

## WHAT'S NEW ONLINE?

### The importance of being neighborly

The Rev. Anne Bey Canfield attended the "Vital and Evangelism Workshops" led by the Rev. Jorge Acevedo, an evangelist and church planter in Cape Coral, Fla. She said she learned that "the days of the lone circuit rider on the horse – the heroic solo leader – is not the most effective means to conduct ministry anymore. Modern day circuit riders, who navigate an ever-changing web of social media and social relationships, need ... to become 'Generative Team Leaders.'" Go to [www.tinyurl.com/acevedo-thoughts](http://www.tinyurl.com/acevedo-thoughts) to read her full thoughts on the workshop.



### Update: What's been happening with the FACT process?

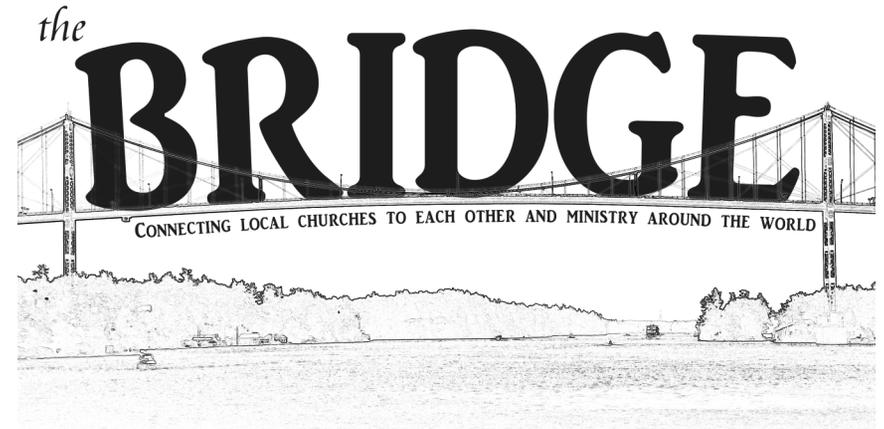
Five teams were created based on five basic categories of concerns that were identified in the FACT report. Those teams have been busy meeting over the last several months. Go to [www.tinyurl.com/FACT-process-update](http://www.tinyurl.com/FACT-process-update) to read an update on the teams' progress written by FACT Project Manager Susan Ranous.



*The Bridge is a Conference Communications Ministry tool that delivers to local churches news and stories of ministry from around the Conference and the world.*

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THIS NOVEMBER, DON'T JUST SAY THANK YOU,  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR A SERVICEMEMBER!



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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# National gathering addresses sexual ethics

“The mission of the church is affected by the health of the church,” said Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett of the North Alabama Conference. “A church that is healthy has healthy boundaries.”

Exploring healthy boundaries were more than 200 bishops, conference leaders, pastors, and others attending *Do No Harm*, a sexual ethics summit in Chicago on Oct. 15-17. Included in the gathering were four individuals from the Upper New York Conference: The Rev. Bob Kolvik-Campbell, pastor at the Christ United Methodist Church in Sherrill; the Rev. Dr. Cathy Hall Stengel, pastor at the Rush UMC; and lay members Carol Barnes and Glenda Schuessler.

In being able to respond when a boundary is crossed in Upper New York, Rev. Stengel said the Conference’s Crisis Response Team has a solid start.

“We gathered from across the denomination to talk about one of our most

painful truths: the reality of sexual misconduct in our churches and communities. The collaboration of wisdom, experience, and shared resources was a gift,” she said. “I learned that the Upper New York Crisis Response Team has started well, and with our collective learning/experience in Chicago, we are and will continue to be an asset.”

Rev. Kolvik-Campbell attended the summit, representing the Board of Ordained Ministry; he has also been working on the Clergy Boundaries Awareness Training. The workshops he attended “offered excellent hands-on practical information to assist our work on the Board of Ordained Ministry and for our United Methodist Sexual Ethics Team.”

“The plenary sessions called us to examine our attitudes and practices concerning accountability,” he said. “Some of what we heard was hard to hear, and yet in the spirit of the event, we know

that encouraging and practicing good boundaries is what we are called to do.”

The gathering was also an opportunity to establish or strengthen cross-connection connections.

“This bright Chicago weekend allowed me to connect with others in conferences across the connection, including Russia, to hear how each handles Boundaries Awareness Training and to work closely with the rest of our Upper New York Conference Team in attendance,” Rev. Kolvik-Campbell said.

Carol Barnes, Upper New York’s Sexual Ethics Committee Convener for the Safe Sanctuaries Team, also appreciated connecting with others.

“I enjoyed meeting new people with similar responsibilities and learning about the steps that need to be taken in holding individuals accountable for their actions as well as the work of response teams. I attended several ses-

sions that focused on Safe Sanctuaries and noted that Upper New York is in line with most of the recommended best practices,” she said. “A highlight for me was meeting Joy Melton, author of the Safe Sanctuaries books that are widely used not just in The United Methodist Church but by other denominations as well.”

This, the third sexual ethics summit, was hosted by the United Methodist Interagency Sexual Ethics Task Force, which is coordinated by the United Methodist Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

Offering Response Team and Safe Sanctuary training and 18 workshops, the conference addressed recent developments and challenges in preventing and responding to abuse, misconduct, and sexual harassment, particularly by persons in ministerial roles, both lay and clergy, within The UMC.

## Conference Leadership Team accepts role as custodian of the future

On Oct. 10, the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) gathered for its first meeting of the fall to discuss the work of the upcoming year. The one thing that abundantly clear was that the leverage point that will allow for the greatest increase in capacity in the system is growing leaders. That becomes the primary task. “So is that it? Does this represent the definition of the culture we believe God is calling us to lead?” Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb asked the group, receiving a unanimous response of “yes.” “Then if that is true, our role is to share the definition of the culture, that others may own it and align our resources around it.”

The CLT also had the opportunity to tour the property (pictured at right) at 7481 Henry Clay Blvd. in Liverpool that will become the new Upper New York Conference Center. Go to [www.tinyurl.com/CLT-role](http://www.tinyurl.com/CLT-role) to read the full story and see photos of the tour.

IN BRIEF

