

The deadline for the  
Connections  
July issue  
June 8

# CONNECTIONS

The Newspaper of the North Central New York Conference of the United Methodist Church • Volume 14 • Number 3 • June 2009

## 2009 session of NCNY Annual Conference begins

“Rekindled by Faith ... in Prayer, in Heritage, in Joy” is the theme for the 2009 session of the North Central New York Annual Conference this week at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Liverpool, New York.

The Reverend Dr. Marcus Matthews, Resident Bishop of the New York West Area of The United Methodist Church will bring his Episcopal Address, It’s A New World - during opening worship at 9 a.m. on May 28, using as his scripture text, Acts 9: 10 -22.

Bishop Matthews began serving the New York West Area, which includes the North Central New York and Western New York Conferences, in September of 2008. This is the first North Central New York Annual Conference over which he will preside.

The Rev. Marcus Matthews was elected bishop on July 14, 2004, during the first ballot taken at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference held in Syracuse, New York. He served the Philadelphia Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church (Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences) from September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2008.

Bishop Matthews is originally from Florence, South Carolina, where his home church, Cumberland UMC, was a pivotal influence in his life.

Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton, resident bishop of the Michigan Area of The

United Methodist Church, will speak and lead a Bible study during this Annual Conference. He will bring the message during the Memorial Communion Service in addition to leading a Bible Study during Annual Conference session.

Believing divisions among Christians seriously diminish the impact of the church on the world, Keaton works for Christian unity. “Like Christ, I wish that we ‘may all be one’ as Christ is one with God,” he said.

Bishop Keaton was elected to the episcopacy in 1996. Prior to that, he served as a District Superintendent in the Northern Illinois Conference. He was a member of the conference staff responsible for monitoring the church’s stand on social issues, providing support and encouragement for ethnic local churches and promoting spiritual formation.

A service of Ordination and Commissioning will be held in Hendricks Chapel, Syracuse University at 7:00 p.m., May 28. Annual Conference continues through May 30.

It is the last full Annual Conference Session for the North Central New York Annual Conference. The Annual Conference will be dissolved in June of 2010 and become part of a new Conference (yet to be named) in the Upper New York Area July 1, 2010.

Eastside Mission has grown in its ability to reach out to the fast growing refugee population around the Asbury UMC in Utica. Through this portion of the LOVE Offering people in inner-city Syracuse and Utica will be blessed by the ministries of these missions.

**Nationally** one third of the offering will be equally divided to support the national UMCOR warehouse at Sager Brown in Louisiana and Mission Central, the regional warehouse in Mechanicsburg, PA. For several years



## New ACT worships with youth from four conferences

by Marilyn J. Kasperek

Exciting, energetic, dynamic, life changing worship was a vital part of the 2009 4Word gathering of youth from the Wyoming, Western New York, Troy, and North Central New York Conferences, and the New Area Conference Team experienced some of it on April 25.

New ACT purposefully scheduled time shared with youth attending 4Word into their time together, first at worship, and then some one on one

time over lunch.

“We are here to listen to you,” Bishop Marcus Matthews told the youth as he greeted them. The youth-led event included worship, workshops, and many opportunities for community building. With excitement, an announcement was made that youth leadership from all four conferences will come together shortly to continue to look at what their journey together into the new Conference might look like.

*Continued on page 5*

## Love offering at Annual Conference to meet needs throughout the world

The LOVE Offering at the 2009 Session of the North Central New York Annual will be divided locally, nationally and globally.

**Locally** one third of the offering will be equally divided to assist the ministries of the Syracuse Westside Urban Mission and the Utica Eastside Mission. SWUM continues to reach out with the hope of Jesus Christ to the people of the neighborhood around the Brown Memorial UMC in Syracuse.

As a new project last year, the Utica

United Methodists in North Central New York have collected and shipped flood buckets, all the various types of kits and school bags to needed areas in this country and around the world. This portion of the LOVE Offering will help to keep these UMCOR relief supplies flowing to those in need.

**Globally** one third of the offering will go, in connection with the offering of the Wyoming Annual Conference, to strengthen their partnership with Haiti. This year they are hoping

to raise over \$40,000. This portion of North Central’s LOVE Offering will assist them to support a clean water project and continue work on the parsonage/VIM guest house in the village of Hermitage. They hope to provide ongoing funding for a very successful micro-credit program established in 2005 and establish a hot lunch program at the school.

North Central’s goal is to receive a dollar for the LOVE Offering from every member of the local church.

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## Financial Perspective *by Pat Curtin*



As I write this piece in early May the buds are opening on the trees and blossoms are appearing in Central New York. These are signs of new birth and hope, just as the Easter season was during April.

Not knowing when this issue of CONNECTIONS will be published makes me hesitate in making comments about the economic climate because it can fluctuate so sharply. But I hope you realize I am writing this as there is an "up-tick" with hopeful signs in several economic indicators.

The financial environment looks very different in the first week in May compared to the last week in February. There are signs of hope. We never saw any wavering from our local churches in their payment of Shared Ministry in the NCNY Conference. Through the first four months, we actually saw an increase of \$39,000 or 4.6% in shared ministry giving over the same four months last year. This is a sign of the deep commitment of our members for the good work of the Annual Conference.

Many financial advisors recommended investors "stay the course" through the months of downturn last fall and through the

winter. While we did understand that investment values would eventually stop falling, it was hard at times to see that things would indeed be okay in the future.

So what most individuals did was cut back on spending as much as they could, to be prudent. That savings made their own financial situations more stable, but the ripple effect went through the retail industry.

When retail sales are down, those companies cut workers. When workers lose their jobs, retail spending decreases further. This spiral seems to be leveling off. While the impact is still rippling through the auto industry, and other significant employers, we do seem to have hit bottom and see some positive signs of hope. In particular, the stabilization of the financial services industry is fundamental for shoring up so many other industries such as the housing industry. There are signs of improved consumer confidence.

As an Annual Conference we did make adjustments early on. The spending budget was cut 5%

for the first six months of 2009, and we continue to operate within budget. The investment portfolio has continued to grow in market value since the first week in March. There are signs that we as an Annual Conference will weather this financial storm. One difficult area that

the Cabinet is working on is the Direct Bill Arrearages. There is an unusually high balance outstanding for clergy pension and health care. The District Superintendents are working with each delinquent church to help care for these items of clergy support.

So in spite of the hardships that are around us, we as a denomination and as an Annual Conference continue the good work of providing ministry and good mission work to those in need. Your financial support as well as the contribution of your time and service are recognized and greatly appreciated.

Peace and All Good Things,  
Pat Curtin  
Conference Treasurer

### Statistical Tables

One of the most important ways The United Methodist allocates its resources to the vital areas of mission and ministry is through the analysis of data collected each year through the Statistical Tables. Thanks to each member who worked to turn in their 2008 report on time. Unfortunately, not all churches submitted their reports for 2008. The following churches either sent partial or no reports for 2008. As we move toward the formation of the new Annual Conference, we hope we can improve the participation in this important Connectional work.

#### Central Lakes

Caroline Federated  
Danby Federated  
Harmony  
Scott

#### Crossroads

Camillus First  
Cicero Center  
Delphi Falls United  
Fabius  
Manlius  
Onativia  
Tully United

#### Finger Lakes

Avoca  
Big Flats:Hillview  
Cameron Mills  
Catlin  
Coopers Plains  
Dundee  
Elmira:Epworth  
Elmira:Riverside  
Erin  
Italy Valley  
Lowman  
Mitchellsville  
Newark:First  
Pine Valley  
Rathbone  
Sullivanville  
Wellsburg  
Woodhull

#### Mohawk

Remsen  
Sherrill  
Westernville

#### Northern Flow

Barnes Corners  
Beaver Falls  
Buckton  
Champion  
Copenhagen United  
Degrasse  
DeKalb Junction  
Depeyster  
Edwards  
Galilee  
Great Bend:  
Woolworth Memorial  
Grindstone Island  
Henderson  
Hermon  
Heuvelton  
Kendrew  
Malone  
Naumburg:Beaver Valley  
Russell  
South Edwards  
Waddington

## June 7 is Peace with Justice Sunday Empowering United Methodists to work for peace, love, and compassion for God's children everywhere

Peace with Justice Sunday, one of the six United Methodist churchwide special Sundays, was established by the 1988 General Conference. It supports programs that advocate for peace and justice at home and around the world. Designated to be observed on June 7 this year, it can be recognized on any Sunday that fits the local church schedule.

Half of the offering received is remitted to the General Board of Church & Society to help fund U.S. and global work in social action, public policy education and advocacy. The other half is retained by the annual conference to fund local peace with justice programs.

This spring the National Board approved 28 grants totaling \$52,805. A

recipient of a Peace with Justice grant is a solar oven project in the Dakotas Conference that is helping improve life in Haiti. Drinking dirty water and cooking over open fires because one has no choice are justice issues. By building and taking solar ovens to Haiti, missionary Rick Jost and other United Methodist help poor families pasteurize drinking water and cook healthy meals in a safe environment.

Other grants went to ministries empowering women, immigrant legal services in Iowa, justice and peace work in Jerusalem, training election observers in Mozambique, conflict management and mediation, and a water justice project.

Conferences, such as ours, have given grants from their half of the

offering, to local churches and other United Methodist programs, that promote peace with justice, offer training in conflict resolution, or other education initiatives within the Conference.

Support materials to help educate congregations about Peace with Justice Sunday are available online at [WWW.UMCGIVING.ORG/PWJS](http://WWW.UMCGIVING.ORG/PWJS), or toll free at: 1-800-346-3862.

To apply for a local Peace with Justice grant, contact our NCNY Conference Peace With Justice Coordinator, Phyllis Covell at [wcovell@twcny.rr.com](mailto:wcovell@twcny.rr.com) or call (315) 452-0523.

"The role of charity is to eliminate need. The roll of justice is to eliminate the need for charity." -- Rev. Brenda Kneece (South Carolina)



Diane Miller

## SOM Study leaders named

Phyllis Doane, Dean of the 2009 session of the School of Christian Mission has announced that **Diane Miller** and **Ginena Dudley Wills** as study leaders for *The Beauty and Courage of Sudan*.

Diane Miller, currently of New Castle, PA, is the Mission / VIM Coordinator for Western Pennsylvania Conference. In this exciting position, she speaks about mission in local churches, resources and trains leaders setting up Volunteer in Mission trips nationally and internationally, and organizes mission trips for WPA Conference.

Prior to moving to New Castle, Diane lived for 22 years with her husband, John, at Olmsted Manor, an Adult Retreat/Renewal Center, where she led retreats, presented mission programs, and interacted with adults seeking to grow spiritually and expand their understanding of mission.

The recipient of numerous state and national teaching awards when she worked with gifted students in public schools in northwestern Pennsylvania, Diane also taught geography courses for the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford.

A life-long member of United Methodist Women, Diane has held district offices in UMW, has twice been Mission Ambassador for WPA (to Latin American and India/Pakistan) has led numerous mission studies at Regional and Conference Schools of Christian Mission, and has led VIM trips to Russia, Paraguay, Lithuania, Alaska, and in Louisiana, Deridder, and Dulac.

Diane became the first WPA Mission/VIM Coordinator in 2006. In this position, she speaks about mission in local churches, resources and trains leaders setting up VIM trips nationally and internationally, and organizes mission trips for WPA United Methodists.

