



The Eastern PA Conference 2019 Denman Awards for Evangelism, presented by Suzette James of the Congregational Development Team (*from left*), went to: the **Rev. Steve Morton**, North District Superintendent, for his leadership as the former pastor of Hopewell UMC Downingtown; **Jose Tirado Jr.**, president of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries; and **Carrie Thurmond-Argro**, Lay Leader of St. Daniel's UMC Chester. Begin now to consider nominees from your church for the 2020 Denman Awards, given annually to clergy, lay and youth leaders who consistently share with others, in words and deeds, the good news of divine love and salvation through Jesus Christ. *Paul Davis photo*



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Congregational Development, guided by the conference Congregational Development Team (CDT), provides many cutting-edge training and leadership opportunities, resources, and clergy and church assessment and development tools. Our goal is to help the conference and its congregations grow as they become more effective at winning souls for Christ and “making disciples for the transformation of the world.”

NEWSpirit Bulletins are published monthly by NEWSpirit Communications of the Eastern PA Conference to inform members and churches about ministries that manifest the spiritual and social witness of the people called Methodist. For more information and inspiration please visit our website at www.epaumc.org. Also read our other publications: **NEWSpirit**, our quarterly online newspaper, and **NEWSpirit Digest**, our weekly newsletter.

NEWSpirit! Bulletin

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Inside this issue:

Teaching disciples to share their faith



The Rev. Elena Ortiz (*left*), of Iglesia Metodista Nuevo Nacimiento (New Birth UM Church) in Lebanon, prays with Jennifer Crosby of Haven Peniel UM Church in Philadelphia at a Four Stations of the Holy Spirit training in July 2019 at Mt. Zion UMC in Philadelphia. *All training photos by John Coleman*

Creating Disciples

Connecting Communities

*United in Christ,
Committed to Transformation*

Celebrating Diversity

Committing to
Love and Justice



EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Teaching disciples to share their faith

As of November 2019, six United Methodist churches around the Eastern PA Conference have hosted Four Stations of the Holy Spirit training events. Through this initiative the conference's Congregational Development Team (CDT) teaches and emboldens lay members to offer sacramental prayer to one another and to neighbors beyond their church doors.

It's all part of our mission to help "Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." How? By inviting people we know and don't know into a life-changing relationship with the risen Christ.

The itinerating, half-day training has drawn attendees from numerous churches for training that is led primarily by the Revs. Mike Netznik, Gordon Hendrickson and Elena Ortiz, who teaches the class



in Spanish.

Four Stations of the Holy Spirit, developed by Hendrickson, shows lay people how to:

1. **Pray** one-on-one with others;
2. **Anoint** others with oil;
3. **Serve Communion** using elements consecrated by a pastor; and
4. **Affirm the baptism** of persons searching for "newness of life" in Christ

Some clergy also attend the



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Rev. Gordon Hendrickson

trainings, eager to introduce the ministry to their congregations.

The sacramental teachings are rooted in biblical theology and our Wesleyan heritage of empowering lay evangelism. There are always candid questions, concerns, opinions, suggestions and testimonies. Participants also engage in practice sessions, anointing and sharing Communion with each other.

"What continues to amaze me is how the Holy Spirit always shows up, especially when we do the anointing, reaffirmation of baptism, and Communion," said Hendrickson. "It truly is a mystery how much power there is in these elements when used as an extension of prayer and when people are open to receiving the power of the

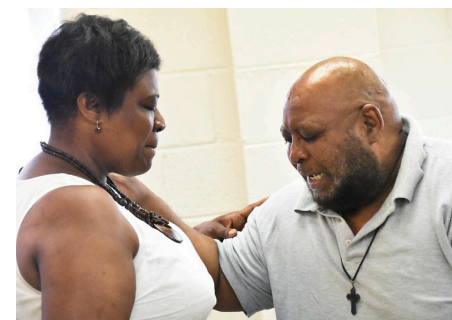


Holy Spirit."

CDT member and conference Associate Lay Leader Suzette James was pleased to host a training at her church, Mt. Zion UMC in Philadelphia. "One of the biggest takeaways is the opportunity to look at the sacraments from the point of serving others," she said.

"Adding this experience to one's personal witness gives laity a transformative

feeling that makes them want to share more with others. It's about making disciples who can share their faith in tangible ways."



To learn about and attend future trainings contact Gordon Hendrickson at **267-258-9507** or **gordonacts6@gmail.com**. The cost will be \$15 per person which includes books and materials.

'It's about making disciples who can share their faith in tangible ways.'

Suzette James