

July 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.

Conference, Episcopal & Tri-State offices moved

As of Monday, June 25, 2018, the New England Conference office, the Episcopal office, and the Tri-State District office are located in our new conference center at 411 Merrimack St., Methuen, MA 01844.

Reach us by email, phone or mail

Our email addresses and phone numbers will remain the same, as will the Boston post office box churches use to remit payments. We will no longer be using Lawrence, MA, post office box.

Coming to the offices

Visitor parking is in the front of the building; accessible parking is in the back. The entrances for the Conference Offices and the Episcopal offices are now separate. The center doors (front and back) lead to the Conference offices. The doors on the south side of the building (front and back) lead to the Episcopal Office.

About the new Conference Center

The second floor of the former medical offices will house the Conference offices, the Episcopal office, and the offices of the Tri-State District.

The building has been converted to condominium ownership. The first floor has been sold to H & H Properties, LLC of Lawrence, MA. It will house the administrative offices of [Bethel Child Care Services](#) and a related entity, Provider Resources, Inc.

A lower-level Training Center for larger group meetings and training sessions will be shared space.



Annual Conference 2018

In his annual Episcopal Address, Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar spoke about the unity of The United Methodist Church, saying: “We do ministry together until we are unified. We do not become unified in order to get ministry done.”

He called on members of the Annual Conference to do the following:

Read “The Anatomy of Peace” by the Arbinger Institute in your church. Read it and discuss it small groups.

Relate to a people group in your community with whom you have not had contact before: Is there a mosque in your town? Are there immigrants? Find a way to invite them into a conversation. Get to know their needs. Build relationships that emphasize Christian love.

Aspire to rest in peace and not have your heart at war.

Remember “The Rabbi’s Gift” – The Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes, who serves St. Matthew’s UMC in Acton, MA, recounted the story.

The bishop called for the creation of a Pastors Respite Fund; the UM Foundation of New England has pledged to



Bishop Devadhar

match \$25,000. At the end of the session, more than \$23,000 contributed or pledged.

The bishop also encouraged the Conference Board of Global Ministries to work on ways to expand our ministry in the world and to ask the General Council on Finance and Administration to make a financial assessment and look at our district structure.

You can read the bishop’s complete address, including “The Rabbi’s Gift” on our website: www.neumc.org/news



FIND PHOTOS AND RECAPS OF EACH DAY AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018

www.neumc.org/news

Service of Ordination and Commissioning

Bishop to new clergy: ‘Drop your nets’

At the 2018 Service of Ordination and Commissioning Friday, June 15, Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar told New England’s new clergy they must be willing to “drop their nets” and trust God so that they can take risks in their ministry.

“My dear Ordinands and Commissioners,” he said, “you have been asked to leave your nets behind in order to respond to the call to set-apart ministry. Your decision to accept this call has far-reaching implications. It is a risky and costly business. It will demand much more of you than the nets you have already left behind. Tonight is just the beginning.”

Bishop Devadhar ended his sermon with a question for these new clergy:

“The one who walked on the shores of Galilee is calling you and each of us to join him on a journey to new places, possibilities and ventures, where our nets will do us no good.

We are called to drop the nets upon which we

rely and do a new thing, trusting that God will be with us for the journey. We are called to take risks. Are you willing to jump into this exciting adventure of faith without a safety net?”

Also participating in the service were special guests United Methodist Bishops Susan Hassinger, John Innis, Clif Ives, and Jane Middleton; the Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, Bishop Suffragen, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts; Boston University School of Theology Dean Mary Elizabeth Moore, and Bishop Young-Hwa Kwon, Samnam Conference of the Korean Methodist Church.

Commissioned as provisional deacons

Ashley Michele Benner Murphy
Karen Alicia Skalla



See more photos
www.neumc.org/photo_albums

Commissioned as provisional elders

Ross Thomas Johnson
Chung Ho “Daniel” Lee
Jennifer Larson Mihok
Dongmyung “David” Shim
Nami Yu

Ordained as elders

Seongmoon Ahn
Annie Jeanne MacNeal Baker-Streevy
Rebecca Lyn Thompson Cho
Taeseob Cho
Daniel Rocco Randall
Hyung-Kyu Yi
Hyosuk “Sue” Yun

Churches honored with One Matters awards

Three churches in New England received One Matters Awards. These awards recognize churches that, in 2017, received a high percentage of professions of faith (relative to average worship attendance), baptized both children and adults, and are focused on the process of making disciples of Jesus Christ.



This year’s honorees are:

Trinity UMC in Springfield, MA
First UMC in Pittsfield, MA
People’s UMC in Fremont, NH

Visit the website to read stories from each of these churches.

AC 18 actions

Among the actions taken at the 2018 session, the Annual Conference approved the 2019 budget, agreed to sell a portion of Camp Mechwana property for a public boat launch, took a stand against separating families at the border, and asked the Judicial Council to rule on the fee being charged to visitors to the called special session of General Conference.

Read about all the actions taken and find the complete legislation in our daily recaps on the website

www.neumc.org/news

Let’s Connect

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