

that includes one paragraph describing the ministry and priorities of each line item in our 2018 ministry share budget for the 2017 Annual Conference to be posted on the UNYAC website at least two weeks prior to the 2017 resolutions and petitions deadline of February 1, 2017. This motion was further amended that through March and April of 2017, there be regional listening and interpretation gatherings for the entire conference. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/AC16-budget> for the full budget article.

Findley Camp & Retreat Center

In addition to deliberation over the budget, there was a lot of discussion about the resolution to close and sell Findley Camp & Retreat Center. In the end a motion was supported that the Board of Trustees be given the authorization, by the Upper New York Annual Conference, to determine the future use of Findley Camp & Retreat Center, based on the conversations with CRM, other interested UMC Cornerstone District congregations, and other interested Cornerstone District parties.

Because of the passion around Camp Findley, Adirondack District Superintendent, the Rev. Bill Mudge brought forth a motion to require every UNY congregation to appoint a Camp and Retreat agent with their leadership selection in 2016 to begin serving in 2017. This motion was also supported.

Resolution Results

Of the nine resolutions, two were withdrawn, two were not supported, and the following five were supported:

- UNYAC2016.3 – Restoration of Funding for Campus Ministries, supported with an amendment to include local churches in the process being developed to apply for funds.
- UNYAC2016.4 – Ensuring Support for All Ministries, supported
- UNYAC2016.6 – A Call for Budget Transparency, supported
- UNAYC2016.8 – A Resolution to Study and Consider Carbon Pricing, supported
- UNYAC2016.9: UNYUMC Responds to Gun Violence, supported

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/AC16-resolutions> for more details on all of the resolutions.

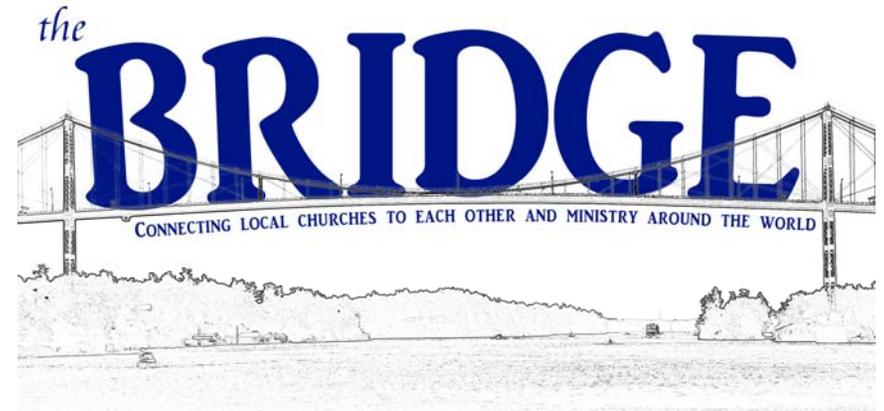
Young People's Worship Service

On June 4, an early-morning worship service was led by young people. The overall message was to "DO something!" The service concluded with those gathered writing down on index cards what action God has called them to do this year, and posting them to a big board at the front of the room. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/AC16-youngpeopleleservice> for full coverage of the Young People's Worship Service.

Closing with the Service of Ordination and Commissioning

As in years past, Annual Conference ended with the Service of Ordination and Commissioning, in which seven individuals were ordained and four individuals were commissioned. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/AC16-ordination-service> for the full story on the Service of Ordination and Commissioning.

AS THE SUMMER CAMPING SEASON BEGINS KEEP THOSE LEADING AND THOSE ATTENDING IN PRAYER.



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.

SPECIAL 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE WRAP-UP!

The Bridge is a Conference Communications Ministry tool that delivers to local churches news and stories of ministry from around the Upper New York Conference and the world.

www.unyumc.org

2016 Annual Conference session wrap-up

The Table is set

In the Opening Worship Service at the 2016 Annual Conference of the Upper New York Conference of the United Methodist Church (AC16), the theme was “The Table is Set.” Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb explained what that means in the closing of his Opening Worship sermon; he said, “The United Methodist Church will be in great shape when everyone, including me, goes to the table and trusts the grace of God and sufficiency of God.” Visit <http://tinyurl.com/AC16-OpeningWorship> for the full article about Opening Worship.

Study Session Leader: The Rev. Adam Hamilton

The featured Study Session leader of the Conference was the Rev. Adam Hamilton, founding pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan. He led the Conference in three 90-minute training sessions throughout the day on June 3.

In his first lesson, Rev. Hamilton described the role of leaders, outlining five key leadership principles.

1. It's all about the people.
2. Healthy organizations have a clear MVP (mission, vision, and plan).
3. Change, innovate, improve, or die
4. Intentional discipleship
5. Discernment by nausea – being willing to do what unsuccessful churches are unwilling to do.

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/AC16-hamilton-session1> for more details about the first Study Session.

In his second session, Rev. Hamilton focused on effective worship and preaching. He discussed five components that are



essential for a preacher to use in order to connect with the congregation.

1. Teach people something they didn't know before.
2. Inspire people.
3. Call people to action.
4. Relate to daily life.
5. Be biblical.

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/AC16-hamilton-session2> for more details about the second Study Session.

Rev. Hamilton's final Study Session included tips for churches on how to prepare for visitors, an emphasis on connecting evangelism and social justice, and advice on how to transition someone from a visitor to a member.

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/AC16-hamilton-session3> for more details about the third Study Session.

Memorial Service

On June 2, Rev. Nola Anderson led a moving Memorial Service. Her sermon, entitled “A Reason to Hope,” offered inspiration drawn from Lamentations 3:18-24:

“There is a very honest grief in ‘Lamentations,’” she said. “The author does not propose any easy answers. No ‘things will be okay.’ No ‘this too shall pass.’ Just raw grief and lament. The first 16 verses of Chapter Three get pretty intense. The image of God is not pretty, and the believer is not afraid to utter it. Fortunately, by verse 17, the mood turns, and one last summary leads into verse 21, in which God's lasting and eternal quality of heshed (loving kindness) is recalled.”

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/ac16-memori>

alservice for the full story on the Memorial Service.

Leadership Report

The leadership report, on June 3, zeroed in on the goal of the Conference to equip local churches with what they need to develop leaders. Susan Ranous, Financial Advisory Consulting Team (FACT) Project Manager, mentioned the need for local churches to be given resources to help them thrive. Also, the concept of leadership as it relates to revitalizing and planting new churches was presented. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/AC16-leadership> for full coverage of the Leadership Report.

Celebration of Ministry

Day two (June 3) of the 2016 Annual Conference ended with an electrifying Celebration of Ministry Gala, which mirrored the Academy Awards. This celebration included gold Bobble Webbs, musical transitions between recognitions, and envelopes with the names of those recognized, including the 35 retirees. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/AC16-gala> for more details on the Celebration of Ministry.

Episcopal Nominations

On June 4, two episcopal nominees were endorsed by the Annual Conference as prospective bishops to go through the process of balloting at the Jurisdictional Conference. The nominees were the Rev. Beckie Sweet and the Rev. Cathy Stengel.

The Conference Budget

After much deliberation, the Conference budget passed with an added motion for CF&A to lead the production of a narrative budget

Continued on Page 4