

again for another year of wonderful and exciting worship music for the weekend.

Each evening was ended by eight late night options, for youth to take part in and have fun before going to their rooms for the night. The weekend was full of laughter, joy, renewal, music, prayer, spiritual growth, and fun times with other youth, due to the wonderful worship



speakers, great missions work, and workshop and late-night options leaders.

In Brief

Meet Goldy and McCoy

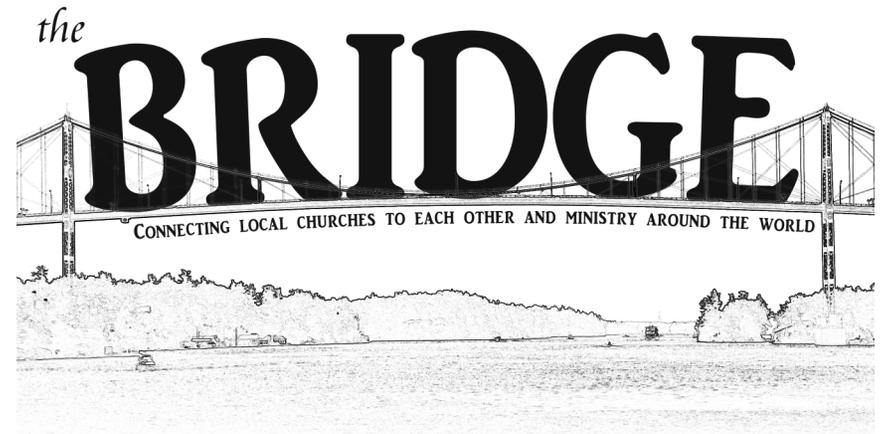
Goldy and McCoy are fish who reside at the United Methodist Center's indoor pond in Liverpool, N.Y. They have fun personalities and report on important United Methodist happenings in the Upper New York Conference and beyond with a sense of humor. Visit our blog at <http://bit.ly/UMethodfish> to meet Goldy + McCoy. You can also follow their Twitter handle, @UMethodfish.



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

Peace With Justice Sunday is celebrated the first Sunday after Pentecost. Visit <http://bit.ly/PeacewithJustice> for Peace With Justice Sunday Resources.



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!

Imagine No Racism launches across Upper New York	Page 2
OUTWARD! 2018-an amazing experience for UNY youth	Page 2
Meet Goldy and McCoy	Page 4

Imagine No Racism launches across Upper New York

By Shannon Hodson, UNY Writer/Editor

In July of 2016, the Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church unanimously approved a resolution for every Annual Conference to confront the sin of racism in our own hearts, our churches, and our communities.

Upper New York (UNY) Area Resident Bishop, Mark J. Webb, created a task-force, known now as the Bishop's Task-force on Eliminating Racism, to start strategizing ways to confront this deeply embedded issue across our Conference.

After months of planning, the task-force was ready to help the rest of the UNY Conference to act.

The taskforce has called this new ministry, Imagine No Racism (INR), drawing inspiration from our denomination's successful Imagine No Malaria campaign. Like Imagine No Malaria, Imagine No Racism will unapologetically identify the disease of racism and offer concrete ways to bring healing.

Saturday, April 21, marked the launch of the INR initiative. The launch took place simultaneously across all 12 Upper New York Conference districts and began with a moving worship experience.

Each District began with Opening Wor-

ship, followed by a welcome message from Bishop Webb, which was live-streamed from the Upper New York United Methodist Center. Attendees were reminded of the Northeastern Jurisdiction's Call to Action to address, confront, and demand systemic, fundamental, and institutional change within The Church and the world to work toward the elimination of racism.

Small groups were formed among attendees based on their geographical location. As these small groups are required to meet at least six times in the coming months, they planned meeting locations and dates.

Each small group also had to select a facilitator who must attend a six-hour training in May, convene the group using the full curriculum provided from their INR District Advocate, and connect regularly with the District Advocate – sharing progress, concerns, and needs. They must also communicate with their groups any changes to meetings as well as information from the Conference.

After conversation and planning, the small groups watched videos featuring members of the UNY Conference. The first video featured the Rev. Harold Wheat, Christine Doran (former assistant



to the Bishop), and Adirondack District Superintendent the Rev. Bill Mudge. They discussed racism and white privilege. The second video featured Dr. Scott Johnson, who talked about the importance of thinking beyond individual racism to look at the challenges caused by systemic racism.

Each small group discussed their thoughts about these videos.

The educational component of INR ended with a video from the Rev. Teresa Sivers, convener of the Bishop's Task Force on the Elimination of Racism. Rev. Sivers spoke of how racism exists

even in The Church and that the first task of the small groups is to "listen, learn, and seek understanding of both personal and systemic racism."

At the INR launch day's closing worship, everyone was given the opportunity to receive sacred water and remember their baptism. They were also asked to consider signing an individual Imagine No Racism covenant. The covenant reads, "Before God and with my family in Christ, I vow, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to oppose and to eliminate the influence of racism from systems, institutions, relationships, and my own life."

OUTWARD! 2018-an amazing experience for UNY youth

By Kristian J. Snyder, CCYM Member

Hundreds of youth and adults from across Upper New York came together for OUTWARD! '18, held on April 13-15 at the Liverpool Holiday Inn. There were over 275 youth and adults who joined

the 40 CCYM members who planned and organized the event. There were 35 youth groups, from all 12 districts, in attendance.

The event was named OUTWARD! because of its outward-focused empha-

sis on mission work. Over one-third of the attendees participated in assembling UMCOR health kits (717 of them!) and 350 school kits. This work was completed at Upper New York Mission Central HUB at the United Methodist Center.

In addition to the hands-on mission

work, the weekend included 10 workshops on Saturday. The guest preacher at the worship services was Michael Jordan, Dean of the Chapel at Houghton College. The band "SameCity" joined us

Continued on page 4