

## East District E-News

[Visit our Website](#)

### OFFICE HOURS

9:30AM to 4:30PM  
Monday through Friday  
Phone: (215) 878-4607  
Email: [myancey@epaumc.org](mailto:myancey@epaumc.org)



### Statistical Report

While many things have changed, at least one has not: the deadline for Statistical Report submission! [Log in here](#) to complete it before April 10<sup>th</sup>

## Conference office closed until further notice

The Eastern PA Conference office, closed since March 20, now will be closed until further notice. Our staff is working remotely from home. Conference business operations are continuing during the regular office hours of 8 AM to 5 PM.

This decision is prompted by PA Governor Tom Wolf's stay-at-home order issued Monday to include residents of counties in the Philadelphia region, including Montgomery County, where the conference office is located. It is part of the state's effort to curb the rapid spread of the harmful coronavirus pandemic.

Our staff has made extensive preparations to facilitate working from home and to help ensure protection for them and their families from the spread of this deadly virus. We are continuing to process payment invoices and church remittances and manage benefits services, conference communications and other responsibilities as before.

We urge churches to make all remittance payments through the online portal, rather than mailing checks to the conference office. However, any mailed payments will be received and processed. Please know that we are striving to efficiently manage all interactions through email and telephone until we are able to return to the conference office. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Jo Fielding, Director of Administrative Ministries

Additionally, the district offices are closed as per the above information, however District Resource Assistants are continuing to work from home.

Please include your phone number and email address when leaving a voicemail message on the district phone; that voicemail is being regularly monitored. Thank you for your continued cooperation and flexibility as we navigate this current crisis.



Check out this NEWSpirit! Article

## Help for churches wanting to take worship, giving online

## 2019 Journal

The 2019 Journal is available for purchase and for reference [online](#). The east district login has changed to the following credentials:

## PA Sales Exemption Update

The renewal request has been submitted however the PA State offices that do the processing are closed due to COVID-19. Please distribute this widely through your networks and on the Conference website. It is unlikely that we will receive them prior to the March 31st expiration. We suggest that churches ask their vendors for grace and understanding as we all move through this process together. The Conference Office will send out the Sales Tax Exemption certificates just as soon as we receive them from the State.

UPDATE: View the Tax Exemption Extension letter to the right.

Department of Revenue  
PO Box 28000  
Harrisburg, PA 17128-0800



### SALES TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE EXTENSION LETTER

March 24, 2020

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
PO BOX 82  
VALLEY FORGE PA 19482

Our records indicate that your organization's sales tax exemption certificate is due to expire on March 31, 2020.

Due to delays in processing of sales tax exemptions as a result of COVID-19, the department is extending the exempt status of this organization and its subsidiary churches until September 30, 2020. This extension is intended to assist your institution and subsidiary churches in continuing daily operations without interruption of exempt status. Please forward this extension to your subsidiary churches.

You may use this correspondence along with an Exemption Certificate (REV 1220) as your authority to make tax free purchases.

Please know the department is continuing to work on issuing your exemption certificates as quickly as possible. If you require assistance, or have any questions regarding this extension, you may submit your question through the department's online customer help service at <https://revenue.pa.gov/help-center>

Tax Registration Office | Tax Specialty | PO Box 28000 | Harrisburg, PA 17128 | Phone 717-633-6473 | Fax 717-633-2168 | [www.revenue.pa.gov](http://www.revenue.pa.gov)

## Audit Consultant

**Larry Turnbull, Consultant**, has been added as a new resource for all EPA UMC churches to utilize in meeting the Audit requirement of the Book of Discipline. Larry will also be available to assist churches in streamlining and improving their accounting format.

The Audit service will be provided at a reduced cost in order to encourage all churches to utilize this support in order to complete their Audit in a timely manner. An Audit may be completed for as little as \$260 or \$5 per week over a 52 week year.

Larry has been providing accounting, auditing and cash management consulting support to various, for and non-profit, organizations including churches, for over 40 years. Contact Larry to discuss the help that he can provide your church. An estimate of the cost of the Audit or other service requested will be provided.

**Testimonial:** *"The Audit was performed in a timely manner. The results were detailed and presented in a well-documented report. Larry is a knowledgeable, skilled professional and a pleasure to work with."* Carol Barnes, Treasurer; Rev. Shauna K. Ridge, Pastor; Thorndale United Methodist Church

Contact: Larry – [Larry@larryturnbull.com](mailto:Larry@larryturnbull.com) – 484-883-6179

## Looking For...

[Coronavirus Response Page](#)

[Your  
Stories!](#)

[List of Online  
Resources](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down many organizations, but the Church doesn't have to be one of them! With a variety of tools at our disposal, what innovations has YOUR church been able to implement?

Next week's newsletter will highlight some of your submissions. So whether it's a new way of coming together weekly worship, or helping the local businesses and community members, share your "new normal" with the rest of the district! Maybe you'll be the spark for some desperately needed [inspiration](#).