## Schools of Mission are a Legacy of Women

Why is it that United Methodist Women sponsors the Schools of Christian Mission in each Annual Conference in the United Methodist Church, working either alone or cooperatively with others in the conference? Why do we study a country, an issue and a spiritual growth topic each year?

Have you ever stopped to wonder?

Did you notice when the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries and the Women's Division started producing the mission studies previously prepared by the National Council of Churches' Friendship Press? Do you know that Women's Division now has taken the lead on development of these studies with input from our colleagues at Global Ministries?

It's a long story! As amazing as it was, the 1869 gathering of the women of the Methodist Episcopal Church on Tremont Street in Boston, Mass., was not an isolated incident. What happened there, in response to the dire picture of women's lives in India painted by Clementine Butler — wife of missionary William Butler who was home on furlough — was echoed in other denominations.

From the beginning of our mission story in the 1800s, the mission work of women to women has had ecumenical connections. From the missionary wives sent by church boards to the single women sent by women's missionary societies, our foremothers were concerned both that the Gospel should be preached and that women and children around the world should be touched

through education and health care. The physical and spiritual condition of women and children was beyond the reach of the male-dominated denominational boards, so the women's mission movement had much in common across denominational lines. They took up responsibilities that those in need could not have done for themselves — speaking in public, traveling unaccompanied, teaching that was nearly preaching, and of course, caring for the sick and for women in childbirth.

Women participating in the London Missionary Conference of 1888 organized the World's Missionary Committee. At their meeting in 1900 they formed a committee for united study to provide "reliable information about mission." The series provided a history of mission and a contextual study about mission with women and girls. This focus on how Christian mission was being experienced "on the ground" was quite different than studies of mission that were available at the time. The study guides were designed to prompt reflection among the participants about how they could take action to improve the situation of women and girls around the world. Eventually, the Federal Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches provided a structure within which this work took place. In 1998 all of Global Ministries and Women's Division shared this work, with Women's Division assuming a larger share of the responsibility in 2006.

Ecumenical Schools of Christian Mission in which teachers were to

be prepared for the material that they would teach in the coming year began in 1904. The approach to mission of the women's societies didn't always match the approach of the denomination's mission boards. Similarly, the information that we receive in Schools of Christian Mission sometimes doesn't match what we learned in our own secondary or undergraduate study. Our view is not always the version of history told by the victors. Our interest is not quite so much in what leader emerged victorious from what battle, whether this is a battle of bullets or of words. We have much more interest in what was and is experienced by the real people for whom Jesus both lived and died.

No wonder that our Schools of Christian Mission authors sometimes surprise us with the positions they take! No wonder that the teachers and leaders of our schools still receive special training and additional information to help them!

*Harriett Jane Olson is deputy general secretary for the Women's Division.*

In this year's geographic study, we look at Sudan. We look not only at Darfur, but we look at a whole nation. A nation that is both blessed with assets and at war with itself. This learning will inform us as citizens of the world and as sisters of the women of Sudan. It will also inform our planning and our giving — so we will take action as a result of our study.

# Deadline for June/July issue is June 8

# The News of the Central Lakes District

## Work team plans repeat visit to Henderson Settlement

A work team from the United Methodist Church in North Rose is planning another visit to Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky.

A group of 17 from the North Rose went to Henderson Settlement, a division of the Red Bird Missionary Conference, for Work Camp in 2000. They made repairs at the Settlement gymnasium, arranged books in the Settlement library and trimmed Campbell soup labels to be redeemed for needed equipment.

The experience was so much fun and so rewarding that they decided to go again. This summer, early on Saturday, August 8, a team of about 25 will load up the vans and head for southeastern Kentucky. They will stop at the United Methodist Church in Wilmington, Ohio for overnight and morning worship, then on to Frakes where a noisy bunkhouse, great food and a life-changing adventure await them.

Each team member is asked to contribute about half of the cost of the week, although no one is excluded because of inability to pay. The balance comes from fundraisers and donations. The congregation has been very supportive of the activity and often support comes from outside the church.

This will be the eighth work team to go to Henderson Settlement. Among its members will be the seventeenth adult and the fifty-fifth teenager to go out from the North Rose Church on this mission to help folks in a depressed



area of Kentucky. Some of those seventy-some people have gone only once. Two will have made all eight trips.

Nate Phillips was only 13 when he first went in 2005. Fred Durbin was only 88 when he joined the first team in 2000. The rest are somewhere between those extremes.

In that time, along with the first year's work on Settlement property, ten homes have been repaired by North Rose teams, and they plan to work on

two or three more this summer.

Although the primary purpose of the teams is construction, there are fun times with opportunities to mingle with teams from other states and relaxation at the pool and gym in the evenings, and quiet times when they get together for meditation and reflection on the day's activities. It is important to remember that while Nehemiah built the walls, Ezra rebuilt the lives of the people.

Pastor Dan Corretore, one of those who have been on all eight teams, prepares daily meditations on the biblical theme chosen for the work camps each year.

Each team has at least one or two people with some basic experience in building repairs, but the main requirement is a desire to give a week helping folks who are unable to help themselves. As with most volunteer activities, the rewards far exceed the requirements.

## Kids make a World of Difference with special project in the Seneca Falls UMC



It began with a book; a charming story about a quilt-maker who made beautiful quilts and gave them away to poor and needy people, and her encounter with a greedy king.

Our Lenten focus is usually having the children collect change for a chosen mission project, but we were hesitant to ask them to do that in these challenging times. So we asked them to listen to the quilt-maker's story, (The Quiltmaker's Gift, by Jeff Brumbeau)

and talk about ways they could give of themselves to others. And a project was born.

On the first Sunday of Lent, each child was assigned to a volunteer quilt-maker, who would begin to make them a 9-patch memory quilt in their chosen theme. We had requests for Disney princess quilts, Spiderman, Kittens in the Garden, Ballerina, Bears in the Woods, Sports, and Kids Can Make a World of Difference- themed quilt kits.

The kids, ages 4-12, went out to do random acts of kindness in their world, and reported their good deeds to their quiltmaker, who added a square for each good deed done. Older kids earned quilts too, and gave them to our very young children, so they would not be left out.

The lists were impressive, and so were the quilts. The children picked up trash in the parks, raked lawns for

neighbors, took soup to homebound, helped their classmates in school, took toys to the House of Concern, and helped around the house. What the children have accomplished was recently highlighted and quilts were presented to 34 kids. That's 306 acts of kindness happening all around us.

Hopefully their quilt will remind them of the need to reach out to others....

Another bonus in this venture: the children got to know adults in the congregation they would not have known otherwise. This has been a most exciting mission project. We're learning how to give ourselves away!



**NORTH CENTRAL NY ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009**

**TENTATIVE AGENDA**

**Tuesday, May 26, 2009:**

8:30-10:00 am	Clergy Packets Available	Liverpool Fellowship Hall
9:30- 1:00 pm	Clergy Session	Liverpool UMC
2:00-4:00 pm	Ordination Rehearsal	Hendricks Chapel
4:00 pm	Celebration of Ministry Banquet & Retirement Dinner	Bella Domani

**Wednesday, May 27, 2009:**

8:00 am -12:30 pm	"Get Out" Mission Project Brown Memorial/Westside Ministry	
9:00 am – 12:00n	Mentor Training	Holiday Inn-Boardroom 4
10:15 -11:15 am	Peer Learning Info Session	Holiday Inn Boardroom 3
11:30 am-12:30 pm	Peer Learning Info Session	Holiday Inn -Boardroom 3
12:00 – 5:00 pm	Registration Desk Open	Convention Center Foyer
1:30 – 5:00 pm	Pre-Conference Briefing	Grand Ballroom, Holiday Inn
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Convention Center
7:00 – 9:00 pm	Prayer Encounter	Grand Ballroom

**Thursday, May 28, 2009:**

6:00-9:00 am	ProCheck Health Screening	Cotillion 1
8:00 am	Registration Desk Open	Convention Center Foyer
8:45 am	Gathering Music & Announcements	
9:00 am	Opening Worship	Convention Center
	- Bishop Marcus Matthews, Preaching	
10:00 am	Call to Order	
	Organizational Motion & Standing Rules	
	Holy Conferencing	
12:00n -1:30 pm	Lunch Break	
	Extension Ministries Luncheon	Onondaga H
1:30 pm	Gathering Music	Convention Center
1:45 pm	Holy Conferencing	
5:15 pm	Dinner Break	
5:45 pm	Buses to Hendricks Chapel	Hotel parking lot
7:00 - 9:00 pm	Ordination & Commissioning	Hendricks Chapel

**Friday, May 29**

6:00-8:00 am	ProCheck Health Screening	Cotillion 1
7:00 – 8:00 am	Global Ministries Breakfast	Ballroom
7:15 am	Conference Choir Rehearsal	Convention Center
8:00 am	Registration Desk Open	Convention Center Foyer
	Gathering Music	Convention Center
8:15 am	Bible Study	Convention Center
	With Bishop Jonathan Keaton	
9:15 am	Holy Conferencing	Convention Center
12:00 – 1:30	Laity Luncheon	Grand Ballroom
	Local Pastor/Associate Member Meeting	
	Liverpool Fire Hall	
	CRCDS Luncheon	Onondaga F
1:30 pm	Gathering Music	Convention Center
1:45 pm	Holy Conferencing	Convention Center
5:00 pm	Dinner Break	
5:15 pm	Memorial Communion Dinner	Cotillion 1
	Palestinian Dinner	Andrews Memorial UMC
7:00-9:00 pm	Memorial Communion Service	Convention Center
	- Bishop Keaton, Preaching	
9:00 pm	Singing n' S'Mores with CCRM	Outdoor Patio Area

**Saturday, May 30, 2009:**

7:00-8:00 am	Social Ministries Breakfast	Ballroom
8:00 am	Information Desk Open	Convention Center Foyer
8:00 am	Gathering Music	Convention Center
8:15 am	Morning Worship with CCYM	
8:45 am	Holy Conferencing	
	Announcements	
11:30 am	Service of Appointments	

1 **Reports and Action Items for The North Central New**  
2 **York Annual Conference (continued)**

4 **REVISION TO: NCNY Conference Council Report to AC 2009**

6 • **Mileage Reimbursement for Conference Staff:**

8 Motion to increase the budgets of Congregational Development by \$2,000 for  
9 the Director of Congregational Development; Spiritual Leadership by \$1,000 for  
10 the Director of Spiritual Leadership; and, Service Ministry Area by \$500 for the  
11 Director of Connectional Ministries to cover the additional mileage. Motion  
12 approved Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

14 Respectfully submitted by Chuck Forbes, Chair, Conference Council.

17 **NCNY Board of Ordained Ministry**

19 The start of a new quadrennium meant many new board members and division chairs  
20 on the Board of Ordained Ministry. It also meant several changes in the Discipline that  
21 required us to rethink and retool for our tasks.

23 Several took advantage of training offered at the General Board level to be better  
24 equipped for the job ahead. The added bonus was meeting and interacting with our  
25 counterparts from other conferences across the denomination.

27 Our year began with the Fall Retreat at Casowasco, September 29-30 with an  
28 emphasis on building community and fellowship as colleagues. Changes in the  
29 Discipline and information from General Board workshops & training were shared. As  
30 a result the Board agreed that candidates will be eligible to seek ordination after a  
31 minimum of 2 years of provisional membership, provided all requirements are met as  
32 prescribed by the Board of Ordained Ministry.

