

7. Provide Worship Service Information

As music director or leader, you are in a position to make the pastor's transition shorter and easier than it might be. Find a way to provide information and details on the worship service(s), either during a personal conversation or in a folder of printed information, but it should be done within a few days of the move.

This should include:

- who prepares bulletins and when
- how is information gathered
- Sunday morning schedule of worship and classes
- details of radio or television
- tour of the sanctuary
- sound system
- musical instruments
- choir placement
- processions/recessions
- sacraments: frequency, logistics, liturgies, music, laity involvement

- ushers and greeters
- children's sermons
- are there preparation rituals? prayer with the choir?

Above all, recognize that the new pastor is not the previous pastor. Understand that the new pastor has different interests, priorities, customs, training, and expectations. The new pastor will lead differently, and perhaps in new directions. Be assured there will be changes. Prepare your choir members for that possibility and inevitability. You and the choir can be supportive and can ease the transitions. The pastor is given by *The Book of Discipline* and United Methodist tradition the responsibility for overseeing the worship life of the congregation. Remember that responsibility does not lie with the musicians in the church. Be open to possibilities of new growth and excellence in worship and music that God may have in mind for you and your congregation.

Together in Worship with United Methodists of Upper New York

Did you know United Methodists of Upper New York offer an inspiring worship service once a month, typically a Tuesday or Wednesday morning on Facebook Live?

Check out our Facebook page and attend our next Facebook Live Together in Worship service, which will be held on Aug. 22 at 9 a.m.

United Methodists of Upper New York is now on TikTok

Follow United Methodists of Upper New York on TikTok for fun and informative videos!



The Bridge is a Conference Communications Ministry tool that delivers to local churches news and stories of ministry from around the Upper New York area and the world. For more news and stories visit:

www.unyumc.org



"The bishop and the cabinet ... look at appointment needs throughout the Conference, taking into consideration the needs of each church, the gifts and talents of each pastor, and other circumstances in the Conference."

Read more on page 2.

What's inside

- 2 How clergy appointments are made
- 3 Welcoming your new pastor
- 3 Together in Worship on Facebook



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.



www.facebook.com/uppernewyork



www.instagram.com/uppernewyork



www.tiktok.com/@unitedmethodistsofny

Summer in The United Methodist Church



The significance of July 1

In The United Methodist Church, clergy appointments are made annually by the bishop, who has the responsibility for setting all the pastoral appointments in the Conference. This unique system of assigning clergy dates back to John Wesley. Congregations in The United Methodist Church do not “call” or “hire” their pastors. The system is called itinerant or itineracy.

Each year, usually in the fall or winter, the Staff/Pastor/Parish Relations Committee consults with the District Superintendent and communicates if it desires a change in pastoral leadership. Recommendations of the committee are advisory only.

Pastors also can indicate annually whether they wish to stay at their current appointments, wish to move to another appointment, or have no preference. However, they are not assured that they will get their first choice. Elders and local pastors in The United Methodist Church agree to serve where sent and to accept and abide by the appointments. Deacons, on

the other hand, generally find their own employment in a local congregation, elsewhere in the connectional system, or outside the church, and then request their bishop to appoint them to those ministry settings.

The bishop and the cabinet (all the District Superintendents in the Conference) look at appointment needs throughout the Conference, taking into consideration the needs of each church, the gifts and talents of each pastor, and other circumstances in the Conference. They then determine the appointments for each church in the Conference. The bishop will “fix” the appointments at the Annual Conference meeting each year. These meetings usually take place about April, May, and June.

July 1 is generally the start date for pastors’ appointments.

Your pastor or your District Superintendent can answer other questions and address any concerns you have about the system of appointing pastors in The United Methodist Church.

For United Methodists of Upper New York, local church appointment openings have been announced on our website every Wednesday since Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez was appointed to our Conference Jan. 1, 2023. Pastors interested in moving had 24 hours to apply to the openings each time they were posted.



Seven ways to welcome your new pastor

1. Welcome the Pastor and Family

Include an order for welcoming or receiving the pastor in the first worship service. Plan a congregational after-church dinner, or a Sunday evening hymn sing and ice cream social.

2. Invite the New Pastor/Spouse/Family to the End of the Choir Rehearsal

Plan for a shorter rehearsal time this evening. Introduce the family and the choir. Give the pastor a chance to say something to the choir. Leave a short time for fellowship. Provide refreshments.

3. Request a Time for the Pastor to Meet the Music Staff

This can be a time to get to know each other and for the pastor to put names and faces together. Ask the pastor ahead of time what he or she would like to do at this meeting if anything. Prior to the meeting provide the pastor with a list of music staff and contact information.

4. Provide a List of All Choirs and Ensembles and a Directory of Members’ Names and Contact Information

In many churches, choir members are also the church leaders.

5. Provide a Folder of Worship Bulletins and Church Newsletters

Worship bulletins and church newsletters highlight special events in the last few years and major Sundays of the past year (Advent, Christmas Eve, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost, choir programs).

6. Provide the New Pastor with a NEW *United Methodist Hymnal*, *The Faith We Sing*, *Worship & Song*, *Book of Worship*, *Book of Discipline*, and Desk or Appointment Calendar.

These might even be presented as part of a welcoming liturgy during the first worship service.

Continued on page 4.