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## Equalizing Delegates (And Alternates!)

The formula for Equalizing Delegates in each district will be fulfilled as follows:

- We will confirm the attendance of quadrennium elected Equalizing Lay Delegates. 2020 will be the last year of their term.
- Meanwhile, the District Office will receive nominations for Equalizing Lay Delegates to fill remaining slots and/or alternate slots. The East District has 65 slots total.
- The District office will “fill in” the open slots for Equalizing Lay Delegates from the nominations received.
- When considering to whom to offer the open slots, we will join the other Districts in our Conference by following the 2002 resolution (2002-15) and by seeking no more than 3 equalizing delegates from any given church in order to comply with geographical equity as in the resolution. Exceptions to the three persons will be considered by the District to include “gender, age, ethnicity, geographical equity and circuit churches with no lay member”.
- This slate will serve for the Annual Conference and Adjourned Session in 2020.

If you would like to nominate someone to serve in one of the open slots (and your church does not already have 3 people serving as Equalizing Lay delegates), please pass along their name and contact information to the district office

These Equalizing Lay delegates will be voted in at the East District Conference in May. If you have an Equalizing Lay Delegate who cannot attend Annual Conference please DO NOT "offer the slot" to someone else in your church without first going through the nomination process.

Equalizing Lay delegates for the new Quadrennium will be sought in the beginning of 2021.

I have a nomination!

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## Events

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### **CANCELLED & RESCHEDULED EVENTS**

Some reported events may be cancelled or postponed due to the current Coronavirus outbreak. We will announce those cancellations and postponements here as we receive word.

### **Conference Events**

- The **Order of Deacons** gathering for **March 28** will be rescheduled for a later date.

- The **March 28 “Racism, Post-Traumatic Stress, & Transformation”** workshop has been postponed. New date TBA.
- The **March 28 Eastern PA Conference Youth Rally** has been cancelled. The Conference Council on Youth Ministries invites all youth to attend the Camping at the Crossroads youth rally and retreat at Covenant UMC of Moore Township (2715 Mountain View Drive, in Bath, PA 18014) from April 21 (3 PM) to August 22 (7 PM).
- Cancelled: Event to explore UMC separation proposal, **March 28**
- The **April 5 Loss of Turtle Island** event by CONAM has been postponed. New date TBA.
- The Historic St George’s 250th Anniversary Luncheon: “**A Love Feast for the 21st Century,**” scheduled for Saturday, **April 18th, 2020** is postponed. A new date will announced as soon as possible, most likely in the fall. Please check [www.historicstgeorges.org](http://www.historicstgeorges.org) for any updates.
- **The April 25 Faith-Sharing Event** has been cancelled. It may be rescheduled for the Fall. More information TBA.
- The **May 2** Advanced Sexual Ethics Workshop “**Ministry with Registered Sex Offenders**” at Elam UMC is being postponed. New date TBA.

## Camp & Retreat Centers

- Camp Innabah’s Community **Easter Egg Hunt** for **April 4** has been postponed. New date TBA.
- Camp Innabah’s Spring **5K Trail Run/Walk** has been cancelled.

## Other Events

- The Fresh Expressions National Gathering, scheduled for April 1-3, at Heritage Fellowship Church in Reston, VA, has been postponed until March 2021,
- The NEJ UMW gathering in Baltimore, April 24-26, has been postponed. New date TBA.
- The Northeastern Pastor’s Meeting, scheduled for April 30, will be postponed to this Fall.
- The April 26 Farewell Celebration for DS Bass has been rescheduled for Sunday June 21, 2020

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## DS Bass' Farewell Celebration

~~Sunday, April 26, 2020~~ -> **Sunday June 21, 2020**

3:00 PM– 5:00 PM

Jarrettown United Methodist Church

Registration: \$20

[Register](#)

Join us on Sunday April 26, as bid adieu to Rev. Tracy Bass as he pursues ministry opportunities closer to home. If you wish to join in the roast and revelry of our East District Superintendent, come to Jarrettown UMC

from 3PM-5PM.

R.S.V.P. by ~~April 17th~~ -> **June 12<sup>th</sup>**

Jarrettown UMC is located at:  
1460 Limekiln Pike, Dresher PA 19025



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## **2020 General Conference Delegation Listening Sessions**

The General Conference Listening Sessions via ZOOM scheduled for April 2, April 4, and April 20, 2020 have been postponed and will be rescheduled at least two months prior to the date determined for the General Conference.

The EPA Delegation, in agreement with General Conference leadership, feels a pause is needed at this unique time. All are encouraged to continue in ministry, sharing God's love, and actualizing the church we are called to be.