34 A new model for training mentors was developed and offered once during the year  
35 and again on the day of Pre-conference briefing. The new model trains participants to  
36 be **Candidacy Mentors** for those entering the process to be licensed or ordained,  
37 **Clergy Mentors** to walk alongside local pastors as a learned peer, and **Equipping**  
38 **pastors** who supervise and advise those seeking and working in local churches as  
39 Certified Lay Ministers.

41 In addition to the usual work of the Board, we began to wrestle with how to define  
42 and encourage effectiveness, both for clergy and for congregations. A task force has  
43 brought us back serious food for thought. The work in this area will be ongoing.

**New ACT** *continued from page one*

Reluctantly, members of New ACT returned to their work following their time with these current and emerging young leaders in upper New York, to hear reports from subteams, update timelines, and prepare for reports at Annual Conference sessions. Con- vener Bill Gottschalk-Fielding lead the team through their work.

**Safe space**

Creating safe space to listen to di- verse voices is part of New ACT's on- going work. Under development is a model which allows serious listening among those with different perspec- tives. The model will be used by New ACT in their discussions, as well as in sub teams, including those which will address a number of critical questions. Guidelines for the conversations and guidelines to insure that groups are diverse will be written, and training provided for critical question team leaders. New ACT member Darryl Barrow noted the guidelines will de- velop "a posture of listening."

The foundation for this work will include information from "Building

Inclusive Community," a multi-Con- ference Retreat in which some mem- bers of New ACT recently participated, with Eric H. F. Law of Kaleidoscope Institute. An overview of that training was shared with the entire New ACT at their April 25 meeting.

**Team report**

The Asset Allocation Team report brought a number of questions back to New ACT regarding their work, includ- ing responsibilities, timeline issues, and budget concerns. Suggestions out of this sub-team included moving up the decision as to new AC conference center administrative office location and adding an Executive Director for camping to the list of staff needed in place July 1, 2010. Those suggestions were received with no action taken.

Work on the Shared Ministry For- mula is moving in the direction of us- ing local church income as opposed to expenses or use of membership/average attendance. The subcommittee look- ing at that suggestion is gathering the necessary data to determine what that would look like for local churches.

1 In an effort to begin learning about our partner conferences in the soon to be Upper  
2 New York conference, we shared people across conference lines to participate in  
3 Commissioning and Ordination interviews. Lynn Spence is coordinating an ongoing  
4 series of meetings between representatives of NCNY, WNY, Wyoming & Troy annual  
5 conference Boards of Ordained Ministry to begin planning for the new conference  
6 board. A retreat with Assistant General Secretary of GBHEM, Rev Mary Ann Moman  
7 is scheduled for later this summer to continue this planning work in earnest.  
8

9 Safe Sanctuary training has continued this year. In response to insurance guidelines  
10 background checks are in process for clergy previously grandfathered. Also, due to the  
11 stresses of the economy, Board accounts which have previously yielded adequate  
12 interest for use to offset costs of students in Course of Study this year required us to  
13 scale back scholarship assistance.  
14

15 The Board has pulled together to accomplish its demanding work and become a  
16 cohesive band of colleagues. As Co-chairs we want to acknowledge all the board  
17 members and thank them for their loyal, dedicated service. We look forward to the  
18 opportunities to rethink, recreate, and retool for the work of the Board as the new Upper  
19 New York Conference comes into existence.  
20

21 Submitted by Co-Chairs Rhonda Kouterick & Lynn Spence  
22

### 23 Order of Deacons

24 By appointment of Bishop Violet Fisher, I was asked to chair the Order of Deacons,  
25 starting in 2008. Following faithful leadership of the Reverend Kathy Barden. I have  
26 big shoes to fill.  
27

28 I submit this report with prayerful thanks for the opportunity to serve in this blessed  
29 way and asking that we keep the people called to deacon's orders in our tradition, in our  
30 prayers for their ministry among us.  
31

32 Deacons are persons called by God, authorized by the church, and ordained by a bishop  
33 to a lifetime ministry of Word, Order, and Service to both the community and the  
34 congregation in a ministry that connects the two. Deacons exemplify Christian  
35 discipleship, create opportunities for others to enter into discipleship, and connect the  
36 needs and hurts of the people with the church.  
37

38 In the world, the deacon seeks to express a ministry of compassion and justice and  
39 assists lay persons as they claim their own ministry. In the congregation, the ministry  
40 of the deacon is to teach and to form disciples, and to lead worship together with other  
41 ordained and lay persons, connecting the needs and hurts of the people with the church.  
42 (¶329)  
43

44 The appointment of deacons shall be made by the bishop. It may be initiated by (1) the  
45 individual deacon, (2) the agency seeking their service, (3) the bishop, or (4) the district  
46 superintendent. They will be non-itinerant. Deacons are accountable to the annual  
47 conference and the bishop for the fulfillment of their call to servant leadership. When  
48

## E-mail news expanded to entire New York West Area

The e-mail news clergy and lay leadership of the North Central New York and Western New York Conferences receive through their respective Conference offices was recently expanded.

Now everyone on the email lists in the entire New York West Area receives the same news at the same time with "blasts" on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

For North Central the change means recipients see additional announcements and news and they need to meet a new deadline. Articles should be sent to conference-mail@ncnyumc.org no later than 10 a.m. on the day that the piece should be broadcast, an earlier deadline than before. Items missing the deadline will be included in the next "blast."

For Western New York it means instead of multiple emails at different times during the week, everything comes in the one message and they can see what is happening Area wide. Items from WNY sources should be sent to wny-conf@wnyumc.org at least a day before the blast is scheduled to go out. This would be Saturday for the Monday mailing, Tuesday for the Wednesday edition, and Thursday for the e-mail sent on Friday.

In each "blast" there is shared news and information specific to each Conference, although reading everything is encouraged as many "specific" opportunities may just be down the road and something you would be interested in doing.

There will be the exceptions for time sensitive matters.

1 deacons serve in an agency or setting beyond the local church, the bishop, after  
2 consultation with the deacon and the pastor in charge, shall appoint the deacon to a local  
3 congregation where they will take missional responsibility for leading other Christians  
4 into ministries of service. (¶331)  
5

6 The Deacons in the North Central NY Annual Conference are small in number yet  
7 represent a unique call to ministry that embraces a wide variety of ministry specialties  
8 under the banner of the call stated above. These ministries include: pastoral leadership  
9 in the local church, community building through the local church, older adults ministry,  
10 arts, media, education, business administration, preaching, pastoral presence and  
11 counseling, workplace chaplaincy, and all the ministry that happens as people called to  
12 a life of service in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Deacons are serving the  
13 underserved and all in need, building bridges to connect people to faith, church and the  
14 redeeming love of Jesus Christ. The spiritual life of the deacons in the NY West Area is  
15 blessed.  
16

17 The deacon's of the Western NY Area met with Bishop Marcus Matthews and the  
18 assistant to the bishop, Ms. Christine Doran, for a morning of sharing our stories, be in  
19 prayer together with our spiritual leader and become better acquaintance with one  
20 another. The conversation was articulate and fruitful, with a promise that we would  
21 continue to explore more meaningful relationships with one another, the people we  
22 serve and the appointive cabinet.  
23

24 This Chairperson attended the Gathering of the Chairs of the Order in February, 2009 at  
25 Norcross, GA. As my first year of leadership to the Order of Deacons, I was learning  
26 about the responsibility of the continuing education opportunities that could be offered  
27 and the importance of affirming the spiritual life of the clergy. The gathering with the  
28 faithful leadership of the orders across the country offered many faithful examples to  
29 learn from. The fellowship proved to be enlightening and offered not only prayerful  
30 reflection and inspiration, but also a call to action. This call rings to have us hear that  
31 we must be mindful of the ministry of all who are called, as we have been wounding  
32 one another through a feeling of competition, disrespect and illusions of power. This  
33 gathering was blessed with the ministry of Rev. Gwen Purushotham whose book  
34 "Watch Over One Another in Love" (G. Purushotham, 2008) was the center of  
35 discussion, spiritual care and worship among us. A report was shared with the Board of  
36 Ordained Ministry.  
37

38 We were also invited to pray that more individuals be drawn by the Holy Spirit to our  
39 tradition of United Methodism. We are not growing as a denomination, either in the  
40 local church congregation or professional clergy. We were invited to pray and  
41 understand what attracts and keeps people actively growing in the church. We are to  
42 prayerfully seek ways to make the faith relevant to those who have not had an  
43 experience of God in their lives; we must be respectfully aware of one another.  
44

### 45 General Conference 2008

46 There were two substantive changes to the Book of Discipline (BOD) at the General  
47 Conference, 2008, with regard to the ministry of the deacon. Paragraph 331.14.e speaks  
48 to termination of a deacon with in the setting of the local church. It must be read  
49

## CCRM invites all to mark these important dates on your calendar

6/14/09  
Consecration of Emmaus Commons at Casowasco - Phase I

6/20/09  
Aldersgate Day at Camp/Open House

6/21/09  
Casowasco Day at Camp/Open House

6/28/09  
First day of Summer Camp

7/17/09- 7/19/09  
Family Life Weekend - Aldersgate

8/2/09 – 8/7/09  
Operation Purple Camp - Aldersgate

8/16/09 – 8/18/09  
Family Camp - Casowasco

9/25/09 – 9/27/09  
Adirondack Fall Getaway - Aldersgate

12/28/09 – 12/29/09  
DI Reunion - Casowasco

12/30/09 - 1/1/10  
Camp Echo - Casowasco

12/31/09 - 1/1/10  
Adult New Year's Eve - Casowasco

1 carefully and understood as the deacon begins his/her ministry in the local church  
2 setting. It is recommended that a contract and letter of agreement be written, and the  
3 cabinet be a part of the dialogue between clergy and the congregation.  
4

5 The other change to the BOD was the inclusion of the deacon to sacramental authority.  
6 Each Episcopal area has the discretion of the Bishop to grant this authority, but it may  
7 be requested by the supervisory district superintendent or the deacon for ministry  
8 purpose. We have several deacons in our conferences to whom sacramental authority  
9 has been granted for the ministry and the people they serve. Both of these particular  
10 disciplinary changes were in effect January 1, 2009.

