverse languages in the music.
- We celebrate missional funds going to both the Philippines and Florida in the wake of the storm devastation in both places.
- We celebrate the painful yet much needed conversation that arose from the Call-to-Action report by our NEJ Directors of Connectional Ministries.

However, we must also recognize and name significant challenges that arose as we engaged holy conferencing today. During the homily in opening worship, the preacher named some of the challenges the Church faces in being a truly inclusive church. In the spirit of being Communion people, we must also name the challenges that arose today in the NEJ's ongoing anti-racism and intercultural competency work:

- the absence of the voices of white delegates during the racial justice afternoon discussion response to the Call-To-Action report
- presentation of Call-To-Action report on racial justice created a black-white binary
- other people of color's witnesses re: their lived experiences of racism was met with defense and dismissal
- facilitation of racial justice conversation in the afternoon, while needed, caused harm and re-traumatization of black, indigenous, people of color
- the active and present voices of white delegates re: institutional accountability to resolution #5 passed yesterday acknowledging queer delegates' call to center justice and empowerment for LGBTQIA+ people in the UMC

And friends, all the deep challenges named above are the work of being a truly inclusive church. As NEJ Conference endeavors to move deeper into the work of dismantling racism at all levels of the church, we must be willing to examine and assess where we need to improve. We must be willing to examine and assess:

- how we are currently using institutional power and where we need to shift our use so power is shared, not hoarded
- being honest as a jurisdiction about the willingness to create institutional equity for all in Christ's church and those not yet present
- our willingness to engage institutional accountability to hold NEJ to its commitment to racial justice
- our intent versus our impact.

Church, it is vitally important that we examine and assess our intent versus impact. As a church, we can intend to do good, do no harm, and stay in love with God. And yet, we are unwilling to deeply examine and change the ways in which we hold power, unwilling to deeply examine and change how we engage

institutional equity, and unwilling to be held accountable, then we will intentionally and unintentionally cause harm every time.

Rev. Enger Muteteke
GCORR Monitor

BALLOT #16 results: Cast 151; invalid 1; Valid Ballots 150; Needed 90. There was no election. Weaver Dunn 71, Williams 53, De La Rosa 20.

BALLOT #17: Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar (NE) prayed over Ballot #17. Delegates were instructed to only vote for one and not for someone who had withdrawn.

David Simpson, NEJ Treasurer, gave delegates information about directions to the Consecration Service including buses for those who need them.

Stephen Cady (UNY) moved that the two people who received the most votes have an opportunity to speak to the body. There was a second.

The chair indicated that our rules say that the body cannot hear speeches from candidates during Jurisdictional Conference. That's why we do the interviews prior to coming into the session. To allow this motion, we would have to have a suspension of the rules. Therefore, it is not in order.

Lydia Munoz (GNJ) asked the chair as a matter of equity to allow not only the top two persons, but also Christian de la Rosa to be able to speak. The Chair indicated that at this point there has not been a motion to suspend the rules.

Tracy Collins (BWC) made a motion to suspend the rules to limit the total number of ballots to 20. It was seconded and required a 2/3 vote. Robert Zilhaver (WPA) spoke about The Book of Discipline reference that assignments could not be made until the last election is held. The question would be if we don't get to an election tonight, would we be able to by the end of this conference assign Bishops to areas so we would know when we go home who our Bishop will be?

The chair indicated that if this motion passed, then the last election would be the last election.

After discussions, there was a vote to suspend rules to take no more than 20 ballots. **Yes, to limit to 20 ballots: 73; No to not limit to 20 ballots: 77. The motion did not pass.**

Ian Urriola moved to suspend the rules. There was a second. This will take 2/3 votes.
No to suspend the rules 87; Yes, to suspend the rules 65. The motion does not pass.

BALLOT #17 results: Cast 147; Needed 89. There was no election. Weaver Dunn 68; Williams 51; De La Rosa 23

BALLOT #18: Bishop LaTrelle M. Easterling (BWC and PD) prayed over Ballot #18. Delegates were instructed to only vote for one and not for someone who had withdrawn.



BALLOT #18 results: Cast: 150, Needed: 90. There was no election. Weaver Dunn 70; Williams 50; De La Rosa 26

MOTION #8: Matthew Lake (SUS) made a motion to postpone the election of the second bishop until 2024. There was a second. After discussions, the call to the question was moved and was seconded.

Yes to stop debate: 138; No to not stop debate: 12.

There was a point of order called by Rachel Fulton (WV) regarding Roberts Rules of Order, Rule 146 says that a motion to postpone cannot be for longer than three months.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi indicated that Rule 14.6 says that a body cannot postpone a question for more than 3 months. The motion that was made is not about a question but postponing action which is different than a question.

Carl Sammons (PD) raised a point of order based on the sentence of the NEJ Rule 38. This is a rule that we have already violated because we have 4 vacancies. We would have had to suspend the rules at our October Special Called Session.

After discussion, the Chair asked for a show of hands if it was the understanding that when we voted for 2 possible elections, that would create the pool of vacancies. It was overwhelming that that was the understanding of the body.

The delegates voted on the motion. Yes to postpone the election for the second Bishop until 2024 – **Yes to postpone the election 95; No to not postpone to 2024 - 56. The motion passed.**

Point of Order raised by Drew Dyson (GNJ) regarding Rule 38 and the suspension of the rule. Are we in violation of Rule 38 if we don't fill the 2 vacancies?

Tracy Collins (BWC) moves that we suspend Rule 38, lines 39 and 40. It was properly seconded.

Vote yes to suspend Rule 38, line 39 and 40-102; Vote no to suspend Rule 38, line 39 and 40-49. The rules have been suspended.

RE-VOTE ON MOTION #8: Matthew Lake (SUS) made a motion to postpone the election of the second bishop until 2024. There was a second.

Vote yes to postpone the election of the 2nd Bishop 95 ; Vote no to not postpone the election of the second bishop 56.

Personal Privileges:

- Alyce Weaver Dunn (WPA) thanked the body and withdrew her name from the ballot.
- Jay Williams (NE) thanked the body and withdrew his name from the ballot.
- Cristian De La Rosa (EPA) thanked the body and withdrew her name from the ballot.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi thanked the delegates for staying the course and working through the challenges. Secretary Tom Salsgiver gave announcements for the consecration service.

Bishop Burgos-Núñez closed the day's session with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned until tomorrow.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION CONFERENCE
Friday, November 4, 2022

WORSHIP

Presiding: Bishop Mark Webb (UNY) with Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball (WV and SUS) and Bishop Jeremiah Park (retired).

Report on Credentials: 138 seated; waiting on the New England Delegation.
Report on Journal: All is well with the journal and properly in order.

Motion #9: Ginger Gaines-Cirelli (BWC) made the motion, “We ask the College of Bishops and Vision Table to partner with GCORR to identify the next faithful steps to continue engaging in healing conversation and reconciling action.” **Vote taken by show of hands on the motion: Approved.**

Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball (WV and SUS) offered a moment of prayer for Judi Kenaston (WV) and family. Judi received news that her mother died last night.

Rev. Dr. Tom Salsgiver (SUS) offered announcements and the following thanks:

- Bishop LaTrelle M. Easterling (BWC and PD) and host committee from the Baltimore-Washington Conference
- Tony Love (BWC) and Program & Arrangements Committee
- Tanya Bennett (GNJ) and volunteers for worship
- Good News TV
- Padgett Communications
- Volunteer Staff behind the scenes: Sylvia Simpson, Margie Green, registrars, tellers, and numerous others who graciously volunteered with a smile.
- Leo Yates and team of Sign Language Interpreters
- Maidstone Mulenga and communications staff
- David Simpson, Treasurer and Jennifer Williams Assistant Treasurer who handled arrangements and finances
- Darlynn McCrae, Assistant Secretary, working remotely

Bishop Mark Webb also thanked the body for their participation and their work done throughout the conference.

Bishop Mark Webb called on Bonnie Marden (NE) to report from the Committee on Episcopacy the Episcopal Assignments. The report began with a Litany with the bishops and the body participating together.

Bonnie reported the list of assignments as follows:

- Baltimore-Washington: Bishop LaTrelle M. Easterling
- Greater New Jersey: Bishop John R. Schol
- New York: Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
- Upper New York: Bishop Héctor A. Burgos-Núñez



- Pittsburgh: Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
- West Virginia: Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball

Bonnie then called on Bishop Easterling to report coverage for the following conferences:

- Eastern PA and Greater New Jersey: Bishop John R. Schol
- Peninsula-Delaware and Baltimore-Washington: Bishop LaTrelle M. Easterling
- Susquehanna Conference, Western PA and West Virginia: Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball and Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
- New England: TBD; The College of Bishops will meet with the NE Episcopacy committee

Bishop Easterling reported that because of the election of one bishop, there is a need to begin another new coverage model.

The College of Bishops met with the New England delegation this morning to share with them the news that they would not know today who their bishop will be, as the College of Bishops will need to meet with the New England Episcopacy Committee. The Bishops will meet with them quickly so that the groundbreaking work they are doing will continue.

Bishop Easterling offered prayer for the New England Delegation.

After prayer, Bishop Easterling asked that in light of this news for New England, that this would not be a time for any of us to celebrate the news we have just received. This is a moment that too many of our siblings are in deep pain and so let us just receive this report this morning knowing that where God puts a comma that it is not a period. Amen.

Bonnie Marden then presented the motion of assignments before the body.

Bishop Mark Webb asked for the body to affirm these assignments by saying "Thanks be to God"

Vote taken by show of hands: Approved.

Bishop Mark Webb announced that at the close of the consecration service Bishop LaTrelle M. Easterling will be the President of the NEJ College of Bishops and Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball will continue as the NEJ Secretary.

Motion made by Tom Salsgiver: "I move that the Jurisdictional Conference receive all reports printed in the DCA and said reports be included in the Journal." **Vote taken by show of hands: Approved.**

Motion made by Tom Salsgiver: "I move that the 21st Session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference be adjourned at the conclusion of the Service of Consecration at The Memorial Chapel at the University of Maryland". **Vote taken by show of hands: Approved.**

NEJ REPORTS: 2016 – 2023

REPORT: THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES COMMITTEE

According to the Northeast Jurisdiction “Plan of Organization and Rules of Order”, The Annual Conference Boundaries’ committee “shall recommend to the Jurisdictional Conference and the College of Bishops the boundaries of the annual conferences within the Jurisdiction, provided that there shall be no annual conference with membership of fewer than fifty ordained clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the General Conference, as provided in the Book of Discipline (P.27 Article 5.4, 2016). Since there have been no proposals for changing the boundaries of the Annual Conferences during this 7-year quadrennium, there is no action to come before the Jurisdictional Conference at this time. There are no changes to the “2016 Northeastern Jurisdiction Annual Conference Boundary Descriptions.” During the Quadrennium, there was one meeting held in the spring of 2021 to discuss the decision involving the coverage of Episcopal Areas when Bishop Peggy Johnson and Bishop Jeremiah Park chose to retire during this highly unusual time. With their retirement, that left a need for coverage of the Philadelphia and Harrisburg Episcopal Areas. The College of Bishops has the responsibility for providing temporary coverage of an Area when there is an opening and new Bishops have not been elected to provide this coverage. These are not assignments which are done by the Committee on the Episcopacy. Members of the committee on Boundaries requested clarity on this decision process. A zoom meeting was held and Bishop John Schol, who relates to the Boundaries Committee, and Ms. Bonnie Marden, the chair of the NEJ Episcopacy Committee, shared the reasoning and rational for the coverage provided with two less Bishops. Both the College and the Episcopacy Committee were in consultation for the coverage that was announced.

The Boundaries Committee will need to be more active in this next Quadrennium as churches disaffiliate due to the current divisions in our denomination. Should the number of Bishops and/or Episcopal Areas change because of the actions of the General Conference in 2024, significant Annual Conference boundary revisions may be necessary to deal with the transition.

Rev. Dr. Bill Shillady, Chairperson

2016 REPORT: ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES COMMITTEE

After two quadrennia of significant Annual Conference boundary changes and adjustments due to downsizing the number of Annual Conferences in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, the Jurisdictional Annual Conference Boundaries Committee experienced very little work this quadrennium. No requests to alter Annual Conference boundaries were received from any of the Annual Conferences or the Episcopal leadership of the Jurisdiction.

One action, however, noted and reported here, did alter the boundary between the Susquehanna Annual Conference and the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference. This was the result of the transfer of the Fishing Creek United Methodist Church and the Riverside United Methodist Church (both located in Potter County of Pennsylvania) from the Susquehanna Annual Conference to the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference. With the required two-thirds vote of the Churches and the Annual Conferences



involved, approval of the transfer was given effective July 1, 2015. This was effected in accord with “Paragraph 41. Article V. Transfer of Local Churches” of the 2012 Book of Discipline.

Please note that the “2016 Northeastern Jurisdiction Annual Conference Boundary Descriptions” has been updated to reflect this change.

Rev. Dr. Timothy R. Baer
Chairperson, Committee on Annual Conference Boundaries

2016 NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES DESCRIPTIONS

Baltimore-Washington

District of Columbia.

State of Maryland west of the Susquehanna River, except for Garrett County.

State of West Virginia: counties of Berkeley; Jefferson; and Morgan; in Mineral County (Calvary and Holy Cross Churches, Ridgeley); in Hampshire County (Otterbein Church, Green Spring).

British Territory of Bermuda.

Eastern Pennsylvania

State of Pennsylvania: counties of Berks; Bucks; Carbon; Chester; Delaware; Lancaster; Lebanon; Lehigh; Monroe; Montgomery; Northampton; and Philadelphia; in Columbia County (the township of Conyngham, the borough of Centralia, and, in the township of Beaver, Davis Chapel near Zion Grove); in Luzerne County (the townships of Black Creek, Butler, Dennison, Foster, Hazle, and Sugarloaf, the city of Hazleton, and the boroughs of Conyngham, Freeland, Jeddo, West Hazleton, and White Haven); in Northumberland County (the townships of Coal, East Cameron, Mt. Carmel, Ralpho, Shamokin, West Cameron, and Zerbe); and in Schuylkill County (the town of Joliet in the township of Porter, and all of the other townships except Eldred, Hegins, Hubley, the balance of Porter, Upper Mahantango, and the borough of Tower City).

Greater New Jersey

State of New Jersey.

State of New York: counties of Rockland (except the village of Sloatsburg); Orange (the towns of Deer Park, Greenville, and Minisink); and Sullivan (the towns of Highland and Lumberland).

State of Pennsylvania: county of Pike (the townships of Delaware, Dingman, Lehman, Milford, and Westfall).

New England

State of Connecticut: east of the Connecticut River.

State of Maine.

State of Massachusetts.

State of New Hampshire.

State of Rhode Island.

State of Vermont.

New York

State of Connecticut west of the Connecticut River.

State of New York: counties of Bronx; Columbia (except the hamlets of Chatham Center, Niverville, and North Chatham); Delaware (except the towns of Davenport, Deposit, Franklin, Hancock, Masonville, and Sidney); Dutchess; Greene; Kings; Nassau; New York; Orange (except the towns of Deer Park, Greenville, and Minisink); Putnam; Queens; Richmond; Suffolk; Sullivan (except the towns of Highland and Lumberland); Ulster; Westchester; Albany (the towns of Coeymans [except Grace Church in the village of Ravena], Rensselaerville, and Westerlo); Schoharie (the towns of Blenheim, Broome, Conesville, Fulton, Gilboa, Jefferson, and Summit).

Peninsula-Delaware

State of Delaware.

State of Maryland: east of the Susquehanna River.

Susquehanna

State of New York: community of Hancock.

State of Pennsylvania: counties of Adams; Bedford (except the townships [and encompassed municipalities therein] of East St. Clair west of PA Route 56, Harrison, Juniata, Lincoln, Londonderry, Napier, Union, and West St. Clair); Blair; Bradford (except the community of Wilawana and the township of Litchfield); Centre; Clearfield (except the townships [and encompassed municipalities therein] of Beccaria, Bell, Bloom, Brady, Burnside, Chest, Ferguson, Greenwood, Huston, Jordan, Penn, Pine, Sandy, and Union); Clinton; Columbia (except the townships [and encompassed municipalities therein] of Beaver and Conyngham); Cumberland; Dauphin; Franklin; Fulton; Huntingdon; Juniata; Lackawanna; Luzerne (except the townships [and encompassed municipalities therein] of Black Creek, Butler, Dennison, Foster, Hazle, and Sugar Loaf); Lycoming; Mifflin; Montour; Northumberland (except the townships [and encompassed municipalities therein] of Coal, East Cameron, Mt. Carmel, Ralpho, Shamokin, West Cameron, and Zerbe); Perry; Pike (except the townships [and encompassed municipalities therein] of Delaware, Dingman, Lehman, Milford, and Westfall); Potter (except the townships [and encompassed municipalities therein] of Clara, Oswayo, Pleasant Valley, Roulette and Sharon); Schuylkill (the townships of Eldred, Hegins, Hubley, Porter [except the community of Joliet], and Upper Mahantango); Snyder; Sullivan; Susquehanna (except the borough of Little Meadows); Tioga; Union; Wayne; Wyoming; and York.

Upper New York Annual Conference

State of New York: counties of Albany (except the towns of Rensselaerville, Westerlo, and Coeymans, but including Grace Church in the village of Ravena in the town of Coeymans); Allegheny; Broome; Cattaraugus; Cayuga; Chautauqua; Chemung; Chenango; Clinton; Columbia (the hamlets of Chatham Center, Niverville, and North Chatham); Cortland; Delaware (except the town of Hancock); Erie; Essex; Franklin; Fulton; Genesee; Hamilton; Herkimer; Jefferson; Lewis; Livingston; Madison; Monroe; Montgomery; Niagara; Oneida; Onondaga; Ontario; Orleans; Oswego; Otsego; Rensselaer; St. Lawrence; Saratoga; Schenectady; Schoharie (except the towns of Blenheim, Broome, Conesville, Fulton, Gilboa, Jefferson, and Summit); Schuylker; Seneca; Steuben; Tompkins; Tioga; Yates; Warren; Washington; Wayne; and Wyoming.

State of Pennsylvania: the village of Wilawana and the township of Litchfield in Bradford County; and the borough of Little Meadows in Susquehanna County.



West Virginia

State of Maryland: Garrett County.

State of Pennsylvania: Independence of Washington County

State of Virginia: Mountain Grove of Bath County

State of West Virginia: except the counties of Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan; excepting also Calvary and Holy Cross Churches of Ridgeley, Mineral County; and Otterbein Church of Green Spring, Hampshire County.

Western Pennsylvania

State of Pennsylvania: counties of Allegheny; Armstrong; Beaver; Butler; Cambria; Cameron; Clarion; Clearfield (except the towns of Clearfield, Curwensville, Ramey, and Shawville); Crawford; Elk; Erie; Fayette; Forest; Greene; Indiana; Jefferson; Lawrence; McKean; Mercer; Somerset; Venango; Warren; Washington (except the town of Independence); Westmoreland; in Bedford (that portion west of Routes 31, 56, 96, and 220); and in Potter (townships of Clara, Oswayo, Pleasant Valley, Roulette and Sharon – including the boroughs of Oswayo and Shinglehouse).

Rev. Dr. Timothy R. Baer, Chairperson – Annual Conference Boundaries Committee

REPORT: COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY REPORT – 2016-2020+

During the 2017-2020+ quadrennium, the Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy served and collaborated with our College of Bishops to fulfill our disciplinary responsibilities to discern God's vision for fruitful and effective leadership and ministry in our jurisdiction. As we support our Episcopal leaders and the Conferences they serve, we celebrate the amazing gifts and ministries present across our jurisdiction. We also grappled with changes arising within our jurisdiction and denominational realities impacting our jurisdiction.

Annually, our work includes evaluation, listening and information gathering, exploration of emerging options and ongoing conversations to position the Jurisdiction for strategic responses to changing times. Disruptions and information during the last few years have greatly impacted our work and discernment regarding possible area realignments and jurisdictional possibilities. Our work approached these topics with vision and a commitment to position the jurisdiction for fruitful ministry and effectiveness.

The Committee met each year for multi-day work sessions during January. Additional meetings were held most years in the spring, fall or winter months. Members of the Committee also served on a Northeastern Jurisdictional Study Task Force with members of our College of Bishops. Each year, the Committee and the College of Bishops spent time together to worship, learning forums and engaging in mission work and jurisdictional visioning. We worked at a local church food kitchen and thrift shop one year and worked together on jurisdictional gifts and resources, including stating a hope in 2019 that 100% of the churches in our Conferences remain United Methodist into the future. Even as congregations make different decisions, we look to a future with new possibilities.

The Committee addressed our responsibility to evaluate the bishops by interviewing them in a variety of formats, supporting their visions and the different ways each bishop leads and uses their gifts. Area representatives on the Committee met with their resident bishops and encouraged open and honest

conversation about goals, hopes and needs. We are blessed by our bishops' gifts, their vision and their commitment to both their personal growth and to equipping Conferences for effective ministry in the current age. We acknowledge that the realities of Conferences and ministry in this time are requiring new skill sets and abilities for all leaders and our bishops balance the roles of visionaries and stewards of God's gifts in each Annual Conference.

The Committee used an online survey as our evaluation tool asking each Conference to use the same tool. These surveys generated significant data and stimulated constructive conversation in many settings and offered a common evaluative model across the jurisdiction. This quadrennium a self-evaluation option was provided for the bishops.

In addition, each Conference prepared and submitted an Area Profile equipping the Committee with demographic information, hopes and challenges identified by each Conference. We are grateful to each Area's Committee on Episcopacy that generated these profiles and for their careful and insightful presentations about each Annual Conference. During this extended quadrennium, profiles were completed early and additional information or updates occurred.

We express our deepest gratitude to the bishops and conferences that have engaged in creative expansions of leadership responsibilities in recent years, both in leading additional conferences and expanding coverage and relationships across Conference boundaries. This teamwork and expansion of what we previously understand as "normal" is causing new ways of being connectional and connected to arise. Their leadership is opening up pathways for adaptation and creativity for our jurisdiction.

When there are episcopal elections at jurisdictional conference, the Committee on Episcopacy is responsible for the orientation of interview group facilitators for conversations with episcopal nominees. The recommendation for the number of elections each quadrennium is provided by this Committee to the jurisdictional delegates. That discernment work is underway including looking at the impact of churches leaving the denomination and the retirement of four bishops this quadrennium.

This Committee also has responsibilities related to processing complaints against bishops. We have fulfilled those responsibilities when called upon this quadrennium.

We also celebrate, with gratitude for their leadership, the lives and ministries of Bishop James K. Matthews and Eunice Mathews, Bishop Felton May, Bishop Dale White and Gwen White, Sherrie Dobbs Johnson, Bishop Herbert F. Skeete and Bishop Joseph Yeakel. We hold in prayer other extended family members of our College of Bishops and Committee on Episcopacy members. These years have tested our patience and resilience as we cope with the global pandemic and its impact on our communities and families.

While the College of Bishops and the Committee on Episcopacy have very different roles and responsibilities, we believe our partnership is an important way we develop a shared sense of vision and action plans for the people and churches of the Northeastern Jurisdiction. We celebrate the openness and commitment to explore new forms of collaboration within the Jurisdiction, among Conferences and ministry areas, and across boundaries. We have been blessed by the gifts and talents available to us, and by this opportunity to serve all of God's people in this blessed part of the United Methodist Church. Thanks be to God!



With our deepest gratitude to the faithful, generous, and wise members of the 2017-2020+ Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy, we submit this report to the delayed Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

Bonnie I. Marden, Chair
Tom Lank and Terri Rae Chatten, Vice-Chairs
Sharon Gregory

REPORT: THE COMMITTEE ON APPEALS

The NEJ Committee on Appeals received one appeal since 2016. This administrative appeal was submitted by an Elder in full connection on July 28, 2020.

The Committee met several times to prepare for the oral hearing. Decisions made by the Committee, prior to the hearing, included: electing Tom Lank (clergy, GNJ) to serve as Interim Secretary; hiring an attorney, Thomas Starnes, to advise the Committee; setting a briefing schedule; and setting an oral hearing date for November 14, 2020. Our deliberations would follow the hearing.

The Committee held all meetings, including the hearing and deliberations by ZOOM due to the Coronavirus pandemic. To comply with the Disciplinary open meetings requirement, the oral hearing would also be livestreamed. Accordingly, the Committee hired the Rev. Sean Lewis to assist with technical matters related to the hearing.

After prayerful and lengthy deliberation, the Committee issued its written decision on January 15, 2021. Committee members participating in the decision included: Jen Ihlo, President (Baltimore Washington); Rev. Alyce Weaver Dunn, Vice-President (Western Pennsylvania); Rev. Christopher Kurien (Eastern PA), Rev. Holly Nye (Upper NY), Rev. Sharletta Green (West VA); Diaconal Minister Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt (New York); Full-Time Local Pastor Brad Chesebro (Upper NY); Vance Elbert (Penn-Del), and Roena Littlejohn (New York).¹

The Committee is to be commended for their time and dedication to this matter.

On November 1, 2021, the Judicial Council upheld the decision of the NEJ Appeals Committee. Judicial Council Decision 1419.

Respectfully submitted, Jen Ihlo, President

¹ Because the appeal arose out of the New England Annual Conference, the Rev. Rene A. Perez (Committee Secretary), and first Lay alternate, Oscar Harrell, were recused from the matter. Two other committee members were unable to serve – Rev. Beth Jones (Susquehanna) and Lynn Caterson (GNJ). All three full committee members were replaced with alternates, as follows: Rev. Holly Nye (Upper NY); Rev. Sharletta Green (WV); and Roena Littlejohn (NYAC). Ms. Littlejohn served on the Committee as a full member due to the recusal of Mr. Harrell.

REPORT: COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

A Committee on Investigation was organized at the 2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. The Committee is reporting that since its organization there have not been any complaints under Paragraph 2702 of the 2016 Book of Discipline.

We have been grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Committee of Investigations

William B Meekins Jr., Chairperson

REPORT: 2016-2022 NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION CALL TO ACTION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are grateful for the authors of the Call to Action legislation which was presented to and adopted by the 2016 Northeast Jurisdictional Conference. The authors' boldness and courage have invited clergy and laity across the Northeast Jurisdiction to engage in the important work of creating an anti-racist, diverse, equitable and inclusive United Methodist Church and its respective communities

The Northeastern Jurisdiction (NEJ) of the United Methodist Church has taken a strategic approach in order to accomplish the goals of the Call to Action (CTA) which are contextual to the diverse nature of our ten conferences. The CTA initiative allows for each conference to utilize the gifts of its ministry leaders, identify appropriate resources, and focus all efforts in order to best meet the needs of their specific congregations and communities. As we have traveled down the path of this initiative, several common themes have arisen:

- The need to equip clergy and laity to be able to identify and address their own racism so that they can better work within their ministry community to do the same.
- Engaging in anti-racism transformation at an individual and personal level and learning to embody an anti-racist lens which includes social, economic and political systems and structures.

