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### III. DAILY PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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#### A. ROLL CALL

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##### CLERGY MEMBERS

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Estella Abel, Glenn Adone, Ebenezer Aduku, Soon Ahn, Gabriel Akinbode, Mark Allen, Richard Allen, Esther Amartey-Amarh, Susumu Ando, Yuri Ando, Vera Yvonne Annum, Jessica Anschutz, Bruce A Anspach, Samuel Arhin, Dale Ashby, Stuart Baker, David Ball, Delores Barrett, Michael Barry, Walter Barton, Lynda Bates-Stepe, Stephen Bauman, Glyger Beach, Sheila Beckford, Magaly Beltre, Caroline Berninger, Carol Bloom, Brian Bodt, Melissa Boyer, Anne Bracket, Elizabeth Braddon, John Brandon, Adrienne Brewington, Gennifer Brooks, Mendis Brown, Peter Brown, Karen Burger, Bradley Burns, Dorothy Caldwell, John Calhoun, John Capen, Virginia Carle, Thomas Carney, Johnny Ceasar, Susan Chadwick, Jae Chang , Lawrence Charles, Noel Chin, Daniel Cho, Kun Sam Cho, Dong Hyun Choi, Oon Choi, Young Choi, In koo Chung, Susan Chupungco, David Clegg, John Cole, David Collins, Karen Cook, Ronald Cox, Dorothea Crites, Joseph Crockett, Doug Cunningham, Leo Curry, Matthew Curry, David Czeisel, Alex da Silva Souto, Doris Dalton, Jani Darak-Druck, Hermon Darden, Eileen Daunt, Delois Davis, Arlene Dawber, R.Randy Day, Ed Dayton, Lorraine De Armitt, Mark Del Giudice, Jacob Dharmaraj, Kathryn Dickinson, Nathaniel Dixon, Cynthia Dodd, Prince Donkor, Scharlise Dorsey, Carol Downs, Larry Dunlap, Leslie Duroseau, Florence Eddins, Woodrow Eddins, Gordon AR Edwards, Karen Eiler, Robert Emerick, George Engelhardt, Martha Epstein, Joseph Ewoodzie, Peggy Fabrizio, John P. Fahey, Camella Fairweather-Porter, Karina Feliz, Charles Ferrara, M. Craig Fitzsimmons, Eric Fjeldal, Paul Fleck, Vicky Fleming, Vicki Flippin, Sarah Ford, Carl Franson, Eileen Freeman, John Fritz, Kregg Gabor, Penny Gadzini, Laura Galbraith, Lee Gangaware, Rafael Garcia, John Gerlach, Cathy Gilliard, Sara Giron-Ortiz, Tom Goodhue, Sara Goold, Nathaniel Thomas Grady, Sr., Hilda Graham, Robert Grimm, Roy Grubbs, Walter C. Haff, Juhye Hahn, Zintack Hahn, Emily Hall, Gia Hall, Lydia Han, Youngsook Han-Kim, Richard L Hanse, Kristina Hansen, Philip Hardt, Lori Hartman, Richard Hayes, Lynn M. Hazel, Huibing He, Blair Hearth, Eric Henderson, David Henry, Lillian Hertel, Robert Hewitt, Paul Hibbard, Gregory Higgins, Melissa Hinnen, Kevan Hitch, Janet Hodge, Beverly Hodges-Fairweather, James Hoffman, Edward Horne, Marion Hubbard, Vera Isaacs, Fred Jackson, Kent Jackson, Roger Jackson, Michael Jenkins, Ovid Jermin, Sonia Jermin, Tisha Jermin, Wongee Joh, Cedric Johnson, Robert A. Johnson, Dorett Johnson-Agu, David Jolly, Edwin Jones, Lucy Jones, Kwangwon Jung, Miyoung Kang, Won Geun Kang, James Karpen, Mel Kawakami, Tammie-Rae Keeler, Darlene Kelley, Kenneth Kieffer, Chong Kim, Churl Kim, Dea Hee Kim, Gye Kim, Jay Kim, Jin Kim, Jinwoo Kim, Joong Urn Kim, Kwang-il Kim, Moonsook Kim, Steve Kim, Suhee Kim, Sungchan Kim, Young Shik Kim, YoungJu Kim, Yountae Kim, Gloria King, Jack King, Victoria Kittoe, Elizabeth Klein, Robert Knebel, Steve Knutsen, Sandy Koppmann, DaleEllen Krazmien, Margaret Laemmel, Sara Lamar-Sterling, Chermain Lashley, Simeon Law, Lydia E. Lebron-Rivera,

