

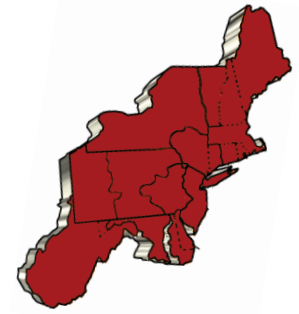
Daily Christian Advocate

The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church

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November 2, 2022



2022 NEJ Conference Officially Opens Today

By Maidstone Mulenga, DCA Editor

At about 10:30 a.m. today (Nov. 2, 2022) Bishop Mark Webb, the resident bishop of the Upper New York Conference will call to order the 21st Session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. A few motions later, the conference will vote to accept his request for retirement.

It will have been more than six years since the NEJ has met in person.

As host, Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling will offer the welcoming remarks after which Rev. Tom Salsgiver, as NEJ Secretary, will conduct the roll, noting the number of delegates present and eligible to vote.



Bishop Mark Webb talks with NEJ Treasurer David Simpson

Salsgiver will then announce the Sessions Committee: Credential, Journal, and Courtesies. These are appointed by the College of Bishops and do not require a vote by the conference.

After the adoption of the agenda and the rules, Bonnie Marden, chair of the Committee on Episcopacy, will then make a motion as part of her report to certify the retirement of Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, who was scheduled to retire in 2020, and Bishop Webb, who announced earlier this year that he would request retirement.

Marden will also make a motion that two bishops will be elected at the 2022 NEJ Conference. This motion is subject to amendment. If an election or elections are approved, the first ballot is expected just before lunch.

After lunch, Rev. Sherrie Rood, chair of Committee on Finance and Administration, and Rev. David Simpson, NEJ Treasurer, will then present the CFA report and present the budget for adoption.

One of the main highlights of the plenary session will be the State of the Jurisdiction Episcopal Address, which will be given by Bishop John Schol, resident bishop of Greater New Jersey Conference and Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Episcopal ballots will continue to be taken throughout the day as necessary.

Related story: Candidates share vision, hope, and insights (see Page 3)

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CORRECTIONS

Please email corrections in the Daily Christian Advocate to DCA Editor Maidstone Mulenga (mmulenga@umc-cob.org).

DCA copy deadline for each day is 5 p.m. Please submit the information electronically.

DAILY CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE STAFF

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- Beth DiCocco – New England Conference
- Alison Burdett – Baltimore-Washington Conference

Corrections

- On Page 21 of the Advance Daily Christian Advocate, under Committee on Appeals, Gail Douglas-Boykin's first name was spelled incorrectly.

Water Refilling Stations

Did you bring your water bottle? No need to go thirsty while you're here at the NEJ Conference!

There are water bottle refilling stations near the restrooms on the mezzanine level where the plenary, meals, and meeting rooms are located. Thank you for helping reduce plastic waste!

Principles of Holy Conferencing

Decision making following Holy Conferencing Principles is a spiritual and balanced way of seeking God's guidance. These principles allow for the celebrating of diverse points of view and promote a coming together to agree on and value decisions made in a spiritual and unprejudiced way. All delegates and participants at Jurisdictional Conference are urged to utilize these principles in all of our discussions and decision making.

- Every person is a child of God
- Listen before speaking.
- Strive to understand from another's point of view.
- Speak about issues, do not defame persons. Disagree without being disagreeable.
- Pray, in silence or aloud, before decisions are made. Let prayer interrupt our busy-ness.
- Strive to accurately reflect the views of others.

Candidates share vision, hope, and insights for the future

By Beth DiCocco, Director of Communications, New England Annual Conference

The nine episcopal candidates spent the day on Tuesday in interviews with the delegates offering prepared opening statements and answering questions.

As the candidates made their rounds, they were accompanied by a person of their choosing who was there to offer support.

The delegates were randomly assigned to one of nine groups. During their 40 minutes with each candidate, the delegate groups were charged with asking three standard questions, followed by questions that were formulated by that group.