11 This information was all shared, not only with the Board of Ordained Ministry but the  
12 deacons in the area via email and prayer.  
13  
14

#### 15 **Nationally**

16  
17 There are currently approximately 1400 ordained deacons in our USA system and 1500  
18 in provisional status. Some deacons maintain the work of secular society as there were  
19 trained in medical, educational, business or legal fields, acting as bridges to the faith  
20 community and the local church in their specialized ministries. Some deacons are  
21 serving the local church as associates, solo pastors, educators and musicians. Some  
22 serve on the general boards of our tradition and others in NGO capacities or as  
23 missionaries. The beauty of the ordained deacon's call to ministry in our denomination  
24 is as individual as the faithful person answering the call.  
25

26 The call to justice is central to a call to deacon's orders, and there is much justice to be  
27 served in and out of the church. Within our tradition we still deal with ethnic minority  
28 persons both men and women, and women generally speaking, being woefully under  
29 represented in positions of authority.  
30

31 In 2006, female clergy represented more than one-fourth of the active clergy in the local  
32 church, in settings beyond the local church, and in extension ministries. Female clergy  
33 are not as often senior clergy in the local church or in extension ministries. Female  
34 clergy  
35 as less often senior clergy at large membership churches as are senior male clergy.  
36 (gbhem.org) There is still work to be done to exemplify faith in justice in our own  
37 home in upstate New York.  
38

39 As of December 2006, there were 32,742 active clergy appointed to local churches, to  
40 settings beyond the local church, and to extension ministries. The majority are male (73  
41 percent 23,848), and 27 percent (8,892) are female. A small percentage of the clergy are  
42 Black/African American (7 percent 2,184), almost 3 percent (895) are Asian, and 2  
43 percent (559) are Hispanic. The majority are White/Caucasian (88 percent, 28,837), and  
44 1  
45 percent (267) are Native American, Pacific Islander, or multiracial. (gbhem.org)  
46 Again, the deacons recognize there is yet justice to be realized in our tradition and will  
47 work to seek justice.  
48

49 The deacons of the New York West area have been in touch with one another to connect

1 with the needs of the individual communities they serve, the region as we come together  
2 with our sisters and brothers in ministry from the Troy and Wyoming Annual  
3 Conferences, and the needs of the denomination, as a whole.  
4

5 We are in the process of creating a page for the ministry of the deacon on the  
6 [www.uppernewyork.org](http://www.uppernewyork.org) website, a flyer that explains the ministry of the deacon to  
7 anyone making an inquiry. We meet online and in person to pray for and with one  
8 another.  
9

10 We welcome the questions of those who feel a call to this ministry in the name of  
11 Christ. We welcome the questions of the elders and local pastors among us. We  
12 welcome the laity with whom we serve. We praise God in the name of Christ.  
13

14 Respectfully submitted by,  
15 Reverend Robin Blair  
16 April 2009  
17

#### 18 **SAFE SANCTUARIES** 19 **Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church**

20 (Standards for Local Churches and all ministries within the North Central NY Annual  
21 Conference)  
22

#### 23 **PREAMBLE**

24 God has called us to make disciples of Jesus Christ with concern that our  
25 ministries safely protect our children, youth, and vulnerable adults from abuse and  
26 exploitation.  
27

28 Jesus taught that "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me,"  
29 (Mark 9:37 NRSV) and "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little  
30 ones... it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck  
31 and you were drowned in the depth of the sea." (Matthew 18:6 NRSV)  
32  
33

34 The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state that "...children must  
35 be protected from economic, physical, and sexual exploitation and abuse." (2008, The  
36 Book of Discipline paragraph 162 C)  
37

38 At each child's baptism, we affirm our responsibility to their safety by our  
39 congregational response, pledging:  
40

41 "With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that  
42 this child, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed  
43 and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal." (From The Book of Worship,  
44 Baptismal Covenant, Congregational Pledge II)  
45

46 Building on these foundations, we recognize that our faith calls us to offer  
47 hospitality and protection to all persons. We especially lift children, youth and  
48 vulnerable adults, as well as those committed to ministering to them as volunteers and  
49 employees in this present age. The North Central NY Annual Conference of the United

## 'Rekindled by Faith' theme for Annual Conference

Rekindled by Faith is the theme for the 2009 session of the North Central New York Annual Conference May 28 and 29 in Liverpool, New York.

The scripture focus is Timothy 1:3-7.

Interwoven into the agenda for Annual Conference will be a number of opportunities to celebrate the history of the NCNY Conference.

Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton, resident bishop of the Michigan Area of The United Methodist Church, will speak and lead a Bible study during this Annual Conference. He will bring the message during the Memorial Communion Service in addition to leading a Bible Study during Annual Conference session.

Bishop Keaton began serving the Michigan Area effective September 1, 2004, previously serving eight years as resident bishop of the Ohio East Area.

Believing divisions among Christians serious diminish the impact of the church on the world, Keaton works for Christian unity. "Like Christ, I wish that we 'may all be one' as Christ is one with God," he said.

Bishop Keaton was elected to the episcopacy in

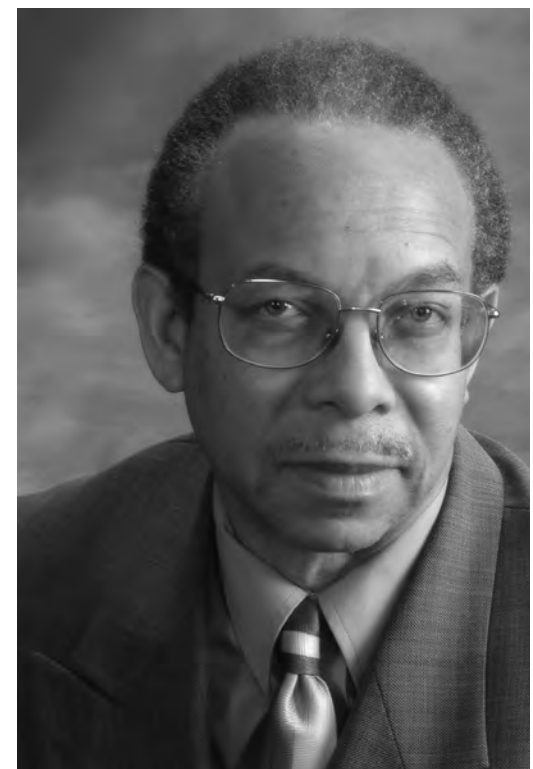
1996. Prior to that, he served as a District Superintendent in the Northern Illinois Conference. He was a member of the conference staff responsible for monitoring the church's stand on social issues, providing support and encouragement for ethnic local churches and promoting spiritual formation.

Bishop Keaton also has served churches in Chicago and Rockford, Illinois. He was a teaching assistant at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, where he earned a Master's of Divinity and Doctorate in Sacred Theology. He teaches in numerous conference Schools of Christian Mission. Currently, Bishop Keaton chairs the denomination's Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century Committee.

He has traveled extensively in support of world missions.

In 1967 he received the Outstanding Service Award from Philander Smith College, Little Rock Arkansas, where he did his undergraduate work. Also, Garrett Evangelical presented Bishop Keaton with the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2001.

Bishop Keaton and his wife, Beverly, have three children: Jonathan II, Tandreka and Anaya. They have one grandchild, Maliah Hope Keaton.



- 1 Methodist Church recognizes the need to respond to these situations by outlining  
2 policies and procedures that can  
3  
4 • 1) prevent abuse from happening in our churches;  
5 • 2) affirm we are a place where children can feel safe in disclosing abuse;  
6 • 3) protect volunteers and employees that minister to our children, youth and  
7 vulnerable adults.  
8  
9 (You shall find within this policy the) minimum requirements in the areas of;  
10  
11 1) Screening,  
12 2) Supervision,  
13 3) Reporting, and  
14 4) Response Plan.  
15

16 (Churches are welcomed and encouraged to go beyond these minimum  
17 requirements.)  
18

#### 19 DEFINITIONS

20  
21 **“Abuse”** means harm or a threat of physical or emotional harm to a child or vulnerable  
22 adult by a parent, guardian, or other person. Abuse includes: (a) the infliction of  
23 physical or emotional injury by other than accidental means; (b) the creation of a risk,  
24 or allowing the creation of a risk, to a child by other than accidental means; (c)  
25 committing or allowing to be committed an act of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or  
26 prostitution upon the child.  
27

28 **“Child”** or **“children”** or **“youth”** means any person who has not reached his/her  
29 eighteenth birthday.  
30

31 **“Exploitation”** means obtaining or using another person’s resources, including but not  
32 limited to funds, assets, or property, by deception, intimidation, or similar means, with  
33 the intent to deprive the person of those resources.  
34

35 **“Sexual abuse”** includes, but is not necessarily limited to, any contacts or interactions  
36 in which the parent, guardian, or other person allows, permits, or encourages the use of  
37 the child for the purposes of sexual stimulation of the perpetrator or another person.  
38

39 **“Sexual exploitation”** includes, but is not limited to, a situation in which a parent,  
40 guardian, or other person allows, permits, or encourages the child to engage in an act  
41 which constitutes prostitution under New York law; or a parent, guardian, or other  
42 person having custodial control or supervision of a child or responsible for his/her  
43 welfare, allows, permits, or encourages the child to engage in an act of obscene or  
44 pornographic photographing, filming, or depicting of a child as provided for under New  
45 York law.  
46

47 **“Supervision”** means to oversee or direct a ministry or activity.  
48

- 1 **“Vulnerable Adult”** means a person whose mental or physical condition makes them  
2 susceptible to abuse.  
3

#### 4 SCREENING PROCEDURES

5  
6 Careful screening is one way to prevent abuse and exploitation of children, youth and  
7 vulnerable adults. (It can be both time consuming and expensive, but it is well worth  
8 the effort in peace of mind that the most reliable, committed and experienced staff and  
9 volunteers are in place for every program that involves children, youth, and vulnerable  
10 adults).  
11

- 12 1. All (paid) staff(;) and volunteers who have regular and direct contact  
13 with children, youth and vulnerable adults shall be required to fill out  
14 background screening information that shall include, but is not limited  
15 to:  
16  
17 a. Standard contact information.  
18  
19 b. Experience and qualifications for the position.  
20  
21 c. Voluntary disclosure of past criminal history, including any criminal  
22 charges and/or convictions.  
23  
24 d. Waiver of confidentiality allowing the church to secure background  
25 checks and references as necessary.  
26  
27 e. Listing of 2 non-relative references. This list shall have complete  
28 contact information for all references. This portion of the  
29 application process is considered incomplete if full contact  
30 information for the references is not received.  
31

32 (All paid staff; and volunteers shall have a completed background check prior  
33 to beginning their ministry and service.)  
34

- 35 2. Background screening:  
36  
37 a. Minimum – NY state background check.  
38  
39 b. Recommended – National Background check.  
40  
41 c. A national background check is highly recommended if the person  
42 has lived outside the state and/or lives near the border of another  
43 state or country.  
44

45 *Note:* Clergy serving in the North Central NY Annual Conference will  
46 undergo a background screening upon entrance into the conference  
47 and/or candidacy process. This information may be updated as requested  
48 by the Office of the Bishop and the documentation shall be kept in the  
49 personnel files of the annual conference.

## New ACT *continued from page five*

Clarification was requested on the responsibilities for development of the 2010 and 2011 budgets between Asset Allocations and New ACT. A sub-team made up of all four Upper New York conferences’ Directors of Connectional Ministries and Treasurers as members with Executive Assistant to the Bishop Christine Doran facilitating.

### Election determines Team membership

The Joint Distributing Committee is defined by **The Book of Discipline** and members will be elected by each of the six (Central PA, New England, North Central New York, Troy, Western New York, and Wyoming) Annual Conferences at sessions this spring. Until the election takes place, the appointed committee is gathering information such as service records of active and retirees; looking at the possibility of special grants for retirees; and gathering information on health care cover-

age so members have the information they need to begin work once elected. Timelines, equity, and justice questions impact this committee’s work.

Bishop Marcus Matthews (New York West Area) and Bishop Susan Hassinger (Albany Area) are meeting with the General Board of Health and Pensions this week to clarify some of the issues impacting the work of the Joint Distribution Committee. Bishops Matthews and Hassinger are also meeting with the Conference Chancellors to discuss the actual date incorporation needs to take place.

### BOOM

A report from the Board of Ordained Ministry sub-team indicated the primary concern currently expressed is who those in process should contact. The determination was to continue to talk to who they have been until notified a change has been made.