John LeCain, Bridgette LeConey, Dai Hoon Lee, John Lee, Joyce Jayoon Lee, Koonae Lee, Roslyn Lee, Samuel J. Lee, Sun Joo Lee, Won Tack Lee, YongBo Lee, Yongyeun Lee, Robert Leibold, Donna LeRoy, Michelle Lewis, Elizabeth Lines, Pearlana Lobban, Bernadette Logan, Hal Low, Retta Lykens, Thomas MacLeod, Douglas Madlon, Arturo Maine, Cynthia Major, George Mangan, David W Mantz, Sandra B Mantz, Luisa Martinez, Douglas McArthur, George McClain, Paul Meador, Anthony Mecca, Barbara Melzer, Arletha Miles-Boyce, Clayton Miller, Herbert Miller, Lori Miller, Robert Milsom, Wendy C. Modeste, Karen Monk, Paul Moon, James Moore, Sandra Moore Wanamaker, Jose Fernando Mora Gil, Ann Morgan, Beverly M.A. Morris, Dorothy Morris, Harold Morris, Jennifer Morrow, Elizabeth Mortlock, Marvin Moss, Kevin Mulqueen, Barbara J. Mungin, Delroy Murdock, Debbi Mygatt, Gertude Nation, Linda Nealon, Will Nichols, Maxine Nixon, Derrick-Lewis Noble, Edward Norman, Randolph Nugent, Marjorie Nunes, Dora J. Odarenko, Carmen Margarita Ortiz, Douglas Osgood, Elizabeth Ott, Gene Ott, Randy Paige, Wendy Paige, Constance Pak, John Parille, Hwi Joon Park, Song Ha Park, Iwy Patel-Yatri, Kathleen Patterson, Carole Paynter, Ann Ashlye Pearson, Andrew Peck-McClain, Steven Peiffer, Zhaodeng Peng, Patrick Perrin, Sharon Petgrave-Cundy, William Pfohl, Narcisse Philips, Stephen Phillips, Joseph Piccirillo, Carmen Pickett, Allen Pinckney, David Piscatelli, Janet Porcher, Laurence Powell, Matthew Querns, Morais Quissico, Jason Radmacher, Erik Rasmussen, Darlene Resling, Richard Rice, Timothy Riss, Hector Rivera, Luonne Rouse, John Roy, Charles Ryu, St. Clair Samuel, Siobhan Sargent, Peggy Ann Sauerhoff, Matt Schaeffer, Barbara Schaffer, Wesley Shand, Stephen Shick, William Shillady, Gunshik Shim, Seungho Shin, Gainus Sikes, John Simmons Jr, Heather Sinclair, Carrie Smallwood, William Smartt, Denise Smartt Sears, Paul Smith, Bette Sohm, Milagros Solorzano, Sung Song, Sung Mo Song, Robert Sorozan, Michael Sparrow, Jody Spiak, Karin Squires, Wendy Steed, Dee Stevens, Judy Stevens, James Stinson, Cecil Stone, YangHee Christine Stopka, Louise Stowe-Johns, Ian Straker, Scott Summerville, Alpher Sylvester, Kaz Takahashi, Rhonda Taylor, Judith Thomas, John Thomason, Robert Thompson-Gee, Jennifer Tiernan-Bindler, Amy Tompkins, Sara Thompson Tweedy, Godfrey Uche, Joseph Upole, Marva Usher-Kerr, Joanne Utley, Chuck Van Houten, Jim Van Schaick, Ximena Varas, James Veatch, Tom Vencuss, Elisa Vicioso, Westley Villazon, Martha E Vink, Stephen Volpe, Russell Waldmann, Robert Walker, Pauline Wardell-Sankoh, Joseph E. Washington, Kirtland Watkins, Derrick Watson, Jeff Wells, Elaine Welsh, William F. Wendler, Marcia White-Smith, Elizabeth L. Williams, Gerald Williams, John Williams, Julia Winward, Min Seok Yang, Ezra Yew, Julia Yeon Hee Yim, Ben Yoo, HyoungDock Yoo, Hyo Jung "Dawn" Yoon, Arthur Yost, Christopher Yount, Moshing Yuen, Charlie Yun, Ieva Zadina

