Daily Christian Advocate

The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church

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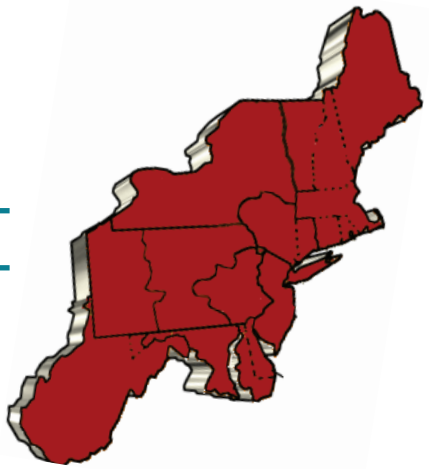

Overflowing with Hope

Rev. Dr. Thomas Salsgiver, NEJ Secretary

The 22nd Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference will convene in a few short days. The people called United Methodists in the Northeast will travel from New England to Baltimore, from West Virginia to Upper New York and all points in-between. We will gather to worship, pray, to hear reports, to dream and plan for the future. Most importantly we will be in Christian community and fellowship with one another.

The year's theme, chosen by Program and Arrangements and affirmed by the College of Bishops, is "Overflowing with Hope." Taken from Romans 15, this is a most appropriate theme for us in the Northeast and United Methodists around the world.

These past several years have been, in many respects, extremely trying and difficult years. We have been through COVID, we have seen and lived through division, misinformation, anger, and separation in our churches, our annual conferences and our beloved United Methodist Church.

The United Methodist Church

ROMANS 15:13

The words of Charles Wesley ring as true today as when he wrote them 275 years ago:

> *"What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past, fightings without and fears within, since we assembled last!"*

However, we, the people called United Methodists are resilient and put our trust in the God who created us, the Jesus that saves us and the Spirit who moves us forward in mission and ministry. We are a people, who when we gather at the Omni William Penn in Pittsburgh, PA, will proclaim with unwavering faith, the "God of hope fills us with all joy and peace as we trust in God, so that we, the people called United Methodists in the Northeast will overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Just as many gathered to participate in the historic General Conference in April-May, so to delegates, reserves and youth representatives will gather as a Jurisdiction to do the work of the United Methodist Church in the Northeast.

The official start of the Jurisdictional Conference will begin on Wednesday, July 10 and we will conclude on Friday, July 12. During our time together we will begin with the Celebration of Holy Communion and the memorial remembrance of Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar and Bishop William Boyd Grove. We will also celebrate the retirement of Bishop John Schol and the "re-retirement" of Bishop Peggy Johnson.

Our ongoing work will include the business that is assigned to the Jurisdictions through The Book of Discipline and the NEJ Plan of Organization and Rules. We will hear reports, celebrate what has been accomplished and look to the future with hope.

(Continued page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Friday morning the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy will present the assignment of Bishops and the episcopal coverage for each Annual Conference and Area. Our final worship will be a celebration moving us to go out in mission and ministry.

At the writing of this article, based on the action of General Conference and the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy, it appears that we will not have an Episcopal election. Tuesday, which is normally a day of interviews, will be spent meeting and sharing in several critical issues of the United Methodist Church and the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

As you read, pray, and study this Advance Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate, may we take time to pray for the upcoming Jurisdictional Conference. As we gather may we be a people overflowing with hope!

2024 NEJ Session Committees

COURTESIES COMMITTEES
- Judi Kenaston (WV)
- Ian Urriola (UNY)
- Williams Meekins (WPA)
- Christina McDermott (SUS)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
- Richard Shaffer (WV)
- Ralph Oduor (NE)
- Vicki Gordy Stith (PD)
- Tim Riss (NY)

JOURNAL COMMITTEE
- Sarah Ford (BWC)
- Noel Chin (NY)
- Robin Hynicka (EPA)
- Carolyn Pendleton (GNJ)

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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.

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- John Coleman - Eastern PA Conference
- Erik Alsgaard - Baltimore-Washington Conference

Welcome to the Western Pennsylvania Conference!

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

I greet you in the name and with the love of Jesus who is the Christ.

On behalf of the rejuvenated and hope-filled people of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, we welcome "yinz" to the City of Bridges - four hundred and forty-six bridges to be exact. The United Methodists in Western Pennsylvania are rejuvenated and full of hope because the harvest is plentiful. And while the laborers are few, the mathematics of God's Holy Spirit has demonstrated to us in spectacular fashion that we have more than enough to do that which God has called us. We welcome you to the Steel City and invite you to join with us in experiencing the hope of God.

Pittsburgh is located at the confluence of the Ohio, Monongahela, and Allegheny Rivers. This confluence has been a meeting and gathering place for trade and travel for millennia. With respect and gratitude, we name the Haudenosaunee, Lenape, Osage, and Shawnee peoples who were the original stewards of this land and the first peoples who gathered and welcomed others for trade and travel. We deeply regret the atrocities that led to them no longer being able to receive others at this confluence. With great humility we extend a welcome to this ancient meeting place.

In Western Pennsylvania, we are a hearty people who are known for our grit and stubborn determination. We are determined that you will experience radical hospitality while we are gathered together. We have entreated God for an extra portion of the gift of hospitality from the Holy Spirit so that you might experience the extravagant love of God while here. We have been praying that the love, joy, peace, and hope of God overflows in all of us- while also praying that the three rivers do not overflow!f

If there is anything we can do while you are here to help you experience the overflow of hope more fully, please reach out to us. There are many volunteers who are in place throughout the hotel just for yinz.

God bless the Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church as we engage in Holy Conferencing, that we might even more faithfully cooperate with God in God's mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Peace and blessings,

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops

Residential Bishops

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

Bishop Héctor Burgos Núñez

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

Bishop John Schol

Retired Bishops

Bishop George Bashore

Bishop Violet Fisher

Bishop Susan W. Hassinger

Bishop Neil L. Irons

Bishop Clifton S. Ives

Bishop Alfred Johnson

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

Bishop Ernest Lyght

Bishop Marcus Matthews

Bishop Jane Allen Middleton

Bishop Susan Morrison

Bishop Jeremiah Park

Bishop Forrest C. Stith

Bishop Peter Weaver

2024 NEJ Session Agenda: July 7-12, 2024

July 7-8: Delegates and Bishops will begin to arrive

July 8-9: Meetings for individual committees (Monday evening & Tuesday during the day)

July 10-12: The NEJ Conference with plenaries, worship and discussion, beginning Wednesday morning at 8:30am and concluding with a worship celebration on Friday at 11:00am.

SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, July 10
- Worship and Memorial service (8:30am)
- Jurisdictional Conference business

Thursday, July 11
- Worship (8:30am)
- Jurisdictional Conference business

Friday, July 12
- Announcement of Episcopal Assignments (8:30am)
- Closing worship celebration (11 am)

Listing of 171 Delegates and Reserves by Conference

*** List is subject to change upon verification of some names. Heads of the Delegations: if there is a correction, please contact Darlynn McCrae immediately to ensure accurate information****

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON-27

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

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA-21

• Adams, Kristine	• Forry, Cynthia	• McCoy, Susan Grimm
• Bonner, Hannah	• Gauld, Krystl Johnson	• Miller, Mandy
• Cameron, Edward	• Guepet, Monica	• Munoz, Lydia
• DiDomineck, Darlene	• Hynicka, Robin	• Revere, Barbara
• Dodla, Johnson	• Julia-Stanley, Alicia	• Speer, Lloyd
• * Ehninger, Judith	• Koch, David	• Taylor-Storm, Dawn
• Fisher, Elizabeth	• Krall, Clarita	• Thompson, Lenora

GREATER NEW JERSEY-18

• * Amey, Bethany	• Dyson, Drew	• Perez, Eunice Perez
• Bennett, Tanya	• Ehlers, Jane	• Pogue, Creed
• Cho, Jennifer	• Jules, Moselle	• Quigg, Stephen
• Corbett, Kaleigh	• Kent, Cynthia	• Williams, Catherine
• Costello, Robert	• Lank, Tom	• Williams, William
• Doh, SangWon	• Pendleton, Carolyn	• Wren-Hardin, Andrea

NEW ENGLAND-14

• Awa, Uchenna Joan	• Goodrich, Leigh	• Perez, Rene
• Bonnette-Kim, Sandra	• Holston, Claire	• Pridgen-Randolph, Charlotte
• Bragan, Roberta	• Marden, Bonnie	• Spicer, Noah
• De La Rosa, Cristian	• McAvoy, Effie	• * Williams, Jay
• Girrell, Rebecca	• Oduor, Ralph	•

NEW YORK-14

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

PENINSULA-DELAWARE-5

• Ford, Jacqueline	• Nichols, Regina	• Whitney, Jonathan
• * Gordy-Stith, Vicki	• Weston, Megan	

SUSQUEHANNA-22

• Bealla, Wesley M.	• Konick-McMahan, JoAnne	• Shockley, Kim
• Bender, Lisa D.	• Konieczny, Diane	• Sledge, Kris
• Hamill, Raymond L.	• Konieczny, John T.	• Waybright, Jake
• Hewlett, Mira	• Loyer, Milton W.	• Weaver, Cindy M.
• Holland, Rebecca	• McDermott, Christina M.	• Weaver, Gary D.
• Hosier, Lenore C.	• Oplinger, Toni A.	• Wong, Rachel E.K.
• Hughes, Janice F.	• Reisinger, Mark F.	
• Kind, Kathleen E.	• * Salsgiver, Thomas L.	

UPPER NEW YORK-15

• Acevedo, Melysa	• Laird, Rebecca	• Sweet, Marthalyn
• Allen, William	• Mudge, William	• Sweet, Rebekah
• Bogue-Trost, Michelle	• Scavo, Emma Marie	• Urriola, Ian
• Giso, Rachel	• Smith, Samuel	• * Vianese, Carmen
• Guilfoyle, Kenneth	• Sperry, Andrew	• Wheat, Harold

WEST VIRGINIA-11

• Estep, Michael	• Kenaston, Judith	• * Shanholtzer, Amy
• Godwin, Lauren	• Matthews, Kim	• Taylor, Jeffrey
• Hill, Joseph	• Raines, Judy	• Wilkerson, Kristi
• Kenaston, Joseph	• Shaffer, Richard	

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA-24

• Chung, Sung Shik	• Meekins Jr., William B.	• Pryor, Ross T.
• Cox, Linda W.	• Merrick, Tracy R.	• Seth, John W.
• * Dunn, Alyce Weaver	• Mikell, D. Renee	• Stahlman, Vicki J.
• Gilligan, Samuel T.	• Miles, Mallory L.	• Stone, Denise-Nicole
• Gregory, Sharon J.	• Montgomery, Robert H.	• Wagner, Amy R.
• Hussian, Anais L.	• Moudry, Susan L.	• Ward, Peggy D.
• Jenrette, Jerra L.	• Park, Eric S.	• Washabaugh, Evan D.
• McPherson, Seth R.	• Popson, Joshua D.	• Zilhaver, Robert F.

** Indicates Head of Delegation*

20 – 2024 YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

BWC	Cassiday Carpenter
BWC	Ryan Taylor
EPA	Alisabeth Guepert
GNJ	Noah Bielefeldt
GNJ	Adutta Samuel
NE	Calvin Fisher
NE	Galen Schad
NY	Lourdes Dom
NY	Ye-Ari Kim
NY	Simon Maynard
SUS	Carrine Lawson
SUS	Naomi Waybright
SUS	Ariana White
UNY	Arisia McMahon
UNY	Valeria Burgos-Adorno
UNY	Grace Stierheim
WPA	Sarah Philipps
WPA	Ryan Fox
WPA	Eli J. Washabaugh
WV	Wesley Deleurere

171 - Voting Delegates and Reserves Sorted Alpha Order

As of June 17, 2024

Acevedo, Melysa	UNY
Adams, Kristine	EPA
Allen, William	UNY
* Amey, Bethany	GNJ
Arroyo, Giovanni	BWC
Awa, Uchenna Joan	NE
Bealla, Wesley M.	SUS
Bender, Lisa D.	SUS
Bennett, Tanya	GNJ
Bogue-Trost, Michelle	UNY
Bonner, Hannah	EPA
Bonnette-Kim, Sandra	NE
Bragan, Roberta	NE
* Brewington, Frederick	NY
Cameron, Edward	EPA
Chin, Noel	NY
Cho, Jennifer	GNJ
Chung, Sung Shik	WPA
Cole-Wilson, Stacey	BWC
Collins, Tracy	BWC
Corbett, Kaleigh	GNJ
Costello, Robert	GNJ
Cox, Linda W.	WPA
Daniels, Joe	BWC
De La Rosa, Cristian	NE
DiDomineck, Darlene	EPA
Dodla, Johnson	EPA
Doh, SangWon	GNJ
Douglas-Boykin, Gail	NY
* Dunn, Alyce Weaver	WPA
Dyson, Drew	GNJ
Ehlers, Jane	GNJ
* Ehninger, Judith	EPA
Estep, Michael	WV
Fisher, Elizabeth	EPA
Fleck, Paul	NY
Ford, Jacqueline	PD
Ford, Sarah	BWC
Forry, Cynthia	EPA
Frazier, Malcom	BWC
French-Goffe, Tiffany	NY
Gaines-Cirelli, Ginger	BWC
Gauld, Krystl Johnson	EPA
Gilligan, Samuel T.	WPA
Girrell, Rebecca	NE
Giso, Rachel	UNY

Godwin, Lauren	WV
Goodrich, Leigh	NE
* Gordy-Stith, Vicki	PD
Gregory, Sharon J.	WPA
Guepet, Monica	EPA
Guilfoyle, Kenneth	UNY
Hamill, Raymond L.	SUS
Hewlett, Mira	SUS
Hill, Joseph	WV
Holland, Rebecca	SUS
Holston, Claire	NE
Hosier, Lenore C.	SUS
Hughes, Janice F.	SUS
Hunt, Anthony	BWC
Hussian, Anais L.	WPA
Hynicka, Robin	EPA
Jenrette, Jerra L.	WPA
Jones, Nathan	BWC
Jules, Moselle	GNJ
Julia-Stanley, Alicia	EPA
Kenaston, Joseph	WV
Kenaston, Judith	WV
Kent, Cynthia	GNJ
Kent, Cynthia	GNJ
Kim, Chongho (James)	NY
Kind, Kathleen E.	SUS
Koch, David	EPA
Konick-McMahan, JoAnne	SUS
Konieczny, Diane	SUS
Konieczny, John T.	SUS
Krall, Clarita	EPA
Kraus, Heather	BWC
Laird, Rebecca	UNY
Lank, Tom	GNJ
Latona, Christie	BWC
Lauber, Melissa	BWC
Link, Conrad	BWC
Littlejohn, Roena	NY
Lockward, Jorge	NY
Loyer, Milton W.	SUS
Marden, Bonnie	NE
Matthews, Kim	WV
McAvoy, Effie	NE
McCoy, Susan Grimm	EPA
McDermott, Christina M.	SUS
McPherson, Seth R.	WPA

Meekins Jr., William B.	WPA
Merrick, Tracy R.	WPA
Mikell, D. Renee	WPA
Miles, Mallory L.	WPA
Miller, Mandy	EPA
* Mills, Ianther	BWC
Montgomery, Robert H.	WPA
Moore, Charles	BWC
Moudry, Susan L.	WPA
Mudge, William	UNY
Munoz, Lydia	EPA
Nichols, Regina	PD
Norvell, Laura	BWC
Nunes, Marjorie	NY
Oduor, Ralph	NE
Oplinger, Toni A.	SUS
Oskvig, Bryant	BWC
Ow, Ken	BWC
Park, Eric S.	WPA
Park, J.W.	BWC
Pembamoto, Lutebula	BWC
Pendleton, Carolyn	GNJ
Perez, Eunice Perez	GNJ
Perez, Rene	NE
Popson, Joshua D.	WPA
Pridgen-Randolph, Charlotte	NE
Prudente, Karen	NY
Pryor, Ross T.	WPA
Quinn, Mittie	BWC
Raines, Judy	WV
Reimer, Katie	NY
Reisinger, Mark F.	SUS
Revere, Barbara	EPA
Reynolds, Kirkland	BWC
Riss, Timothy	NY
Rivera, Edgardo	BWC
Rudolph, Melissa	BWC
* Salsgiver, Thomas L.	SUS
Scavo, Emma Marie	UNY
Schlieckert, Chris	BWC

Schlieckert, Sarah	BWC
Seth, John W.	WPA
Shaffer, Richard	WV
* Shanholtzer, Amy	WV
Shockley, Kim	SUS
Sledge, Kris	SUS
Smartt Sears, Denise	NY
Smith, Samuel	UNY
Speer, Lloyd	EPA
Sperry, Andrew	UNY
Spicer, Noah	NE
Stahlman, Vicki J.	WPA
Stone, Denise-Nicole	WPA
Sweet, Marthalyn	UNY
Sweet, Rebekah	UNY
Tavarez, Daisy	NY
Taylor, Cynthia	BWC
Taylor, Jeffrey	WV
Taylor-Storm, Dawn	EPA
Thompson, Lenora	EPA
Urriola, Ian	UNY
* Vianese, Carmen	UNY
Wagner, Amy R.	WPA
Ward, Peggy D.	WPA
Washabaugh, Evan D.	WPA
Waybright, Jake	SUS
Weaver, Cindy M.	SUS
Weaver, Gary D.	SUS
Weston, Megan	PD
Wheat, Harold	UNY
Whitney, Jonathan	PD
Wilkerson, Kristi	WV
Williams, Catherine	GNJ
* Williams, Jay	NE
Williams, William	GNJ
Wong, Rachel E.K.	SUS
Wren-Hardin, Andrea	GNJ
Yates, Leo	BWC
Zilhaver, Robert F.	WPA

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

Subject to the current *Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church (hereinafter "Book of Discipline" or "BoD").