### Programs

Questions around how to care for initial programs and ministry in the New Conference were raised and will be moved forward for discussion by the appropriate body.

### Sessions

A report from the interim sessions team indicated a number of sub-teams will be in place to address financial planning, worship, agenda, details (including hospitality), technology related to worship and communications pieces for the new Annual Conference sessions.

### Teams

A Spiritual Formation team was suggested to lead people in the new conference with prayer and study. Communications Task Force is working on strategy, marketing, and IT resources needed. Timelines and a Strategy Document are being developed and a newspaper will be distributed at Annual Conference Sessions.

Communicators were asked to assist in the development of a report for Annual Conference.

Appointments to the Interim Leadership Development and Interim Personnel Committee will be made by Bishop Matthews and Bishop Hassinger. The names will be processed through the cabinet and efforts made to have diversity.

### Thank You

Bishop Matthews expressed appreciation for the work of Convener Bill Gottschalk-Fielding and Administrative Assistant Anne Hutchins for their work on behalf of New ACT.

### Uppernewyork.org

Minutes and other information on the work of New ACT and others teams and committees working on the creation of the new Conference in Upper New York can be found at uppernewyork.org

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3. Persons who have a break in volunteer or paid service of one or more years shall resubmit the background screening information. **(B)**background checks (shall) be repeated at least every three (3) years for all (paid) staff(;) and volunteers (who have regular and direct contact with children, youth, and vulnerable adults).
  4. All records shall be kept in a secured, locked location. There will be a system in place that gives access to those who need these records. It is recommended that these records be kept by the church in perpetuity.
  5. Persons shall demonstrate an active relationship with the local church for at least six (6) months before being allowed to be in a supervisory role in activities for children, youth or vulnerable adults. In the case of new staff hires, references deemed adequate by the hiring supervisor may replace the six month waiting rule.

#### 19 SUPERVISION

20  
21 Supervision procedures designed to reduce the possibility of abuse or  
22 exploitation of children, youth or vulnerable adults, and to protect staff persons and  
23 volunteers from unfounded accusations.

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1. **Training** is a requirement for all staff and volunteers working with children, youth or vulnerable adults. An initial educational component of the Safe Sanctuaries programs and policies is required prior to any adult having direct supervision of children, youth and vulnerable adults with documentation to include signatures reflecting receipt of policies by participants to be kept in the records of the supervising staff person. Thereafter, the minimum standard would include documentation of an annual review of the Safe Sanctuaries policies, procedures for supervision, and current information on how to identify and report child, youth or vulnerable adult abuse.
  2. Minimum supervisory standards will include the “**two adult rule**”. This rule requires that, regardless of the size of the group, there will always be two unrelated adults present. This may include the presence of an adult “roamer” who moves in and out of rooms/ministry activities.
  3. **No child, youth or vulnerable adult will be left unsupervised** while attending a ministry event/activity.
  4. **All ministry activities should occur in open view.** Each room or space where ministry activities/events occur must be open to public view. This may require enclosed spaces such as classrooms having a viewing window, a glass panel in the door, a ½ door configuration or an open door.

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5. Registration materials should be collected for every ministry program activity.
  6. Ministry activities involving transportation shall require written and signed permission from parents/guardians.
  7. No person shall supervise and age group unless he/she is AT LEAST 18 years of age and is AT LEAST 5 years older than the children/youth being supervised.

#### 11 REPORTING

12  
13 Reporting is required by any staff or volunteer that personally witnesses an incident of  
14 abuse or exploitation, when an allegation of an event of abuse or exploitation is made to  
15 staff or a volunteer by a third party and/or when a child or vulnerable adult discloses  
16 abuse or exploitation to a staff member or volunteer. It is crucial that reporting be  
17 immediate and the allegations dealt with as soon in time as possible to the incident or  
18 disclosure.

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1. The staff person or volunteer who observes alleged abuse or to whom such abuse is reported or disclosed, or who suspects abuse is required to report the incident/suspected abuse **immediately** to the person in charge of the ministry/activity. Upon receiving the information, the person in charge of the ministry/activity shall **immediately** call the New York State Child Protective Services Hotline at (800) 342-3720. The Pastor in charge and immediate staff supervisor are to be informed immediately before or subsequent to the making of a report.
  2. The person in charge of the ministry/activity in which the alleged abuse was observed or disclosed shall immediately attempt to obtain necessary information such as the name of the alleged victim and his/her address and family information.
  3. If the accused is the appointed clergy, supply pastor or a member of his/her family, the allegations shall be immediately reported to the District Superintendent. The District Superintendent shall immediately report to the proper authorities as set forth in paragraph 1 above. The District Superintendent will take responsibility and act according to the established rules in The Book of Discipline with respect to claims against the pastor. If the District Superintendent is not available, the incident should be reported to the Bishop’s office in Rochester, New York.
  4. All clergy are included in mandatory reporting as required by The Book of Discipline.

#### Book of Discipline paragraph 341.5

*All clergy of the United Methodist Church are charged to maintain all confidences inviolate, including confessional confidences, except in cases of*

## MIC Report to Annual Conference 2009

It has been just a year since our Ministry Team and the entire North Central New York Conference began to cope with the loss of Director of Communications Sharon Fulmer’s leadership, talent, unending energy, and friendship in our midst. Her death left us wishing she was still among us and her life left us with a passion to tell the Story and share the wonder of God with all.

Sharon’s passion for the Lord she loved, and for all of creation, continues to be a part of the work we do as we help move into a new Conference in upper New York. She was honored by the United Methodist Association of Communicators last Fall with her induction in the Communicator’s Hall of Fame and an award in her honor was unveiled at the New York Press Association’s Spring Convention last month.

A priority for our team last summer was to revisit the Director of Communications job description and to conduct a search to fill the position. As our discernment process developed and interviews were completed, we decided to ask Marilyn J. Kasperek to ac-

cept the part-time position. Mrs. Kasperek has served as part-time Director of Communications in the Western New York Conference since 1987 and worked closely with Sharon for many years. Her experience, as well as her knowledge of the work around the creation of a new Conference in upper New York, are assets as we move toward a new conference. She continues serving in Western New York as well.

CONNECTIONS continues to be a vital part of the communication strategy of the MIC. Budgetary constraints are requiring a reduction in pages and increased prioritization of stories which appear in print. Changes will be forthcoming as we move toward a new Conference. NCNYUMC.org continues to be an excellent source for all things North Central New York as are Conference News emails. Uppernewyork.org was launched this spring as a place to find information about the creation of the new conference. We encourage all to take advantage of all these sources.

Format and distribution methods of news and announcements will continue to evolve as the new Conference

in upper New York is formed. MIC Chair Nelson Price, MIC member Rebecca Kohler, and Marilyn Kasperek are working on the Communications Task Force formed to help build a communications strategy. Ms. Kohler is co-convenor of that Task Force. Suggestions from clergy and laity will be sought as that work continues. Director of Communications is one of five positions for the new Conference that will be in place on July 1, 2010. A survey to determine communication needs in the new Conference is expected out by Annual Conference.

“Rethink Church,” the most recent phase of the Igniting Ministry campaign, launches this spring. The new Conference in upper New York will be a test market for this new initiative. Directors of Communications in Troy, Wyoming, Western New York, and North Central New York Conferences are working with United Methodist Communications to offer an intensive training on “Rethink Church” on September 12, 2009. Details are forthcoming. Training will also be offered in District sites, dates and places to be announced.

Anyone interested in hosting one of these trainings is encouraged to contact the Director of Communications.

We will also hold a “Weaving the Web” training session to help congregations interested in knowing how to use the web in their ministry, on November 7, 2009. There is an online course. Those interested in preparing for the “Rethink Church” or “Weaving the Web” sessions are invited to participate in online training which is available at umcom.org under the support center tab.

Common Good Radio, Public Access television, and development of new ways of using technology remain on the team’s agenda.

Common Good Radio is attracting a global audience without advertising or marketing but by word of mouth and googling “children’s music, faith, inspiration; the feed basically is a music stream, 60 second scripture, prayer. Working on a “Donate button,” web re-design and new logo (butterfly). Audience is worldwide. Target audience children 5-10 years old.

- 1 suspected child abuse or neglect or in cases where mandatory reporting is  
 2 required by civil law.  
 3  
 4 5. After the person in charge of the ministry/activity has reported the  
 5 suspected abuse to the proper authorities, the appointed clergy/supply  
 6 pastors are to report the incident immediately to the District Superintendent.  
 7 If the District Superintendent is unavailable, the incident should be reported  
 8 to the Bishop's office.  
 9  
 10 6. The person in charge of the ministry/event must keep a written report of the  
 11 steps taken by the Church in response to the reported abuse. The report  
 12 should be kept brief and contain only factual information relevant to the  
 13 situation. This report should be kept in a secure place. It should be written  
 14 or typed to prevent it from being changed.  
 15

16 **RESPONSE PLAN**

17 A quick, compassionate and unified response to an alleged incident of abuse is  
 18 expected. All allegations will be taken seriously. In all cases of reported or observed  
 19 abuse there shall be cooperation with all official investigating agencies.  
 20

- 21  
 22 1. All media requests for statements should be directed to the Annual  
 23 Conference Director of Communications.  
 24  
 25 2. Immediately, and with dignity and respect for the sacred worth of the  
 26 accused, remove the accused from further involvement with children, youth  
 27 or vulnerable adults and advise the accused there has been an allegation of  
 28 abuse. Details of the allegations of the abuse should not be discussed with  
 29 the accused at the time of the removal. In any removal of a staff member or  
 30 volunteer from any activity/ministry, care should be taken to handle the  
 31 removal in a discreet manner, recognizing that there will be an investigation  
 32 by either state or church authorities, or both.  
 33  
 34 3. When it has been alleged that a member of the church staff or volunteer, has  
 35 committed an act of abuse or exploitation, the staff member or volunteer  
 36 shall be required to refrain from all ministry/activities with children, youth  
 37 and vulnerable adults until the incident has been fully resolved by the  
 38 appropriate state authorities and/or in accordance with The Book of  
 39 Discipline.  
 40  
 41 4. Notify the parents/guardians of the victim and take whatever steps are  
 42 necessary to assure the safety and well being of the child, youth or  
 43 vulnerable adult until the parent(s)/guardians arrive. **NOTE:** If one or both  
 44 of the parents is the alleged abuser, follow the advice of the authorities  
 45 concerning notification of others.  
 46  
 47 5. Take all allegations seriously and reach out to the victim and the victim's  
 48 family. Show care and support to help prevent further hurt. Extend  
 49 whatever pastoral resources are needed. Remember that the care and safety

- 1 of the victim is the **first** priority. Respond in a positive and supportive  
 2 manner to the victim and the victim's family.  
 3  
 4 6. The church should provide a supportive atmosphere to all those who are  
 5 affected, offering both objectivity and empathy as it seeks to create a  
 6 climate in which healing and take place.  
 7  
 8

9 This policy was created using materials from The Safe Sanctuaries Program,  
 10 Reducing the Risk Program, 2004 Book of Discipline, and Kentucky Annual  
 11 Conference of the United Methodist Church.  
 12  
 13

14 **Motion to adopt a change in the Certified Lay Minister program Policy**  
 15 **in NCNY Annual Conference**  
 16

17 Background: the status of Certified Lay Minister was created by legislation adopted at  
 18 the 2004 General Conference, spelled out in paragraph 272 of the 2004 UM Discipline  
 19 and paragraph 271 in the 2008 UM Discipline. One of the stipulations in the enabling  
 20 motion for the CLM program in our NCNY annual conference was the requirement that  
 21 all CLMs have the same Psychological Assessment that is required of clergy candidates  
 22 for licensing and/or ordination. This went beyond the requirements of the UM  
 23 Discipline. It has come to light that not a single other annual conference is the United  
 24 States is requiring the psych assessment for CLMs. BOOM had been funding a portion  
 25 of the cost associated with this requirement, but due to the effect of the struggling  
 26 economy on our fund balance interest moved to end that assistance early this year. Our  
 27 own experience has shown that the psychological assessment is not a necessary element  
 28 for the credentialing of CLMs who are required to be under the direct supervision of an  
 29 Equipping Pastor. This requirement has been an unduly restrictive financial burden  
 30 keeping some people from completing their certification.  
 31

32 **Therefore we bring the following**

33  
 34 **Motion:** that NCNY Annual Conference no longer require the psychological  
 35 assessment for individuals being credentialed by our Districts as Certified Lay  
 36 Ministers.  
 37

38 Submitted by the NCNY Board of Ordained Ministry  
 39  
 40  
 41  
 42  
 43  
 44  
 45

# Special Needs Campership

## Fund supporters help campers experience dynamic programs

Thanks so much to all of our financial supporters who continue to send gifts so that CCRM can offer camperships to children whose families are not able to pay the full fee for summer camp.

