

IN BRIEF

Students: Apply now for 2016 UNY Conference scholarships

United Methodist high school seniors and college students are invited to apply for two scholarships offered by the Upper New York Conference: Conference Merit Awards and Lottie Brown Grants. Application forms and guidelines are available now. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/2016UNYscholarship> for more information and to apply.

2016 Summer Camp & Retreat programs registration opens

Upper New York Camp & Retreat Ministries (CRM) is excited to announce that registration is now open for its 2016 Summer Camp & Retreat programs. Program details are available online, and brochures will be mailed this week. Brochures will be sent to past participants and campers as well as all Upper New York Conference churches.

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/2016UNYCRM> for more information.

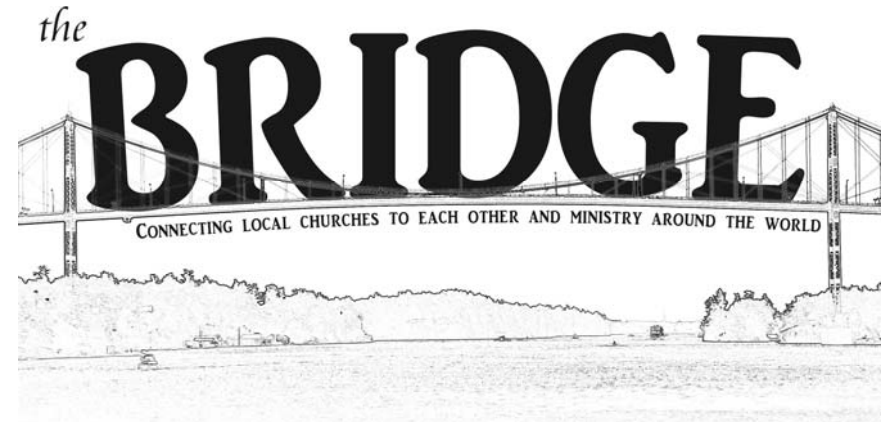
5th Annual NFC Event focuses on resiliency

The Upper New York Conference's fifth annual New Faith Communities Event takes place April 8-9 at Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center in Moravia. "What is the Upper New York New Faith Communities Annual Event? It is a chance for every person who is interested in the planting movement in Upper New York to gather, to learn, to network, and to be inspired by the amazing things God is doing throughout the Conference," said the Rev. Dave Masland, UNY Conference Director of New Faith Communities. Various capacities in Upper New York, as well as in the predecessor conferences to which they belonged," Bishop Webb said. "I am thrilled to have them join the work of the Cabinet, and know they will be a gift to us as they offer leadership to the districts and to the Conference as a whole." Go to <http://tinyurl.com/fifth-annual-NFC> to read more.

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

JUST A REMINDER THAT ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING IS
MARCH 6. [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/OGHS2016](http://tinyurl.com/OGHS2016)



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!

Forum to discuss human sexuality and Biblical interpretation	Page 2
Students: Apply now for 2016 UNY Conference scholarships	Page 4
2016 Summer Camp & Retreat programs registration opens	Page 4
5th Annual NFC Event focuses on resiliency	Page 4

Forum to discuss human sexuality and Biblical interpretation

By Kathleen Rubino

The Upper New York Conference's Human Sexuality Task Force will host a forum on "Human Sexuality and Biblical Interpretation" from 1-4 p.m. on March 5 at the Liverpool First United Methodist Church. In addition to on-site seating, the event will be live-streamed.

"Live video streaming can be accessible worldwide, allowing a large audience from all over the nation to attend from the comfort and convenience of their own home," said Mary Dalglish, UNY Conference video specialist. "The benefit is the ability to expand access to an event beyond its localities, making it easier for anyone to attend."

The Rev. Doug Mackey, a member of the UNY Conference's Human Sexuality Task Force and pastor at the Tully United Community Church, said the event is a great educational opportunity to hear in-depth interpretations of scripture relating to human sexuality.

"It is an important way to hear various view points on the issue," he said. "In the past, discussions have not been discussions as much as arguments, so one of our [the task force's] jobs is to help people hear each other, to listen to the experts who have made it a part of their work to look at these scriptures in depth."

The audience can expect to hear various schools of thought on the issue of human sexuality – which will be a big issue presented at the 2016 General

Conference session May 10-20 in Portland, Ore. – from leading experts, the Rev. Dr. Althea Spencer-Miller, professor at Drew Theology School in New Jersey, and the Rev. Dr. Bill T. Arnold, professor at Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky. During the forum, each speaker will present their thoughts on scripture and will respond to each other. There will also be a question-and-answer period.

"It's important for those who already have an opinion on the issue to be open and to hear and listen to the other side, and it's important to people who don't care one way or another to hear where the sides come from," Rev. Mackey said.

More information about the speakers:

Rev. Spencer-Miller was ordained elder in the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas. She is the Assistant Professor of New Testament Studies at Drew Theological School, a provisional elder in the New York Annual Conference, and a Minister-in-Residence at Church of the Village in Manhattan. Her commitment to justice for social transformation integrates her life. She understands Christian commitment as grounded within a community of faith that is always restless for expressions of God's "kin-dom" as an ever-branching tree that can nest every seeking bird. This is a summation of all that she learned through Sunday school at Lyndhurst in Kingston, the United Theological College of the West Indies (B.A. in theol-



ogy), Candler School of Theology (Th.M.) and Claremont Graduate University (Ph.D).

Rev. Arnold is an elder in The United Methodist Church and pastored churches for six years before moving into extension ministry. He holds his ordination with the Kentucky Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. His current charge conference is First United Methodist Church in Lexington, Ky. Rev. Arnold is the Paul S. Amos Professor of Old Testament Interpretation at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky. While at Asbury, Rev. Arnold has served as Vice President of Academ-

ic Affairs/Provost, Director of Postgraduate Studies, Chair of the Area of Biblical Studies, and Director of Hebrew Studies. Rev. Arnold has written or edited 12 books, including "Introduction to the Old Testament."

Event details:

On-site attendance is free and open to the public, but registration is required by going to <http://tinyurl.com/HSBIRegistration>. The registration deadline is March 2.

To watch the live stream go to <http://www.unyumc.org/events/forum>. The stream will not be "on air" until a couple of hours before the event.