

# CONTENTS

|                                                                                                                               |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Welcome from Bishop Moore-Koikoi . . . . .                                                                                    | 2   |
| Agenda . . . . .                                                                                                              | 3   |
| Greetings From the Conference Secretary. . . . .                                                                              | 5   |
| Parliamentary Procedures. . . . .                                                                                             | 6   |
| Name Badges & Voting Rights . . . . .                                                                                         | 7   |
| Annual Conference Awards. . . . .                                                                                             | 8   |
| Legislation . . . . .                                                                                                         | 14  |
| Resolution #2026-01: Updates and Changes to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference<br>Rules of Order . . . . .                   | 15  |
| RESOLUTION # 2026-02: Denouncing Dehumanizing Immigration Enforcement and<br>Calling the Church to Faithful Witness . . . . . | 22  |
| Resolution #2026-03: Supporting the Shelter First Act . . . . .                                                               | 24  |
| Resolution #2026-04: Supporting Church’s and Clergy’s Theological Position . . . . .                                          | 25  |
| Resolution #2026-05: Church Closures . . . . .                                                                                | 26  |
| Resolution #2026-06: Resolution on the Use of Comprehensive Sex Education Resources in<br>Congregational Life . . . . .       | 27  |
| Resolution #2026-07: Ensuring Just Wages and Benefits in United Methodist Congregations . . . . .                             | 29  |
| Resolution #2026-08: Transparency and Access to Benefits for Lay Employees and Deacons . . . . .                              | 31  |
| Resolution #2026-09: Exploring Pension and Health Benefit Coverage for Deacons,<br>Deaconesses, and Home Missioners . . . . . | 33  |
| Resolution #2026-10: Nominations and Leadership Report . . . . .                                                              | 35  |
| Resolution #2026-11: Equitable Compensation . . . . .                                                                         | 69  |
| Resolution #2026-12: Rental-Housing Allowances. . . . .                                                                       | 71  |
| Resolution #2026-13: Ministerial Pension Rate for Pre-82 . . . . .                                                            | 72  |
| Resolution #2026-14: Advance Special Applications . . . . .                                                                   | 73  |
| Reports . . . . .                                                                                                             | 77  |
| Candler School of Theology . . . . .                                                                                          | 78  |
| Committee on Native American Ministries, CONAM . . . . .                                                                      | 79  |
| Commission on Religion and Race. . . . .                                                                                      | 80  |
| Connectional Ministries & Leadership Report . . . . .                                                                         | 83  |
| Drew University Theological School . . . . .                                                                                  | 86  |
| Duke Divinity . . . . .                                                                                                       | 87  |
| Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. . . . .                                                                             | 88  |
| Global Ministries Team. . . . .                                                                                               | 89  |
| Healing the Wounds of Racism . . . . .                                                                                        | 90  |
| Implicit Bias Review . . . . .                                                                                                | 91  |
| Latino Commission . . . . .                                                                                                   | 93  |
| Leadership Academy Preaching Institute . . . . .                                                                              | 95  |
| Loan Fund Report . . . . .                                                                                                    | 97  |
| Methodist Theological School in Ohio. . . . .                                                                                 | 98  |
| Order of Deaconesses/Home Missioners . . . . .                                                                                | 99  |
| Order of Deacons . . . . .                                                                                                    | 101 |
| Pathways Bridges . . . . .                                                                                                    | 103 |
| Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice Team. . . . .                                                                         | 105 |
| Safe Sanctuaries Committee . . . . .                                                                                          | 106 |
| St. Paul School of Theology . . . . .                                                                                         | 107 |
| United Theological Seminary . . . . .                                                                                         | 108 |
| Wesley Foundation of the City of Philadelphia. . . . .                                                                        | 109 |
| Wesley Theological Seminary . . . . .                                                                                         | 112 |
| Gammon Theological Seminary. . . . .                                                                                          | 114 |
| Rules of Order . . . . .                                                                                                      | 115 |

# WELCOME FROM BISHOP MOORE-KOIKOI

*“Seek the Lord while God may be found;  
call upon God while God is near.” (Isaiah 55:6, Adapted)*

Beloved Siblings,

I greet you in the name and with the love of Jesus who is the Christ. The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference 2026 is almost here. Last year, in preparation for Annual Conference 2025, we engaged on a Journey of Healing. This year we have been on a 28-day Journey of Prayer from April 8-May 15, 2026. But I know that most of us began praying for Annual Conference 2026 long before April 8th. Therefore, I am confident that this year’s annual conference is going to be a spirit-filled time of Holy Conferencing where we will all hear from God.

As we live into our theme of “Prayer”, we will be offering intercessory prayer and prayers of thanksgiving and praise at annual conference. But most importantly, we will be focusing on seeking God, using prayer as a way to listen to and for God, so that our conversations and our votes might be directed by God’s Spirit among us.

I encourage you to pray over your pre-conference materials. Before you read any of the legislation or reports, ask God to help you to surrender your thoughts and desires so that you might read each word and respond with God’s grace, compassion, wisdom, and insight. After you read the legislation and reports, ask God if there is any additional information about the legislation or reports that might be helpful to the body, and be prepared to ask those questions during annual conference. Finally, I urge you to entreat God to continue to move within you and all the members of the annual conference so that we will all be blessed by our experience of Holy Conferencing.

I look forward to seeing you and praying with you at Wildwood.

Peace and blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Moore-Koikoi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

# AGENDA

## Annual Conference 2026

Wildwood Convention Center

### *Prayer*

*“Seek the Lord while God may be found; call upon God while God is near.”  
(Isaiah 55:6, Adapted)*

## AGENDA FOR TUESDAY, MAY 19 EPA

- 12:30 p.m. Optional Reception with EPA&GNJ - Join for a time of refreshments  
& fellowship. . . . . Outside Ballroom
- 12:30 p.m. LAPI Luncheon
- 1:00 p.m. Open Registration & Fellowship (refreshments available)  
Vendor Exhibits
- 3:00 p.m. Clergy Executive Session . . . . . Ballrooms  
Laity Session . . . . . West Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Clergy Dinner. . . . . Ballrooms  
Laity Dinner . . . . . East Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Clergy organize for Processional/Robing. . . . . Ballrooms
- 7:00 p.m. Celebration of Ministry Service . . . . . West Hall

## AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast on your own. Group prearranged breakfasts.
- 7:45 a.m. Communion on the Beach . . . . . Convention Center Deck Ocean Side
- 8:15 a.m. Praise and Worship
- 8:30 a.m. Early Morning Bible Study . . . . . West Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Organizing the Conference
- 9:40 a.m. Episcopal Address
- 10:10 a.m. **Business and Legislation:**  
Relating to Updates and Changes to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Rules of Order  
Denouncing Dehumanizing Immigration Enforcement and Calling the Church to Faithful Witness  
Resolution on Supporting the Shelter First Act  
Supporting Church’s and Clergy’s Theological Position  
Church Closures
- 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service of Remembrance with Communion
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch & Mission Project. . . . . East Hall and East Deck  
Bishop’s Luncheon with memorial service families
- 1:30 p.m. Praise and Worship . . . . . West Hall
- 1:40 p.m. Scholarship Appeal and Offering
- 1:45 p.m. **Business and Legislation**

2027 Budget \*  
 Resolution on the Use of Comprehensive Sex Education Resources in Congregational Life  
 Resolution on Ensuring Just Wages and Benefits in United Methodist Congregations  
 Resolution on Transparency and Access to Benefits for Lay Employees and Deacons  
 Exploring Pension and Health Benefit Coverage for Deacons, Deaconesses, and Home Missioners  
 Nominations & Leadership Report

3:45 p.m. Monitoring Report

Upon Adjournment Small Group Meetings:

Order of Elders & Commissioning towards Elders in Ballroom A  
 Order of Deacons & Commissioning towards Deacon in Meeting Room 7/8  
 Fellowship of Local Pastors & Associate Members in Ballroom B  
 Deaconess & Home Missioner Meetings in Meeting Room 2  
 Christ Servant Ministers/Certified Lay Ministers/Lay Supply Pastors in Ballroom C

6:30 p.m. Ordinand & Class of 2026 Retiree Dinner

Dinner for groups and individuals at the convention center (pre-arranged)

## AGENDA FOR THURSDAY, MAY 21

7:00 a.m. Breakfast on your own. Group prearranged breakfasts  
 7:45 a.m. Communion on the Beach .....Convention Center Deck Ocean Side  
 8:15 a.m. Praise and Worship  
 8:30 a.m. Early Morning Bible Study ..... West Hall  
 9:30 a.m. Reading the Appointments ..... West Hall  
 9:45 a.m. Monitoring Report  
 10:00 a.m. Youth and Young Adult Offering  
 10:10 a.m. **Business and Legislation**  
 Equitable Compensation 2027  
 Rental/Housing Allowance Designation  
 Ministerial Pension Rate for Pre-82  
 Advance Specials  
 11:30 a.m. Closing Worship  
 12:00 p.m. Adjournment

\*Please note that the budget legislation will be distributed in a separate packet at the District Conferences. It will also be available for pickup in Wildwood.

# GREETINGS FROM THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY

Dear Annual Conference Lay and Clergy Members,

Welcome to the 2026 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference! This year, we will gather at the Wildwood Convention Center from May 19 to 21, 2026, for worship, business, and fellowship.

This 2026 Pre-Conference Workbook will serve as a valuable resource for you as an active member of the 2026 Annual Conference Session. Please have it available as you attend the Conference. These pages include reports, legislation, and nominations received for consideration at the Annual Conference. Notably, all legislation submitted by the January 15, 2026, deadline has been carefully reviewed by the Rules Committee.

If this is your first Annual Conference as an active member, resources are available to support your participation in and follow-up on the Conference's activities. The Rules of Order, Name Badge, and Voting Rights chart will help you understand the Conference's proceedings. We hope this workbook will be helpful as you engage in worship, business, fellowship, and celebration at the 2026 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference and as you share its fruits with your congregation.

The 2026 EPA Annual Conference begins with the distribution of badges at the Welcome Desk at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, at the Wildwoods Convention Center in Wildwoods, New Jersey. Please refer to the Agenda provided in this booklet or available online for the comprehensive conference schedule.

For your reference, the Pre-Conference Workbook is accessible online and can be downloaded from the EPA website. Please note that, beginning this year, a printed copy will be made available at the District Conference and Annual Conference solely upon request submitted through the registration form.

I look forward to meeting you as we assemble for Holy Conferencing, meaningful fellowship, and the celebration of our joyful unity in the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,

Rev. Joong Hyuck Kim  
Conference Secretary  
Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference

## **Conference Secretary Letter and General Information**

| <b>HOW TO UNDERSTAND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES</b>                                |                                                        |                           |                       |                          |                   |                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>To Do This...</b>                                                             | <b>You Say This...</b>                                 | <b>Interrupt Speaker?</b> | <b>Second Needed?</b> | <b>Motion Debatable?</b> | <b>Amendable?</b> | <b>Vote Needed?</b> |
| <b>SECONDARY MOTIONS IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE</b>                                  |                                                        |                           |                       |                          |                   |                     |
| Adjourn                                                                          | “I move to adjourn”                                    | No                        | Yes                   | No                       | No                | Majority            |
| Recess                                                                           | “I move we recess until ...”                           | No                        | Yes                   | No                       | No                | Majority            |
| Suspend debate w/o calling for a vote                                            | “I move that we table”                                 | No                        | Yes                   | No                       | No                | Majority            |
| End Debate                                                                       | “I move the previous question”                         | No                        | Yes                   | No                       | No                | 2/3 Majority        |
| Limit Debate                                                                     | “I move debate be limited to . . .”                    | No                        | Yes                   | No                       | Yes               | 2/3 Majority        |
| Postpone to specific time                                                        | “I move to postpone this matter until . . .”           | No                        | Yes                   | Yes                      | Yes               | Majority            |
| Have matter studied further                                                      | “I move we refer this matter to . . .”                 | No                        | Yes                   | Yes                      | Yes               | Majority            |
| Amend a motion or substitute                                                     | “I move to amend by ...” or “I move to substitute ...” | No                        | Yes                   | Yes                      | Yes               | Majority            |
| Postpone Indefinitely                                                            | “I move to postpone indefinitely”                      | No                        | Yes                   | Yes                      | No                | Majority            |
| <b>INCIDENTAL MOTIONS GROW OUT OF THE BUSINESS THE CONFERENCE IS CONSIDERING</b> |                                                        |                           |                       |                          |                   |                     |
| Correct error in parliamentary procedure                                         | “Point of Order”                                       | Yes                       | No                    | No                       | No                | Chair rules         |
| Obtain advice on parliamentary procedure                                         | “I raise a parliamentary inquiry”                      | Yes                       | No                    | No                       | No                | Chair rules         |
| Request information                                                              | “Point of information”                                 | Yes                       | No                    | No                       | No                | None                |
| <b>MAIN MOTIONS AS TOOLS TO INTRODUCE NEW BUSINESS</b>                           |                                                        |                           |                       |                          |                   |                     |
| Introduce business                                                               | “I move that . . .”                                    | No                        | Yes                   | Yes                      | Yes               | Majority            |
| Take up matter previously tabled                                                 | “I move we take from the table . . .”                  | No                        | Yes                   | No                       | No                | Majority            |
| Reconsider matter previously voted                                               | “I move we reconsider . . .”                           | No                        | Yes                   | No                       | No                | Majority            |

## NAME BADGES & VOTING RIGHTS

| Badge Color                 | Affiliation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Voting Rights                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Yellow<br>¶602.4<br>¶602.6  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elected Lay Member, Youth-Young Adult Elected Member, At-Large Lay Member/Equalizing Lay Delegate</li> <li>Diaconal Minister, Deaconess, Home Missioner under appointment</li> <li>Conf. Lay Leader, District Lay Leader, Conf. Director of Lay Servant Ministries, Conf. UWF President, Conf. UMM President</li> </ul> | <p>May vote on all matters except granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full conference membership, or any question concerning the character and official conduct of ordained ministers.</p> <p>Lay members who are elected members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and Committee on Investigation can vote on all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.</p> |
| Red<br>¶602.1               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full connection (Elder and Deacon)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | May vote on all matters except election of lay delegates to General, Jurisdictional, and Central Conferences.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Blue<br>¶602.1c             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associate Members</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>May vote on all matters except constitutional amendments and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.</p> <p>Associate Members that are elected members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.</p>                                                                        |
| ¶602.1b                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provisional Members (<i>under appointment to a pastoral charge who have completed educational requirements towards ordination</i>)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                           | May vote on all matters of the annual conference except constitutional amendments and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| ¶602.1d                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full Time/Part Time/Retired Local Pastors (<i>under appointment to a pastoral charge who have completed course of study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election</i>)</li> </ul>                                                                    | <p>May vote on all matters except constitutional amendments and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.</p> <p>Licensed Local Pastors that are elected members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.</p>                                                                   |
| Green<br>¶602.1b<br>¶346.2  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provisional Members (<i>under appointment to a pastoral charge who have not completed educational requirements toward ordination</i>)</li> <li>Affiliate Members (<i>when determined credentials are equal to Elders in Full Connection while under appointment</i>)</li> </ul>                                         | May vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General, Jurisdictional, and Central Conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| ¶602.1d                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full Time/Part Time/Retired Local Pastors (<i>under appointment to a pastoral charge who have not completed course of study or an M.Div. degree</i>)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                         | May vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of delegates to the General, Jurisdictional, and Central Conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| White<br>¶320.5c<br>¶602.1c | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retired Local Pastors (<i>not under appointment</i>)</li> <li>Affiliate Members (<i>when determined credentials are not equal to Elders in Full Connection while under appointment</i>)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                      | May attend with voice but not vote.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Teal<br>¶602.9              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visitors, Student Pastors (from other conferences), Lay Missionaries</li> <li>Members of Other Conferences</li> <li>Interim Supply Pastors</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                   | No vote and no voice unless granted on the floor.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Pink                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conference Staff Members</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | No vote and no voice unless granted on the floor.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Purple                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Official Guest and Episcopal Staff</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | No vote and no voice unless granted on the floor.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Orange                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-Voting Youth</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | No vote and no voice unless granted on the floor.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE AWARDS

---

## FOUNDATION FOR EVANGELISM AWARD (FORMERLY THE DENMAN AWARD)

---

The nominee for this award will be announced at Annual Conference in May.

---

## ONE MATTERS AWARD: WILLOW ST.: BOEHMS UMC, PASTOR MANNY CRUZ

---

Boehm's United Methodist Church is a rural church located in the farming community of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania where faith in God is a way of life. We warmly welcome anyone walking through the doors each Sunday morning for our relaxed traditional worship service. Historically a white congregation, Boehm's is becoming more diverse and multi-cultural with the Filipino-American immigrants who began joining in Summer of 2024. Along with Sunday worship, Boehm's offers Bible study, fellowship, Prayer Shawl ministry, and joint ministries with its sister church, Colemanville UMC. Boehm's is known in the community for making apple butter in October.

Since November 2024, seven Filipino-Americans have been received into church membership, and the church is growing more diverse with thirteen new Filipino-American members, spouses, children, and friends, attending services and activities. Five Fil-Am members are now part of the leadership team and are actively involved leading various ministries.

From the Pastor: The following are our initial strategic plans to grow the Filipino-American ministry at Boehm's UMC: 1 Reach out to more Filipino-American immigrants in Lancaster County, 2. Connect Fil-American members and worshippers with Fil-American UMC groups, events, and ministries in GNJ (Simbang Gabi, fellowships, camps etc.), 3. Giving Fil-Am members leadership responsibilities and opportunities to serve the local church, 4. Nurture and develop new Fil-Am new disciples and church leaders.

---

## HERB PALMER AWARDS

---

***NORTH DISTRICT: STROUDSBURG: FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (REV. JACK TIRONI)*** is nominated for the Herbert E. Palmer Award for Urban Ministry in recognition of its extraordinary commitment to embodying Christ's love through sustained community engagement.

Faith UMC has cultivated strong partnerships with organizations including CARES of Pennsylvania, Respite For All, Nascent-C Health Network, GriefShare, and Arlington Heights Elementary School. Through these partnerships and ministries such as food distribution and feeding programs serving approximately 100 individuals annually, the church continues to serve as a trusted and compassionate presence in the Stroudsburg community.

The congregation demonstrates exceptional commitment to mission, contributing more than \$43,000 to mission work in 2024 and dedicating nearly 19% of its budget to mission and outreach. Innovative ministries such as Faith Friends, which provides companionship and spiritual care for individuals living with dementia and Alzheimer's, further reflect the church's dedication to addressing critical community needs.



Widely recognized as a compassionate and mission-driven congregation, Faith UMC faithfully lives out the Gospel through ministries of mercy, care, and justice. Its sustained outreach and transformational community impact exemplify the spirit and legacy of Rev. Herbert E. Palmer.

***SOUTH DISTRICT: CLIFTON HEIGHTS UMC, REV. VICTOR GIMENEZ***

Clifton Heights UMC (also known as Union Community Church) is a community-based church. We are more than a building—we are a multi-generational, multi-racial church family united by our love for God and our commitment to love others. Rooted in faith and guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, Union seeks to create a welcoming space where everyone can encounter God’s presence, grow spiritually, and experience genuine community. We also serve coffee during service. At the heart of the church is a deep love for God, expressed through worship, prayer, youth programs, family fun nights, and a therapeutic church service setting, where reflection questions are asked and the congregation speaks to one another. The congregation gathers to honor God together, seeking to live out His truth in everyday life. This love for God naturally flows outward into love for people—neighbors, families, strangers, and those who may feel overlooked and forgotten.

The church offers a wide range of outreach ministries, including providing care packets for individuals experiencing homelessness, the B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S. program (Brothers Reaching Out To Help Each Reach Success) which supports boys ages 10 and older, community fairs, back-to-school giveaways, and coat distribution programs.

The church is also committed to promoting justice in the community, raising awareness about racism and advocating for immigrant justice.

***EAST DISTRICT: PHILADELPHIA: FIRST UMC OF GERMANTOWN, REV. ALISA LASSITER***

First United Methodist Church of Germantown (FUMCOG) is working to meet the needs of neighbors living with food insecurity through four ongoing ministries.

- **Neighbor’s Table and The Germantown Community Fridge.** Since May 2020, the Fridge, located just outside our worship doors, operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, offering free food to anyone who needs it. Stocked by local bakeries, grocery stores, and nonprofit partners, the fridges are a testament to what’s possible when a community comes together to care for its own. In January 2023, FUMCOG leaders and Fridge Sponsors began monthly cooks of fresh meals with which to stock the 24-hour Fridge. That first year, volunteers cooked 1,200 meals. In 2025, we cooked and delivered just shy of 5,000. Then, on Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2025, we launched “Neighbor’s Table,” a monthly indoor community meal hosted in the FUMCOG dining room. Open to all—regardless of need—Neighbor’s Table is a place to enjoy a hot meal, connect with neighbors, and build lasting relationships. With the addition of Neighbor’s Table to our now weekly cooking sessions, we averaged 896 meals per month in 2025. We are on point to serve 16,000 meals this year for less than a dollar a meal. But most importantly, multiple times a week, volunteers, FUMCOG members, and local residents come together to serve and share, turning both our dining hall and the sidewalk that houses the Fridge into spaces of welcome, warmth, and nourishing community.
- **Food for Immigrant Neighbors** - In January 2025, FUMCOG partnered with a Latina congregation in our connection, where the majority of the families are currently undocumented. We have collected food for families who have not been safe in their places of employment. We deliver it to our sister congregation, and they share it with families in need.
- **Food for Families throughout the City** - Monthly, we collect food for United Methodist Neighborhood Services, CLM Millicent Clark has shared the food with both families in Germantown (out of Janes) and in

- **Food for New Mothers of Color** - Since the Spring of 2025, “Dirtbaby,” a community farm collective, has used our kitchen to cook free meals for at-risk postpartum mothers of color (seeking to address the unjust high mortality rates of mothers of color in our city). FUMCOG has also helped with delivery, publicity, and additional space and funding when needed to respond to the reduced SNAP Benefits.

### **WEST DISTRICT: NUEVA CREACIÓN / NEW CREATION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, REV. JOSÉ TIRADO**

Nestled in the heart of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Nueva Creación / New Creation United Methodist Church is a lively, bilingual congregation that embodies radical hospitality—not merely welcoming people through its doors, but drawing them into genuine belonging. Each week, the community gathers for a single, vibrant worship service conducted in both English and Spanish, testament to its commitment to bridging cultures and building one united family of faith.

The congregation’s love for its neighbors is made visible through tangible acts of service: regular Food and Clothing Banks that meet urgent community needs, and free Community Lunches offered twice each month to any who come hungry. All of this abundant life flows from and is sustained by a dedicated community of 100 disciples who show up, serve, and share the love of Christ week after week.

#### **Why Nueva Creación Receives This Award**

Nueva Creación is awarded the Herber E. Palmer Award for Urban Ministry in recognition of its extraordinary investment in the next generation of faith leaders. In a season when many congregations struggle to engage young people, this church has cultivated a thriving, intentional youth ministry of approximately 15 members—and the fruit of that investment has been remarkable.

As part of the Pentecost Celebration in 2025, Nueva Creación celebrated a milestone in its young people’s journey of faith: Eight youth joined the church following an intentional Confirmation Discipleship process - four youth and young adults reaffirmed their faith, and four were baptized. This was more than a single event—it was the visible fruit of intentional discipleship, celebrated alongside other new members and baptisms as the congregation rejoiced together.

Yet the youth of Nueva Creación are not simply recipients of ministry—they are its leaders and practitioners. They serve every Sunday as ushers and offering collectors. They are woven into the church’s Leadership Team and Worship Team. Children and youth lead the congregation in worship through flags and dance, and the youth have formed their own Liturgical Dance Group. In a beautiful act of generational passing-on, a smaller group of these young leaders meets every Monday to teach liturgical dance to children ages 8–12.

The youth collectively lead the entire worship service on the last Sunday of every month—a practice that has shaped them not only as worshipers but as servants and shepherds. Their reach extends beyond the local congregation as well: they have stepped into district-level engagement, participating in the West District Tools for Ministry to deepen their understanding of worship and to learn how to connect with their own generation—Gen Z and Gen Alpha.

In addition, two young leaders - Aixa and Anna - have stepped into significant roles at the annual conference level, serving as equalizing lay delegates and as co-chairs of EPA’s Commission on the Conference Youth Ministry (CCYM). Their leadership reflects the vision of a church that does not simply program for youth—it raises them up.

#### **In the Pastor’s Own Words**

Rev. José Tirado, the church’s pastor, reflects on how this youth movement took root and shares that, *“there were no youth or kids in 2020 during the pandemic, but they slowly started coming on board...”*

*We started seeing a change in 2023, but it has really only taken off in the last year.” When asked why he thought that it was happening now, Rev. Tirado replied, ““It’s just about being excited and passionate about your church and its ministries and inviting people to them. A few kids and youth came from outdoor worship services or the church’s fall fest in October.... People came with kids and I prayed with them and they never left.”*

What began with faithful presence, passionate invitation, and prayer over families has grown into a movement. Nueva Creación / New Creation UMC is a congregation where the next generation is not waiting in the wings—they are already leading.

---

## NARBERTH AWARD

---

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Narberth UMC Legacy Ministry Action Fund was created after the sale of Narberth United Methodist Church in 2014. After intense discernment and prayer, the remaining membership of Narberth UMC felt called to seed new ministries and leave a legacy of their more than 135 years of faithful witness as a congregation in the United Methodist Church. Although they are no longer a worshipping congregation, through this fund their witness continues.

### **NOMINATION: THE CENTER FOR URBAN MINISTRY, MYRA MAXWELL**

Rev. Myra Maxwell has a passion for reaching new people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Under Rev. Maxwell’s leadership, the Eastern PA Conference is developing a Center for Urban Ministry that engages church and community leaders together. The Center for Urban Ministry will be housed at the United Methodist Philadelphia Center for Urban Ministry, a place where all ages can gather for worship, community meetings, small conferences, training, youth activities, community resources, healing circles, community Bible Study and more can be hosted. Each week the new church start and community center participants gather for worship, training, prayer, and resourcing events. We celebrate the vision of Rev. Maxwell and the work of the Center, as they live out the call to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

---

## #BEUMC AWARDS

---

The #BeUMC Award, presented by the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference and UM Communications, honors one church, one layperson, and one clergy member each year who exemplify the spirit and mission of the United Methodist Church: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Their ministry reflects our shared UMC vision - to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

### **LAY RECIPIENT: JUDY EHNINGER**

Judy Ehninger’s ministry exemplifies The United Methodist Church’s mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through her tireless work equipping and empowering lay leaders across the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. As the North District Director of Christ Servant Ministries and Coordinator of the Certified Lay Minister (CLM) program, she guides laypeople in answering their call to ministry and strengthens the church’s connective witness by training disciples who serve congregations and communities with faith and compassion.

Judy's leadership extends beyond the annual conference into the wider church: she serves on the Commission on Episcopacy for the Northeast Jurisdiction, representing Eastern Pennsylvania in denominational governance and helping shape the church's future with wisdom and faithful insight.

Through events like Days of Learning, leadership training, and foundational Christ Servant and CLM classes, she fosters growth in discipleship, spiritual formation, and practical ministry skills, helping people of all ages discover and live out their callings in Christ. In every role she holds, Judy lives out the United Methodist vision to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously, equipping disciples who embody Christ's transformative love in every community they touch.

### **CONGREGATION: EASTON: CHRIST UMC**

Easton: Christ UMC exemplifies the spirit and mission of The United Methodist Church by loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously in the heart of its urban community. Under the leadership of Rev. Joseph Grasser, the congregation has responded to urgent local needs through the creation of a warming center for neighbors experiencing homelessness. During extended periods of extreme cold, the church opened its doors to provide shelter, hospitality, and hope—offering not only warmth, but dignity and compassion.

Christ UMC is not simply sustaining a congregation; it is transforming a neighborhood. By opening its doors to the unhoused, partnering with community organizations, and centering justice in its witness, Christ UMC exemplifies what it means to be #BeUMC—loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously for the transformation of the world.

### **PASTOR: REV. WILLIAM (“PASTOR BILL”) RITZENTHALER**

Rev. William Ritzenthaler's ministry faithfully embodies the mission of The United Methodist Church: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Pastor Bill leads with a heart for evangelism, discipleship, and community outreach.

Through the Helping Hands Food Ministry, the church serves upwards of 400 people every Thursday, with additional deliveries to other non-profits throughout the week. This ministry is not merely charitable distribution; it is bold love in action—offering prayer, encouragement, and invitation into relationship with Christ. Redeemer's Closet provides clothing and compassionate care to those in need, while GriefShare and prayer ministries provide spiritual healing and hope.

Pastor Bill has also strengthened discipleship within the church through the addition of Thursday night Bible study, Wednesday night prayer group, and the “Need Prayer? Tap Me on the Shoulder” ministry. Pastor Bill leads with both pastoral care and outward vision. His ministry reflects joyful service, resilient faith, and a deep commitment to reaching the lost with the transforming love of Christ.



## WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

We'd love to hear how prayer has been part of your life's journey. During the 2026 Annual Conference Session, you are invited to add your stories around prayer to the Pathways Bridges Story Gallery. As we prepare for this time of story sharing we invite you to reflect on the following:

***How has prayer been a meaningful part of your story?  
How has prayer shaped you?***

***When is a time God spoke to you through prayer?***

***How has your understanding or experience of prayer  
changed over time?***

Stop by a creative table during the Annual Conference Session to share your story! Not attending the Annual Conference Session? Plan a story share night or story gallery for your congregation and community!



# LEGISLATION



01 **RESOLUTION #2026-01: RESOLUTION TO THE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

02 **RELATING TO UPDATES AND CHANGES TO THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE RULES OF**

03 **ORDER**

04 **Submitted by the Rules Committee**

05 **Presented by Lloyd Speer**

06

07

08

09

10 **WHEREAS**, the current Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Rules of Order open with the statement that

11 “The Annual Conference shall convene each year for the transaction of business as provided by the

12 Discipline of The United Methodist Church and shall consider and act upon such other matters as may

13 properly be brought before it,”

14

15 **WHEREAS**, such rules enable the members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference to conduct that

16 business in the best way possible,

17

18 **WHEREAS**, the best way possible to conduct that business may change, and necessitate updates and

19 changes to the rules governing that business,

20

21 **AND WHEREAS** the Rules Committee has been tasked with such work,

22

23 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference be updated

24 and/or changed in the following ways:

25

26

27 **Rules of Order**

28

29 **Article I – Meetings**

30

- 31 1. The Annual Conference shall convene each year for the transaction of business as provided
- 32 by the Discipline of The United Methodist Church and shall consider and act upon such other
- 33 matters as may properly be brought before it.
- 34 2. The Bishop shall appoint the times for holding the Annual Conference. (See Discipline, ¶ 603.2)
- 35 The Bishop and the Commission on Conference Sessions shall select the place for holding the
- 36 Conference. (¶ 603.3)
- 37 3. Special Sessions may be held as provided by the Discipline. (¶ 603.5)
- 38 4. The Bishop assigned shall preside or arrange for another Bishop to preside in case of the Bishop’s
- 39 inability. In the absence of a Bishop, the Conference shall by ballot, without nomination or
- 40 debate, elect a president *pro tempore* from among the traveling elders. The president thus
- 41 elected shall discharge all the duties of a Bishop except ordination. (¶ 603.6)
- 42 5. The choice of a visiting Bishop and/or major speakers shall be the prerogative of the Bishop.
- 43

44 **Article II – Organization**

45

- 46 1. The sessions shall open with a period of devotion, followed by a call of the roll, including the roll
- 47 of the local pastors indicated in the Discipline (¶ 605) and include a service of Holy Communion
- 48 and Memorial Service.
- 49 2. A Secretary, Treasurer, and Statistician and such other officers as the Conference may authorize,
- 50 including assistant secretaries, shall be elected, the Secretary to nominate assistants.
- 51 3. The Conference shall establish a “Bar of the Conference” for the seating of its members.
- 52 4. The Conference may adopt an agenda prepared by the Bishop and the Commission on
- 53 Conference Sessions.
- 54

- 01 5. The Conference Secretary shall assign Tellers who will be available for tabulation of written  
02 ballots as required in Plenary Sessions. Count votes will be counted by the Conference  
03 Secretarial Staff.
- 04 6. The Conference Secretary shall provide for teams of Pages who will be assigned for each Plenary  
05 Session to assist the distribution of printed reports and materials pertinent to business pending  
06 before the Plenary Session. These materials are to be provided to an Associate Secretary  
07 designated by the Conference Secretary.
- 08 a. Only authorized materials pertinent to Plenary Sessions business shall be distributed on  
09 the floor of conference. Agencies, institutions, and groups interested in ~~provided~~ **providing**  
10 promotional or informational material may do so by distributing it at the doors using their  
11 own personnel. Such material shall clearly identify the sponsoring agency, institution, or  
12 group.
- 13 b. The Commission on Conference Sessions shall not bar the distribution of informational or  
14 promotional material handled in accordance with 6.a.

15  
16 Article III – Clergy Session

17  
18 A Clergy Session of Clergy Members and the Lay Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry shall be  
19 held for the purposes defined by the Discipline of The United Methodist Church.

20  
21  
22 Article IV – Duties of Officers

23  
24 The responsibilities and duties of officers shall be the general duties pertaining to these offices, those  
25 prescribed by the Discipline and such other duties as the Conference may from time to time direct.

26  
27  
28 Article V – Bonds and Audits

29  
30 All treasurers, other officers, trustees, and persons handling funds or securities of the Conference or any  
31 board, commission, committee, or other agency thereof shall be bonded in appropriate amounts. All  
32 accounts of treasurers and trustees shall be audited by experienced disinterested public accountants or  
33 certified public accountants as provided by the Discipline. The auditor’s reports and recommendations  
34 shall be submitted to the Council on Finance and Administration.

35  
36 Article VI – Commission on Conference Sessions

37  
38 There shall be a Commission on Conference Sessions whose responsibility, under the direction of the  
39 Bishop, shall be to prepare an agenda and arrange the program of the Annual Session. This shall include  
40 responsibility for soliciting reports from all Conference agencies and other reporting groups; caring for  
41 the physical arrangements at the site of Annual Conference; caring for all expenses mandated by the  
42 Conference; and planning all inspirational and devotional periods.

43  
44 Article VII – Reports

45  
46 All boards, commissions, councils, societies, corporations, and other agencies related to the Conference  
47 shall receive notice of the time and person to whom reports of such bodies that are to be published in  
48 the Journal shall be sent.

49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54



01 Article VIII – Resolutions

02

- 03 1. Resolutions shall be invited from local churches, conference agencies, conference related  
04 institutions, or individual church members. The deadline for receiving these resolutions shall be  
05 set by the Conference Secretary and shall be at least thirty days prior to Annual Conference. A  
06 notice to this effect along with the name and address of the person to whom resolutions shall be  
07 sent and the deadline date shall be appropriately publicized.
- 08 2. Resolutions shall be distributed to the members of the Annual Conference by the date of  
09 District Conferences. Printed copies will be provided upon request and can be picked up at  
10 District Conferences. These resolutions shall have a first priority upon the work of the Annual  
11 Conference. A Consent Calendar may be established by the Agenda Committee to assist the work  
12 of the Annual Conference. Any resolution may be lifted from the Consent Calendar upon the  
13 request by 10 members at the time the Consent Calendar is presented to the Annual Conference  
14 for adoption.
- 15 3. Resolutions received after the announced deadline or during the session of Annual Conference  
16 will be reviewed by the Agenda Committee. In consultation with the Presiding Bishop, this  
17 Committee will determine which resolutions will be printed for distribution to Conference  
18 members. The Agenda Committee shall include the Conference Secretary, the Chairperson of  
19 Conference Sessions, The Executive Director of Congregational Transformation/Connectional  
20 Ministries, Conference Lay Leader, and The Dean of the Cabinet.