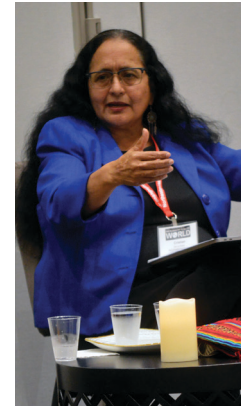
In welcoming the first candidate of the day, one group facilitator said, "We appreciate how stressful this might be and must be for you. We do want you to feel not just welcomed, but that we really are paying attention to everything you say and are here in discernment with you and in prayer with you."

The groups began by offering a prayer and some invited a delegate from the candidate's conference to pray for them. The candidates made an opening statement, followed by the questions. In some groups, candidates' responses were timed (2-4 minutes); in others, just the overall time was tracked.

The three standard questions were:

- Disaffiliation is a hot topic. The Annual Conference should have a process in place. How will you help the process go as smoothly as possible?
- The UMC faces challenges as we wait for the next General Conference to meet. Name one or two you find the most challenging. How would you handle those in your role as bishop?
- Is there anything on your nomination form that you would like to expand on?

Among the additional questions asked by delegate groups were direct questions about whether candidates would ordain LGBTQ+



clergy and whether they would bring charges against clergy who performed marriages for LGBTQ+ people.

A sample of other questions includes:

- Given the decline in the denomination what is your vision or plan for revitalization?
- Where do you see the holy spirit at work?
- How does your current context equip you and shape your call for the episcopacy?

(Continued page 4)

Candidates interviewed, continued

- As bishop, how will you work to empower and include people with disabilities?
- Tell us about a time when you were leading a major change initiative with a team. What did you learn about your leadership skills and what gifts did you need in the team?

Other topics included: fostering collaboration, health and wellness of clergy and laity and how candidates felt their gifts equipped them to cope with issues such as the pandemic, shrinking resources, and clergy burnout.

The delegates were also given time to follow up on any previously asked questions as the sessions wrapped up.

After dinner, delegations from each conference gathered to compare impressions and review the information gleaned throughout the day in preparation for the first plenary session of the conference and the beginning of the balloting.



Wednesday Menu

BREAKFAST

- Freshly Squeezed Orange Juice, & Apple Juice
- Seasonal Fruit, Berries & Bananas
- Housemade Muffins, and Seasonal Scones
- Whipped Butter and Assorted Fruit Preserves
- Cage Free Scrambled Eggs
- Challah French Toast with Maple Syrup
- Turkey Sausage
- Freshly Brewed Regular and Decaffeinated Coffees & Assorted Hot Teas

LUNCH

- Tomatoe Basil Bisque
- 4 Cheese Mac & Cheese
- Make Your own BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Brioche Bun,
- Vegetable Slaw
- Grilled Roasted Vegetables
- Chocolate Chip Cookies
- Soft Drinks & Water

DINNER

- Artisinal Rolls & Whipped Butter
- Seared Dorado & Braised Pulled Pork
- Roasted Peppers, Onions, Chimichurri Sauce, Tomatillo Salsa, Jicama Citrus Slaw and Chipotle Mayo
- Bibb Leaf Lettuce Wraps, Corn Tortillas, Warm Flour Tortillas, Guacamole, Sour Cream, Pico de Gallo, Queso Fresco, Shredded Lettuce, Jalapenos
- Spanish Rice
- Mexican Chocolate Layer Cake
- Freshly Brewed Regular & Decaffeinated Coffee, and Assorted Hot Teas

Agenda: 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: 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: 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 p.m. 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
 -Report: Monitors
 - GCORR – Rev. Enger Muteteke
 - GCOSROW – Rev. Mike Conner
- 7:30 p.m.Retirement Celebration
 - Reception for retiring Bishops
- 9:30 p.m.Annual Conference Delegations gather

A Glimpse of the NEJ pre-conference activities

The order of the day focused on getting to know those who were nominated for the episcopacy. Delegates, reserve delegates and youth members of the 21st Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference were divided into small groups for the purpose of interviewing the nine endorsed episcopal candidates. Elsewhere, preparations went on for worship, administrative work, etc.