PART A – PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

Article I – ORGANIZATION OF THE NEJ CONFERENCE

1. Opening Session

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

2. Presiding Officer

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

3. Roll Call

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

4. Calling the Conference to Order

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

5. Adoption of Rules

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

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

A. Election

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

[1] ¶518, 2016 BoD

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

B. Terms of Office

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

C. Duties of Secretary

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

~~In addition to those duties imposed by *The Book of Discipline,*~~T ~~t~~he Secretary shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Serve as custodian of the permanent records of the Jurisdictional Conference and its committees, which records shall be transmitted to any successor in office;
2. Keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the Jurisdictional Conference;
3. Prepare, edit, and distribute the official Journal of the Conference;
4. Prepare the roll, other lists, and forms necessary to facilitate the business of the Jurisdictional Conference;
5. Appoint such staff as are reasonably required to carry out the work of the Conference, consistent with the budget for such services as approved by the Conference;
6. Arrange for recording of the business sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference, in consultation with the Committee on Program and Arrangements;
7. Arrange for publication of the *Daily Christian Advocate;*
8. Ensure distribution among the committees of all memorials, resolutions, petitions, and similar communications addressed to the Conference and report directly to the Conference all documents for which there is no other provision;
9. Provide delegates with standardized biographical information profile form on all episcopal nominees (Rule 3~~6~~7), an interview schedule (Rule 3~~7~~8), and the voting procedure established by the Vision Table (Rule 3~~8~~9).
10. Ensure that sufficient resources are available at the conference site to produce information about any additional episcopal nominee(s) who may emerge during balloting and arrange to have such information distributed forthwith to all delegates; shall encourage all Elders with eligibility to prepare the standardized biographical profile form in advance in the event of nomination.
11. Serve on the Vision Table, act as the recording secretary for this body, and maintain its minutes and other documents;
12. Serve ex officio (with voice but not vote) on the following committees: Rules, Program and Arrangements, and Finance and Administration;

13. Serve on (or designate the Assistant Secretary to serve on) the following committees with voice but not vote: Credentials, Journal, Examination of Annual Conference Minutes, Courtesies, and Nominations; and
14. Perform such other duties as may be ordered by the Jurisdictional Conference.

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 their~~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.

Non-delegates who are ~~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 their ~~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.

C. Duties of the Treasurer

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

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

1. Function as the business manager of the Jurisdiction;
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;
3. Submit a financial report for publication in the first issue of the *Daily Christian Advocate;*
4. Submit a report within three months~~by October 31~~ following the NEJ Conference for publication in the Journal;
5. Submit a final quadrennial report to the Vision Table at its first meeting in the ensuing quadrennium;
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;
7. Serve on the Vision Table;
8. Serve ex officio (with voice but not vote) on the following committees: Program and Arrangements, and Finance and Administration;
9. Work with the auditor and the Committee on Finance and Administration to complete all audits; and
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.

D. Duties of the Assistant Treasurer

The Assistant Treasurer shall

1. Perform such tasks as the Treasurer may direct;
2. Be familiar with the duties of the Office of Treasurer;
3. Serve on the Vision Table;
4. Serve ex officio (with voice but not vote) on the following committees: Program and Arrangements, and Finance and Administration; and
5. Assume the office of Treasurer, when necessary, as described in Article I.7.E.

E. Vacancy in the Office of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Treasurer during the quadrennium, the Assistant Treasure 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 shall carryout such duties, upon authorization by the Vision table, until such time as the Treasurer is able to resume their ~~his or her~~ duties.

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

An audit shall be conducted whenever the Treasurer changes.

8. — Jurisdictional Conference Budget

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

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

Final action on the budget shall be an order of the day. ~~Nothing in the language is intended to prevent further action on the budget, if the Jurisdiction takes action on a matter with financial implications.~~If the Conference later takes action on a matter with financial implications, the Conference shall reconsider the impacted portions.

9. Apportionments

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

10. Daily Christian Advocate

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

The first issue shall be published and distributed to the NEJ Bishops, delegates, reserve delegates, and youth representatives at least two weeks prior to the Jurisdictional Conference session. This issue shall include: ~~the~~

- The names of the NEJ bishops, delegates, reserve delegates, and youth representatives;
- ~~the~~ The total budget as approved by the Vision Table;
- ~~the~~ The tentative amount of annual conference apportionments, based on the budget;
- The report of the Treasurer;
- ~~membership~~ Membership lists of the committees;
- The reports from all standing committees; ~~and such o~~
- Other information as may be necessary for the orderly procedure of business.

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

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

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

11. Journal

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

12. Virtual Meetings

If the College of Bishops and Program Committee are in agreement, the meetings of the NEJ Conference may be held virtually and live streamed. ~~under t~~The following conditions shall be met:

- ~~the conferencing platform must ensure that a~~All duly elected delegates and reserves can hear one another; ~~that their~~
- The delegates presence is recorded; ~~that t~~
- The speakers are ~~is~~ queued and names are listed on the screen;
- ~~that v~~Visual interpreters ~~be~~ are available;
- When appropriate, ballots are secret
- The ~~voting will occur with secret ballots; and the~~ results of balloting are shown on ~~a~~ the screen.
- Where possible, being able to see the person speaking;

- The hiring of a third party vendor for voting (not related to an annual conference).

ARTICLE II – VISION TABLE

1. Purpose and Authority

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

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

The Vision Table is authorized to take such actions as may be referred to it by the Jurisdictional Conference or as may be necessary to support jurisdictional activities between quadrennial sessions. The Vision Table shall not exercise any powers that require a vote of the Jurisdictional Conference, in accordance with the provisions of *The Book of Discipline* or this Plan of Organization or the Rules of Order.

2. Membership

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

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

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

3. Organization

A.Term of Office

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

B. Secretary of Vision Table, Minutes and Other Records

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

C. Executive Committee

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

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

4. Duties and Responsibilities

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

- Meet at least annually;
- Review and evaluate the sessions of Jurisdictional Conference to determine what changes in procedure or program should be recommended to achieve greater effectiveness of future conferences;
- Establish a committee, which shall be comprised as set forth in Rule 34, for the purpose of determining whether to allow an episcopal nomination to be brought to the Jurisdictional Conference from a group other than national racial and ethnic caucuses, as listed in the current edition of the BoD, or their NEJ-related caucuses (Rule 34);
- Establish a voting procedure for episcopal elections (Rule 3~~6~~7);
- Submit a budget request to the Committee on Finance and Administration covering the estimated expenses and other activities of the Vision Table for the ensuing quadrennium;

- Receive, review and amend, if necessary, and approve at its last meeting before the session of the Jurisdictional Conference, the budget recommendation from the Committee on Finance and Administration for the succeeding quadrennium;
- Approve a budget to be presented to the NEJ Conference by the Committee on Finance and Administration;
- Approve the tentative annual conference apportionments for inclusion in the advance copy of the *Daily Christian Advocate;*
- Review and supervise the work of the standing committees and any task force or group appointed by the Vision Table;
- Receive, consider, and evaluate interim reports from standing committees, and any task force or group appointed by the Vision Table;
- Require, receive, and review, at least annually, reports from all funded program ministries; and
- Provide recommendations for strengthening the programs of The United Methodist Church at the jurisdictional level.

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:

- Two~~hree~~ (2~~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~~s~~s

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[2]. When nominating members and alternates to these committees, the College of Bishops shall ensure ethnic and gender inclusiveness as well as leadership continuity.
The order of alternates shall be determined by the College of Bishops and elected to that order by the Jurisdictional Conference.

Article IV – YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

1. Number and Election

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

The youth representatives shall be elected by each Annual Conference Council on Youth Ministries, Youth Ministry Team, or like~~other~~ annual conference youth organization.They shall be a professing member of the United Methodist Church.

2. Voting

A youth representative shall be a professing member of the United Methodist Church to be entitled to present matters to and have a voice on all matters before the Jurisdictional Conference consistent with the Rules of Order but shall not be entitled to vote.

3. Recommendation for Election

[2] ¶¶ 2703, 20~~07~~16 BoD

The Jurisdictional Council on Youth Ministry, Council on Youth Ministry, Youth Ministry Team or likeother youth organization may recommend guidelines concerning the election of youth representatives to the annual conference.[3]

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

A. Term

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

B. Eligibility for Membership

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

C. Vacancies

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

Article V – NEJ Young Adult Council

1. Nominations and Eligibility for Membership

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

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

2. Term of Office

[3] ¶2716, 2016 BoD.

[4] ¶ 705.2, 2016 BoD

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

3. College of Bishops Liaison to Young Adult Council

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

4. Organization

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

5. Purpose and Responsibilities

The Young Adult Council shall:

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

Article VI – STANDING COMMITTEES

The NEJ shall have six (6)~~four (4)~~ standing committees, as follows: Rules, Program and Arrangements, Finance and Administration, Annual Conference Boundaries, Ordained Ministry and Episcopacy.

1. Nominations and Eligibility for Membership

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

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

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

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

2. Term of Office

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

3. Recommendations to Jurisdictional Nominating Committee by Annual Conference Delegations

Each annual conference delegation to the Jurisdictional Conference shall recommend to the NEJ Committee on Nominations – from persons who are delegates, reserve delegates, and youth representatives to the Jurisdictional Conference – one clergy, one lay man, one lay woman, and one youth, for membership on each standing committee. Delegates and youth representatives may be nominated by annual conference delegations to more than one standing committee but may be elected by the NEJ to only one.

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

4. Organization

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

5. Meetings and Budget Requests

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

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

6. Reports

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

7. Vacancies in Committee Membership

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

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

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

C. Finance and Administration Committee

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

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

The Finance and Administration Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

- Supervise the NEJ Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer;
- In conjunction with the Vision Table, during the year preceding Jurisdictional Conference, solicit budget requests for the next quadrennium;
- Develop the sessions, administrative and program budgets;
- Submit the total budget and recommendation of a formula to apportion the budget to the annual conferences to the meeting of the Vision Table just prior to the meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference;
- Submit the total budget to the Jurisdictional Conference on the first day for information and clarification;
- Review budget requests or amendments by the end of the first day's plenary sessions and recommend a final budget to the Conference;

- Recommend to the Jurisdictional Conference the final amount to be apportioned to each annual conference;
- Develop a process for payment of vouchers, in consultation with the Treasurer;
- Arrange for an audit to be conducted at least every two years and whenever the Treasurer changes.

D. Annual Conference Boundaries

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

This 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 50 ordained clergy in full connection, except by consent of the General Conference as provided in the BoD.[5] In the case of episcopal areas, however, the committee shall recommend to the College of Bishops and the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee, the names, numbers, and boundaries of episcopal areas.[6]

E. Ordained Ministry.

~~**E.**~~ There shall be a Jurisdictional Committee on Ordained Ministry as outlined in ¶535, 2016 BoD.

F. Committee on Episcopacy.

~~**F.**~~ There shall be a Committee on Episcopacy in the NEJ as outlined in ¶¶50 and 524.1, 2016 BoD.

Article VII – CONFERENCE SESSION COMMITTEES

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

1. Membership

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

Membership on the Nominations Committee shall be composed of the active bishops of the Jurisdiction; one clergy, one lay man and one lay woman from each annual conference of the Jurisdiction who are delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference, selected by their delegation; two

[5] ¶27.4, 2016 BoD

[6] ¶¶ 40 and 524, 2016 BoD; Judicial Council Decision 1312

youth representatives to the Conference named by the College of Bishops; and two young adults named by the Young Adult Council.

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

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

2. Term of Office

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

3. Membership and Responsibilities

A. Credentials Committee

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

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

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

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

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

B. Journal Committee

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

C. Courtesies Committee

This Committee shall, with due regard to brevity, prepare and present to the NEJ Conference for its action, such complimentary resolutions as occasion may demand. This Committee shall also 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.

D. Nominations Committee

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

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

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

Source of persons for recommendation by the Nominating Committee

(1) Standing Committees:
Members recommended to serve on standing committees shall be NEJ delegates, reserve delegates, and youth representatives, recommended by the Annual Conference delegations; and young adults named by the Young Adult Council.

(2) General Boards and Agencies:
Nominations for the general boards and agencies shall be taken from those persons eligible to serve on standing committees and the additional persons recommended by each Annual Conference, following the process described in the BoD.[7]

Article VIII – DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEES

1. General Provisions

Membership on these committees shall be nominated by the College of Bishops and elected by the Jurisdictional Conference, as provided by the BoD.[8]

2. Convening these Committees

[7] ¶¶ 705.1(a) and (b); and 705.2, 2016 BoD

[8] ¶¶ 2703 and 2716, 2016 BoD

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

3. Responsibilities and Membership

A. Committee on Investigations

This Committee shall perform those functions consistent with the BoD.[9] 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.[10] In addition, within 90 days of the conclusion of the NEJ Conference session, 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 their ~~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.[11] Membership of this Jurisdictional Commission shall be as described in the BoD.[12]

Article X – UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The NEJ shall have a United Methodist Women's organization, as described, and mandated by the BoD.[13]

Article XI – UNITED METHODIST MEN

[9] ¶¶ 2703 and 2706, 2016 BoD
[10] ¶¶27.6 and 2716.1, 2016 BoD
[11] ¶532, 2016 BoD
[12] ¶532, 2016 BoD
[13] ¶536, 2016 BoD

The NEJ shall have a United Methodist Men's organization, as described, and mandated by the BoD.[14]

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.

[14] ¶ 537, 2016 BoD

E. Special Funding

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

F. Conditions of Disbursement

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

3. Unpaid Apportionments

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

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

4. Nominations

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

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~~The bishop 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 is called 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.

Rule 6 – Directions for Securing the Floor

Any delegate or youth representative desiringe to speak to the Conference shall raise the appropriate card, and~~,~~ then after recognition, state their ~~his or her~~ name, the annual conference represented and, respectfully address the matter for which the delegate or youth representative sought recognition. The delegate or youth representative shall speak from a microphone as provided, unless requested by the presiding officer to proceed to the speaker's platform.

Rule 7 – Interrupting the Speaker

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

Rule 8 – Speaking More Than Once; Length of Speech

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

Rule 9 – Question of Personal Privilege

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

Rule 10 – Voting Area of Conference

Only delegates within the voting area, physical or virtual (see Article 1 of the Plan of Organization, point 12 on Virtual Meetings), of the Conference when the vote is taken shall be entitled to vote. There shall also be a designated private lactation space located in the voting area.

Rule 11 – Voting Procedures

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

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

No other business shall be in order when a vote is being taken or when the previous question has been called until the process is completed, except such as relates to the vote itself, or that which can be appropriately fitted into the time while waiting for the report of the Secretary regarding -a vote.

Article IV – BUSINESS PROCEDURES

Rule 12 – Calendar: Regular and Non-Current Reports

The Secretary shall keep a chronological record of orders of the day and reports of committees (Rule 43~~2~~). This record shall be called the calendar. The matters of business placed on it shall be considered in order, unless by a two-thirds vote of the Conference an item is taken up out of its order.

Reports recommending non-concurrence shall be kept on a separate calendar to be taken up when the regular calendar is exhausted or at the pleasure of the Conference, except when a minority presents a report recommending concurrence, in which case both shall be included in the regular calendar.

Rule 13 – Motion for Adoption of Reports and Resolutions Unnecessary

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

Rule 14 – Required Forms for Reports, Resolutions, Motions

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

Rule 15 – Reading of Report and Resolutions

Resolutions, committee reports, and communications to the Conference shall be read by the Secretary, except as provided in Rule 443.

ARTICLE V – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Rule 16 – Challenge to Ruling of Presiding Officer

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

Rule 17 – Division of Question

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

Rule 18 – Alterations of Motions, etc.

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

Rule 19 – Non-debatable Motions

The following motions shall be acted upon without debate:

- To adjourn, when unqualified, except to adjourn the conference finally;
- To suspend a rule or rules;

- To lay upon the table;
- To call for the previous question;
- To reconsider a non-debatable motion;
- To limit or extend the limits of the debate; and
- To call for an order of the day.

Rule 20 – Right of "The Main Question"

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

Rule 21 – Precedence of Secondary Motions

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

(1) To fix the time at which the Conference shall adjourn (subject to amendment, or it may be laid upon the table);
(2) To adjourn;
(3) To take recess;
(4) To raise a question of privilege;
(5) To call for an order of the day;
(6) To order the previous question;
(7) To lay upon the table;
(8) To postpone to a given time;
(9) To limit or extend the limits of debate;
(10) To refer;
(11) To amend or to substitute (one amendment being allowed to an amendment);
(12) To postpone indefinitely.

Rule 22 – Tabling Related Matters

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

Rule 23 – Reference of Section of a Report

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

Rule 24 – Procedure for Consideration of Substitutes

When a resolution or committee report is properly before the Conference for consideration and action (even if amendments thereto are pending), a substitute ~~therefore~~ may be offered by a~~ny~~ delegate. ~~or youth representative moving that the same be substituted for the resolution or report under consideration.~~ The presiding officer shall decide whether the motion to substitute is in

face a bona fide substitute for all that is under consideration and not a motion to amend by substitution.

