



Swanson challenged us all “to focus on the Being in Christ” and not so much the “Doing in Christ.” He stated that, “folk want to be a part of a Church that we’re are joyously witnessing to the transforming power of God in our lives.”

Visit <http://bit.ly/UMM2018> to learn more about this inspiring retreat and how empowering it was to include women and children family members. As the UMM plans next year’s annual retreat, they will again invite women and children to attend.

## In Brief

### **Upper New York Mission Central HUB urgently needs flood buckets**

According to Mike Block, UNY Director of Missional Engagement, and Joe Auslander, UNY Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, warehouse flood bucket contents are limited, and help is critical at this time, especially during hurricane season.

Visit <http://bit.ly/UMCORfloodbuckets> for a list of UMCOR certified supplies used in cleaning kits and visit [http://bit.ly/UNY\\_drop\\_off\\_locations](http://bit.ly/UNY_drop_off_locations) for your closest drop-off location.

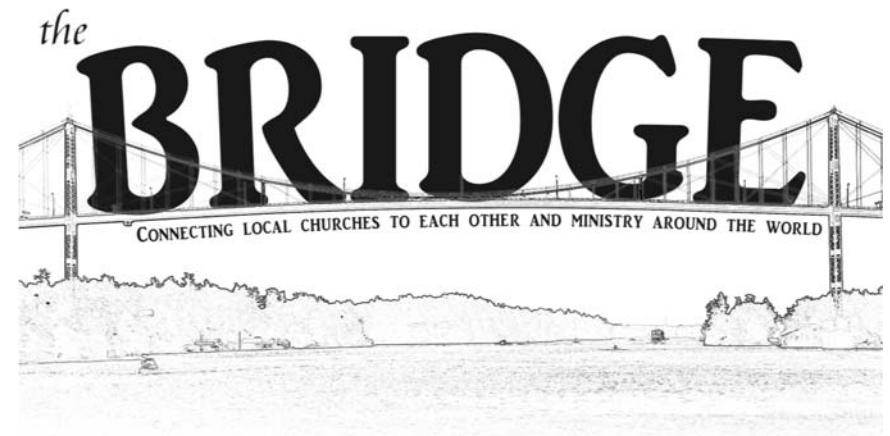
If you or a few friends can help assemble kits in the very near future at the UNY Mission Central HUB, please contact Mike Block at (315) 898-2066 or [mikeblock@unyumc.org](mailto:mikeblock@unyumc.org).

*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](http://www.unyumc.org)**

To learn about disaster response through the UNY Mission Central Hub visit:

<http://www.unyumc.org/mission/mission-central>



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!

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# Reflection on the Global Young People's Convocation 2018

**By Rachel John, Emmaus UMC**

This past July, I attended the Global Young People's Convocation (GYPC) in Johannesburg, South Africa. At this enlightening convocation, youth and young adults from about 40 different countries gathered together to assess different issues facing each of us in our own communities. This convocation was able to give each and every one of us a voice so that we can see change happen right before our eyes.

At GYPC, we were able to create legislation that is to be submitted to General Conference in 2020. Some topics of discussion during small group and legislative forum times included poverty, sexism, child marriage, nationalism, immigration, human trafficking, and much more. Through the forums we were able to create six pieces of legislation to be sent to General Conference so that our voices as young people may be heard. We created a unity statement and legislation on sexism, nationalism, child mar-

riage, migrants, and prioritizing young people in the local church.

However, legislation was not the only thing we participated in at GYPC. This event was a time for cultural celebration and learning about other people who may not be like you. Throughout the event, we had very talented and diligent translators who worked constantly to make sure everyone was on the same page. Because not everyone at GYPC spoke the same language, we were able to learn different songs in languages other than our own. We also experienced other cultures during the drum circle, the cultural celebration, and during free times talking to one another. We saw how different our backgrounds were and were still able to not set aside our differences, but to embrace our differences and come together to make change in the UMC. Which, conveniently, goes along with this year's theme for GYPC: United We Go.

We were also given the opportunity at

GYPC to strengthen our leadership skills. During two workshop times, all GYPC attendees could learn more about the UMC or learn new techniques for leadership. We could also learn from each other through the delegation exhibits where jurisdictions and central conferences displayed the work they do in their own communities. On the last day of GYPC, there was a Q&R with three bishops about their journey to leadership and the future of the church.

Spiritual fulfillment was gained during the lively worships at the convocation. Even though numerous languages were present, we were still able to worship as one. Whether it was through the music, sermons, communion, scriptures, or being surrounded by God-loving people, it's safe to say everyone felt the holy spirit in some way.

Going to GYPC was a truly amazing opportunity that I was able to experience thanks to many churches, committees, and individuals throughout the



Northeastern Jurisdiction. I highly encourage youth and young adults who would like to further their knowledge of the UMC or become a stronger leader to consider attending General Conference in 2020 and/or the next GYPC in 2022.

# Transformation in Christ 180 UNY UMM Retreat, inspiring for men, women, and children

**By Mark Jones, UMM President**

Greetings from the United Methodist Men (UMM) of the Upper New York (UNY) Conference.

"Transformation in Christ Turn 180" was our theme for this year's UMM Annual Conference-wide retreat held at the beautiful Sky Lake Camp and Retreat

Center, in Windsor, NY (about 15 miles from where I grew up in Conklin, NY). The idea this year was to include families; men, women, and children. This idea came from a talk that we heard from Bishop Holsten of the South Carolina (SC) Conference while attending a nation-wide men's gathering in Indianapolis in July of 2017. He shared that the

men of his Conference complained that the attendance for UMM Annual gatherings in their Conference kept declining, so he suggested to the UMM leadership to begin to invite the entire family. They did and had great success and the next year's gathering increased in attendance significantly.

We decided if it worked for them than it should and could work here in the UNY Conference. We invited the powerful and dynamic speaker Bishop James Swanson of the Mississippi Conference to be our leader for this year's groundbreaking event. During his talk, Bishop

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