Photos by Deborah Coble (West Virginia Conference); Beth DeCocco (New England Conference); and Alison Burdett (Baltimore-Washington Conference)



Updated List of 177 Delegates & Reserves Alphabetically by Conference

Red: Reserves

As of 11-1-2022

Corrected name:

Leight, William (SUS)

Unable to attend:

Ray Hammill (SUS)

Kristi Wilkerson (WV)

Perez, Rene (NE)

01	BW	Arroyo, Giovanni	45	EPA	Miller, Mandy
02	BW	Colbert, Daniel	46	EPA	Munoz, Lydia
03	BW	Cole-Wilson, Stacey	47	EPA	Taylor-Storm, Dawn
04	BW	Collins, Tracy	48	EPA	Thompson, Lenora
05	BW	Daniels, Joe	49	GNJ	Amey, Bethany
06	BW	Ford, Sarah	50	GNJ	Bennett, Tanya
07	BW	Frazier, Malcolm	51	GNJ	Burgos, Hector
08	BW	Gaines-Cirelli, Ginger	52	GNJ	Caldwell, Dale
09	BW	Hunt, Anthony	53	GNJ	Cho, Jennifer
10	BW	Jones, Nathan	54	GNJ	Corbett, Kaleigh
11	BW	Kraus, Heather	55	GNJ	Costello, Robert
12	BW	Latona, Christie	56	GNJ	Doh, Sangwom
13	BW	Lauber, Melissa	57	GNJ	Dyson, Drew
14	BW	Link, Conrad	58	GNJ	Ehlers, Jane
15	BW	Mills, Ianther	59	GNJ	Jules, Moselle
16	BW	Milton, Sharon	60	GNJ	Lank, Thomas
17	BW	Moore, Charles	61	GNJ	Olson, Harriet
18	BW	Norvell, Laura	62	GNJ	Pendleton, Carolyn
19	BW	Oskvig, Bryant	63	GNJ	Pogue, Creed
20	BW	Ow, Ken	64	GNJ	Quigg, Stephen
21	BW	Park, J.W.	65	GNJ	Vega Perez, Eunice
22	BW	Pembamoto, Lutebula	66	GNJ	Williams, Catherine
23	BW	Quinn, Mittie	67	GNJ	Williams, William
24	BW	Reynolds, Kirkland	68	GNJ	Wren-Hardin, Andrea
25	BW	Rivera, Edgardo	69	NE	Awa, Uchenna
26	BW	Rudolph, Melissa	70	NE	Bonnette-Kim, Amanda
27	BW	Schlieckert, Chris	71	NE	Bonnette-Kim, Sandra
28	BW	Schlieckert, Sarah	72	NE	Bragan, Roberta
29	BW	Taylor, Cynthia	73	NE	Calhoun, David
30	BW	Yates, Leo	74	NE	De La Rosa, Cristian
31	EPA	Adams, Kristine	75	NE	Girrell, Rebecca
32	EPA	Bonner, Hannah	76	NE	Goodrich, Leigh
33	EPA	Cameron, Edward	77	NE	Holston, Claire
34	EPA	Dodla, Johnson	78	NE	Marden, Bonnie
35	EPA	Ehninger, Judith	79	NE	Oduor, Ralph
36	EPA	Fisher, Elizabeth	80	NE	Pridgen-Randolph, Charlotte
37	EPA	Grimm McCoy, Susan	81	NE	Rodriguez, Ana Maria
38	EPA	Guepet, Monica	82	NE	Spicer, Noah
39	EPA	Hynicka, Robin	83	NE	Williams, Jay
40	EPA	Johnson Gauld, Krystl	84	NY	Brewington, Frederick
41	EPA	Koch, David	85	NY	Chin, Noel
42	EPA	Krall, Clarita	86	NY	Craig, Ann
43	EPA	Kurien, Christopher	87	NY	Douglas-Boykin, Gail
44	EPA	Lebo, Dan	88	NY	Fleck, Paul

