



# the Bridge

Connecting local churches to each other & ministries around the world

for the work of Elder (Deokryeol Bak, Daniel Joseph Bradley, Ann-Marie Brown, Cori Joan Loudon, and Michael George Whitcomb-Tavey); and four were elders newly recognized in The United Methodist Church (Raquel Alston, Lal Fak Mawia, Jefferson Calvin Niles, and Tanya Renate Spencer).

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi joined Bishop Héctor in the commissioning, ordaining, and recognizing. She delivered the message “The Power of One” based on the scripture John 17:17-24. “The scripture points to the fact that diversity in the body makes the body stronger. Our spiritual body needs some diversity in order for it to be healthy,” she said. “Beloved, the world is looking at us to see how we treat one another. They’re looking at us to see what our actions say about who God is.”

Retiring clergy were recognized and new appointments were named at the Service of Passage. A symbolic mantle was passed via representatives from the bishop to retired clergy to newly ordained clergy to commissioned clergy to local pastors to certified lay ministers. The 2023 retirees included 31 clergy who have a combined total of 762 years of ministry. Read more about it here by scanning this QR code.



Scan this QR Code for bulleted notes, livestream recordings, articles, and videos of the 2023 Annual Conference for the United Methodists of Upper New York!



The Bridge is a Conference Communications Ministry tool that delivers to local churches news and stories of ministry from around the Upper New York area and the world. For more news and stories visit: [www.unyumc.org](http://www.unyumc.org)




*“We are not waiting for the disorientation to end. We are not waiting for the challenges to go away.”*

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 *The Upper New York Conference’s vision is to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God’s love with our neighbors in all places.*



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# United Methodists of Upper New York celebrate being **together!**



By Shelby Winchell,  
*Director of Communications*

More than 900 people attended the 14th session of the Upper New York Annual Conference in Syracuse, New York and hundreds more watched the livestream from June 1-3, 2023. This is the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic that it's been safe to gather in-person for holy conferencing, fellowship, prayer, and more.

This is also the first Annual Conference that Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez presided over since being elected bishop and assigned to serve Upper New York (UNY) at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in November 2022.

In his episcopal address, Bishop Héctor said, "Upper New York, by the grace of God and led by the Holy Spirit, we are moving forward, together. We are not waiting for the disorientation to end. We are not waiting for the challenges to go away. In faith, we

are taking the next faithful steps in the journey, trusting that we have all we need for today and that God will provide what's needed for tomorrow."

Bishop Héctor also revealed the new Conference logo—United Methodists of Upper New York as opposed to the Upper New York Conference. He said, "we are prioritizing people and relationships over everything else." The new branding focuses on shifting from institutions to people and building relationships with God and our neighbors.

Scan the QR code to read the full article.



Scan the QR code to watch a recording of the address from the livestream.



Scan the QR code to watch the new logo reveal video.



The Leadership Report was presented by Conference Lay Leader, Jessica White, and the Rev. Mike Weeden, Northern Flow District Superintendent and Dean of the Cabinet. Both of their reports zeroed in on the importance of collaboration and the importance of "claity," collaborative ministries between clergy and laity that work to discover, develop, and deploy Christ-following Transformational Leaders. Scan the QR Code to learn more.



A special presentation was made by the Upper New York Black Leadership Caucus, which formed after the racially motivated shooting at the Tops Supermarket in Buffalo in May 2022. The Buffalo 10 Scholarship was created and high school senior, Xavier Mann, was named as the inaugural recipient. Xavier will receive \$1,000 a year for all four years of college so long as he stays enrolled. The Buffalo 10 Scholarship is one of several Advance Specials approved by the Conference body. Read more about Advance Specials here by scanning this QR code.



More than 40 clergy and clergy spouses who have died since May of 2022 were honored and celebrated during the Memorial Service. The Rev. Nola Anderson, Finger Lakes and Crossroads District Superintendent, delivered a powerful message on the fact that death is not the end of the story; the end of the story is the victory we have through Jesus Christ. Read more about it by scanning this QR code.



The Service of Commissioning and Ordination celebrated 19 clergy members: three were ordained for the work of the Deacon (Deborah M. Coatsworth, Patrick James Dupont, and Theresa L. Eggleston); seven were ordained for the work of the Elder (Andy McClaren Anderson, Casey Edward Bradley, Brett William Johnson, Jennifer K. Piatt, Olga Elsie Gonzalez Santiago, Alison Elaine Schmied, and Jee Hae Song); five were commissioned



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