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

Rule 25 – Previous Question

When any delegate ~~or youth representative~~ moves the previous question (that is, that the vote be now taken on the motion or motions pending)~~, that delegate or youth representative shall indicate to what he or she intends it to apply, if any secondary motion or motions are also pending. If the delegate or youth representative does not so indicate, it~~ it shall be regarded as applying only to the immediately pending question unless otherwise indicated. ~~-~~This motion shall be taken without debate, and shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting for its adoption, and if adopted the vote shall be taken on the motion or motions to which it applies without further debate, except as provided in Rule 24. The option for the previous question shall not be in order on the motion or motions pending until opportunity has been given for at least two delegates or youth representatives to speak on each side of the question.

Rule 26 – Unlawful Motion After Speech

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

Rule 27 – Exceptions to Majority Vote

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

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

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

Rule 28 – Reconsideration

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

Rule 29 – Motions to Adjourn

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

(1) a delegate or youth representative has the floor;
(2) a question is actually put forth, or a vote is being taken and before it is finally decided;
(3) the previous question has been ordered and action thereunder is pending;
(4) motion to adjourn has been lost, and no business or debate has intervened; or
(5) the motion to fix the time at which the Conference shall adjourn is pending.

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

Rule 30 – Suspending Rules

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

Rule 31 – Amending Rules

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

Rule 32 – Robert's Rules of Order, Revised Supplemental Authority

In any parliamentary situation not clearly covered by the Plan of Organization or these Rules of Order, the Jurisdictional Conference shall be governed in its action by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

ARTICLE VI – ELECTION OF BISHOPS

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.[15]

Rule 34 – Nominations Prior to the Start of the Conference Session

In addition to nominations to the episcopacy by an Annual Conference, as provided by the BOD,[16] the NEJ shall recognize nominations made by national racial and ethnic caucuses, as listed in the current edition of the BoD, or by their NEJ-related caucuses.

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.

~~Rule 35 - Nominations from the Floor~~

[15] ¶405, 2016 BoD
[16] ¶405.1, 2016 BoD

~~Other persons are may be nominated by the Conference when whothey receive ten (10) votes, or five (5) percent of the valid votes cast, whichever is less.[17] All elders in full connection with any annual conference in the connection are eligible to be elected to the office of bishop.[18]~~

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 on~~e~~ those organizations' websites. Direct, unsolicited communication with NEJ delegates regarding endorsements are prohibited.

Rule 36 – NEJ Episcopal Nominee Information

Biographical information of each episcopal nominee, approved by that 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.[19] No other promotional or informational material shall be exhibited or distributed except as provided in Rule 35.

Rule 37 – Interviews of those Nominated Prior to the Start of the Conference Session

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 - Nominations from the Floor During the Conference Session

Should an eligible Elder not previously endorsed receive at least 10 votes or 5% of valid votes cast for the episcopacy during balloting, all voting shall be paused.[20] At this time, each identified candidate who wishes to be considered will produce the standard biographical profile as all other endorsed candidates for the episcopacy.

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[17] ~~¶405.1, 2016 BoD~~

[18] ~~¶403.1, 2016 BoD~~

[19] ¶405.1, 2016 BoD

[20] ¶405.1, 2016 BoD

The profile(s) will be distributed to the delegates, and at least 30 minutes of time shall be allotted with no business in the agenda for the delegates to review the provided materials.

Rule 39 - Interviews During the Course of Balloting

Should a candidate not previously interviewed as a part of the episcopal discernment process receive more than 30% of valid votes, a delegate may request that the candidate be interviewed before the gathered Jurisdictional Conference. If approved by a simple majority of those gathered, an additional hour shall be set aside in the Jurisdictional Conference agenda for this process. The chairperson of the COE, unless they are an identified candidate, in which case the remaining members of the committee shall designate a person to serve in this role, shall conduct the interview.

The interview shall consist of the standard questions and two additional questions chosen from interview groups. Each episcopal interview group shall submit two additional questions to the COE for the possibility of this conference interview. Only the interviewer may choose and ask questions of the candidates; interruptions and statements from the floor will be considered out of order.

Following the interview, the body shall be given at least 30 minutes of time to deliberate without any business being conducted before another vote for the episcopacy shall be taken.

If multiple candidates receive more than 30% of the vote, this process can be done as a group, with each of the candidates sequestered away from the interviewing of the other candidate(s).

If the Jurisdictional Conference has seven (7) successive votes in which there is very little movement in the votes to achieve the required majority for an episcopal election, a delegate may request that a public interview be held of those candidates who have received at least 30% of the vote. This motion is not debatable. A majority of the delegates shall be required to enact this provision.

In the event this provision is enacted, all episcopal voting shall cease and 30 minutes for each candidate shall be set aside.

- The chairperson of the COE, unless they are an identified candidate, in which case the remaining members of the committee shall designate a person to serve in this role, shall conduct the interview. The interview questions shall come from the pool of two

questions from each interview group and the interviewer shall choose from among this pool. The same questions will be asked of all candidates. This interview will be held before the entire Jurisdictional Conference.

- Only the interviewer may ask questions of the candidates, interruptions and statements from the floor will be considered out of order.
- Each candidate shall be sequestered away from the interviewing of the other candidate(s).
- Following the interviews, the body shall be given at least 30 minutes of time to deliberate without any business being conducted before another vote for the episcopacy shall be taken.

Rule 40~~389~~ – 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.

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

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

Jurisdictional Conference delegates, in voting to elect bishops, shall give due consideration to the inclusiveness of the UMC with respect to sex, race, and national origin, as well as to the nature of superintendency as described in the BoD.

Prior to each ballot, the presiding officer shall ask for a period of discernment and prayer. In order for a ballot to be valid it shall contain as many names as there are persons to be elected. ~~Any ballot for a nominee who has withdrawn shall be invalid.~~

Balloting shall continue until an eligible person receives sixty (60) percent or more of the valid ballots cast and until all vacancies are filled.[21]

[21] ¶405.2b 2016 BoD

Rule 41039 – Withdrawal

A nominee, upon being recognized by the presiding officer, may announce ~~his/her~~their withdrawal. The presiding officer, upon request, may permit a withdrawing nominee to make a brief comment, without reference for or against the election of other nominees.

Rule 4120 – Consecration

Consecration of bishops may take place at the session of the Jurisdictional Conference at which election occurs, or at a place and time designated by the Conference.[22] The Consecration Service may include bishops from other Jurisdictional and Central Conferences and representatives from other Christian Communions.[23]

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

Rule 4123 – 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 4243 – 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 4354 – 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.

[22] ¶405.2c 2016 BoD

[23] ¶405.2c 2016 BoD

Committee on Finance and Administration report

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.

The Finance and Administration Committee met October 20 – 21, 2023. Our main objective was to craft a budget for 2025-2028. This task was challenging, given the many scenarios that could occur following General Conference 2020. After robust conversation, the committee agreed to recommend the same budget adopted for 2021-2024 with a few modest changes. The proposed budget was sent on to NEJ Vision Table for approval. This proposed 2025-2028 budget recommendation was approved by NEJ Vision Table at its meeting on January 19, 2024, with the request that NEJ CFA revisit and revise if necessary following General Conference.

NEJ CFA met virtually on May 22, 2024, to consider revisions based on the decisions of the postponed 2020 General Conference. The committee makes the following recommendations:

- *NEJ Apportionments*
  Utilize the 2025 World Service Apportionment percentage. While there was a slight adjustment based on the legislation passed, there was not a significant change.

- *2025 – 2028 Budget*
  Faced with declining revenue in the conferences because of disaffiliation, the committee agreed to a 15% reduction in the Program Budget, a 15% reduction for non-salary Administrative lines and a 15% decrease in the Sessions lines. The CFA recommendation to be apportioned for 2025-2028 is $968,135.00 a decrease of $107,465.00 from the previous recommendation approved by Vision Table in January 2024.

While the cash on hand appears robust, the majority of the funds are allocated to specific ministries. The CF&A Committee also considered the best outcomes for investments in the future.

There are five areas of funding which may be leveraged for interest income. These funds are:

- Judicial Fund
- NEJ 2028 funding
- Pastoral Care Fund
- Emergency Fund
- Area Realignment

The Committee appointed a team to draft an Investment Policy, to be presented at the 2024 NEJ Conference for approval. This team will be mindful of our Social Principles as we seek to be good stewards of all that has been entrusted to us.

An independent audit was completed by Ellin & 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 role of the jurisdictional treasurer, who also acts as the business manager, is increasingly demanding. 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 strongly recommends the treasurer and business manager positions be separated.

I want to thank the Finance and Administration Committee for their attentive and diligent work, especially those persons who agreed to fill vacancies at the eleventh hour of what has essentially become a double quadrennium. I want to especially thank our Secretary, Tom Salsgiver, Assistant Secretary, Sharon McCrae, Treasurer, David Simpson, Assistant Treasurer, Jennifer Williams, and Assistant CF&A Chair Rosa Williams for their willingness to serve sacrificially. It is an honor and blessing to work with all of you.

- Sherri Rood, Chairperson

Treasurer's report

Grace and peace to you as gather for a season of pray, discernment, and holy conferencing. I pray that each of you are discovering joy and blessing in your work, your re-creation and rest. As we continue to seek ways for the NEJ Connection to move forward. One of the places we have found strong agreement in these challenging days has been strong financial support for the vital work of the NEJ being carried out by our bishops, leaders, committees, boards and agencies. Thank you for your continuing faithfulness.

It goes without saying, the work of the NEJ could not happen without your continued financial support and faithfulness. As Treasurer, I am pleased to be able to report the NEJ remains in a strong and healthy financial position. The NEJ continues to fulfill all financial resourcing commitments to our committees, commissions and partner ministries. A summary of our finances is as follows.

These financials are the latest figures available prior to the submission deadline for the ADCA. We will provide up to date financials at the 2024 Session prior to the adoption of the 2025-28 budget.

At the close of the 4th quarter, ended December 31, 2023, NEJ assets totaled, $1,017, 253.43, including $36,340.18 in the Checking Account, $56,674.52 in the Money Market Reserve, $928,903.93 in Merrill Lynch investment Accounts, and $4,665.20 in Accounts Receivable

The results for the 1st Quarter, ended March 30, 2024 are as follows. NEJ assets totaled $1,063,313.67 including $90,556.79 in Checking, $31,950.53 in the Money Market Account, $ 940,808.99 in Merrill Lynch investment accounts. Accounts receivable are $2.64 yielding a net increase of $46,060.24 in total assets.

The Money Market and Merrill Lynch accounts have been accrued to fund the 2024 Session, Judicial Process, Area Realignment and Pastoral Care expenses. are being used to meet our needs for Accrual Funds. As you can see below, we have successfully accrued required for the quadrennium. Those line items for accrual are:

1. 2020 Postponed Session, $350,000
2. Pastoral Care, - $25,000
3. Judicial Process – $40,000
4. Future Realignment Contingency, $137,000

This is good news as I am projecting the current checking balance along with the investments and remaining 2024 revenues will be more than enough to cover all other 2024 anticipated expenses and commitments, along with significant carryover funds to help support the 2025-28 budget.

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

Respectfully submitted,
David W. Simpson, Treasurer

NEJ Apportionments

NEJ APPORTIONMENTS/ Revised May 2024

Conference	2020 WS Apport	% of NEJ Total*	2021-2024 NEJ Apport**	2024 WS Apport	% of NEJ Total*	2025-2028 NEJ Apport**	2025 WS Apport	% of NEJ Total*	2025-2028 NEJ Apport**
Baltimore-Washington	$1,801,332	15.51%	$165,082	$1,675,606	15.37%	$165,186.97	$1,149,461	16.45%	$159,275.05
Eastern PA	$1,162,359	10.01%	$106,524	$1,046,789	9.60%	$103,196.04	$765,051	10.95%	$106,009.28
Greater New Jersey	$1,307,195	11.25%	$119,797	$1,177,679	10.80%	$116,099.62	$750,623	10.74%	$104,010.07
New England	$788,691	6.79%	$72,279	$818,604	7.51%	$80,700.78	$609,919	8.73%	$84,513.42
New York	$963,713	8.30%	$88,319	$930,375	8.54%	$91,719.55	$520,427	7.45%	$72,112.96
Peninsula-Delaware	$764,846	6.58%	$70,094	$693,934	6.37%	$68,410.39	$383,134	5.48%	$53,088.96
Susquehanna	$1,591,641	13.70%	$145,865	$1,539,412	14.12%	$151,760.50	$959,563	13.73%	$132,961.84
Upper New York	$1,073,654	9.24%	$98,394	$1,080,812	9.92%	$106,550.14	$775,576	11.10%	$107,467.68
West Virginia	$846,679	7.29%	$77,593	$735,551	6.75%	$72,513.13	$539,253	7.72%	$74,721.59
Western PA	$1,316,515	11.33%	$120,651	$1,201,651	11.02%	$118,462.87	$533,859	7.64%	$73,974.17
NEJ Total	$11,616,625	100.00%	$1,064,600	$10,900,413	100.00%	$1,074,600.00	$6,986,866	100.00%	$968,135.00

	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%
2025-2028, Rec 01/2024	$1,074,600.00	$10,000.00	1%
2025-2028, Rev 05/2024	$968,135.00	($106,465.00)	10.00%

* Rounded to two decimal places for readability

** Rounded to whole dollars yielding 100%

NEJ 1st Qtr P&L

Northeastern Jurisdiction
Profit & Loss
January through March 2024

Income		
40001 • Episcopal Services Reimburse		20,878.26
46430 • Interest Income		10,861.30
71000 • 2019 Apportionments		
71040 • New England Conference	1,103.52	
Total 71000 • 2019 Apportionments		1,103.52
82000 • 2021 Apportionments		
82040 • New England Conference	1,505.83	
Total 82000 • 2021 Apportionments		1,505.83
92000 • 2022 Apportionments		
92040 • New England Conference	402.31	
Total 92000 • 2022 Apportionments		402.31
93000 • 2023 Apportionments		
93030 • Greater New Jersey Conference	17,463.75	
93070 • Susquehanna Conference	0.85	
93090 • West Virginia Conference	0.75	
Total 93000 • 2023 Apportionments		17,465.35
94000 • 2024 Apportionments		79,779.55
Total Income		131,996.12
Gross Profit		131,996.12
Expense		
62000 • ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET		
62100 • Administrative Contingency		
College of Bishops	14,461.86	
Total 62100 • Administrative Contingency		14,461.86
62500 • Boundaries Committee		1,303.08
62800 • Episcopacy Committee		
62810 • Administrative Expense	318.00	
62830 • Travel	2,812.38	
62800 • Episcopacy Committee - Other	16,429.83	
Total 62800 • Episcopacy Committee		19,560.21
63000 • Judicial process		1,646.00
63200 • Program & Arrangements		
63230 • Travel		1,694.88
63200 • Program & Arrangements - Ot...	1,282.59	
Total 63200 • Program & Arrangements		2,977.47
63400 • Secretary's Office		
63410 • Administrative Expense	523.31	
Total 63400 • Secretary's Office		523.31
63600 • Vision Table		
63630 • Travel	3,476.52	
63600 • Vision Table - Other	11,484.61	
Total 63600 • Vision Table		14,961.13
Total 62000 • ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET		55,433.06
64000 • AREA RE-ALIGNMENT		
64100 • Stakeholders Mtg		28,274.92
64000 • AREA RE-ALIGNMENT - Other		472.74
Total 64000 • AREA RE-ALIGNMENT		28,747.66
65000 • PROGRAM BUDGET EXPENSE		
65018 • Native American Ministries	3,074.93	
Total 65000 • PROGRAM BUDGET EXPE...		3,074.93
Total Expense		87,255.65
Net Income		44,740.47

2024 1st Qtr Balance Sheet

Northeastern Jurisdiction
Balance Sheet
As of March 31, 2024

	Mar 31, 24
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First Nat'l First Rate Money Mk	31,950.53
First National Checking	90,556.79
Merrill Lynch	940,808.99
Total Checking/Savings	1,063,316.31
Accounts Receivable	
11000 • Accounts Receivable	(2.64)
Total Accounts Receivable	(2.64)
Total Current Assets	1,063,313.67
TOTAL ASSETS	1,063,313.67
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 Ass...	65,000.00
32000 • Unrestricted Net Assets	534,410.78
Net Income	44,740.47
Total Equity	1,063,313.67
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,063,313.67

