

## 2022 Upper New York Conference Annual Conference Daily Notes

### Thursday Oct. 6

- The morning began with [Opening Worship](#). Upper New York Area Resident Bishop, Mark J. Webb, delivered a message of hope using the passage of Ezekiel 37:1-10 where Ezekiel prophesied bringing flesh to dry bones and breath to come into the slain. The offering was for the UNY Mission Central HUB.
- For the laity session, more than 260 participants heard reports from Associate Conference Lay Leader Jessica White, Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM), United Women in Faith, United Methodist Men and Lay Servant Ministries as well as an update on the upcoming United Methodist Jurisdictional Conferences.
- The afternoon plenary began with the Rev. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding, UNY Director of Connectional Ministries and Assistant to the Bishop, acknowledging that the Conference office in Liverpool, NY, is on the land of the Onondaga Nation.
- Members voted on the equalization member list; 97.2 % of the attendees approved the list.
- The organizational motion (page 7) was presented to the Conference for voting; the organizational motion was approved by 97.8 % of the body.
- Rev. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding presented the adopted agenda and the consent calendar (page 9), \*approved by 98.2 % of the body.
- Conference Associate Lay Leader Jessica White and Dean of the Cabinet, the Rev. Mike Weeden, presented the Leadership Report. They spoke of the mission, vision, and purpose of the UNY Conference and using the L3 model (Loving, Learning, Leading) in their work to reach the goal of 50 % of UNY congregations becoming vital. A panel of five laity and clergy discussed how the L3 model helped them in their work on leadership teams and local congregations.
- Carmen Vianese, head of the UNY General and Jurisdictional Delegation, presented a motion to allow for the members of the Conference to vote on nominees to send forward to the Jurisdictional Conference for the Episcopal election. This motion was supported by 90.1 % of the body.
- Carmen Vianese received 14 nominations to be considered for the episcopacy process; six of those nominated accepted (the Rev. Michelle Bogue-Trost, the Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady, the Rev. Wendy Deichmann, the Rev. Rochelle Goff, the Rev. Dr. Sherri Rood, and the Rev. Heather Williams). Carmen then opened the floor for other nominations.
  - o Ian Urriola nominated the Rev. Giovanni Arroyo from the Baltimore Washington Conference
- The Rev. Sara Baron, chair, presented the report of the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. The Rev. Baron reported grants dispersed and brought two recommendations, the first on housing and rental exclusion and the second on the 2023 past service annuity rate. The recommendation that an amount equal to 100 % of the pension, severance, or disability payments received by clergy be designated as rental/housing allowance was approved by 96.5 %, and the recommendation for a 1 % increase in past service rate for pension payment to retired clergy whose years of service began prior to 1982 passed by 80.4 %. The report was adopted by the Conference.
- Four nominations were received after Carmen Vianese came before the body to determine if there were any additional nominations to be considered for the episcopacy elections. Bishop Webb decided to have the body vote on whether to accept these four nominations or not; Seventy-one % of the body decided to accept these names. The names were: the Rev. Dr. Aaron Bowens, the Rev. Dr. Paul Amara (a District Superintendent in Susquehanna Conference), the Rev. Suzanne Block, and the Rev. Nola Anderson (who was one of the original 14 nominated and had already graciously declined to be considered).
- The Rev. Rich Weihling presented the Equitable Compensation report. The first recommendation he presented was to increase the Minimum Base Compensation by 2.5 % (supported by 89.2 % of the body). The second recommendation presented was to keep the same yearly increment of 1% of the minimum base salary based on full-time employment for up to 25 years; (approved by 95.2 % of the body). The third recommendation was for an additional \$500 for each additional church on the pastoral charge (over one), not adjusted for part-time appointments remain the same (supported by 96.1 % of the body). The fourth recommendation presented was that no pastor's salary can be decreased because of this policy (approved by 98.1 % of the body). The fifth recommendation was for churches to raise pastors' salary increase of no less than 2.5 % and churches are encouraged to consider further raises based on exceptional service (approved by 96 % of the body). The entire report on Equitable Compensation was approved by 98.9 of the body.
- The Conference Commission on Religion and Race presented their report, focusing on how many ministries and congregations have gone through the Imagine No Racism 2.0 curriculum. They also discussed their goal of educating more young people across the Conference on dismantling racism.
- UNYAC2022.1—Encouragement of Voting by all Citizens presented and supported by 90 % of the body
- UNYAC2022.2—Candidacy Interviews presented and amended three times, supported by 53.3 % of the body
- After dinner, the body voted on the nominations for candidates to be considered for the episcopacy endorsement.

- The first ballot was to vote for up to six candidates out of the eight nominated and willing to move forward in consideration for the episcopacy elections. The candidates were narrowed down to those with the top six votes, which included the Rev. Wendy Deichman, the Rev. Dr. Sherri Rood, the Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady, the Rev. Bogue-Trost, the Rev. Dr. Aaron Bouwens, and the Rev. Heather Williams.
- The six candidates were able to speak for three minutes each, highlighting their gifts and why they should be considered in the next vote, which narrows the candidates down to three.
- The three that received the highest number of votes were Rev. Wendy Deichman, Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady, and the Rev. Dr. Sherri Rood; these three progressed to the next vote whereby the voting body must select one candidate.
- Rev. Wendy Deichman and Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady received the two highest votes; they progressed to the next ballot whereby the voting body must select one candidate. If one candidate receives at least 60 percent of the votes, this candidate will be endorsed as the Conference's candidate to be considered in the elections for Bishop.
- Rev. Wendy Deichman received 62.6 percent of the votes in this ballot; she receives the Conference's endorsement as a candidate for the elections of Bishop.

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\*Page numbers refer to the *Upper New York 2022 Annual Conference Journal Vol. 1*.