

A publication of the Central Pennsylvania, New England, North Central New York, Troy, Western, and Wyoming Conferences of the United Methodist Church

# NAVIGATING THE FUTURE

## Timeline

Bringing together six annual conferences to form three new annual conferences is not an easy task but through God's grace, the work involved blessing us. Here are some key dates in the past and in the future.

Fall of 2007

Decision made to permit creation of new conferences

July of 2008

Northeastern Jurisdiction affirms plan Name new Area Upper New York

November 2008 to March 2009

Development of 2009 budget

January 2009 to 2009 A.C. sessions

Select name of new conference

January 2009 To July 2010

Shared worship opportunities

January 2009 until complete

Fundraising, property, financial, administrative conventions

March 2009 to December 2009

Development of 2011 budget

March 2009 to July 2010

Development of IT: data support, finances, web/ video-conferencing, etc.

March 2009 to March 2010

Inventory property, assets, facilities, etc.

April 2009 to August 2009

Define model for effective ministry

(continued on page 4)

## Bishops excited about the future

When God lets us do a new thing, the Almighty always provides able leadership. Four Bishops are leading six annual conferences as they become three new annual conferences. Here is their vision in their own words.



**Bishop Susan W. Shupe**  
Troy Conference

 I have great faith that in the years we are living through, God will be at work in our midst, bringing new vitality and life to the Church. We are excited about the future and the work we are doing together.

Working people who are passionate about serving the Church of Christ is people of our denomination.

The systems of New England, the Western, and the Wyoming Conferences are working well and we are excited about the future.

In every generation, people have to find ways of serving the Church and serving the world. We are excited about the future.

The process of creating three new annual conferences is a great opportunity to bring together the best leaders of the Church in the United States. We are excited about the future.

**Bishop Susan W. Shupe**  
Troy Conference



**Bishop Marvin Matthews**  
New York West Area

 God has called us to do a new thing. We are excited about the future and the work we are doing together. We are excited about the future and the work we are doing together.

When God lets us do a new thing, the Almighty always provides able leadership. We are excited about the future and the work we are doing together.

I believe God is giving us a great opportunity to bring together the best leaders of the Church in the United States. We are excited about the future.



**Bishop Peter D. Weyer**  
New England Conference

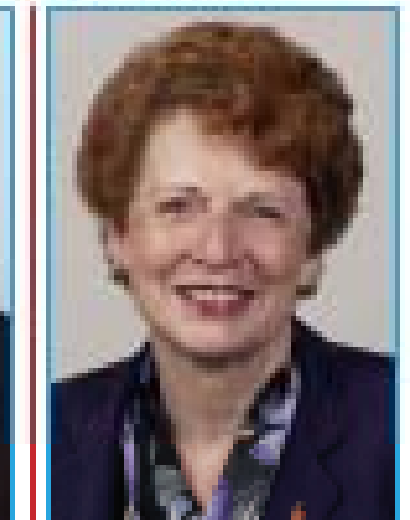
 God is calling us to do a new thing. We are excited about the future and the work we are doing together. We are excited about the future and the work we are doing together.

The vision of the New England Conference is to bring together the best leaders of the Church in the United States.

We are excited about the future and the work we are doing together.

We hope to create the new conference in the New England Conference. We are excited about the future and the work we are doing together.

**Bishop Peter D. Weyer**  
New England Conference



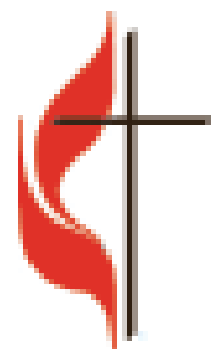
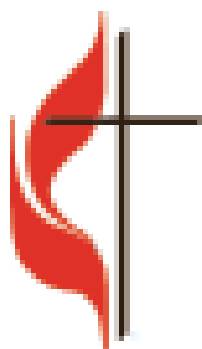
**Bishop Rose Allen Matthews**  
Central Pennsylvania Conference

 When I think of the future of the Church, I think of the work we are doing together. We are excited about the future and the work we are doing together.

I am so grateful that we in the Central Pennsylvania Conference are part of this new vision. We are excited about the future and the work we are doing together.

We are excited about the future and the work we are doing together.

**Bishop Rose Allen Matthews**  
Central Pennsylvania Conference



your retirement, disability and long-term care planning. Share with the audience and to make recommendations for the new conference.