Northeastern Jurisdiction Budget Worksheet 2025-2028

NEJ BUDGET WORKSHEET 2025-2028

	2009-2012 Budget	2013-16 Budget	2017-2020 Budget	2021 - 2024 Budget	2025-2028 CFA Rec, 01/2024	2025-2028 CFA Revised, 05/2024
1 SESSIONS						
a. Sessions	$ 305,000.00	$ 287,000.00	$ 287,000.00	$ 320,000.00	$ 380,000.00	$ 370,000.00
b. Journal	$ 4,900.00	$ 4,500.00	$ 4,500.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 1,700.00
c. Sessions Contingency	$ 23,250.00	$ 21,800.00	$ 20,000.00	$ 30,000.00		
Sub-total Sessions	**$ 333,150.00**	**$ 313,300.00**	**$ 311,500.00**	**$ 352,000.00**	**$ 382,000.00**	**$ 371,700.00**
2 ADMINISTRATIVE						
a. Vision Table	$ 60,000.00	$ 53,000.00	$ 58,000.00	$ 69,000.00	$ 65,000.00	$ 55,250.00
b. Rules Committee	$ 3,500.00	$ 3,500.00	$ 3,500.00	$ 3,500.00	$ 3,500.00	$ 2,975.00
c. Program & Arrangements	$ 42,000.00	$ 38,000.00	$ 38,000.00	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00	$ 25,500.00
d. Finance & Admin.	$ 20,600.00	$ 23,750.00	$ 23,000.00	$ 45,000.00	$ 33,000.00	$ 28,050.00
e. Boundaries Committee	$ 10,000.00	$ 9,000.00	$ 8,000.00	$ 6,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 8,500.00
f. Episcopacy Committee	$ 50,000.00	$ 42,000.00	$ 45,000.00	$ 45,000.00	$ 41,000.00	$ 34,850.00
g. Board of Ordained Ministry	$ 15,000.00	$ 12,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 12,750.00
h. Secretary's Office	$ 18,800.00	$ 19,800.00	$ 23,325.00	$ 25,000.00	$ 25,000.00	$ 25,000.00
i. Treasurer's Office	$ 14,900.00	$ 17,975.00	$ 24,500.00	$ 26,500.00	$ 26,500.00	$ 26,500.00
j. Archives & History	$ 4,000.00	$ 3,600.00	$ 3,600.00	$ 4,000.00	$ 4,000.00	$ 3,400.00
k. Administrative Costs	$ 13,740.00	$ 17,000.00	$ 26,750.00	$0	$ 600.00	$ 510.00
l. Judicial Process Fund	$ -	$ -	$ -	$0		
m. Pastoral Care	$ -	$ -	$ -	$0		
n. Connectional Ministries	$ -	$ -	$ 4,000.00	$ 4,000.00	$ 4,000.00	$ 3,400.00
Sub-total Administrative	**$ 252,540.00**	**$ 239,625.00**	**$ 272,675.00**	**$ 273,000.00**	**$ 257,600.00**	**$ 226,685.00**
3 PROGRAM BUDGET						
a. Anna Howard Shaw Center	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00	$ 17,500.00			
b. Multi-Ethnic Center	$ 136,000.00	$ 136,000.00	$ 120,000.00	$ 40,000.00	$ 40,000.00	$ 34,000.00
c. Korean-American Ministry	$ 120,000.00	$ 120,000.00	$ 120,000.00		$ 40,000.00	$ 34,000.00
d. Volunteers in Ministry-NEJ	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 140,000.00	$ 140,000.00	$ 119,000.00
e. Deaf Ministry	$ 2,500.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 7,500.00	$ 9,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 8,500.00
f. Vision Table Priorities	$ 90,000.00	$ 21,000.00	$ 20,000.00	$ 20,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 8,500.00
g. Council on Youth Ministries	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00	$ 31,000.00	$ 31,000.00	$ 31,000.00	$ 26,350.00
h. Young Adult Council	$ -	$ 10,000.00	$ 20,000.00	$ 20,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 12,750.00
i. Leadership development	$ -	$ 48,000.00	$ 20,000.00	$ 20,000.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 4,250.00
j. Episcopal Leadership Conclave	$ -	$ -	$ 55,200.00	$ 75,600.00	$ 50,000.00	$ 42,500.00
k. Call to Action	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 80,000.00	$ 80,000.00	$ 68,000.00
l. Native American Ministries	$ -	$ -	$ 7,000.00	$ 14,000.00	$ 14,000.00	$ 11,900.00
Sub-total Program	**$ 508,500.00**	**$ 500,000.00**	**$ 518,200.00**	**$ 449,600.00**	**$ 435,000.00**	**$ 369,750.00**
4 AREA RE-ALIGNMENT BUDGET						
a. Upper New York	$ 200,000.00					
b. 2013-16 Funding						
c. 2016-2020 Realignment			$ 200,000.00			
Sub-total Realignment	**$ 200,000.00**		**$ 200,000.00**			
TOTAL APPORTIONED BUDGET	**$ 1,294,190.00**	**$ 1,052,925.00**	**$ 1,302,375.00**	**$ 1,074,600.00**	**$ 1,075,600.00**	**$ 968,135.00**
5 ITEMS FUNDED FROM RESERVE FUNDS						
a. Young Adult Event	$ 19,532.00					
b. Judicial Process Fund			$ 40,000.00		$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00
c. Pastoral Care			$ 5,000.00		$ 25,000.00	$ 25,000.00
d. Area Realingment					$ 125,000.00	$ 125,000.00
Sub-total Reserve Expenses	**$ 19,532.00**		**$ 45,000.00**		**$ 250,000.00**	**$ 250,000.00**
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	**$ 1,313,722.00**		**$ 1,347,375.00**	**$ 1,074,600.00**	**$ 1,325,600.00**	**$1,218,135.00**

Please note: The Episcopal Office expenses will be reported as an addendum in the next DCA.

NEJ policy on reimbursement relating to committee meetings and Jurisdictional Conferences

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

1. AIRFARE FEES: 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.

Vision Table report 2023-2024

The purpose of the Vision Table is to carry out the visioning, strategic planning, and coordination of resources for the jurisdiction. Since the NEJ Conference in November of 2022, the Vison table spent time discussing the dynamics of the 2022 NEJ Conference, what the Vision table could do in partnership with other NEJ entities to build trust and bring healing to broken relationships among NEJ delegates, delegations, and leaders, continued, continued its work with intercultural competency training, including discussions on how the Call to Action should be expanded to include the wide variety of races and cultures that make up the NEJ area, in addition to caring for the regular work of budgeting and supporting the committees and ministries of the NEJ.

Giovanni Arroyo from the General Commission on Religion and Race offered to work with the Vision Table in regard to the ongoing work with the Call to Action as well as how the Vision Table might help the 2024 NEJ Conference do a better job in fulfilling the three simple rules, "Do no Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God."

Gio engaged the Vision Table in January 2023 with the following questions and statements:

- Reconnect and explore what we bring to this table. How are we going to be community and engage each other. Our commitment to Do no harm.
- Commit for the work to Do no harm, Do good and Stay in love with God.
- Being curious isn't about the answers but the questions that one asks. Gio asked us to be in the spirit of curiosity and open.
- What are the 3 things you bring to the vision table that we can build on for success.

Gio also challenged the group to be open to the gifts of others that might not be what you expected.

Gio reviewed the call to continue our work on anti-racism, intercultural competency and the commitment made at NEJ for GCORR will continue to work with us.

The Vision table received and supported and approved funds for a proposal from the DCM's proposal for People's Supper to potentially work with the leaders and delegations in response to the outpouring emotions and feelings expressed during the NEJ session in November. This people's supper will have self-reflection and participants will begin to learn our voices and train their ears to hear the stories of others. The whole idea is to try and break down barriers and live into the areas of the Call to Action. A task team was set up, a proposed timeline was discussed, the task team was to report to the Vision Team executive committee on the progress and plans.

What became known as reparative conversations did take place as a result of this work. Every Annual Conference within the jurisdiction participated in these conversations. 177 delegates attended at least one conversation from September through November. As schedules allowed, Bishops and non-delegate Vision Table members participated in groups of their own. Several recommendations and action items came from these meetings and are being implemented by the appropriate NEJ groups in consultation with Giovanni Arroyo.

<u>January 2024</u>

The Vision Table worked with the Committee on Episcopacy, the College of Bishops, and the NEJ task force on boundaries and episcopal areas to shorten its January 2024 meeting to accommodate a Stakeholders meeting to hear about the taskforces work and recommendations. The Vision table adjusted its work to accommodate the shortened meeting time. An NEJ primer for delegates was reviewed and approved to help delegates become better oriented to the work of the NEJ. Budget was reviewed and recommended.

DCMs reported on the reparative conversations and the recommendations that came out of that process.

Giovanni Arroyo reported on the combination of the reparative conversations and the Vision Table's continued work on anti-racism and intercultural competency including establishing a small group to work to expand the current NEJ call to action so that it encompasses the larger diversity of race and culture within the NEJ area.

At the 2023 and 2024 January meetings of the Vision Table regular reports and feedback was given to the following NEJ Committees: Program and Arrangements, NEJ Lay Ministry, NEJ Board of Ordained Ministry, Boundaries, Committee on Episcopacy, NEJ CFA, College of Bishops, and Rules. We heard updates from the NEJ task force that was created at the 2022 NEJ Conference to examine what the possibilities might be for boundaries and episcopal areas.

(Continued page 48)

(Continued from page 47)

Additionally, at the two Vision Table meetings, the effect and impact of disaffiliations were discussed.

The Vision table concluded its January 2024 meeting with a short discussion on productive ways the NEJ might use its meeting time if there should be no episcopal elections in July 2024. There were a variety of both mission opportunities and teaching/equipping ideas that were shared and recorded.

In writing this report ahead of the postponed 2020 General Conference that will take place in April/May of 2024, we do not know what potentially new things God will work in our midst, but we do trust in Christ's transforming power, we trust that Christ will continue to walk with us, and we trust that, come what may, Christ's promise of raising us to new life is true!

Sandra Steiner Ball
Vision Table Chair

Vision Table Membership

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: TBA
Youth: TBA

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
Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

No intention to elect new bishops at any jurisdictional conference

General Conference did several things that affect the episcopacy. First, the General Church budget is down 46% from the 2016 budget. Consequently, the money available to be used for the episcopal fund is not sufficient to meet the required expenses of our current number of bishops and their offices. The reduction in the number of bishops is a financial necessity. However, a proposal was made by the COB to obtain the reduction through "natural attrition." After retirements, the number of bishops in the jurisdictions would decrease from 39 to 32. The GCFA said that in order to fund 32 bishops, the Episcopal Fund would have to increase by $15 million. This was done by moving $7.5 million to the Episcopal Fund from the general agencies' budget (off-set by a one-time accelerated payment from a closed general agencies pension fund) and $7.5 million additional asking from general apportionments (so that the overall decrease of the budget was less than originally proposed, although still the lowest budget in many years).

With these budget adjustments, General Conference set the number of bishops for the US at 32 for the coming quadrennium. On the recommendation of the Inter-Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee, General Conference also decided the number of bishops that would be in each jurisdiction. For the Northeastern Jurisdiction, the number is six. After the retirement of Bishop Schol, we will have only five active bishops. The SEJ, NCJ, and SCJ have more bishops than they were allotted. The Western Jurisdiction has three bishops when they were allotted five. The Inter-Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee is busy trying to figure out how that will work out. There is no intention to elect new bishops at any jurisdictional conference this year because funding is only provided for the 32 authorized by the General Conference. We are discussing transfers of bishops and sharing across jurisdictions. It is a new and unprecedented situation, and we are doing our best to figure it out in a short period of time. By our constitution, bishops have the right to decline a transfer.

One possibility is sharing bishops across jurisdictional lines. We are currently in discussion with another jurisdiction to see how this might work for the Northeastern Jurisdiction. Critical to us is that any bishop serving in our jurisdiction would be part of the NEJ College of Bishops and would align with the NEJ values.

There are a few things that are known now regarding episcopal assignments. There are no plans for any Annual Conferences to merge this year. And at any rate, a move to merge comes from the annual conferences involved and not from the jurisdiction. However, although they won't be merged, most, if not all, Annual Conferences will have to share a bishop.

The Task Force that was approved by the NEJ in 2022 at the request of the Boundaries Committee was tasked with making recommendations of how the jurisdiction might be served with fewer bishops, how the role of the bishop might need to change, and possible needs for future boundary changes. The Committee on Episcopacy was included in the discussions with various groups in the jurisdiction. The Task Force's recommendations will be considered when the COE makes its proposal to the jurisdiction regarding episcopal areas, including which conferences will share a bishop. The COE is also charged with making the recommended assignments of bishops to the episcopal areas.

I remind you that we are a connectional church. Bishops serve the whole church. As we make decisions, we make them with consideration of the whole connection. The connectional nature of The United Methodist Church is a great strength – but it also presents challenges. May we live into the challenges as we embrace our future.

Judi Kenaston, Chair
NEJ COE

Committee on Episcopacy: 2022-2024 report

OUR TASK:

The NEJ Committee on Episcopacy (COE), is made up of two members, from each Annual Conference in the Jurisdiction, one lay and one clergy. The COE works together to review and evaluate the work of the bishops; recommend the boundaries of episcopal areas and assignments of the bishops; consult with the College of Bishops on areas of mutual concern; determine the number of bishops eligible for assignment; receive and act upon retirement requests; consult with Conference Committees on Episcopacy; and report actions of the COE to the Jurisdictional Conference (par. 524.3). The COE fulfills these obligations in a variety of ways. This report serves as a partial fulfillment of our reporting to Jurisdictional Conference.

EVALUATION:

Each conference personalizes and distributes a comprehensive evaluation survey that is distributed to a variety of conference leaders by conference COEs. The NEJ COE interviews each active bishop in person when we meet together over several days in January. We have both a formal interview as well as unstructured conversations with small groups. In addition, we meet with all the retirees, both those who are in attendance and those who join by Zoom. While we depend on the jurisdictional committee members to represent their conferences, this year we met with each conference committee as well. The conference committees provided feedback on the evaluation process, and the NEJ COE heard their thoughts and concerns regarding episcopal assignments. Through this variety of formats for evaluation, we get a sense of the gifts that each individual bishop brings to their varied settings, and the unique needs of each annual conference.

ELECTIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Another important task of the NEJ COE is to prepare for possible elections at Jurisdictional Conference. At the time of this report (March 2024), no decision has been made as to whether there will be elections or not. However, the NEJ COE has attempted to prepare for every possible outcome. We have communicated with the annual conference delegations regarding the timing for endorsed candidates for the episcopacy, including an "Agreement in Principle for the Election of Bishops," and "A Guideline for Discerning an Episcopal Nominee from our Annual Conference," which were both distributed to each conference delegation. We have prepared forms for submitting candidates and forms for the candidates to submit so that the jurisdictional conference can have information on each candidate in the required time frame before the NEJ convenes. We have also prepared for interviews which include an orientation for interview group leaders. These preparations are time-consuming and must be done so that we are prepared in case there are elections. The preparations themselves are not an indication of the intentions of the committee and should not be interpreted as such.

It is the responsibility of the NEJ COE to recommend the number of elections to the jurisdiction. We are collaborating with the Jurisdictional Task Force that has looked at assignment scenarios, boundary possibilities, and the number of bishops that are needed in the Northeastern Jurisdiction in order to best provide mission and ministry in our setting. In January, the Task Force invited the Boundaries Committee, the COE, the Vision Table, and the College of Bishops to join it for input into the decisions that must be made. After that meeting of all the groups together, the NEJ COE spent time considering the suggestions that emerged from those conversations. We made recommendations to the Task Force and shared our principles with the Task Force and the conference delegations.

We have experienced the longest quadrennium in United Methodist history, but we are also having our shortest turnaround for a jurisdictional conference. In 2022, the NEJ elected one new bishop, Bishop Hector Burgos-Nunez. The COE recommended assignments to the Jurisdiction, but we also relied on the College of Bishops to make coverage assignments in areas where conferences have been aligned differently than the approved areas and in one area where there was no bishop assigned. In this case, the College of

Bishops provided coverage by retired Bishop Peggy Johnson. We are grateful for her service in residence in New England.

Each area has submitted and updated an Area Profile which equips the COE with demographic information and hopes and challenges identified by each Conference. Usually, these profiles are completed once a quadrennium, but because of this extended period, they have been updated twice. We are grateful to the Conference Committees on Episcopacy for their diligent and insightful work. These profiles are available to the NEJ COE as we begin looking at assignments for the upcoming years.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Significantly influencing our conversations are budget considerations. In the wake of disaffiliations, GCFA stated that the Episcopacy Fund could only sustain 28 bishops in the jurisdictions (in the United States). The current number of active bishops is 39. The Council of Bishops proposed that they achieve reduction by natural attrition, allowing for mandatory and voluntary retirements to occur in 2024. The mandatory retirements would bring the number of active bishops to 32 if no elections were held. If the number of active bishops assigned increases above that level, there may not be funding for all. There is also a GCFA recommendation to General Conference that funding for the episcopacy will go to the bishops assigned and not to the areas as was previously done. This means that there would be no funding for additional office space and support staff in areas with no episcopal assignment.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR ASSIGNMENTS

After discussing the work done by the Jurisdictional Task Force, the COE agreed to the following principles to guide our work:

- While no recommendation has yet been made by the Task Force, we agree with their initial direction that the preference would be for seven bishops, we will advocate for six if possible, and we will prepare for five.
- All episcopal areas will be assigned at the end of jurisdictional conference.
- Coverage will not be used.
- We will aim for assignments that provide stability and healing.
- The committee can work on assignment scenario planning in advance, but no specific assignments will be named until after any elections are completed if they occur.
- Recommended boundaries of Episcopal Areas will be submitted to the Jurisdictional Conference in time for their approval in order to avoid coverage situations.

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES:

We continue to work alongside the College of Bishops to fulfill our responsibilities related to processing complaints against bishops. In addition, this past year we had a referral from the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. We approached this referral as part of our evaluative role. We have responded to the Annual Conference and are working through the Conference Committee on Episcopacy. They will report their work back to us by July 1, 2024.

EPISCOPAL TRANSITIONS:

This year we anticipate the mandatory requirement of Bishop John Schol. Bishop Schol was elected in 2004 and has served the Baltimore Episcopal Area, New Jersey Episcopal Area, and Philadelphia Episcopal Area. We celebrate his ministry in the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

We were saddened this year by the death of two retired bishops. Recently retired Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar died suddenly in July. He was elected in 2004 and served New Jersey Episcopal Area (2004 – 2012) and the Boston Episcopal Area (2012 – 2022). Bishop William Boyd Grove died in October of 2023. He was elected in 1980 and served the West Virginia Area (1980 – 1992 and 2011-2012) and Albany Area (1992 – 1996). We celebrate their lives and ministries among us.

CONCLUSION:

As the church continues to find its new course, the NEJ Committee on Episcopacy finds itself exploring new ways to meet the requirements of the Book of Discipline, and more importantly, the need for

ministry and mission in our jurisdiction. While the work of the Jurisdictional Task Force is not complete, the NEJ COE looks forward to a collaborative vision being expressed and embraced by the jurisdiction.

