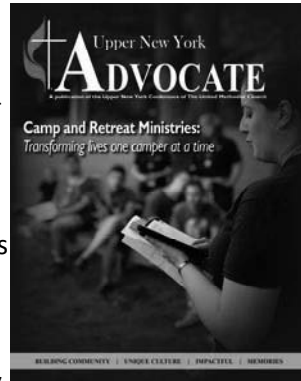


## IN BRIEF

### New issue of the *Advocate* available

The latest issue of the *Advocate* focuses on Camp & Retreat Ministry. Inside the issue, find testimonials from camp participants, cultural tidbits about the Upper New York Conference's camp and retreat centers, and responses to our social media post "Because of Camp & Retreat Ministry ..." that corresponds to a video (<https://vimeo.com/159509826>) that asked the same question. The latest issue will be available in your local church and online on the Conference Issuu page: [https://issuu.com/uppernewyork/docs/crm\\_advocate\\_issuu](https://issuu.com/uppernewyork/docs/crm_advocate_issuu). The *Advocate* is the Conference's ministry magazine.



### Important General Conference 2016 links

There are plenty of ways to stay connected to the 2016 General Conference Session and the Upper New York Conference's General Conference delegates. Below are some important links to help you stay connected.

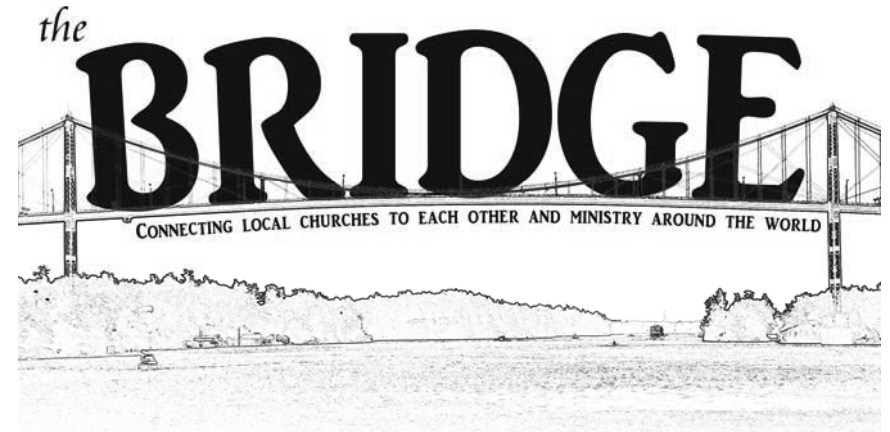
- For more information about General Conference go to <http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2016>
- To view a live stream of General Conference go to <http://tinyurl.com/h8ftmdl>
- To read blog entries written by UNY delegates go to <http://www.unyumc.org/news/perspectives>
- Follow Upper New York at GC on Instagram by go to <https://www.instagram.com/uppernewyork/>

Also, remember the Upper New York Conference website will serve as a hub to keep you connected to General Conference with an Upper New York point of view.

*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](http://www.unyumc.org)**

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY IS MAY 22. GO TO [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/2016PWJ](http://tinyurl.com/2016PWJ) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



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.

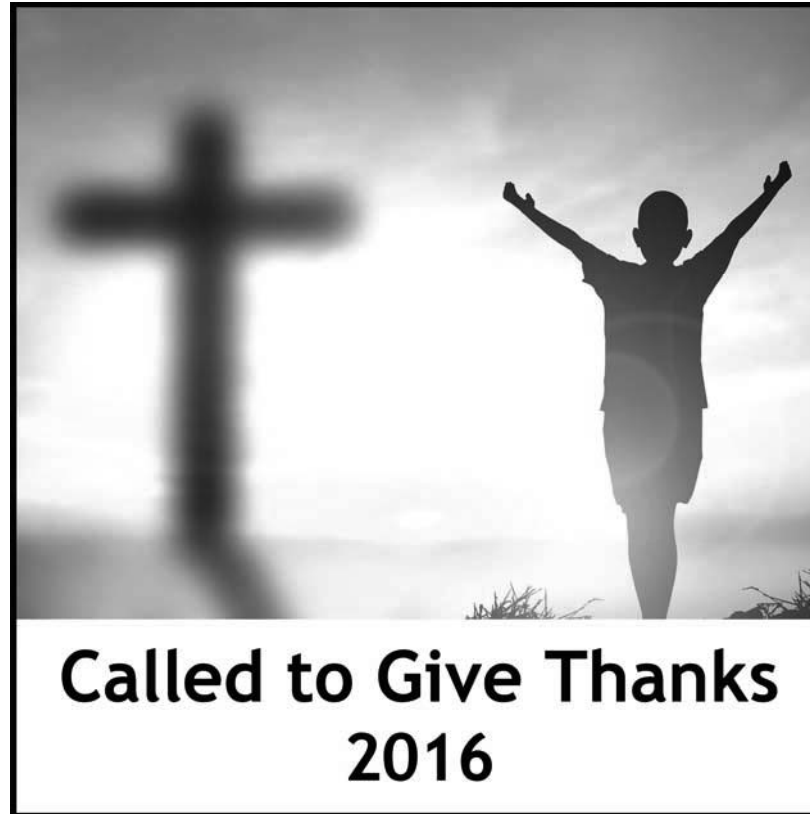
## A LOOK INSIDE!

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# How the Annual Conference session impacts you

The Annual Conference session is a yearly meeting for clergy and laity to worship and to conduct Conference business. But what does the AC session mean for congregants? Here are the top-seven effects of the session:

- **Future goals are set.** For example, the leadership report states that this year's focus will be on anchoring our culture of leadership development through concrete practices, programs, structures, budgets, tactics, and strategies. In addition, there is a goal this year of improving our Shared Ministry.
- **Future programs are adopted.** For instance, the Conference launched the Leadership Academy, which strives to increase the leadership capacity within the Conference and involves retreat-style sessions.
- **Programs the Conference has participated in are celebrated.** For example, this year, *Africa 360*— the Conference's holistic plan for health and education initiatives in Africa that benefits *Imagine No Malaria* and Africa University — comes to a close.



- **Future budgets are adopted.** This impacts Ministry Shares and determines where ministry dollars are focused. View the proposed budget in the 2016 Upper New York Conference *Journal*, Vol. 1: <http://tinyurl.com/2016JournalVol1> (see P. 14-19). The Vol 1 of the *Journal* was previously known as the *Pre-Conference Workbook*.

- **Petitions and resolutions are voted upon.** Resolutions and petitions impact everything from the Upper New York Conference's public stance on political issues to the way clergy are cared for.
- **Clergy are commissioned and ordained.** The path to ordination begins when a local church formally endorses a member to

explore a call to pastoral ministry. After many steps, that individual is elected by clergy colleagues into Conference membership at clergy session, ordained to representative ministry on behalf of the Church by the Bishop, and appointed to a local church or other ministry setting.

- **Pastoral appointments become official and are celebrated at AC session.** This is when pastors are assigned to Conference churches.

## 5 ways to connect to AC '16

- Visit <https://vimeo.com/165903938> to watch a Pre-Conference Briefing.
- Visit <http://www.unyumc.org/events/ac-live> to view the session's live stream.
- Visit <http://tinyurl.com/AC2016news> to view AC news items.
- Follow or use hashtag "#UNYAC16" on social media.
- Look for the Post-Conference issue of the *Advocate* on the Conference's Issue page: <https://issuu.com/uppernewyork>.