21

22 Article IX – Disposition of Reports and Resolutions

23

24 When presented to the Conference Plenary Session a resolution or report becomes the possession of the  
25 body, to be disposed of as it will, including amendment, substitution, etc.

26

27 Article X – Rules of Order Debate

28

- 29 1. A member desiring to address the Conference shall proceed to a microphone and, after  
30 recognition by the presiding officer, shall first state clearly said member's name and charge  
31 represented.
- 32 2. No member who has the floor may be interrupted, except by the presiding officer for a breach  
33 of order, or a misrepresentation, or to bring to the attention of the Conference that the time has  
34 arrived for a special order, or to raise a question of a very high privilege.
- 35 a. Motions - Members may speak only to a motion before the Conference or to offer a motion.  
36 Speeches shall not precede a motion.
- 37 b. Motion for Previous Question - A motion for the "previous question" shall be made from  
38 a microphone, and shall not be in order unless at least two members have **been given the**  
39 **opportunity to speak** ~~spoken~~ for and two against the motion. A motion for the "previous  
40 question" shall not be appended to or supported by a speech. If in order, debate shall end,  
41 and a vote be taken on said motion. The mover shall state whether the motion applies only  
42 to a proposed amendment to a motion, or all that is before it. A motion for the "previous  
43 question" must be sustained by a two-thirds vote of members within the Bar of the  
44 Conference.
- 45 c. Motion to suspend the Rules - A motion to suspend the rules shall be sustained by two-  
46 thirds of the members within the Bar of the Conference.
- 47 d. Voting - Voting shall be by raising the hand except when a standing count vote is called for,  
48 or when electronic voting is used. When a standing count vote is called for, members voting  
49 in favor of the motion shall rise and remain standing until counted. Then those voting against  
50 the motion shall rise and remain standing until counted, followed by those abstaining. In  
51 case of a disability that prevents voting in the prescribed fashion (i.e. standing) the presiding  
52 officer shall recognize the intended vote of that member by another means so as not to  
53 disenfranchise any member.

54

- 01 e. Motions and Resolutions to be in Writing - All motions and resolutions shall be written and  
02 copies submitted to the presiding officer and the secretary.
- 03 f. Length of Time Granted on the Floor of Annual Conference Session:
- 04 i. Once recognized by the Bishop as Presiding Officer of the Annual Conference Session,  
05 any delegate seated within the bar of the Annual Conference or other person granted  
06 permission to speak within the bar of the Annual Conference may speak up to three  
07 minutes. A one minute warning may be given and after that time has elapsed, the  
08 Presiding Officer may interrupt that member and terminate permission to speak.
- 09 ii. The privilege of addressing the Annual Conference Session is extended to groups and  
10 individuals making presentations on the adopted agenda, with clearly understood  
11 time commitments specified in advance. A one minute signal before the end of their  
12 allotted time may be given, and after that time, the Presiding Officer may interrupt those  
13 persons, groups, or individuals and terminate permission to speak.
- 14 iii. Other Parliamentary Rules - Other parliamentary rules shall be the current edition of  
15 Robert's Rules of Order (latest version).
- 16 g. Plenary Sessions - In the Plenary Sessions, members desiring to offer motions which are not  
17 scheduled as part of an Agenda item (Art II.4) shall confer in advance with the Chairperson  
18 of the Commission on Conference Sessions.

19  
20 Article XI – Conference Journal

- 21
- 22 1. The Conference shall keep an exact record of its proceedings, and other items required by the  
23 Discipline, and shall publish annually a Journal which shall include the items required by the  
24 Discipline to be included in its Journal. The Journal shall incorporate the addresses, telephone  
25 numbers, and email addresses as preferred of the pastors, lay members and alternates, church  
26 lay leaders, certified lay speakers, **certified lay members**, and other such information, as the  
27 Conference shall direct. Agencies related to the Conference shall bear the precise corporate  
28 titles.
- 29 2. At the recommendation of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, during the  
30 Fall Budget Session, Nov. 9, 1996, the Annual Conference approved an action to charge for the  
31 **printed** Journal rather than have it supplied at no charge, beginning in 1997.
- 32

33 Article XII – Responsibilities of Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Other Organizations Required by  
34 the Discipline

- 35
- 36 1. ~~The various boards, commissions, committees, and other organizations required to be a part of~~  
37 ~~the Annual Conference structure are as set forth in the Discipline, as the same may from time to~~  
38 ~~time be amended, provided, however, that the Conference may refer to such organizations such~~  
39 ~~matters as are not inconsistent there with.~~
- 40 2. ~~Additional boards, commissions, committees, and organizations may be authorized by the~~  
41 ~~Conference, where it is deemed inappropriate or inexpedient to refer a subject proposal to an~~  
42 ~~existing organization.~~
- 43 1. **The Conference may refer matters that are consistent with their purpose to the various boards,**  
44 **commissions, committees, and other organizations that are required to be part of the Annual**  
45 **Conference by the Book of Discipline.**
- 46 2. **The Conference may also authorize additional boards, commissions, committees, and**  
47 **organizations to which to refer matters where it is deemed inappropriate or inexpedient to**  
48 **refer a subject to an existing board, commission, committee, or other organization.**
- 49 3. Ex-officio members who have been appointed or elected to serve the Conference on boards,  
50 commissions, committees, and other organizations shall have the right to vote **on matters of**  
51 **that board, commission, committee, and other organization.** Advisory members shall have the  
52 right to voice without vote **on that board, commission, committee, or other organization.**
- 53  
54

01 Article XIII – Tenure on Boards, etc.

02

03 NO person may serve on the same board, commission, council, or committee of this Conference for  
04 a longer continuous period than two quadrennium except those serving in an ex-officio capacity or  
05 other position involving experience making replacement inexpedient when upon the request of such  
06 organization to the nominating committee and exception may be recommended to the Conference. It is  
07 understood that the maximum term is ten years or two quadrenniums. Persons serving two years or less  
08 on a board or agency will be considered eligible for the two quadrennium tenure.

09

10 1. The period of service of all elected to office shall begin with the adjournment of the Conference  
11 Session in which they were elected.

12 2. All boards, agencies, and commissions, required by the Discipline to organize annually shall  
13 reorganize within two weeks of the Annual Conference and the names of the officers shall be  
14 reported to the Conference Secretary for inclusion in the Journal.

15 3. The Officiary of the local church shall be elected to serve on the basis of the calendar year.

16 4. No person shall serve on more than one major agency (i.e., boards, commissions, councils,  
17 divisions) of the Annual Conference, except in the case of ex-officio members and ~~minority~~  
18 **ethnic diverse representation** members of our Conference who are permitted to serve on at  
19 ~~least two more than one~~ **Conference agencies agency**.

20 5. No person **servng on a major agency (i.e., boards, commissions, councils, divisions) of**  
21 **the Annual Conference**, shall **also** serve on the Board of Directors/Board of Trustees of an  
22 incorporated agency affiliated with the Annual Conference, whose board members are elected  
23 by the Conference, except in the case of ex-officio members of boards, and ~~ethnic minority~~  
24 **diverse representation** members of the Conference, who shall **also** follow the **previously noted**  
25 **tenure rules**, ~~rule of the Conference and that this rule be implemented in the immediate future-~~  
26 ~~years by the process of attrition.~~ **unless exceptions are allowed by the Book of Discipline.**

27

28 Article XIV – Attendance

29

30 Punctual and regular attendance of the members of the Conference is expected except in cases of  
31 emergency. Those requesting to be excused must make the request in writing to the Conference  
32 Secretary. (§ 602.8) In the case of anticipated absence of lay members, arrangement should be made to  
33 have the alternate lay member seated. Every charge should be represented at all business sessions. (§  
34 602.7)

35

36

37 Article XV – Financial Reports

38

39 All boards and agencies shall submit annually financial reports reflecting assets and liabilities as well as  
40 receipts and disbursements, which shall be printed in the Journal.

41

42

43 Article XVI – Election Process for General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates

44

45 The Nomination process for the election of delegates to the 2020 General Conference and 2020-  
46 Jurisdictional Conference shall be governed by the following procedures:

47

48 1. Nominating petitions will be sent to clergy members in full connection and lay members of the  
49 Annual Conference at least three months prior to the Annual Conference session.

50 2. Nominating petitions will allow for a maximum of 10 nominees. Persons will be nominated when  
51 their names have been identified on 10 nominating petitions. As in the election process, the  
52 nominations process shall allow clergy to nominate clergy and laity to nominate laity.

53 3. Nominees shall fulfill the Disciplinary and Constitutional requirements outlined in the  
54 Constitution, paragraphs 35 and 36 **and 37**.

- 01 4. Nominating petitions shall be returned to the Conference Secretary no later than ~~March 1, 2019~~  
02 **the date set by the Conference Secretary.**
- 03 5. The Board of Lay Ministry may make additional laity nominations by ~~March 10, 2019~~ **the date set**  
04 **by the Conference Secretary.**
- 05 6. After **the submission date set by the Conference Secretary, March 1, 2019,** all nominees will be  
06 provided an acceptance form. Nominees will return their acceptance form by ~~March 31, 2019~~  
07 **the date set by the Conference Secretary in order** for their names to appear on the ballot.
- 08 7. Nominees will provide biographical information and a brief written statement by ~~March 31,~~  
09 **2019 the date set by the Conference Secretary.** The list of nominees, biographical material and  
10 statements will be published and/or distributed through as many means as possible.
- 11 8. From the nominee acceptance forms, the Conference Secretary will prepare separate clergy and  
12 laity ballots. The ballots will include spaces for write-ins.
- 13 9. Nominations will be accepted from the floor provided a nominating petition fulfilling #2 above  
14 and an acceptance form are duly presented. Five hundred copies of a biographical profile and  
15 statement are required for immediate distribution.
- 16 10. Election shall be by majority of valid ballots cast on each ballot, clergy and laity voting separately.
- 17 11. Balloting for the specified number of delegates to General Conference will begin first. These  
18 persons are elected as delegates to General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference. After  
19 their election, the additional number of persons to be elected as Jurisdictional Conference  
20 delegates shall begin. Upon completion of these elections, a final ballot will be taken to elect  
21 three alternates to Jurisdictional Conference; the three persons receiving the highest number of  
22 votes will be elected.
- 23 12. Judges of Elections shall be appointed by the Conference Secretary to oversee the tabulation of  
24 ballots, certify the election of delegates, and convey the ballots and report to the Conference  
25 Secretary.
- 26 13. All Jurisdictional Conference delegates will be alternate delegates to the General Conference in  
27 order of their election.
- 28 14. The Annual Conference will assume the costs of the first clergy and laity alternates to attend the  
29 General Conference. The Annual Conference will assume the costs of the six alternates to attend  
30 the Jurisdictional Conference.

31  
32 Article XVII - Nomination of Episcopal Candidates  
33

- 34 1. The Annual Conference shall, in the year preceding the conference session during which  
35 Episcopal candidates are to be nominated, solicit potential nominees from all the members both  
36 lay and clergy of the Annual Conference. Each member may nominate the number of Elders  
37 for which there are vacancies in the jurisdiction to be filled, provided the nominees are Elders  
38 in good standing in the Conference. Any Elder who receives at least 10 nominations will have  
39 their biographical details and personal statement published and/or distributed through as many  
40 means as possible for study prior to the electing conference session.
- 41 2. At the EPA annual conference session immediately prior to the next regular session of the  
42 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, the EPA jurisdictional delegation may present one or  
43 more names to the annual conference for endorsement. The jurisdictional delegation may also  
44 choose to present no names to the annual conference. If the delegation places one or more  
45 names before the conference, annual conference delegates shall then proceed to confirm the  
46 recommendation(s) of the delegation by a 2/3 vote by those present and voting. Likewise,  
47 if the delegation recommends no persons, the annual conference shall vote to accept that  
48 recommendation by the same 2/3 vote.
- 49 3. If the opening ballot fails to obtain the necessary 2/3 majority to confirm the delegation's  
50 recommendation(s), additional nominations from the floor shall then be in order, provided.
  - 51 a. The ordained elder(s) in full connection being nominated from the floor shall have given  
52 consent prior to the making of the nomination and will at the time the nomination is made  
53 present a nominating petition to the secretary of the annual conference with the names and  
54 signatures of ten persons, laity or clergy, who are members of the Annual Conference.

- 01           b. At least five hundred copies of a biographical profile and statement for such nominees will  
02           be available and distributed to annual conference delegates at the time the nomination is  
03           made.
- 04           c. A minimum of four hours shall elapse, after all nominations have been received from the  
05           floor, before a ballot is taken.
- 06        4. The annual conference shall then proceed to endorse a nominee (or nominees) by ballot as  
07        follows: all nominees shall be listed on the ballot, and a ballot taken. Any person(s) receiving a  
08        2/3 vote would move forward as the endorsed Episcopal nominee(s) of the Eastern Pennsylvania  
09        Conference; provided that annual conference delegates may not vote on any ballot for more  
10        candidates than the number of open Episcopal seats anticipated at the ensuing Northeastern  
11        Jurisdictional Conference.
- 12        5. After five such ballots have been taken, a motion to discontinue balloting shall then be in order,  
13        requiring a simple majority. Any persons who have received the requisite 2/3 majority shall be  
14        considered the endorsed Episcopal nominee(s) of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. If no  
15        person has obtained the required 2/3 majority, then no person shall be considered to have been  
16        endorsed by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.
- 17        6. The Jurisdictional delegation shall not be bound by any action of the delegation or the annual  
18        conference regarding confirmed and/or endorsed nominees when the Jurisdictional delegates  
19        cast their votes at Jurisdictional Conference (p 405.1).

20  
21 Article XVIII - Petitions to General Conference

22  
23 For any General Conference resolution or proposed disciplinary change, the required vote to approve  
24 such resolutions shall require a 3/4 majority of votes cast. These resolutions will be placed at the  
25 beginning of the Conference Sessions.

26  
27 Article XIX - Amendments

28  
29 These Rules and Regulations may be amended at any regular session of the Conference provided six  
30 hours shall elapse after the first reading before action is taken. A majority vote shall be necessary  
31 to adopt. Amendment may be made at a Special Session provided the proposed amendment is  
32 incorporated in the call.

33  
34 Article XX

35  
36 The Conference Secretary as editor of the Journal shall be authorized to make editorial changes to  
37 paragraph numbers to reflect the language of the current Book of Discipline. ~~The Secretary will be~~  
38 ~~further authorized to change the years listed in Article XVI as appropriate for subsequent general~~  
39 ~~conference.~~

40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54

01 **RESOLUTION #2026-02: DENOUNCING DEHUMANIZING IMMIGRATION**  
02 **ENFORCEMENT AND CALLING THE CHURCH TO FAITHFUL WITNESS**  
03  
04

05  
06 **Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church**  
07

08 **Submitted by:** Rev. Dr. Lydia Muñoz, Rev. Robin Hynicka, Arch St UMC, Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck,  
09 Commission on Hispanic/Latino Ministries of EPA  
10

11  
12 Rationale  
13

14 The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference is called to give faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus  
15 Christ in the midst of real and pressing injustice. Across Pennsylvania, immigrant communities—including  
16 members of our own congregations—have experienced fear, trauma, and disruption due to immigration  
17 enforcement practices that are violent, destabilizing, and dehumanizing. These practices undermine  
18 family unity, erode trust within communities, and contradict the Christian commitment to human dignity.  
19

20 Our Baptismal Covenant compels United Methodists to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever  
21 forms they present themselves. Our Social Principles affirm the dignity and worth of every person  
22 and call for just and humane immigration policies. The United Methodist Church’s Vision calls us to  
23 love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously. This resolution provides the Eastern Pennsylvania  
24 Annual Conference an opportunity to align our public witness with our theological commitments and to  
25 encourage faithful action throughout the conference.  
26

27  
28  
29  
30 Whereas  
31

- 32 • The United Methodist Church affirms the sacred worth and God-given dignity of every person,  
33 regardless of nationality, race, ethnicity, or immigration status; and  
34
- 35 • Scripture consistently calls God’s people to welcome the stranger, love the neighbor, and pursue  
36 justice, mercy, and peace (Leviticus 19:33–34; Matthew 25:35; Micah 6:8); and  
37
- 38 • The Baptismal Covenant of The United Methodist Church commits us to “resist evil, injustice,  
39 and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves,” and to live as faithful witnesses to  
40 the gospel of Jesus Christ; and  
41
- 42 • Communities across Pennsylvania have experienced violent, disruptive, and dehumanizing  
43 immigration enforcement practices by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE),  
44 including tactics that sow fear, separate families, undermine community trust, and traumatize  
45 children and elders; and  
46
- 47 • Immigrant and racially minoritized communities have been subjected to racial profiling and  
48 unlawful or improper enforcement actions that have resulted in death such as the case of Keith  
49 Porter and Rene Nicole Good. Improper practices including documented instances of U.S. Border  
50 Patrol agents operating outside of their lawful jurisdiction and engaging in enforcement activities  
51 more than 100 miles from the southern border, undermining civil liberties and constitutional  
52 protections; and  
53  
54



- 01 • Such practices stand in contradiction to the values of human dignity, due process, family unity,  
02 and community well-being, and disproportionately harm immigrant and mixed-status families;  
03 and  
04
- 05 • The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church call for just and humane immigration  
06 policies, the protection of human rights, and the dignity and worth of all persons; and  
07
- 08 • The United Methodist Church’s Vision Statement calls us to form disciples of Jesus Christ  
09 who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local  
10 communities and worldwide connections; and  
11
- 12 • Silence or inaction in the face of dehumanization and violence contradicts our baptismal  
13 promises and weakens our Christian witness;  
14

15  
16 Therefore, Be It Resolved

- 17
- 18 1. That the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference denounces and condemns violent, disruptive,  
19 and dehumanizing immigration enforcement practices carried out by ICE that harm individuals,  
20 separate families, and terrorize communities across Pennsylvania; and
- 21 2. That the Conference reaffirms its commitment to the Baptismal Covenant by publicly resisting  
22 injustice and oppression in all forms, including unjust immigration practices that violate human  
23 dignity and community safety; and
- 24 3. That the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference calls upon all United Methodists—clergy and  
25 laity—to live out the Church’s Vision by loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously  
26 alongside immigrant and refugee communities; and
- 27 4. That congregations, districts, and conference ministries are encouraged to engage in faithful acts  
28 of accompaniment, advocacy, education, and pastoral care with immigrants and their families,  
29 including partnerships with trusted local and ecumenical organizations; and
- 30 5. That the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference urges the Council of Bishops, annual  
31 conferences, and general agencies of The United Methodist Church to speak with a clear and  
32 unified moral voice condemning dehumanizing immigration enforcement and advocating for  
33 just, humane, and compassionate immigration policies; and
- 34 6. That the Conference encourages prayer, worship, teaching, and public witness that center the  
35 experiences of immigrant communities and proclaim God’s vision of justice, welcome, and  
36 beloved community for all people; and
- 37 7. That this resolution be distributed throughout the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
38 and shared with appropriate denominational bodies as an expression of our collective Christian  
39 conviction and commitment to faithful action.  
40

41  
42 Presented by Rev. Lydia Muñoz and Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck

43  
44 Financial Implications

45  
46 This resolution requires no new budgetary expenditures. Any actions taken in response shall be  
47 implemented within existing conference and congregational resources or through partnerships.  
48

49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54

01 **RESOLUTION #2026-03: RESOLUTION ON SUPPORTING THE SHELTER FIRST ACT**

02  
03  
04 **WHEREAS**, the Holy Family was unsheltered as they fled oppressive political conditions for a place to  
05 birth the Messiah who was born into homelessness; and

06  
07 **WHEREAS**, the Book of Discipline affirms that shelter is a basic human right (§163) and that we as United  
08 Methodists commit ourselves “to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all  
09 persons” (§164); and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court’s ruling in City of Grants Pass v. Johnson in 2024 has stripped from  
12 unsheltered people protections against civil and criminal penalties for basic survival activities like  
13 sleeping or sitting outside on public property, even if shelters are full; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, homelessness is not a result of personal failure but rather systemic injustices that render  
16 affordable housing, livable wages, healthcare, and supportive services inaccessible; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, the hardships experienced by unsheltered people are compounded when governments  
19 respond to poverty and housing instability by threatening or imposing civil or criminal penalties; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, the [Shelter First Act](#) clarifies “threatening or imposing civil or criminal punishments on  
22 people experiencing homelessness for undertaking life-sustaining activities in the absence of adequate  
23 alternative indoor spaces violates Article I, Section 13 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which protects  
24 people from excessive bail, excessive fines, and cruel punishments;” and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, the Shelter First Act urges municipalities to prioritize the provision of adequate, accessible  
27 shelter and services rather than the criminalization of people who are unhoused;

28  
29 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference encourages  
30 congregations to send letters of support for the Shelter First Act to their elected representatives and  
31 to advocate for policies that uphold the dignity, safety, and human rights of people experiencing  
32 homelessness.

33  
34 Respectfully Submitted,  
35 EPA Methodist Federation for Social Action and Reconciling Ministries Network

36  
37 **Presented by:** Tess Feiler, Director of Congregational & Community Development, Arch Street UMC

38  
39 **Financial Implications:** This recommendation requires no new budgetary items.

40  
41 **Rationale:**

42  
43 This recommendation is grounded in the United Methodist commitment to the dignity and worth of  
44 every person and the church’s long-standing witness that shelter is a basic human right. As people of  
45 faith, we reject responses to poverty and housing instability that rely on punishment rather than care,  
46 especially when such measures deepen harm to those already made vulnerable by unjust systems. The  
47 Shelter First Act aligns with our theological convictions and Social Principles by affirming that survival  
48 is not a crime and by urging public policy that prioritizes safe, adequate shelter over criminalization.  
49 Supporting this legislation offers the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference an opportunity to bear  
50 faithful public witness, advocate for humane and constitutional treatment of unsheltered neighbors, and  
51 encourage communities to respond to homelessness with justice, compassion, and shared responsibility.



01 **RESOLUTION #2026-04: SUPPORTING CHURCH'S AND**  
02 **CLERGY'S THEOLOGICAL POSITION**  
03  
04  
05

06 **WHEREAS** the 2024 General Conference of the United Methodist Church allows clergy and churches to  
07 live their conscience on issues of sexuality;

08  
09 **WHEREAS** the United Methodist Church remains a denomination that guarantees appointments to full  
10 elders;

11  
12 **WHEREAS** the United Methodist Church maintains an appointment process that can limit a church's  
13 ability to determine which pastor is appointed;

14  
15 **WHEREAS** the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference desires to maintain this "big tent" philosophy and  
16 effectively empower churches and clergy to live in their theological reality.

17  
18 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will pursue ways to ensure that  
19 each church is provided with a clergy who fits in their theological perspective.

20  
21 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will seek ways to  
22 ensure that there is a process to hold both churches and conferences accountable to ensuring that  
23 appropriate appointments are created and maintained to ensure the vitality of individual churches and  
24 clergy.

25  
26 Submitted by: Rev. Robb Faller  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54

01 **RESOLUTION #2026-05: CHURCH CLOSURES**

02  
03  
04 Be it resolved that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference expresses its thanksgiving for all the  
05 blessings made possible by the clergy and laity who have contributed to the ministry and mission of  
06 the following congregations. In the closing of these churches, these congregations give a living legacy of  
07 support to the United Methodist mission.

08  
09 Be it further resolved, in keeping with the provisions of Paragraph 2549.2b of the Book of Discipline,  
10 2020/2024 edition, that the congregations are discontinued, and the assets of the church are transferred  
11 to the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

12  
13 Be it further resolved, that in keeping with the provisions of Paragraph 229 of the Book of the Discipline,  
14 2020/2024 edition, the remaining members of the church may be transferred to a United Methodist  
15 Church of their choice.

16  
17 Be it further resolved, that through its budget fund distribution percentages for the sale of property,  
18 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference distributes net proceeds after all outstanding loans and other  
19 obligations owed to Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference or any other creditor shall be repaid upon  
20 the sale of the property, and liquidation of any other assets. In cases in which the local church is closed  
21 in an urban area with more than 50,000 in population, paragraph 2549.8 of the Book of Discipline,  
22 2020/2024 edition, will govern the proceeds of the sale.

23  
24 Be it further resolved, in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 2549.4 of the Book of Discipline,  
25 2020/2024 edition, that all deeds, records, legal papers and other official documents shall be maintained  
26 in permanent safekeeping with the Conference Commission on Archives and History of the St. George’s  
27 United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA,

28  
29 Be it further resolved that the congregations voted and or agreed to close and discontinue as a church in  
30 the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church having served with dedication and  
31 commitment to the mission of the United Methodist Church.

32  
33 We are grateful for the ministry of these congregations:

34  
35 **East District**

36  
37 Somerton United Methodist Church founded as Somerton Methodist-Episcopal Church in 1834 by John  
38 Edwards, who began preaching in the then-town of Smithfield to a congregation that met in a local  
39 school from 1834-1836 before constructing the first sanctuary in 1836 on the current site of the church.  
40 Somerton United Methodist Church has a declining congregation and depleted finances. Somerton  
41 United Methodist Church will cease worshipping on June 7, 2026; the District Superintendent approved  
42 the closure with the approval of East District Building and Location committee and cabinet.

43  
44 **North District**

45  
46 Minersville: First UMC – First United Methodist Church of Minersville has experienced a sustained  
47 decline in active membership and participation, resulting in financial challenges that make it no  
48 longer possible to faithfully sustain its ministry. Following a season of prayerful discernment, the  
49 Administrative Council unanimously voted to initiate the church closure process. The Cabinet  
50 approved the closure on April 28, 2025, the North District Building and Location Committee  
51 approved it on May 29, 2025, and a Special Church Conference voted in favor of closure on June 15,  
52 2025. The final worship service and official closure date is June 29, 2025.

53  
54 **Submitted by The Eastern Pennsylvania Cabinet**

01 **RESOLUTION # 2026-06: RESOLUTION ON THE USE OF COMPREHENSIVE SEX**  
02 **EDUCATION RESOURCES IN CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**  
03  
04

05  
06 **WHEREAS**, Paul insists in Chapter 4 of his letter to the church in Ephesus that they must put off  
07 falsehood and speak truthfully to one another, in love, to grow to become the body of Christ.  
08

09 **WHEREAS**, the Book of Discipline 2020/2024 ¶162.C affirms “human sexuality as a sacred gift and  
10 acknowledges that sexual intimacy contributes to fostering the emotional, spiritual, and physical well-  
11 being of individuals”; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the Book of Discipline ¶162.C supports “the rights of all people to exercise personal consent  
14 in sexual relationships, to make decisions about their own bodies and be supported in those decisions,  
15 to receive comprehensive sexual education, to be free from sexual exploitation and violence, and to have  
16 access to adequate sexual health care”; and  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, comprehensive sex education is defined by the [National Sex Education Standards](#) as distinct  
19 from and in contrast to abstinence-only or abstinence-until-marriage curricula; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, United Methodist congregations provide educational ministries, which offer opportunities  
22 to learn about and discuss topics related to human relationships, sexuality, and development across the  
23 lifespan; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, according to [Advocates for Youth](#), “evaluations of comprehensive sex education programs  
26 show that these programs can help youth delay onset of sexual activity, reduce the frequency of sexual  
27 activity, reduce number of sexual partners, and increase condom and contraceptive use;” and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, according to [Advocates for Youth](#), “many of the curricula commonly used in abstinence-  
30 only programs distort information about the effectiveness of contraceptives, misrepresent the risks of  
31 abortion, blur religion and science, treat gender stereotypes as scientific fact, and contain basic scientific  
32 errors”; and  
33

34 **WHEREAS**, the Council of Bishops affirmed in their [May 2025 letter](#) that “We must name what is  
35 happening in the United States: a deliberate, coordinated effort to control social platforms, ban books,  
36 censor academic freedom, deny history, and end policies and practices that work to overcome decades  
37 of injustice...We call clergy and laity to tell the truth in our pulpits, in our classrooms, in our Bible studies,  
38 and in our homes”; and  
39

40 **WHEREAS**, the Conference acknowledges that many congregations and related ministries are  
41 facing financial constraints, declining membership, and limited resources, and that implementing  
42 comprehensive sex education resources may require discernment, shared learning, and gradual change  
43 supported by grace and accompaniment;  
44

45 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference encourages United  
46 Methodist congregations to use comprehensive sex education resources when sex education is provided;  
47 and  
48

49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Office of Connectional Ministries, in collaboration with other  
50 conference agencies, promote this resolution across the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference by  
51 providing a regularly updated list of recommended comprehensive sex education resources accessible to  
52 a variety of ministry contexts and populations; and  
53  
54

01 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Conference provide accredited comprehensive sex education training  
02 annually and by request, in a timely manner, to congregations connecting others with comprehensive sex  
03 education resources.

04

05 Respectfully Submitted,

06 EPA Methodist Federation for Social Action and Reconciling Ministries Network

07

08 **Presented by:** Tess Feiler, Director of Congregational and Community Development, Arch Street UMC

09

10 **Financial Implications:** This recommendation has financial implications for training however, it is  
11 encouraged to use already existing training opportunities and resources (ZOOM, Tools for Ministry).

12

13 **Rationale:**

14

15 Grounded in Scripture’s call to speak the truth in love and in the United Methodist Church’s affirmation  
16 of human sexuality as a sacred gift, this recommendation encourages congregations to engage  
17 sexuality education with theological integrity, pastoral care, and factual honesty. Comprehensive sex  
18 education aligns with the Book of Discipline’s commitments to consent, bodily autonomy, freedom from  
19 exploitation and violence, and access to accurate health information, while also reflecting evidence-  
20 based practices shown to support the well-being and safety of young people and adults. In a cultural  
21 moment marked by censorship, misinformation, and fear-based approaches to sexuality, this resolution  
22 invites the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference to model faithful truth-telling, moral responsibility,  
23 and compassionate accompaniment. By offering vetted resources and accessible training, the Conference  
24 supports congregations in their educational ministries without mandating uniform implementation,  
25 recognizing varied capacities and contexts while equipping communities to nurture healthy, informed,  
26 and respectful relationships across the lifespan.

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

01 **RESOLUTION # 2026-07: RESOLUTION ON ENSURING JUST WAGES AND**  
02 **BENEFITS IN UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATIONS**  
03  
04

05  
06 **WHEREAS**, the prophet Micah proclaims that what the Lord requires is “to act justly, and to love mercy,  
07 and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8), grounding the life of faith in concrete practices of  
08 economic justice; and  
09

10 **WHEREAS**, we are consistently taught that faithfulness to God’s promise of generosity and fairness  
11 is inseparable from how we reciprocate care toward those whose labor sustains and nourishes our  
12 communities (Matthew 20:1–16; Luke 10:7); and  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the Book of Discipline 2020/2024 ¶161.C endorses the “the establishment and enforcement  
15 of policies that guarantee workers fair and equitable compensation,” affirming that economic systems  
16 must be evaluated by how they impact the most vulnerable; and  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the Book of Discipline ¶161.C states that the church “advocates for the fair and decent  
19 treatment of workers and supports policies that expand opportunities for people to find meaningful  
20 work with just compensation and benefits,” challenging structures that perpetuate poverty and  
21 economic insecurity; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, data from the [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#) consistently demonstrates that the  
24 cost of a “modest 1-bedroom rental home” anywhere in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania far exceeds  
25 what a full-time worker earning the minimum wage can reasonably afford, requiring of them wages well  
26 above the minimum or weekly hours worked well above standard to meet basic housing costs without  
27 undue financial strain; and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, many church workers, clergy and lay alike, experience economic insecurity due to wages and  
30 benefit structures that do not fully account for the true cost of living in the Commonwealth, comprised  
31 of housing, healthcare, food, and other basic needs; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, United Methodist congregations seek to embody a credible public witness, recognizing that  
34 how the church compensates its own workers is a demonstration of its commitment to the dignity and  
35 the sacred worth of all people; and  
36

37 **WHEREAS**, the Conference acknowledges that many congregations and related ministries are themselves  
38 navigating financial constraints, declining membership, and limited resources, and that moving toward  
39 just compensation practices may require discernment, shared learning, and gradual change supported by  
40 grace, accompaniment, and mutual accountability;  
41

42 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference calls upon all United  
43 Methodist congregations and related ministries to work toward ensuring that wages and benefits meet  
44 or exceed what is required to afford a modest 1-bedroom rental home in Pennsylvania, with the goal of  
45 achieving this standard within the next two years; and  
46

47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that congregations be encouraged to assess their compensation and  
48 benefits packages, including but not limited to paid leave and healthcare insurance, as part of faithful  
49 stewardship and economic justice in light of current housing cost data; and  
50

51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that congregations and related ministries report minimum wages paid and  
52 access to benefits through established annual reporting mechanisms, in order to support accountability,  
53 transparency, and ongoing development; and  
54

01 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Conference encourages collaboration among the Economic Justice  
02 Team, CCORR, and other relevant bodies, providing guidance and resources, and assisting congregations  
03 in establishing best practices and meeting these commitments in ways aligned to their local context.

04  
05 Respectfully Submitted,  
06 EPA Methodist Federation for Social Action and Reconciling Ministries Network

07  
08 **Presented by:** Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck, Executive Director, The Center-Philadelphia at Arch Street  
09 UMC

10  
11 **Financial Implications:** This recommendation does not require budgetary support by the annual  
12 conference.

13  
14 **Rationale:**

15  
16 This recommendation affirms the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference’s commitment to economic  
17 justice as a core expression of Christian discipleship and credible public witness. Grounded in scripture  
18 and the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, it recognizes that just compensation for  
19 church workers, clergy and lay alike, is not merely an administrative concern but a theological one,  
20 reflecting the church’s belief in the dignity and sacred worth of all people. In light of increased housing  
21 affordability challenges across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this resolution calls congregations  
22 to align their compensation practices with the true cost of living, while also acknowledging the financial  
23 realities many congregations face. By encouraging assessment, transparency, and shared accountability,  
24 the resolution seeks to foster faithful stewardship, mutual support, and sustainable pathways toward  
25 wages and benefits that allow those who labor in the church to live with stability and dignity.