Here are several ways all can continue to prepare for General Conference as we await rescheduled dates:

1. Visit the [Resourceumc.org](http://Resourceumc.org) web site and read General Conference news and related articles. Eventually all proposed legislation will be posted there.
2. Visit the [Epaumc.org](http://Epaumc.org) web site under News and Events find General Conference 2020
3. Subscribe to United Methodist News Service, UMNS, at [NewsDesk@umcom.org](mailto:NewsDesk@umcom.org).
4. Eastern Pennsylvania Conference online *NEW Spirit* online newsletter, at [communications@epaumc.org](mailto:communications@epaumc.org)
5. Pray for the United Methodist Church and our Eastern PA Conference delegation. A roster of delegates with email addresses is posted on our [conference website](#) . If you would like to send an individual note of encouragement or ask a question, please do so. We are available to answer your questions as best we can.

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## **ERT Drill at Innabah April 18**

Dear ERT's,

When a disaster occurs are you ready to respond? Would you like to help your neighbor? You have received your ERT badge, but still really don't know what to expect? Here is your opportunity to serve and learn more about ERT.

Your HELP is needed! Training Event Drill.

Calling all ERT's to Innabah Camp and Retreat Center located at 712 Pughtown Road, Spring City, PA 19475. April 18, 2020, a disaster response drill is scheduled. The drill will start at 9AM. Lunch will be provided by Innabah. The drill will conclude at 2PM.

This will be a working hands on drill. Wear work clothing. We will be cleaning up just as if a disaster had taken place. We will be tarping roofs, cleaning buildings and removing outside debris.

Please contact our Disaster Response Coordinator at [drc@epaumc.org](mailto:drc@epaumc.org) to let us know if are planning on attending the training event. This will allow us to plan an exciting day for you. Feel

free to bring a friend if they are interested in learning about the Early Response Team. Make sure you bring your UMCOR issued badge.

The Disaster Response Ministry wants to give thanks to God for Innabah camp allowing us to hone our ministry.

## Training and Workshops

Feeling called to ministry? Join us (virtually) at Lancaster Seminary for one of our Discover Day Events!



All Visits Virtually

Learn More

Interested in Seminary? Exploring a Call into Ministry? On **Saturday, March 28, 2020**, or on **Wednesday, April 1, 2020**, Lancaster Theological Seminary invites you to visit our campus for one of our Discover Day events. Both Discover Days are a great opportunity for you to experience the life of our community by sitting in on a class, worshiping in Chapel, and getting to know some of our current students.

To learn more and register for one of these events, please reach out to us at your earliest convenience by contacting us at 717-290-8741 or [admissions@lancasterseminary.edu](mailto:admissions@lancasterseminary.edu). We hope to see you at one of these events and look forward to walking with you in your discernment process!

## Basic Sexual Ethics Workshops

People required to take a sexual ethics workshop every quadrennium can begin anew January 2020. Basic Workshops are a prerequisite to the Advanced Workshops.

### Legal Ramifications of Safe Sanctuary and the Reentrance for Offenders



**Saturday  
May 2, 2020**  
9:30 AM – 3:00 PM  
Advanced Level  
Registration: \$35  
  
Elam UMC: 1073  
Smithbridge Rd, Glen  
Mills, PA 19342

Presenter - Attorney Joy Melton

### Reducing the Risk of Sexual Misconduct and Abuse:

### Boundary training for Religious Leaders in Today's World



**Saturday  
May 16, 2020**  
9:30 AM – 3:00 PM  
Basic Level  
Registration: \$35  
  
Faith UMC: 1290  
Fruitville Pike, Lititz, PA  
17543

Presenter - Linda Crockett

### Celibacy, Sexual Ethics and Boundaries

**Thursday  
August 20, 2020**

### Basic Sexual Ethics

**Saturday  
September 26, 2020**



9:30 AM – 3:00 PM  
Advanced Level  
Registration: \$35

St. Matthews's  
UMC: 600 Walker  
Rd, Wayne, PA  
19087

Presenter – FR. Charles Mauer



9:30 AM – 3:30  
Basic Level  
Registration: \$35

Conshohocken UMC:  
20 W 6th Ave,  
Conshohocken, PA  
19428

Presenter – Rev. Wanda Sevey, Council  
on Relationships

For more information on any of the sessions, [download the flyer](#), or contact Rev. Jacqueline Hines at [pastorjacquelineumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjacquelineumc@gmail.com) or 410-963-1721.

## Licensing School

The Penn-Del Conference is accepting applications for their May 17-24 Licensing school. Applications are available [online](#).

## Future Dates

### Events

**Statistical Report due**

- 4/10 online submission only

**DS Tracy Bass Farewell Celebration**

- 6/21 Jarretstown UMC @ 3pm

**District Conference**

- 5/17 Location TBD @ 3pm

**Annual Conference**

- 6/18-6/20 at Oaks Expo Center

**Adjourned Session**

- 10/24/20 Location TBD

### Workshops

**Changing Racism**

- Oct 23-25, 2020 at the Desmond Hotel

**Sexual Ethics Training**

- ~~May 2~~-May 16, Aug 20, Sep 26.
- Various locations

**Annual Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural Training**

- June 6, 2020 Location TBD