The outcomes sought by our NEJ conferences demonstrate a desire to translate aspirations into tangible accomplishments. Most conferences have made progress in the CTA initiative and every conference is in the process of developing and implementing plans. Some common outcomes sought by NEJ conferences include:

- Increased intercultural competence as measured by the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) tool.
- Congregations which grow more diverse and less risk averse about crossing boundaries (racial, ethnic, cultural, class, or socio-economic).
- More successful appointments of Black, Indigenous, Pacific Islander, Asian and Latinx clergy in cross-racial/cross-cultural appointments in local churches.
- Increased inclusion of non-white clergy and laity in conference leadership roles.
- Stewardship of financial resources which includes equity in apportionment or ministry share assessment; reallocating of budgets and adjustments in policies in support of anti-racism work; and equitable compensation practices.
- All NEJ Conferences have acquired funding to support the CTA through Conference budgets, district funds, special grants, and in-kind support from UM General Boards and Agencies.

Although the 2020 General Conference has been postponed until 2024, all of the NEJ Conferences have continued to work on the goals as set forth in the Call to Action.



The Call to Action identified multiple goals to be undertaken by annual conferences. Each conference has developed strategies and plans to reach these goals and identified metrics and measures to track progress.

1. What are the Conferences' overall strategic approaches?

The ten Annual Conferences who comprise the Northeast Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church are all engaged in strategic approaches to fulfill the NEJ Call to Action. The following phrases reflect the spirit of the strategic approaches to eliminating racism among the people called United Methodist: “engaging and equipping,” “opportunity to change,” “vital conversations,” “structural and institutional change,” “increasing leadership capacity,” “promoting racial equity,” “emphasizing action,” and “accountability.” The Peninsula-Delaware Conference captures the essence of the overall strategic approaches of the NEJ Conferences when they state three areas of transformation: “intentional heart change, accountable mind change, and transformational behavior change.” Although all of the Conferences are at various stages of accomplishing these goals, and are using different methods to reach these ideals, every Conference is intentionally engaged in addressing and eliminating systemic racism in our shared life together. The New York Annual Conference developed the Pathways to Becoming an Anti-Racist Annual Conference, creating a framework to address systemic racism within the structure. They also engaged a Be READI consultant (Thought Partner Solutions) to help execute this plan.

2. What are the differences the Conferences are seeking to make, and how will they know they are making progress?

At the heart of Call to Action work in every NEJ Conference is the desire to create an authentic, racially just and equitable Christian community. Annual Conferences are striving to overcome racial oppression and eliminate inequities in order to be a vibrant, diverse, inclusive, intercultural organization. In order to accomplish the creation of this snapshot of the “beloved community,” Conferences are doing work on various levels: 1) Individuals, in particular Conference leaders, are invited to confront their own racism and claim ownership for increased personal intercultural competency; 2) Local churches are challenged to make racial justice and inclusion a priority in their ministry and within their community; and 3) Conferences are called to address racial disparity by nurturing greater diversity among clergy and lay leadership, by increasing the number of local churches who are engaged in ministries that eliminate racism and white privilege, analyzing and adjusting budgets to reflect anti-racism efforts and policies, and by generating new churches/ministries which celebrate inclusion, equity, anti-racism and racial diversity.

3. Primary strategies which direct and support all endeavors towards inclusion and initiatives against racism include the following:

- Raising awareness of individual biases and institutional racism through facilitated training opportunities
- Cultivating and nurturing relationships with intentionality
- Developing culturally competent clergy and laity
- Nurturing the spirit of inclusion, diversity, equity and antiracism
- Organizing opportunities for ongoing conversation
- Reallocating financial resources to align with anti-racism efforts
- Developing systems of accountability at all levels of the Annual Conference

4. Current progress towards fulfilling the recommendations in the Call to Action can best be characterized as being in varying stages of planning, implementation and completion with significant energy, focus, funding, and re-direction ignited by the racial unrest and national outcry in the summer of 2020.

Priorities have been established based on: (1) the needs within each context, and (2) data received from local church reports, inter-cultural competency assessments, and feedback received from workshop evaluations. Outcomes reflect involvement at all levels of the Annual Conferences as well as in many of the communities. The significant public attention to the sin of racism across the country sparked new interest and resolve to address many of the goals of the CTA while introducing additional relevant/timely goals and directives. Here is a summary of how the Annual Conferences have responded, including ways they have redirected their work and priorities:

- **RENAMING/REFRAMING** to be more relevant and effective beginning with how we name/claim what we are doing (e.g. shifting from focus on “antiracism training” to “dismantling racism” to “the reality of an anti-racist ministry”)
 - Introducing new objectives/groups/initiatives focused on advocacy, awareness, advancement, empowerment
 - Introducing new groups/leadership teams and collaborating with persons not in current leadership circles to engage in new ways
 - Developing tools for remote/virtual/online learning and engagement
- **FINANCING** suddenly it became easier to find funding in 2020...and we did it big!
 - Millions of dollars invested in developing endowments and other funding streams for ongoing work of dismantling racism and white supremacy/toward the goal of an antiracist church and world
 - Funds generated by Foundations, Closed Churches, and other redirection of Annual Conference funds as well as grants
- **TARGET GOALS/METRICS/ACCOUNTABILITY**
 - Specific, measurable goals have been set in many Annual Conferences, with target numbers of persons trained, ministries developed, money raised, etc.
 - Raising expectations and establishing reporting streams for tracking participation and commitment/pledge to become anti-racist
 - Developing strategic communications plans
 - Monitoring cabinet/appointment making
- **LEADERSHIP/RECRUITMENT/DEVELOPMENT**
 - Onboarding new staff/BOM/leaders/Cross Racial-Cross Cultural appointments, etc. with ICC/IDI or other trainings/measurements
 - Intentional diversity/inclusion in staff and volunteer positions of leadership
- **SYSTEMIC REVIEW** Several Annual Conferences are taking a deeper dive into systems for inequities and advancing change toward anti-racist systems reviewing the following:
 - Salary studies/analysis
 - Reparations study groups
 - Apportionment formulas/equitable comp
 - Parsonage reviews
 - Pandemic response reviews/advocacy for communities of color
 - Board of Ordained Ministry candidacy/ordination process



5. The next steps to be taken by the NEJ Conferences can be summarized as follows:

We acknowledge that dismantling racism and building equity and inclusion is a journey for a lifetime. We are committed to being diligent and intentional about the critical work of creating an anti-racist church/world.

- Continued follow-up on previous commitments and plans which are in process
- Identify efforts which have been most fruitful and look for ways to share best practices and grow positive outcomes
- Design and develop new strategies based on a variety of assessments and the recommendations of outside resources
- Establish evaluative processes and systems of accountability throughout conference structures
- Engage the support of local, denominational, and other partners

GOALS OF THE CALL TO ACTION

Goal 1: Those areas with a significant demographic of people from African descent should reflect a proportional number of black leaders both lay and clergy at the Annual Conference.

The intentional efforts of our conferences are in various stages of fruitfulness as demonstrated by increased diversity of Bishops appointments to cabinet of district superintendents; focus of Nominations Committees to elect more ethnic clergy and laity leaders to conference roles; and the ongoing addition of persons of African descent to Annual Conference sessions as lay equalizing members.

Goal 2: Establish at least one new faith community (multiple strategies) of African descent focused on engaging black children, youth and young adults (if you are in an AC which has a ten-mile radius with a black population of 30,000 or more.)

The NEJ Conferences have established (as of July 2022) eight new faith communities of African descent in various stages of operation, and more on the way! (List the specific number from each Annual Conference; footnote that some Annual Conferences do not have the criteria)

Baltimore-Washington	2	Eastern Pennsylvania	1
Greater New Jersey	0	New England	0
New York	2	Peninsula-Delaware	1
Susquehanna	1	Upper New York	1
West Virginia	N/A	Western Pennsylvania	0

While the forms of these new faith communities are different in many areas, their focus on reaching new people of African descent and other ethnic populations is consistent across our Annual Conferences. Western Pennsylvania has focused efforts on revitalizing a historic Black church that is located in an urban area.

Goal 3: Increase the number of viable and sustainable black churches and ministries in the NEJ.

Where there is opportunity, NEJ Conferences are intentionally engaged in revitalization efforts, with supporting systems and processes of sustainability including SBC21 and GCORR. We are committed to increasing and cultivating Black and cross-racial/cross-cultural leadership, with particular focus on young adults. We acknowledge that racism, gentrification and the Covid-19 pandemic have disproportionately impacted communities of Black, Indigenous, Pacific Islanders, Asians and Latinx. Some Conferences are monitoring adjusted equitable apportionment and compensation practices, while others continue to analyze current practices. Other Conferences do not yet have a large enough sample of churches to track.

Goal 4: Study the impact of structural and institutional racism on black people in the NEJ, in particular: closing of black churches; and the impact of the ordination process on the number of black persons interested in ordained ministry.

All NEJ Conferences are addressing these issues with the Cabinet, BOOM and other Conference committees. They are working to ensure an equitable process, actively recruiting and identifying leadership and potential African American Clergy. Conferences are also engaging support, assessment and recommendations from SBC21, staff trained in diversity capacities, and outside consultants skilled in anti-racism work, equity and capacity building.

Goal 5: Encourage UM related seminaries in the NEJ to intentionally recruit and offer resources to more students of color, to offer an urban ministry track that is contextual to the black lives matter movement and to initiate training for faculty in the areas of racism, white privilege and white supremacy.

This goal is being specifically addressed with two (2) of the UM related seminaries in the Northeastern Jurisdiction (Drew and Wesley). In one of the conferences, conversations continue with 5 regional seminaries supported by United Methodist alumni or attended by currently enrolled students who are United Methodists.

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

The NEJ Conferences would like the Jurisdiction to provide the following support:

- Continue to receive progress reports from Conferences on becoming an inclusive, diverse, equitable, anti-racist church.
- Share best practices and learnings which will support Conference efforts to create new models of ministry and strengthen and equip Black churches for contextual ministry.
- Conduct a study on the issue of structural and institutional racism and the impact of Black people in the NEJ. Then share the outcomes, best practices and strategies with all Annual Conferences.
- Encourage cross-Conference conversations and develop a shared resources site.
- Develop a collaborative online platform or forum to share, discuss, encourage and resource this work

Submitted by NEJ Directors of Connectional Ministries



REPORT: FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The finances of the Northeastern Jurisdiction continue to be in excellent condition. For detailed information, please refer to the Treasurer's Report found in this journal.

Despite the pandemic, the Annual Conferences of the NEJ have been faithful in paying their apportionments. Because of our strong financial position and in solidarity with the stresses on conferences during the pandemic, Finance and Administration recommended and Vision Table approved jurisdictional apportionments be waived for the second, third and fourth quarters of 2020.

The Finance Committee worked to develop the budget for the 2020-2024 quadrennium totaling \$1,112,975.00, representing a decrease of \$234,400.00 or 22.0 percent. This decrease is attributed in part to changes in support of four program agencies within the Jurisdiction:

- Anna Howard Shaw Center
- Korean-American Mission
- Multi-Ethnic Center
- NEJ Volunteers in Mission.

A joint evaluation committee composed of Rosa Williams, Ian Urriola, Sherri Rood, Jessica Campbell and Andrew Foster completed a mid-quadrennium assessment in 2018 to determine how these agencies are meeting the goals and objectives of the Vision Table and the goals and objectives stated in their budget submissions. The task force determined that while the Anna Howard Shaw Center, and the Multi-Ethnic Center are engaged in mission, they are not resourcing the entire jurisdiction. The Korean Methodist Mission requested funding be held until they redefine their goals and priorities for the remainder of the quadrennium. Additionally, Finance and Administration recommended adding a new line item to the budget named Call to Action Resources in the amount of \$80,000, a reallocation of funds earmarked for the Multi-Ethnic Center to support the work of the Jurisdiction's call to action to address issues of racism.

At Finance and Administration's recommendation, Vision Table was able to make a one-time grant to NEJ VIM for \$50,000 in addition to their quadrennial support. This grant was necessary because of a decrease in funding by GBGM and loss of revenue for Conference VIM Teams who are not traveling and not in need of insurance.

The budget recommendation was approved by the Vision Table at its meeting on January 25, 2020. While the budget appears to be robust, most of the funds accrued are earmarked for specific ministries.

An independent audit was completed by Ellin and Tucker on December 31, 2016, and an internal audit was conducted on January 23, 2020. On May 21, 2020, Finance and Administration voted to postpone the audit for 2016-2020 quadrennium and to include the 2021 fiscal year in the quadrennial audit. The NEJ audit is typically completed with a newly elected treasurer, however that cannot be done with the existing treasurer and officers being asked to remain until 2024.

The challenges of the pandemic have highlighted the demands on the role of the jurisdictional treasurer, who also acts as the business manager. Countless hours have been spent by our current treasurer, David Simpson, in negotiating and renegotiating meeting space, contracting with vendors and many other behind the scenes details. Finance and Administration recommends the treasurer and business manager positions be separated.

I want to thank the Finance and Administration Committee for their attentive and diligent work during these challenging days. I want to especially thank our Treasurer, David Simpson and Assistant Treasurer, Jennifer Williams, for their willingness to serve sacrificially. It is an honor to work with all of you.

Sherri Rood, Chairperson

REPORT: TREASURER

September 1, 2022

2022 2nd Quarter Financial Statements

David W. Simpson, NEJ Treasurer

Dear friends and leaders of the Northeastern Jurisdiction, greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. I pray that you are well and finding joy and peace in your journey of faith. I am pleased to provide you with the enclosed NEJ Financial Statements for the period ended, June 30,2022.

We continue in an unprecedented time in the life of the NEJ and its committees, boards and agencies. As the financial statements indicate, our work has been mostly limited to online meetings, with few initiatives and requests for funding. That is evidenced by a significant number of line items that are under budget. Most of our expenses have been for ongoing administrative functions, partner ministry grants, consultant expenses and legal fees associated with the BSA issues.

Despite the challenges of the past two years each of our Annual Conference has faithfully maintained their financial support of the NEJ. Accordingly, we can report the NEJ remains in a strong financial position. All financial obligations have been met and our projections through the end of 2024 remain on target. Our reserves are intact, and our previously accrued (earmarked) funds are being used for their intended purposes.

Attached to this report you will find two sets of financial reports. 1. The financial statements for the normal quadrennial period, January 1, 2017-December 31, 2022, and 2. The financial statements representing the extended quadrennial period from January 1, 2021, through June 30,2022. These two statements are being provided because they are based on two different budgets and reflect different apportionment figures for the Annual Conferences and spending patterns for the NEJ agencies. When Covid caused the extension of the 2017-20 quadrennium the NEJ CFA had already approved the proposed budget and apportionment formulas for the 2021-24 time period. Since the 2021-24 budget and apportionment schedule were to be substantially less than the 2017-20 quadrennium the CFA recommended, and the Vision Table approved using the proposed 2021-24 budget and apportionments as an Interim Budget pending approval at the next Jurisdictional Session.

According to the independently audited (Ellin and Tucker) financial statements, NEJ's total assets on January 1,2017 totaled \$530,422.00 consisting of \$255,422 in cash and cash equivalents (Checking and Money Market accounts) and \$275,00 in Demand Note receivables (Susquehanna Loan Fund). Total NEJ assets at the end of the 4-year period ended December 31, 2020, totaled \$974, 910.29 consisting of \$366,071.64 in CD's, \$96,341.95 in Checking, \$210,010.71 in Money Market, \$275,000.00 in the Susquehanna Loan Fund and \$27,485.99 in accounts receivable. This represents an increase in total assets of \$444, 488.29 over the course of the four years 2017 through 2020.



A summary of our current finances is as follows:

Results for the 1st Quarter 2022, ended March 31, 2022, showed NEJ assets totaled \$1,114,523.42, including \$334,335.58 in Checking, \$210,101.44 in the Money Market Account, \$366,827.97 in five Certificates of Deposit and \$275,000.00 of Reserve funds in five Demand Notes with Seedling (formerly Susquehanna Loan Fund.) Accounts receivables were \$71,741.57.

For the 2nd Quarter, ending June 30, 2022, NEJ assets totaled \$1,179,831.81, including \$338,231.06 in Checking, \$210,356.30 in the Money Market account, \$366,853.84 in five Howard Bank CDs, \$275,000 in Demand Notes with Seedling, (formerly Susquehanna Loan Fund) and (\$716,48.37) Accounts Receivable. That is an increase in assets of 4,269.41

The CD's and Money Market Reserve are being used to meet our needs for Accrual Funds. As you can see below, we have successfully accrued slightly more than the \$615,000 required for the quadrennium.

Those line items for accrual are:

1. <i>2020 Sessions, -</i>	\$287,000
2. <i>Sessions Contingency, -</i>	\$20,000
3. <i>Pastoral Care, -</i>	\$25,000
4. <i>Judicial Process –</i>	\$40,000
5. <i>Future Realignment Contingency, -</i>	<u>\$200,000</u>
Quadrennial Accrual Need	\$572,000

Accrued to Date - \$577,210.14 (MM and CD's combined)

Please note the checking account represents the funds collected to date in what would be the 2001-24 quadrennium. We will need to accrue another \$350,000 for the 2024 NEJ Session plus other normal expenses. So, while it may appear as though we have a healthy surplus, a pro-forma budget through the end of 2024 would show the NEJ finances to be right on track. Keep in mind that even though we are technically still in the 2017-20 quadrennium, we are operating financially with an interim budget designed for the 2021-24 quadrennium.

One final note. The checking account balance is obviously far greater that we would normally carry, and under normal circumstances we would move much of that into CD's or Money Market accounts. However, by the time we conclude fiscal 2022 and the NEJ Conference Session, much of that accumulated cash will have been expended. Also, currently the rate on our checking account is a bit better than the MM, and CD rates aren't much better. Although in general, rates are rising, our banker says that banks are so flush with cash reserves that they simply aren't incentivizing deposits.

On behalf of CFA Chairwoman, Reverend Dr. Sherri Rood; Assistant Treasurer, Rev. Jen Williams; and members of the CFA, we thank you for your continuing prayers and support.

Respectfully submitted, David W. Simpson, Treasurer

Attachments:

NEJ Balance Sheet, June 30, 2022 and NEJ P&L Summary, June 30, 2022

NEJ POLICY ON REIMBURSEMENT RELATING TO COMMITTEE MEETINGS

TRAVEL OPTIONS: There is an expectation that committee members use the most economical option of travel when possible.

1. **AIRFARE & TRAIN:** Coach fare. We encourage committee members to purchase their tickets at least 21 days or more in advance for cost savings.
2. **AIRLINE FEES:** The NEJ will reimburse the following:
 - a. Curbside baggage check-in for those with physically handicapping conditions.
 - b. Fee for checking one bag of luggage.
 - c. Seat Selection Charge for a *regular* seat.
3. **AUTOMOBILE MILEAGE RATES**
 - a. \$.28/mile for an individual traveling alone.
 - b. \$.44/mile to the driver for TWO committee members in the same car.
 - c. \$.485/mile to the driver for 3+ committee members in the same car.
4. **RENTAL VEHICLE:** The cost of the vehicle plus fuel will be reimbursed, not to exceed the designated Jurisdictional reimbursement per mile.
5. **MEALS:** Meals, excluding alcohol, purchased at a reasonable cost to and from NEJ committee meetings will be reimbursed.
6. **HOTEL FEES & INCIDENTAL CHARGES:** NEJ pays for the room charge and applicable taxes for the meeting. All other fees and charges are paid by the room occupants(s).
7. **ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE:** Committee members are expected to arrive and depart on the day of meetings.
8. **YOUTH:** Youth under the age of 18 or still in high school may room with another youth of the same gender, or with a parent and/or guardian. (See Safe Sanctuaries by Joy Melton)
9. **TRAVEL ADVANCES**
 - a. A member who requests reimbursement for airline tickets purchased 30 days or more before a meeting will be reimbursed upon submission of proof of payment and a copy of the itinerary for the ticket, with the understanding that he/she will reimburse NEJ the cost of the ticket if the member does not attend the meeting.
 - b. Tickets purchase less than 30 days before a meeting and those more than 30 days who do not request reimbursement, will be reimbursed by the voucher process.

**NEJ 2ND QUARTER P & L**

	<u>Apr - Jun 22</u>
Income	
46430 · Interest Income	
46440 · Seedling Financial Ministry	
46441 · Seedling Loan Fund - 249950	243.07
46442 · Seedling Loan Fund - 249951	324.12
46443 · Seedling Loan Fund - 249953	162.04
46444 · Seedling Loan Fund - 249954	81.03
46445 · Seedling Loan Fund - 249955	81.03
Total 46440 · Seedling Financial Ministry	<u>891.29</u>
46430 · Interest Income - Other	<u>263.66</u>
Total 46430 · Interest Income	1,154.95
72000 · 2020 Apportionments	
72040 · New England Conference	<u>1,505.83</u>
Total 72000 · 2020 Apportionments	1,505.83
82000 · 2021 Apportionments	
82020 · Eastern Pennsylvania Conference	1.00
82040 · New England Conference	1,505.83
82060 · Peninsula-Delaware Conference	0.50
Total 82000 · 2021 Apportionments	<u>1,507.33</u>
92000 · 2022 Apportionments	
92010 · Baltimore-Washington Conference	10,317.75
92020 · Eastern Pennsylvania Conference	13,314.00
92030 · Greater New Jersey Conference	7,488.00
92050 · New York Conference	5,520.00
92060 · Peninsula-Delaware Conference	8,761.00
92070 · Susquehanna Conference	9,116.50
92080 · Upper New York Conference	6,149.76
Total 92000 · 2022 Apportionments	<u>60,667.01</u>
Total Income	64,835.12
Expense	
62000 · ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	
63000 · Judicial process	7,708.75
63400 · Secretary's Office	
63410 · Administrative Expense	6,250.00
63420 · Misc.	220.97
Total 63400 · Secretary's Office	<u>6,470.97</u>
63500 · Treasurer's Office	
63510 · Administrative Expense	999.99
63530 · Travel	496.27
Total 63500 · Treasurer's Office	<u>1,496.26</u>

Total 62000 · ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	15,675.98
65000 · PROGRAM BUDGET EXPENSE	
65017 · Multi-Ethnic Center	10,000.00
65021 · Volunteers in Mission NEJ	35,000.00
Total 65000 · PROGRAM BUDGET EXPENSE	<u>45,000.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>60,675.98</u>
Net Income	<u><u>4,159.14</u></u>

2022, 2ND QUARTER BALANCE SHEET

Jun 30, 22

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

First Nat'l First Rate Money Mk	210,356.30
First National Checking	338,231.06
Howard Bank CD - 724700	43,044.11
Howard Bank CD - 724697	26,911.70
Howard Bank CD - 724703	141,030.40
Howard Bank CD - 724706	103,911.84
Howard Bank CD - 724709	51,955.79
Susquehanna Conf Loan Fund 2%	<u>275,000.00</u>

Total Checking/Savings 1,190,441.20

Accounts Receivable

 11000 · Accounts Receivable (71,648.37)

Total Accounts Receivable (71,648.37)

Total Current Assets 1,118,792.83

TOTAL ASSETS 1,118,792.83

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

 30000 · Opening Balance Equity 419,162.42

 31500 · Temp. Restricted Net Assets

 31550 · Pastoral Care Fund 25,000.00

 31560 · Judicial Process Fund 40,000.00

Total 31500 · Temp. Restricted Net Assets 65,000.00

 32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets 562,122.62

 Net Income 72,507.79

Total Equity 1,118,792.83

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 1,118,792.83



NEJ BUDGET WORKSHEET 2021 - 2024							
	2009-2012 Budget	2013-16 Finance Com Requested	2017-2020 Proposed	2021 - 2024 Requested	Delta	% +/-	CFA Proposal
1 SESSIONS							
a. 2016 Sessions	\$ 305,000.00	\$ 287,000.00	\$ 287,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	4.53%	320,000
b. 2012 Journal	\$ 4,900.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (2,500.00)	-55.56%	2000
c. Sessions Contingency	\$ 23,250.00	\$ 21,800.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	50.00%	30,000
Sub-total Sessions	\$ 333,150.00	\$ 313,300.00	\$ 311,500.00	\$ 332,000.00	\$ 20,500.00	6.58%	
2 ADMINISTRATIVE							
a. Vision Table	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 53,000.00	\$ 58,000.00	\$ 69,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	18.97%	69,000
b. Rules Committee	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	0.00%	3,500
c. Program & Arrangements	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 13,750.00	\$ (24,250.00)	-63.82%	30,000
d. Finance & Admin.	\$ 20,600.00	\$ 23,750.00	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	95.65%	45,000
e. Boundaries Committee	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ (2,000.00)	-25.00%	6,000
f. Episcopacy Committee	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -	0.00%	45,000
g. Board of Ordained Ministry	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	0.00%	15,000
h. Secretary's Office	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 19,800.00	\$ 23,325.00	\$ 25,025.00	\$ 1,700.00	7.29%	25,000
i. Treasurers Office	\$ 14,900.00	\$ 17,975.00	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 26,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	8.16%	26,500
j. Archives & History	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 400.00	11.11%	4,000
k. Administrative Contingency	\$ 13,740.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 26,750.00	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	0
i. Connectional Ministries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	0.00%	4,000
Sub-total Administrative	\$ 252,540.00	\$ 239,625.00	\$ 272,675.00	\$ 256,775.00	\$ (15,900.00)	-5.83%	
3 PROGRAM BUDGET							
a. Anna Howard Shaw Center	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 17,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	0
b. Multi-Ethnic Center	\$ 136,000.00	\$ 136,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ -	0.00%	40,000
c. Korean-American Mission	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ -	\$ (120,000.00)	-100.00%	
d. Volunteers in Ministry-NEJ	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	80.00%	140,000
e. Deaf Ministry	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	20.00%	9,000
f. Vision Table Priorities	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	0.00%	20,000
g. Council on Youth Ministries	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 31,000.00	\$ -	0.00%	31,000
h. Young Adult Council	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	0.00%	20,000
i. Leadership development	\$ -	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	0.00%	20,000
j. Episcopal Leadership Conclave	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,200.00	\$ 96,000.00	\$ 40,800.00	73.91%	75,600
k. Call to Action Resources	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		80,000
l. Native American Ministries Sub-total Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 28,200.00	\$ 21,200.00	302.86%	14,000
Sub-total Program	\$ 508,500.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 518,200.00	\$ 524,200.00	\$ 6,000.00	1.16%	
4 AREA RE-ALIGNMENT BUDGET							
a. Upper New York	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
b. 2013-16 Funding	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
c. 2016-2020 Realignment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ (200,000.00)	-100.00%	
Sub-total Realignment	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ (200,000.00)	-100.00%	
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 1,294,190.00	\$ 1,052,925.00	\$ 1,302,375.00	\$ 1,112,975.00	\$ (189,400.00)	-14.54%	
5 ITEMS FUNDED FROM 12/31108 RESERVE FUND BALANCES							
a. Young Adult Event	\$ 19,532.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
b. Judicial Process Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ (40,000.00)	-100.00%	
c. Pastoral Care	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ (5,000.00)	-100.00%	
Sub-total Reserve Expenses	\$ 19,532.00	\$ -	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -	\$ (45,000.00)	-100.00%	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,313,722.00		\$ 1,347,375.00	\$ 1,112,975.00	\$ (234,400.00)	-17.40%	\$ 1,064,600.00