This year, two campers who have attended camp through CCRM's Urban Initiative, a program that began nine years ago, will be entering one of our leadership development programs.

Another 130 or so campers will receive financial aid so they can take part in one of the dynamic programs offered at Aldersgate and Casowasco. This would not be possible without your help. Thank you for your generosity and your continued support. We appreciate you.

JOIN US FOR  
 THE CONSECRATION OF  
 EMMAUS COMMONS at casowasco  
 ON SUNDAY JUNE 14, 2009 3:00 PM

**Special Needs Campership Fund**

\_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\$35 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\$250\_\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to sponsor a child for one week of camp (\$395)  
 Please use my gift to fund CCRM's Urban Outreach

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to "CCRM Campership Fund"**  
**Return to: CCRM, PO Box 1515, Cicero, NY 13039**  
**Thank You!**

**RESOLUTION RE: ELECTION OF CONFERENCE TREASURER**

WHEREAS The Book of Discipline, Para. 619, states that “Each annual conference, on nomination of its council on finance and administration, shall at the first session of the conference after the quadrennial session of the General Conference or jurisdictional conference, or at such other times as a vacancy exists, elect a conference treasurer or conference treasurer/director of administrative services.”

And

WHEREAS Patricia A. Curtin has been the Conference Treasurer since January 1, 2005, and

WHEREAS The Conference Finance Team supports the continuation of Patricia A. Curtin and nominates her for the position of Conference Treasurer,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Patricia A. Curtin be elected North Central New York Conference Treasurer for the remainder of this quadrennium.

**Election of North Central New York Conference members to Joint Distributing Committee**

**Joint Distributing Committee - 2008 Book of Discipline, Para. 1509**

“Whenever two or more annual...conferences are to be merged, in whole or in part, there shall be elected by each conference affected a distributing committee of three members and three alternates, which shall act jointly with similar committees from the other conference or conferences ... to allocate the pension responsibility involved...”

**Joint Distributing Committee**

**Members from NCNY Conference:** Pat Curtin, Robyn Hays, Vicki Putney  
**Alternates from NCNY Conference:** Judy Alderman, Richard Barton, Penni Farrington

**Resolved:** that the above persons be elected to serve the Joint Distributing Committee, and that they take office immediately upon the adjournment of NCNY Annual Conference, May 30, 2009.

**NCNY Conference 2010 United Methodist Church Shared Ministry Budget**

			2009		2010		2009-2010	
			Total	Pass Thru to GCFA	Budget	Budget	Amount	Change
			Budget (1)		Total			Percent
200	IA. World Service		478,834	474,520	474,520		(4,314)	-0.90%
220	Council	C Forbes	1,000		2,900	2,900	1,900	190.00%
221/25/26	Connectional Ministries	S Deckard	425,982		427,509	427,509	1,527	0.36%
251-255	Five District Block Grants	District Superintendents	30,000		25,000	25,000	(5,000)	-16.67%
260	Commission on Futures	T Wolfe	1,000		-	-	(1,000)	-100.00%
385	New ACTS	S Deckard	30,000		40,000	40,000	10,000	33.33%
300	Lay Ministry Area	C Forbes	12,050		8,350	8,350	(3,700)	-30.71%
310	Youth Ministries	E quick	4,150		5,000	5,000	850	20.48%
320	Older Adult Ministries	G Timlin	3,000		2,000	2,000	(1,000)	-33.33%
321	Young Adult Ministries	H Williams	1,500		1,500	1,500	-	0.00%
330	Lay Speaking Ministries	C Keller	2,500		1,500	1,500	(1,000)	-40.00%
	Area Subtotal		23,200		18,350	18,350	(4,850)	-20.91%
350	Congregational Development Area	L Wan Wie	8,000		8,000	8,000	-	0.00%
355	Urban Academy/Urban Strategy	C French	4,500		1,000	1,000	(3,500)	-77.78%
370	Revitalizing Congreg/Mission Priorities	L Wan Wie/R Duchano	61,000		62,000	62,000	1,000	1.64%
375	Director's Office	L Swanson	91,765		96,155	96,155	4,390	4.78%
380	New Church Starts	J Long	14,000		4,000	4,000	(10,000)	-71.43%
390	Town & Country	H Hadley/C Seifert	5,000		4,000	4,000	(1,000)	-20.00%
	Area Subtotal		184,265		175,155	175,155	(9,110)	-4.94%
400	Caring Missions Area	A Sherman	500		-	-	(500)	-100.00%
401	Global Ministries	J Childs/pending	7,000		9,000	9,000	2,000	28.57%
403	Regional Min/Sch Christian Min	pending/S Verity	3,000		2,700	2,700	(300)	-10.00%
411	Bishop's Init on Children & Poverty	R Blair	3,000		2,000	2,000	(1,000)	-33.33%
420	Disaster Response	J Auslander	4,000		3,600	3,600	(400)	-10.00%
421	Volunteers in Mission	S Reimer	2,000		1,500	1,500	(500)	-25.00%
	Area Subtotal		19,500		18,800	18,800	(700)	-3.59%
	Social Ministries Area	T Gates						
450	NYS Council of Churches	S Deckard	10,500		10,500	10,500	-	0.00%
455	Church and Society Ministry Team	B Davenport	500		250	250	(250)	-50.00%
460	Christian Unity & Interrel Concerns	Pending	2,880		-	-	(2,880)	-100.00%
465	Council on Status & Role of Women		-		500	500	-	0.00%
470	Disability Concerns	S Ingerson	4,500		1,000	1,000	(3,500)	-77.78%
477	Religion & Race	L & I Claypool	4,500		2,000	2,000	(2,500)	-55.56%
480	Native American Ministries (CONAM)	Timlin	5,750		5,000	5,000	(750)	-13.04%
485	Peace With Justice Spec Sunday	Pending	500		-	-	(500)	-100.00%
486	Task Force PWJ Pal/Israel	L. Bergh	3,750		2,000	2,000	(1,750)	-46.67%
	Area Subtotal		32,880		21,250	21,250	(12,130)	-36.89%
600	Spiritual Leadership Ministry Area	Pending/S Deckard	1,000		-	-	(1,000)	-100.00%
610	Resource Ministry Team	S Pease	16,900		16,900	16,900	-	0.00%
615	Spir Ldrshp Director's Office	D Barrow	95,799		98,649	98,649	2,850	2.97%
620	Higher Education & Campus Ministries	W Tomek	1,000		1,000	1,000	-	0.00%
621	Interdenom Prot Campus Ministries	W Tomek	59,742		56,742	56,742	(3,000)	-5.02%
623	Safe Sanctuaries	G Scheussler	7,000		6,500	6,500	(500)	-7.14%
635	Faith Formation	J Auslander	1,000		-	-	(1,000)	-100.00%
636	Worship Ministries	H Williams	2,500		2,000	2,000	(500)	-20.00%
638	Evangelism Ministries	W Mudge	500		2,000	2,000	1,500	300.00%
639	Nominations Team	S Bassett	500		250	250	(250)	-50.00%
	Area Subtotal		185,941		184,041	184,041	(1,900)	-1.02%
700	Camps, Confer & Retreat Ministries	J Bellamy	1,100		-	-	(1,100)	-100.00%

# Youth Theater presents ‘A Masterpiece of Love’

Walk in the Light Productions will present a youth theater performance of “A Masterpiece of Love” on July 10 and 11 at 7 p.m.

This production is a cabaret style show created and directed by Jennifer Martin, the drama director of the North Rose United Methodist Church and artistic director of WITL Productions. This ministry outreach event is a cooperative effort of many youth and young adults from more than five area churches, with the prayerful support of the Rose Council of Churches.

In 2007 Walk in the Light Productions presented their first theater production entitled “Walk in the Light” as a way to give the youth a chance to develop their God-given talents and discover a way to use their gifts to minister to others and honor Him. As

a result, many of the youth have drawn closer to God and strengthened their faith.

Through music, dance and drama, “A Masterpiece of Love” is a production full of fun, humor as well as moving and heartfelt moments, that take us on a journey where we experience how God molds and makes us into the people He wants us to become – “A Masterpiece of Love.”

Come join us for a family friendly evening of fun and ministry. Hope to see you there! Admission is free. A love offering will be taken. Performances will be held at the Rose Community Building located at 10734 School St, Rose NY 14542. For more information please contact Jennifer Martin at 315-587-4844 or jenniferlind\_m@yahoo.com



Dancers share talents as part of “A Masterpiece of Love”