We are grateful to our episcopal leaders who have been creative in their approaches to ministry, both within Annual Conference boundaries and across the jurisdiction. These new forms of leadership will guide both the jurisdiction and the general church as it looks at new expectations of episcopal leadership. As chair of the committee, I would like to thank Bishop Latrelle Easterling, President of the College of Bishops, for her collaboration and cooperation as we have worked together. Her support and friendship is greatly appreciated. While the College of Bishops and the Committee on Episcopacy have different roles and responsibilities, we attempt to work together toward providing leadership of the NEJ.

Finally, I am indebted to the members of the Committee on Episcopacy who give considerable time and talent to the work of the jurisdiction. Most especially I thank the executive committee members who have worked diligently to keep things moving smoothly: Vice-Chairs, Ianther Mills and Dawn Taylor-Storm and Secretaries, Bob Zilhaver and Bethany Amey.

Blessings,
Judi Kenaston
Chair NEJ COE

EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BWC - Lay: Cynthia Taylor, Clergy: Ianther Mills
EPA - *Lay:* Judy Ehninger, *Clergy:* Dawn Taylor Storm
GNJ- *Lay:* Bethany Amey, *Clergy:* Drew Dyson
NE - *Lay:* Bonnie Marden, *Clergy:* Jay Williams
NY - *Lay:* Fred Brewington, *Clergy:* Noel Chin
Pen-DeL - *Lay:* William Westbrook, *Clergy:* Vicki Gordy-Stith
SUS - *Lay*: Christina McDermott, *Clergy*: Tom Salsgiver
UNY- *Lay*: Caremn FS Vianese, *Clergy*: William Mudge
WV - *Lay*: Judy Kenaston, *Clergy*: Amy Shanholtzer
WPA - *Lay*: Vicki Stahlman, *Clergy*: Bob Zilhaver

Board of Ordained Ministry report

The NEJ Board of Ordained Ministry is comprised of representatives from each annual conference, the three theological schools in our jurisdiction, and laity members. The Board reorganized itself in the spring of 2023, following less activity during the pandemic. An online gathering was held in May and in-person gathering was held in September at Wesley Theological Seminary. Gatherings for 2024 include a post-General Conference virtual meeting in May and a meeting to be held at Drew Theological Seminary planned for September.

The purpose of the NEJ BOOM is to provide resources and support for Board of Ordained Ministry and to collaborate with our theological representatives around trends in theological studies and ministry endeavors. Recent items for discussion include the growing number of clergy persons who enter ministry by means other than the Masters of Divinity track, avenues for strengthening a Board's cultural competency and intercultural humility, improving the training of mentors and the consistency in the mentoring process across candidates, and supporting the work of District Committees on Ordained Ministry.

I give thanks for the hard work of Board of Ordained Ministry across the jurisdiction and an extend a special thanks to the shared leadership in this jurisdictional committee, Rev. David McAllister-Wilson, Vice-Chair and Rev. Rachel Fisher, Secretary.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Amy P. McCullough
Chair, NEJ Board of Ordained Ministry

NEJ Strategic Direction Task Force Report

Executive Summary

The United Methodist Church is facing new challenges after disaffiliations in the form of fewer local churches, reduced financial resources and a new mix of members. These challenges are leading to new questions regarding sustainability, adaptability, operational management, visionary leadership, and more.

In the midst of these challenges, we trust God to guide us in reclaiming the core principles and covenants that fueled the Methodist movement. We know that there is significant work to rebuild trust and our shared identity.

In 2021, the NEJ Episcopacy Committee and the College of Bishops aligned seven of the ten conferences in the Northeastern Jurisdiction into three new configurations to assign bishops and encourage annual conferences to collaborate and engage in the sharing of ministries. Those three configurations include 1) West Virginia (WVA) / Western Pennsylvania (WPA) / Susquehanna (SUS) Conferences; 2) Baltimore-Washington (BWC) / Peninsula-Delaware (PDC) Conferences; and 3) Eastern Pennsylvania (EPA) / Greater New Jersey (GNJ) Conferences. The three remaining annual conferences – New England, New York, and Upper New York – are currently not sharing a bishop with another Annual Conference.

The Northeastern Jurisdiction (NEJ) Strategic Direction Task Force was formed to listen, discern and develop a strategic direction forward. While the task force didn't have ample time to fully develop a strategic direction, it recommends that the Vision Table, in collaboration with the College of Bishops, use the work of the task force to shape a strategic direction based on the present challenges, values and future priorities that were heard.

One aspect of that work involved how we might proactively be prepared for fewer episcopal allocations. An assumption we were operating with at the time is that episcopal areas would only include NEJ Annual Conferences, which may or may not align with the unprecedented work that the Interjurisdictional Episcopacy Committee is currently doing to facilitate coverage across jurisdictional lines.

In addition to distilling what the task force learned from listening sessions to guide the strategic direction of recommended configurations, the task force collected and reviewed a significant amount of NEJ Annual Conference data. Ten scenarios were provided to the NEJ Vision Table, Committee on Episcopacy, College of Bishops, and Boundaries Committee on January 20, 2024. Some were familiar, some were non-intuitive, and one was out of the box. Those invested parties affirmed that:

1. It would be too disruptive to change conference boundaries this year; that would need to be done in the following quadrennium.
2. A staged plan was needed that allowed us to strategically move from seven bishops to six bishops and perhaps, even ultimately, five bishops. We started naming this concept the strategic glide path.
3. There are significant adaptive leadership needs and role clarity needed as bishops are asked to lead more than one annual conference.
4. There are financial implications when moving from nine episcopal areas to six or five in regard to episcopal office budgets.

Since that meeting, General Conference has clarified that:

1. The NEJ allocation of bishops is now six, not seven.
2. There will be no episcopal elections, but a transfer of one bishop into the NEJ from another jurisdiction.
3. There will be the same number of episcopal office allocations as there are the number of bishops. In other words, even if one bishop serves two annual conferences, there will only be one episcopal office allocation from the Episcopal Fund set at $80,845 annually (an increase of $5,375).

The task force recommends the following configurations of episcopal areas:

- If six bishops: BWC & PDEL | EPA & GNJ | WPA & WVA | SUS & UNY | NE | NY
- If five bishops: BWC & PDEL | EPA & GNJ | WPA & WVA | SUS & UNY | NE & NY

While other configurations are possible for each number of bishops, this set of configurations allows for a smooth transition from six bishops to five bishops in the least disruptive way. Additionally, it honors our values of diversity, collaboration and equity. Please note that while the jurisdiction may recommend mergers, the Annual Conferences involved in these affiliations would have to vote to do so.

In order to better understand the organization of the NEJ, bishops, and episcopal areas, please review Appendix A: Glossary of Terms and Roles.

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Background for Recommendations

Shifts in culture and a decline in membership and attendance have led to the changing dynamics and membership of tThe United Methodist Church. These changes have been further impacted by the pandemic and disaffiliations. These factors have created an atmosphere of anxiety concerning the viability of some congregations, annual conferences, and the future configuration and composition of episcopal areas.

In 2021, the NEJ Episcopacy Committee and the College of Bishops aligned seven of the ten conferences in the Northeastern Jurisdiction into three new configurations to assign bishops and encourage annual conferences to collaborate and engage in the sharing of ministries. Those three configurations include: 1) West Virginia (WVA) / Western Pennsylvania (WPA) / Susquehanna (SUS) Conferences (also referred to as “the experiment” as two bishops serve three annual conferences); 2) Baltimore-Washington (BWC) / Peninsula-Delaware (PDC) Conferences; and 3) Eastern Pennsylvania (EPA) / Greater New Jersey (GNJ) Conferences.

New approaches have developed, including but not limited to, BWC/PDC sharing one Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, joint laity and clergy training, and clergy retreats in WVA/WPA/SUS; WPA/SUS hired one communications director; and EPA/GNJ have affiliated staffing, database, communications, human resources, appointment making and other ministries. These affiliations have strengthened the participating areas with the sharing of resources, increased interaction, and collaboration among the annual conferences, and there has been learning as well.

During the NEJ conference in November 2022, there was a resolution passed forming a NEJ Task Force, with membersfrom the Episcopacy Committee, Boundaries Committee and College of Bishops. The Task Force was charged with envisioning and recommending the strategic direction and alignment of the Jurisdiction, in light of emerging circumstances, including potential reduction or realignment of episcopal areas, declining attendance and membership, and reimagining of the church in these liminal times.”

The Task Force organized its work, gathered data through a survey and listening sessions across the jurisdiction to hear from diverse people, and learned from the NEJ Reparative Conversations. These sessions and conversations provided space for persons to talk about their hurt, fears, and past experiences, as well as hope for the future.

Some strategic areas of focus emerged:

- Growing and developing lay and clergy leadership so that congregations and ministries can better:
    - Make world-transforming disciples of Jesus Christ,
    - Understand and engage with people in communities,
    - Understand and address systemic racism while becoming more diverse, equitable and inclusive, and
    - Reach new generations by recruiting, resourcing and engaging with younger people.

- Create permeable boundaries that support the development of networks and the sharing of administrative resources, programs and leadership between conferences and throughout the jurisdiction. Examples of this could include:

- Shared jurisdictional or regional staff teams for HR, new places for new people (emphasis on marginalized people), leadership development and community engagement.
- Shared resources like Bible studies, leadership training and ending racism initiatives.
- Shared administrative services systems like databases and insurance policies.

The following draft of values also emerged. They were further refined at a January 2024 gathering of the NEJ Vision Table, College of Bishops, Committee on Episcopacy, and Boundaries Committee; and are in need of further refinement. These values include being:

- Christ-centered and open to the leading of the Spirit
- Inclusive, Diverse, Equitable and Antiracist/Anti-Oppression
- Incarnational: having transformative relationships and engagement in God's world
- Connectional: building relationships and loving one another
- Collaborative: creating value out of working together
- Innovative, experimental, learning and embracing failure (Urgency for change)
- Intentional in making new disciples and creating new places for new people

Additional areas for consideration shared during our time together were: planting new faith communities for new people, developing new metrics for a new day, creating a new story/narrative that drives the NEJ forward, listening for the Holy Spirit's guidance, utilizing laity more fully, talking less and acting more, improving cultural competency.

The final aspect of our work involved how we might proactively be prepared for fewer episcopal allocations. The task force collected relevant, post-disaffiliation data from each annual conference, which included learning from those annual conferences that were linked due to the episcopal assignments, and prepared scenarios that were reviewed by those gathered in January 2024.

In the midst of a season of transformation and the renewal of The United Methodist Church, strategic direction is key to the future of the NEJ. This strategic direction is not a plan, but, rather, the naming of a direction, priorities and goals. While the task force didn't have ample time to fully develop a strategic direction, a strong foundation has been provided. The task force recommends that the Vision Table, in collaboration with the College of Bishops, use this foundational information to shape one based on the present challenges, values and future priorities we heard.

General Conference Impact on Our Current Reality

The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) budget approved at the General Conference represents a 43% overall reduction from the $604 million denomination-wide budget that General Conference approved at its last regular meeting in 2016. This represents the biggest budget drop in the denomination's history. It impacted the number of bishops in the Northeastern Jurisdiction and the number of bishops worldwide.

How many bishops?

General Conference voted to set the number of U.S. bishops at 32. That marks a decrease from the 39 active bishops currently serving in the U.S. and the 46 approved by the 2016 General Conference. The General Conference also voted that every jurisdiction is guaranteed a minimum of five bishops.

By a vote of 631 to 65, the General Conference delegates supported the committee's unanimous recommendation for the following distribution of U.S. bishops:

- Southeastern Jurisdiction: Nine
- Northeastern Jurisdiction: Six
- North Central Jurisdiction: Six
- South Central Jurisdiction: Six
- Western Jurisdiction: Five

To reach this distribution, the Southeastern, North Central, and South Central jurisdictions each will see one of their bishops transferred. Two bishops will go to the Western Jurisdiction and one to the Northeastern. The committee is working with bishops to determine who might be willing to transfer.

Who Developed the Plan?

An Interjurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy spent hours, after plenary sessions adjourned, deciding how many bishops the U.S. should have — based on what the denomination can afford and how those episcopal leaders should be distributed among the jurisdictions.

Recommended NEJ Episcopal Areas for 2024 and Beyond

The task force recommends the following configurations of episcopal areas:

- If six bishops: BWC & PDEL | EPA & GNJ | WPA & WVA | SUS & UNY | NE | NY
- If five bishops: BWC & PDEL | EPA & GNJ | WPA & WVA | SUS & UNY | NE & NY

While there are other configurations possible for each number of bishops, this set of configurations allows for a smooth transition from six bishops to five bishops in the least disruptive way. Additionally, it honors our values of diversity, collaboration and equity. Please note that while the jurisdiction may recommend mergers, the Annual Conferences involved in these affiliations would have to vote to do so.

Strategic Glide Path At A Glance

Glide Path

Potential Step	Scenario	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Excep. Score	Cultural Clarity
Current Reality (7 Bishops)		BW & PDEL	EPA & GNJ	SUS & WPA & WVA	UNY	NE	NY	96	6
1	6 Bishops	BW & PDEL	EPA & GNJ	WPA & WVA	SUS & UNY	NE	NY	106	7
2	5 Bishops	BW & PDEL	EPA & GNJ	WPA & WVA	SUS & UNY	NE & NY		52	10

Notes:

- As the NEJ seeks to strengthen mission and ministry, there are opportunities in the boundary adjustments to subdivide at least two conferences into neighboring conferences: New York (reallocated into NE, UNY and GNJ) and Eastern PA (reallocated into GNJ and SUS).
- After the boundary adjustments at the next jurisdictional conference (currently scheduled for 2028), we would encourage consideration of a NEJ episcopal team approach, as may be needed to respond to adaptive challenges. This could enable bishops to use their unique gifts across annual conferences.

Overall Scenario Notes

- The data considered in each scenario also includes information about the mission fields that we find ourselves in. In Appendix B, there is a more thorough explanation of the data charts and exception scores along with links to source data. Appendix C is devoted to learning about the culture of the mission field of the NEJ through Mosaic groups that are referenced in each scenario and captured as a cultural clarity score. Mosaic is a model developed by Experian that segments the population into 15 groups and 66 types that helps organizations understand an individual's likely behavior.
- Although none of the scenarios recommend changing annual conference boundaries in 2024, boundary changes are recommended at the next jurisdictional conference (2028).
- All episcopal areas have contiguous annual conference borders.
- There are opportunities to study sustainability and economies of scale that can inform future configurations within the NEJ.
- Although most of the areas have significant percentages of BIPOC members, consistent exceptions are the following annual conferences: SUS (1%), UNY (3%), WVA (1%) and WPA (2%).
- There are opportunities for streamlined staffing structures to be implemented in affiliated annual conferences. A great deal has already been learned by existing affiliated annual conferences that can help inform future affiliations and experiments. This is an important concept because it is a major factor that impacts an episcopal leader's span of care. A useful analogy might be the difference between seeing affiliated annual conferences more like a cooperative parish than a two-point charge.
- Most of the configurations affiliate annual conferences that share significant boundaries, communities and mix of people groups that are reflected in the Mosaic groupings.
- Only one episcopal office allocation will be granted for each bishop serving. While the new allocation will increase from $75,470 to $80,845 annually for each bishop, the number of episcopal areas being funded will move from nine to either six or five. A preliminary analysis of the impact of this on each potential episcopal area will be provided.

Exception Scores

Each scenario contains a table with the same data points. Each data point is weighted according to what most impacts episcopal workloads. For each data point, the average per bishop has been computed and an equitable "target range" has been identified. Exceptions occur when a score falls outside of this "target range." An exception score is calculated by multiplying the exception by the weight assigned to the data point. Higher exception scores reflect greater numbers of variances outside the target range. Lower exception scores indicate that more annual conferences are within the "target range" of the most important factors. Sometimes the exception score is higher due to intentional affinities created (e.g., putting more rural annual conferences together.) For a more detailed explanation of the tables contained within each scenario, see Appendix B.

Current Reality (Seven Bishops)

Executive Summary

Episcopal Area	Annual Conference	Number of ACs	Number of Bishops
1	NE	1	1
2	UNY	1	1
3	NY	1	1
4	BW & PDEL	2	1
5	EPA & GNJ	2	1
6 & 7	SUS & WPA & WVA	3	2

The current configuration is provided here as a means of comparing where we are now with what will be decided at the 2024 Jurisdictional Conference.

Exception score: 96

Key Statistics and Exception Score

Current Reality	No. of Bish.	No. of Churches in 2025 - Estimate	No. of Members	Avg. Worship Attend. per Church	Percent of Churches - Av Worship Below 25	No. of Clergy (FT & PT) & CLMs serving churches	No. of Staff Superv. By Bish.	Annual Conf. Square Miles	Avg. No. of Churches Clergy Serve	Cultural Match Score / Deviation	Percentage Difference - BIPOC	Existing Staff / System Sharing
NE	1	540	64,255	25	60%	244	10	71,991	2.2	5	14%	
UNY	1	660	108,869	41	57%	525	8	48,000	1.3	5	14%	
NY	1	405	69,230	38	45%	317	12	11,000	1.3	5	10%	
BW & PDEL	1	870	169,733	53	38%	585	11	18,225	1.5	7	22%	yes
EPA & GNJ	1	853	149,439	45	26%	752	15	16,165	1.1	7	23%	yes
SUS & WPA & WVA (2 Areas)	2	1,830	255,305	37	56%	883	34	62,199	2.1	7	10%	SUS & WPA
Total	7	5,158	816,831	40	48%	3,306	90	227,580	1.6	CMS: 6	21%	
Avg. per area		860	136,139	40	47%	551	15	37,930	1.6		15%	
Avg. per bishop		737	116,690	39	48%	472	13	32,511	1.6		15%	
Column weight		5	1	1	3	5	5	3	3		1	
Column target range - lo		589	81,683	31	39%	378	10	16,256	1.3		10%	
Column target range - hi		884	151,697	47	58%	567	15	48,767	2.0		19%	
Exception score		15	3	3	12	20	15	9	15		4	96

6 Bishops Scenario: Focus on Mission Field Culture Clarity with Four Episcopal Areas Made Up of Two ACs

Executive Summary

Episcopal Areas	Annual Conference(s)	Number of ACs	Number of Bishops
1	NE	1	1
2	NY	1	1
3	BW & PDEL	2	1
4	EPA & GNJ	2	1
5	SUS & UNY	2	1
6	WPA & WVA	2	1

This scenario effectively partners annual conferences with similar mission field cultures as evidenced by Mosaic group rankings and creates a strategic glide path to the 5-Bishop Scenario. Everything is the same as the current configuration except that Susquehanna is removed from the experiment and joins a new Episcopal Area that includes Upper New York.