26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54

01 **RESOLUTION # 2026-08: RESOLUTION ON TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO**  
02 **BENEFITS FOR LAY EMPLOYEES AND DEACONS**  
03  
04  
05

06 **WHEREAS**, the Apostle Paul teaches that the body of Christ is composed of many parts, each of us a part  
07 of it, and that “the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable” (1 Corinthians 12:12),  
08 affirming the dignity and worth of every form of labor within the church; and  
09

10 **WHEREAS**, Jesus reminds us that workers are worthy not only of their wages, but of care that sustains  
11 their peace, health and security (Luke 10:5-9); and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the Book of Discipline 2020/2024 ¶161.C supports the right of all people to “safe and secure  
14 working conditions, free from health and safety hazards,” as well as “just compensation and benefits”;  
15 and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the Book of Discipline ¶258.2 and ¶340 recognize the shared responsibility of the annual  
18 conference, elders and local Staff-Parish Relations Committees to collaborate, ensuring those employed  
19 in ministry receive appropriate compensation and benefits, including lay employees and deacons; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, access to health insurance and disability coverage, paid leave, retirement plans and other  
22 benefits is a critical component of economic justice, particularly for lay employees and deacons whose  
23 eligibility and coverage options may be unclear or inconsistently communicated; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, congregations and employees alike are often required to make benefits-related decisions  
26 without timely or comprehensive information about eligibility, coverage and costs; and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, clear, consistent, timely, and comprehensive communication regarding benefits affirms the  
29 faithful stewardship and encourages the informed decision-making of all employees throughout the  
30 conference;  
31

32 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference require the Conference  
33 Benefits Office (CBO) to provide a comprehensive benefits information package each year, at least two  
34 weeks in advance of open enrollment, to all congregations and relevant conference-related ministries;  
35 and  
36

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this comprehensive package clearly and accessibly explains benefits  
38 eligibility, enrollment options, timelines, and costs for lay employees and deacons, including but not  
39 limited to health insurance, retirement benefits; and  
40

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the CBO ensures this information is updated annually, and distributed in  
42 formats that support both congregational leadership and employees in making informed decisions; and  
43

44 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Annual Conference encourage ongoing collaboration between the  
45 CBO, congregational leaders, and other relevant conference bodies to address gaps in benefit access and  
46 to strengthen equitable practices throughout the conference.  
47

48 Respectfully Submitted,  
49 EPA Methodist Federation for Social Change and Reconciling Ministries Network  
50

51 **Presented by:** Reverend Robin M. Hynicka, Lead Pastor, Arch Street UMC  
52  
53  
54

01 **Financial Implications:** This resolution has no budgetary implications. All expenditures and requirements  
02 can be fulfilled within the current budget.

03

04 **Rationale:**

05

06 This recommendation affirms the United Methodist commitment to justice, dignity, and faithful  
07 stewardship by addressing gaps in transparency and access to benefits for lay employees and deacons.  
08 Rooted in Scripture and the Social Principles, it recognizes that the well-being of those who labor in  
09 ministry is inseparable from the church's witness and mission. When benefits information is unclear,  
10 inconsistently communicated, or unavailable in a timely manner, both congregations and employees  
11 are placed in positions of unnecessary vulnerability and inequity. By requiring clear, consistent, and  
12 comprehensive communication from the Conference Benefits Office, this resolution strengthens  
13 shared accountability across the annual conference, supports informed decision-making, and promotes  
14 equitable practices that honor the indispensable contributions of lay employees and deacons to the life  
15 of the church.

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54



01 **RESOLUTION # 2026-09: EXPLORING PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFIT COVERAGE**  
02 **FOR DEACONS, DEACONESSES, AND HOME MISSIONERS**  
03  
04  
05

06 **WHEREAS** The United Methodist Church recognizes and advocates for the right to health care in its  
07 Social Principles: “We affirm health care as a basic human right and vow to work toward expanded  
08 access to all forms of medical treatment, including preventative, therapeutic, and palliative care. . . . we  
09 urge United Methodists to join efforts aimed at creating systems that provide comprehensive health  
10 protections for all.” (*Book of Discipline 2020/2024*, p. 140); and  
11

12 **WHEREAS** “The United Methodist Church is committed to health care for all in the United States,  
13 and therefore advocates for a comprehensive health-care delivery system that includes access for all,  
14 quality care, and effective management of costs” (2020/2024 BOR, p. 529), and “call upon all agencies,  
15 commissions, and annual conferences of The United Methodist Church in the United States to adopt  
16 principles and support policies that are consistent with this resolution [4201. Health Care for All in the  
17 United States]” (*Book of Resolutions 2020/2024*, p. 533); and  
18

19 **WHEREAS** The United Methodist Church “call[s] upon United Methodists around the world to accept  
20 responsibility for modeling health in all its dimensions” and to do so “we call upon specific entities within  
21 our United Methodist connection to take steps toward health and wholeness” and “encourage annual  
22 conferences to: . . . undertake specific actions to promote clergy health, physical, mental, emotional and  
23 spiritual” (*Book of Resolutions 2020/2024*, pp. 538–41); and  
24

25 **WHEREAS** deacons, deaconesses, and home missionaries are often appointed by the bishop to extension  
26 ministry settings, which may or may not provide health benefits; and  
27

28 **WHEREAS** *The Book of Discipline 2020/2024* ¶ 331.6c – *Support for Deacons and Provisional*  
29 *Deacons Appointed by a Bishop* states that “Deacons and provisional deacons shall participate in the  
30 denominational pension and benefit plans and programs of the annual conference subject to the  
31 provisions and standards of those programs as established by the annual conference when health  
32 benefit coverage is not provided from another source”; and  
33

34 **WHEREAS** deaconesses and home missionaries also deserve such support, and *The Book of Discipline*  
35 *2020/2024* ¶ 1913 states, “Each deaconess or home missionary shall enroll in a pension plan.”  
36

37 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference establish a task force  
38 to explore the necessary provisions and standards to allow provisional and ordained deacons as well as  
39 deaconesses and home missionaries to participate in the denominational pension and benefit plans and  
40 programs of the annual conference, including family health coverage, regardless of their status as an  
41 employee of the annual conference or a local church, when health benefit coverage is not provided from  
42 another source;  
43

44 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this task force be convened by the conference Board of  
45 Benefits and include at least the following additional personnel:  
46

- 47 • at least one deacon
  - 48 • at least one deaconess or home missionary
  - 49 • a member of the cabinet
  - 50 • the EPA Benefits Manager
  - 51 • a member of the committee on Equitable Compensation
- 52  
53  
54

01 And that this task force consult with the conference Chief Financial Officer, Committee on Finance and  
02 Administration, Wespath, and others whose expertise may inform the work of this task force;

03

04 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this task force conduct appropriate research to address the  
05 following questions:

06

- 07 • Who are the individuals under appointment who need access to the denominational pension  
08 and benefit plans and programs of the annual conference, and what circumstances prevent them  
09 from accessing these benefits?
- 10 • How can the annual conference address these barriers to access?
- 11 • What constraints related to participation by the health insurance carrier (Healthflex) are  
12 present?
- 13 • Who would pay the employer portion of the health benefit (approximately \$10,584/year/  
14 participant) and how would it be funded?
- 15 • What would be the cost to the annual conference to provide access?
- 16 • Any other considerations necessary to draft a resolution in the following manner:

17

18 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this task force prepare appropriate legislation to be  
19 submitted in time for a vote of the 2027 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, addressing the above  
20 concerns and establishing the necessary provisions and standards to allow provisional and ordained  
21 deacons as well as deaconesses and home missionaries to participate in the denominational pension and  
22 benefit plans and programs of the annual conference, including family health coverage, regardless of  
23 their status as an employee of the annual conference or a local church, when health benefit coverage is  
24 not provided from another source

25

26 Submitted by:

27 Darryl W. Stephens, Chair of the Order of Deacons

28

29 References:

30

31 *Book of Discipline 2020/2024*, Part V: Social Principles, pp. 105–47

32

33 *Book of Discipline 2020/2024*, ¶ 331.6c and ¶ 1913.

34

35 “4201. Health Care for All in the United States” (*Book of Resolutions 2020/2024*, pp. 524–33)

36

37 “4202. Health and Wholeness” (*Book of Resolutions 2020/2024*, pp. 533–43)

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

01 **RESOLUTION #2026-10: NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP REPORT**

02 **2026 CONFERENCE AGENCIES WITH MEMBERSHIP**

03 ***Report from the Conference Committee on Nominations and Leadership of the EPA Annual Conference***

04  
05  
06  
07 *Each of these agencies will have a designation as to how members are nominated prior to being elected by the*  
08 *Annual Conference. This slate includes those groups that must be elected by the Annual Conference, which is the*  
09 *responsibility of the Conference Committee on Nominations and Leadership as well as all agencies whose*  
10 *membership must be approved by the Annual Conference whether they are nominated by the Bishop or their own*  
11 *membership. All new nominees or people in transition will be presented in bold print. For each agency, its purpose,*  
12 *membership requirements, nomination process, and the times they currently have meetings are included.*

13  
14 **Quadrennium of Service: (First), (Second), (Interim)**

15 *This is the EPA method of tracking service and rotating leaders and members unless specifically noted. (Interim*  
16 *Service: This designation is for anyone who fills a vacancy or enters during a quadrennium. If one enters into the first*  
17 *or second year of the quadrennium that quadrennium is considered their first. If one enters into the third or fourth*  
18 *year of the quadrennium it is not considered their first as their first would start at the beginning of the next*  
19 *quadrennium. Next Quadrennium begins July 1, 2028.*

20  
21 **Years of Service:**

22 *Some of the agencies are in the Book of Discipline and are tracked with years of service. For those groups, years of*  
23 *service is the method of tracking service and rotating leaders and members.*

24  
25 **Agency Member Designation:**

26 **(C) Clergy, (LW) Laywoman, (LM) Layman, (NC) Non-Conference, (OL – on Loan)**

27 *In addition as per **A Path Towards Wholeness Legislation (R. 2022-07)**, inclusivity in terms of self-identified racial,*  
28 *ethnic, disability, and age are tracked internally by each group.*

29  
30 *If you have any questions or concerns with any of the agencies listed or their members, please contact the:*  
31 ***Co-Chairpersons of the Conference Committee on Nominations and Leadership:***

32  
33 *The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C) Email: [pastorpiltz@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpiltz@gmail.com)*  
34 *Mrs. Maryann Griffith (S) (LW) Email: [maqteaches424@gmail.com](mailto:maqteaches424@gmail.com)*

35  
36 **Chief Financial Officer / Conference Treasurer (effective 11/10/2025)**

37 **Ms. Danielle Andrews (LW); Email: [dandrews@epagnj.org](mailto:dandrews@epagnj.org)**

38  
39 **Conference Lay Leader – To be recommended by the 2026 Laity Session**

40  
41 **Conference Statistician**

42 *Mr. Paul Bernhardt (E) (LM); Email: [paul.bernhardt@villanova.edu](mailto:paul.bernhardt@villanova.edu)*

43  
44 **Conference Secretary**

45 *Rev. Joong Hyuck Kim (N) (C); Email: [epaconferecesecretary@epagnj.org](mailto:epaconferecesecretary@epagnj.org)*

46  
47 **Conference Chancellor (effective 1/1/2026)**

48 **Rev. Mark Salvacion (S) (C); Email: [epachancellor@epagnj.org](mailto:epachancellor@epagnj.org)**

49  
50 **EPA Ecumenical Officer**

51 **Rev. Robin Hynicka (E) (C); Email: [rhnicka@gmail.com](mailto:rhnicka@gmail.com)**

**Administrative Review Committee ¶635**

*PURPOSE: Reviews any decisions made by the Bishop at their direction when needed.*

*MEMBERSHIP: BOD Quadrennium Service. 5 people. Three clergy in full connection and two alternates who are not members of the Cabinet or the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM) or immediate family members of the above; nominated by the Bishop and elected quadrennially at the clergy session by the clergy in full connection.*

**Appointed By: The Bishop**

*MEETINGS: Only as needed*

**Chairperson**

*The Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien (S) (C); Email: christopherkurien@gmail.com*

**Alternatives**

*The Rev. Robert Wilt, Jr. (S) (C)*

*The Rev. Herbert Coe (S) (C)*

**Members**

*The Rev. Stacy Gonzalez (S) (C)*

*The Rev. Mercedes Case (S) (C)*

**Archives and History, Commission on ¶641**

*PURPOSE: Documents and celebrates historical records and events.*

*MEMBERSHIP: Up to 12 persons. Ex-Officio: 1 representative from each of the Heritage Landmarks located within the boundaries of the Annual Conference [Appenzeller Shrine (First UMC, Lancaster), Albright Chapel (Trinity UMC, Kleinfeltersville), Boehm’s Chapel, Historic St. George’s, Mother African Zoar, Simpson House].*

*RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

**Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

*MEETINGS: On Zoom as needed. First Mondays of February, May, August and November*

**Chairperson**

*The Rev. R. Mark Young (S) (C) (Second) Email: [alvkrinst@aol.com](mailto:alvkrinst@aol.com)*

**Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

*The Rev. Jason David Ríos Ramos (W) (C) (Appenzeller)*

*Albright Chapel Representative*

*Dr. Ernest Moody (E) (LM) (Mother African Zoar)*

*Simpson House Representative*

*The Rev. Bill Wilson (E) (C) (Historic St. George’s)*

*The Rev. Manuel Cruz (W) (OE) (Boehm’s Chapel)*

**Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

*Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (Director of Conn Ministries)*

*Mr. William H. White (S) (LM)*

*Conference Lay Leader*

**Members**

*The Rev. David William Brown (E) (C) (Second)*

***Ms. Betty Henderson (E) (LW) (Interim)***

*Ms. Vicki Brown (Tindley Temple) (E) (LW) (First)*

***Mrs. Gail Jones (N) (LW) (Interim)***

***Ms. JoAnne Foss (W) (LW) (Interim)***

01 **Benefits, Board of 1638**

02 *PURPOSE: Oversees management of clergy pension and health care benefits.*

03 *MEMBERSHIP: Recommended not less than 12 persons. Each member serves a term of 8 years. Four classes of 3*  
04 *persons to include Chief Financial Officer/Conference Treasurer, Executive Director of Board of Benefits.*

05 *RESOURCE: One member of the CCFA.*

06 ***Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

07 *MEETINGS: 4th Thursday in February, with a set snow date of the 1st Thursday in March, 4th Thursday in*  
08 *July by ZOOM, and 4th Thursday in October, all 6:00 p.m. at the Conference Office.*

10 **President**

11 ***Mr. Alvin Kingcade (S) (LM) Email: [alvin.kingcade@comcast.net](mailto:alvin.kingcade@comcast.net)***

13 **Vice President**

14 ***The Rev. John Laughlin (W) (C)***

13 **Secretary**

14 ***Ms. Cressa Morris (S) (LW)***

16 **Chief Financial Officer**

17 ***Ms. Danielle Andrews (LW)***

16 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

17 ***The Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster, III (District Super Rep)***

19 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

20 ***Ms. Lynette Pope, EPA Benefits Manager***

21 ***The Rev. Steve Cherry, CCFA Representative***

23 **Members**

24 ***The Rev. Derrick Gutiérrez (W) (C)***

25 ***Mr. Ernest D. Giahyue (S) (LM)***

26 ***Rev. Janice Puliti (N) (C) (Interim)***

27 ***Rev. Joy Griffin (S) (C) (Interim)***

24 ***Mr. Greg Westerbeck (E) (LM)***

25 ***Rev. Russell Atkinson (S) (C) (Interim)***

26 ***Mr. Tom Tomlinson (E) (LM) (Interim)***

27 ***Rev. Marikay Green (GNJ-E) (C) (Interim)***

31 **Joint Committee on Clergy Medical Leave**

32 *PURPOSE: To care for those who go on medical leave and support them throughout their time in this status.*

33 *MEMBERSHIP: Two representatives each from the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM) and the conference*  
34 *Board of Benefits, who may be elected by those boards at the beginning of each quadrennium and at other*  
35 *times when vacancies occur, and a district superintendent The joint committee shall be encouraged to include*  
36 *in its composition a person with a disability, preferably someone under appointment.*

37 *RESOURCE: District Superintendent Representative*

38 ***Nominated By: Board of Ordained Ministry & Board of Benefits***

39 *MEETINGS: As determined by the committee*

41 **Resource / Advisory (Voice only):**

42 ***Ms. Lynette Pope, Benefits Manager (LW)***

43 ***Mr. Ravon Henderson, Pension & Health Benefits Specialist (LM)***

46 **Members:**

47 ***Rev. Andrew L. Foster, District Superintendent Representative (C)***

48 ***Ms. Cressa Morris, Board of Benefits Rep. (E) (LW)***

49 ***Rev. Russell Atkinson Board of Benefits Rep. (S) (C)***

50 ***Rev. Tracy Duncan, BOOM Rep.(S) (C)***

51 ***Rev. Mark Terry, BOOM Rep (S) (C)***

01 **Bradley Fund Trustee**

02 *PURPOSE: Oversee the management of the Bradley Fund on behalf of the Annual Conference. The Bradley*  
03 *Fund was founded in 1983 from a Bequest, as a restricted fund, for the maintenance of Cornwall Manor or*  
04 *other EPA Conference retirement homes so long as they continue to provide retirement housing for retired*  
05 *ministers, their spouses and widow/widowers of EPA UMC. The Board oversees the disbursement of funds.*

06 *MEMBERSHIP: 5 people. Bishop; one clergy and one layperson elected by the Annual Conference (one of*  
07 *these shall be the Chief Financial Officer); 1 clergy person and 1 layperson appointed by the Board of*  
08 *Benefits.*

09 ***Nominated By: Two members by Board of Benefits, one member by Conference Committee on***  
10 ***Nominations & Leadership.***

11 *MEETINGS: As determined by the committee.*

13  
14 **President**

15 *Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)*

16 **Etrsx-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

17 ***Ms. Danielle Andrews (LW), CFO***

18 **Members**

19 *The Rev. Christina J. Keller-Schick (E) (C) (Second)*

20 *Mr. Al Kingcade, Benefits Representative (S) (LM) (First)*

21 *Board of Benefits Representative*

23  
24 **Camp and Retreat Ministry Board**

25 *PURPOSE: Oversees operations; creates and implements a vision for all 4 of our Conference camps*

26 *MEMBERSHIP: 16 persons; 1/4 of whom shall be persons of diverse racial/ethnic background. Four classes*  
27 *of 4 persons serving a 4-year term. Ex-Officio: Director of Connectional Ministries, Chief Financial Officer*  
28 */Conference Treasurer, and 1 representative from the Conference Board of Trustees.*

29 *RESOURCE: Directors of all 4 sites in the Annual Conference*

30 ***Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

31 ***MEETINGS: Hybrid. Odd months - September thru May on the third Sunday of the month.***

33  
34 **Co-Chairpersons**

35 ***Ms. Kelly Nelson (S) (LW), Email: [kelly.m.nelsonn@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.m.nelsonn@gmail.com)***

36 ***Rev. Andrea Haldeman (W) (C), Email: [pastorandii@gmail.com](mailto:pastorandii@gmail.com)***

37 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

38 ***Ms. Danielle Andrews (LW), CFO***

39 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

40 *Ms. Janelle Mungro (E) (LW)*

41 *Ms. Hosea Latshaw (W) (LW) (Property Resource)*

*The Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer (W) (C)*

*Board of Trustees Representative*

*Camp and Retreat Directors*

43  
44 **Members**

45 *The Rev. Michael Callahan (S) (C)*

46 *Mr. Pete McIlwee (S) (LM)*

47 *The Rev. Truman Brooks (S) (C)*

48 *Ms. Christine Strange (E) (LW)*

49 *Mr. Eric Chelton (E) (LM)*

50 ***The Rev. Laurie Pfahler (S) (C)***

*Ms. Jaime Graham (N) (LW)*

*Ms. Christina Murphy (N) (LW)*

*Mr. Matt Klein (W) (LM)*

*Ms. Susan Wendel - Vattima (W) (LW)*

*Mrs. Irene Dickinson (E) (LW)*

***Ms. Cynthia Forry (W) (LW)***



01 **EPA Communications Committee ¶646**

02 *PURPOSE: Provides leadership in the implementation of a strategic communications ministry; promotes*  
03 *and interprets the connectional life of the conference and support of conference-wide ministries*

04 *MEMBERSHIP: Director of Communications; Editorial Manager, regional administrators, members with*  
05 *expertise in newsgathering, digital media, photography, public relations, radio/TV, website, and technology*  
06 *use in ministry.*

07 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

08 ***Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

09 ***MEETINGS: Quarterly***

10 **Chairperson**

11 ***Sue Kiefner (E) (LW) (Second) Email: [suekiefner@gmail.com](mailto:suekiefner@gmail.com)***

12  
13  
14 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

15 ***Sarah Borgstrom-Lee, Director of Communications (EPA&GNJ)***

16 ***Regional Administrators***

17  
18 **District Communicators (Voice & Vote):**

19 ***Rev. Brittany Whyte, South District Communicator (C)***

20 ***Rev. Stew Warner, East District Communicator (C)***

21 ***North District Communicator***

22 ***West District Communicator***

23  
24  
25  
26 **Members**

27 ***The Rev. Robert Stippich (W) (C) (Second)***

***The Rev. Jared Stoltzfus (W) (C) (Second)***

28 ***The Rev. Julia Lynne Singleton (E) (C) (Second)***

***The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C) (Second)***

29 ***Mrs. Sabrina Leanne Daluisio (S) (LW) (First)***

***Mrs. Neena Deibler (S) (LW) (Second)***

30 ***Mr. Logan Pennell (W) (LM) (Interim)***

31  
32  
33  
34 **Conference Sessions, Commission on**

35 *PURPOSE: Plans, implements, and evaluates all aspects of the Annual Conference session and adjourned*  
36 *sessions when needed.*

37 *MEMBERSHIP: Up to 17 persons. One representative from each district; one representative of the Board of*  
38 *Lait. Six persons for expertise and/or balance. One representative from the Disabilities Committee.*

39 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries, Conference Lay Leader, Chairperson(s) of Board of*  
40 *Ordained Ministry, Dean of the Cabinet, Conference Secretary, Chief Financial Officer/Conference Treasurer,*  
41 *and the Bishop*

42 ***Appointed by: The Resident Bishop***

43 ***MEETINGS: 4 to 6 times a year***

44  
45  
46 **Chairperson**

47 ***The Rev. James D. Anderman (W) (C) (Second) Email: [jdanderman@gmail.com](mailto:jdanderman@gmail.com)***

48  
49 **Conference Secretary**

50 ***Rev. Joong Hyuck Kim (N) (C)***

01 Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)  
 02 **Ms. Danielle Andrews (LW), CFO** The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C) DCM  
 03 The Rev. Andrew L. Foster III, Dean of the Cabinet Rev. Tracy Duncan, BOOM Chairperson  
 04 Conference Lay Leader  
 05  
 06 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)  
 07 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C) Mrs. Sarah Borgstrom-Lee, Dir. of Communications  
 08 Mrs. Nicola Mulligan, Director of Rev. Sean Lee, Assistant to the Bishop  
 09 Administrative Svcs. Ms. Diana Picurro, EPA&GNJ Staff  
 10  
 11 Members  
 12 Mrs. Rosalind McKelvey (E) (LW) (Second) The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C) (Second)  
 13 Ms. Ethel Malone (E) (LW) (First) The Rev. John Bletsch (S) (C) (Second)  
 14 The Rev. Jason Perkowski (W) (C) (Second) Mrs. Judy Ehninger (N) (LW) (Second)  
 15 The Rev. Monica Guepet (N) (C) (Second) The Rev. Alicia Juliá-Stanley (E, OL-GNJ) (C) (Second)  
 16 The Rev. Candy LaBar (N) (C) (First) **Ms. Aixa Preston (W) (LW) (Interim)**

17  
18  
19 **Rules Committee**  
20 **(sub-committee of Conference Sessions)**  
21

22 **Chairperson**

23 The Rev. Lloyd Speer (E) (C) (First) Email: [lfspeer3@comcast.net](mailto:lfspeer3@comcast.net)

24 Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)

25 The Rev. James D. Anderman (W) (C) (First)

26 The Rev. Sean Lee, Assistant to the Bishop  
27

28 Members

29 The Rev. Johnson Dodla (S) (C) (First)

The Rev. Gary Nicholson (S) (C) (First)

30 The Rev. Lisa DePaz (E) (C) (First)

Ms. Pat Wilson, (N) (LW) (First)

31 Mr. Mert Shane (N) LM) (First)

Mrs. Clarita Krall (E) (LW) (First)

32  
33  
34  
35  
36 **Committee on Investigation**

37 **PURPOSE:** Consider judicial complaints against clergy members of the annual conference, clergy members on  
 38 honorable location or administrative location from that annual conference, local pastors, and diaconal  
 39 ministers

40 **MEMBERSHIP:** Four clergy members in full connection, three professing members

41 **Nominated by:** the presiding bishop in consultation with the Board of Ordained Ministry (for clergy members)  
 42 and the conference board of laity (for professing members) and elected quadrennially by the annual confere  
 43

44 **MEETINGS:** As needed

45  
46 **Chairperson**

47 To be determined by committee

48 Members

49 Rev. Dr. Lydia Munoz (C) (E)

Rev. Dr. Truman Brooks III (C) (S)

50 Rev. David W. Brown (C) (E)

Mr. Alvin Kincade (L) (S)

51 Mrs. Truzella V. Jacobs (L) (E)

Mrs. Julie C. Perkowski (L) (W)



01 Alternates

02 Rev. James E. Heath (C) (W) Rev. Helen L. Adams (C) (W)  
03 Rev. Alicia Julia-Stanley (C) (E, OL-GNJ) Mrs. Linda S. Seybold (L) (S)  
04 Ms. Lenora Thompson (L) (S) Mrs. Dannette Wright-Lee (L) (S)  
05 Mr. John J. Paylor (L) (S)  
06  
07

08 **Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

09 *PURPOSE: Creates a slate of nominees for Conference boards, councils, commissions, and committees*  
10 *MEMBERSHIP: Up to 25 persons. One clergy and one layperson from each district; 5 members of diverse*  
11 *racial/ethnic background and gender inclusiveness; One representative from the Disabilities Committee;*  
12 *Conference Lay Leader, UMW representative, UMM representative, Youth representative.*  
13 *RESOURCE: Representatives from CORR and COSROW. Ex-Officio: Director of Connectional Ministries, and 1*  
14 *District Superintendent named by the Bishop*  
15 **Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**  
16 *MEETINGS: 4 to 6 meetings at the Conference Office as needed*  
17  
18

19 Chairperson

20 Rev. David Piltz (E) (C) (Second) Email: [pastorpiltz@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpiltz@gmail.com)  
21 Mrs. Maryann Griffith (S) (LW) (Second) Email: [maateaches424@gmail.com](mailto:maateaches424@gmail.com)

22 Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)

23 The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C) Conference Lay Leader  
24 District Superintendent Representative Communications Representative  
25 The Rev. Lorelei Toombs, (C) Director of Lay Leadership Development  
26  
27

28 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

29 **Ms. Diana Picurro (EPA & GNJ Staff)**

30 Members

31 Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck (E) (LW) (First) Mrs. Ethel L. Malone (E) (LW) (Second)  
32 Mrs. Jennifer Lafferty (S) (LW) (Second) Mrs. Judy Ehninger (N) (LW) (First)  
33 **Rev. Correen Russo (W) (C) (Interim)** **Ms. Patricia Wilson (N) (LW) (Interim)**  
34 **Mrs. Susan Grimm Mattox (W) (LW) (Interim)** **Ms. Suzette James (S) (LW) (Interim)**  
35  
36

37 **Congregational Development Team**

38 *PURPOSE: Actively resources churches and ministries in the process of development and revitalization*  
39 *MEMBERSHIP: Persons with experience in congregational development*  
40 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*  
41 **Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**  
42 *Meetings: 6 times a year as scheduled by the chairpersons*  
43  
44

45 Co-Chairpersons

46 The Rev. Steve Morton (S) (C) (First), [scmorton3@gmail.com](mailto:scmorton3@gmail.com)  
47

48 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

49 The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, Director of Connectional Ministries  
50 The Rev. Lorelei Toombs, Director of Lay Leadership Development  
51 Sarah Borgstrom-Lee, Director of Communications (EPA&GNJ)  
52  
53  
54

01 Members:

02 *The Rev. Deanna M. Geiter (W) (C) (Second)*

*The Rev. Alicia Juliá-Stanley (E, OL-GNJ) (C) (First)*

03 *Ms. Suzette James (E) (LW) (Second)*

*The Rev. Jeff Raffauf (S) (C) (First)*

04 *The Rev. Wendy Bellis (N) (C) (First)*

*Rev. Lisa Jean Hoefner (W) (C) (First)*

05 *The Rev. Myra Maxwell (E) (C) (First)*

*Rev. Will Brawner (E) (C) (First)*

06 *Ms. Luann Ingram (E) (LW) (First)*

**Mr. Mike Gold (N) (LM) (Interim)**

07 **Mr. Demetrio Beach Kenon (S) (LM) (Interim)**

08  
09 **Small Church Network Committee**

10 **(sub-committee of Congregational Development Team)**

11 **PURPOSE:** to support, encourage and resource mission development and ministry in  
12 town and country areas with a population of less than 50,000. These shall include  
13 incorporated areas of 10,000 to 50,000; towns, villages, and incorporated areas with  
14 10,000 or fewer; and rural areas with population density of 200 or fewer persons per  
15 square mile.

16 **MEMBERSHIP:** Congregational Development Chair. 8-12 At large lay and clergy  
17 representatives of Small Churches throughout the wider conference

18 **Nominated By:** Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership

19 **MEETINGS:** 1/month by zoom

20 **Co-Chairpersons**

21 *The Rev. Derrick Gutierrez (W) (C) (First); Email: [derrick.gutierrez@gmail.com](mailto:derrick.gutierrez@gmail.com) and*

22 *The Rev. Denny Emrick (S) (C) (First); Email: [dennvemrick@gmail.com](mailto:dennvemrick@gmail.com)*

23  
24  
25  
26 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

27 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

*The Rev. Noé Gabriel López, Director of  
28 Social Impact & Belonging*

29 *District Superintendent Rep*

30  
31 **Members**

32 *The Rev. Ethel Guy (S) (C) (First)*

*The Rev. Debra Coulbourn (E) (C) (First)*

33 *The Rev. Betty Murphy (E) (C) (First)*

*The Rev. Steve Morton (S) (C) (First)*

34 *Mr. Stewart Gantt (S) (L) (First)*

*The Rev. Sterling Eaton (S) (C) (First)*

35  
36  
37 **Disability Concerns, Committee on ¶653**

38 **PURPOSE:** Elevates awareness of ministry with and for other-abled persons and persons with special needs

39 **MEMBERSHIP:** 10-18 persons. One person from each district plus others based on disability ministry

40 interest or expertise with particular attention to diversity of disabilities and challenges (physical, cognitive,  
41 mental, sensory, or emotional development). Shall include persons with physical and mental disabilities and  
42 challenges.

43 **RESOURCE:** Director of Connectional Ministries

44 **Nominated By:** Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership

45 **MEETINGS:** Zoom, first Thursdays of the month

46  
47 **Co-Chairperson**

48 *Ms. Theresa Yorgey (S) (L) (First) Email: [theresayorgey@gmail.com](mailto:theresayorgey@gmail.com)*

49 **Ms. Barbara Revere (S) (E) (First) Email: [bre2696294@aol.com](mailto:bre2696294@aol.com)**

50  
51 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

52 *Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)*

01 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

02 The Rev Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)

03 Members

04 Ms. Elizabeth Christie (N) (LW) (Second)

The Rev. David G. Goss (N) (C) (Second)

05 The Rev. Brenda Del Rosario (S) (C) (Second)

Mrs. Maryann Griffith (S) (LW) (Second)

06 Mrs. Rosalind McKelvey (E) (LW) (Second)

The Rev. Robert Crane (S) (C) (Second)

07 Ms. Wilhelmina Young (E) (LW) (Second)

**Rev. Connor Felty (W) (C) (Interim)**

08 **Ms. Linda Kirk (E) (LW) (Interim)**

09

10

11

12

**Domestic Violence Committee**

13

PURPOSE: Provides educational events which focus on the issue of domestic violence in order to teach and empower all persons to advocate and ultimately help eliminate abuse in relationships.

14

MEMBERSHIP: Up to 12 persons

15

RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries

16

**Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

17

MEETINGS: Monthly meetings

18

19

Chairperson

20

Ms. Jody Anderson (S) (LW) (Second) Email: [jander678@gmail.com](mailto:jander678@gmail.com)

21

22

Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

23

The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)

Bishop Cynthia Moore Koikoi (C)

24

Ms. Carol Stevens (resource) (LW)

25

Members

26

Deaconess Barbara E. Drake (S) (LW) (Second)

Mrs. Rachel Manson (S) (LW) (Second)

27

Ms. Phyliss Walsh (S) (LW) (First)

Ms. Sandy Lewis (S) (LW) (Second)

28

Ms. Theresa Yorgey (S) (LW) (First)

**Rev. Myra Maxwell (E) (C) (Interim)**

29

**Ms. Chantay Love Mason (E) (LW) (Interim)**

**Mr. Esau Collins (E) (LM) (Interim)**

30

31

32

33

34

**Eastern PA Conference Scholarship Committee ¶1634 b (7)**

35

PURPOSE: Awards scholarships to persons attending United Methodist related seminaries, graduate schools, and undergraduate schools using funds from endowments to the Annual Conference and a budgeted line item, and collection during the first service of Annual Conference.

36

MEMBERSHIP: One class consisting of one representative from each district.

37

RESOURCE: Chief Financial Officer

38

**Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

39

MEETINGS: 2 times a year

40

Chairperson

41

Ms. Lenora Thompson (S) (LW) (Second) Email: [lenorathompson@hotmail.com](mailto:lenorathompson@hotmail.com)

42

43

Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

44

**Ms. Danielle Andrews (LW), CFO**

The Rev. Hun Ju Lee, (N) (C)

45

Ms. Diana Picurro (EPA & GNJ Staff)

46

Members

47

The Rev. Dr. Christopher J. Kurien (S) (C) (Second)

Mr. Jack Brooks (E) (LM) (Second)

48

Mrs. Danette Wright-Lee (S) (LW) (Second)

The Rev. Lorraine Foster (E) (C) (First)

49

**The Rev. Alicia Juliá-Stanley (E, OL-GNJ) (C) (First)**

50

51

52

53

54

01 **Education Society, Conference**

02 *PURPOSE: Awards Conference scholarships to applicants from the designated education endowment fund*  
03 *MEMBERSHIP: 12 Persons. Four classes of 3 persons each, elected for a term of 4 years; lay members to be*  
04 *in the majority. The Conference Chief Financial Officer shall be the Treasurer of the Conference Education*  
05 *Society with voice and vote.*

06 ***Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

07 *MEETINGS: January, June, Sept. at 9:30 a.m. at the Conference Office*

08  
09 **Chairperson**

10 ***Ms. Frances G. Whittington (S) (LW) (First); Email: [enviroqirl75@gmail.com](mailto:enviroqirl75@gmail.com)***

11 ***Mrs. Jennifer Hopple (E) (LW) (First); Email: [jen.hopple@cumclansdale.org](mailto:jen.hopple@cumclansdale.org)***

12  
13  
14 **Recording Secretary and Treasurer**

15 ***Ms. Danielle Andrews (LW) CFO***

16 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

17 *Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)*

18 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

19 *Ms. Diana Picurro (EPA & GNJ Staff)*

20 **Members**

21 *Mrs. Christy Jacob (S) (LW) (Second)*

*The Rev. Walter Unterberger (W) (C) (Second)*

22 *Ms. Ruth H. Harmon (S) (LW) (Second)*

*Mrs. Joann Waddell (E) (LW) (Second)*

23 *Mrs. Maryann Griffith (S) (LW) (Second)*

*Mr. Michael Gold (N) (LM) (First)*

24 *Ms. Lisa Kurtz (W) (LW) (First)*

25  
26  
27 **Episcopacy, Committee on ¶1636**

28 *PURPOSE: Provides guidance, support, and evaluation for the presiding Bishop of the Philadelphia Area*  
29 *MEMBERSHIP: This committee is composed of at least 7 but no more than 17 members. Recommended*  
30 *from BOD 1/3 laywomen, 1/3 laymen, 1/3 clergy provided that 1 lay person shall be the conference lay leader.*  
31 *Special attention shall be given to the inclusion of representation of diverse racial/ethnic background,*  
32 *youth and young adults, and persons with disabilities; lay and clergy members of the Jurisdictional*  
33 *Committee on Episcopacy. One layperson shall be the Conference Lay Leader. One-fifth of the Committee's*  
34 *membership is to be appointed by the Bishop.*

35 *RESOURCE: Conference Lay Leader, Cabinet Representative, Chair of the Delegation*

36 ***Nominated and Appointed by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership and 1/3 by the Bishop***

37 *MEETINGS: 4-6 times per year*

38  
39 **Chairperson**

40 ***Mr. William Preston Thompson Sr. (EPA) (S) (LM) (First); [thompsonconsulting2000@hotmail.com](mailto:thompsonconsulting2000@hotmail.com)***

41  
42 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

43 *The Rev. Dawn E. Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

*Mrs. Judith K. Ehninger (N) (LW)*

44 *Cabinet Representative*

45 **Members**

46 *The Rev. Mark Terry (S) (C) (Second)*

*The Rev. Samuel Kofi Ashley (N) (C) (Second)*

47 *Ms. Kathy Johnson (W) (LW) (First)*

*The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Weber (N) (C) (First)*

48 *Mr. Conner Felty (W) (LM) (First)*

*Ms. Yattah Jones (S) (LW) (First)*

49 *Mrs. Jezerel Gutierrez (W) (LW) (First)*

*Conference Lay Leader*

**Equitable Compensation, Commission on ¶625**

PURPOSE: Reviews applications and recommends an annual compensation plan for clergy  
MEMBERSHIP: 10 people. One from each district, plus 6 members-at-large with an equal number of clergy and laity with at least 1 layperson and 1 clergy person from churches of fewer than 200 members.