How will the new conference program help address the needs of members of the New York State Bar Association? The Annual Conference of the New York State Bar Association is held each year in July. It is the largest gathering of the state's attorneys and is a key event in the lives of many members of the New York State Bar Association.

There will be a working session on June 22, 2009 in Syracuse, NY. The Annual Conference of the New York State Bar Association is held each year in July. It is the largest gathering of the state's attorneys and is a key event in the lives of many members of the New York State Bar Association.

There will be an off-site session of the annual conference in the morning of July 1, 2009. The off-site session will be held in the morning of July 1, 2009. The off-site session will be held in the morning of July 1, 2009.

How will CLEG contribute to the development of the new conference?

As of July 1, 2009, CLEG is responsible for the development of the new conference. CLEG will be responsible for the development of the new conference. CLEG will be responsible for the development of the new conference.

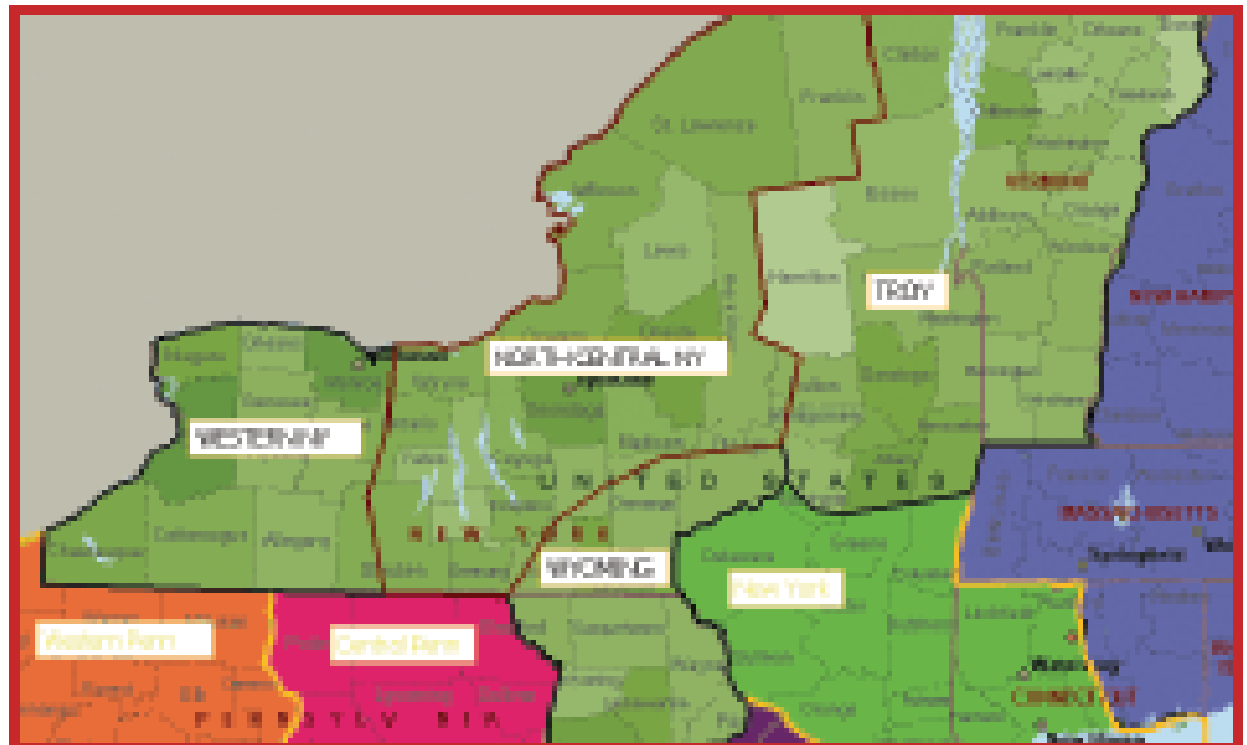
When will the Regional Office and Conference Office be implemented?

New York State Bar Association will be implementing the Regional Office and Conference Office. The Regional Office and Conference Office will be implemented in July 2009. The Regional Office and Conference Office will be implemented in July 2009.

What else is to be expected?

- Development of a system that will allow members to track their conference attendance.
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### Current configuration



to be implemented. The new configuration is the current configuration.

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What is the budget for the new configuration project?