NEJ APPORTIONMENTS							
Conference	2020 WS Apport	% of NEJ Total*	2021-2024 NEJ Apport**	Annual Apport**	2016 WS Apport	% of NEJ Total	2017 - 2020 NEJ Apport
Baltimore-Washington	\$1,801,332	15.51%	\$165,082	\$41,271	\$1,822,016	15.54%	\$201,739
Eastern PA	\$1,162,359	10.01%	\$106,524	\$26,631	\$1,220,417	10.41%	\$135,128
Greater New Jersey	\$1,307,195	11.25%	\$119,797	\$29,949	\$1,321,998	11.27%	\$146,375
New England	\$788,691	6.79%	\$72,279	\$18,070	\$832,938	7.10%	\$92,225
New York	\$963,713	8.30%	\$88,319	\$22,080	\$1,013,127	8.64%	\$112,176
Peninsula-Delaware	\$764,846	6.58%	\$70,094	\$17,523	\$734,289	6.26%	\$81,303
Susquehanna	\$1,591,641	13.70%	\$145,865	\$36,466	\$1,553,211	13.25%	\$171,976
Upper New York	\$1,073,654	9.24%	\$98,394	\$24,599	\$1,123,138	9.58%	\$124,357
West Virginia	\$846,679	7.29%	\$77,593	\$19,398	\$829,426	7.07%	\$91,836
Western PA	\$1,316,515	11.33%	\$120,651	\$30,163	\$1,275,792	10.88%	\$141,259
	\$11,616,625	100.00%	\$1,064,600	\$266,150	\$11,726,352	100%	\$1,298,375

	Apportionment	+/-	+/-
2013-2016	\$1,053,873.00		
2017-2020	\$1,298,375.00	\$244,502.00	23%
2021-2024	\$1,064,600.00	-\$233,775.00	-22%

* Rounded to two decimal places for readability

** Rounded to whole dollars yielding 100%



2020 QUADRENNIAL P&L SUMMARY

	<u>Jan '17 - Dec 20</u>
Income	
40000 · 2016 Apportionment Income	
40080 · Upper New York Conference	7,831.99
40090 · West Virginia Conference	1,440.12
Total 40000 · 2016 Apportionment Income	<u>9,272.11</u>
42000 · 2017 Apportionments	
42010 · Baltimore-Washington Conference	52,338.08
42020 · Eastern PA	35,056.92
42030 · Greater New Jersey	37,974.88
42040 · New England	23,926.45
42050 · New York	29,102.44
42060 · Peninsula-Delaware	21,092.72
42070 · Susquehanna	44,616.55
42080 · Upper New York	18,722.70
42090 · West Virginia	23,825.57
42100 · Western PA	36,647.59
Total 42000 · 2017 Apportionments	<u>323,303.90</u>
43000 · 2020 NEJ Sessions	18,420.14
46430 · Interest Income	
46431 · Susquehanna Loan Fund - #14050	1,397.03
46432 · Susquehanna Loan Fund - #15354	1,862.70
46433 · Susquehanna Loan Fund - #18213	931.44
46434 · Susquehanna Loan Fund - #19820	465.70
46435 · Susquehanna Loan Fund - #31037	465.70
46440 · Seedling Financial Ministry	
46441 · Seedling Loan Fund - 249950	1,275.13
46442 · Seedling Loan Fund - 249951	1,700.14
46443 · Seedling Loan Fund - 249953	850.15
46444 · Seedling Loan Fund - 249954	425.10
46445 · Seedling Loan Fund - 249955	425.10
Total 46440 · Seedling Financial Ministry	<u>4,675.62</u>
46430 · Interest Income - Other	17,231.91
Total 46430 · Interest Income	<u>27,030.10</u>
70000 · 2018 Apportionments	
70010 · Baltimore-Washington Conference	52,338.08
70020 · Eastern PA Conference	35,056.92
70030 · Greater New Jersey Conference	37,974.88
70040 · New England Conference	23,926.45
70050 · New York Conference	29,102.44
70060 · Peninsula-Delaware Conference	21,092.72

70070 · Susquehanna Conference	44,616.55
70080 · Upper New York Conference	32,262.55
70090 · West Virginia Conference	23,825.57
70100 · Western Pennsylvania Conference	36,647.59
70000 · 2018 Apportionments - Other	<u>2,125.99</u>
Total 70000 · 2018 Apportionments	338,969.74
71000 · 2019 Apportionments	
71010 · Baltimore-Washington Conference	52,338.08
71020 · Eastern Pennsylvania Conference	35,056.92
71030 · Greater New Jersey Conference	37,974.88
71040 · New England Conference	23,926.45
71050 · New York Conference	29,102.44
71060 · Peninsula-Delaware Conference	21,092.72
71070 · Susquehanna Conference	44,616.55
71080 · Upper New York Conference	32,262.55
71090 · West Virginia Conference	23,825.57
71100 · Western Pennsylvania Conference	<u>36,647.59</u>
Total 71000 · 2019 Apportionments	336,843.75
72000 · 2020 Apportionments	
72010 · Baltimore-Washington Conference	13,085.26
72020 · Eastern Pennsylvania Conference	8,764.99
72030 · Greater New Jersey Conference	9,477.36
72040 · New England Conference	3,154.65
72050 · New York Conference	7,276.18
72060 · Peninsula-Delaware Conference	5,277.09
72070 · Susquehanna Conference	11,155.60
72080 · Upper New York Conference	7,212.41
72090 · West Virginia Conference	9,760.17
72100 · Western Pennsylvania Conference	<u>36,647.59</u>
Total 72000 · 2020 Apportionments	111,811.30
Total Income	1,165,651.04
Expense	
60000 · 2016 Sessions	2,562.34
61000 · 2020 Sessions	55,305.43
62000 · ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	
62100 · Administrative Contingency	
College of Bishops	15,660.75
NEJ Insurance	2,056.50
62100 · Administrative Contingency - Other	<u>(15,660.84)</u>
Total 62100 · Administrative Contingency	2,056.41
62200 · Administrative Expense	2,323.50
62300 · Archives & History	1,234.09



62400 · Board of Ordained Ministry	
62410 · BOOM TRAVEL	3,550.52
62400 · Board of Ordained Ministry - Other	1,175.49
Total 62400 · Board of Ordained Ministry	4,726.01
62600 · Connectional Ministries	1,000.00
62700 · Directors of Connectional Min.	2,500.00
62800 · Episcopacy Committee	
62810 · Administrative Expense	18,830.88
62820 · Misc.	100.00
62830 · Travel	32,218.98
62800 · Episcopacy Committee - Other	(312.37)
Total 62800 · Episcopacy Committee	50,837.49
62900 · Finance & Administration	
62910 · Administrative Expense	1,485.70
62930 · Travel	11,212.74
62900 · Finance & Administration - Other	191.14
Total 62900 · Finance & Administration	12,889.58
63000 · Judicial process	28,301.15
63200 · Program & Arrangements	
63210 · Administrative Expense	5,153.76
63230 · Travel	22,064.94
63200 · Program & Arrangements - Other	1,600.00
Total 63200 · Program & Arrangements	28,818.70
63300 · Rules Committee	80.75
63400 · Secretary's Office	
63410 · Administrative Expense	18,252.61
63430 · Travel	2,175.98
Total 63400 · Secretary's Office	20,428.59
63500 · Treasurer's Office	
63510 · Administrative Expense	
63511 · Audits	9,905.00
63512 · Office Supplies	158.69
63510 · Administrative Expense - Other	21,001.62
Total 63510 · Administrative Expense	31,065.31
63530 · Travel	1,386.48
Total 63500 · Treasurer's Office	32,451.79
63600 · Vision Table	
63610 · Administrative Expense	40,596.29
63630 · Travel	25,652.13
63600 · Vision Table - Other	3,200.00
Total 63600 · Vision Table	69,448.42

Total 62000 · ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	257,096.48
65000 · PROGRAM BUDGET EXPENSE	
65010 · Anna Howard Shaw Center	11,250.00
65011 · Council on Youth Ministry	18,903.38
65012 · Deaf ministry NEJ	1,648.36
65014 · Korean American Ministry	60,000.00
65016 · Episcopal Leadership Conclave	35,501.28
65017 · Multi-Ethnic Center	120,000.00
65018 · Native American Ministries	4,765.34
65021 · Volunteers in Mission NEJ	150,000.00
65022 · Young Adult Council	7,500.00
Total 65000 · PROGRAM BUDGET EXPENSE	409,568.36
69000 · 2016 NEJ Journal	883.50
Total Expense	725,416.11
Net Income	440,234.93

2020 QUADRENNIAL BALANCE SHEET

Dec 31, 20

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Howard Bank CD - 724700	42,757.20
Howard Bank CD - 724697	26,919.71
Howard Bank CD - 724703	140,702.56
Howard Bank CD - 724706	103,794.79
Howard Bank CD - 724709	51,897.38
Howard Checking	96,341.95
Howard Money Market	210,010.71
Susquehanna Conf Loan Fund 2%	275,000.00

Total Checking/Savings 947,424.30

Accounts Receivable

11000 · Accounts Receivable	27,485.99
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Total Accounts Receivable 27,485.99

Total Current Assets 974,910.29

TOTAL ASSETS **974,910.29**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

30000 · Opening Balance Equity	419,162.42
31500 · Temp. Restricted Net Assets	
31550 · Pastoral Care Fund	25,000.00



31560 · Judicial Process Fund	40,000.00
Total 31500 · Temp. Restricted Net Assets	65,000.00
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	574,439.71
Net Income	(83,691.84)
Total Equity	974,910.29
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	974,910.29

REPORT: THE VISION TABLE 2016 – 2020 WITH ADDENDUM FOR 2020 – 2022

The purpose of the Vision Table is to carry out the visioning, strategic planning, and coordination of resources for the jurisdiction. In the 2016 – 2020 quadrennium, the Vision table spent time refocusing on its purpose and not just coming together for a business meeting.

To that end, the Vision table changed its meeting schedule. In order to set the pace and direction for the NEJ committees and work, instead of being the finish line or receptacle, and in order to include more laity, the Vision table changed its meeting time from following the other NEJ meetings, to preceding those meetings thus enabling the Vision table to speak into those meetings, including the meeting of the College of Bishops. The Vision table began their meetings on Friday evening and ended on Sunday mornings.

In alignment with the Call to Action, the Vision table included intercultural competency training in every meeting throughout the quadrennium. These trainings were not just for the vision table members themselves, but ideas and resources were carried back to the annual conferences thus resourcing the entire Jurisdiction. The vision table invited members of the Commission on Religion and Race as we began the quadrennium and for the second half of the quadrennium we invited Kristina Gonzalez, the Director of Innovation for an Inclusive Church for the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area of the UMC (GNW), to work with the Vision Table. Kristina develops curriculum and offers leadership development opportunities with a specialty in intercultural competency and is a Qualified Administrator in the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) and an Associate with the Kaleidoscope Institute for leadership in a diverse changing world. Several of our Annual Conferences have since invited Kristina to work with staff, cabinets, and Boards of Ordained Ministry.

The Vision Table, with the help of the DCMs, worked on developing a consistent reporting tool for tracking and celebrating progress, learnings, and challenges in response to the Call to Action adopted at the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference. Every meeting included additional work on the Call to Action, not simply receiving annual conference reports. Additionally, the table was able to share and make recommendations regarding the work on the Call to Action with the NEJ committees and the College of Bishops.

Leading into 2019 and the special called session of General Conference, the Vision Table spent time on talking, educating, and working on values contained in the “Anatomy of Peace.” The Vision Table led the NEJ to have their first ever meeting with the NEJ delegations to General Conference and the Vision Table

and the College of Bishops partnered to do a one day event prior to the Special Called session to build relationships and to work on entering the 2019 General Conference with outer versus inner mindsets. Following the 2019 General Conference, the Vision Table, continued to focus on the Call to Action, preparing for the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference, and having conversation about how we lead in the anxious and unknown times for The United Methodist Church. The Vision Table has prepared for the NEJ July Conference with what was known in January 2020 but realize that following the May 2020 General Conference we may need to be ready to shift.

In preparation for the 2020 NEJ Conference, the Vision Table has made some suggestions to and encouraged discussions between the episcopacy committee, the NEJ boundaries committee, and the College of Bishops around potential realignment of episcopal areas and number of episcopal areas within the NEJ. These groups positively received the vision, recommendations, concerns, and requests of the Vision Table, and have worked in a variety of ways to discern possibilities and needs for the future for annual conferences, bishops, and the ministry and mission of the NEJ as a whole.

In this quadrennium, the biggest challenge in our work has been the high and frequent turnover of the Directors of Connectional Ministry within the NEJ annual conferences. The NEJ changed the structure of the Vision table so that the membership of the Vision table, in addition to the ministry chairpersons who are by office members of the Vision Table, is primarily made up of the DCM of each annual conference and one other person from each annual conferences. If the DCM is clergy, then the other member of the Vision Table from an annual conference is lay, and vice versa. The high and frequent turn over in this quadrennium has made some of the ongoing work of the Vision Table difficult.

The Vision Table continues to work on the Call to Action and has made recommendations which will be passed along to the Vision Table for the next quadrennium. The Vision Table sees the work called for in the Call to Action to be something that will continue well into the future as we build our intercultural competency and as we continue our work in eliminating racism. We will continue to help our NEJ area to focus on the formation of vital leaders for vital congregations and communities so that this world and we might experience the transforming power of Christ. We recognize that there will be change in The United Methodist Church – the Biblical story tells us we should expect that as our God says, “Behold, I make all things new.” We don’t know what that the new will look like, but we trust in Christ’s transforming power, we trust that Christ will continue to walk with us, we trust that come what may, Christ’s promise of raising us to new life is true!

Sandra L. Steiner Ball, Vision Table Chair

2020 – 2024

With the further delay of the General Conference and due to continuing concerns about COVID, the Vision table has not met in person. We met virtually to follow up on the call to action and to discuss budgetary questions as necessary. The Vision table will meet virtually on October 3, to do necessary business as called for in the NEJ rules in regard to recommendations for budget, voting process, and rules prior to the November Jurisdictional Conference.



REPORT: THE NEJ BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY FOR THE QUADRENNIUM 2016-2022

The Northeast Jurisdiction Board of Ordained Ministry (NEJ BOOM) met for the first time this quadrennium in April of 2017 in Harrisburg, PA. We recognized the good work that had been done the previous quadrennium, under the leadership of Dr. Virginia Samuel, and wanted to continue that momentum. Two of the foci for the work in the future were identified as the 2016 Call to Action report and the upcoming 2019 General Conference and its implications for BOOMs. In addition to the items below, at each meeting we spent time sharing concerns and questions which arise from BOOM work such as: Residence in Ministry programs, Conference Relations concerns, Deacon ministry, GBHEM training opportunities, and the Eight Year Assessment. At each seminary we were able to meet with faculty and administrators in discussion about how we can partner together for the upbuilding of future leaders. The Board was not able to meet again until September of 2018 at Drew University. At that meeting we learned about Drew's new MDiv which consists of an integrated common curriculum, a vocational pathway, and experimental and experiential learning. This is intended to be highly relational to real world ministry settings. This was especially exciting since BOOMs had been expressing concern for a number of years about candidates who were not prepared for contextual ministry following seminary. We also spent considerable time discussing the specific aspects of the Call to Action Report. Our final point of discussion was the upcoming 2019 General Conference with acknowledgement of the diversity of belief and practice among our Annual Conferences.

The March 2019 meeting was hosted in Boston. We had lengthy discussions about Residence in Ministry programs and the recent General Conference. We also discussed further aspects of each Conference's work around the Call to Action Report. On our final day we worked together to formulate a statement of support for our Bishops and their leadership, support for one another, and our shared values.

Our final in-person meeting was held in September 2019 in New York City. The focus of this meeting was cultural competency training. Mary Elizabeth Moore led us in an in-depth discussion of listening and discerning. We reflected on personal stories and on the larger UMC narrative. We focused on power struggles, practices of inclusion or exclusion, and the dream of "a new church." We also spent time discussing the Eight Year Assessment and the Lewis Center's report on young clergy.

We were scheduled to gather at Wesley Seminary in March 2020. Instead, we met via Zoom. We discussed the challenges of online education, its impact on seminary classes and Course of Study. We also learned about several Lily Foundation grants that study thriving congregations and engaging young adults in communities. The increasing workload of DCOMs was discussed and deemed a priority discussion for the future.

Our next meeting via Zoom was in February 2021. At this meeting we spent most of our time talking about progress made and challenges faced as each Annual Conference sought to respond to the Call to Action Report. We shared a few joys and many disappointments and struggles in making lasting change. Many reported fatigue and frustration in continuing this important work due to prevailing attitudes. The ongoing COVID pandemic has provided additional stress. We intentionally sought to support and encourage one another's efforts.

Our last meeting was held in May 2021 via Zoom. This meeting was short and not well attended. We spent our time discussing how BOOMs were operating in the time between General Conferences.

This quadrennium's NEJ BOOM began with great potential. We were blessed with the momentum of a previous group's hard work and energy. We had hoped to make some solid progress in the area of ending racism by focusing on the Call to Action Report. We intentionally engaged in discussion and training so that we could be better equipped to lead our own Boards. Unfortunately, two other matters overtook our energy and focus. The first was the 2019 General Conference. This had the potential to vastly change the work of BOOMs. While there is a great diversity of belief and practice among annual conferences in our jurisdiction, all of us were anxious about how we would lead our BOOMs into an unknown future. We took the needed time to support and encourage each other. The second matter, of course, was the COVID pandemic. We lost the cohesion of our group when we were no longer able to meet together. There were also many changes in Conference leadership which led to break downs in communication. I would like to offer sincere thanks to Rev. Eric Raygor (WPA) who served as Secretary for this quadrennium. He was a wonderful leadership partner in this work. Bishops Bickerton and Devadhar were committed to this group and generously gave of their time and wisdom. Both Eric and I have now transitioned out of leadership in our Conference Boards. With so many changes in the composition of the group and our inability to secure a date for the next meeting, we feel it best that this group simply "dissolve" and re-form with the new roster of leaders in the new quadrennium.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. It has been a blessing to work with so many gifted and committed leaders across the northeast. May God's powerful Spirit work in mighty ways among each Board and candidate for ministry.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Suzanne Elliott (Susquehanna), former Chair of Northeastern Jurisdiction Board of Ordained Ministry

PROGRAM

NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION KOREAN-AMERICAN MISSION

Our vision is to serve the transforming leaders and congregations of the Korean United Methodist community of the NEJ Jurisdiction for the sake of Christ's mission in the world.

"I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35b)

1. A Brief History of the NEJ Korean-American Mission

As the Korean immigrant community grew significantly each year since the early 1970's the 1984 General Conference commissioned the General Board of Global Ministries to respond to the emerging mission opportunity. Subsequently the National Committee on Korean-American Ministries was organized to study and develop an effective structure to meet the impending needs. In 1986, the National Committee on Korean-American Ministries determined that a "Korean mission" should be initiated in each of the five Jurisdictions. Following the guidelines made by the National Committee, the Eastern Seaboard Korean Mission was created to develop Korean churches in the Northeastern Jurisdiction.



Based on the evaluation of eight years of mission work of the Eastern Seaboard Korean Mission, the 1996 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference acted to make the Eastern Seaboard Korean Mission an integral part of the NEJ Conference by naming it Northeastern Jurisdiction Korean-American Mission (NEJKAM). Accordingly, the NEJ College of Bishops has assigned a bishop to give episcopal supervision.

2. Mission of the NEJ Korean-American Mission

The NEJ Korean-American Mission has served primarily as the vehicle for developing new Korean congregations in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, nurturing the existing mission congregations, and supporting their pastors. Thus the NEJKAM directly addresses the two critical areas of focus of the United Methodist Church in the Northeastern Jurisdiction: new church start/congregational development and leadership development.

For the record: Since 1986, 70 new Korean congregations have been developed, many became chartered churches, some are closed or merged with other congregations or have moved to other denominations. Since 2004, in collaboration with the National Korean Ministry Plan, the NEJKAM has provided personnel, programmatic and financial resources in support of the mission congregations and pastors as it developed several new churches in the Jurisdiction.

3. Demographic Change

The demographics in the Korean American community in the northeastern region have changed significantly since the early 21st century. While the numbers of the second and third generations of Korean-Americans continue to grow and mature, the numbers of immigrants from Korea have noticeably decreased for the last 20 years or so. It is expected that the trend will continue for the foreseeable future.

In light of the demographic change of the Korean community in the USA, NEJ Korean-American Mission has paused its function to review its ministry and focus and voluntarily asked the Jurisdiction to withhold funding until its task is redefined. The developments of COVID-19 and conflictual denominational situation have intensified the search for its new vision and mission. During this liminal time of transition, NEJKAM was able to provide some financial resources to many small and struggling Korean congregations in the Jurisdiction.

4. Opportunities and Challenges

NEJ has the strongest presence of the Korean-American United Methodist Community in the Connection. Northeast is one of the major regions in the USA where a large number of Korean immigrants have settled, and the metropolitan New York/New Jersey area has one of the largest concentrations of Korean Americans. It's no accident that the Korean-American United Methodist community has its strongest presence in the Northeastern Jurisdiction. Among the large churches in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and the New York Annual Conference in term of attendance and budget are several Korean churches. The largest one in both conferences is Korean church. There are presently 74 Korean United Methodist congregations in the jurisdiction, the largest number among the five jurisdictions. There are 292 Korean-American clergy in the NEJ, the largest number by far than any other jurisdiction. The NEJ Korean-American Mission has been a significant part of the development of the Korean United Methodist community in the jurisdiction.

Under the currently evolving situation of denominational conflict, many churches and pastors in the Korean community are facing a pivotal moment of discernment and decision for their future. Many Korean congregations and their leaders are pulled and pushed to make a choice: to continue to be in the United Methodist Church or join a new denomination or else. Movements are created making a case for different directions.

NEJKAM is called to help churches and leaders of the Korean community of the Jurisdiction remain in the United Methodist Church. Voices are heard that many Korean congregations and their leaders would remain if their faith tradition and theological orientation are honored by their annual conference and their bishop as they recognize diverse traditions and orientations in the United Methodist Church. They also ask for structural and systemic support for their promising future in the United Methodist Church.

Korean community in the NE Jurisdiction is diverse: Korean congregations and pastors, second and third generation leaders and congregations, Korean pastors serving cross racial/cultural appointments, Korean clergy women, etc. They have unique needs as well common needs as a community. However, their need for direction and guidance under the circumstance is urgent and acute. Jurisdictional response and support to provide stability and confidence in their future in the United Methodist Church is critical. The NEJKAM can serve a significant role to meet the critical needs of the Korean community in the Jurisdiction for such a time as this.

5. Vision and Mission Redefined

In response to the current and emerging needs of the Korean United Methodist community in the Jurisdiction, NEJKAM engages in new conversations to redefine its vision and mission and will take actions that can bring stability and confidence to the Korean United Methodist community in the Jurisdiction.

The vision is to serve the transforming leaders and congregations of the Korean United Methodist community of the Northeastern Jurisdiction for the sake of Christ's mission in the world.

The mission is to provide resources and structural and systemic support to the Korean United Methodist community so that it continues to be a strong, healthy, and promising presence that offers vital and growing mission, ministry, and witness to the Jurisdiction and beyond.

NEJKAM will serve the Korean United Methodist community of the Jurisdiction by:

- A. Advocating the interests of the Korean United Methodists
- B. Offering resources for transformational leaders and vital congregations
- C. Promoting structural and systemic support
- D. Consultations and collaborations with the bishops and the conference leadership
- E. Collaborations with the national Korean Ministry Plan
- F. Cooperation with Jurisdictional leadership
- G. Connecting to denominational resources
- H. Building partnership with various caucus groups

Serious conversations among the leadership of the Korean community regarding the redefined vision, mission, and task of the NEJKAM are taking place. The conversations include expansion of its structure and role to address and respond to the needs of the diverse constituents of the Korean United



Methodists in the Jurisdiction, appointment of a Mission Superintendent, and how to secure financial resources from various sources such as NEJ Vision Table and the national Korean Ministry Plan. As it develops its role and ministry it will seek collaborative partnership with the College of Bishops, cabinets, conference bodies, caucus groups, and the general agencies of the United Methodist Church.

The NEJ Korean-American Mission thanks all its partners from the NEJ Conference to the national Korean Ministry Plan to annual conferences to local churches and to the Korean community, which provide various resources, including financial donations, consultations, programs, and personnel support. Thanks also goes to the mission congregations and pastors who continue to embrace the opportunity and challenge of the mission field with work produced by faith, labor prompted by love, and endurance inspired hope. Thanks and praise be to God!

Bishop Jeremiah Park, Convener
Northeastern Jurisdiction Korean-American Mission
The United Methodist Church

RESOLUTIONS TO 2022 SESSION OF NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

Resolution #1: Relating to Child Care during Jurisdictional Conference Sessions – APPROVED /PASSED

Submitted by: Bethany Amey, laity, delegate Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

Rev. Kaleigh Corbitt Rasmussen, delegate, clergy, Greater New Jersey

Moselle Jules, laity, delegate, Greater New Jersey

Rev. Rachel Wong, delegate, clergy, Susquehanna

Rev. Dawn Taylor Storm, clergy, delegate, Eastern Pennsylvania

Rev. Tom Lank, clergy, delegate, Greater New Jersey

Rev. Hector Burgos, clergy, delegate, Greater New Jersey

Creed Pogue, laity, reserve, Greater New Jersey

Andrea Wren Hardin, laity, reserve, Greater New Jersey

Rev. Eunice Vega-Perez, clergy, delegate, Greater New Jersey

Tara Barnes, laity, visitor, Upper New York

Jane Ehlers, laity, delegate, Greater New Jersey

Rev. Drew Dyson, clergy, delegate, Greater New Jersey

Rev. Robin Hynicka, clergy, delegate, Eastern Pennsylvania

Harriett Olsen, laity, delegate, Greater New Jersey

Rev. Dr. Catherine Williams, clergy, delegate, Greater New Jersey

Carmen Vianese, laity, delegate, Upper New York

Ian Carlos Urriola, laity, delegate, Upper New York

Rev. Stephen Cady, clergy, delegate, Upper New York

Rev. Carmen Perry, clergy, delegate, Upper New York

Rev. Marty Swords-Horrell, clergy, delegate, Upper New York

Christina McDermott, laity, delegate, Susquehanna

Ken Ow, laity, delegate, Baltimore-Washington

Rev. Andrew Sperry, clergy, delegate, Upper New York
Linda M. Barczykowski, laity, delegate, Upper New York
Rev. Lauren Godwin, clergy, delegate, West Virginia
Rev. Alyce Weaver Dunn, clergy, delegate, Western Pennsylvania

WHEREAS, A lack of safe and affordable onsite child care during Jurisdictional Conference sessions presents a barrier to full participation of lay and clergy members with young children.

WHEREAS, the lack of childcare access at Jurisdictional Conference adversely impacts delegates with young children from full participation in all sessions. This lack of basic access to childcare disproportionately impacts women particularly breastfeeding parents thereby creating a preventable barrier to participation. Furthermore, this preventable barrier discourages parents of young children from seeking election as general and jurisdictional conference delegates.

WHEREAS, The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church in paragraph 162.C states: "Once considered the property of their parents, children are now acknowledged to be full human beings in their own right, but beings to whom adults and society in general have special obligations. Thus, we support the development of school systems and innovative methods of education designed to assist every child toward complete fulfillment as an individual person of worth."