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### CLERGY NON-MEMBERS

Oliverio Barrera, Stefanie Bennett, Melvin Boone, Mickey Correa, T Anne Daniel, Wesley Daniel, Betty Edwards, Nelson Garcia, Esau Greene, Omar Hall, Mareta Hamre, Peola Hicks, Jeffrey Hooker, Ronell Howard, Gerald Jones, Kelvin Jones, Eunchun Kim, Jane Kim, Young H Kim, Hector Laporta, Enrique Lebron, Ho Seung Lee, Kirk Lyons, Paul Minton, Jean Montas, Nelson Ngoy, Akimitsu Nishikawa, Samuel Nketsia, Crystal Paul, Peter Preiser, Beverly Risi, David Rogers, Guerschon Saint Ange, Anthony Sandusky,

Laurel Scott, Ferdinand Serra, Andrea Smith, Adrian Todd, Xavier Vargas, Linda Willey, William Windom, Donglong Yang

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### LAY MEMBERS

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Russel Ackroyd, Rebecca Adjei-Ofori, Kenneth Ahlers, Jennifer Alexander, Janice Allen, Marcia Allen, Stephen Allen, Elyse Ambrose Minson, Nana Amos, Joseph Andreana, Patricia Archibald, Marilou Arendt, Debi Arthur, Laura Ashby, Estella Ashton, Daniel Asibuoh-Sarpong, Lauriston Avery, Royston Bailey, Sheila Bailey-Jacob, Anna Bates, Judi Bathrick, Patricia Bayette, Howard Bell, Marie Bell, Shernett Bennett-Gayle, Dorothee Benz, Iris Berry, Ledelle Bethel, Martha Bishop, Edward Bjork, Rachel Black, Fern Blair Hart, Monique R Blount, Patsy Boisvert, Shirley Bollin, Kerry Borchardt, Elizabeth Borchert, Florence Bosworth, Lisa Bosworth, Jefferson Boyce, Marc Braghirol, Arrie Brandon, Quintin Brantley, Charlene Brauns-Schindler, Robin Brennan, Alice Brenner, Elnora Brevard, Mary Brevigleiri, Frederick Brewington, Maria Briscese, Michelle Bromfield, James Brown, Paul Brown, Lorna Browne, Maggie Bucklin, Minerva Burgess, Diane Burkhardt, Michael Butler, Amelia Byer, Robert Canora, Beth Capen, Dorothea Carson, Richard Casper, Dennis Castiglia, Barbara Castleberry, Emily Celino, Pablo Chan, Brenda Charpentier, Carol Chester, Kimberly Childs, Patricia Chuppe, Paula Clark, William Clark, Midge Clegg, Deborah Clifford, Michael Cobb, Priscilla Codere, Leeann Coffin, Christine Cohen, Junette Cole, Richard Collins, Prince Combs, Frank Contrera, Sharon Coyner, Ann Craig, Corville Cupid, Dan Dallaire, Kathleen D'Aries, Marlene Davis, Patricia Dayton, Thomas Delong, Marcia Demos, Angella Depass, Christiane Depestre, Steven Derby, Janet M Desilva, John Detzel, Michele Dexter, Glory Dharmaraj, Olga Diaz, Maxiel Dickson, Junior Dixon, Emma Doctor, Susan Dolce, Eric Dollins, John Donlon, Sharyn Donzella, Cora Doram, Nancy Doram, Thomas Doty, Linda Douglas Smith, Gail Douglas-Boykin, John Downs, Fred Dymek, Dianne Edgerton-Norman, Barbara Edwards, Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, Carl Engelhart, Janet English, Jeff English, Gail Erdie, Jennifer Esposito, Barbara Etcheto, Jerry Eyster, Theresa Fields, Dennis Fisher, Dorothy Flounoy, Geoffrey Fowler, Judy Fram, Shirley Francis, Tiffany M. French, Veronica Fulmore-Darby, Joan Gaetano, Stacey Gallagher, Bruce Garben, Sandra Gardinier, Erin Gasbarro, Danny Gastelua, Ruth Gathers, Albert Gayle, Cedric Gayle, Lorraine Gering, Susan Gill, Chan-Kyong Gillham, Diane Giugliano, Gale Godwin, Gary Gomes, Holly Beth Gorenbergh, Joanne Gorman, Kiren Goyal, Ethel Grant, Valerie Greenaway, Susan Greenfield, Robert R. Gregory, Bill Haas, Verne Halladay, Denise Hall-Barley, Purdy Halstead, Carmen Hamilton, Dorothy Hamilton, Jona Hamilton, Robert Hancock, Jr., Kathy Hanse, Patricia Hansen, Alfred Hanson, Margaret Hanson, Patricia Harrington, Beverly Harris, Wanda Harris, Shirley Harrison, Janet Heaney, Peter Hein, Ginny Henderson, Sarah Henris, Deborah Hervey, Johnella Hill, Joyce Hill, Ruth Hill, James Hisey, George Hoag, Lois Hodlin, Judy Hoffman, Judith Holcomb, Gregory Holder, Patricia Holder, Catherine Holmberg, Patricia Hopkins, Margaret Schramm Horn, Diane Hornaday, Margaret Howe, Matthew Hubbard, Bonnie Huey, Raymond Huey, Robert Hunsinger, Lois Hunt, Nancy Hutchinson, Lynn Iredell, Joan Isaacs, John Isiminger, Denise Jakaitis, Burdette James, Cynthia Johnson, Les Johnson, Mary Johnson, Donna Jolly, Cleolene Jones, Richard Jones, Carol June, John June, Georgia Kalivas, Clara Kearsse, Jaewon Kim, Joonki Kim, Susan Kim, Tae Kim, Yong Kim, Leslie Kirkwood, William Kirkwood,

