

Dear EPA Annual Conference Clergy and Laity,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.

As the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference delegation of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference begins its work, one of the great responsibilities of the delegation is to identify the individual or individuals who will represent the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference as an episcopal candidate. The EPA General and Jurisdictional delegates request interested clergy and lay members to submit up to two (2) names of persons the Conference may consider as episcopal nominees.

Every four years United Methodist delegates gather regionally (in five Jurisdictions in the U.S. and in Central Conferences outside the U.S.) to elect new bishops to fill vacancies created by retiring bishops. Generally, annual conferences nominate one or more candidates to be considered by the Jurisdictional Conference for election. The 2020 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, to which the EPA Annual Conference belongs, will meet in Hunt Valley, MD. Elected delegates from each of the annual conferences in the Northeastern Jurisdiction will interview the nominees and elect the new bishops through a balloting process.

The EPA Conference General/Jurisdictional **delegates are now engaging** in a prayerful and careful process to select our nominee(s). This process includes soliciting nominations from clergy and lay members of the annual conference, informing those nominated and securing their consent to participate in the selection process for Conference nominee(s), requesting written materials from those who consent to nomination, interviewing each nominee, and identifying the EPA nominee(s) after prayer and conversation.

We are also inviting individuals who may be sensing a call to the episcopacy in their own life to submit their name following the same process.

Nominees must be ordained elders in the EPA Annual Conference or another annual conference. If a person reaches 68 ON OR BEFORE July 1, 2020, he/she is not eligible to be nominated.

The Rev. Johnson Dodla has agreed to receive these nominations on behalf of the delegation. All nominations must be sent to: johnson@mthope.org by **January 15, 2020**.

Please note the **rule change relating to episcopal candidate endorsement**, adopted at the 2017 Annual Conference, which is listed in the Rules of Order as Article XVII, 2018 EPA Journal, page 346.

Here is a synopsis of the implications of this rule change:

The jurisdictional delegation may also choose to present no names to the annual conference. If the delegation places one or more names before the conference, annual conference delegates shall then proceed to confirm the recommendation(s) of the delegation by a 2/3 vote by those present and eligible to vote. Likewise, if the delegation recommends no persons, the annual conference shall vote to accept that recommendation by the same 2/3 vote.

If the opening ballot fails to obtain the necessary 2/3 majority to confirm the delegation's recommendation(s), additional nominations from the floor shall then be in order...

The delegation appreciates your participation in this vital process and covets your prayers as we move forward in this important task of identifying an Episcopal candidate/s. If you have any questions concerning this process, please feel free to contact either of us.

May this season be a time of rich ministry and mission.

Sincerely,

Judy Ehninger and The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm

Delegation Co-chairs