Ex-Officio: Chief Financial Officer and 1 District Superintendent named by the Bishop.

**Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

MEETINGS: Zoom as needed.

**Chairperson**

Mr. John P. Lafferty (S) (LM) (First) Email: [johnp@cellmylight.com](mailto:johnp@cellmylight.com)

**Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

**Ms. Danielle Andrews (LW), CFO**

**Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)

The Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer (W) (C)

**Members**

Mrs. Beverly Connor (S) (LW) (Second)

Mr. David Kling (W) (LM) (Second)

Ms. Bethany Gogola (N) (LW) (Second)

The Rev. Brad Leight (E) (C) (Second)

Mr. John Lafferty (S) (LM) (Second)

The Rev. Blaine Wenger (W) (C) (Second)

**Finance and Administration, Council on ¶611-618**

PURPOSE: Recommends and manages the Conference budget

MEMBERSHIP: There shall be at least one more lay than clergy member.

Ex-Officio: Bishop, Chief Financial Officer, Director of Connectional Ministries, and 1 District Superintendent named by the Bishop.

**Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

MEETINGS: Zoom, 3rd Thursday each Month, 7 pm, not December, June, July

**President**

Rev. Steve Cherry (S) (C) Email: [scherry@epagnj.org](mailto:scherry@epagnj.org)

**Vice-President**

Mrs. Carolyn Pressley (E) (LW)

**Recording Secretary**

The Rev. Dave Felker (N) (C)

**Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)

The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)

**Ms. Danielle Andrews (LW), CFO**

**Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

Conference Lay Leader

Mrs. Jay Kim (EPA&GNJ Staff)

**Members**

Rev. Carl Houston (S) (C)

Ms. Lola Sargent (S) (LW)

Rev. Navin Satyavrata (E) (C)

Mr. Andy Rozek (E) (LM)

Rev. Joanne Miles (S) (C)

Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck (E) (LW)

**Rev. Johnson Dodla (S) (C)**

Ms. Sandi Stovall (S) (LW)

Mr. Shawn Mack (E) (LM)

01 **Human Resources (Personnel) Committee**  
02 **(sub-committee of Finance and Administration, Council on)**

03 *PURPOSE: Assists in hiring and employment concerns for Conference personnel under*  
04 *the auspices of Finance and Administration, Council on.*

05 *MEMBERSHIP: 8 people. The committee shall represent the diversity of the Annual*  
06 *Conference and be composed equally of lay (one of whom is the Conference Lay Leader)*  
07 *and clergy. It shall include 1 representative appointed by the Council of Finance*  
08 *and Administration. Ex-Officio: Bishop, Director of Connectional Ministries, Chief*  
09 *Financial Officer.*

10 ***Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

11 ***MEETINGS: Quarterly***

13  
14 **Chairperson**

15 *The Rev. Dave Felker (N) (C) Email: [dfelker85@gmail.com](mailto:dfelker85@gmail.com)*

16  
17 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

18 *Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)*

*Ms. Danielle Andrews (LW), CFO*

19 ***DCM, Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)***

***Conference Lay Leader***

20 *District Superintendent Representative*

*Director of HR, Jay Kim (EPA&GNJ Staff)*

21 *Representative of Council on Finance & Administration*

22  
23 **Members**

24 *Mr. Ron Gurka (N) (LM) (Second)*

*Ms. Joyce Brown (S) (LW) (Second)*

25 *The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C) (First)*

*Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck (E) (L) (First)*

26 ***Ms. Sharon Brown (E) (LW) (Interim)***

27  
28  
29  
30 **Global Ministries 1633**

31 *PURPOSE: To connect churches to resources of the General Board of Global Ministries and the General*  
32 *Board of Church and Society. To Cultivate Advance Special giving for missions, missionaries, and UMCOR*  
33 *ministries. To coordinate the itineration visits of missionaries and encourage covenant relationships. To*  
34 *encourage church participation in ministries of mercy and justice that meet human needs. To assist*  
35 *churches in developing abundant health ministries. To promote attendance at Mission U and training in*  
36 *justice advocacy, and to administer the EPC Peace with Justice grants.*

37 *Membership: EPC Secretary of Global Ministries, Peace with Justice Coordinator, Chair of EPA Congo*  
38 *Partnership, UMW Social Action Coor., plus clergy and laity from each District interested in Missions, Health*  
39 *Ministries, and Social Justice Advocacy.*

40 *RESOURCE: Chairperson of EPA Congo Partnership and Director of Connectional Ministries.*

41 ***Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

42 ***MEETINGS: Zoom, as needed***

43  
44 **Chairperson**

45 *Deaconess Barbara E. Drake (S) (LW) (Second)*

46 *Email: [bedrake15@aol.com](mailto:bedrake15@aol.com)*

47  
48 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

49 *The Rev. Russell Atkinson (S) (C)*

*Representative from Disaster Response*

50 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

51 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

*Ms. Jeanne Earnshaw (E) (LW)*



01 Members

|                                                   |                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 02 Mrs. Brenda Binns (N) (LW) (Second)            | The Rev. Jessica Ross (N) (C) (Second) |
| 03 Dr. Barbara Mitchell (E) (LW) (Second)         | The Rev. Jesse Coale (S) (C) (First)   |
| 04 Dr. Annette Onema-Orbach (E) (LW) (Second)     | Mrs. Ruth Carr (S) (LW) (Second)       |
| 05 Dr. Ruth Thornton (E) (LW) (Second)            | Mrs. Penny Harris (W) (LW) (Second)    |
| 06 Mrs. Jennifer Lafferty (S) (LW) (Second)       | Mr. Edward Gale (E) (LM) (First)       |
| 07 <b>Ms. Eleanor Carroll (S), (LW) (Interim)</b> |                                        |

08  
09  
10 **Immigration Rapid Response Team**  
11 **(subset team of Global Ministries)**

12  
13 **Chairperson:**  
14 **Rev. Dr. Ricardo Ramos-Diaz; Email: [revrgramos@gmail.com](mailto:revrgramos@gmail.com)**

15  
16 Members

|                                                             |                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 17 The Rev. Mark Salvacion, JD (S) (C) (First)              | The Rev. Dr. Ricardo Ramos-Diaz (GNJ-S) (C) (First) |
| 18 The Rev. Lisa DePaz (E) (C) (First)                      | The Rev. YoungHak Lee (S) (C) (First)               |
| 19 District Superintendent Hun Ju Lee (or delegate) (N) (C) | The Rev. Karen Bartkowski (E) (C) (First)           |

20  
21  
22  
23 **Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Accountability Team**

24 **PURPOSE:** Provides ongoing training, resources, and support for combatting individualized,  
25 institutionalized, and systemic racism  
26 **MEMBERSHIP:** 12 persons of diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds chosen from among the Healers of the  
27 Conference and who demonstrate the qualifications outlined in the 2002 Core Team working document.  
28 **RESOURCE:** Director of Connectional Ministries  
29 **Nominated by:** Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership  
30 **MEETINGS:** As determined by the team.

31  
32 **Co-Conveners**  
33 **The Rev. David Wesley Brown (S) (C) (Second) Email: [pastdave81@gmail.com](mailto:pastdave81@gmail.com)**  
34 **Mr. Mertice M. Shane (N) (LM) (Second) Email: [pastormert13@gmail.com](mailto:pastormert13@gmail.com)**

35 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**  
36 **Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)**

37 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**  
38 **The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)**

**The Rev. Noé Gabriel López,**  
**Director of Social Impact & Belonging**

39  
40  
41 Members  
42 **The Rev. Suzanne Wenonah Duchesne (S) (C) (Second)** **The Rev. John Bletsch (S) (C) (Second)**  
43 **The Rev. Alicia Juliá-Stanley (E, OL-GNJ) (C) (Second)** **The Rev. Greg Holston (E) (C) (First)**

01 **Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Board of 1634**

02 *PURPOSE: Provides Conference guidelines and support for higher education and various campus ministries*  
03 *in our Conference.*

04 *MEMBERSHIP: Persons interested in the ongoing spiritual formation of young adults within the context of*  
05 *campus life.*

06 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

07 ***Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

08 *MEETINGS: Quarterly for two half-day conferences & two meetings*  
09

10  
11 **Chairperson**

12 *The Rev. Jason Perkowski (W) (C) (Second) Email: [jbperkowski@gmail.com](mailto:jbperkowski@gmail.com)*

13  
14 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

15 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

*The Rev. Dr. Andrew L Foster, III (E) (C)*

16 *The Rev. Diana Esposito (S) (C), Wesley Foundation*

17 **Members**

18 *Mrs. Jessica Edonick (S) (LW) (Second)*

*The Rev. Lori Wagner (E) (C) (Second)*

19 *The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C) (Second)*  
20  
21

22 **I-Care Team**

23 *PURPOSE: Provides Pastoral support in matters of sexual misconduct by those in ministerial roles that are*  
24 *brought to the attention of the Bishop.*

25 *MEMBERSHIP: no less than 12 persons.*

26 ***Appointed By: the Bishop***

27 *MEETINGS: Determined by committee.*  
28  
29

30 **Co-Chairperson**

31 *The Rev. Dr. Brunilda Martínez (W) (C) Email: [icare-epa@epagnj.org](mailto:icare-epa@epagnj.org)*

32 *The Rev. Dr. Truman Brooks (S) (C) Email: [icare-epa@epagnj.org](mailto:icare-epa@epagnj.org)*

33 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

34 *Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)*

*The Rev. Sean Lee, Assistant to the Bishop*

35 ***DS Representative, The Rev. Steve Pittman (S) (C)***

36 **Members**

37 *The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C)*

*Mr. Maurice Simmons (E) (LM)*

38 *Ms. Susan Adamczyk (E) (LW)*

*Ms. Cressa Morris (E) (LW)*

39 *Ms. Jessica Miller (W) (L)*

*Ms. Barbara Revere (E) (LW)*

40 *The Rev. Robb Faller (W) (C)*

*The Rev. Allen Keller (S) (C)*

41 *Mrs. Penny Harris (W) (LW)*

*The Rev. Deanna M. Geiter (W) (C)*

42 *Rev. Dave Alderson (N) (C)*

*Mrs. Carol Adams (S) (LW)*

43 *Ms. Dayra Adorno (W) (L)*

*The Rev. Dave Botzer (N) (C)*

44 *Rev. Zachary Hopple (E) (C)*  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54



01 **Latino Commission ¶655**

02 *PURPOSE: Works to advocate for all ministries related to Latino persons and churches*

03 *MEMBERSHIP: Two persons per Latino congregation or ministry. Ex-Officio: 2 District and/or Associate*  
04 *Superintendents; Director of Connectional Ministries; Coordinator of the Office of Latino Ministries.*

05 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

06 ***Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

07 *MEETINGS: As determined by committee*

08 **Co-Chairpersons**

09 *The Rev. Ricardo Ramos (S) (C) (First) Email: [pastorricardo@olivetumc.org](mailto:pastorricardo@olivetumc.org)*

10 *Mr. Marcos Ríos (S) (LM) (Second) Email: [riosmarcos30@gmail.com](mailto:riosmarcos30@gmail.com)*

11  
12  
13 **Ex-Officio (Voice only)**

14 *The Rev. María (Lisa) Quesada DePaz (E) (C)*

*The Rev. Noé Gabriel López, Director of  
Social Impact & Belonging*

16  
17 **Resources/Advisory (Voice only)**

18 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

**Secretary**

*Ms. Laurie Ortiz (S) (LW) (First)*

19 **Treasurer**

20 *Ms. Beditza Cadillo (E) (LW) (First)*

21  
22 **Members: Youth Representatives**

23 *Mr. Bryan Serrano (S) (LM) (First)*

*Ms. Michelle Cygan (N) (LW)(First)*

24 *Ms. Melanie Monegro (E) (LW) (First)*

25 **Congregations Representatives**

26 *Ms. Vianca Corazon (N) (LW) (First)*

*Mr. Joaquín De Jesus (W) (LM) (First)*

27 *Mr. Felix Delgado (E) (LM) (First)*

*Ms. Ludi Hernandez (E) (LW) (First)*

28 *Ms. Carmen Bruno (E) (LW) (First)*

30  
31  
32 **Lay Ministry, Board of (630.3)**

33 *PURPOSE: Provides training support and resources for effective lay ministry at the local church, District,*  
34 *and Conference level.*

35 *MEMBERSHIP: Recommended membership: District Lay Leaders; Conference Lay Leader; Associate*  
36 *Conference Lay Leader; United Women in Faith representative; United Methodist Men representative;*  
37 *Youth Council representative; Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries; Director of Christ Servant*  
38 *Ministry; Director of Lay Academy; 6 members; and 5 clergy with voice and vote.*

39 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

40 ***Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

41 *MEETINGS: Zoom every third Wednesday of the month*

42  
43  
44 **Chairperson**

***Conference Lay Leader (to be elected at Laity Session)***

45  
46 **Vice-Chairperson**

47 *Ms. Suzette James (E) (LW)*

48 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

49 *Mr. George Hollich (W) (LM)*

*The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

50 *Mrs. Judith K. Ehninger (N) (LW)*

*Ms. Rhonda Rea (E) (LW)*

51 *Mrs. Brenda Binns (N)(LW)*

*The Rev. Lorelei Toombs,*

52 *The Rev. Hun Ju Lee (N) (C)*

*Director of Lay Leadership Development*

01 District Lay Leaders

02 Ms. Carol Gibson (E) (LW)  
03 Dr. Dennis Booher (N) (LM)  
04 Ms. Jennifer Lafferty (S) (LW)  
05 Mrs. Susan Grimm-Mattox (W) (LW)

**Ms. Marilyn Mason (E) (LW)**  
Ms. Patricia Wilson (N) (LW)  
Ms. Frances Whittington (S) (LW)

06 Members

07 Mr. Aubrey L. Bates (S) (LM)

Mrs. Diana Wrisley (S) (LW)

08  
09  
10

**LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Team**

11 *PURPOSE: Established by Resolution 2025-02, during the 2025 Annual Conference, the team will serve the*  
12 *primary purposes of 1) actively supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQIA+) laity,*  
13 *clergy, and candidates for ministry; 2) centering and amplifying the voices and experiences of the LGBTQIA+*  
14 *community especially those marginalized by church and society; 3) monitoring Annual Conference committee*  
15 *and policies, as well as the status and needs of candidates and clergy under appointment to ensure justice an*  
16 *equity; 4) curating, creating, and sharing resources to equip local churches for relationship building and*  
17 *continuing education and meaningful ministry with and for LGBTQIA+ church and community members; and*  
18 *collaborating with ministry-specific areas, particularly children’s, youth and campus ministry, in desire to safe*  
19 *and most effectively be in ministry with and for LGBTQIA+ people of all ages.*

20 *MEMBERSHIP: No minimum or maximum number allotted by resolution, but with a make-up of 1/3 LGBTQIA-*  
21 *persons, and with intentional diversity of ages, genders, races and ethnicities, and geographic representation*  
22 *across Conference by Districts, and those with established leadership in the area of LGBTQIA+ justice and*  
23 *inclusion.*

24 *RESOURCE: Executive Director of Connectional Ministries*

25 *NOMINATED (NAMED) BY: The Resident Bishop, Cynthia Moore Koikoi*

26 *MEETINGS: By Zoom, approximately 6 times per year*

27  
28  
29

Co-Chairpersons

**Sophy Gamber (E) (C) (First) Email: [rev.sophygamber@gmail.com](mailto:rev.sophygamber@gmail.com)**  
**Karen Bartkowski (E) (C) (First) Email: [revkarenbartkowski@gmail.com](mailto:revkarenbartkowski@gmail.com)**

30  
31  
32  
33  
34 Resource

35 Executive Director of Connectional Ministries

36 Members

37 **Tess Feiler (E) (L) (First)**  
38 **Diana Esposito (S) (L) (First)**  
39 **Bob Amundsen (S) (C) (First)**  
40 **Nancy Amundsen (S) (L) (First)**  
41 **Herb Snyder (E) (C) (First)**

**Lydia Munoz (E, OL-NPHLM) (C) (First)**  
**Julia Singleton (E) (C) (First)**  
**Alina Torres-Zickler (S) (L) (First)**  
**Kaila Torres-Zickler (S) (L) (First)**

42  
43  
44  
45

**Loan Fund Board**

46 *PURPOSE: Oversees management of the Loan Fund for the Annual Conference)*

47 *MEMBERSHIP: 12 persons. Four classes of 3 persons each elected for a term of 4 years, including the*  
48 *Conference Treasurer (as per Loan Fund corporate bylaws), who shall be the Loan Board Treasurer.*

49 **Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

50 *MEETINGS: 4th Wednesday of October, January, April, and July, 10:00 a.m. at the Conference Office*

51  
52  
53  
54

01 President

02 Ms. Frances G. Whittington (S) (LW); Email: [envirogirl75@gmail.com](mailto:envirogirl75@gmail.com)

03  
04 Vice-President

05 Mr. Jeffrey Paiste, Vice President (N) (LM)

06 Secretary

07 The Rev. James D. Anderman (W) (C)

08 Treasurer

09 **Ms. Danielle Andrews, Conference Treasurer / Chief Financial Officer**

10 Ex-Officio (Voice only)

11 Bishop Cynthia Moore Koikoi (C)

12 Resource

13 Mr. Matthew Morley, Esq., Legal Counsel

14 Members

15 Mr. Dave Sheffield (N) (LM)

Ms. Lenora Thompson (S) (LW)

16 Ms. Kimberly McGrath (W) (LW)

Mr. Edward Gross (S) (LM)

17 **Mr. Timothy Yingst (W) (LM)**

18  
19  
20  
21 **LUMINA (Lancaster United Methodist Inner City Alliance)**

22 *PURPOSE: To share the love of God by equipping and encouraging people who experience poverty and*  
23 *hardship. Our vision for Lancaster City: every person restored to the vital and productive life God intended.*  
24

25  
26 President

27 **Mrs. Susan Kepner, (W) (LW) Email: [skepner@comcast.net](mailto:skepner@comcast.net)**

28  
29 Vice-President

30 To be named by LUMINA Board

31 Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)

32 The Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer (W) (C)

The Rev. Correen Russo (W) (C) – Co-Director

**The Rev. Yareliz Martinez Lopez (W-OL Puerto Rico)**  
**(C) – Co-Director**

33  
34  
35 Members

36 Mr. John Hostetter (W) (LM)

Mrs. Susan Voran (W) (LW)

37 Mrs. Pat Lee (W) (LW)

Mr. Robert Hean (W) (LM)

38 Ms. Kathryn Kepner (W) (LW)

The Rev. José Tirado (W) (C)

39 **Mrs. Jessica Henry (W) (LW)**

**Ms. Shakeama Smith (W) (LW)**

40  
41  
42  
43 **Metro Ministries, Inc., United Methodist**

44 *PURPOSE: Supports and advocates for ministries in Philadelphia and Chester within the Annual Conference*

45 *MEMBERSHIP: 7 people. The Director of Urban and Global Ministries; a D.S. from a Metro district; 2 clergy*

46 *representatives from the Metro area; 2 UM laypersons from the metro districts who are active members of*

47 *The UMC and residents of the area served by Metro Ministries; 1 UM layperson who is an active member of*

48 *a UMC in Chester and is resident of the Chester area. The Conference Chief Financial Officer shall be the*

49 *Treasurer.*

50 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

51 **Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

52 **MEETINGS: 4 to 6 times per year at Carson Simpson Farm**

01 President

02 The Rev. Robert Johnson (E) (C) (First) Email: [revr11@msn.com](mailto:revr11@msn.com)

03 Secretary

04 Mrs. Millicent Clark (E) (LW) (Second)

05 Treasurer

06 Ms. Danielle Andrews (LW), CFO

07  
08 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

09 The Rev. Steve Pittman, District Superintendent Rep. The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, Dir. of Connection Min.

10 The Rev. Myra Maxwell, Urban Commission Rep. Mr. Jonathan Curtis, Director Carson Simpson Farm

11 The Rev. Noé Gabriel López, Director of Social Impact & Belonging

12  
13  
14 Members

15 Mr. William Preston Thompson Sr. (S) (LM)

Ms. Marilyn Mason (E) (LW)

16 Ms. Janet A Mills (E) (LW)

Ms. Charisma Presley (E) (LW)

17 Rev. Eric Carr (S) (C)

18  
19  
20 Mid-Atlantic Faith Foundation

21 *PURPOSE: To oversee the investment strategies and management of all assets held by the Mid-Atlantic*  
22 *Faith Foundation (legally known as the Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation) and*  
23 *provide stewardship education and resources.*

24 *MEMBERSHIP: 8-16 persons. Nominated by the Foundation; elected by the Annual Conferences, three of*  
25 *these shall be the Conference Treasurers/Chief Financial Officers of the Conferences served, or an appointed*  
26 *representative of the Conference.*

27 **Nominated by: Membership of the Board**

28 **MEETINGS: The Board meets quarterly in February, May, August, and November.**

29  
30  
31 Interim President

32 The Rev. Daniel Hepner (E) (C); Email: [elem2003@comcast.net](mailto:elem2003@comcast.net)

33 Vice-President

34 **To be named by the Committee**

35 Secretary

36 Ms. Tammy Bowman (S) (LW)

37 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

38 Mr. Philip Rutledge, Esq.

39 Conference Treasurers

40 Ms. Danielle Andrews (EPA) (LW)

Mr. Paul J. Eichelberger (PenDel & BaltWash) (LM)

41  
42 EPA Members

43 The Rev. Daniel Hepner (EPA-E) (C)

Other Members

Mr. Barry A. Crozier (PD) (LM)

44 Ms. Sharon Hermann (EPA-S) (LW)

Mr. John Ridgeway (PD) (LM)

45 Ms. Tammy Bowman (EPA-S) (LW)

Ms. Marsha Johnson (PD) (LW)

46 The Rev. Dr. Truman Brooks (EPA-S) (C)

Mr. Lawrence Pelham (PD) (LM)

47 The Rev. Johnson Dodla (EPA-S) (C)

Ms. Barbara Rutt (PD) (LW)

Mr. William E Westbrook (PD) (LM)

The Rev. Conrad Link (BW) (C)

The Rev. Andrea King (BW) (C)

01 **Rev. Ben Rigsby (BW) (C)**  
02 **Mr. Carl Eichenwald (BW) (LM)**

03 Mid-Atlantic Faith Foundation Staff:

04 **Executive Director**

05 **Rev. Cary James (BW) (C)**

06 **Email: [cary.james@midatlanticfoundation.org](mailto:cary.james@midatlanticfoundation.org)**

07 Associate Director

08 **Mr. Frank C. Robert (LM)**

09 Operations Manager

10 **Ms. Tracy Brown (LW)**

11 Assistant Director

12 **Ms. Annabel Lusardi (LW)**

13 Director of Client Services

14 **Mr. Tom Tenesa (LM)**

15 Communications Coordinator

16 **Ms. Kendell Daly (LW)**

17 **Pen-Del Area Representative**

18 **Rev. Bruce Jones (C)**

19  
20  
21  
22  
23 **Native American Ministries, Committee on 1654**

24 *PURPOSE: Develops and promotes Native American ministries across the EPA; gives voice to Native*  
25 *Americans; provides leadership to the Conference to meet the mandate to recognize the gifts and*  
26 *contributions made by Native Americans to our society*

27 *MEMBERSHIP: 10 persons. 2 co-chairpersons, financial secretary; 6 members to include persons of*  
28 *Native American heritage and non-Native Americans with a passion for NA ministries.*

29 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

30 ***Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

31 *MEETINGS: As determined by the committee*

32  
33  
34 Team Leader

35 **Ms. Sandra Cianciulli (E) (LW) Email: [524sandic@gmail.com](mailto:524sandic@gmail.com)**

36 Secretary

37 **Ms. Verna Colliver (E) (LW) (Second)**

38 Treasurer

39 **Ms. Joy Frazier (E) (LW) (Second)**

40 Member Emeritus (Voice and Vote)

41 **Mr. Bob C. Hinderliter (S) (LM)**

42 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

43 **The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)**

44 **Mrs. Sharon Wack (S) (LW) (Second)**

**Mr. Ron Williams (First)**

**Ms. Terri Leone (NC, Resource)**

45  
46  
47 Members

48 **The Rev. Dr. Suzanne Wenonah Duchesne (C) (Second)**

49 **Mrs. Paula Shifflet (W) (LW) (Second)**

50 **The Rev. Andrea Haldeman (W) (C) (First)**

51 **Ms. Barbara Revere (E) (LW) (Second)**

52 **The Rev. Barbara Lee (N) (C) (First)**

**Mr. Mike Shifflet (W) (LM) (Second)**

**Ms. Ann Abbott (S) (LW) (First)**

**The Rev. John Coleman (GNJ) (C) (First)**

**The Rev. Deborah Appler (N) (C) (First)**

**Ordained Ministry, Board of ¶635**

*PURPOSE: Oversees the entire process of ordination for all candidates for ordained ministry within the annual conference*

*MEMBERSHIP: In accordance with para. 635. A term of four years. EPA rules for BOOM are no more than 3 quadrennium. At least 6 ordained elders and deacons in full connection, and when possible, at least two associate members or local pastors who have completed the Course of Study shall be included as members of the board with voice and vote. At last 1/6 laypersons that can include diaconal ministers and can be up to 1/3 laypersons. Membership shall include women and ethnic persons, at least one ordained clergy person in the retired relationship, at least one ordained clergy person in extension ministry, and when possible at least one young adult clergy person in full connection age 35 or younger and a district superintendent named by the bishop to represent the cabinet.*

*RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries, Conference Lay Leader*

*Nominated by: The Resident Bishop*

*MEETINGS: 6 to 8 meetings per year at West Lawn UMC*

**Co-Chairpersons**

*Rev. Tracy Duncan (S) (C) (First) Email: [revtracy51@gmail.com](mailto:revtracy51@gmail.com)*

*Co-Chairperson, To Be Determined by BOOM*

**Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

*North DCOM Chair(s)*

*West DCOM Chair(s)*

*South DCOM Chair(s)*

*East DCOM Chair(s)*

*Conference Lay Leader*

**Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

*Rev. Hun Ju Lee, (N) (C)*

*Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

*Rev. Steve Pittman, (S) (C)*

**Registrar**

*Rev. Deborah Gildart-Hanks (S) (C)*

**Treasurer**

*Ms. Sheri Kentner (S) (LW)*

**Secretary**

***Rev. Deanna Geiter (W) (C)***

**Residence in Ministry (RIM) Coordinator**

*Rev. Karen Bartkowski (E) (C)*

**Members**

*Rev. Tawny L. Bernhardt (E) (C)*

*Rev. John Bletsch (S) (C)*

*Rev. Bradley Leight (E) (C)*

*Rev. Darryl Stephens (W) (C)*

*Rev. Greg Impink (S) (C)*

*Rev. Mark Terry (S) (C)*

*Rev. Nina Patton-Semerod (N) (C)*

*Mrs. Karen Fisher (E) (LW)*

*Rev. Thomas Ebersole (S) (C)*

*Mr. Ken Dickinson (E) (LM)*

*Ms. Carol Gibson (E) (LW)*

*Rev. Eric Yeakal (N) (C)*

*Rev. Wendy Orzolek (S) (C)*

*Rev. Jen Miller (N) (C)*

*Rev. Mark Young (S) (C)*

*Rev. Joy Griffin (S) (C)*

*Rev. Eric Carr (S) (C)*

*Rev. Truman Brooks (S) (C)*

*Rev. Gary Nicholson (C) (S)*

***Rev. Melissa Madara (W) (C)***



01 **Prison Ministries and Restorative Justice**

02 *PURPOSE: Support and promote criminal justice and mercy ministries in local churches; provide resources,*  
03 *training, and networking for restorative justice ministries; encourage local congregations to develop prison*  
04 *and restorative justice ministries*

05 *MEMBERSHIP: Up to 10 persons. Chairperson; 1 member from each district, other interested persons*

06 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

07 ***Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

08 *MEETINGS: As determined by committee*

09  
10  
11 **Chairperson**

12 *The Rev. Marilyn Schneider (S) (C) (Second) Email: [mschneider2222@gmail.com](mailto:mschneider2222@gmail.com)*

13 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

14 *Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)*

15 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

16 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

17 **Members**

18 *Mr. Scott Johnson (S) (LM) (Second)*

*The Rev. Jeffrey Kapp (W) (C) (Second)*

19 *Mr. Luke Taylor-Storm (S) (LM) (Second)*

*Ms. Valerie Langston (S) (LW) (Second)*

20 *Mrs. Lorraine Haw (E) (LW) (Second)*

*The Rev. Lisa Flory (W) (C) (First)*

21 ***LaVerne Murphy-Arriaga (S) (L) (Interim)***

22  
23  
24 **Religion and Race, Commission on ¶643**

25 *PURPOSE: Advocates for inclusion, respect, and justice for all persons regardless of racial/ethnic identity*  
26 *or religion.*

27 *MEMBERSHIP: min 10 people. One from each district plus 6 or more persons for expertise or interest.*

28 ***Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

29 *MEETINGS: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month from 1:00-2:30 p.m. via Zoom*

30  
31  
32 **Co-Chairpersons**

33 *Ms. Barbara Revere (E) (LW) (First) Email: [bre2696294@aol.com](mailto:bre2696294@aol.com)*

34 *The Rev. Stacey Jones-Anderson (E) (C) (First) Email: [revsia2016@gmail.com](mailto:revsia2016@gmail.com)*

35  
36 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

37 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

*The Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer (W) (C)*

38 *The Rev. Noé Gabriel López, Director of*  
39 *Social Impact & Belonging*

*Mr. Mertice M. Shane (N) (LM)*

*The Rev. David Wesley Brown (E) (C)*

40 **Members**

41 *The Rev. María (Lisa) Quesada DePaz (E) (C) (First)*

*The Rev. Mel Lehman (S) (C) (Second)*

42 *Ms. Janet A. Mills (E) (LW) (First)*

*The Rev. John Bletsch (S) (C) (Second)*

43 *The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C) (Second)*

*The Rev. Jacqueline Tilford (S) (C) (First)*

44 *Mr. Dennis Fisher (E) (LM) (Second)*

***Wilhelmina Young (E) (LW) (Interim)***

45 *The Rev. Raphael Koikoi (E) (C) (First)*

***Rev. Sophia Gamber (E) (C) (Interim)***

46 ***Rev. YoungHak Lee (GNJ-S) (C) (Interim)***

***Rev. Hedwige Mutwale Mulakay (W) (C) (Interim)***



01 **Safe Sanctuaries**

02 *PURPOSE: Educates and creates guidelines for providing safe spaces for children and youth in*  
03 *church-related activities*

04 *MEMBERSHIP: 10 persons representing all districts, one laity, and one clergy, 1/2 of whom shall be persons*  
05 *of diverse racial/ethnic background. Three classes of 4 persons serving a 4-year term. Ex-Officio:*  
06 *Chairperson of I-Care Team, Representative of Conference Trustees.*

07 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

08 ***Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

09 *MEETINGS: Four times a year as scheduled by the chairperson to review all church's Safe Sanctuaries*  
10 *policies for compliance*

11 **Chairperson**

12 *The Rev. Jacqueline D. Daniszewski (N) (C) (First) Email: [pastorjackiedd@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjackiedd@gmail.com)*

13  
14  
15 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

16 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

***Ms. Danielle Andrews, CFO***

17 *Representative of Conference Trustees*

***Representative of I-Care***

18 *The Rev. Lorelei Toombs, Director of Lay Leadership Development*

19  
20 **Members**

21 *The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C) (Second)*

*Ms. Kathy Dries (E) (LW) (Second)*

22 *Mrs. Elizabeth Christie (N) (LW) (First)*

*Mr. Lemuel (Jack) Ross, Jr. (E) (LM) (Second)*

23 *Mrs. Maryann Griffith (S) (LW) (Second)*

*The Rev. Bob Garvey (W) (C) (First)*

24 *Ms. Joyce Gailliard (E) (LW) (First)*

***Deaconess Yvette Diaz (W) (LW) (First)***

25  
26  
27  
28 **Status and Role of Women, Commission on ¶644**

29 *PURPOSE: Advocates for the status and the role of women in all Conference events and promotes women in*  
30 *leadership positions*

31 *MEMBERSHIP: Determined by Annual Conference in compliance with Discipline, paragraph 644 which*  
32 *recommends 1/3 laywomen, 1/3 laymen, 1/3 clergy with the majority being women. Recommend by EPA: One*  
33 *representative from each district; 1 representative from the Board of Ordained Ministry; 1 representative*  
34 *from UMW and UMM; 6 members for expertise and/or balance.*

35 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

36 ***Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

37 *MEETINGS: As determined by committee*

38  
39  
40 **Chairperson**

41 ***Ms. Suzette James (E) (LW) (First), Email: [sjd624@ymail.com](mailto:sjd624@ymail.com)***

42 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

43 *Mr. Edward Gale (S) (LM) (First)*

44 **Resource/Ad (Voice Only)**

45 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

46 **Members**

47 *Mrs. Ethel L. Malone (E) (LW) (Second)*

*Ms. Janet A. Mills (E) (LW) Second)*

48 *Ms. Patricia Wilson (N) (LW) (Second)*

*Mrs. Ethel K. Hibbs (E) (LW) (Second)*

49 *The Rev. Betty Murphy (E) (C) (First)*

*Ms. Tonya Goodwin (E) (LW) (First)*

50 *Ms. Suzette James (E) (LW) (First)*

*Mrs. Catherine Exum (S) (LW) (First)*

51 *Deaconess Barbara Skarbowski (W) (LW)*

01 **Trustees, Board of 1640 and 2512**

02 *PURPOSE: Oversees the maintenance, use, and value of all assets owned by the Conference.*

03 *MEMBERSHIP: 12 persons. It is recommended that 1/3 be clergy, 1/3 laymen, and 1/3 laywomen. Three*  
04 *trustees shall be elected each year for a term of 4 years and may serve a second term.*

05 *RESOURCE: The Bishop, Director of Connectional Ministries, District Superintendent selected by the Bishop,*  
06 *Chief Financial Officer, Conference Chancellor*

07 ***Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

08 *MEETINGS: 1st Thursday (September to June) from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm via ZOOM*  
09