WHEREAS, bodies throughout the United Methodist Connection offer child care options including but not limited to safe sanctuary cleared volunteer childcare, paid childcare, and Vacation Bible School which provide children of lay and clergy members the opportunity to build community and engage in faith development.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, childcare, which meets the standards of the state in which the sessions are held, shall be offered as an option for all sessions of the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference. Such options should also conform to the appropriate NEJ Conference Policies and Procedures.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that a caretaker for children under the age of 2 or a caretaker for a person with special needs be credentialed and allowed into the plenary space with access to the specified delegate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a dedicated private space for breastfeeding and caring for a child under the age of two be provided and considered within the official voting bar of the conference. Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Bethany Amey, head of delegation Greater NJ Annual Conference

Resolution #2: Endorse Christmas Covenant Legislation / AMENDED and PASSED

Presenter: Rev. Tom Lank

Annual Conference of the delegate: Greater New Jersey

Organization:

Subject: Endorse Christmas Covenant Legislation

First Name on Petition: Tom Lank

Names of Other Petitioners: Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, Kaleigh Corbett-Rasmussen, Dawn Taylor-Storm, Hector Burgos, Tanya Linn Bennett, Giovanni Arroyo, Frederick Brewington, Sang Won Doh, Drew Dyson, Eunice Vega-Perez, Mittie Quinn

Estimated Fiscal Impact: None

WHEREAS the seven Central Conferences and five U.S. Jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church engage in mission together in 136 countries; and

WHEREAS the connectional ties between the church in the United States and the Central Conferences are of sacred worth and vital to the ministry of the global United Methodist Church; however,



WHEREAS the existing global structure of The United Methodist Church has historically prohibited each region from effectively tailoring its ministry to its specific local context; and

WHEREAS because the existing structure of the United Methodist Church diminishes our ability to be a vital and effective church, that structure should be re-envisioned; and

WHEREAS the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference and the conversion of the Central Conferences to Regional Conferences, as outlined in the Christmas Covenant, would establish structural equity throughout the global church; and

WHEREAS the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference, as outlined in the Christmas Covenant from the Philippines, will establish the governance necessary to allow the Northeastern Jurisdiction to design ministry for its particular context, and thus more effectively make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and

WHEREAS the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church continues to work toward inclusion and justice for all God's people; and

WHEREAS the Northeastern Jurisdiction contains vital, thriving, multicultural, and diverse ministries that are open to all people and can be a beacon of hope for the worldwide United Methodist Church;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northeastern Jurisdiction endorses the Christmas Covenant legislation, including the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference, and urges all Northeastern Jurisdiction delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference, including alternates, to support the Christmas Covenant and to make such legislation a priority for the delegation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northeastern Jurisdiction recognizes and supports the leadership of our Central Conferences in the creation and furtherance of the Christmas Covenant legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northeastern Jurisdiction directs the Vision Table to identify jurisdiction resources to support the Christmas Covenant legislation and create relationships with Christmas Covenant leadership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northeastern Jurisdiction urges the Commission on the General Conference to take such action as is necessary for the full consideration of legislation related to the Christmas Covenant from the Philippines by a Committee of the Whole, and General Conference 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference requests the General Conference to urge expedited approval of Christmas Covenant constitutional amendments by the annual conferences during regular or special sessions in the summer, fall or winter of 2024 in the hope that their ratification may be completed by Christmas, 2024.

Amendment with two additional points

1. Amend lines #1-5 of the **RESOLVED** by replacing these lines with, " **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Northeastern Jurisdiction endorses the regionalization intent expressed in both the Christmas Covenant and legislation from the Connectional Table, including the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference, and urges all Northeastern Jurisdiction delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference, including alternates, to support these regionalization efforts and to make such legislation a priority for the delegation; and"

2. Amend lines 16-20 by replacing these lines with: " **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Northeastern Jurisdiction urges the General Conference and the Council of Bishops to expedite the process of voting on the constitutional amendments as Annual Conferences necessary to enact regional conferences legislation during regular or special sessions in the summer, fall, or winter of 2023 in the hope that their ratification may be completed by Christmas 2023; and"

Resolution #3: Leading with Integrity – APPROVED /PASSED

A resolution to the 2022 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference

WHEREAS, the vibrant future of The United Methodist Church requires deep commitment and loyal leadership at every level, and

WHEREAS, grounded in a sense of duty and loyalty to the mission of the church, leaders are counted on and expected to make decisions about the future of The United Methodist Church with the absolute best interest of Christ's church at heart, and

WHEREAS, the selection, election, and appointment of clergy and lay leaders throughout The United Methodist Church includes the implicit understanding that leaders will ethically serve in each of their leadership roles with the utmost integrity, and

WHEREAS, leaders who do not intend to remain in The United Methodist Church entangle themselves in a significant conflict of interest, and Whereas, the service of a leader whose call to discipleship is aligned with The United Methodist Church is prevented by the continued leadership of an individual who has made a private decision and/or public declaration to leave The United Methodist Church.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Northeastern Jurisdiction expresses both respect and gratitude to those who have voluntarily stepped away from positions of leadership as they journey away from membership in The United Methodist Church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as we continue this period of transition the Northeastern Jurisdiction calls upon every United Methodist, as a disciple of Jesus the Christ, to move forward in fairness and with integrity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in an effort to ensure that decisions about The United Methodist Church are made by those who are wholeheartedly committed to its future, the Northeastern Jurisdiction believes that only lay and clergy members who intend to remain in The United Methodist Church are appropriately eligible to serve in positions of leadership; including but not limited to: local church, district, conference, jurisdictional, and general church level committees, boards, agencies, delegations, and episcopal leaders. We encourage Conference Boards of Trustees to develop codes of conduct to manage conflicts of interest that may arise around discussions of disaffiliation agreements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northeastern Jurisdiction asks all who intend to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church to recuse themselves from leadership roles.

Submitted by,

Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli

Clergy delegate, Baltimore-Washington

Rev. Dr. Ianther M. Mills, First Elected Clergy, Baltimore-Washington

Cynthia Taylor, First Elected Lay, Baltimore-Washington

Rev. Sarah Schlieckert, Clergy delegate, Baltimore-Washington

Tracy Collins, Lay delegate, Baltimore-Washington

Rev. Bryant Oskvig, Clergy delegate, Baltimore-Washington



Resolution #4: Rejection of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation - Withdrawn

Presenter: Rev. Tom Lank

Annual Conference of the delegate: Greater New Jersey

Organization:

Subject: Rejection of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation

Frist Name on Petition: Tom Lank

Names of Other Petitioners: Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, Kaleigh Corbett-Rasmussen, Hector Burgos, Tanya Linn Bennett, Giovanni Arroyo, Frederick Brewington, Sang Won Doh, Drew Dyson, Eunice Vega-Perez, Mittie Quinn

Estimated Fiscal Impact: None

WHEREAS the purpose of this Protocol ¹ was to provide a time-limited and graceful way for the United Methodist Church to amicably separate into new denominational expressions with a minimum of rancor, controversy, and harm; and

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has caused the delay of a decision on this Protocol by the General Conference until 2024, well past the original five-month delay contemplated by the agreement; and

WHEREAS the 2019 General Conference provided a way with Par. 2553 of the Book of Discipline for congregations to disaffiliate without waiting for the Protocol;

WHEREAS the Global Methodist Church (GMC) was launched on May 1, 2022, without the benefit of the Protocol, and in some conferences outside of the West, there has been recruiting of some United Methodist Churches and pastors to disaffiliate from the UMC to join the GMC; and

WHEREAS six of the original 15 organizations and caucuses which were involved in the negotiation of the Protocol have withdrawn their support of the agreement², saying that its time has passed; and

WHEREAS there has been an escalation of confusion, misunderstanding, misinformation, and disinformation in this context, such that the connectional relationships with the global United Methodist community are being harmed, with bishops calling for greater clarity and honesty in the information being advanced about the process of remaining United Methodist or disaffiliating; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northeastern Jurisdiction Conference recommends rejecting the Protocol, and urges delegates to General Conference to reject the Protocol.

¹ <https://www.gracethroughseparation.com/>

² <https://www.protocolresponse.com/>

Resolution #5: Queer Delegates' Call To Center Justice And Empowerment For LGBTQIA+¹ People In The UMC – APPROVED /PASSED

WHEREAS, in a groundswell response to the passage of harmful legislation at the 2019 Special Session of General Conference, Annual Conferences elected queer clergy and lay persons to be General and Jurisdictional Delegates in record numbers, for the first time empowering queer delegates to speak and act from our diverse experiences, and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Special Session of the United Methodist General Conference passed the Traditional Plan, which increased penalties for United Methodists clergy who are LGBTQIA+ and for clergy who support the LGBTQIA+ community through officiating their weddings, and Whereas, in an attempt to address the divide within The United Methodist Church, an abeyance

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church:

1. Supports and amplifies the queer delegates' call to justice and empowerment for the LGBTQIA+ community in our Jurisdiction, within and beyond our churches and agencies;
2. Affirms the spirit of the abeyance or moratorium as proposed to the General Conference, as referenced above, until changes can be made in The United Methodist Book of Discipline.
3. Implores our member Annual Conferences to either not pursue or resolve in an appropriately timely fashion through a non-punitive, just resolution process any complaints against clergy regarding their sexual orientation or clergy who officiate weddings of LGBTQIA+ persons;
4. Urges that as a Jurisdiction we either not pursue or resolve in an appropriately timely fashion through a non-punitive, just resolution process any complaints against Bishops regarding their sexual orientation or those who officiate weddings of LGBTQIA+ persons;
5. Supports the election of episcopal leaders who commit to upholding this resolution and who will further justice for and empowerment of LGBTQIA+ people in the annual conferences where they serve;
6. Commits to a future of The United Methodist Church where LGBTQIA+ people will be protected, affirmed, and empowered in the life and ministry of the church in our Jurisdiction, including as laity, ordained clergy, in the episcopacy, and on boards and agencies.

Submitted by the following queer delegates from this Jurisdiction:

Rev. Kaleigh Corbett-Rasmussen, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern

Rev. Dr. Becca Girrell, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern

Claire Holston, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Northeastern

Jorge Lockward, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern

Effie McAvoy, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern

J.J. Warren, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern

Rev. Dr. Jay Williams, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern

Leo Yates, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Northeastern

Support by the following queer delegates from other Jurisdictions:

Bill Brownson, General Conference Delegate, North Central

Britt Cox, Reserve Delegate, North Central

Hidden Faithful, General Conference Delegate, North Central



Hidden Faithful, General Conference Delegate, North Central
 Gregory Gross, General Conference Delegate, North Central
 Alberto Hidalgo, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, North Central
 Hidden Faithful, General Conference Delegate, South Central
 Jesi Lipp, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, South Central
 Adam Philley, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, South Central
 Jessica Barber Scott, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Southeastern
 Matt Dailey, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
 Mark Elder, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
 Rushing Kimball, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Southeastern
 Antony Larry, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
 Caleb Parker, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
 Helen Ryde, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
 Derrick Scott III, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
 Rye Standifer, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Southeastern
 Austin Adkinson, Reserve Delegate, Western
 John Angermayr, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
 Elizabeth Brick, General Conference Delegate, Western
 Cedrick Bridgeforth, General Conference Delegate, Western
 Megan Burg, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
 Becca Cramer-Mowder, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
 Rev Mary Klaehn, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
 Randall Miller, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
 Kylie Nelson, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
 Jan Nelson, General Conference Delegate, Western
 Kristin Stoneking, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
 Jason Takagi, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
 Phillip Valdes, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
 Kathleen Weber, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
 Wendy Woodworth, General Conference Delegate, Western
 Frank Wulf, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western

1. As delegates, we choose to describe ourselves using the umbrella term “queer,” but refer to the broader community of persons with the LGBTQIA+ acronym.

2. “Effective immediately upon adjournment of the 2020 General Conference, no complaint proceedings (including, without limitation, a bishop’s supervisory response, suspension proceedings, attempts to achieve a just resolution, or referral of a complaint) shall be initiated, and all current or pending complaint proceedings shall be suspended, insofar as the alleged Book of Discipline violation asserted in the complaint is that the respondent is a ‘self-avowed practicing homosexual’ (however that term may be defined, including, without limitation, living in a same-gender marriage, domestic partnership or civil union); that the respondent has conducted, officiated, performed, celebrated, or blessed a same-gender wedding or other same-gender union; that the respondent has certified, licensed, commissioned, ordained, consecrated, or appointed a ‘self-avowed practicing homosexual’; that the respondent has provided ‘funds to any gay caucus or group’ or used funds ‘to promote the acceptance of homosexuality’; or that the respondent has otherwise engaged in conduct that The Book of Discipline of

The United Methodist Church currently states is ‘incompatible with Christian teaching’ as it pertains to LGBTQ relationships. This moratorium on all new and pending complaint proceedings concerning human sexuality provisions applies not only to charges that are explicitly based on ¶ 2702.1b, but also to any charge that the same alleged underlying conduct constitutes a chargeable offense under any other provision of the Discipline, including (without limitation) ‘immorality’ under ¶ 2702.1a; ‘disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church’ under ¶ 2702.1d; and ‘dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church’ under ¶ 2702.1e. This moratorium is inclusive of charges related to the following paragraphs: ¶ 161, ¶ 304.3, ¶ 310.2, ¶ 341.6, ¶ 613.19, ¶ 806.9, and ¶ 2702.1b. This moratorium does not apply to charges under any of these provisions in which the underlying alleged actions address a different subject matter, including but not limited to sexual misconduct, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment. This moratorium shall remain in effect until the close of the first General Conference of The United Methodist Church after other denominations separate. Any complaints pertaining to this paragraph filed during this period shall be held in abeyance, and no time limits shall commence until the above-referenced General Conference has concluded.” -From the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation

Resolution #6: In Support of a U.S. Regional Conference - Withdrawn

Submitted by: Ian Carlos Urriola, delegate Upper New York Annual Conference

WHEREAS, the seven Central Conferences and five U.S. Jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church engage in mission together in 136 countries; and

WHEREAS, the connectional ties between the church in the United States and the Central Conferences are significant and vital to the continued mission and ministry of the worldwide United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, the existing structure of The United Methodist Church at the general church level has historically impeded each region from effectively tailoring its ministry to its specific contexts; and

WHEREAS, the existing structure of The United Methodist Church at the general church level diminishes our ability to be a vital and effective church and needs to be re-envisioned to achieve more fair and equitable church governance; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference and the conversion of the Central Conferences to Regional Conferences, as outlined in the Christmas Covenant, developed by Central Conference leaders in Africa and the Philippines, would establish structural parity throughout the worldwide church; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference, as outlined in legislation put forward by the Connectional Table will establish the governance necessary to allow each region to design ministry for its particular contexts, and thus more effectively make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and

WHEREAS, the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church continues to work toward inclusion and justice for all God’s people; and

WHEREAS, the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church aspires to vital, thriving, multicultural, and diverse ministries that are open to all people and can be a beacon of hope for the worldwide United Methodist Church;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church supports the expressed intents of the Christmas Covenant and Connectional Table legislation,



including the creation of Regional Conferences in Africa, Europe, the Philippines, and the U.S., respectively; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church recognizes and supports the leadership of our Central Conferences in the creation and furtherance of the Christmas Covenant as well the Connectional Table's future visioning on behalf of our worldwide fellowship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church urges every Annual Conference within its boundaries to support both the Christmas Covenant and Connectional Table proposals to establish a fair and equitable general church structure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church urges the Council of Bishops to expedite the process of voting on the constitutional amendments necessary to enact the regional conferences legislation, calling special sessions of annual conferences where necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Jurisdiction Conference Secretary shall electronically copies of this resolution to all delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, including alternates, from the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church one month prior to the convening of the next regular and/or special session of the General Conference and to the Commission on the General Conference.

Submitted by:

Ian Carlos Urriola

Lay Delegate, Upper New York Annual Conference

140 Surrey Club Ln

Stephens City, VA 22655

i.urriola@yahoo.com

Additional Information:

Information on the Christmas Covenant: <https://www.christmascovenant.com/pagecc>

Connectional Table U.S. Regional Conference Overview: <https://tinyurl.com/USRegionalConference>

1 **Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist**
2 **Church Plan of Organization and Rules of Order**

3
4 Subject to the current *Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church (hereinafter “Book of
5 Discipline” or “BoD”).

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7 **PART A – PLAN OF ORGANIZATION**

8
9 **Article I – ORGANIZATION OF THE NEJ CONFERENCE**

10

11 **1. Opening Session**

12 The NEJ Conference shall assemble at the time and place arranged by the Committee on
13 Program and Arrangements. The Conference shall be opened with Holy Communion and a
14 Memorial Service, directed by the bishops of the Jurisdiction, and shall thereafter proceed as
15 provided herein.

16

17 **2. Presiding Officer**

18 The College of Bishops shall select one of their number to preside at each session.

19

20 **3. Roll Call**

21 The Roll shall be called for by the Secretary to assure that a quorum is present. A quorum shall
22 be a majority of the whole number of delegates elected.⁽¹⁾

23

24 **4. Calling the Conference to Order**

25 If the Secretary indicates that a quorum is present, the Conference shall be called to order at the
26 conclusion of the Holy Communion and Memorial Service by the bishop designated to preside at
27 the first session.

28

29 **5. Adoption of Rules**

30 The Rules Committee Chair, on behalf of the Committee, shall proposed for adoption the Rules
31 of Order as in force at the preceding session, with such amendments, if any, as the Rules
32 Committee deems necessary. The Rules of Order may be adopted in whole or in part.

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34 **6. Jurisdictional Secretary and Assistant Secretary: Elections,**
35 **Terms of Office and Duties**

36

37 **A. Election**

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39 The Jurisdictional Secretary and Assistant Secretary shall be nominated by the College of
40 Bishops and elected by the Conference. Other nominations shall be permitted from the floor.

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43 ⁽¹⁾¶518, 2016 BoD



1 Persons nominated need not be Jurisdictional delegates. If there be two or more nominees,
2 election shall be by ballot. Election shall be by majority of valid ballots cast. A person elected
3 Secretary or Assistant Secretary, who is not a delegate, shall have the privilege of the floor,
4 without vote, but with voice as needed to perform his or her duties.

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6 **B. Terms of Office**

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8 The quadrennial terms of office of the Secretary and Assistant Secretary shall begin January 1 of
9 the new quadrennium.

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11 **C. Duties of Secretary**

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13 The work of the Secretary shall be supervised by the Vision Table and supported through the
14 NEJ budget.

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16 In addition to those duties imposed by *The Book of Discipline*, the Secretary shall have the
17 following responsibilities:

- 18
19 1. Serve as custodian of the permanent records of the Jurisdictional Conference and its
20 committees, which records shall be transmitted to any successor in office;
21 2. Keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the Jurisdictional Conference;
22 3. Prepare, edit, and distribute the official Journal of the Conference;
23 4. Prepare the roll, other lists, and forms necessary to facilitate the business of the
24 Jurisdictional Conference;
25 5. Appoint such staff as are reasonably required to carry out the work of the Conference,
26 consistent with the budget for such services as approved by the Conference;
27 6. Arrange for recording of the business sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference, in
28 consultation with the Committee on Program and Arrangements;
29 7. Arrange for publication of the *Daily Christian Advocate*;
30 8. Ensure distribution among the committees of all memorials, resolutions, petitions,
31 and similar communications addressed to the Conference and report directly to the
32 Conference all documents for which there is no other provision;
33 9. Provide delegates with standardized biographical information on all episcopal
34 nominees (Rule 36), an interview schedule (Rule 37), and the voting procedure
35 established by the Vision Table (Rule 38).
36 10. Ensure that sufficient resources are available at the conference site to produce
37 information about any additional episcopal nominee(s) who may emerge during
38 balloting and arrange to have such information distributed forthwith to all delegates;
39 11. Serve on the Vision Table, act as the recording secretary for this body, and maintain
40 its minutes and other documents;
41 12. Serve ex officio (with voice but not vote) on the following committees: Rules,
42 Program and Arrangements, and Finance and Administration;
43 13. Serve on (or designate the Assistant Secretary to serve on) the following committees
44 with voice but not vote: Credentials, Journal, Examination of Annual Conference
45 Minutes, Courtesies, and Nominations; and
46 14. Perform such other duties as may be ordered by the Jurisdictional Conference.

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D. Duties of Assistant Secretary

- The Assistant Secretary shall:
1. Perform such tasks as the Secretary may direct;
 2. Be familiar with the duties of the office of Secretary;
 3. Serve on the Vision Table, with voice but not vote, unless attending in lieu of the Secretary;
 4. Serve ex officio (with voice but not vote) on the following committees: Program and Arrangements, and Finance and Administration;
 5. Serve on the following committees (with voice but not vote), as directed by the Secretary: Credentials, Journal, Examination of Annual Conference Minutes, Courtesies, and Nominations; and
 6. Assume the office of Secretary, when necessary, as described in Article I.6.E.

E. Vacancy in Office of Secretary and Assistant Secretary

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Secretary during the quadrennium, the Assistant Secretary shall assume the office of Secretary for the balance of the quadrennium. If the Secretary is unable to perform any duties of the office due to incapacity, the Assistant Secretary shall carry out such duties upon authorization by the Vision Table, until such time as the Secretary is able to resume his or her duties.

In the event the Assistant Secretary resigns, is unable to perform any duties of the office, or is required to assume the role of Secretary for the remainder of the quadrennium, the College of Bishops, after consultation with the Program and Arrangements Committee, shall appoint an Assistant Secretary for the remaining term of that office.

7. Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer: Election, Terms of Office and Duties

A. Election

The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall be nominated by the College of Bishops, after consultation with the Committee on Finance and Administration, and elected by the Conference. Other nominations shall be permitted from the floor. Persons nominated need not be delegates to the NEJ Conference. If there be two or more nominees, the election shall be by ballot. Election shall be by a majority of valid ballots cast.

A person elected Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer who is not a delegate shall have the privilege of the floor, without vote, but with voice as needed to perform his or her duties.

B. Terms of Office

The quadrennial terms of office of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall begin January 1 of the new quadrennium.



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C. Duties of the Treasurer

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The work of the Treasurer shall be supervised by the Committee on Finance and Administration and financially supported through the NEJ budget.

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The duties of the Treasurer shall be those normally incidental to the office and others as assigned by the Committee on Finance and Administration. In addition, the Treasurer shall

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1. Function as the business manager of the Jurisdiction;

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2. Submit quarterly financial reports to the Vision Table, Finance and Administration Committee, the College of Bishops, and such other committees or task forces that meet between quadrennial sessions of the NEJ;

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3. Submit a financial report for publication in the first issue of the *Daily Christian Advocate*;

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4. Submit a report by October 31 following the NEJ Conference for publication in the Journal;

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5. Submit a final quadrennial report to the Vision Table at its first meeting in the ensuing quadrennium;

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6. Submit a tentative apportionment for each annual conference to the Committee on Finance and Administration, following approval of the budget by the Vision Table;

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21

7. Serve on the Vision Table;

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8. Serve ex officio (with voice but not vote) on the following committees: Program and Arrangements, and Finance and Administration;

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9. Work with the auditor and the Committee on Finance and Administration to complete all audits; and

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10. Ensure that bank and other financial records are transferred to a successor in office and that the successor in office, Assistant Treasurer, and Chair of the Committee on Finance and Administration have all necessary access to such records.

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D. Duties of the Assistant Treasurer

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The Assistant Treasurer shall

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1. Perform such tasks as the Treasurer may direct;

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2. Be familiar with the duties of the Office of Treasurer;

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3. Serve on the Vision Table;

37

4. Serve ex officio (with voice but not vote) on the following committees: Program and Arrangements, and Finance and Administration; and

38

39

5. Assume the office of Treasurer, when necessary, as described in Article I.7.E.

40

41

E. Vacancy in the Office of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer

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43

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Treasurer during the quadrennium, the Assistant Treasurer shall assume the office of Treasurer for the balance of the quadrennium. If the Treasurer is unable to perform any duties of the office due to incapacity, the Assistant Treasurer

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1 shall carryout such duties, upon authorization by the Vision table, until such time as the
2 Treasurer is able to resume his or her duties.

3
4 In the event the Assistant Treasurer resigns, is unable to perform any duties of the office, or is
5 required to assume the role of the Treasurer for the remainder of a quadrennium, the College of
6 Bishops, after consultation with the Committee on Finance and Administration, shall appoint an
7 Assistant Treasurer for the remaining term of that office.

8
9 An audit shall be conducted whenever the Treasurer changes.

10
11

12 **8. Jurisdictional Conference Budget**

13

14 The total budget, as approved by the Vision Table, shall be included in the first issue of the *Daily*
15 *Christian Advocate*. Additional budget requests or amendments shall be submitted to the
16 Finance and Administration Committee by the end of the first day's plenary sessions.

17

18 The Finance and Administration Committee, after considering all budget requests and
19 amendments, shall recommend a final budget to the Conference for adoption seriatim by a
20 majority of those present and voting.

21

22 Final action on the budget shall be an order of the day. Nothing in the language is intended to
23 prevent further action on the budget, if the Jurisdiction takes action on a matter with financial
24 implications.

25
26

27 **9. Apportionments**

28

29 After the budget is adopted, the Finance and Administration Committee shall recommend the
30 final amount to be apportioned to each annual conference for approval by the Jurisdictional
31 Conference.

32

33 **10. Daily Christian Advocate**

34

35 There shall be published a *Daily Christian Advocate (DCA)* for the Jurisdictional Conference.
36 The Jurisdictional Secretary shall arrange for its publication.

37

38 The first issue shall be published and distributed to the NEJ Bishops, delegates, reserve
39 delegates, and youth representatives at least two weeks prior to the Jurisdictional Conference
40 session. This issue shall include the names of the NEJ bishops, delegates, reserve delegates, and
41 youth representatives; the total budget as approved by the Vision Table; the tentative amount of
42 annual conference apportionments, based on the budget; report of the Treasurer; membership
43 lists of the committees; reports from all standing committees; and such other information as may
44 be necessary for the orderly procedure of business.

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1 Corrections to the first issue of the *DCA* and succeeding digests shall be signed by the author and
 2 sent to the Secretary's desk.

3
 4 A digest of the previous day's proceedings shall be distributed prior to the first session of each
 5 day of the NEJ Conference meeting. Daily editions of the *DCA* shall include substitutions of
 6 delegates, petitions, resolutions, motions, and any amendments that require action of the NEJ.
 7 Such information, when printed in the *DCA*, shall be deemed to be in possession of the
 8 Conference and may not be altered except by action of the Jurisdictional Conference (Rule 18).

9
 10 The last issue of the *DCA* shall summarize all the actions taken by the Conference and be
 11 distributed to bishops, delegates, reserve delegates and youth representatives.

12 13 14 **11. Journal**

15
 16 There shall be an official Journal of the Jurisdictional Conference, which shall include a
 17 Treasurer's report. The minutes of the day, when approved by the Conference on
 18 recommendation of the Committee on Journal after making the necessary corrections, if any,
 19 shall be the official Journal of the Jurisdictional Conference. The record for the last session of
 20 the Conference shall be corrected and approved by the Committee on Journal.

21 22 **12. Virtual Meetings**

23
 24 If the College of Bishops and Program Committee are in agreement, the meetings of the NEJ
 25 Conference may be held virtually and live streamed under the following conditions: the
 26 conferencing platform must ensure that all duly elected delegates and reserves can hear one
 27 another; that their presence is recorded; that the speaker is queued and name listed on the screen;
 28 that visual interpreters be available; appropriate voting will occur with secret ballots; and the
 29 results of balloting shown on a screen.

30 31 32 **ARTICLE II – VISION TABLE**

33 34 **1. Purpose and Authority**

35
 36 The NEJ shall operate between sessions through the Vision Table in order to fulfill the visioning,
 37 strategic planning, coordination of resources, and other functions of the Jurisdiction.

