



UPPER NEW YORK UNITED METHODIST

# ADVOCATE

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Being God's love with our neighbors in all places

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## Thousands to gather in Albany to celebrate

### Events will also honor victims of 9/11

About 2,000 United Methodists from the 940 United Methodist Churches in The Upper New York Annual Conference will come together in Albany, N.Y., on Sept. 11 to celebrate the creation of the new regional body in New York state and to set policy and budget.

Among the items on the one-day adjourned session agenda are: the 2011 conference budget, a slate of additional leaders to fill vacant conference roles; an interim minimum base clergy salary standard and resolutions regarding pension matters from the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

Before beginning the celebration and work planned at Empire Plaza in Albany, the participants will mark the significance of the date by honoring lives lost in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Bells will ring from 8:30 to 8:33 a.m. followed by a Litany of Remembrance. (check Page 3 for the a copy of the Litany)

The Rev. Dr. Marcus Matthews, resident bishop of The Upper New York Annual Conference will be joined by Albany Mayor Gerald Jennings and other leaders in leading moments of silence at 8:46 a.m. and 9:04 a.m.

Opening Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. with Mark Miller, director of Music and Composer-in-Residence at the Drew Theological School in Madison, N.J. leading music for the worship services.

Bishop Matthews will bring the message during a worship celebration at 2 p.m. in the Convention Center. Guided Footsteps, the youth dance and choral group from Emmaus United Methodist Church in Albany will open the celebration with a Call to Worship in song and dance.

#### Offering for Pakistan



An offering taken during this service will support flood relief efforts currently underway in Pakistan, where widespread flood damage, water-borne diseases and the lack of clean water, food and shelter threaten the lives of millions.

All proceeds will be sent to the United Methodist Committee on Re-

lief (UMCOR).

#### All are welcome

While only clergy and lay members of The Upper New York Annual Conference have voice and vote at the adjourned session, any person is welcome to participate.



### Bishop sets apart day for clergy

The Rev. Dr. Marcus Matthews, resident bishop of the Upper New York Annual Conference has called for an Advent Day Apart and Organization of the Elders to be held on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010 from 1 to 5 p.m.

The cost is \$5. All active, retired, local pastors and clergy appointed to extension ministries should attend.

Please register at your District Office by Oct. 15, 2010. A brochure with details can be accessed at [www.unyumc.org](http://www.unyumc.org)

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#### Coming next issue

Main Conference Office and Bishop's Office moving to downtown Syracuse

## 2011 budget reflects new conference structure

A \$10.7 million budget will take center stage when clergy and lay members of the Upper New York Annual Conference meet in a special Adjourned Session Saturday, Sept. 11 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany.

The administrative and benevolence budget was drafted by members of the Council on Finance and Administration and the four senior executives of the conference. According to the memo from Conference Treasurer Sherri L. Mackey and Director of Connectional Ministries William

Gottschalk-Fielding, the budget was created to "carry us through our first full year with sufficient funding to continue operations, meet pressing needs, support inspiring programming, and grow the mission and ministry areas into which God is leading us.

"God is leading all of us to something new, on a path to living out our vision," the memo states. "Through the necessity of funding this budget, we, as the Upper New York Annual Conference, are positioning ourselves to say Yes! to God's call to us, to love God, and to love our

neighbors as we love ourselves."

The proposed budget reflects the reality that the conference, which opened July 1, is starting new, and that ministries, programs and missions will be created over the next year to meet the needs of the local churches and the communities around them. It also covers the costs of adding permanent staff at the conference level to support and provide resources for the local churches. In addition, the United Methodist Book of Discipline mandates ministry areas that are funded by the budget. Emerging ministry funds will be overseen

by the Conference Leadership Team.

The conference budget is funded by Ministry Shares (or apportionments), received from local churches. According to the memo accompanying the budget, Ministry Shares will remain constant for 2011. However, the memo stated, "it is expected that each and every church will meet its Ministry Shares obligation in 2011."

For the QA on the budget, see Pages 4 and 5