10  
11 **President**

12 Rev. VK Macwana (E) (C) Email: [vkmacwana@epaumc.org](mailto:vkmacwana@epaumc.org)

13  
14 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

15 *Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)*

*The Rev Dr. Andrew L. Foster, III (C) (E)*

16 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

***Ms. Danielle Andrews, CFO***

17 ***Rev. Mark Salvacion, Conference Chancellor***

18 **Vice-President**

19 *Rev. Dr. Larry D. Pickens (N) (C)*

20 **Secretary**

21 *Rev. Mary Jane Kirby (W) (C)*

22 **Members**

23 *The Rev. Sunil Balasundaram (E) (C)*

*The Rev Rose Marquardt (N) (C)*

24 *The Rev. Rodney Brailsford (E) (C)*

*The Rev. Julian Milewski (N) (C)*

25 *The Rev. Greg Ellis (N) (C)*

*Mrs. Marilyn Mason (E) (LW)*

26 *Mr. Bob Lamson (N) (LM)*  
27  
28  
29

30 **United Methodist Men**

31 *PURPOSE: To engage all United Methodist men in ministry, missions, and spiritual growth opportunities*

32 *MEMBERSHIP: As determined by the UMM.*

33 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries, Conference Lay Leader, one District Superintendent*  
34 *selected by the Bishop and Cabinet*

35 ***Nominated by: The Membership***

36 *MEETINGS: 2nd Monday of every month*  
37  
38

39 **President**

40 Mr. Edward Gale (S) (LM) Email: [edgale09@gmail.com](mailto:edgale09@gmail.com)

41  
42 **Vice-President**

43 ***Rev. Dr. Sterling Eaton (S) (C) (First)***

44 **Secretary**

45 *To be elected by UMM*

46 **Treasurer**

47 *Mr. Delno Moyer (S) (LM)*  
48

49 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

50 *Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)*

*The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

51 *Conference Lay Leader*

*The Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster, III (E) (C)*  
52  
53  
54

01 Members

02 *The Rev. David Botzer (N) (C)*

*The Rev. Derrick Gutiérrez (W) (C)*

03 *Mr. Medford Pinkett (E) (LM)*

04

05

06

**United Women in Faith**

07 *PURPOSE: To engage women in faith in ministry, missions, and spiritual growth opportunities*

08 *MEMBERSHIP: As determined by United Women in Faith*

09 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries, Conference Lay Leader*

10 ***Nominated by: The Membership***

11 *MEETINGS: As planned annually throughout the Annual Conference*

12

13

**President**

14 *Mrs. Rhonda Rea (E) (LW) Email: [jrpiz@aol.com](mailto:jrpiz@aol.com)*

15

16

17 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

18 *Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)*

*The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

19 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

20 *National Program Advisory Group (PAG) Representative*

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

**Urban Commission**

43 *PURPOSE: Works to advocate for ministries related to children, youth, and adults in urban settings*

44 *MEMBERSHIP: up to 25 persons, lay and clergy, who are passionate, and/or, sense a call to and/or, are presently engaged in urban ministry with particular attention to diversity and location in metropolitan areas in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Ex-Officio: Associate Superintendent of Urban Ministries; one District Superintendent selected by the Bishop and Cabinet, Coordinator of Latino Ministries*

45 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries, Communications Representative*

46 ***Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

47 *MEETINGS: As determined by committee*

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

01 Co-Chairpersons

02 The Rev. David Eckert (S) (C) (Second) Email: [pastordavid.mumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastordavid.mumc@gmail.com)

03 The Rev. Myra Maxwell (E) (C) (Second) Email: [pastormvraimax1@gmail.com](mailto:pastormvraimax1@gmail.com)

04  
05 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

06 The Rev. Dawn Taylor Storm (S) (C)

07 Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)

08 Rev. Noé Gabriel López, Director of Social Impact & Belonging

09 Rev. Steve Pittman, District Superintendent Rep.

10 Rev. María (Lisa) Quesada DePaz, Hispanic/Latino Ministries Coordinator (EPA&GNJ)

11 Communications Representative

12  
13  
14 Members

15 The Rev. Dr. Brunilda Martínez (W) (C) (Second)

Mr. Maurice Simmons (E) (LM) (Second)

16 The Rev. Alicia M. Juliá-Stanley (E, OL-GNJ) (C) (Second)

The Rev. Robin Hynicka (E) (C) (Second)

17 The Rev. Victor Giménez (S) (C) (Second)

The Rev. Eric Carr (E) (C) (Second)

18 Ms. Jean Kershaw (E) (LW) (Second)

Ms. Lenora Thompson (S) (LW) (Second)

19 The Rev. Navin Satyavrata (E) (C) (Second)

Dr. Lewis Wilford (S) (LM) (Second)

20 The Rev. Terry Bridges (E) (C) (Second)

Mrs. Donna Burchess (N) (LW) (First)

21 Ms. Clare Schilling (S) (LW) (First)

The Rev. Ricardo Ramos (S) (C) (First)

22 Ms. Michelle Cygan (N) (LW) (First)

Ms. Karyn Schoolfield (S) (LW) (First)

23 The Rev. Lela Hartranft (N) (C) (First)

Ms. Vianca Corazon (N) (LW) (First)

24  
25  
26  
27  
28 Volunteers in Mission & Disaster Response

29 *PURPOSE: Promotes and supports the Volunteers in Mission program that sends workgroups to various mission sites. Responds to disasters and keeps the conference informed about disasters within the bounds of the conference, and trains coordinators at least once a quadrennium.*

30  
31  
32 *MEMBERSHIP: Recommend: one from each district; EPA Disaster Response Coordinator, EPA Early Response Coordinator, EPA Early Response Team Coordinator, Volunteers in Missions Coordinator, and persons specializing in site management, training, mitigation, and disaster spiritual care.*

33  
34  
35 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

36 **Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

37 *MEETINGS: As determined by committee*

38  
39 Chairperson

40 The Rev. Russell Atkinson (S) (C) Email: [pastor@dhum.org](mailto:pastor@dhum.org)

41 Resource/Advisory (Voice only)

42 The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)

43 Mrs. Denise Shelton (S) (LW)

The Rev. J. Allen Keller (S) (C)

44 Members

45 The Rev. Dr. David P. Harris (W) (C)

Mrs. Susan Grimm Mattox (W) (LW)

46 **The Rev. Kris Pursel (W) (C) (Interim)**

**Wesley Student Foundation: Drexel**

*PURPOSE: UMC Campus Ministry at Drexel University*

*MEMBERSHIP: As directed by the bylaws*

*RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries, Conference Lay Leader, one District Superintendent selected by the Bishop and Cabinet*

*Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership*

*MEETINGS: 3 to 4 times a year, evenings on zoom*

**President**

***Mrs. Elizabeth Christie (N) (LW); Email: [elizabeth.d.christie@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.d.christie@gmail.com)***

**Vice-Preside**

***The Rev. Victor Giménez (S) (C)***

**Secretary**

***The Rev. Jason Perkowski (W) (C)***

**Treasurer**

***Ms. Danielle Andrews, EPA CFO***

**Resource/Advisory (Voice only)**

*The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, Exec Director of Connection Ministries*

*The Rev. Diana Esposito, Campus Chaplain*

***Mr. Eric Drew, Director of Young People’s Ministry***

***District Superintendent Representative***

***Conference Lay Leader***

**Members**

*The Rev. Michael Callahan (S) (C)*

*The Rev. Joanne Miles (S) (C)*

*The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C)*

*Mr. Zack Levy-Dyer (Drexel)*

*Ms. Jessica Jushchyshyn (Drexel Alum)*

*Mx. Ollie Richard (Drexel)*

*The Rev. Meagan Esterby (Drexel) (NC)*

**Youth (¶649) & Young Adult Ministries (¶650), Council on**

*PURPOSE: Plans and supports ministries that enable youth (ages 12-18) and young adults (ages 19-35) to be actively involved in the life of the church.*

*MEMBERSHIP: Recommended Young Adult: representation from all four districts. Recommended Youth: as listed in (¶649 & 650)*

*RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries, Conference Lay Leader, one District Superintendent selected by the Bishop and Cabinet*

***Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

*MEETINGS: 4 to 6 times a year as needs arise in various settings based on events throughout the year*

**Co-Chairpersons**

***Ms. Aixa Preston (W) (LW) (Interim); Email: [aixapreston12@gmail.com](mailto:aixapreston12@gmail.com)***

***Ms. Ana Santiago (W) (LW) (Interim); Email: [anayasliz14@gmail.com](mailto:anayasliz14@gmail.com)***

01 Resource/Ad (Voice Only)

02 *The Rev. Dawn E. Taylor-Storm (DCM)*

03 ***Mrs. Kate Monahan (EPA&GNJ Cabinet Rep)***

04

05 Members

06 *Mrs. Denise J. Harris (E) (LW) (Second)*

07 *The Rev. Jason Perkowski (W) (C) (Second)*

08 ***Rev. Kofi Ashley (N) (C) (Interim)***

09 ***Ms. Augusta Dweh (S) (LW) (Interim)***

10 ***Rev. Zach Hoppie (E) (C) (Interim)***

11

12 Youth Jurisdictional Representative 2024

13 *Ms. Alisabeth Guepet (N) (LW)*

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

*Mr. Eric Drew (Director of Young People's Min)  
Conference Lay Leader*

*Mrs. Elizabeth Christie (N) (LW) (First)*

*Rev. Shayla Johnson (S) (C) (First)*

***Ms. Ernestine Giahvue (S) (LW) (Interim)***

***Mr. Mike Nelson (S) (LM) (Interim)***

***Mr. Nick Hill (E) (L) (Interim)***

**Eastern PA Connectional Table**

*PURPOSE: The purpose of the Connectional Table (CT) is for the discernment and articulation of the vision for the Annual Conference and the stewardship of the mission, ministries, and resources of The Eastern PA Conference as determined by the actions of the Annual Conference and in consultation with the Council of Bishops.*

*MEMBERSHIP: Each committee chairperson of the Annual Conference or representative*

*RESOURCE: Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministry*

*MEETINGS: 4-6 times per year*

*Lenora Thompson, Chairperson (LW) Email: [lenorathompson@hotmail.com](mailto:lenorathompson@hotmail.com)*

**Membership**

|                               |                                                                           |                                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>James Anderman</i>         | <i>Committee on Conference Sessions</i>                                   | <i>pastorjim@palmyrafirst.org</i>   |
| <i>Jody Anderson</i>          | <i>Domestic Violence Ministry, Co-Chair</i>                               | <i>jander678@gmail.com</i>          |
| <i>Russell Atkinson</i>       | <i>Volunteers in Mission (VIM) &amp; Disaster Response</i>                | <i>pastor@dhum.org</i>              |
| <i>Karen Bartkowski</i>       | <i>LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Team, Co-Chair</i>                                  | <i>revkarenbartkowski@gmail.com</i> |
| <i>Truman Brooks</i>          | <i>I-Care Team, Co-Chair</i>                                              | <i>icare-epa@epagnj.org</i>         |
| <i>David Brown</i>            | <i>Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Accountability Team, Co-Convener</i> | <i>pastdave81@gmail.com</i>         |
| <i>Steve Cherry</i>           | <i>Conference Council on Finance and Administration</i>                   | <i>scherry@epagnj.com</i>           |
| <i>Sandra Cianciulli</i>      | <i>CONAM, Team Leader</i>                                                 | <i>524sandic@gmail.com</i>          |
| <i>Jacqueline Daniszewski</i> | <i>Safe Sanctuaries, Coord.</i>                                           | <i>pastorjackiedd@gmail.com</i>     |
| <i>Barbara Drake</i>          | <i>Global Ministries Team, Chair</i>                                      | <i>bedrake15@aol.com</i>            |
| <i>Tracy Duncan</i>           | <i>Board of Ordained Ministry, Co-Chair</i>                               | <i>revtracy51@gmail.com</i>         |
| <i>David Eckert</i>           | <i>Urban Commission, Co Chair</i>                                         | <i>pastordavid.mumc@gmail.com</i>   |
| <i>David Felker</i>           | <i>Human Resource Committee, Chair</i>                                    | <i>dfelker85@gmail.com</i>          |
| <i>Edward Gale</i>            | <i>United Methodist Men, Chair</i>                                        | <i>edgale09@gmail.com</i>           |
| <i>Sophy Gamber</i>           | <i>LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Team, Co-Chair</i>                                  | <i>rev.sophygamber@gmail.com</i>    |
| <i>Maryann Griffith</i>       | <i>Conference Committee on Leadership, Co-Chair</i>                       | <i>magteaches424@gmail.com</i>      |
| <i>Andrea Haldeman</i>        | <i>Camp &amp; Retreat Ministry, Board of, Co-Chair</i>                    | <i>pastorandii@gmail.com</i>        |
| <i>Suzette James</i>          | <i>Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Chair</i>                  | <i>sjd624@ymail.com</i>             |
| <i>Robert Johnson</i>         | <i>President of Metro Ministries</i>                                      | <i>revrlj1@msn.com</i>              |



|    |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
|----|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 01 | <i>Stacey Jones-Anderson</i> | <i>Religion &amp; Race, Committee on, Co-Chair</i>                        | <i>revsja2016@gmail.com</i>          |
| 02 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 03 | <i>Sue Kiefner</i>           | <i>Communication Ministry, Chair</i>                                      | <i>suekiefner@gmail.com</i>          |
| 04 | <i>Alvin Kingcade</i>        | <i>Board of Benefits, President</i>                                       | <i>alvin.kingcade@comcast.net</i>    |
| 05 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 06 | <i>John Lafferty</i>         | <i>Equitable Compensation, Chairperson</i>                                | <i>johnp@cellmylight.com</i>         |
| 07 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 08 | <i>VK Macwana</i>            | <i>Trustees, Board of, President</i>                                      | <i>vkmacwana@epaumc.org</i>          |
| 09 | <i>Bruny Martinez</i>        | <i>I-Care Team, Co-Chair</i>                                              | <i>bruny1960@gmail.com</i>           |
| 10 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 11 | <i>Myra Maxwell</i>          | <i>Urban Commission, Co-Chair</i>                                         | <i>myrajmax1@gmail.com</i>           |
| 12 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 13 | <i>Steve Morton</i>          | <i>Congregational Development Team, Chair</i>                             | <i>scmorton3@gmail.com</i>           |
| 14 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 15 | <i>Kelly Nelson</i>          | <i>Camp &amp; Retreat Ministry, Board of, Co-Chair</i>                    | <i>kelly.m.nelsonn@gmail.com</i>     |
| 16 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 17 | <i>Jason Perkowski</i>       | <i>Higher Education &amp; Campus Ministry, Board of, Chair</i>            | <i>jbperkowski@gmail.com</i>         |
| 18 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 19 | <i>David Piltz</i>           | <i>Conference Committee on Leadership, Co-Chair</i>                       | <i>pastorpiltz@gmail.com</i>         |
| 20 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 21 | <i>Ricardo Ramos</i>         | <i>Latino Commission, Co-Chair</i>                                        | <i>pastorricardo@olivetumc.org</i>   |
| 22 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 23 | <i>Rhonda Rea</i>            | <i>United Women in Faith, President</i>                                   | <i>jrpic@aol.com</i>                 |
| 24 | <i>Barbara Revere</i>        | <i>Religion &amp; Race, Committee on, Co-Chair</i>                        | <i>bre2696294@aol.com</i>            |
| 25 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 26 | <i>Marcos Rios</i>           | <i>Latino Commission, Co-Chair</i>                                        | <i>riosmarcos30@gmail.com</i>        |
| 27 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 28 | <i>Mert Shane</i>            | <i>Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Accountability Team, Co-Convener</i> | <i>pastormert13@gmail.com</i>        |
| 29 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 30 | <i>Denise Shelton</i>        | <i>Disaster Response Committee, Coordinator (temp)</i>                    | <i>dshelton@epagnj.org</i>           |
| 31 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 32 | <i>Lenora Thompson</i>       | <i>Scholarship Committee &amp; Connectional Table, Chair</i>              | <i>lenorathompson@hotmail.com</i>    |
| 33 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 34 | <i>Theresa Yorgey</i>        | <i>Committee on Disability Concerns, Co-Chair</i>                         | <i>theresayorgey@gmail.com</i>       |
| 35 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 36 | <i>R. Mark Young</i>         | <i>Archives &amp; History, Commission on, Chair</i>                       | <i>alvkrinst@aol.com</i>             |
| 37 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 38 | <i>TBD</i>                   | <i>Conference Lay Leader</i>                                              |                                      |
| 39 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 40 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 41 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 42 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 43 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 44 | <i>Cynthia Moore-KoiKoi</i>  | <i>Bishop</i>                                                             | <i>bishopmoore-koikoi@epagnj.org</i> |
| 45 | <i>Sean Lee</i>              | <i>Assistant to the Bishop</i>                                            | <i>slee@epagnj.org</i>               |
| 46 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 47 | <i>Nicola Mulligan</i>       | <i>Executive Director of Administrative Services</i>                      | <i>nmulligan@epagnj.org</i>          |
| 48 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 49 | <i>Dawn Taylor-Storm</i>     | <i>Connectional Ministries, Executive Director of</i>                     | <i>dtaylorstorm@epagnj.org</i>       |
| 50 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 51 | <i>Danielle Andrews</i>      | <i>Chief Financial Officer / Conference Treasurer</i>                     | <i>dandrews@epagnj.org</i>           |
| 52 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 53 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |
| 54 |                              |                                                                           |                                      |

**Advisory**

|    |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 01 | <i>Hun Ju Lee</i>                                        | <i>Cabinet Representative</i>                             | <i>hjlee@epagnj.org</i>            |
| 02 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 03 | <i>Lisa DePaz</i>                                        | <i>Latino Ministries, Coordinator of.</i>                 | <i>ldepaz@epagnj.org</i>           |
| 04 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 05 | <i>Sarah Borgstrom Lee</i>                               | <i>Director of Communications</i>                         | <i>sborgstromlee@epagnj.org</i>    |
| 06 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 07 | <i>Apryl Miller</i>                                      | <i>Gretna Glen Camp &amp; Retreat Center, Director</i>    | <i>amiller@gretnaglen.org</i>      |
| 08 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 09 | <i>Samantha Charles</i>                                  | <i>Innabah Camp &amp; Retreat Center, Director</i>        | <i>Scharles@epagnj.org</i>         |
| 10 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 11 | <i>Jonathan Curtis</i>                                   | <i>Carson Simpson Farm, Director</i>                      | <i>director@csfarm.org</i>         |
| 12 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 13 | <i>Carmen O'Shea</i> <small>(until 7/31/26)</small>      | <i>Pocono Plateau Camp &amp; Retreat Center, Director</i> | <i>director@poconoplateau.org</i>  |
| 14 | <i>Jared Stoltzfus</i> <small>(effective 7/1/26)</small> | <i>Pocono Plateau Camp &amp; Retreat Center, Director</i> | <i>director@poconoplateau.org</i>  |
| 15 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 16 | <i>Marilyn Schneider</i>                                 | <i>Prison Ministry &amp; Restorative Justice, Chair</i>   | <i>prisonministries@epagnj.org</i> |
| 17 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 18 | <i>Denise Shelton</i>                                    | <i>Disaster Recovery Director</i>                         | <i>dshelton@epagnj.org</i>         |
| 19 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 20 | <i>Eric Drew</i>                                         | <i>Director of Young People's Ministry</i>                | <i>edrew@epagnj.org</i>            |
| 21 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 22 | <i>Noé Gabriel López</i>                                 | <i>Director of Social Impact &amp; Belonging</i>          | <i>glopez@epagnj.org</i>           |
| 23 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 24 | <i>Lorelei Toombs</i>                                    | <i>Director of Lay Leadership Development</i>             | <i>ltoombs@epagnj.org</i>          |
| 25 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 26 | <i>Juel Nelson</i>                                       | <i>Director of Clergy Leadership Development</i>          | <i>jnelson@epagnj.org</i>          |
| 27 | <i>Sang Choi</i>                                         | <i>EPA Associate Superintendent</i>                       | <i>shoi@epagnj.org</i>             |
| 28 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 29 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 30 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 31 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 32 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 33 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 34 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 35 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 36 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 37 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 38 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 39 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 40 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 41 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 42 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 43 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 44 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 45 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 46 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 47 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 48 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 49 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 50 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 51 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 52 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 53 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |
| 54 |                                                          |                                                           |                                    |

01 **East District**

02 *Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster III, District Superintendent*

03 *Mrs. Carol Gibson, District Co-Lay Leader*

04 ***Mrs. Marilyn Mason, District Co-Lay Leader***

05  
06  
07 **BOARD OF CHURCH LOCATION & BUILDING**

08  
09 **Chairperson: Mr. Kenneth Kugel**

10 **Ex Officio:** *Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster III*

11 **Secretary:** *Mr. Andy Rozek*

12  
13 **Members:**

14 **Class of 2027:**

15 *Mrs. Karen Fisher, Laity*

*Mr. Gerald Ketterer, Laity*

*Mr. Kenneth Kugel, Laity*

16  
17 **Class of 2028:**

18 *Mr. Andy Rozek, Laity*

*Mr. Maurice Simmons, Laity*

*Rev. Nancy Ludwig, Clergy*

19 **Class of 2029:**

20 *Rev. Rodney Brailsford, Clergy*

*Mr. Les Brown, Laity*

***Rev. James LaMontagne, Clergy***

21  
22  
23 **DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY**

24  
25 **Co-Chairpersons:** *Rev. Don Keller and Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck*

26 **Ex Officio:** *Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster III*

27 **Co-Registrars:** *Ms. Sandra Lozada*

28  
29 **Secretary:** *Rev. Christina J. Keller-Schick*

30 **Lay Leader:** *Ms. Carol Gibson*

31  
32 **Members:**

33 *Rev. Don Keller (Clergy-Elder)*

*Mrs. Karen Fisher (Laity)*

34 *Rev. Navin Satyavrata (C-Elder)*

*Ms. Carol Gibson (Laity, CLM)*

35 *Rev. Maryanne Ditter (C-Deacon)*

*Ms. Jean Kershaw (Laity)*

36 *Darlene DiDomineck, (Laity, Deaconess)*

*Rev. Christina J. Keller-Schick (C-Elder)*

37 *Ms. Sandra Lozada (Laity, Lay Supply Pastor)*

*Rev. Alisa Lasater Wailoo (C-Elder)*

38  
39 ***Rev. Sophia D. Gamber (C-Local Pastor)***

40  
41  
42 **DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY**

43 **Chairperson:** *Rev. Jackie Stewart (C)*

44 **Ex Officio:** *Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster III*

45  
46 **Lay Leader:** *Mrs. Carol Gibson and Mrs. Marilyn Mason*

47 **Members:**

48 *Rev. Jackie Stewart*

*Ms. Denise Beecher*

49 *Rev. John Brice*

*Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck*

50 *Rev. Cindy Brubaker*

*Mrs. Karen Fisher*

51 *Mrs. Carol Gibson*

*Rev. Jeong Gyun Hong*

52 ***Rev. Sophia Gamber***

***Mr. Shawn Mack***

53 ***Mrs. Marilyn Mason***

01 **North District**

02 **Rev. Hun Ju Lee, District Superintendent**  
03 **Mr. Dennis Booher & Ms. Patricia Wilson, District Lay Leaders**

04  
05  
06  
07 **BOARD OF CHURCH LOCATION & BUILDING**

08  
09 **Chairperson:** Rev. Julian Mileski

10 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Hun Ju Lee

11 **Members:**

12  
13 *Rev. Rose Marquardt, Clergy      Rev. Kay Painter, Clergy      Rev. Eric Yeakel, Clergy*  
14 *Mr. Ken Bass, Laity                      Rev. Julian Milewski, Clergy*  
15 *Mr. Robert Shrepple, Laity              Rev. Jack Murray, Clergy      Ms. Deanna Gade, Laity*  
16  
17

18 **DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY (DCOM)**

19 **Chairperson:** Rev. Rick Brown II

20 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Hun Ju Lee

21 **Registrar:** Rev. Barbara Lee

22 **Secretary:** To be elected by DCOM

23 **Lay Leaders:** Ms. Patricia Wilson & Mr. Dennis Booher

24 **Members:**  
25 *Rev. Rick Brown II (C)                      Mrs. Judith Ehninger (L)*  
26 *Rev. Jennifer Miller (C)                      Ms. Patricia Wilson (L)*  
27 *Rev. Barbara Lee (C)                          Mr. Dennis Booher (L)*  
28 *Rev. Todd Glasmire (C)*  
29  
30  
31

32 **DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY**

33  
34 **Chairperson:** Rev. David Felker (C)

35 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Hun Ju Lee

36 **Lay Leaders:** Ms. Patricia Wilson & Mr. Dennis Booher

37 **Members:**

38  
39 *Rev. David Felker                                      Ms. Vianca Corazon*  
40 *Mr. Aaron Forney                                      Rev. Kimberly Leskowich*  
41 *Ms. Sue Lawson                                          Mr. Dennis Booher*  
42 *Ms. Christina Lewis                                      Ms. Ann Tinner*  
43 *Mr. Jay Morgan*  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54

01 **South District**

02 **Rev. Steven Pittman, District Superintendent**  
03 **Ms. Frances Whittington & Ms. Jennifer Lafferty, District Lay Leaders**

04  
05  
06 **BOARD OF CHURCH LOCATION & BUILDING**

07  
08  
09 **Co-Chairpersons:** Rev. Mary Jane Kirby & Ms. Gail Armstrong

10 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Dr. Steven Pittman

11  
12 **Members:**

13 **Class of 2027:**

14 Mr. Richard Freeze, Laity Rev. Mark E. Beidman, Clergy Rev. James Harper, Sr., Laity

15 **Class of 2028:**

16 Ms. Gail Armstrong, Laity Mr. Charlie Cooper, Laity

17 **Class of 2029:**

18 Mr. Alvin Kingcade, Sr., Laity Rev. Scott Johnson, Clergy

19  
20  
21  
22 **DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY**

23  
24 **Co-Chairpersons:** Rev. John Inghram & Rev. Tamie Scalise

25 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Dr. Steven Pittman

26 **Registrar:** Rev. Joanne Miles (C-Deacon)

27 **Secretary: To Be Elected**

28 **Lay Leader:** Ms. Frances Whittington & Ms. Jennifer Lafferty

29  
30  
31 **Members:**

32 Rev. John Inghram Mr. Clinton Amoss  
33 Rev. Tamie Scalise Mr. Alvin Doeleh  
34 Rev. Joanne Miles Ms. Jennifer Lafferty  
35 Rev. John Bletsch Ms. Frances Whittington

36  
37  
38 **DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY**

39  
40 **Acting Chairperson:** Ms. Joan Lawson (L)

41 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Dr. Steven Pittman

42 **Lay Leaders:** Ms. Frances Whittington & Ms. Jennifer Lafferty

43  
44 **Members:**

45 Rev. Suzette Douglass-Brown Ms. Rebecca Bennington  
46 Rev. Carl Houston Ms. Jennifer Lafferty  
47 Ms. Barbara Phillips Ms. Frances Whittington  
48 **Rev. Jakov Choi (new)** Mr. William Thompson

01 **West District**

02 **Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer, District Superintendent**  
03 **Mrs. Sue Grimm Mattox, District Lay Leader**

04  
05  
06 **BOARD OF CHURCH LOCATION & BUILDING**

07  
08 **Chairperson:** *To be Determined*

09 **Ex Officio:** *Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer, DS*

**Lay Leader:** *Mrs. Susan Grimm Mattox*

10 **Members:**

11 **Class of 2027:**

12 *Rev. Kent Kroeler* *Mr. John Spear*

13 **Class of 2028:**

14 *Rev. Jim Anderman (2025)* *Rev. Kris Pursel (2025)*

15 **Class of 2029:**

16 *Rev. Bob Gravey (2026)* *Mr. Adam Hawk (2026)* *Ms. Jennifer Vazquez (2026)*

17  
18  
19  
20  
21 **DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY (DCOM)**

22  
23 **Co-Chairpersons:** *Rev. Kerry Leeper & Rev. Derrick Gutierrez*

24 **Ex Officio:** *Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer, DS*

**Lay Leader:** *Mrs. Susan Grimm Mattox*

25 **BOOM Representative:** *Rev. Kerry Leeper*

**Bi-Lingual (English/Spanish):** *Rev. Bruny Martinez*

26 **Registrar:** *Ms. Susan Kepner*

**Secretary:** *Rev. Deanna Geiter*

27  
28 **Class of 2027 –**

29 *Rev. Kerry Leeper (2024) – Clergy*

30 *Rev. John Laughlin (2024) – Clergy*

31 *Ms. Heidi Bianco (2024), Lay*

*Rev. Bruny Martinez (2024) – Clergy*

*Ms. Lynn McCord (2024), Lay*

32 **Class of 2028 –**

33 *Rev. Jeff Kapp (2025), Clergy*

34 **Rev. Deanna Geiter (2020) Clergy**

*Rev. Correen Russo (2025), Clergy*

**Mrs. Sue Kepner (2020) - Lay**

35 **Class of 2029 –**

36 *Rev. Derek Gutierrez (2023) – Clergy*

37 **Rev. Melissa Madara (2026) – Clergy**

*Rev. Robb Faller (2023) – Clergy*

38  
39  
40 **DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY**

41 **Chairperson:** *Rev. David T. Ryan (C)*

42 **Ex Officio:** *Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer, DS*

43 **Lay Leader:** *Mrs. Susan Grimm Mattox*

44 **Members:**

45 **Class of 2027 –**

46 *Mr. David Wolverton (2025, C), Mrs. Lisa Kurtz (2025, L), Rev. Trevor Webster (2025, C)*

47 **Class of 2028 –**

48 *Mr. David T. Ryan (2025, C), Ms. Cynthia Forry (2025, L)*

49 **Class of 2029 –**

50 **Mr. Jim Brimmer (2026, L), Mr. Jim Martz (2026, L),**

51 **Mrs. Connie Gutierrez (2026, L), Mrs. Cab Kladky (2026, L)**

01 **RESOLUTION #2026-11: EQUITABLE COMPENSATION**

02  
03  
04 Resolution Regarding Equitable Compensation Recommendation for 2027

05  
06 Presented by the Commission on Equitable Compensation

07  
08 **WHEREAS**, it is a mandate of the Commission on Equitable Compensation to support clergy serving as  
09 pastors in the charges of the Annual Conference by recommending conference standards for pastoral  
10 support (§1624.2(a), 2024 Discipline), and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, the Commission is charged with annually recommending to the Annual Conference a  
13 schedule of minimum base compensation for all full-time pastors or those clergy members of the annual  
14 conference appointed less than full-time to a local church, subject to such rules and regulations as the  
15 conference may adopt (§1624.3, 2024 Discipline), and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, the Commission seeks to address the concerns of clergy compensation and recognize the  
18 economic difficulties encountered by churches,

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, the Commission seeks also to address the financial needs of clergy, we evaluate the realities  
21 of the current financial environment, including the COLA (Cost of living Adjustment) established by the  
22 Social Security Administration, and rising inflation,

23  
24 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Annual Conference establish minimum salaries reflecting a 3%  
25 increase for 2027. The schedule of minimum base salaries for persons under appointment in the local  
26 church for 2027 shall be as follows:

- 27  
28 a. Elders and Deacons in Full Connection \$51,724  
29 b. Provisional Deacons and Elders under full-time post-seminary appointments \$49,025  
30 c. Associate Members \$47,997  
31 d. Full-Time Local Pastors \$45,433  
32

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that to arrive at the minimum base salary for each pastor, the appropriate  
34 base salary listed above shall be increased by 1% for each year of service up to a maximum of 20 years.  
35 Years of service are determined by the number of fully completed prior to January 1, 2027; and

36  
37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that each church or charge, in recommending increases, consider increases  
38 above the minimum base salary, and that Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committees particularly take note  
39 of such areas as education, experience, skills, commitment, amount paid by clergy to Social Security  
40 as self-employed persons, family needs, and payment of health insurance; and changes to Westpath  
41 Retirement Plan that may reduce local church contributions and require clergy to contribute more to  
42 maintain the same level of contributions into their retirement.

43  
44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any amount provided as a housing allowance is not to be considered part  
45 of the minimum base salary as set forth in this resolution (§1252.4(e), 2024 Discipline); and

46  
47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any change in clergy minimum base salaries related to a change of clergy  
48 status through ordination, commissioning, or licensing in 2027 will become effective as of January 1,  
49 2028. Pastors receiving their first appointment are at level 0, and

50  
51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all full-time pastors shall have an accountable reimbursement expense  
52 line item in the church budget to cover mileage for pastoral work, continuing education, and other  
53 professional ministerial expenses as allowed by the IRS. This reimbursable amount shall be a minimum  
54



01 of \$2,500. For churches that are receiving Equitable Compensation support, their accountable  
02 reimbursement expense line should not exceed \$2,500, and

03

04 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if a church or charge cannot meet the standard of support for a full-  
05 time pastor, the Cabinet will be notified as soon as possible and appropriate action taken by the Cabinet  
06 (§623.1, 2024 Discipline), and

07

08 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that churches may apply to the Commission for a grant to assist the church in  
09 paying the pastor an equitable salary following the application process promulgated by the Commission.  
10 If a church is seeking a grant to pay the pastor more than the minimum specified by this resolution the  
11 measures of church vitality (worship attendance, making disciples, small group attendance, community  
12 outreach, and missional giving) will be considered, and

13

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that churches that receive Equitable Compensation Grants in one year and  
15 apply again in the subsequent year are expected to request 25% less than in the prior year, and

16

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that membership on the Commission shall include a representative number  
18 of persons of color to ensure that the perspective of persons of color of the Eastern Pennsylvania  
19 Conference be considered. This is in keeping with the Conference goal of Ending the Sin of Racism and its  
20 commitment to equity and economic justice.

21

22 Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: John Lafferty, Chair, Commission on Equitable  
23 Compensation

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

01 **RESOLUTION #2026-12: RENTAL/HOUSING ALLOWANCES DESIGNATION**

02  
03  
04 **Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons**

05  
06 **Presented by** Mr. Alvin Kingcade, President Board of Benefits

07  
08 **WHEREAS**, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which  
09 this Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference is part, has in the past functioned and continues to function  
10 through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or  
11 are duly ordained, commissioned or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”); and

12  
13 **WHEREAS** the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons  
14 with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS** pensions or other amounts paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be  
17 deferred compensation and are paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous  
18 active service; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the  
21 appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for retired and disabled Clergypersons  
22 who are or were members of this Conference.

23  
24 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments  
25 received from plans authorized under [The Book of Discipline \(2020/24 edition\)](#) of The United Methodist  
26 Church (“the *Discipline*”), which includes all such payments from Wespath during the year 2027 by each  
27 retired or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and  
28 hereby designated as rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

29  
30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the pension and disability payments to which this rental/housing  
31 allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized  
32 under the *Discipline*, including such payments from Wespath and from a commercial annuity  
33 company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or  
34 fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this  
35 Conference or that a retired or disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church,  
36 annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former  
37 denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson  
38 to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make  
39 contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such retired or disabled  
40 Clergyperson’s pension or disability as part of their gross compensation.

