



After a time of learning around the MAP process, District Leadership Teams had the chance to apply the process to dilemmas facing their Districts while members of the CLT were available to provide support.

ence, including: Mission and Vision, Purpose of the Conference, Primary Task, and definition of key terms. This time served as a reminder for those who have been at previous CLT/DLT meetings and a foundation for those who were new to these gatherings. All key points of information are available on the Conference website.

With the foundation in place, the CLT moved into the main topic of the day, teaching and using the Ministry Action Plan (MAP) process. This process is a step by step tool that the Conference Leadership Team has been using to identify how to live into desired outcomes. In fact, how to empower the District Leadership Teams with tools like the MAP pro-

cess is a MAP itself. Go to <http://bit.ly/MAPworksheet> to review or download the MAP form. For questions or to learn more e-mail clt@unyumc.org.

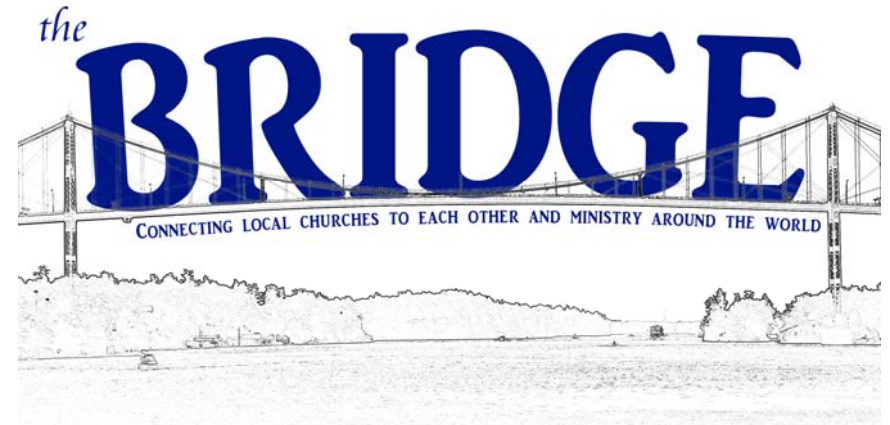
Only after the foundation had been put in place, and the MAP process had been explained well, did the day move into leading.

The rest of the afternoon was spent with DLTs beginning work on their own MAPS to address key dilemmas in their Districts. As the DLTs worked on their MAPS, members of the CLT sat in on conversations to provide guidance and reinforce the process.

The day ended with a time of questions and answers, as well as an acknowledgement that this is not easy work.

*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.*

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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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Bishop Webb sends letter on Council of Bishops time with the Commission on a Way Forward

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

A press release from the Council of Bishops regarding our meeting this week and specifically our work with the

preliminary report from the Commission on a Way Forward is available at <http://bit.ly/WayForwardupdate112017>. I encourage you to read this release in a spirit of prayer and hope-filled faith. There are some important pieces to remind you of. First, this is the beginning

of a journey that still has many miles to travel. The Council of Bishops engaged in prayerful, thoughtful, and respectful conversation that will continue over the next few months as we work together toward a final recommendation(s) to be presented to the Church and specifically the delegates of the 2019 special called session of the General Conference. Second, the three models presented by the Commission on a Way Forward represent the work as of today. These models may represent the whole, portion, or none of what the final recommendation(s) contain. Finally, the Council of Bishops did not vote on any of these models. Currently there is no recommendation for a way forward. That recommendation will come sometime after the May 2018 Council of Bishops meeting.

Between now and that meeting in May, I am committed to continuing to lead conversations throughout the Upper New York Conference that will add to and build upon the conversations we have engaged in previously. We will use the models offered by the Commission as a springboard for these deeper conversations. This commitment will be carried out with members of our delegation to the special session of the General Conference, as well as clergy and laity throughout Upper New York.

We continue in a season of urgent prayer for The United Methodist Church. Jesus is still Lord of the Church, our focus remains on the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and we

trust the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit for the days that lie ahead. May we never forget the words of Jeremiah, as he proclaims: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not calamity to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29.11)

As always, I am blessed to share this journey with you. Thank you for your faithfulness to the mission and ministry in the name of Jesus Christ. Let us pray for one another!

Bishop Mark J. Webb

CLT and DLTs share time of love, learning, and leading



Members of the CLT and DLTs followed worship with the sacrament of communion as their time started together on Oct. 28.

On Saturday, Oct. 28, the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) hosted the District Leadership Teams (DLTs) from all 12 Districts in the Upper New York Conference at the United Methodist Center in Liverpool. The day followed the Loving, Learning, Leading (L3) meeting model that the CLT has been using for their monthly meetings.

Following a greeting and gathering time, the day started with a passionate time of worship, word, and communion. Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb brought the message, teaching from Nehemiah and reminding

those gathered that the work of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem started with passion, connection, and moral imperative, before moving to planning.

Time was taken to allow those gathered to experience the love of God and connect to the other leaders gathered through the shared love of Jesus. Only after the time was taken to worship and connect together did the focus turn to learning.

The time of learning began with a review of the most important points for leading in the Upper New York Confer-

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