Why do United Methodists celebrate Human Relations Day?

Human Relations Day is Jan. 15 this year; it is one of the United Methodist Church’s six Special Sundays. Every January, on the Sunday before the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday, United Methodists come together to help bridge the gap between church and community. We do this by participating in an offering on Human Relations Day.

The special offering on Human Relations Day benefits neighborhood ministries through community developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services, and work with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

Human Relations Day reminds us of Dr. King’s vision of the beloved community that speaks of loving every neighbor as ourselves. It calls us into “neighborhood,” into being a neighbor, with all kinds of people in all kinds of places. We give thanks for those already working to bring the vision to reality and join together to continue this work of God’s kingdom more fully.


“People have shown up for each other in remarkable ways in the critical stages of the storm. As the recovery phase from the blizzard begins, we know of immediate needs calling us into action.”

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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
Dear siblings in Christ,

May the grace and peace of God be with you in the New Year!

I thank God for the honor of serving United Methodists of Upper New York as your new episcopal leader. My family and I are grateful for the many expressions of hospitality we have received from clergy, laity, and staff as we transition into a new missional assignment, home, and community. We look forward to getting to know you better and doing life and ministry together in the coming years. You can learn more about our journey thus by checking out my bio at https://bit.ly/BishopHector.

You can also follow me on Facebook and Instagram @BishopHectorABurgos.

During the month of December, I transitioned out of my previous role as District Superintendent. I also had the opportunity to meet with Bishop Mark Webb, the appointive cabinet, and the executive staff team several times to learn about your ministries and hopes for The Upper New York Conference. I hope to see you there.

We are living in unprecedented times in the Church and the world – a global pandemic, extreme weather, the war in Ukraine, political polarization in the US, decline in congregational engagement, disaffiliations, and uncertainty about the future of our denomination, amongst others. In this challenging context, God is calling us to shine brightly with the light of Christ, sharing faith, love, mercy, and justice with all people and in all places – and that’s exactly what we will do TOGETHER.

As we begin a New Year and season of ministry, I pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit over all UNY leaders and congregations that lead us outwardly into our communities to be God’s love with all people.

I am looking forward to the journey,

Paz,
Héctor

Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez,
Upper New York Area Resident Bishop

Regional Meetings with Bishop Héctor

Bishop Héctor is eager to meet laity and clergy across the Conference. He will be visiting six churches in February and March. To view the schedule, scan the QR code with your mobile device:

Storm of the century response from Bishop Héctor

On Jan. 4, 2023, Upper New York Area Resident Bishop, Héctor A. Burgos Núñez, sent the following letter to the Upper New York Conference about the recent winter storm that impacted the Niagara Frontier and Northern Flow Districts.

Dear partners in ministry,

Like you, my thoughts and prayers have been with all the communities affected by the blizzard, the residents of the City of Buffalo, and neighboring communities as they have endured what many are calling the “Blizzard of the Century.” I grieve the loss of life even as I give thanks for the many stories of heroism emerging from these difficult days.

People have shown up for each other in remarkable ways in the critical stages of the storm. As the recovery phase from the blizzard begins, we know of immediate needs calling us into action. In addition to damage to homes, two United Methodist churches in the Niagara Frontier District, Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church and Community Church Jehovah Jireh, suffered significant water damage from burst pipes.

Other community needs at this time include replenishing food pantries and other emergency services as well as assisting low-income families with funeral expenses. We are staying connected to the recovery efforts and anticipate learning more in the coming days.

I invite all United Methodists of Upper New York to:

1. Pray – for those impacted by the storm and its aftermath.
2. Give – through the UNYAC website here.

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