38
 39 The Vision Table shall have the authority of a Board of Directors under the laws of the
 40 incorporation unless other limited by this Plan of Organization and Rules of Order or *The Book*
 41 *of Discipline*. The Vision Table, as needed, may form task forces or groups, which shall meet
 42 during the annual meetings of the Vision Table and/or at other designated times. Persons who
 43 are not members of the Vision Table may serve on the task forces or groups.

44
 45 The Vision Table is authorized to take such actions as may be referred to it by the Jurisdictional
 46 Conference or as may be necessary to support jurisdictional activities between quadrennial

1 sessions. The Vision Table shall not exercise any powers that require a vote of the Jurisdictional
2 Conference, in accordance with the provisions of *The Book of Discipline* or this Plan of
3 Organization or the Rules of Order.

4

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6

2. Membership

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8 The Vision Table shall be composed of up to thirty-nine (39) members, as follows:

9

- 10 • Three (3) bishops, selected by the College of Bishops, one of whom shall be designated
11 by the College of Bishops as Chair of the Vision Table for the quadrennium.
- 12 • Two (2) representatives from each Annual Conference, one (1) of whom shall be the
13 Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM) from each Annual Conference and one
14 representative selected by the annual conference delegation. If the DCM is clergy, the
15 representative shall be lay, and vice versa.
- 16 • The Chairperson or designee of the following NEJ Committees, boards of associations:
17 Program and Arrangements, Finance and Administration, Episcopacy, Board of Ordained
18 Ministry, Annual Conference Boundaries, Rules, and Jurisdictional Association of
19 Conference Lay Leaders.
- 20 • Two (2) youth, selected by the Jurisdictional Youth Council.
- 21 • Two (2) young adults (one clergy, one laity) who are the Co-Chairs of the NEJ Young
22 Adult Council, or their designee.
- 23 • Jurisdictional Secretary.
- 24 • Jurisdictional Treasurer.
- 25 • Up to three (3) members, recommended by the Nominations Committee, as needed to
26 assure diversity, and elected by the Jurisdictional Conference.

27

28 The Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer, though not members of the Vision Table, shall
29 attend the Vision Table meetings and be allowed voice but not vote, unless attending in lieu of
30 the Secretary or Treasurer.

31

32

3. Organization

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A. Term of Office

35

36 The quadrennial term of office for Vision Table members shall begin immediately following the
37 quadrennial Jurisdictional Conference meeting.

38

39

B. Secretary of Vision Table, Minutes and Other Records

40

41 The NEJ Secretary shall serve as Secretary for the Vision Table and maintain the minutes and
42 other records for the Vision Table.

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1 **C. Executive Committee**

2
3 The Vision Table shall have an Executive Committee consisting of seven members: Chairperson
4 of the Vision Table; Jurisdictional Secretary; Jurisdictional Treasurer; the Vision Table
5 representatives from the Finance and Administration Committee; and three (3) other persons
6 selected from and by the Vision Table. The Executive Committee shall be authorized to take
7 such actions as may be referred to it by the Vision Table or as may be necessary to carry out the
8 duties and responsibilities of the Vision Table between meetings.

9
10 Any actions taken by the Executive Committee shall be reported at the next meeting of the
11 Vision Table.

12

13

14 **4. Duties and Responsibilities**

15

16 In carrying out its general powers, the Vision Table shall:

17

- 18 • Meet at least annually;
- 19 • Review and evaluate the sessions of Jurisdictional Conference to determine what changes
20 in procedure or program should be recommended to achieve greater effectiveness of
21 future conferences;
- 22 • Establish a committee, which shall be comprised as set forth in Rule 34, for the purpose
23 of determining whether to allow an episcopal nomination to be brought to the
24 Jurisdictional Conference from a group other than national racial and ethnic caucuses, as
25 listed in the current edition of the BoD, or their NEJ-related caucuses (Rule 34);
- 26 • Establish a voting procedure for episcopal elections (Rule 36);
- 27 • Submit a budget request to the Committee on Finance and Administration covering the
28 estimated expenses and other activities of the Vision Table for the ensuing quadrennium;
- 29 • Receive, review and amend, if necessary, and approve at its last meeting before the
30 session of the Jurisdictional Conference, the budget recommendation from the Committee
31 on Finance and Administration for the succeeding quadrennium;
- 32 • Approve a budget to be presented to the NEJ Conference by the Committee on Finance
33 and Administration;
- 34 • Approve the tentative annual conference apportionments for inclusion in the advance
35 copy of the *Daily Christian Advocate*;
- 36 • Review and supervise the work of the standing committees and any task force or group
37 appointed by the Vision Table;
- 38 • Receive, consider, and evaluate interim reports from standing committees, and any task
39 force or group appointed by the Vision Table;
- 40 • Require, receive, and review, at least annually, reports from all funded program
41 ministries; and
- 42 • Provide recommendations for strengthening the programs of The United Methodist
43 Church at the jurisdictional level.

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Article III – COLLEGE OF BISHOPS

1. Organization Plan for Vision Table, Standing Committees, and Young Adult Council.

Not later than thirty (30) days following adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference, the College of Bishops shall provide to the Jurisdictional Secretary the names of bishops who are designated to serve on the Vision Table and Standing Committees, as follows:

- Three (3) bishops to serve on the Vision Table, one of whom shall be named the Chairperson;
- At least one (1) bishop to serve on each standing committee (Article VI), with these exceptions:
 - The President of the College of Bishops to convene, but not serve on, the NEJ Episcopacy Committee; and
 - One (1) bishop to serve on the Program and Arrangements Committee, who shall be the bishop assigned to the area where the NEJ meeting will be held.
- One (1) bishop to serve as liaison to and for the Young Adult Council.
- Three (3) active bishops, one of whom will be designated by the President of the College as Chair, to serve on a committee established by the Vision Table to decide whether to allow a nomination to be brought to the Jurisdictional Conference if recommended by a group or caucus other than a national racial or ethnic caucus, as listed in the current edition of the BoD, or their NEJ-related caucuses (Rule 34).

These bishops shall be designated as deemed necessary by the College of Bishops, to meet the needs of the church and to best utilize the mixture of gifts and graces of the bishops in the College.

2. Organization Plan and Nominations for NEJ Session Committee

Not later than sixty (60) days before the meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference, the College shall appoint persons to serve on NEJ session committees, including one bishop to preside over the Nominating committee. Eligibility to serve on these committees shall include those who are authorized to serve on standing committees (Article VI.1) and others, if needed. The College is urged to consider the financial implications of appointing persons to those committees who will not otherwise be present at the Jurisdictional Conference.

3. Appointment of Persons to Serve on the Committee on Investigation and Committee on Appeals

Membership on these committees shall be nominated by the College of Bishops and elected by the Jurisdictional Conference, as provided by The BoD. When nominating members and alternates to these committees, the College of Bishops shall ensure ethnic and gender inclusiveness as well as leadership continuity.



1 The order of alternates shall be determined by the College of Bishops and elected to that order by
2 the Jurisdictional Conference.

3

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Article IV – YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

6

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8

1. Number and Election

9 Each annual conference shall be entitled to youth representatives to the Jurisdictional Conference
10 in a number based upon ten percent (10%) of its elected Jurisdictional Conference delegation,
11 with a minimum of two youth representatives from each annual conference. Fractions are
12 rounded to the closest whole number.

13

14 The youth representatives shall be elected by each Annual Conference Council on Youth
15 Ministries, Youth Ministry Team, or other annual conference youth organization.

16

17

18

2. Voting

19 A youth representative shall be entitled to present matters to and have a voice on all matters
20 before the Jurisdictional Conference consistent with the Rules of Order but shall not be entitled
21 to vote.

22

23

24

3. Recommendation for Election

25 The Jurisdictional Council on Youth Ministry may recommend guidelines concerning the
26 election of youth representatives to the annual conference.⁽²⁾ Council on Youth Ministry, Youth
27 Ministry Team or other youth organization

28

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30

4. Youth Representatives to Boards, Agencies, Committees and The Vision Table

31

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A. Term

34 Youth elected or appointed to Boards, Agencies, Committees and the Vision Table shall serve
35 for the quadrennium. The age of the youth at the time of appointment determines eligibility for
36 the quadrennium.

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⁽²⁾ ¶2716, 2016 BoD

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1 **B. Eligibility for Membership**

2
3 Youth considered for membership on the Boards, Agencies, Committees and the Vision Table
4 shall come from names offered to the NEJ by each annual conference's Council on Youth
5 Ministries, Youth Ministry Team or other youth organization through the NEJ Council on Youth
6 Ministries and pursuant to the BoD.⁽³⁾

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8
9
10 **C. Vacancies**

11
12 Vacancies shall be filled by the NEJ Council on Youth Ministry.

13
14
15 **Article V – NEJ Young Adult Council**

16
17 **1. Nominations and Eligibility for Membership**

18
19 Membership on this Council shall consist of two young adults from each annual conference, one
20 layperson and one clergyperson, defined as not younger than age 18 or older than age 35.
21 Eligibility for membership on the Young Adult Council (YAC) shall include young adults who
22 apply to serve on the YAC, using the YAC application process; and those young adults who are
23 recommended by each Annual Conference delegation.

24
25 Members of the YAC shall be elected by a subcommittee of the Nominations Committee and
26 elected by the Jurisdiction. This subcommittee shall consist of the YAC Co-Chairs; one member
27 of the NEJ Nominations Committee, selected by the Nominations Committee; one member of the
28 Vision Table; and the Bishop liaison to the YAC.

29
30 **2. Term of Office**

31
32 Young adults serving on the Young Adult Council shall serve for the quadrennium beginning
33 January 1 of the year following the meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference. The age of the
34 young adult at the time of appointment determines eligibility for the quadrennium.

35
36 **3. College of Bishops Liaison to Young Adult Council**

37
38 The College of Bishops shall select a bishop to liaison with and for the Young Adult Council.

39
40 **4. Organization**

41
42 There shall be two co-chairs, one layperson and one clergyperson, and a treasurer elected by and
43 from the membership of the Council.

44
45
46 ⁽³⁾ ¶ 705.2, 2016 BoD



1 **5. Purpose and Responsibilities**

2

3 The Young Adult Council shall:

- 4 **A.** Facilitate connection, communication, and coordination among young adult
5 engagement efforts in annual conferences in the Jurisdiction;
- 6 **B.** Seek to offer opportunities for fellowship, leadership development, and ministry for
7 young adults within the NEJ;
- 8 **C.** Give voice to the specific needs, challenges, and leadership perspectives of young
9 adults for the benefit of the entire church;
- 10 **D.** Advocate for young adult ministries and inclusion of young adult leadership in the
11 church; and
- 12 **E.** Submit a report for inclusion in the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

13

14

15 **Article VI – STANDING COMMITTEES**

16

17 The NEJ shall have four (4) standing committees, as follows: Rules, Program and
18 Arrangements, Finance and Administration, Annual Conference Boundaries.

19

20 **1. Nominations and Eligibility for Membership**

21

22 Members of standing committees shall be recommended by the Nominations Committee and
23 elected by the Jurisdictional Conference.

24

25 Eligibility for membership on standing committees shall include delegates, reserve delegates and
26 youth representatives to the Jurisdictional Conference recommended by the Annual Conference
27 delegations; and young adult representatives named by the Young Adult Council.

28

29 It is recommended that the elected membership of each committee have an equal number of
30 clergy (divided equally between male and female), lay men and lay women.

31

32 A delegate, reserve delegate, or representative shall serve as a voting member of only one
33 standing committee.

34

35 **2. Term of Office**

36

37 The quadrennial term of office on standing committees shall begin immediately following the
38 quadrennial meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference.

39

40 **3. Recommendations to Jurisdictional Nominating
41 Committee by Annual Conference Delegations**

42

43 Each annual conference delegation to the Jurisdictional Conference shall recommend to the NEJ
44 Committee on Nominations – from persons who are delegates, reserve delegates, and youth
45 representatives to the Jurisdictional Conference – one clergy, one lay man, one lay woman, and
46 one youth, for membership on each standing committee. Delegates and youth representatives

1 may be nominated by annual conference delegations to more than one standing committee but
2 may be elected by the NEJ to only one.

3
4 These recommendations shall be submitted in writing to the Jurisdictional Secretary at least
5 ninety (90) days prior to the convening of the Jurisdictional Conference.

6

7

4. Organization

8

9 Unless provided otherwise herein, each standing committee shall meet at the Jurisdictional
10 Conference as soon after election of committee membership as the Jurisdictional Conference
11 program permits. This initial meeting shall be convened by a bishop designated by the College
12 of Bishops, at which time the committee shall organize by electing a chairperson, vice-
13 chairperson and secretary. If the chairperson is clergy, the vice-chairperson shall be a lay person,
14 and vice-versa.

15

16

5. Meetings and Budget Requests

17

18 At its initial meeting, each standing committee shall review the written report of its predecessor
19 committee. Each committee shall determine its time of meetings, either during the period of the
20 Jurisdictional Conference as the program may permit, or after adjournment of the Conference as
21 necessary funds may be provided.

22

23 Each standing committee, through its chairperson, shall submit a budget request for the
24 succeeding quadrennial to the Committee on Finance and Administration at a date determined by
25 the Committee on Finance and Administration. The standing committee may request the
26 opportunity to make a personal presentation of its budget request, or the Committee on Finance
27 and Administration may request the personal appearance.

28

29

6. Reports

30

31 At least ninety (90) days prior to the convening of the Jurisdictional Conference, each standing
32 committee shall file with the Jurisdictional Secretary a written report of its activities during the
33 preceding quadrennium for inclusion in the first issue of the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

34

35

7. Vacancies in Committee Membership

36

37 Nominations for vacancies occurring during the session of the Jurisdictional Conference shall be
38 made by the Annual Conference delegation from which the vacancy occurs.

39

40 Any vacancy in the membership of a standing committee occurring after adjournment of the
41 Jurisdictional Conference shall be filled through appointment by the College of Bishops, after
42 consultation with the Annual Conference delegation from which the vacancy occurs. Such
43 appointment shall be made with due regard to the conditions of eligibility for membership on the
44 committee with the vacancy.

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8. Attendance Policy

Persons elected to standing committees who fail to attend two consecutive meetings, without any response or explanation, shall be referred to the College of Bishops for consultation as to their possible replacement. Any person who misses a majority of called meetings, whether excused or not, shall be referred to the College of Bishops for replacement, either by the College or following the procedures set forth in the BoD, this Plan of Organization or these Rules as related to the Committee needing a replacement.

9. Membership and Responsibilities

A. Rules Committee

Membership of this Committee shall include one delegate or reserve delegate from each annual conference, one youth representative, one young adult named by the Young Adult Council, and one bishop.

The Rules Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

- Review and make a recommendation for or against any proposed amendments to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order;
- Report to the next Jurisdictional Conference such amendments to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order as in its judgment are necessary;
- Provide a report to the Jurisdictional Secretary for inclusion in the *DCA*;
- Consult with the NEJ Episcopacy Committee to develop a form to be used by a nominating entity (Rule 34) to describe the process used to endorse the nominee(s) recommended for election;
- Update the Disciplinary references in the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order each quadrennium; and
- Provide a quadrennial budget request to the NEJ Finance and Administration committee.

B. Program and Arrangements Committee

Membership of this Committee shall be composed of one delegate or reserve delegate from each annual conference; one youth representative; one young adult named by the Young Adult Council; and the bishop of the Area where the Jurisdictional Conference will be held.

The Program and Arrangements Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

- Select the place and make detailed arrangements for the next meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference, unless the Jurisdictional Conference shall specifically express its desire to meet in a certain place and the committee finds it possible to make arrangements to meet at such designated place;

- 1 • Arrange for the details of the physical accommodations of the Conference;
2 • Arrange for the program;
3 • Provide delegates with opportunities to meet with and interview each of the persons who
4 have been nominated for the episcopacy;
5 • Respond to questions that arise with respect to the appropriateness of any pre-Conference
6 communication regarding episcopal candidates;
7 • Provide a report to the Jurisdictional Secretary for inclusion in the *DCA*; and
8 • Provide a quadrennial budget request to the NEJ Finance and Administration Committee.
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13 **C. Finance and Administration Committee**
14

15 Membership of this committee shall be composed of three (3) clergy; one (1) annual conference
16 treasurer; three (3) lay men; three (3) lay women; two (2) youth representatives; two (2) young
17 adults named by the Young Adult Council; and one bishop. Additionally, any member of the
18 General Council on Finance and Administration who resides within the bounds of the
19 Conference shall be ex officio members, with voice and vote.
20

21 These committee members shall not be members of any other Jurisdictional Conference
22 committee.
23

24 The Finance and Administration Committee shall have the following responsibilities:
25

- 26 • Supervise the NEJ Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer;
27 • In conjunction with the Vision Table, during the year preceding Jurisdictional
28 Conference, solicit budget requests for the next quadrennium;
29 • Develop the sessions, administrative and program budgets;
30 • Submit the total budget and recommendation of a formula to apportion the budget to the
31 annual conferences to the meeting of the Vision Table just prior to the meeting of the
32 Jurisdictional Conference;
33 • Submit the total budget to the Jurisdictional Conference on the first day for information
34 and clarification;
35 • Review budget requests or amendments by the end of the first day's plenary sessions and
36 recommend a final budget to the Conference;
37 • Recommend to the Jurisdictional Conference the final amount to be apportioned to each
38 annual conference;
39 • Develop a process for payment of vouchers, in consultation with the Treasurer;
40 • Arrange for an audit to be conducted at least every two years and whenever the Treasurer
41 changes.
42

43 **D. Annual Conference Boundaries**
44



1 Membership of this Committee shall include one (1) delegate or reserve delegate from each
 2 annual conference of the jurisdiction; one youth representative; one young adult named by the
 3 Young Adult Council; and one bishop.

4
 5 This Committee shall recommend to the Jurisdictional Conference and the College of Bishops
 6 the boundaries of the annual conferences within the Jurisdiction, provided that there shall be o
 7 annual conference with membership of fewer than 50 ordained clergy in full connection, except
 8 by consent of the General Conference as provided in the BoD. ⁽⁴⁾ In the case of episcopal areas,
 9 however, the committee shall recommend to the College of Bishops and the Jurisdictional
 10 Episcopacy Committee, the names, numbers, and boundaries of episcopal areas. ⁽⁵⁾

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 13

14 **Article VII – CONFERENCE SESSION COMMITTEES**

15

16
 17 The NEJ shall have four (4) committees as follows: Credentials; Journal; Courtesies; and
 18 Nominations.

19

20 **1. Membership**

21

22 There shall be two clergy and two lay persons on each of these committees appointed by the
 23 College of Bishops, except for the Nominations Committee.

24

25 Membership on the Nominations Committee shall be composed of the active bishops of the
 26 Jurisdiction; one clergy, one lay man and one lay woman from each annual conference of the
 27 Jurisdiction who are delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference, selected by their delegation; two
 28 youth representatives to the Conference named by the College of Bishops; and two young adults
 29 named by the Young Adult Council.

30

31 Members of these committees do not require election by the Jurisdiction Conference.

32

33 Eligibility for appointment to these Committees shall include those persons authorized to serve
 34 on Standing Committees (Article VI.1), and others identified by the College of Bishops (Article
 35 III.2). It is recommended that each committee have an equal number of ordained clergy (divided
 36 equally between male and female), lay men and lay women.

37

38 **2. Term of Office**

39

40 Each NEJ session committee shall be considered discharged upon making its final report to the
 41 Jurisdiction.

42

43

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46 ⁽⁴⁾ ¶27.4, 2016 BoD

1 (5) ¶¶ 40 and 524, 2016 BoD; Judicial Council Decision 1312.

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3. Membership and Responsibilities

5

6

A. Credentials Committee

7

8 This Committee shall review the delegate registrations and report the number of delegates
9 present to the NEJ Secretary.

10

11 This Committee shall review substitutions of delegates and youth representatives as reported by
12 the chairperson of the respective annual conference delegation (Rule 5). Such reports from
13 annual conference delegation chairs shall be in writing on a form provided for this purpose by
14 the Jurisdictional Secretary.

15

16 The chairperson of the respective annual conference delegations shall report to this Committee
17 the absence of any delegate and the legal reserve delegate to be substituted. A reserve delegate
18 may be seated when the substitution has been reported to this committee, on a form provided for
19 this purpose by the Jurisdictional Secretary.

20

21 This Committee shall report substitutions found to be in order in the *Daily Christian Advocate* as
22 soon as practical.

23

24 This Committee shall consider questions about delegates qualifications and present
25 recommendations to the Jurisdictional Conference for action.

26

27

B. Journal Committee

28

29 This Committee shall daily examine the minutes of the day and *Daily Christian Advocate* and
30 report its findings to the Conference with appropriate recommendations, if any.

31

32

C. Courtesies Committee

33

34 This Committee shall, with due regard to brevity, prepare and present to the NEJ Conference for
35 its action, such complimentary resolutions as occasion may demand. This Committee shall also
36 arrange and propose to the Jurisdictional Conference the presentation of such persons who, in the
37 committee's judgment, may appropriately be given the courtesy of introduction and/or privilege
38 of briefly addressing the body.

39

40

D. Nominations Committee

41

42 The Nominations Committee shall meet immediately prior to the convening of the Jurisdictional
43 Conference. The Committee shall nominate persons to serve on Jurisdictional committees, the
44 Vision Table, General Boards and Agencies and the UMC Connectional Table.

45



1 In all recommendations, the Nominations Committee shall consider annual conference
 2 representation and assure diversity. Preference for membership on Jurisdictional committees
 3 shall be given to delegates, reserve delegates, and youth representatives who are present at the
 4 Jurisdictional Conference, as well as two young adults recommended by the Young Adult
 5 Council.

6
 7 The Nominations Committee shall have a subcommittee to select members of the Young Adult
 8 Council. This subcommittee shall consist of the YAC Co-Chairs; one member of the NEJ
 9 Nominations Committee, selected by the Nominations Committee; one member of the Vision
 10 Table; and the Bishop liaison to the YAC.

11
 12
 13
 14 *Source of persons for recommendation by the Nominating Committee*

15
 16 (1) Standing Committees:

17 Members recommended to serve on standing committees shall be NEJ delegates, reserve
 18 delegates, and youth representatives, recommended by the Annual Conference
 19 delegations; and young adults named by the Young Adult Council.

20
 21 (2) General Boards and Agencies:

22 Nominations for the general boards and agencies shall be taken from those persons
 23 eligible to serve on standing committees and the additional persons recommended by
 24 each Annual Conference, following the process described in the BoD. ⁽⁶⁾

25

26

27

Article VIII – DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEES

28

29

1. General Provisions

30

31 Membership on these committees shall be nominated by the College of Bishops and elected by
 32 the Jurisdictional Conference, as provided by the BoD. ⁽⁷⁾

33

34

2. Convening these Committees

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36 The Committee on Investigations and Appeals shall each be convened at the site of the
 37 Jurisdictional Conference by a bishop selected by the College of Bishops for the purpose of
 38 electing a president, vice-president and secretary.

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44 ⁽⁶⁾ ¶¶ 705.1(a) and (b); and 705.2, 2016 BoD

45 ⁽⁷⁾ ¶ 2716, 2016 BoD

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3. Responsibilities and Membership

A. Committee on Investigations

This Committee shall perform those functions consistent with the BoD.⁽⁸⁾
Persons elected to this committee shall not be eligible to serve on the Committee on Appeals.

B. Committee on Appeals

This Committee shall perform those functions consistent with the BoD.⁽⁹⁾ In addition, within 90 days of conclusion of the NEJ Conference, this Committee shall review the Rules of Procedure developed by its predecessor committee and make such modification as it deems necessary. These Rules shall thereafter be posted on the NEJ website.

In the event the president of this Committee is unable to serve, the vice-president shall preside. In the event a member is unable to serve at a particular time or for a particular case, an alternate, chosen by lot by the College (Article III.3), shall serve in his/her place.

Persons elected to this committee shall not be eligible to serve on the Committee on Investigation.

Article IX – ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The NEJ shall have a Commission on Archives and History, as described and mandated by The BoD.⁽¹⁰⁾ Membership of this Jurisdictional Commission shall be as described in the BoD.⁽¹¹⁾

Article X – UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The NEJ shall have a United Methodist Women’s organization, as described, and mandated by the BoD.⁽¹²⁾

Article XI – UNITED METHODIST MEN

The NEJ shall have a United Methodist Men’s organization, as described, and mandated by the BoD.⁽¹³⁾

⁽⁸⁾ ¶2703, 2016 BoD
⁽⁹⁾ ¶¶27.6 and 2716.1, 2016 BoD
⁽¹⁰⁾ ¶532, 2016 BoD
⁽¹¹⁾ ¶532, 2016 BoD
⁽¹²⁾ ¶536, 2016 BoD
⁽¹³⁾ ¶ 537, 2016 BoD

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Article XII – NEJ POLICIES

1. Petitions and Resolutions

Petitions and/or resolutions shall be submitted to the NEJ Secretary at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the first day of the NEJ Jurisdictional meeting in order to allow time for petitions and/or resolutions with financial implications to be scheduled for consideration prior to consideration of the final budget.

Petitions and/or resolutions with financial implications or that amend the Plan of Organization or Rules of Order shall be immediately referred to the relevant Committee – Finance and Administration and/or Rules – which shall consider the proposals and prepare to report on the same to the NEJ.

2. Financial Policies

A. Reimbursement of expenses for delegates

Only the delegates seated at the opening of Conference shall be eligible to receive lodging, meals and travel at Jurisdictional expense. If, during the Conference, a reserve delegate is permanently seated in place of an original delegate, the original delegate shall make the necessary adjustments in expenses with the seated reserve.

B. Reimbursement of expenses for youth representatives

The expenses of youth representatives shall be paid by the NEJ in the same manner and extent as in the case of an elected delegate.

C. Expenses for Required Attendance of Non-delegates

Any member of a standing committee who is not an elected delegate to the ensuing Jurisdictional Conference, but whose attendance is required for the proper conduct of business at that session of the Jurisdictional Conference, shall be entitled to payment of expenses for the period of required attendance in the same manner and extent as in the case of an elected delegate.

D. Financing

Program activities of boards, agencies, and organizations within or related to the NEJ shall be financed by the participants, unless funding is provided in the Jurisdictional budget or through special funding under Article XII.2.E. of this article.

1 **E. Special Funding**

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3 If, between sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference, the Vision Table shall determine that a
4 program activity or event that could not have been presented for consideration at the last session
5 of the Jurisdictional Conference is consistent with the mission of The UMC in the Northeastern
6 Jurisdiction and should be supported, the proponent shall work with the Vision Table to develop,
7 review and evaluate the cost of the proposed activity or event. If the Vision Table should
8 determine that such cost cannot be financed fully from other sources, it may authorize a special
9 allocation of funds from the current budget. When expenditure of unbudgeted funds is
10 necessary, the Vision Table shall refer the proposed expenditure to the Finance and
11 Administration Committee for its approval and determination of the source of funding.

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13 **F. Conditions of Disbursement**

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15 Funds authorized in the Jurisdictional budget or allocated under Article XII.2.E. shall be
16 disbursed by the Jurisdictional Treasurer upon submission of appropriate vouchers. Vouchers
17 submitted by the participants must be approved by the chairperson of the board, agency, or
18 organization and documented by invoices and/or receipts.