89	NY	French-Goffe, Tiffany	141	UNY	Swords-Horrell, Martha
90	NY	Kim, Chongho (James)	142	UNY	Urriola, Ian
91	NY	Littlejohn, Roena	143	UNY	Vianese, Carmen
92	NY	Lockward, Jorge	144	UNY	Warren, Jeffery
93	NY	Nunes, Marjorie	145	UNY	Wheat, Harold
94	NY	Prudente, Karen	146	WPA	Bain, Randell
95	NY	Reimer, Katie	147	WPA	Chung, Sung
96	NY	Riss, Timothy	148	WPA	Dinger, Brett
97	NY	Smartt (Sears), Denise	149	WPA	Fehl, Katherine
98	NY	Tavarez, Daisy	150	WPA	Han, Duk Hee
99	PD	Bennett, David	151	WPA	Hoffman, Alexander
100	PD	Ford, Jacqueline	152	WPA	Hoffman, Richard
101	PD	Gordy-Stith, Vicki	153	WPA	Lord, Janet
102	PD	Jones, Karen	154	WPA	McIlwain, Keith
103	PD	Nichols, Regina	155	WPA	Meekins, William
104	PD	Samans, Carl	156	WPA	Merrick, Tracy
105	PD	Westbrook, William	157	WPA	Mikell, Renee
106	PD	Weston, Megan	158	WPA	Park, Eric
107	PD	Whitney, Jonathan	159	WPA	Patrick, William
108	SUS	Amara, Paul	160	WPA	Saffell, Laura
109	SUS	Brennecke, Craig	161	WPA	Seth, John
110	SUS	Hoekstra, Kaytlynn	162	WPA	Stahlman, Vicki
111	SUS	Holland, Rebecca	163	WPA	Stains, Joseph
112	SUS	Kind, Kathleen	164	WPA	Stone, Denise
113	SUS	Lake, Matthew	165	WPA	Ward, Peggy
114	SUS	Leight, William	166	WPA	Weaver Dunn, Alyce
115	SUS	Loyer, Kenneth	167	WPA	Zilhaver, Robert
116	SUS	Loyer, Milton	168	WV	Estep, Michael
117	SUS	Mackey, Jason	169	WV	Fulton, Rachel
118	SUS	McDermott, Christine	170	WV	Godwin, Lauren
119	SUS	Morris, Richard	171	WV	Hill, Joseph
120	SUS	Oplinger, Toni	172	WV	Kenaston, Joseph
121	SUS	Reisinger, Mark	173	WV	Kenaston, Judith
122	SUS	Salsgiver, Thomas	174	WV	Raines, Judy
123	SUS	Waybright, Jacob	175	WV	Shaffer, Richard
124	SUS	Weaver, Gary	176	WV	Shanholtzer, Amy
125	SUS	Wong, Rachel	177	WV	Taylor, Jeffrey
126	UNY	Acevedo, Melysa			
127	UNY	Allen, William			
128	UNY	Barczykowski, Linda			
129	UNY	Bogue-Trost, Dona Michelle			
130	UNY	Cady, Stephen			
131	UNY	Dupont, Rachel			
132	UNY	Fuller, Dan			
133	UNY	Giso, Rachel			
134	UNY	Laird, Rebecca			
135	UNY	Mudge, William			
136	UNY	Rosa-Laguer, Carlos			
137	UNY	Smith, Samuel			
138	UNY	Sperry, Andrew			
139	UNY	Sweet, Marthalyn			
140	UNY	Sweet, Rebekah			

Youth Representatives

As of 11-1-2022

Youth sorted by Conference (in Alpha order within each Conference)

BW	Putney, TJ (youth)
BW	Tharps, Jaelyn (youth)
NE	Fisher, Calvin (youth)
NE	Schad, Galen (youth)
SUS	Raser, Alex (youth)
WV	Lamb, Hannah (youth)

2022 NEJ Session Committees

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

This committee shall review the delegate registrations and report the number of delegates present to the NEJ Secretary. This committee will review substitutions of delegates and youth representatives as reported by the chairperson of the annual conference delegations. These must be in writing on form provided by the NEJ Secretary. This committee will report substitutions found to be in order in the Daily Christian Advocate as soon as practical. This committee shall consider questions about delegate qualifications and present recommendations to the Jurisdictional conference for action.

