

2021 UNYUMC Annual Conference Daily Notes Thursday, June 17, 2021

Morning

- **Opening Worship:** Opening Worship centered around the theme “Together in Prayer: Courageously sharing God’s Story.” Theresa Eggleston illustrated the fact that “God is still God” through biblical storytelling. Upper New York (UNY) Area Bishop Mark J. Webb spoke about the importance of crying out, “Give me Jesus!” and for the importance of the members of the UNY Conference to give the community Jesus through these difficult times.
- **Laity Session:** Laity session began after Opening Worship through a webinar-style, open to all UNY laity, regardless of whether they were registered for Annual Conference. More than 400 participants heard reports from Conference Lay Leader Drew Griffin, Associate Conference lay leader Jessica White, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, the Imagine No Racism ministry, the Conference Council on Youth Ministry, and Young Adult Ministries.

Afternoon

- **Voting process explained:** GNTV representative, David Toliver, explained the voting process to eligible voters and provided a practice vote using the question “Are you excited about Annual Conference?”
- **CCORR Monitoring Report:** Scott Johnson and Georgia Whitney explained how the Committee on Religion & Race will monitor the attendees that come to the virtual floor to speak throughout the Annual Conference.
- **The Organizational Motion:** Found on pages 6-7 of the 2021 *Journal Vol. 1*, the Organizational Motion was approved.
- **Adopt Agenda:** The 2021 Annual Conference Agenda was adopted.
- **Leadership Report:** The Rev. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding (Director of Connectional Ministries and Executive Assistant to the Bishop), Drew Griffin (Conference Lay Leader), and the Rev. Nola Anderson (District Superintendent of the Finger Lakes and Crossroads Districts), spoke about the work of the Conference Leadership Team, the Conference Operational Team, and the three Regions to “Discover, Develop, and Deploy Christ-Following Transformational Leaders” throughout UNY.
- **New Beginnings Offering:** The Rev. Greg Stierheim presented his successful, diverse New Faith Communities (NFC) in Buffalo and described the many NFCs across the Conference that are meeting in cafes, homes, community centers, etc., introducing them to God. NFCs are funded in part from closed churches that are sold; due to the lack of sold churches in the past year, there is a great need for financial support for the NFC ministry through the New Beginnings fund. Donations can be made here: <http://bit.ly/UNYACDONATE>.
- **Equitable Compensation:** Chair Paula Kuempel presented the report of the Commission on Equitable Compensation. Kuempel brought five recommendations on base compensation for clergypersons in the Upper New York Conference. All recommendations were supported, and the full report adopted.
- **Board of Pensions and Health Benefits:** Chair, the Rev. Sara Baron presented the report of the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. Baron reported on grants dispersed and brought two recommendations, the first on housing and rental exclusion and the second on the 2022 past service annuity rate. Baron also recommended the adoption of the 2022 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan. Both recommendations and the plan were supported, and the entire report was adopted.
- **Petitions UNYAC. 2021_1, 2, and 3:** Three petitions were brought to the floor before the dinner break, which included: **UNYAC2021.1 Because We Care** (supported), **UNYAC2021.2-Administrative Fair Process for Local Pastors** (supported), and **UNYAC2021.3 - Support New York Senate Bill S.2960/Assembly Bill A.4565, also known as “Residential Policing”** (supported with an amendment to remove lines 29-37 on page 40 of the *UNY Journal Vol. 1* and to add “(who support the petition)” after the words “New York” to line 25 on page 40).

Evening

- **Petitions UNYAC 2021, 4 and 5, and 6:** After dinner, three petitions were brought to the floor, which included **UNYAC.2021.4 - Support New York Senate Bill S.4462/Assembly Bill A.4566, also known as “Spit Hoods Ban”** (supported with amendments), **UNYAC2021.5 Support New York Senate Bill S.4002/Assembly Bill A.5449, also known as “Chemical Irritants Ban,”** (supported with amendment) and **UNYAC2021.6 “Support New York Senate Bill S.4814/Assembly Bill A.4697, also known as “Daniel’s Law,”** Petition UNYAC2021.4 was supported with three amendments, which included adding the words “(who support this petition)” after the words New York on page 48 line 7 of the *Journal Vol. 1*, to remove the last paragraph found on page 48, and to remove the words “spit hoods” on page 47, line 26. Petition UNYAC2021.5 was supported with an amendment to remove lines 54-50 on page 54 and lines 1-2 on page 55 of the *UNY Journal Vol. 1*. **UNYAC2021.6** was supported.