**“A Masterpiece of Love”  
on July 10 and 11 at 7 p.m.**

			2009		2010		2009-2010 Change	
			Total Budget (1)	Pass Thru to GCF	Budget Requests	Budget Total	Amount	Percent
710	Aldersgate	M Huber	39,486		39,941	39,941	455	1.15%
720	Casowasco	M Huber	44,000		45,000	45,000	1,000	2.27%
730	CCRM Office	M Huber	73,361		75,665	75,665	2,304	3.14%
	Area Subtotal		157,947		160,606	160,606	2,659	1.68%
<b>Service Ministry Area</b>								
860	Ministry Interpret & Communications	N Price	78,663		75,568	75,568	(3,095)	-3.93%
	IB. Total Conf. Benevolences		1,170,378	-	1,149,179	1,149,179	(21,199)	-1.81%
	TOTAL WORLD SERV & CONF BENEV		1,649,212	474,520	1,149,179	1,623,699	(25,513)	-1.55%
201	Ministerial Education Fund	P Curtin/J Alderman	165,616	162,441		162,441	(3,175)	-1.92%
204	Episcopal Fund	P Curtin	130,065	130,521		130,521	456	0.35%
651	Board of Ordained Ministry	R Koutetick/L Spence/J Alderman	19,625		16,524	16,524	(3,101)	-15.80%
653	25%MEF Kept at Conference	R Koutetick/L Spence/J Alderman	9,999	(40,610)	2,109	2,109	(7,890)	-78.91%
691	Cabinet Operating	D O'Connor-Slater	681,206		694,679	694,679	13,473	1.98%
new	Cabinet Leadership Development	D O'Connor-Slater			14,000	14,000	14,000	
692	Equitable compensation	D O'Connor-Slater/L VanWie	115,112		120,000	120,000	4,888	4.25%
693	Sustentation	D O'Connor-Slater	6,000		6,000	6,000	-	0.00%
694	Moving expense	D O'Connor-Slater	10,000		10,000	10,000	-	0.00%
820	Board of Pension & Health	R Hays/V Putney	43,712		43,976	44,476	764	1.75%
	II. Total Clergy Support		1,181,335	252,352	907,288	1,200,750	19,415	1.64%
205	General Administration Fund	P Curtin	53,355	51,415		51,415	(1,940)	-3.64%
210	Northeastern Jurisdiction	P Curtin	10,563		10,892	10,892	329	3.11%
211	New York West Area	P Curtin	77,112		81,048	81,048	3,936	5.10%
<b>Service Ministry Area</b>								
800	Service Ministry Area	Pending/J Childs						
809	Finance Team	R Sherburne	3,000		3,000	3,000	-	0.00%
810	Finance Department	P Curtin	264,840		277,121	277,121	12,281	4.64%
840	Annual Conference Sessions	J Woodcock/V Putney	12,450		10,000	10,000	(2,450)	-19.68%
850	Archives & History	R Leonard /E Smith	2,680		2,895	2,895	215	8.02%
855	Personnel Team	A Kinney	14,500		11,000	11,000	(3,500)	-24.14%
	Area Subtotal		297,470		304,016	304,016	6,546	2.20%
	III. Total Administration		438,500	51,415	395,956	447,371	8,871	2.02%
202	Black College Fund	P Curtin	66,069	64,804		64,804	(1,265)	-1.91%
203	Africa University Fund	P Curtin	14,787	14,504		14,504	(283)	-1.91%
206	Interdenominational Coop. Fund	P Curtin	12,907	12,643		12,643	(264)	-2.05%
	IV. Total Other Apport Benevolences		93,763	91,951		91,951	(1,812)	-1.93%
	Total		3,362,809	870,238	2,452,423	3,363,771	962	0.03%
	Anticipated Uncollected Shared Ministry Revenue (assume 82% collection for 2009; 79% collection for 2010)		660,954		659,992	659,992	(962)	-0.15%
	Gross Total		4,023,763	870,238	3,112,415	4,023,763	(0)	0.00%
	(1) As reallocated by Council 9/08 and 12/08			40,610	910,848		(4,023,763)	

## Critical Questions Teams

New ACT (the New Area/Conference Team) is looking for interested persons to meet with brothers and sisters from across the new Upper New York Area and explore six critical questions. These six teams and the results of their conversations will inform and guide the new conference as it comes into being.

A Critical Question Team member should be-

- Visionary
- Passionate; self-starter
- Risk-taker
- Without a key role in conference leadership
- Willing to commit time and energy
  - Serve for 18-24 months
  - Meet in person 3-4 times per year;
  - Meet by phone and Internet in between

Sign up on the accompanying interest form!  
Sign up on-line at [UpperNewYork.org](http://UpperNewYork.org)!

Feel free to copy this information sheet and the accompanying form, and pass them out lavishly to-

- Youth!
- Young Adults!
- The innovators and "creatives" in your local church!
- Those "on the margins" who can teach us new ways!

Working **Vision** and **Purpose** Statement for the New Conference of the Upper New York Area

Our **vision** (desired outcome) is:  
 • To **live the gospel** of Jesus Christ and to be **God's love** with our neighbors in all places.

Our **purpose** (what we do) is:  
**Growing** in our relationship with God,  
**Being** the body of Christ within the world,  
**Living** in accordance with the example of Jesus Christ by:

- **Engaging, equipping, and empowering local churches** to be in ministry with and to our Global Neighborhood;
- **Encouraging and developing leadership** within the laity and clergy that is diverse and engaged with the vision of Christ and;
- **Building relationships with our neighbors** particularly with those who have been disenfranchised by mainstream society.



What this is and is not:  
 • a first word, not the last  
 • for missionary planners, not potential converts  
 • to help us prepare for the future, not define the future  
 NACT adopted Vision and Purpose Statement 2.21.09

C:\Documents and Settings\Mark Marino\My Documents\Boundaries\Boundaries NY\New ACT CQT\CQT Information Sheet.wpd; May 12, 2009

### NEW ACT CRITICAL QUESTIONS TEAMS SELF-NOMINATION FORM

{ New ACT will assign persons to the individual Teams so that each is diverse and balanced. }

I am interested in these areas: (Check all that apply. See the Critical Questions) (Teams Information Sheet for full details.)

Spiritual Formation: **How will we grow in our relationship with God?**

Ministry: **How shall we be the body of Christ within the world?**

Discipleship: **How shall we live in accordance with the example of Jesus Christ?**

Local Church: **How shall we engage, equip and empower?**

Leadership: **How shall we encourage and develop leadership?**

Outreach: **How shall we build and sustain relationships with our neighbors?**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Church or community affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to the nearest Conference Office by **Wednesday, June 24!**  
 Rev. Steve Deckard, 8422 N. Main St., Cicero NY 13039  
 Rev. Larry Lundgren, 131 John Muir Dr., West Amherst NY 14228  
 Rev. Mark Marino, 1700 Monroe St., Endicott NY 13760  
 Rev. Holly Nye, 396 Loudon Rd., Saratoga Springs NY 12866

## New Executive Coordinator named

Hagerstown, Maryland: "Linking Hands Across Appalachia," the theme of the 2009 Appalachian Assembly, was literally present during the spring meeting of the UM Appalachian Ministry Network with members attending from southern New York, northeastern Mississippi and many conferences in between.

The excitement of the meeting centered on the selection of a new Executive Coordinator. A Search Committee, working since the beginning of 2009 interviewed seven of the twenty-one applicants and recommended Rev. Robert "Bob" Wilkins to replace the retiring staff person.

Wilkins is an elder in the West Virginia Conference most recently serving in an appointment as the director of a conference mission project, Heart and Hand House in Philippi, WV. He has served as a member of the Network representing grassroots mission projects. Wilkins holds a Doctor in Ministry from United Theological Seminary and has certification in Non-Profit

Management from West Virginia University.

As Wilkins described what he saw as challenges for the region and the Network, he said, "an encourager and an enabler are the hand and glove that are needed." In Wilkins, the Network feels that it has found those qualities as well as experience in ecumenical settings, working with government agencies and cooperative efforts. Goals of the Network will move forward with the direction of the one who brings these gifts to the organization.

The Network's office will be located in Buckhannon, WV. The Upshur Cooperative Parish, will provide space for the office. The official transition will occur sometime later in the fall.

Wilkins replaces N. Sharon Leatherman, who is retiring. She is completing her 15<sup>th</sup> years with UMAMN as the Executive Coordinator. Leatherman plans to continue to assist the Network as a consultant and trainer while enjoying more time to spend with her family and other volunteer roles.

## Small Group Facilitators training planned at Oswego First

**When:** June 20, 2009 - 9:00 a.m. to Noon; Light refreshments will be served during breaks.

**Where:** First United Methodist Church of Oswego (Central Lakes District) — Fellowship Hall. Free babysitting will be available.

**Who:** Anyone who wants to become a part of a small group study. This is training on how to become a “facilitator.” No special knowledge of the subject is needed. Anyone can facilitate a group. No one will be “forced” to facilitate a group until they are ready. So take the training even if you will not be able to be in a group immediately. This is a great opportunity so don’t let it pass!

**What:** Training will cover topics of what it means to be a small group facilitator, practicing a small group bible study, practicing mutual support questions, how to handle group dynamics, what resources are available to use for small groups.

**Why:** Small Group Bible Study? Why Do I Need That? I Can Study the Bible On My Own! Sound familiar? Maybe that’s even what you’re thinking right now. And yes, you can study the Bible on your own. In fact, you should! Personal Bible study is essential for deepening your relationship with God. So why study with a group? Rick Warren said it best in *The Purpose Driven Life*, “God didn’t create you to be alone.”

Almost every church is looking for a way to encourage intimacy within the congregation. Small groups offer a place to connect with other believers in fellowship; to grow in our understanding of the Bible, as Jesus’ own small group of disciples did; to meet the needs of others in your group in ministry; to become equipped for evangelism; and to worship God through practicing godly behavior.

Small group study will transform your life! It is a safe, peaceful, respectful atmosphere where you can connect with other believers, making you part of a family. And when you’re in a family you learn to love others, for better or worse.

In time, you’ll come to see your small group as a safe place to go when you hurt, as well as when you want to share exciting victories in your life. Stories of help and healing abound in small group settings. The Bible says:

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. (Hebrews 10:25 NLT)

Contact Rev. Tim, Sharon Vollmer, Carol Oxford or Brandi Norton for information or fill out the registration form and send it to the FUMC office at 7111 State Route 104, Oswego, NY 13126 by June 5, 2009. Contact the office at 315-343-6335 with questions.

Registration for Small Group Facilitators Training To Be Held at First United Methodist Church in Oswego Due June 5, 2009 to FUMC of Oswego, 7111 State Route 104, Oswego, NY 13126 - 315-343-6335

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: ..... Cell Phone: .....

Will Babysitting be required? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, ages of children .....

Church (if not FUMC) .....



YOU’RE NEVER TOO OLD TO ENJOY A TEA PARTY WITH TEDDY BEARS - Georgianna Monson (age 92), a member of Mexico First United Methodist Church, is surrounded by some of her favorite teddy bears. Monson planned to attend the church’s Teddy Bear Tea on May 16.

## Mexico moves forward with Accessibility Safety and Achievement project

by Sue Morton, Member of ASAP Committee

Two of the four phases of the **Accessibility Safety and Achievement Project** (ASAP) are completed at the First United Methodist Church in Mexico.

The two completed projects are the expanded parking lot behind the church building and the construction of a wheel chair ramp inside the building enabling better access into the Fellowship Hall from the parking lot.

The next two major phases are a

handicap accessible restroom located off the Fellowship Hall, and the installation of a small elevator to allow persons of limited mobility access to all three levels of the church.

The **ASAP Committee** has been brainstorming fundraising ideas in the hopes of raising the funds for the upcoming two major projects. On Saturday, May 16, they held a **Teddy Bear Tea** in the church’s Fellowship Hall. The Tea Committee worked hard planning and organizing the luncheon to be colorful, fun, and entertaining.

Teddy bears were welcome.

## Crossroads District News

### Golf tournament planned

The First United Methodist Church of Minoa announces its “Champions FORE Christ” Sixth Annual Golf Tournament, Saturday, June 20, 2009 at the scenic Poolsbrook Champion Golf Course, Kirkville, NY.

“Spring has sprung! It’s that time of year again and we are hard at work to make this year’s “Champions FORE Christ” Golf Tournament the best ever” notes co-chairman Wayne Lucht.

The Golf Committee is recruiting players and sponsors, gathering door prizes and planning the Chicken BBQ Dinner. The Tournament begins with a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start with an 18-hole Captain & Crew format.

Beverages will be available on the

course via the popular “Thirst Cart” and door prizes will be given for the popular “putting contest”, closest to the hole and overall tournament winner. “This is a wonderful opportunity to spend a Saturday at the beautiful Poolsbrook Golf Course, enjoy a round of golf with friends followed by a delicious chicken barbecue dinner, win a prize or two and have a wonderful time.”

