

April 2023



New England Conference
The United Methodist Church

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

Find more at www.neumc.org.

Special Sunday

Celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday

One of The United Methodist Church's Special Sundays, Native American Ministries Sunday is April 23, 2023.

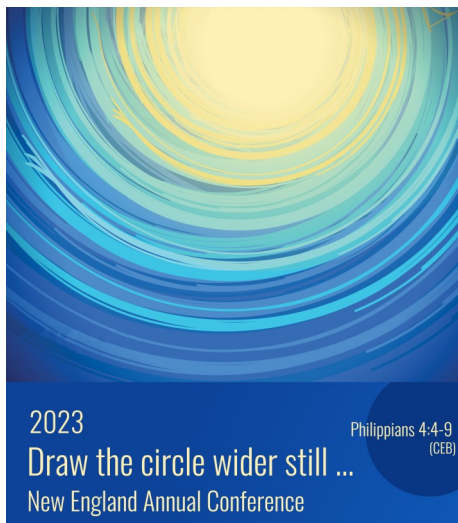
In 2022, you gave over \$426K to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the Annual Conferences, Native American rural, urban, reservation ministries and communities.

Your donation provided development, implementation, and assessment of a higher education recruitment/retention for Native American clergy.

Get worship resources and learn more at www.resourceumc.org



Get the latest news and info on Annual Conference 2023



The 2023 New England Annual Conference session will be June 8-10.

This will be a hybrid session, online via Zoom and in person at the DoubleTree Downtown in Manchester, NH.

Registration is open now and continues until May 19.

Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez, who leads the Upper NY Conference, and Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin, an el-

der from the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference and Native American leader in the denomination, will be our guest preachers.

Mark Miller will again be our music leader.

This year's Bible studies will be via video, and made available to everyone in the Conference.

You can read more about the Bible study and all the news on our website at www.neumc.org/acsessions, click on the link AC23 News

You can watch the events of the 2023 session livestreamed on our YouTube channel (scan the QR code to find our channel).



FIND MORE ON OUR WEBSITE
www.neumc.org/acsessions

Serve the Conference in a leadership role

Boards and committees seek members

For the past few weeks, the New England Conference Committee on Leadership/Nominations has been highlighting some of the Conference boards, committees, and agencies that currently have openings and are seeking new members.



Both clergy and laity are needed to fill these important leadership roles. The Conference's committees and boards are in need of a wide range of gifts and skills.

You are welcome to nominate yourself or someone else for a leadership role by completing the Nomination and Talent Inventory Form.

This form can be found on our website (address is below), along with a list of boards and committees and their members.

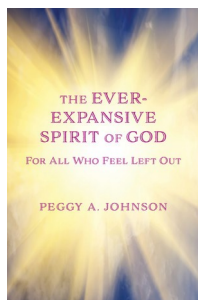
If you have any questions about serving the conference, contact Karen Cassidy, chair of Leadership/Nominations at kdcassidy@msn.com

Some of the committees that are currently looking for new members are:

- Conference Trustees
- Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries
- Commission on Equitable Compensation
- Global Ministries
- Board of Church and Society
- Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Bishop Johnson's memoir: 'The Ever-Expansive Spirit of God: For All Who Feel Left Out'

"Can't it ever be okay with people that some humans on this planet are gay?" So writes Bishop Peggy A. Johnson in her new memoir: *The Ever-Expansive Spirit of God: For All Who Feel Left Out*.



In the book, Bishop Johnson writes about the "controversy around same-gender marriage, sexual orientation, gender identity and what it means to keep in a covenantal relation with fellow United Methodists of differing opinions" by sharing her own story as a bishop of the church, wife of a transgender woman, and mother of a gay son.

Proceeds go to the Christ Deaf UMC in Baltimore, MD, where Bishop Johnson served for 20 years.

"I hope the reader will understand the real-life people that I describe on this journey and will be able to see how God's Spirit continues to open doors wider and wider for inclusion and a theology of grace," Bishop Johnson said. "I also hope it can be a source for the future church to remember what it was like during this era of disaffiliation and struggle and learn from this journey. May we recognize the footsteps of the Eternal one who loves and embraces all who are left out."

Purchase the book now at actapublications.com and from booksellers beginning in July



YOUTH 2023

Every four years, youth from throughout The United Methodist Church come together at YOUTH, a wonderful event hosted by Discipleship Ministries.

The in-person gathering is four days of discipleship, fun, and fellowship for students in grades six to 12.

The amazing faith experiences and friendships that form at YOUTH 2023 can have life-long impact.

Bishop Peggy Johnson is encouraging local churches in New England to consider taking a group of youth to YOUTH 2023. This year's event is July 25-28 in Daytona Beach, FL. Registration continues until May 31.

Learn more at www.umcyoungpeople.org/youth2023

Do you have a story to share? A feature idea? A question to ask? Contact Beth DiCocco, Conference Director of Communications, at communicate@neumc.org or (978) 682-8055 ext. 150