

April 2018

Connected is a publication of the New England Conference of The United Methodist Church. This monthly insert is designed to put Conference news directly into the hands of our local church members.



For more news and events, visit www.neumc.org.



AC18 registration open

Online registration is open now through June 1, 2018. Save \$25 if you register by May 1, 2018. Visit www.neumc.org/acsessions to register and find more information.

Registration for housing is separate from registration for the AC session; there is a link in the registration form or visit www.neumc.org/acaccommodations

The Conference has reserved discounted room blocks at some Manchester hotels and we are offering a budget-friendly option of staying at a dorm at nearby Southern New Hampshire University.

Annual Conference will be Thursday to Saturday, June 14-16 at the Manchester Downtown Hotel (formerly the Radisson) at 700 Elm St., Manchester, NH.

The theme this year is: "Vital Conversations: Culture."

Our guiding scripture is:

"It was the risen One who handed down to us such gifted leaders—some emissaries, some prophets, some evangelists, as well as some pastor-teachers — so that God's



people would be thoroughly equipped to minister and build up the body of the Anointed One. These ministries will continue until we are unified in faith and filled with the knowledge of the Son of God, until we stand mature in His teachings and fully formed in the likeness of the Anointed, our Liberating King."

— Ephesians 4:11-13 (The Voice)

See the Pre-Conference Briefing schedule at left

Meet this year's guests — 2



Pre-Conference Briefing schedule in each district

For Annual Conference members – and anyone who wants to know more – there will again be Pre-Conference Briefings in each district.

NH	May 12
NME	May 19
RIM	May 19
CT/WM	May 19
CMA	May 19
VT	May 19
TRI	May 20
MME	June 3
MBH	TBA

The dates above are subject to change. For details and the most current information, visit the Conference calendar:

www.neumc.org/events



REGISTER ONLINE AND GET ALL THE LATEST AC 2018 NEWS
www.neumc.org/acsessions

2018 Annual Conference session

Guest Preacher/Bible study leader

The Rev. Dr. Robert Allan Hill will be this year's guest preacher and Bible study leader. Dr. Hill is Dean of Marsh Chapel and chaplain to Boston University, where he is Professor of New Testament and Pastoral Theology.



Dr. Hill's service from Marsh Chapel is broadcast on NPR each Sunday morning at 11 (WBUR 90.9FM).

Dr. Hill is an elder in the Upper New York Conference, and has served 10 local churches, five different annual conferences; he's had multiple annual conference board assignments, participated in General and Jurisdictional Conference and served as a member of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Annual Conference music leader

Mark Miller is well known in New England and throughout The United Methodist Church as a worship leader, teacher and performer of sacred music, and he will be back—along with his band—to be music leader at Annual Conference again this year.



Dr. Miller currently serves on the faculty at the Drew Theological School and the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University, where he teaches music and worship.

He also is Director of the Gospel and Youth Choirs at the Marble Collegiate Church in New York City. From 1999 to 2001 he was Music Associate and Assistant Organist of The Riverside Church in New York City.

Ziegler and Bryant awards honor preaching, social justice work

The New England Conference Board of Church and Society is seeking nominations for the 2018 Bryant Award for Social Justice Action and Ziegler Award for Excellence in Preaching. The deadline for each award is April 25, 2018.

The John Bryant Award for Social Justice Action is presented to a layperson for excellence in seeking social justice. The award honors persons who embody the Judeo-Christian vision of justice as interpreted by the United Methodist Social Principles. Activity in the church is not a prerequisite for nomination nor a condition for receiving the award.

The Wilbur C. Ziegler Award for Excellence in Preaching is awarded each year at the New England Annual Conference session to a person who demonstrates excellence in preaching the whole Gospel, addressing both personal and social salvation.

Especially in the case of the Ziegler Award, the board recommends sharing your intention to



Find the nomination form:
www.neumc.org

nominate with your nominee. It is not necessary to "surprise" your pastor or laborer for justice; the nomination itself is a tremendous honor!



Rev. Dr. Thomas Blackstone,
2017 Ziegler Preacher

Volunteer



Central VT Mission invites VIM teams

The Central Vermont Mission needs Volunteer in Mission Teams for this year. We can take groups up to 22 people, youth and or adult teams. We have many projects here in Central Vermont needing help. Groups can come for a week or more, or less. Our facility, MacKenzie House has showers, restrooms and a fully equipped kitchen. So, come to beautiful Vermont for a fulfilling and spiritually enriching experience. Check us out at:

centralvermontmission.org. We are a sanctioned NEAC Mission.

W ME needs VIM team

The United Methodist Economic Ministry (UMEM) in Salem, ME, is looking for a team of volunteers to assist with improving an area of the ministry's property that is often used as an emergency shelter. UMEM serves the people of Western Maine with the food banks, thrift shops, and home repair services. The team is needed this summer and can schedule their stay at the UMEM on any of the available dates. Visit: umeconomicministry.com

Let's Connect

Do you have a story to share? A feature idea? A question?
Contact Beth DiCocco,
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at communicate@neumc.org or (978) 682-8055