All profits will go to support programs at the Minoa First United Methodist Church.

The \$60 entry fee (tax deductible) includes 18 hole green fees, riding cart, Chicken BBQ Dinner and prizes and awards.

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# Finger Lakes District News

## Caton UMC hosts local mission week

Caton United Methodist Church members had an awesome week in April doing a stay-at-home mission week called Helping Hands – Helping Others.

From April 13 to 18, a total of 65 people from ages 9 to 80 helped in a variety of ways to show God's love. People arrived at 8 a.m., packed lunches and gathered for devotions while learning what it meant to be a servant.

After getting a job assignment, the team picked up the tools needed and left with their crew of three to eight people depending on the job and skills needed.

Some team members built a 48-foot ramp, raked lawns, painted a kitchen and living room, stripped four layers of shingles off one side of a roof and installed new sheathing and shingles.

Others repaired a roof on a trailer, installed a new fence for an elderly couple with a dog that can now go outside and run, repaired and replace spindles on a porch so the women can allow the kids on the porch without having to be outside with them every minute, installed a new exterior door

and more.

Some team members prepared meals, packaged frozen vegetables at the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, worked at the Pantry of Angels and put together 31 health kits. They returned about 4:30 p.m. and cleaned up, had supper while talking about what was done, the people they met and where they had seen Jesus that day.

While serving their neighbors, they also got to know those who attend the church better, especially the youth.

"Even though I could have been in Myrtle Beach laying in the sun and getting a nice tan, it was nice to get to know my church family a little better while helping others with the few things that I could do," said Jessica Teeter, a Caton UMC youth.

"I couldn't believe the thanks that came from the people we helped out. One woman was near tears because we painted some rooms in her house and her shed and even walked her dogs. By helping people out on a mission trip, I forever became a part of their life, and they will always remember our group's

kindness," she said.

"Not that vacations are a bad thing

"That's why everyone should go on a mission trip at some point in their



Mission team members at Caton United Methodist Church pause for a photo. / Provided

or anything like that, but if I would have been in Myrtle Beach, no one would have been likely to remember me after I left, and I certainly wouldn't have made a very large impact in many people's lives," Teeter said.

lives because even if you are not the most physically capable or knowledgeable person in the world, you can make a lasting impact on someone's life, and they will remember your kindness."

## Pennsylvania Ave. UMC reaches out into community

by Sue Dunlap

Instead of just going to church on Sunday, May 3, members of Pennsylvania Avenue United Methodist Church in Pine City participated in a day of community outreach and service to be the church.

About 150 folks took part in "The Church Has Left the Building: Faith In Action Day." Gathering in the morning in the sanctuary for prayer and commissioning, young and old worked together on several different projects.

Some groups distributed bags of cleaning supplies and paper products to low-income housing projects. Several visited the local senior housing apartment complexes to spend an afternoon providing homemade desserts hot out of the oven, performing odd jobs and cleaning tasks in residents' apartments.

They also led a hymn sing-a-long and presented various talent acts while youngsters worked with the elderly to make homemade greeting cards for the military troops.

Several of our men offered to do automobile oil changes for folks on fixed incomes. Those with gardening talents weeded and spruced up a local human services agency, planting pansies and

spring flowers. Families worked to clean local parks and playgrounds.

For those who were unable to go out into the community, a couple of groups stayed at the church to knit and crochet prayer shawls and lap robes and to make greeting cards for the homebound.

At the end of the day, the church family gathered together to share a soup-and-sandwich supper, followed by a praise and worship service.

As testimonies and stories of the day were shared, it was evident God had been working in us and through us. Our church experienced amazing blessings as we put our faith into action and lived out our mission statement to "Love God ... Love People ... Serve the World."

All in all, it was a grand day of being the hands and feet of Jesus and sharing God's love with those beyond our church walls, a day of blessing for those who were served and for those who served.

*Sue Dunlap is church nurse and pastor's assistant at Pennsylvania Avenue United Methodist Church.*



Youth from Pennsylvania Avenue United Methodist Church help clean up several local parks during a day of community outreach and service. / Photo provided

Cleaning supplies are delivered to residents of a low-income housing project. / Photo provided



## The News of the Mohawk District

# Special Mission projects highlighted at Laity Banquet



MOHAWK DISTRICT DAY WITH BISHOP MATTHEWS - Clergy and Laity from the Mohawk District gathered at the Clinton UMC on April 23 for a time of devotions and conversation with Bishop Marcus Matthews. Bishop Matthews shared with those attending part of his faith journey begun at Cumberland UMC in Florence, South Carolina. He encouraged all to pray and read the Bible daily, be a connected church and to remember our number one purpose as a church is to make disciples and save souls. Shown in the photo: Rebecca Kohler, Associate District Lay Leader, Bishop Marcus Matthews, Rev. Dr. Sung Ho Lee, Mohawk District Superintendent and Brian Ethington, District Lay Leader.

Special Mission Projects of the local churches was the topic of the May 3, 2009, Mohawk District Laity Banquet. The District even participated in

a mission project that evening by collecting non-perishable food donations for a local food pantry.

Bob Elmer of Lairdsville United

Methodist Church led the group in singing grace and wonderful praise music later on in the evening. Rev. Dr. Sung Ho Lee, District Superintendent offered devotions for the body of 181 people gathered in celebration of the ministry of the laity. After a delicious meal served by the gracious staff of Harts Hill Inn, the group was treated to eight fine examples of various church ministries from around the district as told by the eight speakers from those churches.

In addition, many more churches from the district submitted descriptions of their ministries to be shared with the district. Mary Hartz of Stittville United Methodist compiled the submitted ministry ideas in a booklet so all could be inspired by the great ministries going on throughout the district and perhaps gain new insights for future ministry projects.

Denise Cavanaugh, Interim Director of Utica Eastside Mission, also spoke to the group and shared the story of an encounter with a little boy at the mission. She was busy with her work, you see, and they boy wanted to come in to the church, though it wasn't the right "time" for the after-school program and, well, none of the people for the after-school program were there.

The boy responded by saying, "But YOU are here...." Denise felt like God was speaking to her, telling her that, of course, the mission is about the people! She invited the boy in and he contentedly read books for an hour while she did computer work. Denise supposed he would rather be at the Mission, even just reading by himself, than at home.

This is why the Utica Eastside Mission exists--to provide a haven for the children and people in the community.

Another highlight of the evening was the display table. Five district ministry groups created informational displays to share with the lay people of the district to inform them and encourage them to be a part of wider ministries. Those providing displays were: Folts Homes Inc., Mohawk District Older Adult Ministries Team, Mohawk District Prison Ministries Team, Neighborhood Center Inc. and United Methodist Men.

As the group departed there was a sense of accomplishment, a gladness of heart for what had been celebrated, an excitement about new ideas for ministry and a feeling of being in connection with our United Methodist brothers and sisters across the Mohawk District. *(more photos pg. 16)*

## United Methodist Men enjoy activities, participate in work-Bee at Aldersgate

The United Methodist Men of the Mohawk District hosted their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual NCNY UMM Gathering at camp Aldersgate in Brantingham, New York.

Thirty-eight men came together at camp on the weekend of April 17 to 19. Keynote speaker, Rev. Aaron Bouwens of Cortland UMC, led the men on a 3-day spiritual journey as they learned the importance of "walking with our God."

The weekend kicked off with a scheduled work-Bee day on Thursday, April 16. The men arrived around noon time and worked on the C-section of the camp doing minor repairs, maintenance of grounds and painting of the inside of cabins C-1 and C-2.

The work continued on into Friday and concluded at 4 p.m. Friday. Thanks to Dean Burdick and Dave

Greer and others the first ever work-Bee day was a success and will continue next year.

Friday night began with a Bible trivia game show skit featuring Moses, Noah and King Solomon as contestants. Game show host "WINK" Artletter hosted the skit.

Everyone attending enjoyed fun, food and fellowship as they engaged in group activities on Saturday morning. The prestigious pink pig award was given to the most creative, not necessarily the most artistic, group. There was plenty of live music throughout the weekend as the Aldersgate UMM gathering featured "Jam @ the Gate" both Friday and Saturday nights beginning at 9 p.m. until ? Most men joined in with singing and worship as all made "a joyful noise!"

Saturday night the group was



blessed by a concert by singer/ song-writers Larry Hagan and Mike Desantis, better known as "Moment Sunlight." Midway through the concert a wooden plaque was dedicated to honor our UMM brother Jack Halstead. Jack was powerful man for the kingdom of God, and served as a conference UMM prayer advocate for many years. He was truly a man who "walked with

God" and will be missed. The plaque will hang in the C-lodge for all generations to see.

We all grew in Christ a little more as we took this spiritual journey and walked together with our God. Additional pictures are available for viewing at the UMM Mohawk District website: [www.mohawkdistrictumm.org](http://www.mohawkdistrictumm.org)

## Golf tournament *continued from page 13*

Non-golfers can choose to attend the dinner only for \$17. Additional sponsors are needed; sponsorship is \$50 per hole with the sponsor's business/name

displayed at a tee box area. Entry deadline is June 8. Registration forms are available at the church or by e-mail to [wluht@gmail.com](mailto:wluht@gmail.com).

"Funds raised from this event will go towards local programs like the Senior Adult Ministry (SAM) and its new bus service for transporting seniors in

the Bridgeport, Kirkville and Minoa areas. We appreciate your help in supporting our tournament" commented Pastor Baums.

## Northern Flow District News



**EASTER EGG HUNT INCLUDES RESURRECTION STORY** - The Mannsville United Methodist Church hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for youth 0-12 on April 11, 2009. Approximately 50 youth attended the event. The Easter Bunny made an appearance and read the youth a book about the Resurrection Story. The Women Circle of the church provided lunch after the hunt. The Mannsville-Lorraine Youth group assisted in "hiding" all of the **eggs, over 500 in total. The eggs were filled with candy and small gifts** and there were over 150 eggs with a special coin that said "He Is Risen" and any child who found these eggs won a prize. There were also 3 grand prize winners - one for each age group in the hunt and they won a very special prize. This was the third year that the church hosted this event and a great time was had by all!



**EARTH DAY TREE PLANTING** - Members of the Waddington United Methodist Church Sunday School celebrated Earth Day by planting 75 trees at a farm in Waddington. Phil Spadaccini bought the trees from the St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation Department. Members participating were Mona and Riley Pratt, Julie, Carlie, Allie and Kyle Stoner, Emma Martin, Danielle and Scott Hough, Barb and Phil Spadaccini.

## Mohawk District

### Laity Banquet photos *continued from page 15*



**REVITALIZED** - The revitalized Youth Choir of the Mannsville church sang for the second time this year for Easter services. The youth spent many weeks learning the song "Shine Jesus Shine" and they did a wonderful job which added greatly to Easter worship! The youth are already rehearsing special music for Memorial Day and Graduation Sunday. Back Row: Avery Bertram, Rebecca Snyder, Samantha Snyder. Middle Row: Abby Pollock, Andrea Pollock, Maia Chamberlain, Maddy Chamberlain. Front Row: Noah Abbott, Lillie Ramus, Chloe Abbott



If a story you submitted does not appear, please email [connections@ncnyumc.org](mailto:connections@ncnyumc.org) for a status update.

Deadline and space restrictions resulted in some submissions being held for a future issue.

Deadline for the June/July issue is June 8, 2009