41  
42 **NOTE:** The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson’s gross income in  
43 any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and  
44 regulations thereunder to the least of (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by  
45 the Clergyperson’s employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the  
46 foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide  
47 a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances  
48 (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

01 **RESOLUTION #2026-13: MINISTERIAL PENSION RATE FOR PRE-82**

02  
03  
04  
05  
06  
07  
08  
09  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54

**Pertaining to the Ministerial Pension Rate for Pre-82**

**Presented by** Mr. Alvin Kingcade, President Board of Benefits

**WHEREAS** the mission Board of Benefits is to provide for and contribute to the support, relief, assistance and pensioning of those individuals who have dedicated their lives to the ministry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church and its Local Charges.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that on January 1, 2027, the ministerial pension rate for past service before January 1, 1982, shall be set at \$537 per year of credited service, and the personal contributor’s annuity derived from pre-1982 contributions shall apply towards the payment of the participant’s formula benefit. (Annual benefit is equal to Years of Service pre-82 x Past Service rate); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the surviving spouse benefit shall be 70% of the participant’s formula benefit; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Benefits is authorized to make annual deposits at the end of the calendar year required by Wespath Benefits and Investments for the purpose of funding for past service before January 1, 1982.

01 **RESOLUTION #2026-14: ADVANCE SPECIAL APPLICATIONS**

02  
03  
04 **Resolution relating to Advance Special Applications**  
05 **Presented by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Global Ministries Team**

06  
07 **WHEREAS**, the Conference Advance Special is a program of ministry which can seek funds from a local  
08 church that keeps its financial commitments to the Conference and General Church in full in the previous  
09 year’s budget and has a desire to extend its support of the mission of the church through designated  
10 giving; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, a list of Conference Advance Specials would resource local churches, either in need of  
13 support for their programs and ministries, or local churches eager to extend their support of the mission  
14 of the church; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, practicality indicates that a list of conference advance specials be available as soon as  
17 possible after they are approved;

18  
19 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following programs and ministries of the annual conference  
20 having completed the appropriate applications, be designated as a list of Conference Advance Specials  
21 for the year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

22  
23 **COKESBURY SUMMER READING AND LUNCH PROGRAM . . . . . \$3,000**

24 Applicant: Sandra M. Cislo  
25 307 Market Street, Marcus Hook, PA 19061  
26 610-416-5112. [smcislo@yahoo.com](mailto:smcislo@yahoo.com)

27  
28 Cokesbury UMC provides FREE healthy lunch for 4 weeks during summer school break on Monday-  
29 Thursday for pre-k through 5th grade children who live in the high poverty areas of Marcus Hook,  
30 Trainer, and Lower Chichester. Research shows that while all students experience educational setbacks  
31 during the summer, those setbacks are more challenging and have a more devastating, long-term impact  
32 for economically disadvantaged children. Without the benefit of free school breakfast and lunch during  
33 the summer, children who are food insecure go hungry. Recognizing that education can be the key to  
34 unlocking the chains of poverty, Cokesbury UMC seeks to provide needed educational and nutritional  
35 support for the at-risk children of their community. Participants also receive free books to start or  
36 expand home libraries, and bookbags with school supplies at the end of the program.

37  
38 **LIBERIA EDUCATION PROJECT . . . . . \$7,500**

39 Applicant: Dennis L. Fisher, Board of Directors Chairperson  
40 Liberia Education Project c/o Somerton United Methodist Church  
41 13073 Bustleton Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19116  
42 215-673-2745 (o), 215-356-3193 (c), 215-860-5577 (h) [dkfisher@comcast.net](mailto:dkfisher@comcast.net)

43  
44 The Liberia Education Project (LEP) is a non-profit corporation bringing educational opportunities to the  
45 people of Liberia, West Africa, especially the disadvantaged boys and girls of rural areas. The Board of  
46 Directors is primarily composed of members of Somerton UMC. The volunteer Executive Director is Jacob  
47 Madehdou, from Liberia, who attends Somerton UMC. By 2009 a rural church was renovated into a one-  
48 room school. Since then, a 4-room school was built, and later enlarged to 6 rooms, and the Ghenwein  
49 Mission School was registered with the government. A well was dug and a bathroom with flushable  
50 toilets was built. In 2023 a multipurpose building was equipped with a kitchen, dining room, food  
51 storage area, and two rooms for teacher lodging. Classroom furniture, books and school supplies have  
52 been provided for the students, along with a drum set for parades and events, and teachers have been  
53 provided with training courses to increase their skills and keep their government certification. Today the  
54 school has nearly 200 children registered from pre-K to 6th grade, and the 2025 graduates excelled in

01 standardized testing for West African countries. Funding for salaries is provided for 5 certified teachers  
02 and 7 other staff members. The \$7500 we hope to raise will be a matching gift of six months of teacher  
03 pay. In the USA, concerts and other fundraising activities have brought awareness of the plight of the  
04 people of Liberia, and many people have become supporters. These programs have also helped  
05 bring people closer together, dismantling racism, and reducing poverty. More information is available at  
06 [www.liberiaeducationproject.org](http://www.liberiaeducationproject.org)

07  
08 **LIGHT OF MARNIE . . . . . \$10,000**

09 Applicants: Jennifer and John Lafferty  
10 315 Municipal Drive, Thorndale, PA 19372  
11 John: 610-470-1369 [JohnL@lightofmarnie.org](mailto:JohnL@lightofmarnie.org).  
12 Jennifer: 610-766-0944 [JenL@lightofmarnie.org](mailto:JenL@lightofmarnie.org)

13  
14 Light of Marnie was started to support SHALOCA Christian Academy, an elementary school in Lower  
15 Johnsonville, Liberia, West Africa. The school was founded by Rev. James Coleman when he was serving  
16 in Liberia. Due to his untimely passing in 2023, his daughter, Jaminie, is now in charge of the school.  
17 She is a citizen of Liberia and a nursing school graduate, who sees the potential for adding a clinic at the  
18 school for the community. Light of Marnie has a Board of Directors in the USA which does fund-raising,  
19 and SHALOCA has a Board of Directors in Liberia with United Methodist members in both locations.

20  
21 Since 2022, Light of Marnie has been partnering with Eddystone United Methodist Church to refurbish  
22 its unoccupied parsonage to house Ukrainian refugees. Light of Marnie’s partnership with Eddystone  
23 UMC has created community involvement with the Eddystone Borough, local businesses, and other  
24 churches, organizations, and individuals. The Ukrainian families attend worship weekly and are involved  
25 in the life of the church. One family was assisted to move closer to the father’s employment location,  
26 and while that space was empty, fundraising was done and a full bathroom was added on the third  
27 floor. A new family is now being sought for that space. A separate Board of Directors with its own bank  
28 account was established to manage the parsonage project. Eddystone UMC has been working to help  
29 overcome the racism of its community and is now sharing space with a Black Pentecostal Congregation  
30 and added in 2026 a Black Baptist Church. Jennifer and John Lafferty are Certified Lay Ministers, with  
31 John serving as the pastor assigned to Eddystone UMC, and Jennifer serving as South District Co-Lay  
32 Leader and member of the Global Ministries Team.

33  
34 **LUMINA. . . . . \$10,000**

35 Applicant: Correen Russo, Executive Director & Yareliz Martinez Lopez, Co-Directors  
36 20 E. Clay Street, Lancaster, PA 17602  
37 717-394-8412 (office), 717-808-8633 (cell), [correen.lumina@gmail.com](mailto:correen.lumina@gmail.com).

38  
39 LUMINA serves nearly 1,000 economically disadvantaged individuals in the Lancaster/Lebanon area  
40 annually with the help of volunteers, financial support, and donations of food and clothing from United  
41 Methodist churches and United Women in Faith. LUMINA shares God’s love with neighbors in need  
42 through the following programs:

- 44 • Children’s Ministries: cost-free discipleship programs, summer day camp, field trips, and camp
- 45 scholarships for underserved city children.
- 46 • Clothing: New winter coats, pajamas, shoes, socks, and other clothing for children in need.
- 47 • Nutrition/Cooking Education: free classes, food, and kitchen tools for low- income adults with
- 48 vulnerable dependents, to improve their health and quality of life (currently working with
- 49 migrant farm workers).
- 50 • Food Box Distribution: providing over 10,000 lbs. of food and New Testaments each month at no
- 51 cost to neighbors who are food insecure.
- 52 • Tool Awards – providing over \$200 in new construction tools to each graduating high school
- 53 senior student doing a building trades internship with Manifest.

- 01 • Manifest Urban Alliance – partnering with Lancaster churches committed to addressing  
02 emergent issues of those experiencing or in danger of experiencing homelessness.

03

04 **NESHAMONY UMC FEMALE HYGIENE PRODUCTS MINISTRY . . . . . \$4,000**

05 Applicant: Rev. VK Macwana  
06 325 Main St. Hulmeville, PA 19056  
07 215-310-8493, [Revvk@guardianangels.foundation](mailto:Revvk@guardianangels.foundation)

08

09 This ministry exists to serve women and girls who lack consistent access to basic hygiene necessities.  
10 We serve women and girls from low-income families, homeless and housing-insecure women, single  
11 mothers facing financial hardship, refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seeking families, teenage girls in  
12 underserved communities, and women in crisis situations, such as domestic violence shelters. Our goal is  
13 to serve 300 women and girls annually, ensuring that they do not have to choose between basic hygiene  
14 and other essential needs such as food, rent, or medication.

15

16 **SPIRITUAL RENEWAL MINISTRIES, INC. . . . . \$8,000**

17 Applicant: Rev. Sara Davis-Shappell  
18 P.O. Box 724 Southeastern, PA 19399, 610-873-3988 (O), 610-613-6253 (C) [SpiritualRM@aol.com](mailto:SpiritualRM@aol.com)

19

20 This ministry is an unofficial Approved Agency of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United  
21 Methodist Church, providing spiritual direction, retreats, and seminars for over 30 years. Financial  
22 donations are used for scholarships to churches, groups, and individuals desiring to deepen their  
23 relationship with God in Jesus Christ and overcome racism, poverty, and injustice which are destructive  
24 to relationships with God, others, and self. During the last 5 years with the backlash of COVID, and  
25 the changes in our denomination, more clergy and laity are seeking spiritual direction to nourish their  
26 personal relationship with God, so they may be fuller vessels for others during these ongoing difficult  
27 times. Members of the conference clergy and laity make up the board of directors.

28

29

30

31 **THE CENTER-PHILADELPHIA @ ARCH STREET UMC . . . . . \$7,500**

32 Applicant: Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck & Brian Graves  
33 55 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
34 215-568-6250 [darlene@archstreetumc.org](mailto:darlene@archstreetumc.org)

35

36 The Center-Philadelphia is a day-time drop-in shelter and social service provider for adults experiencing  
37 homelessness in Center City, Philadelphia. Incorporated as an independent 501 (c)(3) organization in  
38 2018, the Center provides guests with warm meals; a clothing closet; shower and laundry services; socks,  
39 underwear, and hygiene supplies; computer access, device charging, and mail pick-up; case management  
40 and housing assessments; and a clean, calm space to relax, socialize. Up to 50 individuals per day benefit  
41 from the services, and the drop-in shelter received 8543 guests in 2025. On Sunday evenings, Center  
42 staff and volunteers prepare and serve a home-cooked, nutritionally balanced meal for our unhoused  
43 and unsheltered neighbors facing food insecurity. The community meal, known as Grace Café, attracts 80  
44 – 100 individuals per week. Between Grace Café and daytime services, the Center served 10,050 meals  
45 in 2025. The Center also coordinates a nurse-led wellness space offering blood pressure and blood sugar  
46 screenings, weight and vision checks, food baths, wound care, harm reduction supplies, vaccinations,  
47 coordination of care and assistance in maneuvering area healthcare systems. The Center structures its  
48 programming around accessibility, and it prioritizes a low-barrier environment. No identification or proof  
49 of income is required to access Center services, which are open to all persons regardless of race, sex,  
50 ethnic background, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, immigration status,  
51 or spiritual tradition. Many of The Center’s guests and volunteers view Arch St. UMC as their spiritual  
52 home.

53

54

01 **WESLEY FOUNDATION OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA . . . . . \$10,000**

02 Applicant: Rev. Deacon Diana Esposito  
03 3225 Arch Street, Office 012A, Philadelphia, PA 19014, 484-685-6347  
04 Mailing address: 980 Madison Ave., Norristown, PA 19403  
05 [opendoordrexel@gmail.com](mailto:opendoordrexel@gmail.com)  
06

07 The Wesley Foundation of the City of Philadelphia serves the Drexel University campus and community  
08 and directly serves students through the Open Door Christian Community student organization. We  
09 serve alongside students, faculty, and staff to meet physical and spiritual needs on campus and in the  
10 community. We believe strongly in loving God through loving our neighbors. Because many college  
11 students face food insecurity, we offer a free weekly hot meal to anyone on campus who is in need. In  
12 2025 we served 36 meals, ensuring each one had a balanced combination of protein, vegetables and  
13 fruit. These meals offer a space for community building, especially for international students who may  
14 feel isolated from the broader campus community. This is the first year we were able to serve meals in  
15 the summer. During winter break we gave \$700 in gift cards to 7 students who were unable to go home.  
16 Students are invited to participate in community service, such as stuffing 100 backpacks with hygiene  
17 supplies for The Center-Philadelphia at Arch St. UMC. Faith formation is offered through individual  
18 discipleship and the Voices of Faith in Social Justice Action conversation series. We empower students  
19 to take leadership roles through internships and the management of these ministries, expanding  
20 their reach beyond the hours the campus chaplain is available. Students led worship services with the  
21 Christian Association at the University of Pennsylvania. Our prayer is that collaborations with student  
22 organizations, relevant EPAUMC offices or committees , and the Lindy Center for Civic Engagement at  
23 Drexel University will inspire students to deepen their involvement in important issues so they can take  
24 action in their communities.

25  
26 **Note:** Advance Special status allows fundraising letters to be sent to churches of EPC but does not  
27 guarantee that funding will be provided. Church treasurers are advised to remit contributions through  
28 the monthly remittance. Funds will then be forwarded to the approved Conference Advance Special.

29  
30 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Deaconess Barbara Drake, Conference Secretary of  
31 Global Ministries.

32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54



# REPORTS

# CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY-2026 REPORT TO THE UMC ANNUAL CONFERENCES

As **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** continues in its second century of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world, we are heartened by the work and witness of The United Methodist Church and look forward to our enduring partnership as the denomination moves into its next chapter with a vision to **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously**.

An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler has a strong Methodist presence among our students, faculty and staff, while holding true to the Wesleyan value of ecumenical openness. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 507 from 11 countries, 42 states, 45 denominations, 34 UM annual conferences, and 50% persons of color. We see this diversity as a blessing, enriching our life together and providing the perfect context for training for relevant ministry in the 21st century—ministry that cultivates community across difference, welcomes all to contribute and belong, and embodies Christ's love in and among us.

Last fall Candler welcomed its largest incoming class in over a decade. This strong enrollment reflects years of intentional work to reimagine programs, continue to invest in faculty excellence, and offer robust scholarship support through the generosity of alumni and friends. And even more importantly, it reflects that God is still calling people to join the holy work of transforming the world in Jesus' name.

Candler offers six degrees, most of which are available in hybrid or online formats. Nearly a quarter of MDiv students participate in Candler's Teaching Parish program, earning course credit by serving as student pastors in local churches. And our proven DMin program—with a remarkably high 94% completion rate—is 90% online. These flexible options along with Candler's recognized academic excellence and hands-on learning opportunities are opening possibilities for more people to follow God's call to ministry.

Reducing financial barriers to high-quality theological education remains a top priority at Candler. This year, we are on track to award nearly \$8.5 million in scholarship support across degree programs. All MDiv students receive scholarships, with those who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receiving full tuition.

Several programs beyond our formal degrees make Candler a true hub of Christian learning. The Candler Foundry, our public theological education initiative, offers in-person and online courses, events, and certificate programs. The United Methodist Course of Study School at Candler worked with 19 annual conferences to educate licensed local pastors in 2025. The Candler Center for Christian Leadership, which trains United Methodist leaders in best business practices, now has certified facilitators in 33 annual conferences. And a recent \$10 million grant from Lilly Endowment will further develop Candler's La Mesa Academy, a multicultural, multilingual program dedicated to the theological education of lay ministers.

We are preparing for a leadership transition in summer of 2026, as Jonathan Strom completes his tenure as dean of Candler in July. We invite your prayers as we search for the school's next dean.

When we talk to Candler alumni and students about their call, one thing becomes clear: The specifics may be different, shaped by their unique gifts, contexts, and life experiences, but their drive to join God's work of transforming lives and the world is a constant. We recently launched a series called "Candler Changemakers" highlighting the range of fascinating ways our alumni are leading change as they fulfill their call. Follow along on our website ([candler.emory.edu](http://candler.emory.edu)) and social media to see how God is working through them. You'll be inspired!

—Office of Communications  
Candler School of Theology, Emory University

# NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES – EPA CONAM REPORT TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

EPA CoNAM is dedicated to our mission “to raise awareness of the history, traditions and contributions of Native Americans in our churches and communities” as stated in our brochure (available at [www.epaumc.org/conam](http://www.epaumc.org/conam)).

CoNAM meets monthly on Zoom and communicates its programs and activities through the Conference website. With no Native American churches within the boundaries of Eastern PA Conference, EPA CoNAM collaborates with GNJ CoNAM in support of St. John UMC, Bridgeton NJ, and partners with Circle Legacy Center, a Native American nonprofit group in Lancaster PA.

In partnership with Circle Legacy Center, CoNAM hosted a reception at Carlisle United Methodist Church during Jim Thorpe Sports Days, an annual event at the Carlisle Army Barracks in Carlisle.

CoNAM Team members participated in the NEJNAMC Annual Meeting held virtually in October 2025.

To fulfill our mission statement, our key emphasis is education on the history, tradition and contributions of Native Americans and advocacy on issues that impact their lives today. In the past year we have done this in a variety of ways:

- Presented the Loss of Turtle Island at the Annual Meeting of the East District United Women of Faith, and at Community Mennonite Church in Lancaster PA.
- Approved funding for scholarships to support Native American students.
- Collaborated with Susquehanna Annual Conference in drafting a resolution supporting legislation to create a Truth and Healing Commission on Boarding Schools and presented the resolution at Annual Conference in May 2025.
- Provided input for development of Native American activities for the camping program at Gretna Glen.
- Provided financial support for mission trips to Pine Ridge in South Dakota and the Lumbee Tribe in North Carolina.

EPA CoNAM is funded by the Native American Ministries Special Sunday Offering with additional donations and fundraisers that help us to continue our important mission to raise awareness of Native American issues and to be in ministry with our Native American siblings.

Submitted by Verna Colliver, EPA CoNAM Secretary,  
January 2026

# EPAUMC COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

**Annual Conference Report- Prepared by Barbara Revere & Stacey Jones-Anderson, Co-Chairs**

## **Vision:**

The Conference Commission on Religion and Race (CORR) assists The United Methodist Church in Eastern Pennsylvania to foster intercultural competency and cooperation, live into institutional equity, and engage in straightforward, Christian conversations. We strive to provide practical resources and support to leaders throughout the Church to help them engage and embrace the cultural diversity present in our congregations and communities.

## **Mission:**

**To challenge, equip and enable full and equal participation of the racial ethnic constituency in EPAUMC. The mission will be fulfilled by:**

- Ensuring inclusiveness as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- Supporting leaders who are committed to the overall goals of the General Commission on Religion and Race.
- Giving voice to the issues and concerns of racial ethnic people within the bounds of EPAUMC.
- Developing and/or distributing resource materials related to issues of racism, diversity, inclusivity and institutional equity.
- Participating as an active stakeholder in the implementation of the NE Jurisdiction Call to Action.
- Monitoring all levels of the church for equity, and advocating for justice where inequity is found.

## **Expectations for Members of this Commission:**

- Attend all scheduled monthly meetings - either by video, phone or in person. A maximum of 3 unexcused sessions will be granted (discussion will occur concerning your commitment). If you are unable to fulfill your regular engagement with this commission your participation will be discontinued and a replacement made.
- Reply promptly to all email and text requests for a response - especially those identified as URGENT!
- Participate in preparing and sharing a devotion for at least one CORR meeting.
- Represent CORR at other Conference and Church related events and gatherings – especially with groups, churches, Districts, task forces, and connectional ministries and events.

## **2025 Accomplishments/Met Goals**

- **Spring 2025** – Reviewed all Annual Conference Resolutions for Implicit Bias.
- **January 18th- Healing the Wounds of Racism and Cross Racial/Cross-Cultural (CRCC) Ministries** presented a **Dismantling Racism Level II** workshop using the General Commission on Religion and Race curriculum called Building Bridges.
- **Tools for Ministry** – CRCC training was provided at the following three district sites.
- North District: **March 15th** at Asbury UMC in Allentown.
- South-East Region: **March 8th** at Eastern University in St. Davids.
- **March 2025** – Completed CRCC Leadership Academy Development videos on Culture, Implicit Bias and Micro-aggressions.
- **Dismantling Racism Level I** course was offered on **May 9th and 10th** via zoom. Course content was understanding current concepts and language about diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) values and practices.

- **May 2025 Annual Conference Feedback Card Report** – Received 48 completed cards. During the 3 days of conference over 50 cards were distributed. A feedback report was presented to Bishop Moore-Koikoi and the Cabinet on June 5th.
- **Overall findings - Praise Report** - Conference has been awesome. Praise & worship was inspiring, challenging, encouraging and spirit filled. The preaching and teaching was powerful and Christ centered. Worship music and the liturgy were very effective at embracing multicultural elements and speaking directly to many in their own languages. **Conference Session** – The overall tone and pace of the conference was positive. Tables in some of the handicap seating areas was a blessing. Individuals experienced or witnessed success when they saw Queer – Inclusion Committee, diversity on the stage and when siblings was used in scripted prayers. Everyone had a chance to be heard. Many were impressed by the leadership of our conference and their commitment to equity and diversity in our membership and mission. What a beautiful moment of healing. Thank you, Bishop and Cabinet, for the call of accountability and forgiveness. To see that in action was faith-affirming. Bishop Moore-Koikoi is amazing and has shown that she is a spirit filled, compassionate leader. We are blessed! The fact that she kept dialog moving during resolutions – kept people to 3 minutes and did not allow applause. Likewise, she knows the rules of order and never let anything get out of hand. **Concerns** – Serving stations were not consistent during worship. Communion bread either broken by one individual or server wearing gloves then dipped in the cup; some were drinking out of the cup! There are a lot of new members in leadership; hence, where ever possible the names of participants should be presented on screen. Changes to Nominations Report should be said slower and spelled out when possible. Daily summaries would be greatly appreciated as well to help many members prepare their reports. The location of the Sign Language Interpreter was wrong. It needed to be in the direct line of sight of the people speaking. Our Tuesday dinner should not be segregated between clergy and laity. Promoting unity should be our goal. This action seemed elitist to me. Can we **ALL** please have the little tables like the handicapped section had? They would make a world of difference. The first day of Annual Conference coincided with **Primary Election Day in Pennsylvania**. If we are to advocate for justice, it is counterproductive to schedule annual conference at a time that interferes with people’s ability to participate in the political process. Better vegan food options, standing coffee & tea set up/stations and warmer rooms. **Please** return table seating for conference. We are jammed together and it is physically painful – especially on top of hours of driving. My health has been negatively impacted.
- **June 7th – Cross Racial/Cross Cultural Ministry** held training for New Clergy CRCC Appointments and Church via zoom.
- **August 7th - CORR** held our first in person meeting since the beginning of the Pandemic.
- **September 20th** – Monitored the Special Session of Annual Conference using a newly developed CORR-specific monitoring sheet. The Special Session monitoring report was provided to Bishop Moore-Koikoi and Cabinet on October 3rd. **Overall findings – Praise Report** - It was wonderful to see our conference use a diversity of languages when sharing information. For example, an ASL interpreter was available during the session up front. There was the use of Spanish, English and Korean songs, written and spoken. We witnessed the use of inclusive language in the land acknowledgement “Creator,” presentation of legislation and the bishop’s sermon. We observed diversity among speakers at the microphones and in leadership roles during the session. For example, racial/ethnic diversity: Asian, African-American, Hispanic/Latinx, White, +youth presenter, clergy and laity participation. **Concerns** - Unable to locate printed conference workbooks in languages other than English. Closed captioning not available for the hymn/song after Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster III opening prayer. The scripture screen wasn’t where the speaker was located. The “Praise the Lord” song was not in sync with the singers 100% of the time. We did not sing a song in Spanish and the scripture slides were slow to move. There was no intentionally gender neutral or feminine language for God. Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck was not introduced by her title, despite clergy being introduced as members. Would like to see more of a balance in participation of laity vs clergy. Gender identity was unclear because participants did not identify themselves. There were no name tags/pronoun tags used. Consequently,

gender identity was only visually assumed. Tindley Temple has some accessibility concerns. For example, unable to find an ADA bathroom on the same level as the entry way. Attendees had to go downstairs to reach the ladies restroom. No ramp to enter the church from the broad street entrance. Finally, did not see any hearing aid devices or visual aid material such as material printed using large font or material printed in Braille.

- On **Wednesdays October 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd CORR and Latino Ministries** co-sponsored and facilitated a conference-wide book study on the book entitled ***“The Making of a Dream. How a Group of Young Undocumented Immigrants Helped Change What It Means to Be American”*** by **Laura Wides-Munoz**. Registration for this study opened the first day of annual conference. Twenty-five **free** e-books were given to the first twenty-five individuals to register for the study. Three (3) **free** hard copies books were given to individuals who registered during annual conference and requested a hard copy.
- **Dismantling Racism Level I** course was offered on **October 17th, 18th, and 19th** via zoom. Course content was understanding current concepts and language about diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) values and practices.
- **Dismantling Racism Level II** was offered on November 8th via Zoom. The workshop was led by Rev. Greg Holston and it covered themes such as White Christian Nationalism and Structural Racism.



## CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES REPORT TO THE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### Disaster Response and Recovery

1. We celebrate our partnership with United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) through grants totaling \$1,195,585 in 2022 -2024 and the expansion of Hurricane Recovery efforts into Philadelphia with a grant extension approved from UMCOR of \$199,999 for 2025. In addition, other gifts and grants were given to support the work of Hurricane Ida & Isaias totaling \$137,026.76 for a total commitment thus far to EPA Recovery Efforts for Hurricane Ida & Hurricane Isaias of **\$1,532,610.74**.
1. We celebrate the completion of Hurricane Isaias repair projects and the community resilience that they will continue to carry with them as they actively engage with their own community neighborhood agencies.
1. We celebrate volunteer teams in EPA and beyond EPA serving alongside survivors repairing homes and rebuilding lives as we serve **67** families in the process of recovery. Including significant collaborations with AmeriCorps, World Renew, Team Rubicon and others.
1. We celebrate joining with GNJ to deploy an Emergency Response Team of 11 dedicated volunteers to aid in the Hurricane Helene response in North Georgia.
- We celebrate the collection of over 500 clean up buckets for donation to Mission Central that will be sent for future disaster response as needed.

### Camp & Retreat Ministries/Youth & Young Adult Ministries

- EPA-UMC Camps served **26,745** summer campers and guests in 2025.
- EPA-UMC Camps employed **152** young adults in the summer of 2025.
- EPA-UMC Camps received **\$603,287** from **1,051** donations and grants.
- EPA-UMC Camps had **551** volunteers giving approximately **62,522** hours of service.
- EPA-UMC Camps gave **\$71,420** in scholarships to support families attending camp.
- Churches & Ministries Scholarship support for summer camp totaled **\$104,564**
- **1700** students fed through the Wesley Foundation at Drexel University
- EPA joined with GNJ to support IGNITE 2025, a transformative youth experience for youth & youth leaders. IGNITE saw 700 youth and leaders from 68 churches and 4 Annual Conferences (GNJ, EPA, New York AC and Upper New York AC) come together for engaging worship, relevant messages and powerful community. In addition, 30 young adults from GNJ, EPA and NYAC volunteered provided event support for the weekend.
- Monthly Youth Leader Learning Calls included more than 20 leaders and 20 congregations. EPA hosts this monthly call on the first Monday evening and Friday at noon, every month. Join us!

### Social Impact & Belonging

- Conducted We Walk by Faith events across the conference, designed to empower congregations through theological grounding, storytelling, and actionable next steps for justice-centered discipleship and public witness.
- Led the Urban Strategy Task Force, contributing to the development of an urban plan focused on the revitalization and sustainability of urban ministry across the conference.



- Helped establish the Immigration Rapid Response Team, supporting conference-wide coordination, accompaniment, and referral pathways in response to emerging immigration needs.
- Supported and amplified conference-wide Know Your Rights trainings through strategic communication and coordination, ensuring broad congregational awareness and participation.
- In partnership with the Urban Commission and the Congregational Development Team, provided **\$128,000** in grant funding to **28** local churches and Wholeness Centers, strengthening community-based ministries responding to local needs.
- Supported and consulted with Wholeness Centers and local churches on community engagement, grant development, and sustainable ministry models.
- Collaborated with conference committees, commissions, and caucuses to advance equity, belonging, and shared accountability in conference life.
- Secured and coordinated vendors to facilitate Dismantling Racism 1 workshops in English and, for the first time, in Spanish, expanding access and participation across the conference.
- Provided pastoral and strategic support to congregations navigating community crisis, immigration concerns, and public witness, offering presence, guidance, and connection to conference resources.
- Exceeded the \$50,000 goal to support pastors in Tanzania with an equitable salary, strengthening global partnership and shared ministry.

### Clergy & Lay Leadership

- Launched our Leadership Academy Preaching Institute made possible by 1.3M grant funding through the Lilly Foundation in a collaborative grant with GNJ to develop the Leadership Academy Preaching Institute, designed to equip clergy in their preaching goals and provide a supportive community for growth and experimentation in preaching
- Expanded Bridges programming to EPA through a **\$750,000 Lilly Funded** matching grant, a new congregational training that is experiential, in-person opportunity for congregations to bridge to their congregations.
- EPA's online licensing school continues to offer a unique opportunity for candidates both locally and beyond.
- Over **1,600** individuals in EPA&GNJ resourced in areas of leadership, intercultural competency, missional giving, local church administration and congregational vitality. Online courses are actively being developed in both Korean and Spanish.
- A Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural pastor's cohort was offered with facilitators representing both EPA and GNJ.
- National and International Recruitment and connections with seminaries in EPA expanded to include Mosaic recruitment
- Expansion of Breakthrough, a sermon series resource, to **16,000** unique visitors, here in EPA and GNJ, and throughout the world.

### Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice

- Christmas cards for the incarcerated program – **6980** cards with encouraging messages were delivered to a total of 8 correctional facilities (6 in PA, 1 in TX, 1 in NY) for distribution to the incarcerated as a sign of God's love and care. Thanks to all in EPA and GNJ who supported and participated in this ministry!
- Undies for Easter – a great success – thanks to the many who participated from both EPA and GNJ! Underwear needed for those entering incarceration was delivered to Carmelo Urena, the Head Chaplain of the Philadelphia Prison System, including
  - **2808** men's briefs
  - **2556** men's undershirts
  - **2352** pair socks

As a bonus, on the day of delivery, Chaplain Carmelo Urena led a small group of 8 – representing both EPA and GNJ, including Bishop Moore-Koikoi, to enter and directly deliver packed bags of briefs, undershirts, and socks to men in the intake section at the Curran Fromhold Correctional Facility.

- Healing communities training was provided to **18** individuals representing both EPA and GNJ, to help congregations and community members learn more about how to help those impacted by the criminal justice system.

### Office of Latino Ministries

- **4 leaders** are advancing in ministry: **1** began CSM and CLM studies, **2** are entering candidacy for COS classes, and **1** Lay Missionary is now serving as pastor for the *Transformando Vidas* community in Lebanon.
- Equipped **65 laity members** with specialized skills in Congregational Development, Community Engagement, and Local Church Organization.
- Currently offering **Safe Sanctuary, Laity Leaders & Clergy Basic Sexual Ethics, and Dismantling Racism courses in Spanish** via the Leadership Academy and EPA connectional ministries.
- **16 participants**—comprising both clergy and congregational lay leaders—successfully completed the first Basic Sexual Ethics course held entirely in Spanish.
- **74 participants** for an enriching experience focused on spiritual growth.
- **12 youth & young adults** attended the Ignite event and returned to their home congregations inspired and ready to make a meaningful difference in their local churches.
- **14 lay, and clergy** leaders participated in a discernment, assessment, and development retreat facilitated by *El Plan*.
- **120 in attendance.** With Bishop Moore-Koikoi, leaders from the Eastern Pennsylvania and Greater New Jersey Conferences continued to deepen their shared work, celebrating epiphany through worship, prayer, and reflection with Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, leaders from the

For more information on EPA Connectional Ministries, Project Restoration, Camp & Retreat Ministries, Latino Ministries or Congregational Development, please contact the Office of Connectional Ministries: dtaylorstorm@epagnj.org

# DREW UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

## 2025 Report to the United Methodist Annual Conferences

**Rev. Edwin David Aponte, PhD, ThD (honorary)**  
**Dean and Professor of Religion & Culture**

**December 10, 2025**

Drew University Theological School is a global seminary with a global student population serving the worldwide church. Drew Theological School educates and mentors pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, thought leaders, and change agents for ministry and service in the church, society, and the wider world. Building upon its Wesleyan and Methodist foundations, Drew Theological School is diverse in theology, vocations, age, as well as racial, ethnic, national, and international identities of its faculty, students, and staff. Many Drew students are just beginning their ministry, while others come to graduate theological education with prior ministry experience, reflecting an ongoing trend among theological schools in the United States and Canada. In providing theological education to the world, Drew holds in-person classes in Madison, New Jersey, classes that meet exclusively online, while others meet in hybrid fashion, i.e., partially online, partially in-person, as well as in-person Doctor of Ministry program in South Korea. Regular chapel services are offered in a hybrid way on Tuesdays and Thursdays with people participating from Seminary Hall as well as online. Chapel worship is live-streamed so that students, alumni, and friends around the world can participate.

In Fall 2025 Drew Theological School welcomed 88 new students in all degree programs, with total student enrollment (by headcount) in Fall 2025 semester being 365. Enrollment of international students at Drew is very strong at 140 students in Fall 2025. This number includes students who are studying full-time in the U.S.A. on a student Visa, students who are studying online from their home country, and students in the South Korean Cohort of the Doctor of Ministry program.

Drew's interdisciplinary degree programs provide real-world apprenticeships, promote adaptive leadership skills, and encourage innovation through team-taught core courses as well as a variety of electives that integrate theological disciplines and faith practices. The Drew faculty's shared values are infused across in the teaching, learning, and the formation of students. These values are: 1) a commitment to anti-racism; 2) gender and sexual-identity equality; 3) eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and 4) interfaith understanding and cooperation. Drew Theological School continues to experience an increase in United Methodist students, including United Methodist Global Fellows pursuing further education for ministry. UMC graduates are serving in conferences of The United Methodist Church across the United States, and especially within nearby regional episcopal areas of Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Susquehanna, Upper New York, New York, and New England.

# DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

## 2025 Annual Conferences Report

Duke Divinity School celebrated its 99th Opening Convocation in August 2025 with a sermon from Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric to begin the Nicene Creed Preaching Series at Duke Divinity School. He emphasized that the Nicene Creed is both a Pentecost profession and a peace proclamation:

“Perhaps this is the season for untangling the Nicene Creed from state theology and church theology. Perhaps this is a task for a divinity school whose mission claims to ‘engage in spiritually disciplined and academically rigorous education, in service and witness to the Triune God in the midst of the church, the academy, and the world.’ ... Christ did not preach peace looking for recognition or awards. His life is a single extended sermon on peace. Peace is believing that our lowest point does not limit our highest hope, because we acknowledge the power of baptism, the possibility of repentance, and the forgiveness of sin. *We believe. We believe.* This is a Pentecost profession, a peace proclamation, and also a praise pronouncement.”