Eugene Knoth, Valorie Kolitz, Timothy Krauss, Catherine Kubik, Bruce Lamb, Judith Lang, Paul Lang, Frances Langley, Traci Larson, Richard Lavieri, Lorraine Leak, Lillian Leary, Dorlimar Lebron Malave, Sung-Ok Lee, Julien Leotaud, Susan Levenberg, Danielle Levine, Evana Lewis, Christine Lindeberg, Fred Lindlaw, Roena Littlejohn, Theresa Lloyd, Gladis I Lobato, Lois Locke, Linda Loglisci, Paula Lopatosky, Judith S. Loukides, George Love, Rebecca Lowe, Kit Mace, Donna Madden, Maria Maine, David Marks, Myla Martin, Eulynis Matthias-Fridie, Patricia Mcgarry, Larry Mcgaughey, Elizabeth McNulty, Ken Mcquiller, Joan Meade, Leonard Mecca, Christina Mefford, Bruce Meighan, Linda Mellor, Thomas H Mendenhall, Melodye Merola, Rachel Merva, Crystal Middleton, Ivy Mignott, Derek Miller, Lesleigh Miller, Robert Miller, Jeremy Mills, Rose Ann Misencik, Velma Mitchell, Vernay Mitchell-Mcknight, Barbara Moody, Daphne Moore, Tracy Moore, Hilda Morales, Orlando Morales, Rosa Morales, Dolores Morris, Dee Morrone, William Morse, Margaret J Mouzon, Louise Mueller, Courtney Mulkins, Misao Naito, Caroline Nanton, Vivene Nation, Ena Nemley, Sam Newman, Arthur Ng, Gregory Nichols, Harold Niver, Patricia Niver, Daryl Norman, Paul Odendahl, Kelly O'Hara, Lillian Oliveras, Alice Olosunde, Henry Ortiz, May Ott, Hannah Palmer, Merrillyn Paradiso, Hemlata Parmar, Charlotte Patton, Carl Payne, Elaine Perkins, Christina Pershing, Rosina Pohlmann, Eric Pottinger, Ron Pramschufel, Angela Pratt-Barrett, Keith Price, Linda Primiano, Parker Prout, Charles Pyne, Telesford Quashie, Clara Quinland, Zamzam Quraishy, Nirmal Rawat, Franketta Reed, Katie Reimer, Albert Rein, Sally Reinhardt, Kathleen Reynolds, Margaret Richnavsky, Diane Richon, Doris Richter, Lyle Robertson, June Robinson, Ana Rodriguez, Charles Roth, Kevin Rushlo, Agnes C. Saffoury, Timothy Sampson, Charles Samson, Lianne Sasson, Sharon Saunders-Thompson, Patricia Sawyerr, Stephen Schutter, Eric Shirley, Vanesta Shoy, Barbara Shultis, June Sibley-Prusak, Robert Silz, Dennis Simmons, Linda Simmons, Laurie Simone, Mark Skeete, Pearl Skelaney, Claris Skerritt, Sandra Skyers, Renata Smith, Richard Smith, Ellen Snow, Layton Snow, Geraldine Snyder, Terry Spencer, Michelle Stanley, Jean Stevenson, Barbara Stinson, George Stockbridge, Karen Struble, Margaret Struble, Michelle Stuart, Heather Su, Daisy Tavarez, Lamont Taylor, Jim Teer, Kent Terchunian, Marianne Terchunian, Kathryn Thomas-Gallagher, Linda Thompson, Ross Topliff, Edwin Tournu, Dorothy Townsend, Adeline Tucker, Mitchell Underwood, Leslie Vachon, Sylvia Valentine, Marilyn Van Tine, Marco A Vasquez, Virgilia Vassall, Laura Veatch, David Visaggio, Carol Ann Voeks, Sylvia Wagner, Jane Wakeman, Rosemarie Walker, Theresa Walsh, Rashid Warner, Steve Wehmhoff, Ruth Welch, Warren Western, Clement Westney, Warren Whitlock, Carl Williams, Nancy Williams, Ross Williams, Elaine Williams Nelson, Eric Williamson, Elaine Winward, Robert Wood, Cynthia Wright, Roxana Yuen, Michael Zukowski