Of the scenarios with six bishops, this is one:

- in which four bishops would each oversee two annual conferences and two bishops each would oversee one annual conference.
- with the widest range in number of churches per area, and the widest range of geographic territories.
- with the highest exception score

- Maintains affiliations between four of the six conferences currently involved in system and/or staff sharing.
- Exception score: 106

Key Statistics and Exception Score

6 Bishops Scenario	No. of Bish.	No. of Churches in 2025 - Estimate	No. of Members	Avg. Worship Attend. per Church	Percent of Churches - Av Worship Below 25	No. of Clergy (FT & PT) & CLMs serving churches	No. of Staff Superv. By Bish.	Annual Conf. Square Miles	Avg. No. of Churches Clergy Serve	Cultural Match Score / Deviation	Percentage Difference - BIPOC	Existing Staff / System Sharing
NE	1	540	64,255	25	60%	244	10	71,991	2.2	5	14%	
NY	1	405	69,230	38	45%	317	12	11,000	1.3	5	10%	
BW & PDEL	1	870	169,733	53	38%	585	11	18,225	1.5	7	22%	yes
EPA & GNJ	1	853	149,439	45	26%	752	15	16,165	1.1	7	23%	yes
SUS & UNY	1	1,260	207,722	47	54%	852	19	68,022	1.5	6	14%	yes
WPA & WVA	1	1,230	156,452	29	59%	556	23	42,177	2.2	7	9%	yes
Total	6	5,158	816,831	40	48%	3,306	90	227,580	1.6	CMS: 7	21%	
Avg. per area		860	136,139	39	47%	551	15	37,930	1.6		15%	
Avg. per bishop		860	136,139	39	47%	551	15	37,930	1.6		15%	
Column weight		5	1	1	3	5	5	3	3		1	
Column target range - lo		688	95,297	31	38%	441	12	18,965	1.3		11%	
Column target range - hi		1,032	176,980	47	56%	661	18	56,895	2.0		20%	
Exception score		20	3	3	9	20	20	15	12		4	106

Benefits/Gifts

- This scenario separates the experiment, continues some of the current configuration, and brings together SUS & UNY and WPA & WVA into new areas.
- It maintains existing relationships between four of the six annual conferences, which currently share staffing/ministry: BW & PDEL and EPA & GNJ.
- The data reflects the following:
    - Leaves the largest annual conference (NE) as a stand-alone area.
    - Includes good balance in Number of Clergy Serving Local Churches.
- Mission-field culture shared by affiliated annual conferences as evidenced by a moderate cultural match score (7) and the following top three Mosaic people groups:
    - BW & PDEL share within their top 3: C - Booming with Confidence, and D - Suburban Style.
    - EPA & GNJ share within their top 3: C - Blooming with Confidence, A - Power Elite, and D - Suburban Style.
    - SUS & UNY share within their top 3: J - Autumn Years and E - Thriving Boomers.
    - WPA & WVA share within their top 3: J - Autumn Years and Q - Golden Year Guardians.
- Future positioning:
    - Opportunities abound for the sharing of resources between the newly yoked annual conferences: SUS & UNY and WPA & WVA.
    - Future opportunity to bring NY and NE together.

Drawbacks/Potential Concerns

- This scenario severs the relationships which have been developed between SUS and WPA.
- The data reflects the following:
    - Of the three scenarios with 6 areas and 6 bishops, it
        - Has the widest range in number of churches per area (405 to 1260).
        - Has the widest range of Conference Square Miles (11,000 sq miles to 71,991 sq miles).
        - Has the highest Data Exception Score of 106.
    - The SUS & UNY area has the highest Number of Churches, Number of Members, and Average Worship Attendance, by considerable margins.
- Will need to navigate how to continue helpful resource sharing between SUS and WPA (and WVA) while more formally affiliating UNY and SUS who have not shared resources or affiliation.

5 Bishops Scenario: Two Conferences Per Episcopal Area

Executive Summary

Episcopal Areas	Annual Conference(s)	Number of ACs	Number of Bishops
1	NE & NY	2	1
2	BW & PDEL	2	1
3	EPA & GNJ	2	1
4	SUS & UNY	2	1
5	WPA & WVA	2	1

Some believe this is the most equitable configuration as each bishop leads two annual conferences and each annual conference is “sharing” an episcopal leader. Additionally, it also places the whole state of Connecticut in one area.

With an Exception Score of 52, this scenario has the lowest Exception Score lowest of all ten of the five, six, or seven area scenarios initially reviewed.

- Maintains affiliations between 4 of the 6 conferences currently involved in systems and/or staff sharing.
- Exception score: 52

Key Statistics and Exception Score

5 Bishops Scenario	No. of Bish.	No. of Churches in 2025 - Estimate	No. of Members	Avg. Worship Attend. per Church	Percent of Churches - Av Worship Below 25	No. of Clergy (FT & PT) & CLMs serving churches	No. of Staff Superv. By Bish.	Annual Conf. Square Miles	Avg. No. of Churches Clergy Serve	Cultural Match Score / Deviation	Percentage Difference - BIPOC	Existing Staff / System Sharing
BW & PDEL	1	870	169,733	53	38%	585	11	18,225	1.5	7	22%	yes
EPA & GNJ	1	853	149,439	45	26%	752	15	16,165	1.1	7	23%	yes
NE & NY	1	945	133,485	30	54%	561	22	82,991	1.7	8	12%	
SUS & UNY	1	1,260	207,722	47	54%	852	19	68,022	1.5	6	14%	change
WPA & WVA	1	1,230	156,452	29	59%	556	23	42,177	2.2	7	9%	change
Total	5	5,158	816,831	40	48%	3,306	90	227,580	1.6	CMS: 10	21%	
Avg. per area		1,032	163,366	41	46%	661	18	45,516	1.6		17%	
Avg. per bishop		1,032	163,366	41	46%	661	18	45,516	1.6		16%	
Column weight		5	1	1	3	5	5	3	3		1	
Column target range - lo		825	114,356	33	37%	529	14	22,758	1.3		11%	
Column target range - hi		1,238	212,376	49	55%	793	21	68,274	1.9		21%	
Exception score		5	0	3	6	5	15	9	6		3	52

Benefits/Gifts

- This scenario creates five Areas, each with two annual conferences. It maintains existing relationships between four of the six annual conferences that currently share staffing: BW & PDEL and EPA & GNJ.
- The data reflects the following:
    - There are very low exceptions in numbers of Members, Average Worship Attendance, and Clergy Serving Churches.
    - In NE & NY, SUS & UNY, WPA & WVA, 54% or more of their churches have an average worship attendance below 25 while in BW & PDEL and EPA & GNJ 38% or fewer of their churches have an average worship attendance below 25 people. This may allow for a unique Episcopal Area focus based on church size that could result in shared resources across the Jurisdiction.
    - This scenario has the lowest Exception Score for 5, 6, or 7 Areas.

- Mission-field culture shared by affiliated annual conferences as evidenced by top three Mosaic people groups:
    - BW & PDEL share within their top 3: C - Booming with Confidence, D - Suburban Style.
    - EPA & GNJ share within their top 3: A - Power Elites, C - Booming with Confidence, and D - Suburban Style.
    - SUS & UNY share within their top 3: J - Autumn Years and E - Thriving Boomers.
    - WPA & WVA share within their top 3: J - Autumn Years and Q - Golden Year Guardians.

Drawbacks/Potential Concerns

- Highest cultural match score overall of 10 which could make it difficult for Area evangelism, outward-facing ministries and communication. NE & NY do not share any within their top 3.
- SUS & UNY and WPA & WVA have much higher numbers of churches than others.
- SUS & UNY and NE & NY have much larger geographical areas than others. This could be mitigated by dividing NY between UNY, NE, and GNJ.
- Functioning with five bishops will require much from each bishop and a shifting of expectations about what a bishop does.
- UNY & SUS have not had any grassroots time to build collaboration or shared vision. This is mitigated by a glide path that allows time for grassroots work.
- Challenge to implement in a short time frame is mitigated if preceded by scenario 2.5.

Appendix A: Glossary of Terms and Roles

Organization of the Northeastern Jurisdiction

Annual Conferences

The Constitution and The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church identify the annual conference as "the basic body in the Church" (2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶ 33). An annual conference in the United States may be comprised of an entire state, part of a state or area, or even parts of two or more states. The annual conference has a central location and office staff that coordinate, conduct, and carry out the mission, ministry, and business of the conference. At a minimum, the conference staff may consist of a director of connectional ministries (or similar role), treasurer, communications director, program directors, and other staff as appropriate for the annual conference or required by The Book of Discipline. A Jurisdiction can recommend that Annual Conferences merge. However, no merger can take place unless the Annual Conferences vote to merge.

The Northeast Jurisdiction currently consists of ten annual conferences: Baltimore-Washington, Eastern Pennsylvania, Greater New Jersey, New England, New York, Peninsula-Delaware, Susquehanna, Upper New York, West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania.

Emerging Role of Annual Conference

Although circumstances and dynamics within annual conferences are changing due to the pandemic, disaffiliations and decline in membership, the important role of the annual conference regarding its mission, ministry and business remains vital. It is the role of the Annual Conference to aid the local church in making disciples and providing ways and means for churches to make disciples for the transformation of the world. Given the current realities, annual conferences recognize the need to pivot from working as stand-alone conferences and collaborate. As a result, the emerging role of the annual conference is heading toward the formation of collaborative partnerships that result in the most effective and efficient use of resources to assist local churches in their primary task. Possible areas of collaboration for annual conferences include, but are not limited to, leadership development; young people's ministry; justice; equity, diversity and inclusion; communications; programs; and missions. Collaborative partnerships between annual conferences do not equal mergers.

Episcopal Area

An episcopal area is one or more annual conferences to which a bishop is assigned. The bishop lives within the bounds of the episcopal area and presides over the work of one or more annual conferences. Following the decision at the postponed 2020 General Conference to transfer bishops, it is within the realm of possibility that a bishop may not reside in an episcopal area over which they preside. In some instances, two bishops may serve together to oversee three or more episcopal areas.

Role of the Jurisdiction in an Episcopal Area

According to the Constitution, each jurisdiction is responsible for electing its bishops. The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas shall be determined by the jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America … (2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶ 40). At the 2022 NEJ Conference, a joint task force was "…charged with envisioning and recommending the strategic direction and alignment of the jurisdiction in light of emerging circumstances including potential reduction or realignment of Episcopal areas…"

Bishops in The United Methodist Church: A Brief Overview

The office of the bishop holds a significant place in the historical context of the universal Church of Jesus Christ. Rooted in the New Testament alongside the roles of Deacon and Elder, the bishop, or Episkopos, provides oversight of an annual conference(s) in an episcopal area(s). For detailed information on the ministry of the episcopacy, consult The United Methodist Book of Discipline (¶401 – 416). This resource outlines the task and role of the episcopacy, provisions for the number of episcopal areas, handling vacancies, and specific responsibilities for bishops in an episcopal area.

Role of a Bishop

Currently, bishops are the general superintendents of the denomination and more specifically of an annual conference(s) in an episcopal area (s) to which they are assigned. Bishops oversee the spiritual and temporal ministry and administration of the church, particularly, in episcopal areas and the annual conferences that make up the episcopal area. They are responsible for envisioning a future path for the church, teaching about the church, growing spirituality within the church, overseeing the development of clergy and congregations, leading fundraising for the mission and ministry of the church including apportionments and billings, leading the church into the community and world to serve others, developing ecumenical and interfaith relationships within the episcopal area, appointing clergy, presiding at annual conference sessions, and ensuring adherence to church law. Bishops also contribute to the broader church's unity and ecumenical efforts.

Election of a Bishop

A bishop must be an ordained elder and be elected by a jurisdictional or central conference. The election process involves endorsements from annual conferences and/or from approved caucuses, and Elders who receive the requisite number of votes during voting at Jurisdictional Conference. The elected bishop becomes part of the College of Bishops (Jurisdiction) and Council of Bishops (World-wide United Methodist Church), contributing to the broader governance of The United Methodist Church. The NEJ episcopacy committee recommends assignments of bishops to episcopal areas and for the approval by the NEJ Conference.

Episcopal Areas

Emerging Episcopal Areas

The pandemic, disaffiliations, and declining membership have impacted the financial resources of congregations, annual conferences, jurisdictions, and the General church. The 2025-2029 quadrennial General church budget is proposing a reduction of 43%. The General church budget primarily funds the general agencies and the bishops. This will impact the number of bishops being funded from the general church budget in each jurisdiction, including the NEJ, resulting in the potential need to reconfigure episcopal areas.

Number, Cost, and Funding of Episcopal Areas

The number of episcopal areas is determined by the General Conference through the budget and a formula based on jurisdictional membership. At the postponed 2020 General Conference, it was decided that the present method for setting episcopal areas would continue. The Episcopal Fund, supported by apportionments from annual conferences, covers the costs associated with bishops, including salary, housing, benefits, travel, administrative expenses, and administrative staff. Presently these costs are $325,000 per bishop per year. Changes in the number of bishops allocated to each jurisdiction or central conference require approval of the General Conference.

Emerging Role of the Bishop

As the number of active bishops decreases and bishops oversee more conferences and episcopal areas, a new role is emerging. While formal changes can only occur at the General Conference level, there is a growing recognition that bishops will not relate as closely with clergy and congregations, and more emphasis will be placed on collaboration among conferences and episcopal areas. Although elements of the work of bishops may evolve over time, the ethos of servant leadership that lies at the core of the ministry for oversight of an episcopal area remains constant. More emphasis will also be placed on developing clergy and congregations spiritually. Additionally, those with gifts for leading congregations to grow and build relationships with people in the community will be developed.

Appendix B: Data Chart Explained

The Task Force understands data as coming from multiple sources: surveys, listening sessions, MissionInsite and Annual conference reporting. Each Annual Conference provided a robust dataset and much of which was compiled in this spreadsheet. The Taskforce identified the most significant data points as it relates to episcopal area work. Other than the "Number of Churches in 2025 Estimate," the remaining categories represent post-disaffiliation numbers.

	No. of Churches in 2025 - Estimate	No. of Members	Average Worship Attend. (AWA)	Percent of Churches - Av Worship Below 25	No. of Clergy (FT & PT) & CLMs serving churches	No. of Staff Superv. By Bish.	Annual Conf. Square Miles	Avg. No. of Churches Clergy Serve	Percent of Members - BIPOC	Percentage Difference - BIPOC	Existing Staff / System Sharing	Cultural Match Score
BW	565	123,689	28,508	34%	437	5.0	6,837	1.3	26%	24%	PDEL	5
EPA	378	76,885	16,844	28%	337	6.0	8,811	1.1	11%	21%	GNJ	5
GNJ	475	72,554	21,466	25%	415	9.0	7,354	1.1	19%	23%	EPA	5
NE	540	64,255	13,318	60%	244	10.0	71,991	2.2	10%	14%		5
NY	405	69,230	15,193	45%	317	12.0	11,000	1.3	41%	10%		5
PDEL	305	46,044	17,244	46%	148	6.0	11,388	2.1	21%	10%	BW	5
SUS	600	98,853	32,166	50%	327	11.0	20,022	1.8	1%	12%	WPA	5
UNY	660	108,869	26,893	57%	525	8.0	48,000	1.3	3%	14%		5
WVA	800	74,032	19,842	61%	348	11.0	24,230	2.3	1%	6%		5
WPA	430	82,420	15,408	55%	208	11.5	17,947	2.1	2%	10%	SUS	5
Total	5,158	816,831	206,882	48%	3,306	90	227,580	1.6	13%	21%		

See Appendix C to learn more about the Cultural Match Score calculation.

BIPOC and Archived Data		No. of BiPOC Members*	Total Population	White Population	BIPOC Population	Percent of BIPOC Population		Avg. Worship Attend. per chur.	No. of Churches - Av Worship Below 25	No. of Churches - Recent	No. of Dist. 2024 - Est.
BW		32,624	6,585,933	3,293,971	3,291,962	50%		50	193	571	7
EPA		8,287	6,890,352	4,727,730	2,162,622	31%		45	108	388	4
GNJ		14,137	9,288,994	5,304,016	3,984,978	43%		45	121	490	6
NE		6,131	14,000,000	10,700,000	3,300,000	24%		25	342	567	7
NY		28,606	16,656,614	8,147,429	8,509,185	51%		38	187	417	6
PDEL		9,736	1,357,963	931,944	426,019	31%		57	140	305	3
SUS		1,047	2,950,642	2,568,559	382,083	13%		54	328	655	7
UNY		3,429	6,121,481	5,075,322	1,046,159	17%		41	403	707	12
WVA		898	1,652,685	1,540,752	111,933	7%		25	541	880	7
WPA		1,361	3,571,577	3,139,713	431,864	12%		36	240	437	5
Total		106,256	69,076,241	45,429,436	23,646,805	34%		40	2,603	5,417	64

The relative importance of the columns in modeling episcopal areas was delineated by assigning weights to each column

- Some columns may be more important than others in modeling episcopal area scenarios.
- To accomplish this, higher weights are assigned to the more important columns.
- The weights are 0 to 5 with 5 being the highest and 0 giving no weight to that column.
- For example, the Number of Churches may be more important than the Annual Conference Square Miles. If that is the case, the Number of Churches could be assigned a weight of 5 and the Annual Conference Square Miles could be assigned a weight of 3.

