

In Brief

Learning even more about Annual Conference



Now that you (hopefully) understand how the Annual Conference impacts you, you can learn even more about how this event comes together year –after –year. Be sure to check out our blog series, “Behind the Scenes of Annual Conference.” Visit <http://bit.ly/UNYAC>.

Open House and Service of Dedication at the new United Methodist Center– May 31, 2017 3:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

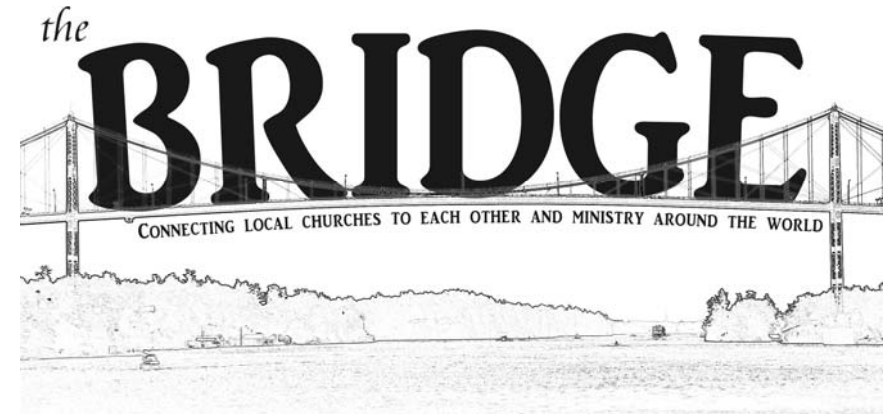
Make plans to visit the new United Methodist Center, 7481 Henry Clay Blvd., Liverpool. In addition to the office areas and meeting rooms, the Open House will showcase the Media Resource Center and Mission Central. A service and dedication will take place at 7:30 p.m.



*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

The 2017 Session of the Upper New York Annual Conference will take place June 1 - 3 at the Oncenter in Syracuse. Visit <http://www.unyumc.org/events/annual-conference> for the latest news and 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!

How the Annual Conference session impacts you	Page 2
Behind the Scenes of Annual Conference Blog information	Page 4
Open House and Dedication of at the new United Methodist Center	Page 4

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-six effects of the session:

Future goals are set

For example, the leadership report states that a focus will continue to be on three outcomes: Leadership, New Faith Communities, and Vitality. That means that in the coming year strategies will be implemented to improve in these areas. Similarly, last year there were goals set to increase Ministry Share receipts last year and to open the new United Methodist Center. This work will be reported on at Annual Conference this year.

Future programs strategies 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. Other examples from the past include launching Africa 360 and empowering the District Leadership teams.

Future budgets are adopted

This impacts Ministry Shares and determines where ministry dollars are focused. This year, for the very first time, the budget was created in a narrative format. This allows members of Annual Conference to better understand, exactly what each line item accomplishes with Ministry Shares. View the proposed budget in the 2017 Upper New York Conference *Journal*, Vol. I: <http://www.unyumc.org/events/journals> (see page 13).

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. All resolutions are available to be viewed on Vol. I of the Conference Journal (see page 59).

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 repre-



sentative 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 officially assigned to local churches with appointments generally starting on July 1.

7 ways to connect to AC '17

- Visit <http://www.unyumc.org/news/video/8334> to watch the Pre-Conference Briefing video.
- Visit <http://www.unyumc.org/events/ac-live> to view the session's live stream.
- Visit <http://bit.ly/UNYAC2017news> to view AC news items.
- Follow or use hashtag "#UNYAC17" on social media.
- View the daily recap videos on the mornings of Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3. They will be posted as news items on the Conference website.
- Look for the Daily Notes posted each day on the Conference website. These are bulleted lists of key events and actions that took place at Annual Conference.
- Look for a full recap video of AC the week of June 4.