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21 **3. Unpaid Apportionments**

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23 Unpaid apportionments from the previous quadrennium shall be due and payable by each annual
24 conference in addition to apportionments of the current Quadrennium.

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26 Apportionment payments received for the current Quadrennium shall be applied first to the
27 unpaid amount of the previous Quadrennium until said amount is paid in full, after which
28 payments shall be credited to the current Quadrennium apportionments.

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30 **4. Nominations**

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32 Once elected by the NEJ Conference, standing committee members shall not be moved from one
33 committee to another by individual bishops or by the College of Bishops.

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PART B – RULES OF ORDER

Article I – DAILY

Schedule Rule

Rule 1 – Daily Order

The daily order for the Jurisdictional Conference shall be as approved by the Conference.

Rule 2 – Agenda

After devotional services, the daily sessions of the Conference shall be conducted as follows:

- Report of the Committee on Journal;
- Report of the Committee on Credentials;
- Report of the Committee on Courtesies;
- Calendar; and
- Miscellaneous business.

Article II- PRESIDING OFFICERS

Rule 3 – Duties of the Chair

The bishop presiding shall be the legal chairperson of the Jurisdictional Conference. He or she shall decide points of order raised by delegates or youth representatives, and shall rule on points of order not raised, as necessary to conform to these rules of order.

Rule 4 – Deference to the Chair

When the presiding officer stands and calls the Conference to order, no delegate or youth representative shall speak, address the chair, or stand, while the presiding officer stands.

Article III – RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Rule 5 – Attendance and Seating Reserves

No member, unless hindered by sickness or otherwise prevented from being present, shall be absent from the sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference. All absentees shall be reported by the chairperson of each annual conference delegation to the Committee on Credentials using a form provided for this purpose by the NEJ Secretary. No reserve delegate shall have the privilege of being seated until the substitution has been approved by the Committee on Credentials.

1

Rule 6 – Directions for Securing the Floor

2 Any delegate or youth representative desire to speak to the Conference shall raise the appropriate
3 card and, after recognition, state his or her name, the annual conference represented and,
4 respectfully address the matter for which the delegate or youth representative sought recognition.
5 The delegate or youth representative shall speak from a microphone as provided, unless
6 requested by the presiding officer to proceed to the speaker’s platform.

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Rule 7 – Interrupting the Speaker

10 No delegate or youth representative who has the floor may be interrupted except for a breach of
11 order, a misrepresentation, or to direct the attention of the Conference to the fact that the time
12 has arrived for an order of the day, a special order, or to raise a question of personal privilege.

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Rule 8 – Speaking More Than Once; Length of Speech

16 No delegate or youth representative shall speak a second time on the same question if any other
17 delegate or youth representative, who has not spoken desires the floor. Likewise, no delegate or
18 youth representative shall speak more than twice on the same subject under the same motion, nor
19 longer than three minutes unless the time shall be extended by the Conference. This limit may
20 be expanded or reduced by majority vote of the Conference at any time.

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Rule 9 – Question of Personal Privilege

24 A delegate or youth representative claiming the floor at any time for a question of personal
25 privilege shall be allowed to indicate briefly the nature of the question and, if found in order by
26 the presiding officer, shall proceed until the presiding officer judges that the privilege has been
27 exhausted, but in no event to exceed three minutes.

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Rule 10 – Voting Area of Conference

31 Only delegates within the voting area of the Conference when the vote is taken shall be entitled
32 to vote. There shall also be a designated private lactation space located in the voting area.

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Rule 11 – Voting Procedures

36 Voting shall be by such method as announced at the beginning of the session and may include a
37 vote by a show of cards/hands and voice, by standing, or by secret ballot. Secret ballots may be
38 taken by written or electronic means.

39

40 A vote count may be ordered on call of any delegate or youth representative supported by one-
41 fifth of the delegates present and voting, in which case the delegates shall rise from their seats
42 and stand until counted and/or have an electronic ballot.

43

44 No other business shall be in order when a vote is being taken or when the previous question has
45 been called until the process is completed, except such as relates to the vote itself, or that which



1 can be appropriately fitted into the time while waiting for the report of the Secretary regarding a
2 vote.

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Article IV – BUSINESS PROCEDURES

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Rule 12 – Calendar: Regular and Non-Current Reports

8 The Secretary shall keep a chronological record of orders of the day and reports of committees
9 (Rule 42). This record shall be called the calendar. The matters of business placed on it shall be
10 considered in order, unless by a two-thirds vote of the Conference an item is taken up out of its
11 order.

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Rule 13 – Motion for Adoption of Reports and Resolutions Unnecessary

20 Whenever a report of a committee signed by the chairperson and secretary thereof, or a
21 resolution signed by two or more members of the Conference, shall be presented to the
22 Conference for its action, it shall be deemed in proper order for consideration by the Conference
23 without the formality of a motion to adopt and a second thereto.

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Rule 14 – Required Forms for Reports, Resolutions, Motions

27 When requested by the Secretary, motions, including amendments, shall be presented in writing
28 signed by the author.

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Rule 15 – Reading of Report and Resolutions

32 Resolutions, committee reports, and communications to the Conference shall be read by the
33 Secretary, except as provided in Rule 43.

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ARTICLE V – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

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Rule 16 – Challenge to Ruling of Presiding Officer

39 Any ruling by the presiding officer shall be subject to an appeal to the Conference by any
40 delegate or youth representative, without debate, except that the presiding officer and the person
41 who appeals, in that order, shall each have three minutes for a statement in support of their
42 respective positions. A tie vote in the case of an appeal shall sustain the presiding officer. Any
43 delegate or youth representative who raises a point of order shall cite by number the rule
44 adjudged violated.

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1 **Rule 17 – Division of Question**

2 Before a vote is taken any delegate shall have the right to call for a division of any question, if it
3 is subject to such division. If no delegate objects, the division shall be made, but if there is
4 objection, the presiding officer shall put the question of a division to a vote, not waiting for a
5 second.

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8 **Rule 18 – Alterations of Motions, etc.**

9 When a motion is made and seconded and stated by the presiding officer or a resolution is
10 introduced and seconded, or a committee report is read or published in the *Daily Christian*
11 *Advocate*, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the Conference and may not be altered except
12 by action of the Conference.

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15 **Rule 19 – Non-debatable Motions**

16 The following motions shall be acted upon without debate:

- 17 ○ To adjourn, when unqualified, except to adjourn the conference finally;
- 18 ○ To suspend a rule or rules;
- 19 ○ To lay upon the table;
- 20 ○ To call for the previous question;
- 21 ○ To reconsider a non-debatable motion;
- 22 ○ To limit or extend the limits of the debate; and
- 23 ○ To call for an order of the day.

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26 **Rule 20 – Right of “The Main Question”**

27 The main question may be opened to debate under the following motions: to adopt, to commit,
28 to substitute, to postpone, and to reconsider. No new motion, resolution, or subject shall be
29 entertained until the one under consideration shall have been disposed of, except as provided in
30 Rule 11. The foregoing does not apply to secondary motions if otherwise allowable in the
31 existing parliamentary situation.

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36 **Rule 21 – Precedence of Secondary Motions**

37 If any one or more of the following motions shall be made when one or more other motions are
38 pending, the order of the precedence in relation to one another shall be the same as the order of
39 their listing below:

40

- 41 (1) To fix the time at which the Conference shall adjourn (subject to amendment, or it may be
42 laid upon the table);
- 43 (2) To adjourn;
- 44 (3) To take recess;
- 45 (4) To raise a question of privilege;
- 46 (5) To call for an order of the day;
- 47 (6) To order the previous question;

- 1 (7) To lay upon the table;
 2 (8) To postpone to a given time;
 3 (9) To limit or extend the limits of debate;
 4 (10) To refer;
 5 (11) To amend or to substitute (one amendment being allowed to an amendment);
 6 (12) To postpone indefinitely.

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Rule 22 – Tabling Related Matters

10 No motion that adheres to another motion, or has another motion adhering to it, can be laid upon
 11 the table by itself. Such motions, if laid upon the table, carry with them the motion to which they
 12 adhere, or which adhere to them.

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Rule 23 – Reference of Section of a Report

16 It shall be in order for the Conference to refer to a committee a section or a part of a report or
 17 resolution that is before the Conference for consideration, or any amendment thereto.

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Rule 24 – Procedure for Consideration of Substitutes

21 When a resolution or committee report is properly before the Conference for consideration and
 22 action (even if amendments thereto are pending), a substitute therefore may be offered by any
 23 delegate or youth representative moving that the same be substituted for the resolution or report
 24 under consideration. The presiding officer shall decide whether the motion to substitute is in
 25 face a bonafide substitute for all that is under consideration and not a motion to amend by
 26 substitution.

27

28 If the substitute is ruled in order, the Conference shall then proceed to perfect the original report
 29 or resolution including consideration and action upon any amendments that may be offered to it.
 30 The same perfecting process shall then be followed with respect to the substitute. The questions
 31 shall be put first on the motion to substitute, followed by the option to adopt the report or
 32 resolution; provided, however, that the option for the previous question shall not be in order on
 33 the adoption of the report or recommendation or on making the proposed substitution until
 34 opportunity has been given for at least two delegates or youth representatives to speak on each
 35 side of the question or substitution or adoption.

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Rule 25 – Previous Question

39 When any delegate or youth representative moves the previous question (that is, that the vote be
 40 now taken on the motion or motions pending), that delegate or youth representative shall indicate
 41 to what he or she intends it to apply, if any secondary motion or motions are also pending. If the
 42 delegate or youth representative does not so indicate, it shall be regarded as applying only to the
 43 immediately pending question. This motion shall be taken without debate, and shall require a
 44 two-thirds vote of those present and voting for its adoption, and if adopted the vote shall be taken
 45 on the motion or motions to which it applies without further debate, except as provided in Rule
 46 24.

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Rule 26 – Unlawful Motion After Speech

4 It shall not be in order for a delegate or youth representative, immediately after discussing a
5 pending question and before relinquishing the floor, to make a motion whose adoption would
6 limit or stop debate.

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Rule 27 – Exceptions to Majority Vote

10 A majority of those voting, a quorum being present, shall decide all questions, with the following
11 exceptions:

12 (1) One-fifth of those present and voting shall suffice to sustain a call for a vote count (Rule 11).

13 (2) A two-thirds vote of those present and voting shall be required to sustain a motion to suspend
14 (Rule 30) or amend (Rule 31) the rules; to sustain a motion for the previous question (Rule 25);
15 to take a calendar item out of order (Rule 12); to set aside an order of the day; to consider an
16 order of the day before the time set therefore; or any motion which adoption would limit debate.

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Rule 28 – Reconsideration

20 A motion to reconsider an action of the Conference shall be in order at any time, if offered by a
21 member who voted with the prevailing side. If the motion it is proposed to reconsider is non-
22 debatable, the motion to reconsider may not be debated.

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Rule 29 – Motions to Adjourn

26 The motion to adjourn, when unqualified, shall be taken without debate, and shall always be in
27 order, except when:

28 (1) a delegate or youth representative has the floor;

29 (2) a question is actually put, or a vote is being taken and before it is finally decided;

30 (3) the previous question has been ordered and action thereunder is pending;

31 (4) motion to adjourn has been lost, and no business or debate has intervened; or

32 (5) the motion to fix the time at which the Conference shall adjourn is pending.

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34 The foregoing does not apply to a motion for final adjournment of the Conference.

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Rule 30 – Suspending Rules

38 The operation of any of the provisions of this Plan of Organization or these Rules of Order may
39 be suspending at any time by two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting. (Rule 27 (2)).

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Rule 31 – Amending Rules

43 The Plan of Organization and these Rules of Order may be amended or changed by two-thirds
44 vote of the delegates present and voting (Rule 27(2)), provided the proposed change or
45 amendment has been presented to the Conference in writing and referred to the Committee on
46 Rules , which committee shall report thereon no later than the day following.



1 **Rule 32 – Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised Supplemental Authority**
 2 In any parliamentary situation not clearly covered by the Plan of Organization or these Rules of
 3 Order, the Jurisdictional Conference shall be governed in its action by the current edition of
 4 Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised.

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ARTICLE VI – ELECTION OF BISHOPS

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Rule 33 - Election Process

The process for the election of bishops shall be governed by the rules set forth in the BoD as
 supplemented by this Article. ⁽¹⁴⁾

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Rule 34 – Nominations

17 In addition to nominations to the episcopacy by an Annual Conference, as provide by the
 18 BOD, ⁽¹⁵⁾ the NEJ shall recognize nominations made by national racial and ethnic caucuses, as
 19 listed in the current edition of the BoD, or by their NEJ-related caucuses.

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If the nomination is brought forward by a group or caucus, other than as provide in this Rule, a
 group of not more than six (6) persons comprised of three (3) current bishops (selected by the
 College of Bishops) and three (3) members of the Vision Table (selected by the Vision Table)
 shall decide whether to allow the nomination to be brought to the Jurisdictional Conference. The
 chairperson of this group shall be selected by the President of the College of Bishops. Other
 persons may be nominated who receive ten (10) votes, or five (5) percent of the valid votes cast,
 whichever is less. ⁽¹⁶⁾

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All elders in full connection with any annual conference in the connection are eligible to be
 elected to the office of bishop. ⁽¹⁷⁾

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⁽¹⁴⁾ ¶405, 2016 BoD

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⁽¹⁵⁾ ¶405.1, 2016 BoD

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⁽¹⁶⁾ ¶405.1, 2016 BoD

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⁽¹⁷⁾ ¶403.1, 2016 BoD

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Rule 35 – Nominee Advocacy

Nominees may engage in Christian conversation with individuals and groups, including communication by any means, but shall not initiate these conversations. Mass-produced advocacy materials, mass mailings by electronic or postal means; social media campaigns; campaign paraphernalia; and fundraising for the purpose of campaigning or supporting/opposing a nominee for the episcopacy are prohibited. Endorsements of nominees (Rule 34) by annual conferences; national racial and ethnic caucuses, as listed in the current edition of the BoD, or their NEJ-related caucus; and other organizations related to the UMC are permitted only one those organizations’ websites. Direct, unsolicited communication with NEJ delegates regarding endorsements are prohibited.

Rule 36 – NEJ Episcopal Nominee Information

Biographical information of episcopal nominees, approved by the nominee, shall be furnished to the Secretary on or before a date set by the Secretary. The Episcopacy Committee shall establish a standard format for such information that includes pertinent and helpful information, standard as to style and length, and a photograph. The Jurisdictional Secretary shall forward the information to the delegates and the reserve delegates at least two (2) weeks in advance of the meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference.⁽¹⁸⁾ No other promotional or informational material shall be exhibited or distributed except as provided in Rule 35.

When a person who is not a nominee of an Annual Conference; a national racial or ethnic caucus, as listed in the current edition of the BoD, or their NEJ-related caucus; or receives ten (10) votes, or five (5) percent of the valid votes cast, whichever is less (Rule 34), the Jurisdictional Secretary shall forthwith prepare and distribute to the delegates and reserve delegates information concerning that nominee.⁽¹⁹⁾

Rule 37 – Interviews

The Jurisdictional Secretary shall prepare a schedule that allows delegates an opportunity to participate in an interview process with each episcopal nominee, prior to the commencement of voting. To the extent space is available, reserve delegates and visitors may observe the interviews. Additional interviews may be scheduled by each annual conference delegation, as it desires.

Rule 38 – Voting

The Vision Table, in consultation with the Jurisdictional Secretary and the Program and Arrangements Committee, shall establish a voting procedure whereby each delegate shall cast a secret ballot.

⁽¹⁸⁾ ¶405.1, 2016 BoD
⁽¹⁹⁾ ¶405.1, 2016 BoD



1 If balloting is by electronic method, those nominees forwarded by an annual conference or
 2 recognized caucus shall be given a numeric ballot code, in alphabetical order. Following those
 3 nominees, all elders who are delegates or reserve delegates shall be assigned numeric ballot
 4 codes, in alphabetical order. A list of names and balloting codes shall be provided to the
 5 delegates.

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 8 Paper ballots shall be utilized for any write-in candidate. Upon submission of write-in ballots
 9 exceeding ten (10) votes or 5% of the valid votes cast for an individual, that person shall receive
 10 the next available numeric ballot code, if he or she has not already been assigned a code. When
 11 a numeric ballot code is added, the Jurisdictional Secretary shall provide that code to the
 12 delegates as soon as possible, but in any event prior to the next ballot.

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 14 Jurisdictional Conference delegates, in voting to elect bishops, shall give due consideration to the
 15 inclusiveness of the UMC with respect to sex, race, and national origin, as well as to the nature
 16 of superintendency as described in the BoD.

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 18 Prior to each ballot, the presiding officer shall ask for a period of discernment and prayer. In
 19 order for a ballot to be valid it shall contain as many names as there are persons to be elected.
 20 Any ballot for a nominee who has withdrawn shall be invalid.

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 22 Balloting shall continue until an eligible person receives sixty (60) percent or more of the valid
 23 ballots cast and until all vacancies are filled. ⁽²⁰⁾

24
 25 **Rule 39 – Withdrawal**

26 A nominee, upon being recognized by the presiding officer, may announce his/her withdrawal.
 27 The presiding officer, upon request, may permit a withdrawing nominee to make a brief
 28 comment, without reference for or against the election of other nominees.

29
 30 **Rule 40 – Consecration**

31 Consecration of bishops may take place at the session of the Jurisdictional Conference at which
 32 election occurs, or at a place and time designated by the Conference. ⁽²¹⁾ The Consecration
 33 Service may include bishops from other Jurisdictional and Central Conferences and
 34 representatives from other Christian Communions. ⁽²²⁾

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 41 ⁽²⁰⁾ ¶ 405.2b 2016 BoD
 42 ⁽²¹⁾ ¶ 405.2c 2016 BoD
 43 ⁽²²⁾ ¶ 405.2c 2016 BoD
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ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

Rule 41 – Duties and Prerogatives

When a memorial or resolution or any similar item is referred to a committee, it shall be understood that the whole question with which the paper has to do is referred for action. Reports to the Conference on all matters referred as resolutions, memorials, petitions, etc., shall cite the same, identifying them by the numbers they bear respectively, or in some other suitable manner.

When a committee ascertains that another committee is or should, in its judgment, be considering a subject, which the former is also considering, it shall proceed to arrange for a conference of representative committees in order to settle the question at issue.

Rule 42 – Copies of Reports to Secretary

At the close of each meeting, the chairperson or secretary of each NEJ committee shall provide the Jurisdictional Secretary with a copy of all reports adopted for the purpose of presentation to the Conference. The Secretary shall enter said reports onto the calendar in the order received and shall furnish the editor of the *Daily Christian Advocate* with one copy of each of said reports for publication in the next issue.

Rule 43 – Published Reports in Possession of Conference

A report of any committee signed by the chairperson and secretary thereof and printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* and succeeding digests shall be regarded as in the possession of the Conference on the day following its first appearance, or any time thereafter, in order for its consideration at the pleasure of the Conference



NEJ UMC - Virtual Special Called Session

Saturday, October 15, 2022 - 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Hosted by the New Jersey Annual Conference

Bishop John Schol Presiding

The Special Called Session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference began a welcome by Bishop Thomas Bickerton and worship. Bishop Cynthia Moore Koikoi gave the message.

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar called the meeting to order.

NEJ Secretary Tom Salsgiver (SUS) explained the voting procedures as well as participating in the parliamentary process.

NEJ Secretary, Tom Salsgiver (SUS) expressed thanks to the delegates, youth representatives, bishops, episcopacy committee, and Zoom guests. He acknowledged the Greater New Jersey staff, DCM, IT Team, Monitors from two General Agencies, NEJ Officers, and other identified people present who knew that only delegates may vote. He also stated that youth representatives have voice and may be recognized to speak about a matter before the conference, but do not have vote.

ORGANIZING MOTION

Secretary Salsgiver moved that the bar of the conference be all of the delegates on this Zoom webinar. They will have voice and vote. Additionally, on site at the Greater New Jersey Mission and Resource Center are delegates of the Jurisdictional Conference who also are part of the bar of the conference.

In addition, as part of the motion. He reported that there is a quorum to proceed with the special called session.

- Delegates Voting: 146
- In Favor: 129
- Against: 17
- Results: The motion passed.

POINT OF ORDER

Drew Dyson (GNJ) sought clarification in terms of paragraph 522 of The 2016 Book of Discipline, which outlines the role of the College of Bishops and Jurisdictional Conference presiding officers. He wanted clarity on whether it is appropriate for Bishops to present a report to the Body that contains a clear and specific recommendation on the number of Bishops to be elected. It could be viewed as a violation of paragraph 522 of the Book of Discipline and could be argued that it violates the constitutional principal separation of power as well.

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling responded that the Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops simply purposed to offer information as a gift, as an offering to the delegation for their discernment and their prayerful consideration as they do their work. This was expressly stated in the report that the College offered. The College does not believe that it crosses a line, nor is in violation of the Book of Discipline. The delegates were simply asked to receive it, consider it, and then do what they will with it as they do their elected work.

Drew Dyson followed that it was not the report itself that violates paragraph 522, it is the recommendation that delegates elect zero bishops. It crosses the line from the report to the recommendation to the Body. He requested a ruling from the chair. Bishop Schol, presiding bishop responded that paragraph 522 does not say anything preventing bishops from giving a report or making a recommendation. He indicated that bishops may present legislation to the General Conference, which is a form of a recommendation, and asked couldn't that be extended to the Jurisdictional Conference as well? After discussion, Bishop Schol ruled that the report as presented was in order.

APPEAL

Drew Dyson appealed the ruling of the Chair. After hearing each of their rationales, voting took place on the appeal of the chair's ruling.

- Delegates Voting: 148
- Yes – to sustain the chair's ruling: 75
- No – do not sustain the chair's ruling: 73
- Results: The Body sustained the Chair's ruling.

POINT OF ORDER

Rebecca Girrell (NE) questioned the adoption of Rules. She referenced NEJ Rule 50 on page 30 of the participant guide that states that the Body must adopt Rules to govern its meeting, which had not been done, which made the meeting out of order. Bishop Schol indicated Rebecca Girrell was correct and thanked Rebecca for bringing this to the attention of the Body.

MOTION

The NEJ Secretary Tom Salsgiver (SUS) moved that the Rules that were adopted in 2016 be used as the Rules for this Special Called Session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. There was a second.

Question from Rebecca Girrell (NE) sought clarity about meeting virtually and in person according to NEJ Rules and using Robert Rules were in accordance with Rules beginning on page 30. Bishop Schol shared that the NEJ Rules state that if it is not in the NEJ Rules, then Roberts Rules are used, which shows Rules for online meetings.

AMENDMENT

The motion was amended, which stated that basic information about page numbers and items of that nature will be responded to directly to the individual. But anything that pertained to the Body as a whole would need to come before the Body. It was seconded.

- Delegates voting: 138
- Yes – In favor: 126
- No – Against: 12
- Results: The amendment passed.

MOTION

To approve Rules that the Body will use including Roberts Rules of Order that will allow the Body to work virtually.

- Delegates voting: 139
- Yes – to adopt: 115



- No – to not adopt: 24
- Results: It passed

REPORTS

The Body heard conference reports that centered around collaborative work and affiliations within the Northeastern Jurisdiction in terms of sharing one or two Bishops.

- Report presented by Kathleen Kind (SUS). Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball, West Virginia Conference and Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Western Pennsylvania Conference, together supervise Susquehanna Conference
- Report presented by Megan Shitama (PD). Bishop LaTrelle M. Easterling supervises the Baltimore-Washington Conference and Peninsula Delaware Conference.
- Report presented by Dawn Taylor-Storm (EPA). Bishop John Schol supervises the Greater New Jersey Conference and Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

The report from the Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops was presented by Bishop LaTrelle Easterling (BW). She referenced pages 18 and 25-28 of the booklet. The College of Bishops is recommending to elect bishops in 2024 and the College of Bishops provide coverage for open episcopal areas.

Bonnie Marden presented the report from the Committee on Episcopacy, page 18-24 and 29. After prayer and discernment, the recommendation is for one bishop to be elected.

There was a question about how many were participating in the virtual meeting. The chair responded that 161 delegates registered to be a part of the jurisdictional conference. And online, there were 159 voting delegates. 161 registered. There are some delegates that are not voting on certain votes.

RECESS

The Conference recessed for 10 minutes.

Following the recess, it was proposed that instead of breaking into small groups for conversations, delegates would have the opportunity to have questions answered / receive information for them to vote on the Episcopacy Committee recommendation. Delegates would use the Zoom Chat feature to post questions.

MOTION

NEJ Secretary Salsgiver (SUS) moved that the Body would not move to small groups, but rather move to voting once the Committee on Episcopacy made their motion regarding the election of one Bishop.

Bishop Schol clarified that the Body would eliminate the small group work and allow people to type in their questions. The motion was seconded. There were four speeches against the motion and no speech for the motion. There was a motion to call the question and a second.

The call for the question required a two-thirds vote.

- Delegates voting: 143
- Yes – call the question: 126

- No – continue discussion on the motion: 17
- Results: Needed 95 to pass. It passed.

MOTION

The conference voted on the motion to reorder the agenda.

- Delegates voting: 140
- Yes – In favor to reorder the agenda and not going into the small groups: 68
- No – If you do want to go into small groups: 72
- Results – The motion does not pass. The conference recessed to meet in small groups to identify questions and have conversation among the delegates.

After small groups met, Bishop Easterling (BW) and Bonnie Marden (NE) answered questions raised by the delegates.

MOTION

On behalf of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy, Tom Lank (GNJ) moved that the 2022 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference hold an election for one Bishop. Because it came from committee, a second was not needed. There was a speech against the motion.

AMENDMENT

Fred Brewington (NY) presented an amendment to the motion, for electing two bishops instead of one. There was a second. He provided rationale followed by speeches for and against.

CALL THE QUESTION

Kathleen Kind (SUS) called for the question on the amendment to elect two bishops. It was seconded.

- Delegates voting: 147
- Yes – in favor of calling the question on the amendment: 124
- No – those who wanted to continue conversation on the amendment: 23
- Results: Required votes was 98. It passed.

AMENDMENT

To amend the number of bishops to be elected for the Northeastern Jurisdiction from one to two.

- Delegates voting: 147
- Yes – to amend the motion for electing two bishops: 81
- No – to not amend the motion for electing two bishops: 66
- Results: The amendment passed.

The motion is now for the election of two bishops.

MOTION TO POSTPONE

Harriet Olson (GNJ) made a motion to postpone conversations or refer the final number of bishops to be elected to the next session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. It was seconded. There were three speeches for and two speeches against the motion.



CALL THE QUESTION

The question to refer to the November Northeastern Jurisdiction Conference for the final number to be determined. There was second.

- Delegates voting: 146
- Yes - to refer vote on the question: 128
- No - to continue conversation: 18
- Results: Two-thirds required which would be 97. There was a call for the question.

VOTING

Harriet Olson (NE) motion to refer the question to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference

- Delegates voting: 145
- Yes - to refer: 62
- No - to refer: 83
- Results: It did not pass.

CALL THE QUESTION

The amended main motion to elect two Bishops was called by Randall Bain (WPA). There was a second.

- Delegates voting: 147
- Yes – to call the question for electing two bishops: 111
- No – to not call the question for electing two bishops: 36
- Results: Needed 98 votes for two-thirds. It passed.