The "target range" for each column defines the "exceptions" for each column in modeling the episcopal area scenarios.

- The "target range" begins with the "Avg per bishop" and expands it by a percent above and below it.
- The percent above and below will be the same for each column. The "target range" will be between the "Avg per bishop" minus the percent and the "Avg per bishop" plus that same percent.
- As an example, in modeling the scenarios, a user could indicate a "target range" for the Number of Churches by entering 20. That would define the "target range" in the model for the Number of Churches in an episcopal area to be between the "Avg per bishop" minus 20% and the "Avg per bishop" plus 20%.

Exception Score:

- If the actual calculated number in a cell falls outside the "target range", it will be counted as an exception.
- The number of exceptions in each column will be counted and multiplied by the weight assigned to that column to produce the Exception Score for the column.
- The Total Exception Score for the scenario will be the sum of all the Exception Scores of the columns and it will appear in the cell in the lower right-hand corner of the scenario.
- A lower Total Exception Score means that the scenario conforms to the target ranges better than a higher Total Exception Score.

Appendix C: NEJ Mosaics

Experian has useful information for churches as they seek to better engage neighbors outside the walls of the church. The table below provides a snapshot of cultural differences in our NEJ mission field through comparing the top three Mosaic types in each annual conference. The top 4 large Metropolitan Statistical Areas also makes the NEJ unique among other jurisdictions in the United Methodist Church. (HH = Households)

Conference Summary by Mosaic Types

Conference	#1 Mosaic Group	#2 Mosaic Group	#3 Mosaic Group
Baltimore-Washington	Group **D** (336,215 HH*)	Group **C** (321,635 HH)	Group **O** (269,030 HH)
Eastern Pennsylvania	**A** (349,65 HH)	**C** (283,439 HH)	**D** (252,669 HH)
Greater New Jersey	**C** (474,097 HH)	**D** (337,475 HH)	**A** (336,956)
New England	**C** (646,869 HH)	**E** (511,595 HH)	**O** (410,382 HH)
New York	**K** (1,190,353 HH)	**A** (1,040,230 HH)	**P** (783,237)
Peninsula-Delaware	**C** (66,945 HH)	**D** (54,293 HH)	**Q** (52,163 HH)
Susquehanna	**J** (215,006 HH)	**E** (131,656 HH)	**I** (114,534)
Upper New York	**J** (496,528 HH)	**O** (203,862 HH)	**E** (195794 HH)
Western Pennsylvania	**J** (312,743 HH)	**E** (137,082 HH)	**Q** (121,598 HH)
West Virginia	**J** (119,043 HH)	**N** (79,208 HH)	**Q** (76,628 HH)

Here is the Mission Impact Guide which provides descriptions and implications for church leaders.
As the task force discussed key statistics, cultural fit or match quickly rose to the surface. In Mosaic's language, culture is defined by the top Mosaic types. In the table below, find the Mosaic rankings for the Top five Groups for each annual conference. 5 represents the Mosaic type that is the most prevalent in the Annual Conference, and 1 is the fifth highest Mosaic type.

In the table below the top five types are given for each annual conference and a total score calculated for each type in the NEJ. C- Booming with Confidence, J - Autumn Years, D - Suburban Style, E- Thriving Boomers, and O - Singles and Starters are the top five people groups in the jurisdiction. All except D and O represent retirees.

		A Power Elite	B Flourish. Families	C Booming w/ Confid.	D Suburb. Style	E Thriving Boomers	I Family Union	J Autumn Years	K Significant Singles	L Blue Sky Boomers	N Pastoral Pride	O Singles and Starters	P Cultural Connect.	Q Golden Year Guardians
BW		2	1	4	5							3		
EPA		5		4	3			1				2		
GNJ		3	2	5	4				1					
NE		1		5		4						3		2
NY		4		2	1				5				3	
PDEL				5	4	1						2		3
SUS						4	3	5				1		2
UNY						3		5		2		4		1
WVA						1		5		2	4			3
WPA						4	2	5				1		3
Total		15	3	25	17	17	5	21	6	4	4	16	3	14

For each scenario, a Cultural Match Score has been developed using the number of Mosaics groups represented in each episcopal area. The ideal score is a 5 (which is a typical amount of diversity an Annual Conference might experience.) The closer the area's score is to a 5, the better. The Cultural Match Score for an area could range from 5 to 13, depending upon the number of annual conferences in an area and how closely they match. The cultural match score is found in the data table for each scenario.

Report of the Annual Conference Boundaries Committee

The NEJ Committee on Boundaries has determined that at this time there will be no episcopal boundary changes. Instead the Boundaries committee will be working through this quadrennium with the Committee on Episcopacy to discern how best to align episcopal areas that will assist the jurisdiction in fulfilling its strategic goals.

Over the past 2 years the Boundaries committee has received updates and conversation with the Boundaries Task Force that was put in place at the 2022 Jurisdictional Meeting and has participated in the stakeholders meeting where possible recommendations were discussed on how annual conferences may be aligned for mission.

These recommendations will be presented to the jurisdictional conference in collaboration with the Committee on Boundaries and the Committee on Episcopacy.

We look forward to our continued collaboration and work together.

- Rev. Dr. Lydia Munoz, Chairperson

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], Rennselaerville, 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 Rennselaerville, 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); Schuyler; 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; Venago; 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).

– Annual Conference Boundaries Committee

Committee on Investigations report

The Committee on Investigation was organized during the 2022 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. To date we report that we have not received any complaints under Paragraph 2702 of The United Methodist Book of Discipline 2016.

Faithfully submitted by the Committee on Investigation.
Denise Smartt Sears, Chairperson

Native American Ministries Committee report 2020-2024

As with most ministries faced with the many challenges of COVID 19 at the beginning of the Quadrennium, the NEJNAMC pivoted to working virtually in all respects. The incoming Chairperson, Pat Parent, was also shortly confronted with the sudden and unexpected death of her husband, Rev. Peter Parent. Despite this deep personal loss and the steep digital learning curve, Pat pressed on and with the help of other Executive Committee members, began virtual meetings to carry on the work.

The 2020 Annual Gathering was held virtually as we thanked our previous leadership. A team was organized to define our Action Plan for the quadrennium. We committed to developing a statement in support of LGBTQIA+ persons with an emphasis on the Two-Spirit experience throughout our First Nations' history. Helpful advocacy tools were also shared to focus on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Anti-Racism work. All this can be found at www.nejnamc.org.

The 2021 year saw the affirmation of our statement of Full Inclusion of LGBTQIAS2+ persons, a comprehensive reworking of our website, the approval of an Action Plan for the quadrennium and many special guests representing multiple UMC agencies and organizations attending our virtual Annual Meeting.

In 2022, we began quarterly virtual meetings to connect our local CoNAMs with one another around Action Plan objectives with some good attendance and conversation. Our Annual Meeting focused on Native American Boarding School Trauma and Healing with special guest speaker, Mr. Pete Hill, from the Cayuga Nation.

In 2023, we were grateful to gather again in person at our Annual Meeting hosted by the WPA CoNAM in Pittsburgh, PA. Special guest speaker Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin led us in two workshops – one addressing Trauma and Self-Care and the second on strengthening our Committee with a priorities and values clarification session. We were also honored to visit the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center and learn of their extensive history and services within and beyond the greater Pittsburgh area.

2024 brings a new leadership team and a renewed commitment to strengthen our local CoNAMs with intensive consultations and visits. We look forward to having representatives at General Conference, attending the Jurisdictional Conference and holding our fall Annual Meeting in EPA. In all this, we give honor to Creator and seek to continually raise awareness of Native presence and teachings.

Korean-American Mission report

Renewed Vision and Mission

The Northeastern Jurisdiction Korean-American Mission (NEJKAM) relaunched its ministry on January 1, 2023 with the redefined vision and tasks as follows.

NEJKAM serves the Korean United Methodist community of the jurisdiction by:

1. Advocating the interests of the Korean United Methodists
2. Offering resources for transformational leaders and vital congregations
3. Promoting structural and systemic support
4. Consulting and collaborating with the bishops and the conference leadership
5. Collaborating with the national Korean Ministry Plan
6. Cooperating with Jurisdictional leadership
7. Connecting to denominational resources
8. Building partnership with various caucus groups

Partnership of the College of Bishops

Support and encouragement of the College of Bishops came to NEJKAM with these words:

"We want to send this letter to share with you some exciting news that we believe will strengthen and enhance the presence of the Korean community in our jurisdiction. We want you to know that the newly redefined vision and mission of the Northeastern Jurisdiction Korean-American Mission (NEJKAM) was affirmed by the College of Bishops at its meeting in November, 2022.

We believe that the NEJKAM, with its recommenced role and task, will help bring vitality, stability, and a promising future to our Korean community…. We also believe that NEJKAM is an effective vehicle to build a stronger partnership among the Korean community and various bodies of our church, including the College of Bishops.

Korean Methodism shines brightly and its historical connection with our beloved United Methodist Church is so significant. Starting from Appenzeller, the first missionary to Korea from our church, the mission story of Korea is one of the most inspirational witnesses to the life changing power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Societal impact made by the Methodists in modern Korean history was truly world transforming. It's no wonder that Korean Church is known as a church alive in mission. Following the amazing legacy of the Korean mission of our church we will continue to be faithful partners with you in fulfilling the mission of making disciples and transforming the world."

Board of Directors

NEJKAM Board of Directors is organized with representatives from the annual conferences, associations of Korean churches, clergy women, pastors serving cross cultural/racial appointments, the United Women in Faith, and the national Korean Ministry Plan. Bishop Jeremiah Park is the chair of the board. He was assigned to the NEJKAM as the Presiding Bishop by the College of Bishops. Rev. Timothy Ahn started serving as the Mission Superintendent from January 1, 2023.

In addition to numerous online board meetings, two in-person meetings were held March 10 – 11 and October 29 – 30, 2023 in Englewood, New Jersey.

Highlights of Ministry

Over the past few years one of the most urgent concerns for the Korean community has been the disaffiliation process over denominational conflict of homosexuality. Voices that advocate disaffiliation have been well organized and loud while spreading misleading and inaccurate information. They created painful and disruptive havoc in the life and ministry of the Korean congregations. The issue of leaving or remaining has severely challenged individuals and congregations, and is not settled in many churches. In response to this evolving situation, NEJKAM has been actively involved in promoting unity and providing accurate information with compelling reasons for staying in the United Methodist Church.

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To present a forward-looking vision and mission to inspire confidence and hope in the Korean community, NEJKAM has implemented the following programs:

Seminar for the Laity of Korean United Methodist Church on ZOOM
September, 23, 2023
Theme: "Why We Remain in the UMC"
This seminar was planned and designed by NEJKAM in close cooperation with the Korean Ministry Plan. The event hosted 160 participants and was well-received.

Seminar for the Korean United Methodists on ZOOM
April 6, 2024
Theme: "2024 General Conference and Korean United Methodist Church"

The following topics were covered at this seminar:
- The situation of the Korean church and the reality of the denomination
- Important issues and responses to the 2024 General Assembly of the church
- UMC's precious values and future
- Hope and Future
- Unity and future of the Korean community

Over 360 people registered for this event.

NEJKAM also supported new church development and strengthening local congregations. A few examples:

1. Following the disaffiliation of Cherry Hill Korean Church, the Greater New Jersey Conference established a new church named "Unity in Christ United Methodist Church" with approximately 60 members who wanted to remain in the UMC. A new full-time pastor was appointed. In collaboration with the national Korean Ministry Plan, NEJKAM was instrumental in providing $50,000 to this new church start. NEJKAM continued to provide various means of support and aid in the church's efforts for growth and vitality.

2. The Korean UMC of South Jersey, located in Pleasantville, NJ, was under the leadership of a pastor who strongly pushed for disaffiliation from the UMC. Despite the pastor's efforts, the vote to remain within the UMC narrowly passed by one vote. However, the contentious nature resulted in half of the members leaving the church. The remaining members made diligent efforts to restabilize the church with the newly appointed pastor. NEJKAM worked closely with the Korean Ministry Plan to provide financial resource of $15,000 to encourage and strengthen the congregation.

3. The Delaware Korean UMC is a sizable Korean congregation and faced internal pressure from some lay members to depart from the UMC over the denominational conflict. Several pastors visited the church and spoke negatively about the UMC to sway the church toward leaving. However, the pastor of the church took proactive steps to offer a balanced view and invited the mission superintendent to facilitate an information-sharing session with the congregation. Following this meeting, there was a notable shift in the sentiment of the church members. Finally, the church resolved to remain and is steadfast in its commitment to uphold its covenant and connection as a United Methodist church.

NEJKAM developed and offered resources for leadership development.

Equipping the Laity.
Lay training programs were offered on March 4, 2023 with the following topics:
"What Is Bible?" "Stewardship" "Who Are We?" "Where Are We?: Today & Future"

Production of videos for lay training materials.
The lay training sessions were recorded and are posted on YouTube.

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Publication of Bible study book for small group meeting (class meeting).
It will be offered to all Korean United Methodist Churches starting in 2025.

Ministry of Mission Superintendent

Serving parttime in retirement as the Mission Superintendent with nominal compensation, Rev. Timothy Ahn has been actively involved in visiting local congregations, making connections and cultivating relationships, organizing and hosting events and meetings, developing resources, and fulfilling administrative responsibilities. With his outstanding pastoral, spiritual, and administrative leadership, he continues to offer faithful and fruitful ministry. He is an excellent gift to our jurisdiction and to the Korean community. The NEJKAM board greatly appreciates his ministry and leadership.

Closing

Nationwide, approximately 30 churches out of some 230 Korean UM churches have completed the disaffiliation process. Within the Northeastern Jurisdiction, 8 out of 80 Korean churches have left the UMC. Although the Korean United Methodist community seems to be relatively stable amidst the denomination's turmoil, numerous Korean churches are still contending with disaffiliation. A serious threat of instability still exists. With its renewed vision and mission, NEJKAM will have a significant role and task to serve and strengthen the Korean United Methodist community.

The message the College of Bishops sent to encourage and support the Korean community deeply resonates. "We have felt the pain and struggle of all United Methodists and we recognize the unique struggle for Korean United Methodists. We want you to be assured that Korean United Methodists are important to us as bishops, and we are ready to continue to support and work with our Korean congregations. The NEJ College of Bishops is committed to a vision of missional unity that honors our diversity and acknowledges our theological differences. Your presence in, leadership for, and contribution to The United Methodist Church is so precious and prominent. Your faithful discipleship of devotional life, vibrant spirituality, passion for mission, firm commitment and sacrificial giving is exemplary. We give thanks and praises to God for your outstanding gifts and graces for ministry and witness. Blessings in and through our Korean sisters and brothers overflow to enrich our church and beyond."

We envision a future with hope. NEJKAM believes that it is an effective instrument that strengthens the ministry and witness of the Korean community for such a time as this. In partnership with the NEJ Conference, it will continue to build up a church alive in Christ with the mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world.

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

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission report 2021-2024

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) is a grassroots movement of United Methodists who seek to put their "Christian Love in Action." Since the 1970s, UMVIM has offered a framework through which disciples can engage in short-term mission locally, nationally, and globally. Our volunteers are lay and clergy, young and old, with differing abilities and vocations, from all walks of life. Thousands of United Methodists engage in short-term mission each year in ministries as varied as disaster response, community development, microenterprise, agriculture, Vacation Bible School, building repair and construction, and medical/dental services. There is a place for everyone to serve.

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The UMVIM movement faced an enormous challenge with the COVID pandemic. As travel throughout the world shut down in 2020, the question of how to continue to engage in mission was at the top of mind. Short-term local missions continued and even increased throughout the jurisdictions. "Done in a Day" local projects became increasingly more popular in the NEJ as travel was not required and volunteers returned to their own homes at the end of the day long project. Virtual Missions were developed by the UMVIM Jurisdictional Coordinators to give folks the opportunity to engage with people from other places both nationally and globally. Virtual Team Members from around the country could register to "travel" to places like Laos, Cameroon, Peru, Honduras, and Mexico and engage with others from the host country to learn about the people, history, culture, and future project needs. The Virtual Missions were a successful way to continue to build relationships with others during this difficult period of restricted travel.

During the pandemic the Jurisdictional Coordinators worked together to develop UMVIM.org, a collaborative website for people from all jurisdictions to register their teams, download necessary forms, documents, and training materials, find their next project, purchase medical and accident insurance, and much more. The website also features video recordings of training sessions, project and partner videos and an interactive tool to assist teams in choosing their next project.

In late 2022 and throughout 2023 we began to see that churches and volunteers were becoming more comfortable living with the many uncertainties that the pandemic left us with and once again began engaging in mission journeys. We have seen an increase in the number of mission teams within the NEJ in 2023 and while we are not yet back to pre-pandemic numbers, we believe that this growth will continue in 2024 and beyond. Along with some recovery in the number of teams traveling for mission journeys the medical and accident insurance sales has begun to recover as well. Insurance sales by UMVIM NEJ is a major component of the annual budget along with NEJ support and fundraising. We are grateful for the ongoing spiritual, financial, and practical support from the Northeastern Jurisdiction and all UMVIM NEJ stakeholders.

