

Request for Nominations for Northeastern Jurisdiction Episcopal Elections 2024

The following e-mail is sent to all EPA clergy and lay members and equalizing lay members of the Annual Conference for whom the Conference has e-mail addresses.

December 1, 2023 [Sent Dec. 7]

Dear EPA Annual Conference Clergy and Laity,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.

As the 2024 Jurisdictional Conference delegation of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference continues its work, one of the great responsibilities of the delegation is to identify the individual or individuals who will represent the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference as an Episcopal candidate. The EPA General and Jurisdictional delegates request interested clergy and lay members to submit up to two (2) names of persons the Conference may consider as Episcopal nominees.

Every four years United Methodist delegates gather regionally (in five Jurisdictions in the US and in Central Conferences outside the US) to elect new bishops to fill vacancies created by retiring bishops. Generally, Annual Conferences nominate one or more candidates to be considered by the Jurisdictional Conference for election. The 2024 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, to which the EPA Annual Conference belongs, will meet in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, July 9-12, 2024. Elected delegates from each of the Annual Conferences in the Northeastern Jurisdiction will interview the nominees and elect the new bishops through a balloting process.

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

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

Nominees must be ordained elders in the EPA Annual Conference or another Annual Conference. If a person reaches 68 ON OR BEFORE July 1, 2024, he/she is not eligible to be nominated.

Johnson Dodla has agreed to receive these nominations on behalf of the delegation. All nominations must be sent to: johnson@mthope.org by January 15, 2024.

The delegation appreciates your participation in this vital process and covets your prayers as we move forward process, please feel free to contact either of us.

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

Sincerely,

Judy Ehninger
Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm
Delegation Co-chairs

Vision for a Bishop

“ For a bishop. As God’s steward, must be blameless...not...arrogant or quick tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain; but...must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, prudent, upright, devout, and self-controlled. [A bishop] must a firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy in accordance with teaching, so that [she/he] may be able both to preach with sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it” (Titus 1:7-9, NRSV).

Personal Qualities

- Thinks and acts globally and locally in rural, urban, and suburban contexts.
- Understands the nature of change and assists others to transform even in the midst of the pain of change.
- Leads from a spiritual center that is evident from a strong devotional/prayer life and vigorous corporate worship skills.
- Leads with an evangelical spirit so that others make decisions to follow Jesus Christ, live justly, and minister with the poor.
- Possesses excellent health, vigor, and stamina.

Skills for Transformation:

- Able to articulate Wesleyan theology and Scripture, along with ability to articulate Annual Conference, Jurisdictional, and denominational vision in a manner to inspire people to work together to accomplish the vision.
- Leads effectively and sensitively to implement cohesive action among people of diverse racial, ethnic, and theological backgrounds.
- Builds bridges between diverse groups to enhance ministry.
- Leads with theological understanding those in administrative and management positions.
- Inspires commitment to vision utilizing strong written and oral communication skills.
- Develops leadership in others.

Experience:

- Demonstrate understanding of, and commitment to, the ministry of the laity, especially in daily living their faith.
- Demonstrates leadership that has had significant influence in the church and secular worlds, changing the way people and organizations operate and minister.
- Demonstrates power sharing rather than power hoarding in ways that have led to renewal and vitality in ministry.
- Demonstrates outstanding results in recruiting, employing, supervising, and developing lay and clergy staff/leadership.
- Demonstrates strong commitment to transforming the connectional system.

I nominate the following as a candidate(s) for the episcopacy (Nominees must be ordained elders in the EPA Annual Conference or another Annual Conference. If a person reaches 68 ON OR BEFORE July 1, 2024, he/she is not eligible to be nominated.

Person Making the Nomination:

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Nominees will be contacted personally to determine if they are interested in participating in a process to identify the EPA nominee(s). All nominations must be received by **January 15, 2024**.

A candidate should have at least ten nominations to be considered for an interview by the delegation.

Continued Timeline:

Jan 16, 2024: EPA delegation representative contacts individuals who have been nominated to identify individuals who are willing to participate in the process to select the EPA candidates. Those who agree to participate are to submit **three references (witnesses of your ministry – 1 lay witness; 1 clergy witness and 1 community witness; references should be no longer than 1 page)**, biographical information and written answers to the questions on the accompanying sheet to the delegation’s co-chairs by **February 15 , 2024**.

March 16, 2024 Delegation interviews candidates and decides on recommendation to the EPA Annual Conference’s May session.