POINT OF ORDER

Rebecca Girrell (NE) raised a Point of Order about speeches. Her question was about following rules regarding three speeches for and three speeches against when voting. Bishop Schol explained that he researched the matter and there was not a Rule that said how many speeches were needed before someone could call the question. He also indicated that he did not find any such rule in Roberts Rules of Order. The call for a question was in order.

VOTING: EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE MOTION

The Body moved to vote on the Episcopacy Committee motion, by Fred Brewington (NY) to elect two bishops instead of one bishop.

- Delegates voting: 150
- Yes – elect two bishops: 81
- No – do not elect two bishops: 69
- Results: The motion passed to elect two bishops at the November session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

DECLARATORY DECISION

Jay Williams (NE): “I move that the jurisdictional conference request a declaratory decision from the judicial council according to paragraph 2610.2F as to whether the zero-election recommendation by the NEJ College of Bishops is legislative in nature and in violation of paragraph 49. Article V of the constitution and/or paragraph 415.1 and/or paragraph 522 regarding the constitutional separation of powers”. It was seconded. Bishop Schol reminded the body that this motion required a 20% vote to forward the question to the Judicial Council.

- Delegates voting: 136
- Yes: Forward to the Judicial Council: 81
- No: Do not forward to the Judicial Council: 55
- Results: It passed. The request for a declaratory decision will be sent to the Judicial Council

QUESTION OF LAW

Jay Williams (NE) submitted a question of law: ““Is the special 10/15 session – held virtually using Zoom webinar with chat function regularly disabled and without the capacity to see and speak to one another and confer – a legitimate jurisdictional conference that is in order and keeping with the mandate to holy conference, according to paragraphs 27, 518, 521 and in accordance with the mandate for open meetings prescribed by par 722? And is the special session also in violation of the NEJ Rules, given that the body did not adopt a format to govern electronic meetings, as required by Roberts Rules of Order?” That question will be answered and sent to the Judicial Council within 30 days.

CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT

Bishop Devadhar closed the special call session with prayer followed by the adjournment from Bishop Schol at 1:29 p.m.



SUBJECT TO FINAL EDITING

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECISION NO. 1481

[Docket No. 0423-04]

IN RE: Review of a Bishop’s Ruling on Questions of Law Raised During the October Special Session of the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference Regarding Whether Said October Session Is a Legitimate Jurisdictional Conference that Is in Compliance and in Keeping with ¶¶ 27, 518 and 521 of the 2016 Book of Discipline Including the Open Meeting Mandates of ¶ 722 and Whether the Special Session violates the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference Rules, Given that the Body Did Not Adopt a Format to Govern Electronic Meetings, as Required by Roberts Rules of Order?

DIGEST

Annual, central, and jurisdictional conferences may use electronic means such as Zoom and other online platforms to conduct their sessions, provided the conference and voting process are conducted in an open and fair manner and all requirements of the *Discipline* are met. The decision of Bishop John R. Schol is affirmed.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On September 8, 2022, the College of Bishops of the Northeast Jurisdiction, called a virtual Special Session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional [hereinafter NEJ] Conference for October 15, 2022, for the specific purpose to hear reports from the NEJ Episcopacy Committee and the NEJ College of Bishops regarding episcopal elections and to conduct a vote by the delegates on the number of bishops to elect during the regularly scheduled Jurisdictional Conference set for November 2-4, 2022.

The call letter and all the materials, procedures, reports, and rules for the special called session were sent to all participants in advance of the session. The need for such a special session was to clarify the number of Bishops to be elected. The virtual Special Session lasted four and a half hours and the Conference voted to elect two bishops. During the session, the Jurisdictional Conference Rules were adopted; reports were given; different motions and amendments were made, with speeches for and against; and points of order were raised and responded to.

Moreover, the delegates participated in small group conversations about the reports and recommendations, and multiple questions were asked by the delegates via the chat feature and responded to in open session by the chairperson of the NEJ Episcopacy Committee and a representative of the College of Bishops. In addition to the Zoom participation by the delegates, a YouTube link was provided to allow for wide, real-time viewing of the Special Session by non-delegates. A total of 894 people viewed the entire session or parts of it.

Toward the end of the Zoom conference session, a clergy delegate posed the following Question of Law:

Is the special 10/15 session — held virtually using Zoom webinar with chat function regularly disabled and without the capacity for delegates to see and speak to one another and confer — a legitimate jurisdictional conference that is in order and keeping with the mandate to holy conference, according to paragraphs 27, 518, 521 and in accordance with the mandate for open meetings prescribed by par 722? And is the special session also in violation of the NEJ Rules, given that the body did not adopt a format to govern electronic meetings, as required by Roberts Rules of Order?

On November 14, 2022, Bishop John R. Schol issued the following Decision of Law, which states (in relevant parts):

Analysis and Rationale:

The virtual Special Session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference was conducted under 1) The 2016 Book of Discipline as amended, 2) relevant Pennsylvania statutes, the state of its incorporation, 3) the Jurisdiction's own rules, and 4) Roberts Rules of Order insofar as any issues are not covered by any of the forgoing [*sic.*] authorities. The governance for such a meeting would follow in the above order as well.

Rev. Dr. Jay Williams' question' while seemingly interrelated is actually three distinct questions. The first is disciplinary related to three specific paragraphs of The Book of Discipline and in accordance with "holy conference," a non-disciplinary term. The second is a question related to ¶ 722 and was the Conference an open meeting. The third question is a parliamentary question, did the Conference follow its rules. [*sic.*]

1. "Is the special 10/15 session — held virtually using Zoom webinar with chat function regularly disabled and without the capacity to see and speak to one another and confer — a legitimate jurisdictional conference that is in order and keeping with the mandate to holy conference, according to paragraphs 27, 518, 521, and



2. [Is the special 10/15 session] in accordance with the mandate for open meetings prescribed by ¶ 722?
3. And is the special session also in violation of the NEJ Rules, given that the body did not adopt a format to govern electronic meetings, as required by Roberts Rules of Order?"

Regarding the first question, while the Special Session followed paragraphs 27, 518 and 521, the question asks for a ruling if the Special Session was in keeping with the mandate “to holy conference.” A thorough search of The Book of Discipline reveals that there is no phrase “holy conference” or “holy conferencing” upon which to base a ruling of law. Paragraphs 27, 518 and 521 do not include the phrase, nor any other guidance on such conferencing other than to recite the duties and responsibilities of a Jurisdictional Conference all of which were followed.

The second question, which references ¶ 722 addresses the recommendation that church meeting/conference be open. The virtual Jurisdictional Conference was open to non-voting people along with the delegates and the Jurisdictional Conference had 894 visitors through YouTube. Furthermore, just as none of the identified paragraphs in the request for a ruling of law preclude the voting delegates from meeting electronically, nothing in The Book of Discipline suggests that a virtual Jurisdictional Conference or any other virtual meeting cannot qualify as “open” within the meaning of ¶ 722.

The third question raises a parliamentary issue related to the NEJ rules of order and Roberts Rules of Order. A parliamentary matter is the business of the session (Judicial Council Decisions 898, 1117, 1131, and 1252). Such parliamentary questions do not qualify as questions of church law within the meaning of Discipline ¶¶ 51 and 2609.6.

Rulings:

1. Ruling — the Special Session followed paragraphs 27, 518 and 521 and was a legitimate jurisdictional conference but a ruling regarding if the conference was in keeping with “to holy conference” cannot be ruled on because The Book of Discipline does not use or interpret the term “holy conference.”
2. Ruling — The Special Session of Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference was an open meeting within the meaning of ¶ 722, in that all non-members were free to attend and observe the meeting in real-time via live-streaming on YouTube.
3. Ruling — This is a parliamentary question, not a question of law, and therefore cannot be ruled on.

Jurisdiction

The Judicial Council has jurisdiction under ¶ 2609.6 of *The 2016 Book of Discipline* [hereinafter the *Discipline*].

Analysis and Rationale

None of the disciplinary provisions cited by the clergy delegate in his request prescribe a particular form of conferencing. Notably, the *Discipline* does not prohibit the use of electronic means such as Zoom or other digital platforms to conduct a session of annual, central, or jurisdictional conference. In the exigency of a global pandemic, holding a virtual conference session is permissible, provided all other requirements of the *Discipline* are met. In the instant matter, the record shows that the special called session of the NEJ Conference held virtually on October 15, 2022, satisfied all applicable disciplinary and procedural requirements.

We also concur with the bishop that the third part of the question is improper because it concerns a parliamentary matter and cannot be adjudicated. *See* JCD 1187, 1205, 1356, 1339, 1458, 1460, 1463, 1474, 1475.

Decision

Annual, central, and jurisdictional conferences may use electronic means such as Zoom and other online platforms to conduct their sessions, provided the conference and voting process are conducted in an open and fair manner and all requirements of the *Discipline* are met. The decision of Bishop John R. Schol is affirmed.



SUBJECT TO FINAL EDITING

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECISION 1478

[Docket 0423-03]

IN RE: Request for a Declaratory Decision from the October Special Session of the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference as to Whether the College of Bishops' Exceeded its Disciplinary Role and Authority by Submitting to the October Special Session a Written Recommendation That the Delegates Hold No Elections and Elect No Bishops to Fill the Episcopal Office Vacancies at the Jurisdictional Conference in November, and Ignored the Disciplinary Provisions that Vests the Authority to Make such Recommendations in the Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy.

DIGEST

A College of Bishops may make recommendations and express viewpoints different from other jurisdictional bodies as long as episcopal declarations are advisory in nature and are not legislative acts.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

During a special session held virtually on October 15, 2022, delegates to the Northeastern Jurisdictional [hereinafter NEJ] Conference voted to elect two new bishops at the upcoming November 2-4 Jurisdictional Conference. The vote was 81 to 69. The delegates made the decision after hearing reports from the NEJ Committee on Episcopacy and the NEJ College of Bishops regarding episcopal elections. The College of Bishops had recommended that there be no election of new bishops during the 2022 Session of Jurisdictional Conference, while the Committee on Episcopacy had recommended one election. NEJ Conference, ADCA, vol. 21, Issue, 1, November 2022, at 1.

A clergy delegate made the following motion to request a Declaratory Decision from the Judicial Council:

I move that the Jurisdictional Conference request a Declaratory Decision from the Judicial Council, according to ¶ 2610.2(f), as to whether the zero-election recommendation of the NEJ College of Bishops is legislative in nature and in

violation of ¶49 Article V of the Constitution, and/or ¶415.1 and/or ¶522, and the constitutional separation of powers.

The motion was seconded and passed with 81 YES and 55 NO. Minutes of NEJC, Proceedings of Oct. 15, 2022, at 6.

Jurisdiction

The Judicial Council has jurisdiction under ¶ 2610.2(f) of *The 2016 Book of Discipline*.

Analysis and Rationale

The Constitution of The United Methodist Church entrusts bishops with “residential and presidential supervision in the jurisdictional or central conferences,” ¶ 49, and in discharging this duty the College of Bishops may make recommendations, even if they contain viewpoints different from those of the Committee on Episcopacy. The power to elect bishops is squarely lodged with the Jurisdictional Conference. Const. ¶ 27.2. There is no violation of the separation of powers as long as episcopal statements are advisory in nature and are not legislative acts. In this case, we hold that the statement of the NEJ College of Bishop constitutes the former.

In JCD 1415, the Judicial Council held that the “episcopal address is an appropriate and frequently employed means to exercise that oversight and leadership role in the session of annual conference.” If a presiding bishop enjoys freedom of expression in a session of annual conference, the same right should be afforded to the members of the College of Bishops at jurisdictional conference. To hold otherwise could have the chilling effect on thoughtful debate for any person serving in a pastoral, supervisory, or episcopal role. Preaching, teaching, and counseling would be adversely impacted out of fear that a statement could be litigated before the Judicial Council. There is no basis for this kind of stifling of the expression of viewpoints. However, in exercising their free speech, bishops must be careful to avoid exerting undue influence on the legislative and electoral processes at all levels of the Church.

Decision

A College of Bishops may make recommendations and express viewpoints different from other jurisdictional bodies as long as episcopal declarations are advisory in nature and not legislative acts.

April 25, 2023



Dissenting Opinion

The authority of United Methodist Bishops is presidential and supervisory in nature [¶ 49]. Bishops are responsible to provide temporal and spiritual leadership for the church and exercise episcopal duties [¶¶ 414- 415]. The scope and limitations upon episcopal authority are the subjects of many Judicial Council Decisions, including Decisions 1311 and 1312.

Decision 22 sets forth:

A Bishop effective or retired, is not a member of an Annual Conference. He should not be counted in reporting the total membership of the Conference for statistical purposes or in computing the number of delegates.

No provision should be made by the Annual Conference for him as a Conference Claimant; other provision has been made by the General Conference; nor is he subject to Annual Conference assessments.

He is not eligible to election as a delegate representing the Annual Conference in the General or Jurisdictional Conferences; nor is he entitled to vote in a Annual Conference for delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

When elected a Bishop, if at the time a delegate, his membership in the electing Conference as an Annual Conference delegate terminates and his place is immediately filled by an elected alternate delegate.

If he resigns from the Episcopacy he is returned, by the definitely prescribed procedure, to membership in the Annual Conference of which he ceased to be a member when elected Bishop.

Here, the College of Bishops overstepped its role and authority. In so doing, the College USURPED THE MANDATED AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OVER ALL MATTERS DISTINCTIVELY CONNECTIONAL.

The Constitution sets forth that:

The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional, and in the exercise of this power shall have authority as follows: ...

3. To define and fix the powers and duties of annual conferences ...

5. To define and fix the powers, duties and privileges of the episcopacy ...
8. To initiate and to direct all connectional enterprises of the Church and to provide boards for their promotion and administration

The Judicial Council has consistently upheld the legal and constitutional principle that Annual Conferences may not restructure themselves in ways that violate the constitutional and legislative mandates of the General Conference. With the 1968 union of The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church came shared and immutable assumptions regarding structure which were embedded in the Constitution of 1968. In the Preamble to the Constitution, the essential relationship of structure to unity is made manifest in the transmittal of the Plan of Union from the Commissions on Church Union to their respective denominations as follows:

Therefore, we, the Commissions on Church Union of The Methodist Church, and of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, holding that these churches are essentially one in origin, in belief, in spirit, and in purpose, and desiring that this essential unity be made actual in organization and administration in the United States of America and throughout the world (emphasis added), do hereby propose and transmit to our respective General Conferences the following Plan of Union...

With the adoption of the Plan of Union by the constituent communions of what has become The United Methodist Church came a covenantal understanding that matters of structure, organization, and episcopal authority, were reserved to the General Conference's legislative authority. This understanding is fundamental to our connectional polity. Given this understanding, it cannot be constitutional for Annual Conferences to be permitted to restructure themselves without specific authorization from the General Conference. That authorization, if given, must retain the fundamental constitutional assumptions of our denomination.

General Conference has provided for the methods and processes that determine the number of Bishops to be elected in each jurisdiction. It is a dynamic process that is balanced between the roles and functions of the Interjurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy on behalf of the Jurisdictional Committees on Episcopacy, the General Council on Finance and Administration, and ultimately on the determination by General Conference as to the number of episcopal leaders and areas that will be funded within each jurisdiction. That final and exclusive authority is vested in the General Conference. It is then the role of each Jurisdiction's Committee on the Episcopacy to advise the delegates in their respective jurisdictional conferences as to the status of active Bishops and the number of vacancies that exist. At no point in this process is it permissible, proper or appropriate for the episcopacy to directly advise or recommend to the delegates that they should forgo filling vacancies and delay the assembly of a newly reconfigured College of Bishops.



[The Judicial Council does not know whether the delegates of the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference were apprised of the amounts of additional monthly income that is being paid to each active Bishop that is serving as an interim Bishop in each vacancy. However, if a Bishop is receiving an additional \$1,500 or more per month due to episcopal vacancies within the jurisdiction, then that information ought to be shared with the delegates so that each may decide whether, and the degree to which, he or she desires to factor that incentive into their decision making.]

Judicial Council Decision 831 is clear about the role and the authority of the bishop when it sets forth “bishops have historically exercised authority through the appointment process, worship and persuasion [which is to be exercised in full compliance with all provisions of the *Discipline*], . . .” nor do we give him or her a vote. Our polity has balanced executive, legislative and judicial authority. . .” It is a long-standing principle that bishops, who are not members of the annual conference, may not bring or initiate legislation to the annual conference. [JCD 831. See also Decisions 22, 1023, 1257.]

Oversight always operates within the constitutional constraints placed on the bishop. The Discipline does not give the bishop authority to bring specific recommendations directly to the legislative body. Bishops have no power to initiate legislation that may be brought to the conference for approval. (Decision 831).

Any recommendation from a College of Bishops to a Jurisdictional Conference about that which is within the exclusive legislative authority of the Jurisdictional Conference exceeds the role and responsibilities of the episcopacy, usurps and undermines the authority of the legislative body, and is in direct violation of the Discipline.

The NEJ College of Bishops’ written recommendation to the NEJ Delegates urging them to elect no new bishops, is in direct violation of the *Discipline* and undermines the constitutional separation, and balance, of powers.

Beth Capen
Dennis Blackwell

April 25, 2023

2022 EPISCOPAL NOMINEES WITH ENDORSEMENTS/NOMINATIONS



Rev. Dr. Giovanni Arroyo, Baltimore-Washington Conference

Nominated by MARCHA.

Appointments: 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.



Rev. Thomas Ladd Blackstone, Ph.D., New England Annual Conference

Nominated by New England Annual Conference.

Appointments: 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; 1991, First UMC Boothbay Harbor and East Boothbay UMC, East Boothbay, Maine; 1993, John Street UMC, Camden, Maine; 1998, Grant Memorial UMC, Presque Isle, Maine; 2006, Green Street

UMC, Augusta, Maine; 2014, Pleasant Street UMC, Waterville, Maine; 2021, The UMC in East Greenwich, East Greenwich, Rhode Island



Héctor A. Burgos Núñez, Greater New Jersey

Nominated by MARCHA – National Hispanic Caucus, NEJ and National | BMCR, GNJ Chapter.

Appointments: 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)



Cristian De La Rosa, New England Annual Conference

Nominated by ACLAMEN (National Association of Latina Clergy women); MARCHA (National Hispanic Caucus).

Appointments: 2011 to Now Boston University School of Theology Associate Dean for Students and Community life. 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. 1999-2002

Director of Continuing Education and Ministerial Course of Study at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. Evanston, IL. 1997-1999 Senior Pastor, Calvary UMC in Lincoln, NE. 1992-1997 Senior Pastor of Calvary UMC in Washington DC and Executive. Director for Casa Del Pueblo Community Ministry. 1990-1992 Associate Pastor at Linthicum UMC in Linthicum, MD. 1986-1990. Office Manager/Seminar Designer for GBCS of the UMC.



Wendy J. Deichmann, Upper New York Conference

Nominated by Upper New York Conference.

Appointments: 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)



Sang Won Doh, Greater New Jersey Conference

Nominated by Greater New Jersey Annual Conference; National Federation of Asian American UMC.

Appointments: 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)



Alyce Weaver Dunn, Western Pennsylvania Conference

Nominated by Western Pennsylvania Conference.

Appointments: Associate, Rochester: First (1988-1994); Connoquenessing/Renfrew (1994-2003); Brackenridge: Trinity (2003-2010); Johnstown District Superintendent (2010-2018); Director of Connectional Ministries (2018-present).



Andrew L. Foster, III, Eastern Pennsylvania

Nominated by NEJ Black Methodist for Church Renewal.

Appointments: 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.



Robert F. Zilhaver, Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference

Nominated by Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

Appointments: 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.

SUMMARY OF BALLOT FOR ELECTION

Héctor A. Burgos Núñez was elected November 2, 2022 on the third ballot at the Northeastern Jurisdiction Conference. **Cast: 150; Needed for election: 90; Received 94.**

MEMORIAL SERMON

Memorial Sermon: Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar

Theme of the Conference: "One In Ministry to All the World"

Sermon Title: Whose Interest?

Philippians 2:1-11

Key Scriptural Verse for the Memorial Sermon: "Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others." (Verse 4)

Beloved in Christ:

What a joy and a blessing for us to start our jurisdictional conference celebrating the lives of the saints who journeyed with us and blessed us with their Christian witness! What a privilege it is to celebrate their ministries in the context of the theme, "One in ministry to All the World," a prayer that we use often as we take part in the Lord's Supper - a sacramental theme indeed!

Our scripture lesson for today is from Paul's letter to the church in Philippi, which he started in his second missionary journey. It is the community where the first European convert, Lydia, was received into the Christian community. While imprisoned in Rome, Paul is concerned about them maintaining unity and keeping the new believers centered in Christ. For Paul, that unity cannot be achieved without humility.

Pause for a moment! Here we are ... here you are ... gathered to elect new episcopal leaders to join the other United Methodist bishops from around the world to lead our global church in such a time as this, a time Rev. Wayne Lavender in his book *Counting Ants While the Elephants March By: Thoughts on Church and State, Poverty and Terrorism, War and Peace* describes as ...

I have witnessed passionate debates in local churches over the type of carpet to be placed in the sanctuary, the color of the walls in a Sunday School classroom, the physical location of the baptismal font, or where the choir should sit for the worship service. I have even seen members leave the church over issues such as how often the Apostles' Creed should be read during Sunday morning worship, or in anger over the selection of a particular person to serve in a position of "power." Far too often and for far too long, the church has fought the wrong battles at wrong times - attempting to kill the ants while the elephants are rampaging through the land.¹

Though Rev. Lavender's book was written fifteen years ago, his prophetic words remain true to this day. Human beings are slaughtered on our streets because of human phobias and prejudices toward anyone different from ourselves. Many of our churches refuse to do something about these and other crises, not even saying a prayer for such injustices at worship services. Many a time I wonder and lament: are we

¹ Lavender, Wayne, *Counting Ants While the Elephants march by: Thoughts on Church and State, Poverty and Terrorism, War and Peace*. Ithaca: Ithaca Publishing, 2007, p5.



simply a private social club or are we truly the Church of Jesus Christ? When did we stop being the global church who cares about God’s children everywhere and the stewardship of God’s creation? As we come to the Lord’s Supper, we say through our lips Christ’s Table is an Open Table, yet we don’t demonstrate that all means all. We are called to leave a global footprint with a local interest and concern, called to be a headlight as described by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his 1963 “Letter from Birmingham Jail”: “So here we are moving toward the exit of the [twenty-first] century with a religious community largely adjusted to the status quo, standing as a taillight behind other community agencies rather than a headlight leading people to higher levels of justice.”²

How is it that, at this juncture, we are ready to come to the Lord’s table, affirming our desire to be “one in ministry to all the world?” Friends, through the successors to Lydia and Paul, the gospel has spread throughout the world, and we affirm that good news today sacramentally, for our ministry is not just confined to our buildings, communities or zoom platforms. Our ministry serves the whole world – or as John Wesley put it, “The world is our parish.”

Beloved, pause for a moment. Since COVID, on any given Sunday, our virtual worship services allow people from around the world to join us. In this sense, Wesley’s vision of the world being our parish has become a true reality. We have become circuit riders of the Google age.

In that same spirit, we are also here to remember and honor the saints who have joined the Church Triumphant since our last jurisdictional conference in 2016.

One definition of a saint is “an agent of change.” These saints we remember today, as well as many other saints we remember in our hearts and minds, changed us, changed others, and changed the world by modeling through their ministries and missions that it is not about glorifying self-interest but looking toward the best interest of others that will advance God’s mission to the entire world.

Letters from prison also changed the world. It was true in the time of Paul; it is still true today - the writings from prison of both Rev. Dr. Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. touched and changed the world. In fact, one such writing offers us good advice for our work this week. Dr. King wrote in his “Why We Can’t Wait” letter from the Birmingham jail, “If today’s church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the [twenty-first] century.”

How can the decisions you make this week raise these voices for the sake of the church and all of God’s children? Who are the best choices for the episcopacy to lead through these times? Let us first reflect on the humble and servant leadership of the saints we are honoring today, some of whom truly fought to name and deal with elephants of all kinds of isms in our churches and world.

Eunice Mathews claimed, “I do not want to be identified as the daughter of Evangelist E. Stanley Jones, nor do I have to be identified as the wife of my husband (Bishop James K. Mathews), but I do have

² <https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/emily.klotz/eng1302-7/course-readings/a-letter-from-birmingham-jail-martinluther-king-jr/view>

permission to be myself.” Having been raised in a male-dominated society with the people of India, her statement gave courage and a voice to the voiceless.

Bishop Felton E. May always knew what was most important and then acted on it. He had the courage to say to the Council of Bishops, “Allow me to leave my office as bishop at least for the time being so that I may help others to rescue the life of innocent victims from the drug culture.” He told me personally that though the Council of Bishops supported him, not all agencies of the church did, yet he kept on going because of his love for innocent victims. In addition to his work on the enormous damage of illegal drugs, he was instrumental in developing the Salt 'n Light Ministry to young people, first in Central Pennsylvania and then far beyond the borders of that annual conference. It is still a vital and growing ministry leading young people to follow Christ.

Bishop C. Dale White, in his own style of servant leadership, changed others through his passion for justice and equality, not just for all of God’s children, but for all creation. A prophet who raised questions without fearing anyone, changed society. Among these transformational changes is the lives of hundreds of youths in this jurisdiction since 1986 when his vision for Mission of Peace became a reality. Perhaps no one has articulated it as well as Beth Capen, Esq, who said “He modeled the fact that our work and our mission is not about us, it is about those who we are serving in the name of God.”³ Committed to world peace, in December 1979, Bishop White and six other Protestant clergy unofficially traveled to Iran to meet with Ayatollah Khomeini regarding the Iran Crisis, leaving behind his family during Christmas time.

Gwen Ruth White fully supported her husband and encouraged him throughout his ministry, traveling with him around the world studying world hunger and peace and justice issues. Gwen was a gifted musician and a true spiritual giant and mentor whose eyes could read you before you even shared what was on your heart. She enabled many people to also become spiritual mentors.

Rev. Sherrie Dobbs Johnson, with great humility and a beautiful smile, touched our hearts and minds with sincere questions and statements. Before my election, we discussed my discernment regarding the episcopacy. She told me to do what was best for me and the church. She said something like, “Be yourself!” In her own quiet style, Sherrie empowered others with her thoughtful suggestions and guidance.

Bishop F. Herbert Skeete, according to a colleague in the NEJ College of Bishops, made it one of his practices to be very intentional about appointments to missional contexts and inclusiveness in the staff/cabinet. Though he received vocational scars for it when all people did not see the wisdom of his ways, the New England Conference is better today because of his courageous leadership in bringing the Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Southern New England Conferences together. This action was not to get a feather on his cap, but to create one conference with better opportunities for pastors, congregations, and mission. A passionate supporter of local mission, Bishop Skeete envisioned a strong United Methodist Foundation in New England that was birthed during the challenging times of that merger. He was also a strong advocate for Africa University. Wherever he served, his prophetic mind and courageous leadership led him to speak the truth even at the cost of losing popularity.

³ <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/bishop-white-strong-convictions-gentle-touch>



Bishop Joseph Yeakel's understanding of the Book of Discipline and its interpretation was second to none. He knew his people by name, often wrote personal notes to clergy and laity, and deeply cared for both clergy and laity. A respectable layperson in our denomination commented that during Bishop Yeakel's episcopacy, he noted the gifts and graces of laity, nurtured them, and brought them to the table. As one of my mentors, he advised me to let the clergy make the decisions when presiding at clergy session and not to forget to use the privilege of executive session where there can be honest discussion with transparency and within the covenant.