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### STAFF/MUSICIANS

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Barbara Atchison, Neal Bowes, Leah Buxton, Fran Collins, Dave Corey, Barbara Eastman, Philip Eubanks, Benedicta Ewoodzie, Alfida Figueroa, Sarah Flaherty, Cheryl Fortune, Lynda Gomi, Gail Kamerman, Carolyn L. McNair, Deborah Mecca, Carol Merante, Holly Moore, Cassandra Negri, Jordan Orvam, Stephanie Parsons, Beth Patkus, Heman Persaud, Jerome Roberts, Joseph Roberts, Sam Rosenfeld, MaryLynn Salerno, Ann Shifman-Deibler, Jean Strong, Susan Tedesco, Raymond Trapp, Sally Truglia, Wendy Vencuss, Ian Wharton, Chris Wilson, Jill Wilson

**GUESTS/OTHERS**

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Elizabeth Abel, Grace Akinbode, Lisa Alterno, Doris Brooks, Wayne Carty, Myrna Clinton, Walter Clinton, Jan Alex Dash, Ginneh Dash Baugh, Norma Dixon, John Donzella, Sally Evans, Joan Eyster, Susan Ezrati, Gwyneth Fellows, Pauline Gangaware, Kendra Gordillo, Donna Greiner, Jean Guice, Joy Guice, Judith Hall, Jennifer Harmer, Karen Harmer, Ian Harris, Stanley Hartman, James Hendon, Janice Holleny, Cynthia James, Jerry Jones, JoAnne Jones, Kay Jones, Cyndi Kent, Donald Kirby, Stella Law, Barbara Marks, Martha McGonagle, Hazel McIntosh, Darren McLeod, Sylvia Miller, Paul Nicholas, Tracie Nixon, Terence Park, Barbara Payos, Nicholas Pettye, Bobby Pinckney, Leslie Reyman, Nancy Rice, Robbie Robinson, Marie Rouse, Jordan Scruggs, Bonnie Snyder, Lucie Tshama, Linda Turner-Dash, Marisa Villarreal, Cheryl Walker, Leon Williams

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**CLERGY MEMBERS EXCUSED**

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**Code: W – Wednesday, T- Thursday, F – Friday, S – Saturday,  
M – Morning, A – Afternoon, E- Evening**

Romana Abelova; Mark Allen: S; Harold Andrews; Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii; William Baugh; Warren Beaven; Edwin Bergmann; Brian Bodt: TA&E, F, S; Kimberly Bosley; Barbara Brand-James; Gennifer Brooks: W, TM; Bruce Carlson; George Carpenter; Sabrina Chandler: T, F; Trudy Codd; Kenneth Coddington; Donald Collier; Steed Davidson; James Davis; Frank Denton; Cheryl Driscoll; Richard Edwards; Marlene Francis-Jones; Kregg Gabor: W, TM&A; Edwin Gault; Caroly Gibson; Thomas Grissom; William Hagerty; Zintack Albert Hahn: F, S; Juhye Hahn: W, T; Gale Hansen; David Harper; Lori Hartman: TE, FA&E; Roy Hassel; Richard Hayes: F, S; Arthur Hewitt; John Hill; Bryan Hooper; Marion Hubbard: S; Robert Hullstrung; Patricia Intermaggio; Cornelius Irwin; Kent Jackson: TE, F, S; David Jefferson; William Johnston; David Jolly: WA; Elizabeth Jones; Winson Josiah; Robert Kersten; Mark Kim; Carl Kohn; Kathleen LaCamera Loughlin; James Law; Bridgette LeConey: S; Sungmu Lee; Evelyn McDonald; Paul Meador: S; Richard Mellerup; Jose Mora-Gil: W, TM&A; Sung Min Moy; Ralph Mueckenheim; Debbi Mygatt: W, T, S; Howard Newton; Gerald Norris; Austin Park; WooYoung Park; Kathleen Patterson: W, F; J Richard Peck; Terry Pfeiffer; Jennifer Pick; Todd Pick; Joaquin Polin; Robert Reiners; Anne Rossini; Kenneth Ruge; Norma Rust; Walter Schenck; Phillip Schnell; John Senkewich; Robert Simpson; Ralph Spoor; Susan Stallings; Mary Ellen Summerville; Sara Thompson Tweedy: F, S; James Van Schaick: S; Alison VanBuskirk Philip; Eric Vernon; Francis Waite; Stephen Wall-Smith; Jeffrey Wells: S; Frank Wettstein; Ruth Dunn Widmann; Joyce Wilkerson; Dennis Winkleblack; Enock Yatri; Richard Yerrington; Hwan Christopher Yi; Arthur Yost

