

Daily Notes for the 2023 Upper New York (UNY) Annual Conference

June 1

- The Rev. Dr. Sherri Rood opened the day with a prayer blessing the space.
- Rev. Carolyn Stowe, the Upper New York Conference Secretary acknowledged the land where Annual Conference is being held as traditional lands of Native Americans—specifically, The Onondaga Nation.
- Opening Worship focused on Togetherness through a message by Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez, praise and worship, bringing broken sea glass as a symbol of hope and promise to a font at the front of the room, and communion served by fellow laity and clergy at their individual tables.
- All equalization members were unanimously approved.
- The Organizational Motion was unanimously approved.
- The Clergy Session and Laity Session took place after a brief lunch break. Laity heard reports from Conference Lay Leader Jessica White, Commission on the Status and Role of Women, United Women in Faith, United Methodist Men, and Lay Servant Ministries. Laity also elected two reserve delegates to the 2024 Northeastern Jurisdiction Conference: Kenneth Guilfoyle and Emma Scavo.
- Nominations Report: Ian Urriola presented the nominations report, as found in the addendums listed on the conference website. After nominations were taken from the floor, the body voted on and approved the report with the added names. The paper ballot for trustee nominations, as required by New York State, were distributed and collected, the results of which will be shared at a later plenary.
- Advance Specials: The Rev. Jeff Childs, chair of the Conference Global Ministries team, presented the 2023 Conference Advance Specials, as listed on page 24 of the Pre-Conference Workbook. The body approved the list. The Rev. Childs and Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez then encouraged support of the projects.
- Trustees Report: The Rev. Pamela Klotzbach, president of the board, presented an overview of the board's work, which includes the purchase, sale and maintenance of Conference properties and managing the Conference's master insurance program. The board also presented resolutions for church closures, church disaffiliations, and an update on the lawsuits brought against the Conference under the Child Victims Act. Twelve churches were closed and 35 churches were approved for disaffiliation.