Jack Middleton's love for all the people of God was much broader than his well-known love for cars. He would talk to everyone irrespective of color and creed. Needless to say, without Jack even realizing it, he changed others by discovering their interests through respectful and open conversations and engaging them. He not only loved being an episcopal spouse, but truly cared and supported his beloved spouse, Bishop Jane Middleton. Whenever Jack was in the room, his presence brought out the light in others.

Dight Crain had a deep love for the church and was a true financial steward for the jurisdiction. All his decisions as a dedicated NEJ treasurer were made in the best interest of the entire jurisdiction. A member of the New England Conference, Dight was a quiet but faithful friend, often humbly helping others outside the public view.

Tom Price, a jurisdictional delegate from Baltimore-Washington Conference, loved serving God, his beloved wife Becki, music and helping youth explore their faith. Tom directed choirs from the age of 17. He founded Joyful Noise! Youth Choir, which sang at The White House, The Crystal Cathedral, EPCOT and The US Air Force Academy Chapel and with Becki led ROCK!, the BWC youth worship for over 30 years.

Rev. Dr. Shirlyn Henry Brown was a faithful servant leader in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. She led several congregations, served as Director of Connectional Ministries and a district superintendent. She has a passion for kingdom building and kingdom living as well as incorporating theatre and the arts into her ministry. She served on the Programs and Arrangements Committee of Jurisdictional Conference up until the time of her death.

Warren A. Heil, Jr.'s love for Jesus was one of the first things you noticed when interacting with him. He was faithful to the end, committed to being a delegate despite facing serious health challenges. His dedication was all based on his unwavering love for Christ and the Church in all circumstances.

Faith Weston Geer was a faithful, gifted, and humble leader in the Western Pennsylvania Conference. Her administrative skills were a true blessing to her local church and the annual conference. Her compassion and love for the church was contagious, and her ability to work with all people complemented her passion for full inclusion and social justice.

Former Bishop Hae Jong Kim and his wife, Wha-Sei, brought us a new glimpse of what it means to be a global church by giving us an understanding of Korean culture. In addition to being a gifted hymn writer and author, Bishop Kim was responsible for birthing Korean churches in the Northeast. Wha-Sei modeled the essence of Christian love as a spouse and the best of Korean culture.

Friends, as we celebrate these saints who changed, molded, and influenced us, do you notice a

similar quality in their legacies? All of them served with humility and grace and in the interest of others. The question now is what have we done with these teachings they left us? What are we doing or what can we do to put the interest of others and the interest of God and the Church above our own interests?

We are gathered here to make some crucial decisions. As you fondly remember these saints and others who left a legacy that shifted their corner of the world for good, can you envision what their advice would be to you today as you interview episcopal candidates and decide which leaders the church needs to truly be the church? God has given the key to God's kingdom for such a time as this to elect leaders who may serve for four years or twenty-four years but will serve with the heart and humility of Christ himself.

Your task is to look at the rear-view mirror and through the windshield with deep prayers and wide-open eyes to determine who are the right persons to lead our jurisdiction through these challenging times with bright headlights. Who will roll up his/her sleeves in the mission fields around and beyond us?

Friends, let's be frank. This vote is not about us ... or our preferences. It is about engaging in true Holy Conferencing, listening to one another, looking at the realities of our churches, communities, and world with deep humility and without arrogance or an "I know it all" attitude.

As the late Rev. William Sloane Coffin has said so eloquently, in a different context, "We are ordained [I would add baptized] to unrest, in deceptive times to reach for truth that seems to many like madness; in the darkness of the world's hatred and prejudice to keep the small flame of love alight. For the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth, too small for anything but love."⁴

Beloved in Christ, as Easter people, as the people of Pentecost, we are gathered here in this room like the Apostles gathered in the Upper Room to choose Matthias to join them. As you make decisions, remember these words from Bishop James K. Mathews at the 1996 NEJ Conference to first decide who we are as a jurisdiction:

Citing the renown Spanish philosopher and writer, José Ortega y Gasset, "Tell me the landscape in which you live and I can tell you who you are." Mathews went on to say, "Who then are we in the Northeast Jurisdiction

- We are mountain people.
- We are a seashore people.
- We are a valley people.
- We are an island people.
- We are a peninsula people.
- We are urban; we are metropolitan; we are rural; we are suburban; we are small town; we are county-seat residents.

Wherever we dwell, whatever our status, whatever our race, whatever our vocation:
Here our story lies.

⁴ The Collected Sermons of William Sloane Coffin: The Riverside Years, Volume 1. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008, p 404.



We are on the Edge – where God is at work. Therefore, we must work with God where we are or some things will not be done. This is our identity.”

I would add to Bishop Mathews’ description of our identity that we are first and foremost people of God.

As such, you are here to cast your ballots and to make other vital decisions. Think about our identity as a jurisdiction and a denomination. Who are we? Who do we want to be? Whose interest are we protecting or advancing?

Needless to say, there are many current concerns to consider. Are you worried about disaffiliation? Look at the early eighties when people believed the attack made on the character of the Church by a major television show and magazine article regarding the church’s stand against apartheid in Africa. Some of the bishops remembered today provided robust leadership when people started leaving the church because people believed the news media rather the gospel of Jesus Christ. Forty years later, in part because of the work of these bishops, two leaders from South Africa - Bishop Ivan Abrahams and Rev. Dr. Jerry Pillay - hold the position of General Secretary of the World Methodist Council and the World Council of Churches, respectively. I thank God for the ecumenical strength of the churches in raising leaders directly or indirectly for such a time as this and challenge you to provide that same leadership today in your discernment regarding our future episcopal leaders. As you discern, ask yourselves in whose interest your decisions lie. It must not be in yours or even in that of the saints, but in God’s interest that your discernment is based.

Friends, we are truly “on the Edge where God is at work.” It is my prayer that the Holy Spirit takes over our gathering like it did it for the early church nearly two thousand years ago.

EPISCOPAL ADDRESS

Episcopal Address: Bishop Jane Middleton

Theme of the Conference: "One In Ministry to All the World"

Sermon Title: EPAPHRODITUS

Philippians 2:25-30

Grace and peace to you my beloved sisters and brothers of the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

I have to begin with a confession. When I was contacted less than two weeks ago about preaching today, I only agreed out of guilt. This preaching slot was supposed to be filled by a visiting retired bishop from another jurisdiction. This has been our custom for decades. I now know that none of my colleagues remember, but in 2019 or so, I indicated that I would be willing to be the retired bishop who would go to some other 2020 jurisdictional conference. I would attend the North Central Conference or where ever I was sent. But as the in-person meetings were replaced by small pictures on a screen I had a deep longing to see you face to face. Turns out the other retired bishops from all of the jurisdictions felt the same way and we couldn't find any bishops willing to give up being at their own jurisdictional meetings. As the pleas came across the internet for retired bishops to volunteer, I was silent and I felt guilty. So when the call came to me to fill this retired bishop's preaching slot for Thursday morning, I really felt so guilty and I felt obligated and I said yes.

And I really do come to you with joy.

I also come here remembering my first NEJ Conference 30 years ago this year, 1992. How many of you were here then? One of my special memories of that year was being so honored to read scripture at the retirement recognition of Bishop Dale White. And my heart is filled with many memories of extraordinary moments in those thirty years when we gather for discernment, celebration, inspiration, mission setting and election of bishops. As you do your work of discernment, we are all here to celebrate God's great gifts to us, all of us honored to be God's servants and I join with all the bishops in holding you in prayer as you make these important decisions.

I want to begin my sermon today with a game, here's a hint: *MUSIC JEOPARDY*

So the category is Bible. I'll make it even easier for you. New Testament.

You know how this works. I give you the answer, And you must respond in the form of a question.

First answer: Betrayed Jesus three times:Who was Peter?

Climbed a tree to see Jesus. . . .Who was Zacchaes?

Gave Jesus a drink of water. . . .Who was the woman at the well?

Messenger for Paul. . . . Who was Epaphroditus?

I can tell you that if I were a contestant on Jeopardy, not in a million years would I have shouted out "Who was Epaphroditus?" And frankly I'm not even sure Ken Jennings would have gotten it.

"Who was Epaphroditus?" Who remembers him? In fact I don't even remember reading his name in this passage even though I have read 2nd Philippians perhaps hundreds of times, at least dozens. So what can



we learn from this beloved protégée of Paul whom he sent to the Philippians. Perhaps he can even help us understand some of what is required to live out our theme, “One in Ministry to All the World”.

What do we know about Epaphroditus? Well, we know that he was second choice. We read in the verses just before these, that the real person Paul planned to send was Timothy. Paul says Timothy will be sent according to Jesus’ plan. He further says that Timothy is loyal and genuinely concerned for the people of Philippi. Furthermore as Eugene Peterson translates it, “Timothy is the REAL THING.” But this isn’t the right time for Timothy so in the meantime the good folks of Philippi are going to have to settle for Epaphroditus. Although Epaphroditus isn’t necessarily Paul’s first choice, it appears he’s at least good second choice.

Second choice. Has that ever happened to you? In this season of election of bishops there will be inevitably be several second choices. It’s a painful time in many ways. I know. In 1996 I was endorsed as a candidate for bishop. And I was not elected. It hurt. It’s hard to take the risk and to hear a “no.” Second choice. . . or third or fourth or more. But I count that as one of the most fruitful experiences of my life. Because of that “no” I was set on a course I would not have otherwise taken and I grew tremendously. I had incredibly rich experiences in ministry that I would not have had. Epaphroditus, in spite of being second choice to Timothy, followed his call and no doubt changed his own life and he changed the lives of the Philippians.

We also know that Epaphroditus was sickly, wounded. And yet he responded to the call to go to the Philippians and in doing so he bore witness to the healing power of God. He surely inspired those whom he came to serve with his courage. Henri Nouwen writes, “There is solidarity in weakness, in brokenness, in woundedness, but it leads to the center of joy, which is sharing our humanity with others.” So Epaphroditus came to the Philippians as a wounded healer.

Surely today, as a people called United Methodist, we know woundedness don’t we? The pandemic? What has it done? It upended our lives. Many of you still suffer personally from what we now call long COVID. Others of you here live with broken hearts as your beloved family and friends have died of COVID. It seems that our churches have been changed forever – disappearing elderly, disappearing youth, disappearing children; pastors exhausted from navigating technology and preaching to dramatically smaller congregations; clergy and laity desperately seeking new ways to be in mission with fewer resources. Many of our churches our wounded. We are living in a season of great wounding as a nation as well: raging inflation, income disparity, homophobia, the curse of racism, culture wars in our country, rampant lying and false witness, destruction of our precious earth home, concern about the Russian predatory war in Ukraine, We are wounded indeed. So we, in our time and in our context surely understand what it means to be wounded healers. Epaphroditus, what would you say to us?

What we learn about this dear man, a footnote in the scripture, Epaphroditus, is that he was the beloved, trusted friend of Paul: so beloved that he was sent on Paul’s behalf to spread that wonderful spirit of love and generosity to the Philippians. And he joins a wondrous stream of followers of Christ. You and I are in that line, as well, my beloved. We are followers who understand sacrifice, who experience healing, who are filled with a spirit of generosity, who know what it means to be given new life in Jesus Christ, who live with hope, who dare to proclaim the gospel message: Jesus saves!

We are called to proclaim that gospel to all the world. And we are called to proclaim the gospel right here in the United States. God is surely calling us to a new revival of our faith, to new expressions of faith, to a new passion to reach the others with the good news! Can we now see the movement of the Spirit as we rejoice in what it means to be a truly inclusive people, when we break down all barriers and reach out beyond gender, hue of skin, language or accents, age, who one loves, any division which prevents us from proclaiming and living the love of Christ?

You know the answer is yes. In the spirit of Paul and of this servant minister Epaphroditus and most especially in the spirit of Jesus Christ, let us love sacrificially, all people, and with our whole hearts.

And now receive this blessing from author and United Methodist clergywoman Rev. Jan Richardson:

Blessed is the One

Blessed is the One
who comes to us
by the way of love
poured out with abandon.

Blessed is the One
who walks toward us
by the way of grace
that holds us fast.

Blessed is the One
who calls us to follow
in the way of blessing,
in the path of joy.

(–Jan Richardson, “Blessed is the One” in Circle of Grace, p. 125)

Amen.



The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference
STATE OF THE JURISDICTION EPISCOPAL ADDRESS

Bishop John Schol
November 2, 2022

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen
First line of the song sung by soloist

Trouble

As the Northeastern Jurisdiction, we gather together to be in ministry with the world. Yet there are those who are troubled among us.

There are United Methodists among us today and in our congregations who feel harmed, unheard and unseen. They feel the United Methodist system oppresses and devalues their gifts, their calling and their service.

There are United Methodists among us today and in our congregations who are seen and yet feel their income, race, sexual orientation, gender, ableness, theology, nation of origin, have relegated them to second class status or even no status.

There are United Methodists among us today and in our congregations who are pandemic-exhausted, anxious, burned out, fearful of whether or not their congregations will come back.

There are United Methodists among us who are tired of the fight, of the continual push and pull, of rulemaking, rule bending and rule breaking, who would rather disaffiliate or feel the church is trying to push them out. We are turning on each other, rather than turning to each other and turning together toward God in ministry to all the world.

Let us be honest: the state of the church, of ministry, of our people is beaten down. We are weary, anxious, frustrated and some are angry.

Having the mind of Christ is a hard thing to do when you are not seen, not heard, when you have been wrestling with a pandemic and racism and feel the denomination does not embrace you for who you are or because your theology and beliefs are not valued.

But every time God has been ready to do a new thing, trouble was at its height, trials were all around, hope was at its lowest ebb. For a tormented people enslaved in Egypt, or a wandering people on a dusty trail in the wilderness, or a brave boy facing a fearsome giant on the battlefield, or a huddled group of disciples in an upper room, God was working a new thing. Can't you see it? God's new thing is springing up all around us even today. (Isaiah 43:19 and 65:16-17). You, the Northeastern Jurisdiction are examples of God springing up and doing a new thing.

- In West Virginia, a mobile children's ministry goes to where the kids are to share God's love.
- Asbury Church in Western Pennsylvania partnered with the Fijian Community to open a Fijian Store to offer food and other commodities from the Fijian culture.
- In New England, a Sex/Gender-Based Crisis Response Team has been organized to respond to instances of sexism and discrimination based on gender, as well as to provide training to prevent harm across the New England Conference.
- In Greater New Jersey, a young pastor shaved his beard except for the mustache to give him a Ted Lasso look for his worship series using Ted Lasso video clips.
- Linglestown Life Church in Susquehanna has two campuses and a community center called Ray's Place. Ray's Place is a converted garage which houses a bicycle and reading program and a community garden. It is a gathering place for the community.
- In Baltimore Washington, their Catalyst Initiative works with congregations to meet with the community to understand what the church can do to partner with the community. New community ministries are springing up all of the time.
- Pastor Joan Brooks of the Peninsula Delaware Conference has led her congregation into the community and beyond. As a bi-vocational parttime local pastor she and the congregations have formed relationships with the chief of police and other community leaders. As a result, their ministry feeds thousands of people in the community. The congregation also held a water drive for the people of Jackson, MS during their water crises. When the WM F Stewart Trucking company heard about it, they transported two truckloads of water to Jackson, MS. In 2022 the congregation received more than 25 new members through baptism and profession of faith, and they burned their mortgage.

Troubles may be all around, but God is ready and is doing a new thing when we are in ministry together with the community. Don't you see it springing up?

In each instance where a new thing is springing up, the mind of Christ is pervasive and persuasive. Just as is stated in Philippians 2, where we find the theme for our Jurisdictional Conference.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

In humility, regard others better than yourself. Look to the interests of others. -Philippians 2



There are a number of important missional challenges, spiritual faith challenges, affecting the state of the church, and today I would like to talk about four of them: 1) navigating the pandemic, 2) ending the sin of racism, 3) living into the future, and 4) connecting with the people in our communities.

Navigating the Pandemic

More than 6.5 million people so far have died because of Covid. The effects of Covid and a worldwide pandemic are not fully understood yet. Its impact on the church has affected every congregation, and we are grateful for our lay and clergy leaders who are leading us through this time. Our pastors especially have done an amazing job providing pastoral care, imagining new ways of being in ministry, and moving thousands of congregations from in-person to virtual worship in a matter of weeks. They also refereed the struggles of masks versus no masks, onsite or online worship and the politics of any decision.

They literally saved the church and we our indebted to their courage and spirit of determination and ingenuity. But it came at a cost. Frustration, anxiety, depression and burnout are higher among the clergy than at any other time in our memory. They sacrificed their time, relationships and well-being for the mission and ministry of the church. They demonstrated the mind of Christ and we are indebted to them. Today, the bishops and the leaders of the Jurisdiction thank our pastors.

What are we learning from the pandemic?

- The importance of community, and that community, including the worshipping community, is being formed and shaped in new ways. Online worship and online gatherings are here to stay; and virtual communities will be an important means for connecting people in addition to physically gathering in the same space. We need to continue experimenting, innovating and improving how we gather virtually.
- We are also learning we can change more quickly than we ever believed. When there is an urgent need that is clearly felt, people are willing to act together in ministry, making the necessary changes to adapt and serve.

Eastern Pennsylvania camping and retreat ministry navigated the pandemic. In 2021, EPA reopened their four camps and 11,000 guests engaged in camping and retreats. Evidence that people respond to a compelling ministry that meets their needs and is done well.

The pandemic has created troubling times; but learning and working together strengthens our serving in the world together.

Ending the Sin of Racism

Every conference within the Northeastern Jurisdiction has a plan and is engaged in ending racism through learning, changing unjust systems, recognizing implicit bias and ensuring inclusion and equity. This is a crucial step toward ending the sin of racism within the Jurisdiction.

These plans are taking action across the Jurisdiction.

- The New York Conference has been active in its communities, raising awareness and action about the killing of African Americans and civil rights violations.
- Rodney Hudson of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, after racial violence in his Baltimore community, led his congregation into the community, launching the Resurrection Sandtown

Project to address systemic racism and poverty. A business donated a \$2.2 million property for mental health services and to help community entrepreneurs start their own businesses

- Recently the Susquehanna Conference Cabinet, along with clergy and laity there, participated in a Civil Rights Journey. In preparation for this experience, participants read books and met online monthly in order to discuss the readings and begin to prepare for the experience of the Civil Rights Journey. The Civil Rights Journey was immersive and included readings, videos, museums, and visits with firsthand participants and witnesses to Civil Rights.
- The Eastern Pennsylvania and Greater New Jersey Conferences created a more equitable apportionment and billing system, and Greater New Jersey approved giving back the land of closed churches in two counties to Native Americans. The conference set aside 1.3 million dollars for the land transfers and to sustain the St. John's Native American United Methodist Church property.
- The Upper New York annual conference has taken a multigenerational approach and trained coaches to work with groups to Imagine No Racism which is helping people move from contemplation to action.

Racism is a pervasive sin, sewn into the fabric of the values, culture, systems, policies and procedures of the church and society. It is insidious. Most white people do not even recognize racism and their own privileges that are often hiding in plain sight sometimes. Racism advantages white people and disadvantages people of color. It is a sin against the Creator and the created order.

Equality is not the answer. Allow me to illustrate why. I am aware of a church that has 41 worshipers and a church that has 108 worshipers. The church with 41 worshipers has a full-time pastor while the church with 108 worshipers has a parttime pastor. Why? The congregation with 41 worshipers is in an affluent white suburban community, and the congregation with 108 worshipers is in a low-income African American community. Not only is there an injustice in appointments, but in apportionments as well. Both congregations are apportioned an equal percentage share of the full apportionments. We call this equality, but it is not equity.

Let me illustrate further. The white, suburban congregation has reduced billings by the conference because it is a small congregation; but the African American church in a low-income community receives the full billing rate from the conference because it is a larger congregation. Rewarding smallness is not equity. At times, it is racism hiding in plain sight. Equity creates an apportionment and billing system that takes into consideration the community's average income and most of the time because of racism, is much lower in communities of color, particularly in African American communities. Might it be good for all the conferences in the Northeastern Jurisdiction to evaluate their appointment, apportionment and billing systems, and create systems not built on equality but on equity and root out any implicit bias.

Racism has a way of repeating itself because White people choose to either flee or ignore what is in plain sight. Again, let me illustrate. The overwhelming majority of churches disaffiliating are white congregations, often with some means. African Americans are once more staying with The United Methodist Church to make it a better church, as they have done before. The United Methodist Church owes a great debt that must be paid by ridding the church of the sin of racism and making ours a church that chooses equity rather than only equality. We are called to change our systems so that we will be diverse, inclusive, equitable and free of racism. This is a debt we have incurred, and we have not yet repaired the harm of the past nor rid the church of our present racism.



Trouble! These are troubling times that call for us to be in ministry together to rid the church of racism and to serve the whole community.

Song – Nobody knows...

Living into the Future

We are saddened and pained that there are churches who are disaffiliating from The United Methodist Church. Our differences about ministry with and by LGBTQ persons has led congregations to engage in a process of disaffiliation. For many, their hearts and our hearts are broken. Most of the congregations have been United Methodist for more than 100 years. They have faithfully participated in the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church; and like in any separation, we are all losing something whether we are staying to continue the United Methodist mission or leaving.

During this divisive time, we have a choice about how we will engage. A monk teaching student under a tree was stung by a scorpion several times, until his students asked him, "Why don't you kill the scorpion?" The monk said, "Just because it is in the nature of the scorpion to sting, it does not have to change my nature." Friends, let us, in our nature, speak the truth in love and have the mind of Christ, in whom we live and move and have our being. (Acts 17:28)

As congregations disaffiliate, those who continue the United Methodist mission will have differences among us. The faithful will always encounter trouble. On the last night of his life, Jesus gathered with his disciples in a room. During the evening, there were differences between the disciples and heated debate. One disciple would later turn Jesus in to the authorities. Another would deny he even knew Jesus. At least one was still carrying a sword and by the end of the evening, not one would be left standing with Jesus. But in the midst of their differences, Jesus would continue to stand with them and by them demonstrating what he taught, the law for love of God and love for others rises above every other law. The mind of Christ does not sting when stung.

The majority of congregations in The United Methodist Church, particularly in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, including both traditional and progressive congregations, are choosing to continue the United Methodist mission in the midst of their differences. One matter is not going to divide them. Like the disciples, there will be differences among us; but we have a mission and ministry that unites us as we together serve our communities and the world.

Our present United Methodist controversy is about people, not issues. That is what Jesus realized. He saw his disciples as people, not objects, not as an issue, not as those who were with him or against him, but as people. When we objectify or "issuefy" people, it is a sin against the Creator and creation. The state of the church will continue to be weary, anxious, frustrated and some angry if people feel harmed, unheard and unseen.

In the midst of our differences, let us follow Jesus, who recognized difference among the disciples, but who said the ultimate law is to love God and to love our neighbor. We are called to include all people regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation in ministry and leadership. While living with differences, we must stop the harm against those God has gifted and called for ministry, particularly in the LGBTQ community.

It is time for the LGBTQ community to no longer be unseen, unheard and harmed. It is time for the full inclusion of queer children of God. While there will be congregations and conferences in United Methodism that may not choose this path, hindering other congregations and conferences that recognize the calling and giftedness of the LGBTQ community is only driving a deeper wedge among us and hindering the mission. God is ready to do a new thing among us, can't you see it. We can achieve true unity, equity and inclusion if we have the mindset of Christ, if in humility, we regard others better than ourselves and look to the interests of others (Philippians 2) and keeping the mission first.

Engaging with the People in Our Communities

There are important justice and mercy ministries throughout the Northeastern Jurisdiction. We have the mindset of Christ Jesus when we serve together in and with our communities and the world. A deeper challenge for us is connecting with the people in our communities with a compelling relevant message that captures the hearts and imaginations of people, especially younger and more diverse young people, inviting them into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Let us look at some numbers that represent how we are reaching the people in our communities.

33,449 to 11,840

The number of new disciples in the Northeastern Jurisdiction made in 2019 and today.

263,060 to 126,535

The number of youth and children in the Northeastern Jurisdiction in 2019 and today.

11% to 5%

The percent of clergy elders under 35 in the Northeastern Jurisdiction in 1990 and today.

30% to 62%

The percent of clergy elders over 55 in the Northeastern Jurisdiction in 1990 and today.

1990 – 90%

2020 – 67%

2050 – 47%

The declining percentages of self-described Christians in the United States in 1990, 2020 and projected by the Pew Research Center by 2050.

These numbers do not represent church attendance, but people who call themselves Christians. Without a relevant and compelling message that captures the hearts and minds of the people in the community, participation in the church will decline rapidly which impacts our serving together in the world.

New and younger generations of disciples are looking for churches that exemplify the life of Jesus, that inspire them, that accepts them and their friends as they are, that demonstrate signs and wonders, that helps them experience meaning and purpose in their lives, and that offers inspiring worship and teaching and ministry that connects with their everyday lives.

We are in trouble unless we look for the signs of new life rather than depending on what worked in the past. The signs are springing up! Can't you see them? It is Rodney Hudson, Joan Park and Ray's Place,



and the thousands of leaders who have inspired their congregations to break through their complacency and lead people into their communities to connect with their neighbors and to be in ministry together.

Today, more than anything else, we will be served well by recruiting and developing transformational leaders who understand the congregation is our primary place of mission in our communities. They will grow vital mission congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As a Jurisdiction, as conferences, we do not make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. But we do recruit and develop leaders who lead their congregations and ministries into the community to meet and connect with the people...and yes, to transform the world. The challenge of leadership is further compounded by the fact that we are still trying to emerge from the pandemic, and we continue to suffer the wounds of serving during the pandemic. Leaders of our Northeastern Jurisdictional conferences will need to be especially compassionate in this season, while developing our clergy and lay leadership to be transformational.

Leadership development is not just about having workshops. If it only took workshops, The United Methodist Church would be the largest church in the world. Workshops are a small component of development. Most of us here today did not become a better leader because of a workshop. Most of us developed as leaders by being confronted with a deep challenge and supported by someone who worked with us to help us grow and develop. How will we free our bishops, superintendents, connectional ministry directors and other senior staff from the minutia and administration of keeping the denomination running and be freed so that they can connect with and support the development of our clergy and lay leadership. Our clergy and congregational leaders have the highest calling of the church, to lead congregations into the community and they need the church to support them in deepening their calling and growing their ability to lead the church into the community to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The challenges of the pandemic, racism, difference and inclusion, and growing leadership to lead us into the world can seem daunting, yet there are signs that God is doing a new thing, it is springing up around us.

Maybe a gift during this season, is for all of us to become more curious. It has been said to choose curiosity over judgement.

Right now, our church is filled with people with answers. But Jesus approached people with curiosity. Right now, our church is filled with single solutions, or hierarchical decisions and policies, rather than asking, "What can we do to more effectively raise up transformational leader and support and release congregations for ministry in their communities?" Having only answers leads to judgement. What would it look like for us to become more curious?

Emerging from a pandemic, ending the sin of racism, living with differences and raising up and developing leaders is hard work, deep work. Deep work, hard work can lead to making judgements, or it can lead us to be more curious and seek to discover the signs all around us that God is ready to do a new thing. It will take the mind of Christ Jesus and humble hearts to see others as better than ourselves and to move into our communities together...to truly be in ministry with all the world together. Yes, together. Let it begin with us?

In the name of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, amen.

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