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**LAY MEMBERS EXCUSED**

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Rebecca Asedillo, Frances Backofen, Lisa Badore, Jane Bird, Linda Coddington, Betty Gannon, Curt Gevert, Gerianne Hoernes, Bonnie Hyatt, Patricia Jones, Hannah Reasoner, Jean Miller-Reed, Margaret Robinson, Robert Rods, Ernie Searle, Louis Steffek, Debbie Vail, Alexandra Vanderclough, Ramona VanHeydoorn, Flora Walmsley-Vernon, Joan Warren

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**B. MINUTES OF THE 216<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

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**JUNE 10-13, 2015**

*Dancing with the Spirit:*

*Conference as a Means of Grace*

**Hofstra University, Hempstead, N.Y.**

**Bishop Jane Allen Middleton,  
Resident Interim Bishop, New York Area, Presiding**

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**JUNE 10 | WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON**

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**CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP AND COMMUNION**

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The service began at 1:30 p.m. at the Mack Arena following gathering music by the conference music team under the direction of Raymond Trapp. Live streaming of the conference via the Internet allowed viewers to watch from afar. The call to worship was based on John Wesley's journals pointing to the work of the Spirit of God. The processional hymns, "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" and "Revive Us Again," were accompanied by a parade of clergy and laity carrying local church banners.

Elizabeth Thunderbird Haile, an elder of the Shinnecock Nation and a member of the Hamptons UMC, welcomed the gathered body to the island that is home to her people.

Following a centering prayer, there was a moving video remembrance of Bishop Martin D. McLee, the resident bishop of the New York Annual Conference who died on September 6, 2014. He was consecrated bishop on July 19, 2012, and provided leadership to some 462 churches in New York and Connecticut until his death. His vision, enthusiasm and legacy were remembered. Rev. Constance Pak, chair of the episcopacy committee, led the group in prayer.

Bishop Jane Allen Middleton was warmly welcomed by so many who had shared life and ministry with her during her tenure as pastor and district superintendent in the conference. She initially served as bishop of the Central Pennsylvania Conference, and then in 2010 led that conference through the creation of the Susquehanna Conference. Bishop Middleton retired in 2012.

She was assigned by the Council of Bishops to serve as interim resident bishop of the New York Area from January 1 until a new bishop is assigned September 1, 2016. Bishop Middleton welcomed a special guest, Bishop James Walker, bishop of the 7th District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

The dance and music team gathered waters brought by delegates from across the conference into one large baptismal font on the stage. The scripture reading of Exodus 3:11-14 was accompanied by more liturgical dancing. Psalm 98 was sung by Pastor Wendy Paige. The gospel reading was Luke 4:16-21.

Bishop Middleton preached on "The Spirit of God Has Anointed Us." She said that with the presence of the Holy Spirit at annual conference, we can engage in holy, Christian conferencing. God has anointed us to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind. All joined Bishop Middleton in affirming aloud, "the Spirit of the Lord is upon us." She said the most important thing we can



do is to shower God's love that we have received on others. Annual conference is a means of God's grace.

She expressed her joy at returning to her "spiritual home," the New York Annual Conference. She voiced her thanks to all on the conference team. Bishop Middleton stated her purpose is to heal, empower, and prepare the conference for the future.

