

IN BRIEF

New Blog Series: Upper New York Conference trip to South Korea

Almost immediately after Annual Conference 2017, Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb, several members of the UNY Cabinet as well as other leaders in the UNY Conference, and many of their partners or spouses traveled to Bupyeong, South Korea from June 6-June 14.



The Rev. Eun Pa Hong invited Bishop Webb and the UNY

Cabinet to visit his church in South Korea. Rev. Eun Pa Hong feels one of the main ministries of his church is to introduce Americans to the way that Korean Methodists worship the Lord. He has invited several United Methodist Conferences across the world to his church. All expenses except for travel to and from South Korea were paid for by the Bupyeong Methodist Church.

In this blog series, you will read what some of the UNY visitors took away from their experience in South Korea. Visit www.unyumc.org/news/perspectives to read our summer 2017 blog series about the UNY trip to South Korea.

Trusting God is enough helped a half-time pastor

The Summer 2017 Issue of the *Advocate* will focus on the theme "Trusting that God is Enough." This 40-page issue will highlight many amazing things that can happen at an individual level, the church level, and even on a global level when you trust that God is enough. Leading up to the issue's release, the Conference website will feature examples of the stories found in this issue of the *Advocate*. Visit <http://bit.ly/BlackRiverUMC>

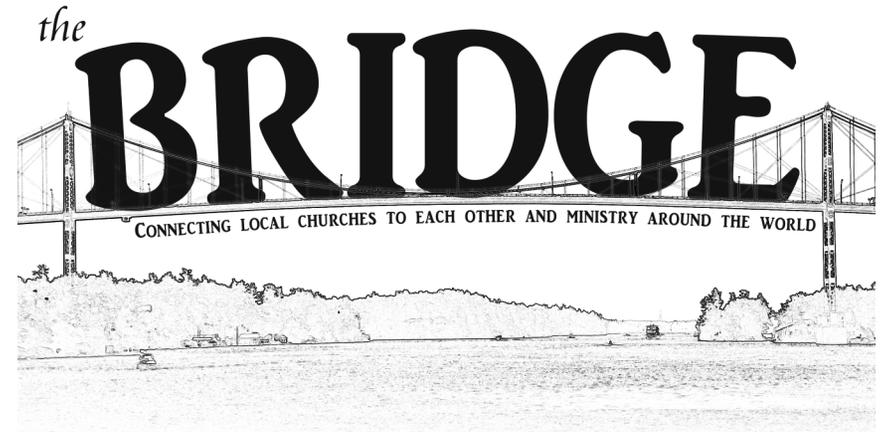


to read the story of how Pastor Bob McCarthy trusted that he could have an effective ministry at Black River UMC with a half-time appointment.

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

TO LEARN ABOUT THE 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION, VISIT
[HTTP://TINYURL.COM/AC17NEWS.](http://tinyurl.com/AC17NEWS)



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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From the Desk of Bishop Webb: Together in Prayer, Trusting that God is Enough

The summer 2017 issue of the *Advocate* reflects the Upper New York quadrennial theme, “Together in Prayer: Trusting that God is Enough.”

In June, during Opening Worship at the eighth session of the Upper New York Annual Conference, I spoke about the deep meaning and importance of this theme for the future of the United Methodist Church.

Here is some of what I shared...

“I want to be honest this morning – this message was one of the hardest I have ever prepared. What do you bring to a Church that is anxious, divided, and holding its breath about the future?

How do we share authentically in the midst of deep disagreements that are present not just around human sexuality but in even more foundational matters of doctrine, theology and ecclesiology?

How do we live together as a group of people who are called to love one another, but sometimes fail to treat one another with respect, too often see one another in categories and at times struggle to like one another?

How do we focus on being together in prayer when we are not certain what it means to be together or if being together is even what we want or desire?

How do we seek God together without continuing to harm one another and the world we seek to offer Christ to?

How do we allow our disagreements to be spirit-filled rather than mean-spirited?

How do we find space to celebrate our diversity, follow our convictions and honor our covenant with God and one another?

How do we move forward?”...

“God is enough for the future we face! God is enough for the future of the United Methodist Church! God is enough for the future of The Upper New York Conference! God is enough for the future of your local congregation! As we seek to live out our why, God is always enough. God gives to us the gifts, energy, and resources that are enough to accomplish the task God has given us. We have to trust that God is enough!

That’s the truth throughout the Biblical narrative.

God was enough when Noah built loaded and lived in the ark for 40 days and 40 nights.

God was enough when Abram became Abraham and Sari became Sarah.

God was enough when Moses was called to lead God’s people out of Egypt.

God was enough when the Israelites wandered the wilderness for 40 years.

God was enough when Esther became queen.

God was enough when Daniel found himself in the lion’s den.

God was enough when Jonah tried to run away.

God was enough when Mary found out she was going to be the mother of God.

God was enough when over five thousand needed lunch.



God was enough when the blind man wanted to see.

God was enough when Jesus was mocked, tried, and crucified.

God was enough when the stone was rolled away and sin and death were forever defeated.

God is enough! God is always enough!

As we strive to be the Church that God has called us to be, we have to stop living with a theology of scarcity and start living the truth that God is enough. Whatever God is calling us to, wherever God is leading us, God has already given

us everything we need to accomplish God’s purpose and plan. God is enough for your life – God is enough for the ministries of your church – God is enough for the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. God is enough for the future of The United Methodist Church!”

Editor’s Note: Visit bitly.com/UNYAC2017BishopWebbsermon to read Bishop Webb’s entire Annual Conference 2017 Opening Worship sermon.

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