Suggested Persons to serve on the 2022 CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Last	First	Email	Conference	Ethnicity	Male	Female	Lay	Clergy
Gordy-Stith	Vicki	vgordy-stith@pen-del.org	Peninsula-Delaware	Anglo		X		X
Shaffer	Richard	rshaffer1@suddenlink.net	West Virginia	Anglo	X		X	
Oduor	Ralph	oduorr@verizon.net	New England	African American	X		X	
Fleck	Paul	Paul.fleck@nyac-umc.com	New York	Anglo	X			

JOURNAL COMMITTEE

This committee shall daily examine the minutes of the day and Daily Christian Advocate to report its finding to the conference with appropriate recommendations, if any.

Suggested persons to serve on the 2022 Journal Committee

Last	First	Email	Conference	Ethnicity	Male	Female	Lay	Clergy
Chin	Noel	nobarchin@aol.com	New York	Caribbean	X			X
Ford	Sarah	sarahford038@gmail.com	Baltimore-Washington	African American		X	X	
Hynicka	Robin	robin@archstreetumc.org	Eastern Pennsylvania	Anglo	X			X
Pendleton	Carolyn	cdpen@aol.com	Greater New Jersey	African American		X	X	

COURTESIES COMMITTEE

This committee with regard to brevity, prepare and present to the NEJ Conference arrange and propose to the Jurisdictional Conference the presentation of such persons who, in the committee's judgment, may appropriately be given the courtesy of introduction and/or privilege of briefly addressing the body.

Suggested persons to serve on the 2022 Courtesies Committee

Last	First	Email	Conference	Ethnicity	Male	Female	Lay	Clergy
Meekins	William	wbmeekinsj@aol.com	Western Pennsylvania	African American	X			X
Kenaston	Judi	judikenaston@aol.com	West Virginia	Anglo		X	X	
Rosa-Laugar	Carlos	carlosrosalaguer@unyumc.org	Upper New York	Hispanic	X			X
McDermott	Christina	cmcdermott718@gmail.com	Susquehanna	Anglo		X	X	

2022 NEJ Disciplinary Committees (to be voted on Wednesday, 11/2/2022)

Committee on Appeals

- Jennifer Cho, GNJ
- Ianther Mills, BWC
- Janet Lord, WPA
- Rene Perez, NE
- Laura Figatakes, WV
- Earl Butterfield, WPA
- Gail Douglas Boykin, NY
- Carmen FS Vianese, UNY
- Ray Hamill, SUS

Committee on Appeals Alternates

- Johnson Dodia, EPA
- Tim Riss, NY
- Paul Amara, SUS

- Laureen Godwin, WV
- Bethany Amey, GNJ
- Denise Nicole Stone, WPA
- Tiffany Goffe, NY

Committee on Investigation

- Drew Dyson, GNJ
- Denise Smart Sears, NY
- Duk Hee-Han, WPA
- Kathy Kind, SUS
- Amy Shanholtzer, WV
- Melissa Rudolph, BWC
- Elizabeth Santos, EPA
- Fred Brewington, NY

Committee on Investigation

Alternates

- Steve Cady, UNY
- Joe Hill, WV
- Tom Lank, GNJ
- Rebecca Holland, SUS

Administrative Review Committee

- Rene Mikell, WPA
- Joe Kenaston, WV
- Harriett Olson, GNJ
- Bryant Oskvig, BWC
- Matthew Lake, SUS
- Ana Maria Rodriguez Alfonso, NE

Delegation Gatherings

Wednesday evening (9:30 p.m.)

Conference	Meeting Room
Baltimore-Washington:	Terrapin 1
Eastern PA:	Terrapin 2
New England:	Terrapin 3
Greater New Jersey:	Charles Carrol
New York:	Francis Scott Key
Peninsula-Delaware:	Lobby Bar Seating Area
Susquehanna:	Jim Hensen
Upper New York:	Top of the 7s
Western PA:	Wayne Curry
West Virginia:	Prefunction A



Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops

Residential Bishops



Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball



Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton



Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar



Bishop LaTrelle Easterling



Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi



Bishop John Schol



Bishop Mark Webb



Daily Christian Advocate

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