The budget for the new configuration project is \$1.5 million. The budget for the new configuration project is \$1.5 million. The budget for the new configuration project is \$1.5 million.

What challenges faced in developing the new configuration?

The challenges faced in developing the new configuration include the need to coordinate with various stakeholders and the need to ensure that the new configuration is implemented in a timely and effective manner.

How will you monitor the progress of the new configuration?

What is the timeline for the new Annual Conference?

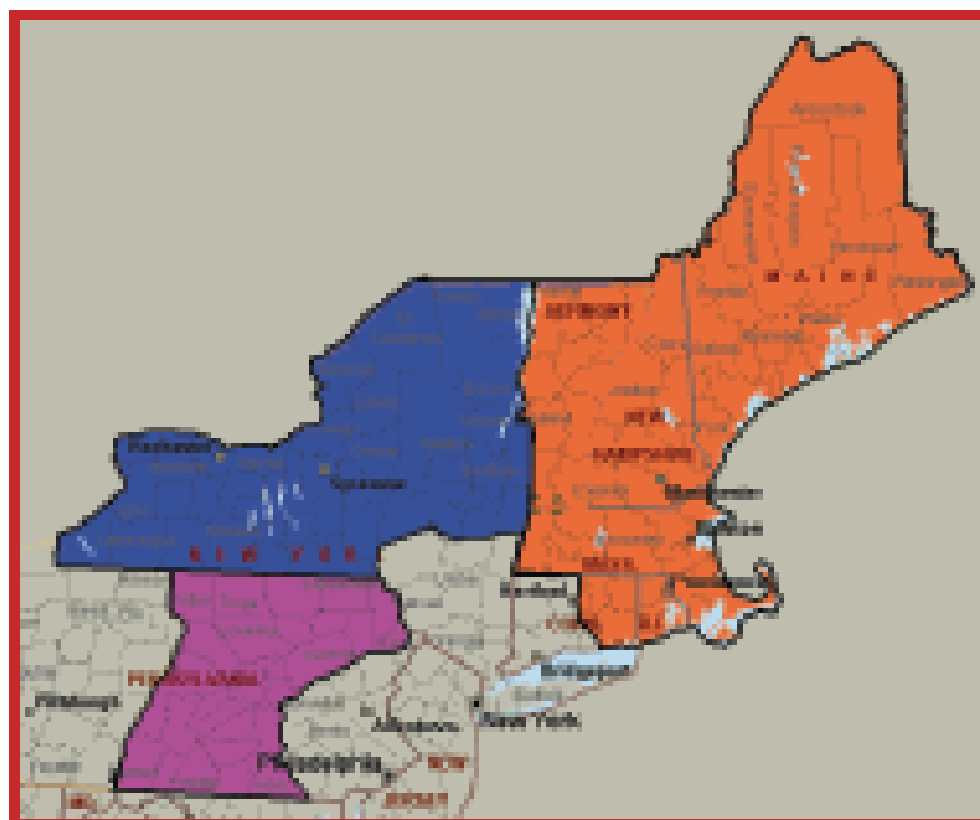
The new Annual Conference is scheduled for July 2009. The new Annual Conference is scheduled for July 2009. The new Annual Conference is scheduled for July 2009.

How will the new configuration be implemented?

The new configuration will be implemented in July 2009. The new configuration will be implemented in July 2009. The new configuration will be implemented in July 2009.

Who will be responsible for the new configuration?

### New configuration



**Help create a communication strategy**

As you begin to plan your strategy for the new conference, we encourage you to help create a communication strategy for the new conference and to help improve existing ones.

Go to [www.nybar.org](#) to help create a communication strategy for the new conference and to help improve existing ones.

**Thank you for your input!**

# QUESTIONS? QUESTIONS? QUESTIONS? QUESTIONS!

## Navigating the future as United Methodists chart a new course

Compiled by Melissa Milburn  
Covered — Commission Task Force

An United Methodist church in western New York prepares to welcome a new member, with signs in the front yard ready to join with those in New England and a new emblem is being put in. Ongoing programs, social activities and events are also being moved over to the new church.

**What is happening to my conference?**  
The 2004 General Conference will meet in New York City on July 1, 2004. For many annual conferences, this is the first time they will meet in New York City. The 2004 General Conference will meet in New York City on July 1, 2004. For many annual conferences, this is the first time they will meet in New York City.