Bishop Middleton said she is aware of God's healing presence in so many ways. She expressed gratitude for the late Bishop Martin L. McLee. He was a "creative, inspirational, charismatic leader who loved Jesus." He was courageous and prophetic; his untimely death left everyone stunned and weakened. She said, "We thank God for him." A special offering for the NYAC Young Clergy Debt Assistance Program would serve as a living memorial to Bishop McLee who established the fund.

She noted that when she began in January, the NYAC had been led by four different bishops in just six months. Because of the unsettled period, time is needed for healing. Bishop Middleton thanked all committees and boards, the cabinet and conference staff for their work during this difficult time. She expressed appreciation for Bishops Neil Irons and Ernest Lyght who had filled in as interim leaders. "God is good," she added.

She went on to say that conference is a means of God's perfecting and healing grace. She has experienced God's grace many times over the years at conference. She invited all to allow God to provide healing during these days and to allow their hearts to be touched in new and powerful ways. She called upon all to share God's love here. Conference isn't about resolutions or winning and losing, but about dancing with the Spirit and opening our hearts to Jesus Christ who is alive and present in our midst. To experience grace is to experience divine, unmerited love given to us by God because God desires us to have it. Grace is available to all. We feel this presence as we surrender to the reality that God's love is revealed in all our lives.

Bishop Middleton said she believes she is called to be with us to empower, to support all in our mission to make disciples. We cannot wait for the next bishop. We must live as if Jesus Christ has come again and is in our midst. The time has come for us to bring hope to people. The time has come to help little ones yearning for education. The time has come for a new future for victims. We have to face challenges. As a conference, we have lost 10 percent in membership in the last five years and five percent in attendance. There is a rise of the "nones" (no spiritual connection) and the "dones" (people who have dropped out of religion).

She also pointed to hopeful things. Every year for the last five years, the NYAC has increased the number of small groups for spiritual growth and the number of trips for mission in the world. In 2009, there were 2,500 people engaged in mission; in 2014, there were 7,000. These increases in small groups and missions beyond the walls of the church are signs of doing what God asks us to do. Church is a place where we grow in our own faith and make a witness to the community.

Another strong sign in our conference is our diversity. We are the most diverse conference in the Northeast Jurisdiction. "How rich it is to learn from and honor all," she said. She stated that we welcome all LGBTQI people. We must be committed to holy conferencing that means respect for all persons.

We are also a generous conference. We have paid 100 percent of the apportionments to the general church for the past 11 years. People are giving sacrificially. We have a story to tell because we are passionate about the marginalized and oppressed. She invited each person to share his/her story with another person, to talk about excitement

and learning in their church, to share the ways they are in ministry. We can resource one another.

Bishop Middleton reminded us that we are a praying people. We must be prepared to meet Jesus. It is tempting to start dealing with life with our heads. That's not a bad thing, but we must allow God to move our hearts. Paul said that without love, we are a clanging cymbal. If you want to make wise decisions you must begin with prayer and ask, "What does God desire? How can we live in such a way that God shines through us?"

We do face challenges. Some of our churches are struggling. This makes for more work for our district superintendents. Superintendents are spending much of their time trying to keep struggling churches alive, but they are called to be visionaries. Bishop Middleton is excited about the plan to provide an assisting elder in each district to free up the superintendents to do vision casting and supportive training. This is before us as a budget item at this annual conference and she hoped the assisting elders could begin immediately.

Another strength we have is our Wesleyan concept of scriptural holiness that speaks to the yearning of people. We expect that our faith will bear fruit. We are also a connectional church that supports and upholds one other. We can make positive changes by hosting small groups and reaching out into our communities. The bishop said that according to a survey by LifeWay Research, the United Methodist Church gets a 62 percent favorable opinion. Dr. Derrick-Lewis Noble has been working with many churches on growth. There are signs of hope. The most powerful path of growth is to plant new faith communities. A boot camp for church planters was just completed.

Bishop's Middleton's goal is also to prepare the way for her successor in September 2016. A leadership group in the conference is working on several areas aimed at future success: excellence in clergy leadership, building healthy bodies of Christ in the churches, and striving for excellence in all staff, committees, and etc.

Preparing for the future also means making needed structural improvements at the conference center, the bishop said the board of trustees has engaged an architect with the hope that the renovations will be completed by the time the new bishop arrives. In addition, the search is on for a new episcopal residence; the current home was purchased in 1986 and has a number of problems.