This year we have joined with Christians around the world to commemorate the 17th centennial of the Council of Nicaea and the Nicene Creed. Duke Divinity scholars and ministry leaders published the book *Trinitarian Matters: 1700 Years of Shaping Christian Identity and Practice*. The school hosted two conference events to explore and learn from Nicaea: Convocation & Pastors’ School, focused for those in church and vocational ministry; and “Visible and Invisible: Surprising Encounters in Theology and the Arts,” with musical performances, poetry, and artistic expressions informed by the richness of the Nicene Creed.

Through God’s sustaining grace, we continue to welcome students from across the nation and around the world to be trained for faithful ministries serving God in churches, chaplaincy, and community service. In 2025, we were joined by 219 students. The Master of Divinity program gained 120 new students in both residential and hybrid programs, a 10 percent growth over last year. The Master of Arts in Christian Practice enrolled six new students; the Doctor of Ministry, 34; Master of Theology, seven; Master of Theological Studies, 32; and the Doctor of Theology welcomed five new students to campus. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed 14 students.

Duke Divinity is committed to facilitating clear and supportive pathways into theological education to encourage and equip those who are discerning a call to ministry. We confirmed an MOU with Huntingdon College, reaffirming our mutual dedication to nurturing vocations, strengthening the United Methodist tradition, and investing in the next generation of Christian leaders.

We welcomed four new faculty this year: Jonathan Tran, professor of theological ethics; Natalie Carnes, professor of theology; Matthew Whelan, associate research professor of theology; and Nina Balmaceda, Irene and William McCutchen Associate Professor of the Practice of Reconciliation and director of the Center for Reconciliation.

Duke Divinity School continues to be grateful for our ongoing participation in The United Methodist Church and partnership with this annual conference. We look forward to our ongoing work with you as we join the leading of God’s Spirit in the task of preparing people for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at [www.divinity.duke.edu](http://www.divinity.duke.edu).

Respectfully submitted by Edgardo Colón-Emeric  
Dean of Duke Divinity School

# GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Report to the Annual Conference  
2025-2026

Garrett Seminary continues to embody a trajectory of growth, innovation, and deepening partnership across the connection. Rooted in its Wesleyan heritage and animated by its mission to form courageous leaders in the way of Jesus, the seminary looks toward the future with confidence and hope.

For the fifth consecutive year, Garrett welcomed an entering class that reflects sustained enrollment growth. This steady expansion signals renewed confidence in our approach to theological education and in Garrett's distinctive role within The United Methodist Church and the global Christian community. The newest students represent geographic and cultural breadth, coming from across the United States and more than twenty countries throughout the worldwide connection. They prepare for ministry in congregations, chaplaincy settings, nonprofit leadership, academia, and mission contexts, reflecting the increasingly diverse and global nature of the Church's leadership needs.

In response to the evolving realities of ministry and lifelong learning, Garrett launched The Garrett Collective, a comprehensive digital platform offering theological resources, courses, learning experiences, and stackable microcredentials. Designed to serve laity and clergy alike, The Garrett Collective expands access to high-quality theological education in multiple languages and modalities. Content is curated and developed in partnership with annual conferences, congregations, and mission-driven organizations to address expressed needs across the connection. This initiative strengthens ongoing professional development for clergy, equips lay leaders for faithful witness, and extends Garrett's reach to communities that may not otherwise have access to formal theological study. The Garrett Collective represents a significant step toward greater accessibility, affordability, and contextual responsiveness in theological education.

The seminary also announced a historic agreement with its long-standing campus partner, Northwestern University. Through this agreement, Garrett will relocate to newly designed, state-of-the-art facilities on the southern end of campus. These buildings will support the seminary's increasingly multi-modal student body—those studying on campus, in hybrid formats, and in fully immersive online programs from across the nation and around the world. The new facilities will allow Garrett to invest more fully in vibrant residential theological formation while simultaneously expanding global access through digital and hybrid degree offerings. This agreement reflects a deep and mutual commitment between the seminary and the university, positioning both institutions for a strong and collaborative future. Most importantly, it enables Garrett to remain focused on mission-driven initiatives for generations to come.

Garrett has also experienced significant success in foundation and grant support for innovative learning and leadership initiatives. Strategic investments have strengthened The Garrett Collective, the Center for Ecological Regeneration, the Job Institute for Spiritual Formation, the National Initiative to Strengthen Hispanic Pastoral Leaders and Congregations, the Mageto Fellows Program in partnership with Africa University, and the Faith and Leadership Collaborative. Each of these initiatives extends the seminary's relationship with congregations and their leaders, resourcing the Church in areas of ecological justice, spiritual formation, intercultural ministry, global partnership, social impact, and leadership development. Together, they represent a widening circle of accessibility and impact, ensuring that theological education is responsive to the needs of diverse communities throughout the connection and beyond.

Garrett Seminary remains deeply committed to the vitality of The United Methodist Church. Through enrollment growth, digital innovation, historic institutional partnerships, and expanding grant-supported initiatives, the seminary is strengthening its capacity to serve the Church in a season of significant transition and opportunity. Guided by the conviction that God continues to call and equip leaders for this moment, Garrett looks forward to continued partnership with annual conferences, congregations, and ministries across the connection.

Submitted by:  
Javier A. Viera, President

# GLOBAL MINISTRIES

## 2025 Annual Conference Report

The Global Ministries Team decided that our priority for 2025 was to provide education about the missionaries and mission projects needing our support, as well as the opportunities to support our Conference Advance Specials and to receive funding for local justice ministries through Peace with Justice Grants. We decided to provide that education in three locations: Our table at Annual Conference, Mission u, and Laity Academy.

Our Annual Conference table provided the Mission Map of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) showing the locations around the world where our missionaries are serving, and the booklet on the Theology of Mission. We also had free pens and flashlights from GBGM to attract folks to the table. Our display boards provided information about developing a Covenant relationship with a missionary, and a list of the specific missionaries supported by our EPA churches. Only 12 churches supported a missionary during the previous year according to the report from GBGM. We need to increase that number in 2026. Our display also highlighted the work of our Peter D. Weaver Congo Partnership, which supports more than a dozen mission projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo, ranging from digging wells, to feeding children, to medical care, to training people to develop skills to support their families. Our EPC financial support has dwindled in recent years and needs to be increased as more people understand the important work being done.

At Mission u, in addition to the Mission Maps and Theology of Mission booklet, we had an hour presentation on the Congo Partnership. Susie Keefer, who has been to see our Congo Partnership missions 15 times in the last 18 years, showed pictures and told of her experiences. This inspired the women from Pocono Lake UMC to get involved.

At Laity Academy, the Global Ministries Team Chairperson taught a course on Vital Ministries of Mercy and Justice. The class members learned about the resources available from GBGM and the General Board of Church and Society, the new Social Principles, how our United Methodist missionaries are funded, and how to develop a Covenant Relationship with a missionary. They discovered how to apply for a Peace with Justice grant and how to become a Conference Advance Special. Following the course, each student provided a report on what they will do as a result of taking the course. One has received a Peace with Justice Grant and two have applied for Advance Specials.

The Global Ministries Team goal for 2026 is to start a one-page emailed newsletter to update folks on our global ministries.

Deaconess Barbara Drake, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

# HEALING THE WOUNDS OF RACISM

Core Accountability Team

2025 Report to Annual Conference

In accord with its mandate, the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Accountability Team worked throughout 2025 on Dismantling Racism training events. These trainings educate and encourage clergy and lay folk from Eastern Pennsylvania Conference to work within themselves, their congregations and their communities to consider the impact of the sin of racism and take action toward ending it. Doing so at every level is essential to establishing the Beloved Community which God desires for all people.

Dismantling Racism I is required for all clergy and lay pastor candidates, incoming conference committee and agency chairs. The Core Accountability Team worked this year with Rev. Née Gabriel Lopez to arrange and monitor two sessions, on May 5-6 and October 17-19.

Dismantling Racism II workshops cover specific aspects of racism in greater depth. All active Eastern Pennsylvania Conference clergy are required to attend at least one Dismantling Racism II workshop each quadrennium. In 2025 two such workshops were held. The first, “Building Bridges Training Toolkit for Cross Racial/Cross Cultural Ministry,” held on January 18, was developed and presented in conjunction with the Commission on Religion and Race’s Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural Ministries team. The second, addressing White Christian Nationalism and Structural Racism, was conducted by Rev. Gregory Holston on November 11.

Submitted by Dave Brown and Mert Shane, Co-Conveners



# EPA IMPLICIT BIAS REVIEW TEAM REPORT

Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference

The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference (EPA) remains steadfast in its commitment to dismantling racism and all forms of systemic injustice within our life together as clergy and laity, and in our witness to the communities we serve. As part of our ongoing commitment to equity, inclusion, and justice, EPA continues to examine the language, policies, and structures that shape our common work.

In alignment with our Conference's commitment to anti-racism, intercultural competency, and gender equity, an Implicit Bias Review was conducted for submitted reports and legislation. This process reflects our shared belief that how we communicate, both in content and tone, must embody our theological commitments to justice, dignity, and the full inclusion of all people.

This year's review was primarily led by the Commission on Religion and Race (CORR) and the Committee on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW). We acknowledge with gratitude their leadership and careful attention to this work. We recognize the importance of broader collaboration in future reviews to ensure that multiple perspectives, particularly those from historically marginalized communities, are fully represented in this process.

## Review Process

After reports and legislation were submitted to the Conference Secretary, documents were forwarded to the EPA Implicit Bias Review Team. The team met to clarify the scope of our work, reaffirm review criteria, and establish procedures for cross-reading and feedback.

Each document was reviewed by multiple members of the team to ensure thoughtful, balanced, and accountable evaluation. Reviewers assessed materials for:

- Implicit or explicit bias
- Discriminatory or exclusionary language
- Assumptions that marginalize communities based on race, ethnicity, gender, ability, age, socioeconomic status, or immigration status
- Alignment with EPA's stated commitments to anti-racism and equity

Constructive feedback and recommendations were shared with authors, who were given the opportunity to revise their documents prior to final publication.

The purpose of this process is not punitive, but formative. It is designed to strengthen the integrity, clarity, and inclusiveness of our Conference's shared work.

## Recommendations

We offer the following recommendations to strengthen future submissions and deepen our Conference's commitment to justice:

### 1. Ongoing Implicit Bias Education

We strongly encourage Conference leaders, ministry teams, and authors of legislation to engage in ongoing implicit bias and anti-racism training. Resources from the General Commission on Religion and Race, intercultural competency training—including our Dismantling Racism Workshops offered in the Fall and the Spring, and gender equity workshops are valuable tools for cultivating greater awareness and accountability in our leadership.

## 2. **Inclusive and Precise Language**

Authors are encouraged to:

- Spell out acronyms before use.
- Avoid gendered assumptions and use expansive language where appropriate.
- Be mindful of terms that may unintentionally exclude or stigmatize communities.

## 3. **Professionalism and Clarity**

Careful proofreading for grammar, clarity, and tone enhances the credibility and accessibility of Conference materials. While the team's primary focus is implicit bias, professionalism in writing reflects our shared commitment to excellence in ministry.

## 4. **Timely Submission and Accountability**

Submitting reports and legislation by established deadlines allows adequate time for meaningful review and revision. Timeliness strengthens collaboration and honors the labor of those engaged in the review process.

### **Looking Ahead**

The work of examining implicit bias is ongoing and evolving. It calls us to humility, courage, and a willingness to grow. As a Conference, we are invited not only to avoid harmful language, but to actively embody God's justice through systems, structures, and communication that reflect radical hospitality and equity.

We give thanks for the leaders, clergy, and laity who participate in this sacred and necessary work. Together, we continue shaping a Conference that more fully reflects God's expansive love and justice.

Submitted by

Noé Gabriel López, Director of Social Impact and Belonging  
Stacey Jones Anderson and Barbara Revere, Chairs, Commission on Religion and Race (EPA)  
Debra Coulbourn, Chair, Committee on the Status and Role of Women (EPA)

# 2025 EPA HISPANIC/LATINO COMMISSION REPORT

Presented to the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference

*By Rev. Dr. Ricardo Ramos-Díaz, Co-Chair*

*EPA Hispanic/Latino Commission*

## Purpose and Missional Alignment

This report highlights key milestones in Connectional Ministries that advance the mission of The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (Book of Discipline ¶120) and embody the denomination's shared vision:

“The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.”

The initiatives described below reflect our shared connectional commitment to leadership development, congregational vitality, youth engagement, and collaborative ministry. Together, they demonstrate how this vision is being lived out across the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference in faithful alignment with El Plan for Hispanic/Latine Ministries.

## I. Leadership Development & Training

### Laity Empowerment

Connectional Ministries equipped 65 lay leaders with specialized skills in Congregational Development, Community Engagement, and Local Church Organization. This work reflects the United Methodist understanding of the ministry of all baptized believers (BoD ¶126) and the Conference's responsibility to form, equip, and sustain effective lay leadership.

### Spanish-Language Programming

The Leadership Academy offered Safe Sanctuaries, Lay Leaders & Clergy Basic Sexual Ethics, and Dismantling Racism courses entirely in Spanish. These offerings advance linguistic equity, expand access to leadership formation, and support culturally contextual ministry.

### Sexual Ethics Milestone

The Conference successfully conducted the first Basic Sexual Ethics course held entirely in Spanish, with 16 participants, including both clergy and congregational lay leaders.

## II. Youth & Community Engagement

### Semana Latina Summer Camp

Connectional Ministries welcomed 74 youth participants to Semana Latina Summer Camp, focused on spiritual growth, faith formation, values development, and community building through a custom curriculum.

### Ignite Event Participation

Twelve youth and young adults participated in the Ignite event and returned to their home congregations energized, equipped, and ready to serve.

## III. Strategic Planning & Conference Partnership

### Strategic Plan Retreat

Fourteen lay and clergy leaders participated in a prayer-centered Strategic Planning Retreat guided by El Plan. The retreat is shaping short-term goals and a comprehensive five-year Strategic Plan.

#### EPA & GNJ Conference Collaboration

The partnership between the Eastern Pennsylvania and Greater New Jersey Conferences continues to deepen through shared worship, reflection, and collaboration, embodying United Methodist connectionalism.

#### Conclusion

Together, these milestones lay a strong foundation for sustained leadership formation, youth engagement, congregational vitality, and deepened connectional collaboration. This work reflects a Conference actively forming disciples who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

# LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PREACHING INSTITUTE (LAPI)

## Conference Report for EPA & GNJ 2026

*God is revealing to me that everything I had hoped to achieve in my preaching can actually happen through this program. It's like God is saying, "You are in the right place, and I can guide you to reach those goals."—2025 LAPI participant*

### What is LAPI?

LAPI is a hybrid lifelong learning program for ordained clergy, commissioned clergy, local pastors, certified lay ministers, and other lay preachers. The program is designed for preachers of all levels of experience to cultivate compelling preaching that leads to congregational vitality.

LAPI preaching fellows\* focus on honing their craft alongside exceptional preachers, instructors, and peer cohorts. Each LAPI fellow sets their own preaching goal and is supported by coaches, mentors, and peers. (\*Note: While an archaic definition of the word "fellow" refers to a boy, modern usage is gender-neutral, according to Merriam-Webster, referring to a peer, colleague, associate, or person receiving a stipend for advanced study or research.)

### Testimonials

When asked, "What is God revealing to you and your listeners through this experience of the Leadership Academy Preaching Institute?" fellows answered:

- *God is reminding me that preaching is both a craft and a calling, rooted in the Spirit's leading and sharpened through intentional practice. My listeners are showing me that sermons are not just heard in the moment but shape how they live, act, and hope in the days that follow.*
- *This experience gives me confidence that what I dreamed of for my ministry is possible here. The feedback that I received from my membership has been positive, and they have noticed growth in my preaching.*
- *I have heard God's voice through the change I have experienced when sharing the word of God every Sunday. A mix of confidence and vulnerability have been extremely powerful. In addition, I have received a positive message in terms of the way the congregation understands and receives the message.*
- *God is showing me that preaching is not only speaking but growing together with the listeners in faith. Through this experience, I see the Holy Spirit helps us to build confidence with each other, sharing hope and trust in God's Word. I want to bring this format into my pastoral appointments so the church and I can go deeper and stronger together in Christ.*

### What to Expect

During the 10-month program, LAPI preaching fellows commit to:

- Attend an in-person two-day preaching summit hosted by LAPI
- Participate in a cohort of 6–10 preachers, meeting twice monthly via video conference, facilitated by a LAPI preaching coach.
- Learn through asynchronous online courses designed especially for the LAPI program. Courses include:
  - "Sacred Listening and Appreciative Critique" taught by the Rev. Dr. Leah Schade
  - "Imaginative Preaching" taught by the Rev. Dr. Jake Myers
  - "Context and Community" taught by the Rev. Olu Brown
  - "Exemplary Preaching Unveiled"—multiple preachers

- Create a listener feedback group in their ministry setting. LAPI will train listeners to provide constructive feedback.
- Receive constructive feedback from a LAPI preaching coach and cohort peers.

### **Anticipated Outcomes**

LAPI promotes proclamation and holy listening through the development of collaborative preaching practices. This multi-year initiative within EPA & GNJ promises to contribute to a renewed ethos of faithful and compelling preaching within United Methodism.

Preachers and listeners will be empowered and equipped in the following ways:

- Preachers will cultivate practices and develop skills that enable them to engage congregations, both in-person and online, in compelling ways that lead to measurable congregational vitality.
- Preachers will become more adept at delivering sermons that effectively reach more diverse listening communities, including cross-generational and cross-cultural/cross-racial listeners.
- Preachers will view the craft of preaching not as having a goal of “arrival,” but one that requires ongoing reflection and lifelong learning as they adapt their practice to various contexts, seasons of ministry, and the demands of a hurting world in need of the gospel.
- Preachers will learn how to incorporate the practice of listening and watching sermons from other preachers (as well as their own) in order to develop their own skills and strategies in the pulpit.
- Listeners will cultivate practices and develop skills that enable them to provide timely, honest, thoughtful, and insightful feedback, leading to more effective preaching.
- Preachers and listeners will have a clearer understanding of the role of preaching in the life of the church and its direct impact on congregational vitality.
- Preachers and listeners will learn how to work together to develop preaching that is relevant to their specific context, speaks to the needs of their community, and provides a true reflection of the all-welcoming reign of God.

Congregations will be empowered and equipped to make the Word of God come alive in their contexts through faithful participation in the preaching event—as listeners, discerners, conversation partners, and proclaimers of the gospel.

### **Project Updates**

In 2025, 45 preaching fellows successfully completed the 10-month LAPI program and received a certificate for 4.6 CEUs. The 2026 class includes 40 LAPI fellows.

**Bring your preaching to the next level!** Applications for the 2027 LAPI cohort are open May–August 2026. **Apply Now!** <https://www.epaumc.org/lapi/> OR <https://www.gnjumc.org/lapi/>.

Ms. Mary Cranwell, LAPI Coordinator

The Rev. Dr. Darryl W. Stephens, LAPI Director

# EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE LOAN FUND

P.O. Box 820

Valley Forge, PA 19482

Frances Whittington, President † Jeffrey Paiste, Vice President  
Matthew Morley, Legal Counsel † James D. Anderman, Secretary

## Annual Conference Report

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Loan Fund of the United Methodist Church continues its mission of assisting United Methodist Churches and agencies by offering loans for capital projects such as roof or boiler replacements, building projects, and refinance of existing mortgages. The Fund offers loans of 5, 10, and 15 years, depending on the size of the loan. The current rate is 5.25%. All loans are secured by either a mortgage or a lien against assets invested with the Mid-Atlantic Faith Foundation. The closing costs for a mortgage loan are the price of title insurance (which includes a title search). For loans secured by invested funds, there are no closing costs.

The Loan Fund also offers churches and individuals the opportunity to assist other churches by investing in certificates, which are currently paying 3.25% interest. The certificates are redeemable by the purchaser with 60 days' notice. The prospectus for these certificates can be found on the Conference website.

The Loan Fund is a separate 501(c)(3), self-funding corporation whose directors are elected by the Annual Conference.

For more information about the Loan Fund, contact either:  
Frances Whittington, Board President at [envirogirl75@gmail.com](mailto:envirogirl75@gmail.com)  
Or James Anderman, Board Secretary at [pastorjim@palmyrafirst.org](mailto:pastorjim@palmyrafirst.org)



# METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO 2026 REPORT

Thank you for this opportunity to bring news from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO).

## **MTSO is selected to offer Clinical Pastoral Education through CIPP**

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) of the United Methodist Church has chosen MTSO as the new academic home of the Center for Integrative Pastoral Practice (CIPP), its Clinical Pastoral Education program. The CIPP program, which GBHEM had operated since 2018, is a vital component in the preparation of future chaplains, spiritual care providers and pastoral counselors, integrating theological knowledge with practical clinical training.

CIPP@MTSO ([mtso.edu/cipp](http://mtso.edu/cipp)) uses students' existing ministry settings for the clinical assignments required for CPE certification. It serves students who are forging ministry pathways in both traditional and non-traditional contexts.

## **With a Lilly Endowment grant, MTSO will help strengthen children's worship**

Lilly Endowment Inc. has awarded MTSO a \$1.25 million grant to establish "Kids Incorporated: Incorporating the Next Generation into the Full Life of Congregational Worship." The program is funded through Lilly Endowment's Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative.

The program will empower partner congregations to better serve children and their families by enhancing children's spiritual development and increasing understanding, accessibility and engagement opportunities for children within worship settings. With a focus on children ages 4-12, MTSO is addressing developmental differences across various age groups and promoting intergenerational worship experiences.

## **New technology enhances the blending of in-person and online learning**

Five MTSO classrooms have received significant technology upgrades, making the school's blended learning experience even better. The new tech in these "Zoom Rooms" includes 360-degree cameras and microphones for more seamless classroom discussions, along with an updated platform that records and transcribes lectures.

With MTSO's HyFlex (short for "hybrid-flexible") education, students can attend classes in person, remotely or some of both. No matter how they participate, they're engaged in an immersive real-time experience.

Respectfully submitted,  
Danny Russell, director of communications

# REPORT OF THE ORDER OF DEACONESS/HOME MISSIONER (DHM)

## Celebrating 137 Years of Love, Justice & Service

### **Our movement**

The key biblical text for the deaconess movement as it emerged in the nineteenth century was Romans 16:1–2: “I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon (diakonos) of the church at Cenchreae, so that you may welcome her in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well.”<sup>1</sup>

The Methodist deaconess movement in the United States began when Lucy Rider Meyer and her husband started the first deaconess training school in Chicago in 1885. In 1888, the Office of Deaconess was officially recognized by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the office has remained active ever since. Early deaconesses “lived in community with other deaconesses and devoted themselves to service (diakonia in Greek, hence the term deaconess), particularly with the urban poor, as teachers, nurses, evangelists, pastors, administrators, missionaries, and social service workers.”<sup>2</sup> Methodist deaconesses in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are credited with starting schools and hospitals in communities where they did not previously exist, and the need for such ministries was great. Deaconesses often worked under harsh conditions and in cutting-edge ministries of social service on behalf of women, children and youth. They were courageous and set the path for many institutions in social service around the country today. Deaconesses and Home Missioners continue this legacy of serving in cutting edge ministries of love, justice and service today. We serve in a variety of ministry settings including health/wellness, law, education, advocacy and social service.

At the General Conference in 1988, when the category of home missionary was eliminated in The United Methodist Church, there was no place for laity who identify as men to live out a recognized calling to lifetime service. This led to the establishment of the home missionary category of service, the equivalent to deaconesses, at the 2004 General Conference. Legislation was passed at General Conference 2016 to make the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner an official order within The United Methodist Church. The Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner is one of three orders of ministry in The United Methodist Church serving alongside the orders of Elder and Deacon and is the only order for laity. Deaconesses and Home Missioners feel called by God to a full-time vocation in service with those who are marginalized and in need in the world today.

“Deaconesses and Home Missioners function through diverse forms of service directed toward the world to make Jesus Christ known in the fullness of God’s ministry and mission, which mandate followers to: a) Alleviate suffering; b) Eradicate causes of injustice and all that robs life of dignity and worth; c) Facilitate the development of full human potential; d) Share in building global community through the church universal.”

### **Our Ministries Vary. Our Call to Service Binds Us.**

The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference has 5 active Deaconess/Home Missioners serving under appointment and 2 Deaconess/Home Missioners in retired relationship. We serve in a variety of ministry settings including health/wellness, law, education, advocacy and social service. Our ministries vary but our call to love, justice and service binds us as a covenant community.

The United Methodist Deaconess movement is a founding member of the worldwide ecumenical diaconal movement called DIAKONIA. DIAKONIA offers an international and ecumenical community of diaconal friendship, connecting us in diversity and commonality. DIAKONIA broadens our worldview and

---

<sup>1</sup> Priscilla Pope-Levison, *No Man’s Land: The International Methodist Deaconess Movement, 1874–1918* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2025), 15.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

deepens our sense of diaconal vocation. DIAKONIA reminds the church of God's call to service, justice, compassion, and peace for creation, and assists us in living out our ministries in the world with vision and hope. In July 2025, DIAKONIA World Federation gathered for a world-wide assembly in Tanzania. At this event, we celebrated the consecration of 15 Africa Region deaconess/home missionaries at the first-ever United Methodist Consecration Service in Africa.

The order of Deaconess and Home Missioners meets virtually weekly for spiritual support, holds virtual discernment events for those interested in joining the Order, and facilitates intersectional justice education training events.

On May 15, 2026, we are celebrating the consecration of 22 new deaconesses and home missionaries at the United Women in Faith Assembly in Indianapolis, IN.

In September of 2026 members of our community will gather as an Order through our association (The National Association of Deaconesses, Home Missioners and Home Missionaries - NADHM) to learn, dream, worship and advocate in community.

### **Is this the Call for you?**

Is this a Call for you? If so, there is an opportunity to be a part of a supportive community in relationship with The United Methodist Church as a deaconess or home missionary. Discernment Events are held at various times throughout the year. The Deaconess/Home Missioner Discernment event is an opportunity to explore God's call to vocational ministry. **If this calling is for you or someone you know, we want to hear from you!**

**Website:** <https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/deaconess-and-home-missioner/>

**Email:** [deaconess@uwfaith.org](mailto:deaconess@uwfaith.org) , **Call:** 1-332-240-3898

Respectfully Submitted,

Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck (on behalf of the Deaconesses of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference)

# 2026 REPORT OF THE ORDER OF DEACONS

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, The United Methodist Church

## The Ministry of a Deacon

Deacons are called to a lifetime of service as clergy and are ordained to that role. “Deacons are persons called by God, authorized by the Church, and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime ministry of Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice” (*Book of Discipline 2020/2024*, ¶ 329). Deacons assist in worship, celebrate the sacraments, preach the word of God and lead the whole church in ministries in the community.

Deacons are ordained United Methodist clergy who lead the church in relating Christians to their ministries in the world through worship leadership, preaching, teaching, nurturing spiritual vitality and leading ministries of service, love, and justice. They may work primarily in congregations, or they may work primarily in settings like hospitals, social-service agencies, mission agencies, schools, counseling centers, denominational agencies, and more.

## 2025 Deacons Gathering

Some 150 United Methodist deacons, provisional deacons and deacon candidates participated in the 2025 Deacon Gathering, organized by the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Sept. 22–24. The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference was well represented. Read more here:

“Deacons serve diverse, specialized roles,” UMNews commentary by the Rev. Dr. Darryl W. Stephens, Sept. 29, 2025. <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/deacons-serve-diverse-specialized-roles>.

“Deacons explore new sacramental authority, UMNews article by Heather Hahn, Sept. 29, 2025. <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/deacons-explore-new-sacramental-authority>.

## Deacons’ Ministry 2025 Highlights

The ministry of the diaconate is unique to each person. These are some blessings and joys of ministry by deacons of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference in their own words:

“Through community and congregational partnerships, LUMINA has created opportunities for people to help their neighbors in need: together we have fed the hungry; we equipped family caregivers with nutrition knowledge and healthful cooking skills; we awarded carpentry tools to youth in building trades education; and offered supportive friendship to children and their families through fun discipleship/fellowship after-school gatherings with gifts of warm clothing, school supplies, food, and camp scholarships to Gretna Glen.”—Rev. Correen Russo

“Leading Hopewell’s Men’s Ministry in conversations about the intersection of faith and politics, mental health and well-being, and understanding our role in the unfolding story of God’s redemptive work in the world.”—Rev. Eddie Cameron

“My celebration this year is getting to officiate my first wedding for one of my team members and getting to baptize two people in our lake (a summer staffer and a day camper) during our summer season! And we doubled our day camp attendance to almost 400 registrations this summer!”—Rev. Carmen O’Shea, deacon candidate

“I hear stories from those who hunger, for resources to repair their homes in Appalachia, stories from those who thirst, for a warmer, safer, drier home in the aftermath of hurricane flooding here in the Delaware Valley, and stories from those with sick and injured children, seeking someone to look after

them . . . even as God weeps and suffers along with them in their plight, for theirs are the very faces of God.”—Rev. Allen Keller

“So honored to be making education opportunities at Temple as an Assistant Dean, while reducing gun violence in Philadelphia as the Executive Director of the Civic Coalition to Save Lives while being in ministry at First UMC of Media.”—Rev. Dr. David Brown

“I am celebrating the compassion, prayers, and support of the congregation I serve as my family navigates the challenging mental health journeys of my children.”—Rev. Tiffany Manning

“Although officially retired, I am preaching every second Sunday at Simpson House Senior Residence and working with the Christ Servant Ministers at my home church, Sayers Memorial UMC.”—Rev. Stephanie Brown Wilson

“In retirement mode, I am focusing on social justice efforts through leading adult classes at Trinity UMC in Lexington, VA, chairing the political action committee of the local branch of the NAACP, actively engaged in the work of the local Democratic Committee and in support of our immigrant community.”—Rev. Susan Worrell

“My deacon work continues in the church without walls, serving people in communities, using opportunities in the workplace for prayer and discipleship and spreading the love of Jesus through helping others.”—Rev. Brenda Coffin

“Through my justice and advocacy work co-facilitating EPA RMN-MFSA we [successfully] called for the Bishop to name an LGBTQIA Inclusion Team . . . [I also] served on the interview team for our EPA Conference Finance and Benefits Teams while being in ministry at Swarthmore UMC.”—Rev. Joanne Miles

“Lately I’ve been humming the tune ‘Blessed Assurance’ over and against the horrendous evils and tremendous losses that overwhelm our capacity for meaning making, because I am a member of God’s beloved community that is seeking justice and mercy, convinced of God’s love for all people everywhere, and impressed by each person’s unique experience, so in my chaplaincy practice I follow the lead of those in need of spiritual or moral support in schools, hospitals, homes and ceremonies.”—Rev. Nikki Kleinberg

“Celebrating 45 preachers in EPA and GNJ who completed the 10-month next-level experience through the Leadership Academy Preaching Institute in 2025!—Rev. Dr. Darryl W. Stephens

“At St. Luke UMC in Bryn Mawr, we are expanding our reach to neurodivergent community-members by making plans to transform our underused chapel into a sensory-friendly space that will help neurodiverse individuals self-regulate and feel more comfortable and cared for while on our campus, so that they may engage in authentic spirituality.”—Rev. Brittany Whyte

Respectfully Submitted,

Darryl W. Stephens  
Chair, Order of Deacons



## Overview

Local United Methodist Churches of Eastern Pennsylvania (EPA) and Greater New Jersey (GNJ) are invited to participate in the Pathways Bridges Program which equips congregations with tools that help foster empathy, joy, community, and vitality within our local churches and communities as we engage the diversity of our neighbors. We have noticed that without these tools, a lack of community engagement turns to fear, then insularity, irrelevance, and closure.

Pathways Bridges was designed to creatively motivate leaders and congregations to connect and engage with a diverse group of people in their communities through fostering curiosity and love across lines of difference, storytelling, and spiritual practices. This program seeks to bridge the gap between the demographics of the church and those of the broader community, ultimately seeking to ensure congregations reflect the diversity of their surroundings.

## 2025 Highlights & Celebrations

In 2025, Pathways Bridges journeyed alongside 23 congregations throughout EPA and GNJ. Each congregation participated in the cohort with their pastor(s) and a team of 2-6 lay people.

Of the 23 congregations:

- 12 congregations are part of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference
- 11 congregations are part of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference
- A total of 106 faithful leaders - pastors and laity - have participated in Pathways Bridges sessions.

In our work alongside congregations, we often hear deep truths: *“Church is home.” “Church is family.” “Church is the people.”* These convictions still matter – and yet, the landscape of ministry has changed. Gone are the days when people simply stumble into our church buildings on Sunday mornings. In this season, being the church requires more than maintaining spaces; it requires cultivating relationships.

Pathways Bridges exists because faith today must be lived *with* the community, not just *for* it. It calls pastors and laity to lift their gaze—to look around, notice who is already there, and discern where God is already at work. Our aim is to equip leaders with practical tools, shared stories, and theological grounding they can carry back to their congregations, empowering them for the mission field that exists right outside their doors.

At its heart, Pathways Bridges is about helping congregations rediscover connection—across differences, generations, and lived experiences. As one lay participant shared,

*“I realized how deeply connected we all are. We often think we’re so unique that no one can understand us but through these conversations, I saw that others have hearts and stories just like mine. They carry good memories and profound experiences that shape who they are. It reminded me that we’re all swimming in the same lake; even if our strokes differ, we share the same water. It’s comforting to know we’re not alone.”*

Pathways Bridges exists to help churches move from isolation to relationship, from assumption to listening, and from fear to faithful presence—so that God’s love may be made visible through communities willing to walk alongside their neighbors.

**Upcoming 2026 Cohort** - *Applications for the 2026 Cohort are open! Visit our website, [www.pathwaybridges.org](http://www.pathwaybridges.org), for more information and to apply!*

In 2026, Pathways Bridges will continue to Cultivate Curiosity & Community with a special emphasis on Intergenerational Ministry. We believe that intergenerational ministry is essential for vibrant discipleship and community engagement. When children, youth, adults, and senior adults intentionally share life and faith together through mutual relationships, shared learning, mission and ministry, they model the fullness of the body of Christ and create natural bridges into their neighborhoods. Without these connections, churches risk insularity, fear, and irrelevance – but with them, congregations can thrive as places of welcome, wisdom, and hope.

**We hope you will join us on this journey – bringing generations together to embody God’s love and connect more deeply with our neighbors.**

Contact us for more information:

Alyssa Ruch, Director ([aruch@epagnj.org](mailto:aruch@epagnj.org))

Ashley Wilson, Program Coordinator ([awilson@epagnj.org](mailto:awilson@epagnj.org))



# EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA (EPA) 2025 PRISON MINISTRY AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE TEAM

- Christmas cards for the incarcerated program – **6980** cards with encouraging messages were delivered to a total of **8** correctional facilities (6 in Pennsylvania, 1 in Texas, 1 in New York) for distribution to the incarcerated as a sign of God’s love and care. Thanks to all in EPA and Greater New Jersey (GNJ) who supported and participated in this ministry!
- Undies for Easter – a great success – thanks to the many who participated from both EPA and GNJ! Underwear needed for those entering incarceration was delivered to the Head Chaplain of the Philadelphia Prison System, including
  - **2808** men’s briefs
  - **2556** men’s undershirts
  - **2352** pr socks

As a bonus, on the day of delivery, Chaplain Carmelo Urena led a small group of 8 –representing both EPA and GNJ, including Bishop Moore-KoiKoi, to enter and directly deliver packed bags of briefs, undershirts, and socks, to men in the intake section at the Curran Fromhold Correctional Facility.

- Healing communities training was provided to **18** individuals representing both EPA and GNJ, to help congregations and community members learn more about how to help those impacted by the criminal justice system.

