

Rev. Colleen Hallagan Preuninger

"I am fluent in German!"

Shirley Readdean (Laity Second Reserve)

"I love to laugh."

Blenda Smith

"I am talented in color coordination."

Rev. Beckie Sweet

"I have a French Angora rabbit named, Jacques."

Marthaly Sweet

"I would consider myself a connoisseur of Ben and Jerry's."

Ian Urriola

"I've been to 17 countries."

Carmen FS Vianese

"When I was 10, I wrote a petition, acquired 500 signatures and went to the village board with it all so that girls in my small rural WNY town would be given the opportunity to play little league baseball. And I am pleased to say - 42 years later - girls make up 50% of the little league teams in Nunda."

JJ Warren (Laity First Reserve)

"I have four sisters and two brothers."

In Brief

Bishop Webb's gatherings throughout UNY this fall

Upper New York Area Resident Bishop, Mark J. Webb is hosting gatherings around the Conference in preparation for Special Session of General Conference to talk about the report of the Commission on a Way Forward for The United Methodist Church. The agenda for each gathering includes a presentation of the plan and process of General Conference, a time to remember our mission, and worship and prayer. Visit <http://bit.ly/UNYGatherings> for a listing of gathering locations and dates.

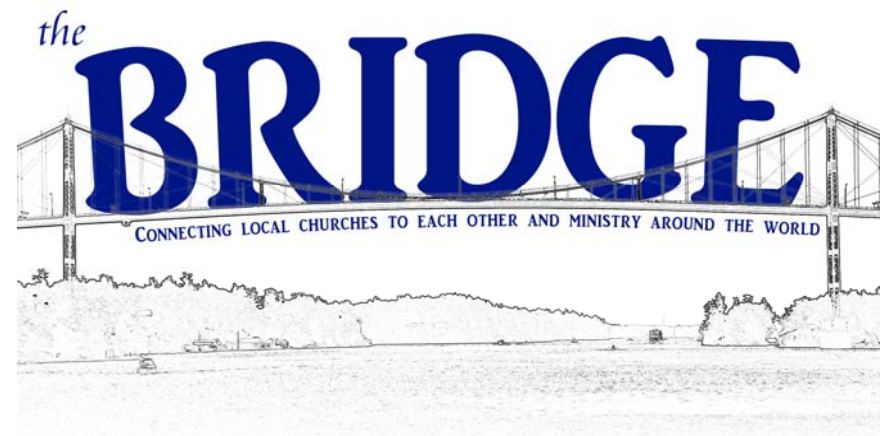
Meet the UNY delegates

The UNY delegates will be gathering at the United Methodist Center in Liverpool on Oct. 27. If you would like time to meet with the UNY delegation before the Special Session, please contact the Rev. Bill Allen at billallen@bpumc.com to schedule a time during their Oct. 27 meeting.

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. For more news and stories visit:

www.unyumc.org

For additional information and continuing coverage of the Special Session of General Conference visit: <http://www.unyumc.org/events/special-session-of-general-conference>



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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UNY delegates prepare for General Conference Special Session



Following the 2016 General Conference, the Council of Bishops proposed the formation of a Commission on a Way Forward to examine and possibly revise every paragraph of the *Book of Discipline* concerning human sexuality. The Commission (made up of 32 individuals, including eight bishops, 13 other clergy members, and 11 lay members) met several times and creat-

ed a report offering ideas for different church plans. The Commission's report will be presented during a Special Session of the 2019 General Conference, which will be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Upper New York (UNY) delegates will be attending this Special Session of General Conference. Recently, UNY delegates met

with other Northeastern Jurisdiction (NEJ) Delegates to prepare for the 2019 Special Session of General Conference

The purpose of the meeting was for delegates to learn how to go about entering the Special Session of General Conference in a Christ-like manner.

The Rev. Bill Allen, head of the UNY Delegation of the General Conference (GC), attended the event as did all but four of UNY's 16 delegates. He said, "The gathering was meaningful; it was a way for delegates to develop deeper relationships with others in the Northeastern Jurisdiction. It was a time to prepare us to enter the Special Session of GC in a good place emotionally and spiritually."

The 8:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. day included worship, a truly informative report from two members of the Commission on a Way Forward, lunch, and a lot of time devoted to small table meetings where delegates would converse with delegates from other Conferences.

Dr. Scott Johnson of UNY and the Rev. Dr. Tom Salsgiver of the Susquehanna Conference, both Commission on a Way Forward members, as well as West Virginia Area Resident Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball (a Commission on the Way Forward moderator)

presented at this gathering. Rev. Allen said, "It was a very helpful presentation. It was less about what their report concluded and more of a discussion on how they came up with the report." Dr. Johnson, Rev. Salsgiver, and Bishop Steiner Ball also allowed for a time to answer questions about the process to be expected at the Special Session of General Conference.

The way in which this gathering most helped to empower and encourage the delegates was through the small table meetings. Rev. Allen said, "It was a great way to get to know each other." Delegates sat around the table with others from different Conferences across the NEJ to answer questions, such as "Where have you seen Christ at work in your lives?" and "What feeds your soul outside of church?"

With the Special Session of GC taking place in February, Rev. Bill Allen said that this gathering was a great approach to help delegates not to be outcome-oriented. He said the NEJ Delegate gathering helped answer the question, "How can you work through whatever the outcome is to remain Christ-like?"

Please continue to pray for our Upper New York delegates as they prepare for the Special Session of GC.

Fun Facts about the UNY Delegates

Rev. Bill Allen- Head of the Upper New York Delegation of the General Conference

"I once licked a Tootsie Pop 760 times until I reached the center. For real."

Rev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost (Clergy: First Reserve)

"I am going to spend two weeks in India in October."

Rev. Thom White Wolf Fassett

"I collect historical artifacts."

Greg Forrester (Assistant Head of the Upper New York Delegation of the General Conference)

"I can drive cars, trucks, tractors, motorcycles and fly an airplane."

Rev. John Martin

"I competed in and completed the Lake Placid Ironman (2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike and 26.2 mile run)."

Rev. Bill Mudge

"I have six grand babies age 10 months to 12 years old!"

Rev. Holly Nye (Clergy Second Reserve)

"I once met Spike Lee in a jazz club."

Riley O'Flynn

"I survived a typhoon when I went to the GYPCLA in the Philippines in 2014."

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