

November 2022



Connected is a publication of the New England Conference of The United Methodist Church. This monthly insert puts Conference news directly into members' hands.

Find more at [www.neumc.org](http://www.neumc.org).



## NEJ to elect 2 bishops

### UMEM names new director

In September, the United Methodist Economic Ministry (UMEM) welcomed a new executive director.

Helen Pinkham, a long-time resident of Salem, ME, where one site of the ministry is based, comes to UMEM with a strong sense of community. UMEM also has a location in Howland, ME.



Helen Pinkham

UMEM, according to its mission statement, "exists to be in partnership with rural communities in western Maine to create healthy, sustainable communities ..."

Asked what drew her to the role, Pinkham said, "Well, I wanted to see more things that happen in the community. I want to get more things going for the elderly, for the teens, for everyone — to see more community involvement and just help be a connector."

"It's all about community," she said.

Scan the QR code to find the full story.



During a special session held virtually on Oct. 15, delegates to the Northeastern Jurisdictional (NEJ) Conference voted to elect two new bishops at the upcoming Nov. 2-4 Conference. The vote was 81 to 69.

The delegates made the decision after hearing reports from the NEJ Committee on Episcopacy and the NEJ College of Bishops regarding episcopal elections.

The College of Bishops had recommended that there be no election of new bishops during the 2022 Session of Jurisdictional Conference. The NEJ Committee on Episcopacy had recommended one election.

Since the November 2022 is a regular session of the Jurisdictional Conference, all bishops will be eligible for the assignment process by the Committee on Episcopacy. The Committee could recommend assign-



Bishop John Schol, of the Greater New Jersey and Eastern PA conferences, presided over the special session.

ments for all bishops and could leave some conferences open for the Council of Bishops though the College of Bishops' recommendations to fill episcopal coverage in those open areas.

By Maidstone Mulenga, Daily Christian Advocate Editor

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[www.nejumc.org](http://www.nejumc.org)

## Seacoast District welcomes new superintendent

# Rev. Wanda Santos-Perez's installation was Oct. 9

The Seacoast District officially welcomed its new superintendent, Rev. Wanda Santos-Perez, three months and eight days after appointment, as she pointed out in her sermon.

The Installation Service was held on Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022, at the North Kingstown UMC in Rhode Island.

"I can tell you volumes of what I have learned, and experienced, and seen in the three months and eight days (I didn't count the hours or the minutes yet) since my appointment as District Superintendent to the beautiful, resilient, and extraordinary Seacoast District began on July 1," Rev. Santos-Perez said.

She serves the only district in the Conference that covers more than one state. The Seacoast District includes churches in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.



Rev. Santos-Perez

"I am struck by the diversity of geography and the ethos of the congregations," she said.

Bishop Devadhar said that Rev. Santos-Perez, who began serving as a licensed local pastor in 1993, is well qualified to lead the church at this moment.

"We are at a time in our denomination where we depend on more and more local pastors to do the ministry of the Church," the bishop said. "You come to us with a long history of being licensed as a local pastor. You will bring

that new understanding to this Cabinet— what it means to be a local pastor."

**Scan the QR code to see the full story and more photos**



**Many Waters District** will hold an installation service for its new DS, Rev. Arlene Tully, on Oct. 23. Find that story on our website at [www.neumc.org](http://www.neumc.org) or using the QR code above.

## Ask The UMC addresses your questions about The UMC and its future

Ask The UMC has created a four-part series of articles to respond to questions from congregations wondering about the future of The United Methodist Church and whether they should consider disaffiliating from it.

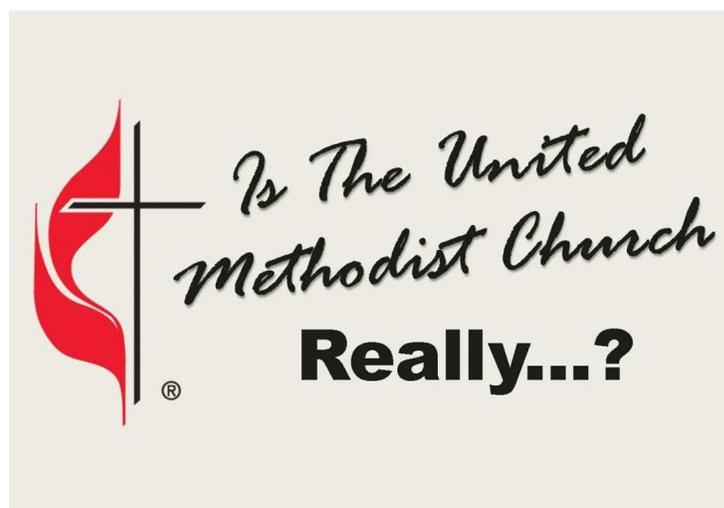
The articles offer accurate responses to questions and dispel misperceptions or misinformation. Questions such as, **Is The United Methodist Church really ...**

**... Splitting at this time?**

**... Going to require its clergy and clergy candidates to agree to offer same-sex weddings as a condition of candidacy, status, or appointment?**

**... Asking traditionalists to leave the denomination?**

Find Part 1 in this series and links to the following three parts at [umc.org](http://umc.org) or by scanning the QR code



To ask a question about anything relating to the denomination, email [AskTheUMC@umc.org](mailto:AskTheUMC@umc.org)

### Let's Connect

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