Rev. Tom Lank left the role of UMVIM NEJ Coordinator in mid-2021 and was replaced in early 2022 by Ray Yarnall, a layperson from the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference. The UMVIM Coordinators from each Annual Conference continue to be the backbone of our ministry. Through their active roles within each Annual Conference – resourced by the UMVIM NEJ Coordinator – they are able to support the mission outreach ministries of their conference churches.

Additional accomplishments of the UMVIM ministry during this quadrennium have included an NEJ Mission Academy in early 2024, UMVIM Team Leader Trainings offered throughout the jurisdiction, development of new and current UMVIM leaders through in person and virtual training sessions, and continued support and partnership with Mission Volunteers and NOMADS. As we continue to emerge from the difficulties of the pandemic and move forward in this critical time within the UMC, UMVIM will continue its ministry of resourcing mission teams by releasing a new Team Leader Handbook in 2024 emphasizing theology of mission and updated mission planning steps. Additionally, our library of resources will be expanding to include training videos and updated materials on a wide variety of topics affecting mission teams today.

The UMVIM NEJ Board of Directors is thankful and encouraged by the ongoing support of the Jurisdiction for this ministry. As we look to the future UMVIM continues to encourage the people of the UMC to spend time outside the walls of the church, engaging in missions through both physical and relationship building while reflecting the light of Christ into the world.

Ray Yarnall, UMVIM NEJ Coordinator

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #2024

Relating to Requirements for Delegates to GC and JC:

WHEREAS, in baptism and in our membership vows we commit to be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and do all in our power to strengthen its ministries; and,

WHEREAS United Methodists may not hold membership in two denominations simultaneously and upon joining another denomination, membership in The United Methodist Church is terminated; and,

WHEREAS serving on the Transitional Leadership Council of the Global Methodist Church (GMC) violates our core membership principles.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, those who hold membership with the GMC or serve on the Transitional Leadership Council of the GMC withdraw from serving as part of the Jurisdictional delegation and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that those who hold membership in the GMC or serve on the Transitional Leadership Council of the GMC cease their involvement in the preparations and proceedings of Annual Conference, Jurisdictional Conference and subsequent General Conferences.

Person Responsible for Submitting Resolution: Members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Delegation: Kristine Adams; Hannah Bonner; Judy Ehninger; Monica Guepet; Robin Hynicka; Clarita Krall; Dave Koch; Sue Grimm McCoy Mattox; Mandy Miller; Lydia Munoz; Dawn Taylor-Storm; Lenora Thompson

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Resolution from the Northeastern Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History to Encourage Conference Boards of Trustees and Commissions on Archives & History to Work Cooperatively

WHEREAS the Bible frequently invokes people of faith to remember God's redemptive acts in History: "Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you." Deut. 32:7; NIV

And WHEREAS John Wesley, both by precept and example, endorsed journaling, record keeping and the publishing of annual conference minutes.

And WHEREAS the 2016 Discipline of The United Methodist Church paragraph 641.1 states, "In each annual conference there shall be a conference commission on archives and history."

And WHEREAS in 2023 the conference commission archivists and chairs of the ten annual conferences in the Northeastern Jurisdiction were surveyed about their archival space, staffing, and funding, and seven conferences responded.

And WHEREAS all seven responding conference commissions reported a great surge in the receipt of local church records from closed and disaffiliating congregations.

And WHEREAS six of the seven responding conference commissions reported that their available archival storage space is either at capacity, or very limited.

And WHEREAS at the time of the 2023 survey no additional funding had been provided by any conference to their conference commission on archives and history for additional space, archival storage supplies, or for additional staffing.

And WHEREAS archival storage of original documents and the digitization of Conference Records is a priority of the General Commission on Archives and History.

And WHEREAS it was reported that in most cases conference leadership, though sympathetic, do not "grasp the level of investment that we need to make in order to embrace digital archives capabilities."

And WHEREAS both the storage of physical records and preservation of digital archives are in the parameters of each conference commission's responsibility.

And WHEREAS the Susquehanna Conference has established a policy that makes one member of the Conference Commission on Archives and History a non-voting member of the Conference Board of Trustees.

And WHEREAS their experience has been beneficial to the work of their Commission on Archives and History in its assigned work of archival preservation.

And WHEREAS in the year since the 2023 survey both the Greater New Jersey Conference and the New England Conference have received additional funding from the Council on Finance and Administration, and Board of Trustees respectively.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church strongly encourages each Conference Board of Trustees and Commission on Archives and History to work together in assessing the facility, equipment, supplies, and staffing needs of the Conference Archives for storage and digitization of archival records, and develop a plan based on their conference's unique needs and situation.

Names of those voting in favor of the Resolution

NAME	ANNUAL CONFERENCE	POSITION
Earle N. Baker	Peninsula-Delaware	Jurisdictional President
Philip Lawton	Peninsula-Delaware	Jurisdictional Treasurer
Kun Chon Lee	Peninsula-Delaware	Conference At Large
Barbara Duffin	Peninsula-Delaware	Jurisdictional Archivist
Matthew Loyer	Susquehanna	Jurisdictional Secretary
Milton Loyer	Susquehanna	Conference Archivist
Elizabeth Mowry	Upper New York	Conference At Large
Nancy Rutenber	Upper New York	Jurisdictional Bulletin Editor
Richard Buckingham	Baltimore-Washington	Conference At Large

A Plan for Gracious Exits

WHEREAS, many traditionalist churches have long been faithful members of the United Methodist Church, participating in its ministries, mission, and fellowship; and

WHEREAS, recent developments within the United Methodist Church, including but not limited to changes to the Book of Discipline and Social Principles regarding human sexuality and marriage, have created discord and disagreement within our denomination; and

WHEREAS, many traditionalist congregations within our NE jurisdiction and in other jurisdictions and annual conferences around the world now find themselves facing irreconcilable theological and doctrinal differences with the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, these differences hinder a congregation's ability to remain aligned in good conscience with the doctrines and principles of the new 2020/24 Book of Discipline and Revised Social Principles; and

WHEREAS, after prayerful consideration and thorough deliberation, many traditionalist members and congregations and even conferences worldwide are beginning to realize they can no longer remain within the United Methodist Church while maintaining their core beliefs and values; and

WHEREAS, in order to honor differences of conscience and maintain a respectful peace within the NE Jurisdiction, a gracious exit path is essential to facilitate the departure of congregations from the United Methodist Church in a manner that honors their history, contributions, and relationships within the denomination, while also preserving the mission and ministry of both departing and remaining congregations; and

WHEREAS, fair, just, and amicable pathways out of The United Methodist Church should be equitable, ensuring that separation agreements between the conference and local churches are accessible to all, especially to small and minority churches; and

WHEREAS, the NE Jurisdiction is empowered by the Constitution of the United Methodist Church "To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the jurisdiction, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Conference" (BOD Par. 27.5); and

WHEREAS, the General Conference has already placed provisions in the Discipline, Par. 2548.2, whereby an "annual conference may instruct and direct the board of trustees of a local church to deed church property to one of the other denominations represented in the Pan-Methodist Commission or to another evangelical denomination under an allocation, exchange of property, or comity agreement, provided that such agreement shall have been committed to writing and signed and approved by the duly qualified and authorized representatives of both parties concerned."; and

WHEREAS, other annual conferences (e.g., Mississippi and Illinois Great Rivers) are also responding to the new situation in the UMC by creating gracious exit paths using Par. 2549, by closing a local church and selling its building back to the congregation or to another

denomination in the Pan-Methodist Commission or to another evangelical denomination for a reasonable fee; and

WHEREAS, the NE Jurisdiction recognizes that the power to negotiate the closure and/or sale of church property vests in the Annual Conferences acting through their Conference and/or District Boards of Trustees (Par. 2549); this petition represents the hopes of this Jurisdictional Conference for peace and justice and future unity of mission and purpose within the Annual Conferences of the NE Jurisdiction;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference advises for the sake of peace and unity of mission of the church, all annual conferences within the Jurisdiction to direct their cabinets and Boards of Trustees to create and implement a process for a gracious exit from the United Methodist Church for congregations who wish to exit as a matter of conscience, using the provisions of either BOD Par. 2548.2 or Par. 2549 according to whichever paragraph is most applicable to the exiting congregation. This process should be transparent, fair, and compassionate, respecting the deeply held beliefs of congregations while safeguarding the interests of all parties involved.

The Following Principles and Guidelines are recommended for a gracious exit path:

1. All cabinets and annual conference boards of trustees should devise a specific gracious exit plan to be presented for approval at the next regular or adjourned session of their annual conferences, using either Par. 2548.2 or 2549 or both.

2. Once the gracious exit plan is approved by their annual conference, all local churches in each conference should have the right to exit from the UMC for reasons of conscience regarding disputes with the requirements and provisions of the Book of Discipline and the Revised Social Principles related to the form and practice of the faith.

3. A local church should have the right to explore its option for a gracious exit by any method it chooses, including, but not limited to, discernment in the church council, town hall meetings, and informal gatherings. However, a decision to apply to the annual conference for said exit may only be taken at a church conference conducted in accordance with ¶248 of the Book of Discipline. As provided in ¶248, the church conference may be called at the discretion of the district superintendent. However, when presented with a written request from either the pastor in charge, the church council, or 10% of the professing membership of the church that a church conference be convened, the district superintendent should call the conference within thirty (30) days of receiving such a request, and the conference should be held within one hundred twenty (120) days after the district superintendent calls for the church conference. In addition to the provisions of ¶246.8, broad notice should be given to the full professing membership of the local church regarding the time and place of a church conference called for this purpose and to use all means necessary, including electronic means where possible, to communicate. The decision to apply to exit from The United Methodist Church should be approved by at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the professing members of the local church present and voting at the church conference.

4. The annual conference, upon receiving the application of the church for gracious exit, should vote on whether or not to approve the exit, where approval requires a simple majority of the

members present and voting. At the discretion of the presiding bishop, such a vote may be taken either in a regular session or in a special session called for the purpose of considering requests for gracious exit, however such a vote should be taken no more than one year following the submission of the application by the local church. The exit, if approved, should take effect at the close of the session of the annual conference at which approval is granted or as specified in the Exit Agreement, whichever is the later date.

5. *Process Following Decision to Exit from The United Methodist Church*. If the church conference votes to exit from The United Methodist Church, the terms and conditions for that exit, including its effective date, should be as memorialized in a binding Exit Agreement between the annual conference and the trustees of the local church, acting on behalf of the members. That agreement should be consistent with the following provisions and should not be more burdensome for the church than such consistency requires:

a) *Standard Terms of the Gracious Exit Agreement*. The General Council on Finance and Administration should be requested to provide a standard form for the Exit Agreements to protect The United Methodist Church as set forth in ¶807.9. The agreement should include a recognition of the validity and applicability of ¶2501 along with the release of local church property therefrom.

b) *Apportionments.* The local church should pay any unpaid apportionments for the 12 months prior to exit.

c) *Property.* An exiting local church should have the right to retain its real and personal, tangible and intangible property without the application of any fees other than those specified herein. All transfers of property should be made prior to exit. All costs for transfer of title or other legal work should be borne by the exiting local church.

d) *Pension Liabilities.* The local church should contribute withdrawal liability in an amount equal to its pro rata share of any aggregate unfunded pension obligations to the annual conference. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits should be requested to determine the aggregate funding obligations of the annual conference using market factors similar to a commercial annuity provider, from which the annual conference should determine the local church's share.

e) *Other Liabilities.* The local church should satisfy all other debts, loans, and liabilities, or assign and transfer them to its new entity, prior to exit.

f) *Economic Justice Provisions for Minority Congregations and Small Urban & Rural Churches.* The local church under a certain financial threshold separating under the provisions of this new gracious exit should have special financial provisions made to assist them in retaining all of their property, assets, and liabilities at no cost or on a reduced or sliding scale. If the church building belongs to the annual conference, the congregation can negotiate for ownership with the Conference Board of Trustees; otherwise, the property should be returned to its rightful owners.

g) *Payment Terms.* Payment should occur prior to the effective date of departure or as provided in the Exit Agreement, whichever is the later date.

h) *Release of Claims.* Once the exiting local church has paid to the applicable annual conference all funds due under the agreement, and provided that there are no other outstanding liabilities or claims against The United Methodist Church as a result of the exit, in consideration of the provisions of this paragraph, the annual conference should release any claims that it may have under ¶2501 and other paragraphs of *The Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church commonly referred to as the trust clause, or under the agreement.

6. If approved by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, this resolution is to be promptly communicated to the appropriate authorities within each Annual Conference of the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church to inform its members and congregations about the NEJ Conference's hopes for a gracious exit throughout the Jurisdiction.

7. It is recommended that the provisions of this gracious exit legislation approved by each annual conference of the NE Jurisdiction should expire on December 31, 2026 and should not be used after that date.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all members of the United Methodist Church be encouraged to join in prayer for God's guidance and provision as we enter a new phase of church life; that friendship and cooperation with our brothers and sisters in Christ transcends our disagreements; and that we all recognize our shared commitment to the Kingdom of God.

SUBMITTED/SIGNED BY:
Rev. Dr. William Allen, Elizabeth Fisher, Rachel Fulton, Krystl D. Gauld, Milton W. Loyer, Creed S. Pogue, and Stephen P. Quigg

ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES:
David Alderson, Nelson Alleman, Charles L. Baker, Jane Bonner, Keith Buckbee, Joseph F. DiPaolo, Rev. Greg Golden, Diane S. Hopkins, Bonnie G. Kauffman, John Longmire, P. R. Miller, Jimmy Ray Montgomery, Douglas O'Connell, Scott L. Shonk, Joseph W. Snyder, and Michael Vinson

Note: All paragraph notations refer to the 2016 edition of the United Methodist Book of Discipline. All other references to the Book of Discipline refer to the United Methodist Book of Discipline as revised by the 2020 General Conference meeting in 2024.

MEMORIALS

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar
1951-2023

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, a retired bishop of The United Methodist Church (UMC), died July 18, 2023. Bishop Devadhar was elected to the episcopacy in 2004 by the Northeastern Jurisdictional (NEJ) Conference of The United Methodist Church. He retired on January 1, 2023.

Bishop Devadhar began his assignment as the leader of the New Jersey Episcopal Area (Greater New Jersey Annual Conference) on September 1, 2004. After serving in the New Jersey Area for 8 years, he was assigned to the Boston Area (New England Annual Conference) in July 2012.

He was born April 6, 1951, into a family of clergypersons and has been a follower of God all of his life. The name "Devadhar" means "follower of God." Suda, as he was known, began his pastorate as a deacon at the Church of South India, Mercara Coorg, India. He holds a B.Com. degree from Vijaya College, University of Mysore, Mulki, India; a B.D., degree from United Theological College, Bangalore, India; a M.Th. degree from Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University; and an M.Phil. and a Ph.D. from Drew University.

Bishop Devadhar's guiding principle was, "Love everybody." One of the ways he embodied that ethos was leading sacred pilgrimages abroad. He firmly believed that holy pilgrimages broadened understandings, developed relationships and deepened discipleship. He led many to The Holy Land, and was instrumental in leading youth and young adults to Taize France and on The Mission of Peace.

Before he was elected as a bishop in 2004, he served for eight years as the district superintendent for the Ontario District of the then North Central New York Annual Conference.

Bishop Devadhar is survived by his wife, Prema, and their daughter, Trina, son-in-law Gage and his grandchildren.

- The Council of Bishops

Bishop William Boyd Grove
1929-2023

Bishop William Boyd Grove, a retired bishop of The United Methodist Church and the first Council of Bishops (COB) ecumenical officer, died on October 27, 2023. He served in the Northeastern Jurisdiction from 1980-1996.

Bishop Grove was born on April 24, 1929, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Bethany College (B.A.), Drew University School of Theology (M. Div.), and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (D.Min.). He received numerous honorary degrees and alumni awards from various colleges and universities. He was presented the Distinguished West Virginian Award by Governor Gaston Caperton in 1992. He was received into the Pittsburgh Conference and was ordained deacon and elder by Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke. He served churches in western Pennsylvania from 1954 until his election as bishop in 1980.

Bishop Grove was elected to the episcopacy by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 1980 and was assigned to the West Virginia Episcopal Area (1980-1992) and the Albany (NY) Episcopal Area (1992-1996). He retired from the active episcopacy in 1996. He was reactivated for service in the West Virginia Area in 2012 and he was the host of the NEJ Conference in 2012.

He has served as president of the General Board of Church and Society (1984-1988), and as president of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (1988-1996). From 1996 to 2000, Bishop Grove served as Ecumenical Officer of the Council of Bishops, the first person to hold that office. He chaired the United Methodist delegations to the National Council of Churches, the Consultation on Church Union and the Eighth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1998. He co-chaired the continuing Dialogue between the United Methodist Church and the Roman Catholic Church from 1996-2000.

He was poet and hymn writer, and a member of the Order of St. Luke, which is committed to liturgical and sacramental renewal. He traveled widely and preached throughout the world.

Mary Lou Naylor and William Boyd Grove were graduated from Bethany College in 1951, and on July 29, 1951, were married in Franklin Street Church, Johnstown, PA, where they had gone to Sunday School and Methodist Youth Fellowship together. The Groves have two daughters, Susan Grove-DeJarnett (Douglas), Rebecca Grove Janczewski, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

- The Council of Bishops