## REPORT OF THE SAFE SANCTUARIES COMMITTEE 2025

The committee entertained continuing training for all persons requiring training as new leaders or as a refresher course. Three trainings were held in 2025. Two additional trainings are being added in 2026. As our resolutions have not changed, we did create a Best Practices document which is on the website. This is to assist churches who have technology in place and supersedes the 2016 Computer Use Resolution which was very outdated.

We continue to answer questions for all members of EPA and assist one another whenever possible. We are always looking for new members to our committee and welcome all who show interest. Anyone needing assistance or having questions can email the coordinator at [epasafesanctuaries@epagnj.org](mailto:epasafesanctuaries@epagnj.org) and expect a quick response. We continue this vital work to the glory of God.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jacqueline D. Daniszewski

EPA Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator

What does God require of us? To act justly, love mercifully, and walk humbly with God. At Saint Paul School of Theology, this call from Micah 6:8 shapes everything we do—from preparing pastors to serve rural communities to fostering a beloved community where all belong. Centered in Christ and rooted in the Wesleyan tradition, we are committed to forming innovative leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

## **A Year of Growth and Vitality**

2025 has been marked by remarkable momentum. Our Course of Study School educated 248 students—a 6% increase—with 628 course registrations, representing a 14% growth. These servant leaders are making a tangible difference: 42% serve rural communities with populations under 2,500, and 22 students serve as pastors of three or more churches. We celebrated 21 students completing the 20-course program, equipping them for licensed ministry.

Seminary enrollment grew by 9%, with a 33% increase in new students for Fall 2025. With a continued commitment to a more racially diverse student body, racial diversity increased to 29% of the student body identifying as one of a traditionally racially or ethnically minoritized group. Students from 31 states and 220 cities connect with us through flexible online and hybrid learning options, while 16 graduates of the Course of Study School have transitioned into our degree programs.

## **Living Our Strategic Vision**

Our Board of Trustees has recently endorsed a strategic plan that reflects our values and responds to the changing contexts of the church and the world. We are striving to become a beloved community that embodies belonging, justice, equity, and inclusion. Our new Doctor of Ministry track in Spirituality, Innovation, and Adaptive Leadership exemplifies this vision, developing change agents grounded in contemplative spirituality and equipped with emotional intelligence and intercultural competence. These same principles permeate our Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Ministry programs.

Saint Paul remains financially healthy, operating with a balanced budget, no debt, and an endowment ten times our annual expenses. This sustainability, rooted in community donations, enables us to invest in scholarships, technology, and evolving academic programs that serve our students and the church.

## **Looking Ahead**

In 2026, we are strengthening our foundation and expanding our horizons by cultivating a vibrant alum network—a lifelong professional and spiritual home. Through mentorship, resource sharing, and collaborative ministry, we are building a dynamic ecosystem that empowers graduates from their first day of classes through retirement and beyond.

Saint Paul School of Theology invites you to join us in this journey of formation, innovation, and transformation. Together, we are preparing leaders who embody justice, mercy, and humility as they serve Christ and His church.

# UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Dr. Kent Millard, President

Since 1871, United Theological Seminary has prepared faithful and fruitful Christian leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, the seminary served 642 graduate students, 275 doctoral and 375 masters,\* reflecting approximately 30 percent enrollment growth since 2021 and placing United among the largest United Methodist seminaries in the United States.

A diverse community of many denominations, races and nationalities, United welcomed students from 38 states, 24 nations, and 54 denominations, with United Methodists representing the largest denominational group within the student body.

## Academics

United's academic programs remain grounded in the historic Christian faith, scriptural holiness, and a commitment to the renewal of the church, preparing graduates to serve with wisdom, integrity, and hope.

United introduced a Doctor of Theology in 2024 to support pastor-scholars called to ministry at the intersection of the church and academy. The new degree program welcomed 13 students in its first year.

The seminary's Doctor of Ministry program continues to attract experienced ministry leaders seeking advanced professional education focused on faithful leadership. In the 2024-25 school year, 262 students participated in the mentor-led program.

Master's programs include eight houses of study, serving nearly 200 students in the United States and around the world, with programs offered in English, Spanish and Korean. In July 2025, 11 students attended the first Contextual Ministry Retreat for the African House of Study, held at the Kenya Methodist Conference Center in Nairobi. The Hispanic House of Study will celebrate its first class of graduates in May 2026, with candidates from across the United States, Mexico, Colombia, and Peru.

Through rigorous scholarship, intentional mentoring, worship, and community life, as well as practical engagement with the church's needs, academic life at United advances the seminary's vision of *Spirit-led leaders, a Christ-like Church, and a transformed world*.

## Finances

United continues to focus on reducing the educational debt of its students. The Fresh Wind Campaign to raise \$10 million for the endowment is expanding scholarship opportunities for current and future students. The campaign has raised more than \$9 million toward this goal, by the grace of God and through the generosity of alumni/ae, churches, and friends of the seminary.

## Looking Ahead

United enters the coming years with gratitude for God's faithfulness and confidence in God's future. Several senior leaders have answered new calls, and President Dr. Kent Millard has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2026, concluding ten years of service marked by encouragement, vision, and stability. A Presidential Search Committee is at work to identify United's next president, who will begin service on July 1, 2026.

Trusting God's promise spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "I am about to do a new thing" (Isaiah 43:19), United remains committed to preparing Christian leaders who boldly proclaim the gospel and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

*\*12-month unduplicated headcount enrollment for the 2024-25 fiscal year from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.*

# WESLEY FOUNDATION OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Submitted by Executive Director & Campus Chaplain, Rev. Deacon Diana Esposito on behalf of the Wesley Foundation of the City of Philadelphia Board: Elizabeth Christie (President), Victor Gimenez (Vice President), Jason Perkowski (Secretary), Danielle Andrews (Treasurer), Michael Callahan, Meagan Esterby, Zack Levy-Dyer, Jessica Jushchyshyn, Joanne Miles, David Piltz, Ollie Richard, Dawn Taylor-Storm, William Preston Thompson Sr.



Left: The Wesley Foundation works in collaboration with the Drexel University Student Organization Open Door Christian Community. Students gather weekly at the James E. Marks Intercultural Center during Drexel's Fall, Winter, and Spring terms for a free dinner (left). Open Door is "creating an inclusive, inviting space for everyone to eat good food together" - George, Senior

## 2025 Highlights/Goal Updates

We had an awesome year connecting with students for food, prayer stations, community service, social justice conversations, stress reduction, and more!

- **"I love Open Door~ Every week they're kind to welcome people to eat food and meet new people. Even if my usual friends aren't at Open Door, I can always go to another table and feel comfortable around new people."** - Arielle, Senior. We served about 2,200 first meals at 36 free dinners for students and staff at Drexel University, with many enjoying seconds, thirds, and taking leftovers home. For the first time, there were two meals hosted over the summer months. Meals year-round create safe space and build community for students who are unchurched, de-churched, and faith-based.
- **"Open Door has encouraged me to volunteer more (at open door and in general)"** - Aadrita, Junior. Wesley Foundation worked alongside new student volunteers who aided in the weekly dinners and returned week after week, building new bonds with volunteers. Students assembled 100 hygiene backpacks for clients at The Center at the end of the Spring term and made donations to Springfield: Covenant to assist in an additional 175 hygiene backpacks to be distributed on Christmas morning to clients at The Center. With a desire never to waste, the Wesley Foundation has donated over 200 complete left-over meals to the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County and food pantry items Loaves and Fishes (Prospect Park) and Mario's Market (Drexel University's student food pantry).
- **As a student, free food has been great for us as we don't have enough time to eat."** Sunny, Doctoral Student. Seven students were provided grocery gift cards during winter break to help with food costs for those unable to travel home and lacking additional support, the majority of which were international students.
- **"I've had many great conversations, whether political, spiritual, philosophical, or just random nonsense. It's a great way to be connected with the community."** - Anthony, 2025 Graduate. Collaborated with The Lindy Center for Civic Engagement, The Drexel Writer's Room, and Drexel University's Sexual Exploration and Comfort in Restorative Educational Training (S.E.C.R.E.T. Drexel) to host 3 Voices of Faith in Social Justice Action conversations.
- **"I really love the fact that Open Door cares for folks of other religions as well."** - Faizan, 2025 Graduate. Students participated in an interfaith collaboration with Christian, Jewish and Muslim

students which resulted in 3+ dinners with intentional conversation focused on learning about each others' faiths and practices. Students across various faiths bonded and have continued to check in on each other.

- **"I am so grateful to Open Door. I have been experiencing food insecurity and this has been a huge help in helping me get meals and enough to eat. Also being a queer individual this place has been a safe space for me."** - *Charlie, Pre-Junior* Provided safe space for the Queer Student Union and Queer People of Color to meet 6 times throughout 2025. This partnership is continuing to grow through 2026.
- **"Of all the many good things Open Door has given me - good food, good friends, good times - maybe the most precious has been a fresh perspective on both spiritual beliefs and personal relationships. Open Door has shown me how religion can be more than just a set of actions performed by rote, like stage directions in a play. It can be a force of motivation and compassion that moves people to help others out of a deeply held belief in our shared humanity."** - *Diana, 2025 Graduate*. Partnered with University Lutheran Church to provide more resources, including Sunday worship, young adult small groups, Bible studies, and pastoral support when Deacon Diana is off campus.
- **"Serving as a Leadership Ministry Intern allowed me to engage in ministry through both presence and action. Whether supporting gatherings, helping host dinners, or simply being available to others, I learned that meaningful ministry often happens in quiet, consistent ways. Showing up regularly, listening with intention, and creating space for others to feel welcome taught me the importance of reliability and empathy in leadership."** - *Sushma, Masters Student*. Two interns staggered their engagement to ensure intern coverage for all four terms of the year focusing on leadership growth and organizational development.

### **2026 Goals**

- Increase intentional engagement at weekly free dinners.
- Secure and personalize a safe, affirming office and storage space.
- Build transformative partnerships across campus communities.

### **We want to connect with Conference Organizations, Committees and Local Churches!!!**



Left: 2025-2026 Open Door Christian Community Student Executive Board with Chaplain Diana Esposito

The students at the Wesley Foundation of the City of Philadelphia want to continue the Voices of Faith in Social Justice Action conversation series. They are seeking groups who are active in social justice work. They'd love to partner the work of conference organizations, committees, and local churches with Drexel student organizations doing similar work at an upcoming event.

**Want to know more?** Stop by our booth in the vendor hall for the newest updates and free snacks.

**Contact us outside of Annual Conference**

[www.drexelopendoor.org](http://www.drexelopendoor.org) | [opendoordrexel@gmail.com](mailto:opendoordrexel@gmail.com) | Instagram: @drexelopendoor

- Let us know when students from your congregations are attending Drexel so we can connect with them and offer support.
- Keep us in your prayer lists
  - Drexel students, staff, and professors
  - Food insecure students
  - The community that surrounds Drexel University
  - God's love to be evident through the ministries of the Wesley Foundation of the City of Philadelphia/Open Door Christian Community
- Secure the financial future of the ministry through your donations. Donations can be made through the Conference give page



# WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President

As I complete my tenure as president of Wesley Theological Seminary, I am confident in handing the leadership to Dr. Carla Works, the 11th President of our school. Dr. Works, Dean and Woodrow and Mildred Miller Professor of Biblical Theology at Wesley DC, is a distinguished New Testament scholar, educator, and church-centered theologian.

Wesley Theological Seminary (Wesley DC) remains steadfast in its mission to equip persons for Christian ministry and leadership in the church and the world, to advance theological scholarship, and to model a prophetic voice in the public square. In a season marked by institutional change, civic uncertainty, and renewed hope for the United Methodist Church, Wesley DC actively forms leaders who are spiritually grounded, intellectually rigorous, and engaged with the world God loves through the following programs.

**Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Master of Theological Studies Degrees:** Wesley DC offers Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, and Master of Theological Studies degrees through residential, hybrid, and fully online formats. Our programs serve a diverse student body representing a wide range of denominations, cultural contexts, and vocational callings. Across all modalities, Wesley DC emphasizes ministerial formation that integrates theological depth, spiritual practice, and contextual engagement. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/study/>

**Doctor of Ministry Degree:** Wesley DC remains one of the largest Doctor of Ministry programs in the United States and serves experienced ministerial leaders from across the world. In May 2025, ten chaplains from southern Africa graduated through a landmark partnership with Africa University, reflecting Wesley DC's growing global reach. Our DMin tracks for military chaplains continue to grow, including through a renewed partnership with the U.S. Army Institute for Religious Leadership. New tracks in Church Leadership Excellence, Soul Care, Global Church Leadership, and others begin in 2027. Learn more about how you can grow in wisdom and leadership at: <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/program/>.

**Course of Study:** As the regional Course of Study school for the Northeast Jurisdiction, Wesley DC delivers the full Course of Study curriculum online. Scholar-practitioners teach these courses, equipping Local Pastors across the denomination with flexible, high-quality preparation for ministry. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/degree-programs/course-of-study/>

**Ministry Certificates and Lifelong Learning:** Wesley Pathways for Ministry offers online courses and certificates to help you discover your passion for ministry and strengthen your leadership skills, whether you are a layperson or a pastor. Courses and certificates help people gain ministry and leadership skills for church, community, and specialized ministry settings. Many courses/certificates are stackable for master's or doctoral credit and/or can be taken for CEUs. <https://www.wesleypathways.com/>

**Office of Admissions:** Are you ready to explore your next faithful step? The Admissions Office regularly holds in-person and online open houses for potential master's and DMin students, and admissions officers are available to answer your questions and help you discern. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/explorewesley/>

**The Hub for (Re)imagining Ministry:** Is your church ready to engage new generations or journey toward thriving in new ways? The Hub is currently accepting applications for its *Engaging Young Adults* nationwide, virtual cohort for congregations beginning August 2026, and will be recruiting new cohorts of congregations for *Bringing Church Home* (helping churches better accompany and support parents/caregivers in sharing their faith) and *Children of Faith* (helping churches center children in worship and formation) in fall 2026. The Hub is also entering into partnerships with UMC districts and annual conferences, equipping leaders to experiment, learn, and adapt faithfully in their local contexts. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/>

**The Lewis Center for Church Leadership:** The Lewis Center welcomed Rev. Dr. Jonathan Page as its new Director in 2025. Dr. Page brings deep experience in leadership development across ecclesial and secular contexts and is guiding the Center into its next chapter of service to the Church. Through its widely read *Leading Ideas* newsletter and the *Leading Ideas Talks* podcast, the Lewis Center reaches thousands of leaders across the denomination. <https://www.churchleadership.com/>

**The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion:** The Luce Center welcomed Rev. Timothy Chon, MDiv, MFA as its new Director in 2025. Since Spring 2025, the Luce Center, which serves as a vital intersection of theology, creativity, and public imagination, has presented four exhibitions in the Dadian Gallery. In 2025, the Luce Center completed a major studio renovation that expanded capacity to support multiple artists-in-residence simultaneously. The Center welcomed professional Artist-in-Residence Khaleelah Harris alongside new Student Artists-in-Residence, strengthening its commitment to nurturing artists at every stage of practice. <https://www.luceartsandreligion.org/>

**Center for Public Theology (CPT):** CPT builds on its nearly fifty-year legacy by equipping faith leaders for thoughtful, courageous public witness. In collaboration with the Florida Annual Conference and with support from Trinity Wall Street, CPT leads a Public Theology Fellowship addressing immigration and public witness in politically diverse congregations. CPT continues to offer its flagship course, *Faith and Politics in the Public Square*, which remains open to seminarians nationwide. The course brings participants to Washington, DC for sustained engagement with policymakers, journalists, scholars, and activists. This year's cohort engaged leaders including Senator Chris Coons, NPR's Michel Martin, Judge Thomas Griffith, and Tope Folarin of the Institute for Policy Studies—preparing leaders to serve faithfully amid rapidly shifting public realities. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>

**Community Engagement Institute):** CEI forms leaders for justice-centered, community-rooted ministry. In March 2025, CEI hosted *Fostering Urban Vitality and a Heart for the City*, a two-day urban ministry conference in Baltimore, with support from City Seminary of New York and the Lilly Endowment. CEI offers traditional courses and immersive travel seminars open to all master's-level students. With grants from the General Board of Global Ministries, CEI continues to offer the *Heal the Sick* Health Minister's Certificate. Since its inception, the program has trained more than 500 health ministers across 38 states and seven countries. In Spring 2026, CEI will offer *Trauma-Informed Congregations*, equipping leaders to address trauma with theological, cultural, and communal wisdom. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/about-us/overview-2/>

Wesley Theological Seminary remains deeply committed to the United Methodist Church and to the formation of leaders who serve with humility, imagination, and courage. As the Church continues to discern its future, Wesley stands ready—faithful to its mission, responsive to the moment, and hopeful in God's ongoing work. For the Church. For the world. For such a time as this.

Call us: (202) 885-8659 Email us: [admissions@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:admissions@wesleyseminary.edu)

Follow us: Facebook/IG: @WesleySeminary and YouTube/LinkedIn: @WesleyTheologicalSeminary

Submitted by Lyvonne Briggs, Director of Strategic Communications and Marketing

# GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## 2025–2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY remains the only Historically Black Theological Institution (HBTI) of The United Methodist Church. Gammon Theological Seminary’s mission is to provide academic and degree-granting programs that help prepare individuals who understand their vocation as working in partnership with God in forming a just and generative world for all, for the practice of Christian ministry and public leadership.

### Accreditation

- Launched Gammon’s independent Master of Divinity program in 2024 as a key step toward separate accreditation with SACSCOC and ATS.
- Hosted initial SACSCOC site visit in October 2025, received affirmation of 93% compliance on all SACSCOC Standards, final review pending the June 2026 SACSCOC Board meeting. Starting the ATS Accreditation process in 2026 with a goal of full ATS accreditation awarded by December 2027.

### Enrollment

- As of Spring 2026, Gammon enrolls 41 students (10 new and 31 continuing), reflecting sustained growth since the Fall 2024 launch of the independent MDiv program.
- Student body includes 30 United Methodist-affiliated students (73.2 percent), with 28 specifically identifying as UMC (68.3 percent), demonstrating Gammon’s deep denominational roots.
- More than 70 percent of students are directly engaged in or preparing for ordained and licensed ministry: 42.5 percent actively discerning call and 30 percent already certified candidates or licensed local pastors.
- Student-to-faculty ratios have remained healthy (4:1 to 7:1), with more than 70 percent of students enrolled full-time each term, demonstrating stable instructional capacity and careful scaling.

### Fund Development

- Secured a three-year, \$975,000 capacity-building grant from GBHEM to underwrite Gammon 3.0 operational expansion and strengthen institutional infrastructure.
- Received a \$375,000 grant from the William I. H. and Lula E. Pitts Foundation to support Phase III renovations, modernizing classrooms, offices, and the faculty hub for collaborative learning and academic planning.
- Obtained a \$250,000 scholarship grant from The SOMA Foundation to provide current-use aid for students in the 2025–2026 academic year, directly reducing educational debt.
- Launched the “Become 1 of 1 Million” endowed scholarship campaign fund to raise \$1 million in scholarship funds for Gammon students, enabling students to answer their call to ministry without incurring significant debt.

We offer profound thanks to God and to the entire United Methodist connection—bishops, cabinets, annual conferences, congregations, alumni, donors, and friends—for your faithful partnership in this season of renewal. Your prayers, apportionment support, special offerings, and generous gifts are establishing the work of our hands and making it possible for the vision of Gammon 3.0 to become a lived reality for current and future students. Together, we are strengthening Gammon as a vital, sustainable, and innovative seminary forming leaders for the church and the world.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Candace M. Lewis

# RULES OF ORDER

## Article I – Meetings

1. The Annual Conference shall convene each year for the transaction of business as provided by the Discipline of The United Methodist Church and shall consider and act upon such other matters as may properly be brought before it.
2. The Bishop shall appoint the times for holding the Annual Conference. (See Discipline, ¶ 603.2) The Bishop and the Commission on Conference Sessions shall select the place for holding the Conference. (¶ 603.3)
3. Special Sessions may be held as provided by the Discipline. (¶ 603.5)
4. The Bishop assigned shall preside or arrange for another Bishop to preside in case of the Bishop's inability. In the absence of a Bishop, the Conference shall by ballot, without nomination or debate, elect a president *pro tempore* from among the traveling elders. The president thus elected shall discharge all the duties of a Bishop except ordination. (¶ 603.6)
5. The choice of a visiting Bishop and/or major speakers shall be the prerogative of the Bishop.

## Article II – Organization

1. The sessions shall open with a period of devotion, followed by a call of the roll, including the roll of the local pastors indicated in the Discipline (¶ 605) and include a service of Holy Communion and Memorial Service.
2. A Secretary, Treasurer, and Statistician and such other officers as the Conference may authorize, including assistant secretaries, shall be elected, the Secretary to nominate assistants.
3. The Conference shall establish a “Bar of the Conference” for the seating of its members.
4. The Conference may adopt an agenda prepared by the Bishop and the Commission on Conference Sessions.
5. The Conference Secretary shall assign Tellers who will be available for tabulation of written ballots as required in Plenary Sessions. Count votes will be counted by the Conference Secretarial Staff.
6. The Conference Secretary shall provide for teams of Pages who will be assigned for each Plenary Session to assist the distribution of printed reports and materials pertinent to business pending before the Plenary Session. These materials are to be provided to an Associate Secretary designated by the Conference Secretary.

- a. Only authorized materials pertinent to Plenary Sessions business shall be distributed on the floor of conference. Agencies, institutions, and groups interested in provided promotional or informational material may do so by distributing it at the doors using their own personnel. Such material shall clearly identify the sponsoring agency, institution, or group.
- b. The Commission on Conference Sessions shall not bar the distribution of informational or promotional material handled in accordance with 6.a.

### **Article III – Clergy Session**

A Clergy Session of Clergy Members and the Lay Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry shall be held for the purposes defined by the Discipline of The United Methodist Church.

### **Article IV – Duties of Officers**

The responsibilities and duties of officers shall be the general duties pertaining to these offices, those prescribed by the Discipline and such other duties as the Conference may from time to time direct.

### **Article V – Bonds and Audits**

All treasurers, other officers, trustees, and persons handling funds or securities of the Conference or any board, commission, committee, or other agency thereof shall be bonded in appropriate amounts. All accounts of treasurers and trustees shall be audited by experienced disinterested public accountants or certified public accountants as provided by the Discipline. The auditor's reports and recommendations shall be submitted to the Council on Finance and Administration.

### **Article VI – Commission on Conference Sessions**

There shall be a Commission on Conference Sessions whose responsibility, under the direction of the Bishop, shall be to prepare an agenda and arrange the program of the Annual Session. This shall include responsibility for soliciting reports from all Conference agencies and other reporting groups; caring for the physical arrangements at the site of Annual Conference; caring for all expenses mandated by the Conference; and planning all inspirational and devotional periods.

## **Article VII – Reports**

All boards, commissions, councils, societies, corporations, and other agencies related to the Conference shall receive notice of the time and person to whom reports of such bodies that are to be published in the Journal shall be sent.

## **Article VIII – Resolutions**

1. Resolutions shall be invited from local churches, conference agencies, conference related institutions, or individual church members. The deadline for receiving these resolutions shall be set by the Conference Secretary and shall be at least thirty days prior to Annual Conference. A notice to this effect along with the name and address of the person to whom resolutions shall be sent and the deadline date shall be appropriately publicized.
2. Resolutions shall be distributed to the members of the Annual Conference by the date of District Conferences. Printed copies will be provided upon request and can be picked up at District Conferences. These resolutions shall have a first priority upon the work of the Annual Conference. A Consent Calendar may be established by the Agenda Committee to assist the work of the Annual Conference. Any resolution may be lifted from the Consent Calendar upon the request by 10 members at the time the Consent Calendar is presented to the Annual Conference for adoption.
3. Resolutions received after the announced deadline or during the session of Annual Conference will be reviewed by the Agenda Committee. In consultation with the Presiding Bishop, this Committee will determine which resolutions will be printed for distribution to Conference members. The Agenda Committee shall include the Conference Secretary, the Chairperson of Conference Sessions, The Executive Director of Congregational Transformation/Connectional Ministries, Conference Lay Leader, and The Dean of the Cabinet.

## **Article IX – Disposition of Reports and Resolutions**

When presented to the Conference Plenary Session a resolution or report becomes the possession of the body, to be disposed of as it will, including amendment, substitution, etc.

## **Article X – Rules of Order Debate**

1. A member desiring to address the Conference shall proceed to a microphone and, after recognition by the presiding officer, shall first state clearly said member's name and charge represented.

2. No member who has the floor may be interrupted, except by the presiding officer for a breach of order, or a misrepresentation, or to bring to the attention of the Conference that the time has arrived for a special order, or to raise a question of a very high privilege.

a. Motions - Members may speak only to a motion before the Conference or to offer a motion. Speeches shall not precede a motion.

b. Motion for Previous Question - A motion for the “previous question” shall be made from a microphone, and shall not be in order unless at least two members have spoken for and two against the motion. A motion for the “previous question” shall not be appended to or supported by a speech. If in order, debate shall end, and a vote be taken on said motion. The mover shall state whether the motion applies only to a proposed amendment to a motion, or all that is before it. A motion for the “previous question” must be sustained by a two-thirds vote of members within the Bar of the Conference.

c. Motion to suspend the Rules - A motion to suspend the rules shall be sustained by two-thirds of the members within the Bar of the Conference.

d. Voting - Voting shall be by raising the hand except when a standing count vote is called for, or when electronic voting is used. When a standing count vote is called for, members voting in favor of the motion shall rise and remain standing until counted. Then those voting against the motion shall rise and remain standing until counted, followed by those abstaining. In case of a disability that prevents voting in the prescribed fashion (i.e. standing) the presiding officer shall recognize the intended vote of that member by another means so as not to disenfranchise any member.

e. Motions and Resolutions to be in Writing - All motions and resolutions shall be written and copies submitted to the presiding officer and the secretary.

f. Length of Time Granted on the Floor of Annual Conference Session:

i. Once recognized by the Bishop as Presiding Officer of the Annual Conference Session, any delegate seated within the bar of the Annual Conference or other person granted permission to speak within the bar of the Annual Conference may speak up to three minutes. A one minute warning may be given and after that time has elapsed, the Presiding Officer may interrupt that member and terminate permission to speak.

ii. The privilege of addressing the Annual Conference Session is extended to groups and individuals making presentations on the adopted agenda, with clearly understood time commitments specified in advance. A one minute signal before the



end of their allotted time may be given, and after that time, the Presiding Officer may interrupt those persons, groups, or individuals and terminate permission to speak.

iii. Other Parliamentary Rules - Other parliamentary rules shall be the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order (latest version).

g. Plenary Sessions - In the Plenary Sessions, members desiring to offer motions which are not scheduled as part of an Agenda item (Art II.4) shall confer in advance with the Chairperson of the Commission on Conference Sessions.

#### **Article XI – Conference Journal**

1. The Conference shall keep an exact record of its proceedings, and other items required by the Discipline, and shall publish annually a Journal which shall include the items required by the Discipline to be included in its Journal. The Journal shall incorporate the addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses as preferred of the pastors, lay members and alternates, church lay leaders, certified lay speakers, and other such information, as the Conference shall direct. Agencies related to the Conference shall bear the precise corporate titles.

2. At the recommendation of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, during the Fall Budget Session, Nov. 9, 1996, the Annual Conference approved an action to charge for the Journal rather than have it supplied at no charge, beginning in 1997.

#### **Article XII – Responsibilities of Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Other Organizations Required by the Discipline**

1. The various boards, commissions, committees, and other organizations required to be a part of the Annual Conference structure are as set forth in the Discipline, as the same may from time to time be amended, provided, however, that the Conference may refer to such organizations such matters as are not inconsistent there with.

2. Additional boards, commissions, committees, and organizations may be authorized by the Conference, where it is deemed inappropriate or inexpedient to refer a subject proposal to an existing organization.

3. Ex-officio members who have been appointed or elected to serve the Conference on boards, commissions, committees, and other organizations shall have the right to vote. Advisory members shall have the right to voice without vote.

### **Article XIII – Tenure on Boards, etc.**

NO person may serve on the same board, commission, council, or committee of this Conference for a longer continuous period than two quadrennium except those serving in an ex-officio capacity or other position involving experience making replacement inexpedient when upon the request of such organization to the nominating committee and exception may be recommended to the Conference. It is understood that the maximum term is ten years or two quadrenniums. Persons serving two years or less on a board or agency will be considered eligible for the two quadrennium tenure.

1. The period of service of all elected to office shall begin with the adjournment of the Conference Session in which they were elected.
2. All boards, agencies, and commissions, required by the Discipline to organize annually shall reorganize within two weeks of the Annual Conference and the names of the officers shall be reported to the Conference Secretary for inclusion in the Journal.
3. The Officiary of the local church shall be elected to serve on the basis of the calendar year.
4. No person shall serve on more than one major agency (i.e., boards, commissions, councils, divisions) of the Annual Conference, except in the case of ex-officio members and minority ethnic members of our Conference who are permitted to serve on at least two Conference agencies.
5. No person shall serve on the Board of Directors/Board of Trustees of an incorporated agency affiliated with the Annual Conference, whose board members are elected by the Conference, except in the case of ex-officio members of boards, and ethnic minority members of the Conference who shall follow the rule of the Conference and that this rule be implemented in the immediate future years by the process of attrition.

### **Article XIV – Attendance**

Punctual and regular attendance of the members of the Conference is expected except in cases of emergency. Those requesting to be excused must make the request in writing to the Conference Secretary. (§ 602.8) In the case of anticipated absence of lay members, arrangement should be made to have the alternate lay member seated. Every charge should be represented at all business sessions. (§ 602.7)

## **Article XV – Financial Reports**

All boards and agencies shall submit annually financial reports reflecting assets and liabilities as well as receipts and disbursements, which shall be printed in the Journal.

## **Article XVI – Election Process for General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates**

The Nomination process for the election of delegates to the 2020 General Conference and 2020 Jurisdictional Conference shall be governed by the following procedures:

1. Nominating petitions will be sent to clergy members in full connection and lay members of the Annual Conference at least three months prior to the Annual Conference session.
2. Nominating petitions will allow for a maximum of 10 nominees. Persons will be nominated when their names have been identified on 10 nominating petitions. As in the election process, the nominations process shall allow clergy to nominate clergy and laity to nominate laity.
3. Nominees shall fulfill the Disciplinary and Constitutional requirements outlined in the Constitution, paragraphs 35 and 36.
4. Nominating petitions shall be returned to the Conference Secretary no later than March 1, 2019.
5. The Board of Lay Ministry may make additional laity nominations by March 10, 2019.
6. After March 1, 2019, all nominees will be provided an acceptance form. Nominees will return their acceptance form by March 31, 2019 for their names to appear on the ballot.
7. Nominees will provide biographical information and a brief written statement by March 31, 2019. The list of nominees, biographical material and statements will be published and/or distributed through as many means as possible.
8. From the nominee acceptance forms, the Conference Secretary will prepare separate clergy and laity ballots. The ballots will include spaces for write-ins.
9. Nominations will be accepted from the floor provided a nominating petition fulfilling #2 above and an acceptance form are duly presented. Five hundred copies of a biographical profile and statement are required for immediate distribution.
10. Election shall be by majority of valid ballots cast on each ballot, clergy and laity voting separately.
11. Balloting for the specified number of delegates to General Conference will begin first. These persons are elected as delegates to General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference. After their election, the additional number of persons to be elected as Jurisdictional Conference delegates

shall begin. Upon completion of these elections, a final ballot will be taken to elect three alternates to Jurisdictional Conference; the three persons receiving the highest number of votes will be elected.

12. Judges of Elections shall be appointed by the Conference Secretary to oversee the tabulation of ballots, certify the election of delegates, and convey the ballots and report to the Conference Secretary.

13. All Jurisdictional Conference delegates will be alternate delegates to the General Conference in order of their election.

14. The Annual Conference will assume the costs of the first clergy and laity alternates to attend the General Conference. The Annual Conference will assume the costs of the six alternates to attend the Jurisdictional Conference.

### **Article XVII - Nomination of Episcopal Candidates**

1. The Annual Conference shall, in the year preceding the conference session during which Episcopal candidates are to be nominated, solicit potential nominees from all the members both lay and clergy of the Annual Conference. Each member may nominate the number of Elders for which there are vacancies in the jurisdiction to be filled, provided the nominees are Elders in good standing in the Conference. Any Elder who receives at least 10 nominations will have their biographical details and personal statement published and/or distributed through as many means as possible for study prior to the electing conference session.

2. At the EPA annual conference session immediately prior to the next regular session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, the EPA jurisdictional delegation may present one or more names to the annual conference for endorsement. 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 voting. Likewise, if the delegation recommends no persons, the annual conference shall vote to accept that recommendation by the same 2/3 vote.

3. 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, provided.

a. The ordained elder(s) in full connection being nominated from the floor shall have given consent prior to the making of the nomination and will at the time the nomination is made present a nominating petition to the secretary of the annual conference with the names and signatures of ten persons, laity or clergy, who are members of the Annual Conference.

b. At least five hundred copies of a biographical profile and statement for such nominees will be available and distributed to annual conference delegates at the time the nomination is made.

c. A minimum of four hours shall elapse, after all nominations have been received from the floor, before a ballot is taken.

4. The annual conference shall then proceed to endorse a nominee (or nominees) by ballot as follows: all nominees shall be listed on the ballot, and a ballot taken. Any person(s) receiving a 2/3 vote would move forward as the endorsed Episcopal nominee(s) of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference; provided that annual conference delegates may not vote on any ballot for more candidates than the number of open Episcopal seats anticipated at the ensuing Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

5. After five such ballots have been taken, a motion to discontinue balloting shall then be in order, requiring a simple majority. Any persons who have received the requisite 2/3 majority shall be considered the endorsed Episcopal nominee(s) of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. If no person has obtained the required 2/3 majority, then no person shall be considered to have been endorsed by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

6. The Jurisdictional delegation shall not be bound by any action of the delegation or the annual conference regarding confirmed and/or endorsed nominees when the Jurisdictional delegates cast their votes at Jurisdictional Conference (p 405.1).

#### **Article XVIII - Petitions to General Conference**

For any General Conference resolution or proposed disciplinary change, the required vote to approve such resolutions shall require a 3/4 majority of votes cast. These resolutions will be placed at the beginning of the Conference Sessions.

#### **Article XIX – Amendments**

These Rules and Regulations may be amended at any regular session of the Conference provided six hours shall elapse after the first reading before action is taken. A majority vote shall be necessary to adopt. Amendment may be made at a Special Session provided the proposed amendment is incorporated in the call.

---

**Article XX**

The Conference Secretary as editor of the Journal shall be authorized to make editorial changes to paragraph numbers to reflect the language of the current Book of Discipline. The Secretary will be further authorized to change the years listed in Article XVI as appropriate for subsequent general conference.

## GOT CURIOSITY?

**PATHWAYS BRIDGES** guides your congregation on 12-month transformative experience that offers practical tools and spiritual practices that empower you to navigate across lines of difference with grace, as we explore and practice:

- **RADICAL HOSPITALITY** – learning to welcome others without fear
- **STORYTELLING** – discovering the sacred power in our lived experiences
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** – moving beyond the walls of the church with empathy
- **INNOVATION** – reimagining how we do ministry in today's world

[WWW.PATHWAYBRIDGES.ORG](http://WWW.PATHWAYBRIDGES.ORG)

 **BRIDGES**  
A PATHWAY TOWARDS  
CURIOSITY AND COMMUNITY