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**What are the annual conference responsibilities?**  
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**What are the responsibilities of those involved?**  
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**What are the roles for existing and future?**  
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**What are the roles?**

Over the past several years, significant changes have taken place in the United Methodist Church. The 2004 General Conference will meet in New York City on July 1, 2004. For many annual conferences, this is the first time they will meet in New York City.

**What is the General Conference responsible for?**  
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**What is the difference between an Episcopate and an episcopate?**  
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**What will be the history for the new year?**  
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# Proposed Vision

for churches of the Central Pennsylvania Conference and churches of the Wyoming Conference within the boundaries of the State of Pennsylvania

Approved by vote taken for 2007 meeting of the Central Pennsylvania and Wyoming Conferences from the Vision Task Force Report of members representing both conferences on 10/1/07

**OUR VISION:** People who are living out the love of God in their lives and in their communities.

As we do our work...  
We are committed to the importance of living the life of the church by following the teachings in the word of the gospel.  
We are committed to the goal to love God, others and ourselves, summed up in loving God's will as we seek out and practice His will.

We are committed to people joining together, hand in hand, with one another in prayer.

We are committed to the goal and heart that conference values including in our work.

We are committed to shared leadership.

We are committed to the cultural diversity that we will expect our churches to be.

We are committed to the word for spiritual, human, and material growth in our churches and our members.

### Our guiding purpose...

We are committed to every individual in our churches and churches across our region in glorifying Jesus Christ in His Kingdom on Earth.

We are committed to the process of developing the leadership that will sustain us.

We are committed to the vision of this new conference, created and inspired by God's grace that we can live in His Kingdom together.

We are committed to be faithful in light of the word of God and the mission that He gives.

## Many sub-groups working on creation of new conference

### By Melissa J. Knapik

The 2007 annual conference of Central Pennsylvania and Wyoming Conferences was held in July of 2007 at the Wyndham Resort in Pottsville, Pa. The meeting was held to discuss the future of the two conferences.

Discussions, as well as the vision, are being discussed by a vision task force. The vision task force is made up of members of both conferences.

Members of the vision task force are: John H. Smith, Jr., and Thomas W. Smith, Jr.

The vision task force is currently in the process of developing a vision for the new conference. The vision task force is currently in the process of developing a vision for the new conference.

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Members and leaders from both conferences will be working together in the process of developing a vision for the new conference. The vision task force is currently in the process of developing a vision for the new conference.

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## A Vision for the New England Conference

Approved by the New England Conference in its 2007 annual and regional level meeting held in Pottsville, Pa.

### Our Mission Statement

Our vision is to be a New England Conference that is united, vibrant, and joyful, and that is committed to the mission of Jesus Christ in our world.


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

**Our vision statement is:**

- To love the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be faithful to our mission in all places.

**Our purpose statement is:**

- Growing in our relationship with God, living the word of God within the world, living in accordance with the example of Jesus Christ by:
  - teaching, evangelizing, and ministering to the needs of the world in a loving and joyful way;
  - encouraging and supporting one another in our mission;
  - building relationships with our neighbors and those who have been marginalized by religious walls.



## Timeline from page 1

<p>May/June 2007 Initial report to General Conference</p> <p>January of 2007 Development of new vision statement (final report)</p> <p>October 2007 New NEC 2007-2010 Program and</p> <p>October work with General Church Council</p> <p>October/November General Council on International Administration United Methodist Commission General Council of United Methodists</p>	<p>October meeting June 25, 2007 West-Central New York</p> <p>March 22 New England General Council United Methodist Church West Palm, FL</p> <p>June 5 Western New York</p> <p>June 4 and 5 Wyoming</p> <p>Final strategy meeting</p> <p>June 4 Wyoming</p> <p>June 9 West-Central New York</p> <p>May 31 New England</p> <p>June 1 Western New York</p>	<p>Working Conference June 18 Wyoming Conference Windsor, Colorado</p> <p>Development of new vision statement June 18-19 Wyoming Conference Windsor, Colorado Pennsylvania Conference</p> <p>Site preparation for the new conference in Pottsville in the Pennsylvania Annual Conference</p> <p>June 27 October meeting for the new conference Pottsville, Pa.</p> <p>October 2007 General Conference West Palm, FL</p> <p>July 11 New England Conference</p> <p>September 18 Western New York conference Windsor, Colorado FL</p>
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