Bishop Middleton noted that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is based in our theological understanding of the presence of God's grace and in our social and racial diversity. The Spirit is present when we honor all kinds of ministry by clergy and laity. The Spirit of God is with us when we, like Jesus, feed the hungry and care for those whose spirits are crying out for spiritual food. May this conference be full of God's grace so that we can leave this place on fire to proclaim the good news.

Following the bishop's sermon, the prayers of the people called for forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ, and also for renewal and resurrection as people are anointed for new service in God's "kin-dom."

All exchanged the peace of Christ. Holy Communion was celebrated and the service ended with the body singing "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations."

An offering was received for the NYAC Young Clergy Debt Assistance Program. The vision for this fund came from the late Bishop McLee who had a profound desire to provide financial support to clergy aged 40 years or younger. The offering totaled \$7,578.75.



## OPENING OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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Bishop Middleton opened the conference with a prayer.

Rev. James Moore of the Sessions Committee thanked those who worked all year to prepare for this annual conference.

### Organizational Resolutions

Conference Secretary Rev. Fredric O. Jackson presented the organizational resolutions, which were all adopted. The resolutions include:

1. That the conference program booklet/agenda be adopted as the order of business subject to such changes as may be deemed necessary.
2. That the presiding bishop be authorized to adjust the hour of recess.
3. That the members of the conference wishing to have visitors or other persons introduced to the body shall arrange with Conference Secretary Jackson permission for such introduction.
4. That the bar of the conference is the entire main floor, the center section of the balcony and the handicap accessible area on the mezzanine level.
5. That all personal possessions including pocketbooks, tote bags, etc., be removed from the arena at the close of each session; items left behind may be removed by university security personnel.
6. That the following persons are designated as assistant secretaries for this session: Kent Jackson, Sandra Mantz, Elizabeth Mortlock, Iwy Patel-Yatri, Michael Zukowski, and others that the conference secretary may designate during the session.
7. That all persons with motions, amendments, substitute motions, etc. have them typed or written legibly for submission to the conference secretary. And that all documents for publishing/distribution are cleared through the conference secretary during the annual conference session.
8. That all commissions, agencies or task forces that require adopted petitions be sent to government officials or others, provide correct addresses, and persons to help mail those copies to those designated by conference action.
9. That the members of the conference from whom communications have been received be excused from all or part of the session, and their names are incorporated in the record.
10. That the Committee on the Examination of the Conference Journal be authorized to review the daily proceedings and report to the conference secretary on the sufficiency and accuracy of the record.
11. That the journal with the daily proceedings, signed by the president and secretary of the conference, shall be the official record of the 2015 New York Annual Conference.

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## CONFERENCE SECRETARY

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Rev. Fredric Jackson was honored for his faithful service as conference secretary for four years. He was presented with a plaque picturing each of the four covers of the journals for which he had been responsible. Rev. Jackson thanked the conference

for their support. He shared a final friendly plea that people submit their material by conference deadlines.

Rev. Adrienne Brewington then nominated the new conference secretary, Margaret Howe, who has served extensively on local, district and conference levels, and is a member of the New Paltz UMC. Howe was duly elected, and expressed her appreciation. She is the second layperson to hold this position and the first woman.

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### **NOMINATIONS FOR CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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Nominations for the Conference Board of Trustees class of 2018 were presented by Melodye Merola: Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt, Tiffany M. French, Rev. David D. Henry, Colette H. Stanford, and Claude N. Stuart. As there were no other names offered from the floor, the nominations were closed. The election will be held on Friday morning, June 12.

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### **CONFERENCE RULES COMMITTEE**

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Rev. Dr. Jennifer Brooks, chair of the conference rules committee, was unable to attend as she was asked to lead a preaching series at the Hampton Ministers Conference.

Rev. Charles Ryu made a motion to suspend the rules, it was seconded, and the body approved. He presented a new petition entitled “Petition #2015-AC311 NYAC Commitment to Begin the Healing Process with Native Americans.” The petition was assigned to Legislative Section 3.

A change was noted: In the conference preliminary reports and resolutions book #1 – plenary session, page 2, line 11 should be corrected to read, “Council Conference on Finance and Administration and the Connectional Ministries Vision Table.”

The rules of the conference were adopted with amendments as they appear in Book 1 of the “Pre-Conference Reports and Resolutions for the Plenary Session.”

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### **EXPERIENCES OF GRACE AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

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L. Gregory Jones of Duke University, who was to offer the Rev. Bill Perkins lecture, was unable to attend due to flight problems. So instead, Bishop Middleton invited people to come to the microphones and share how conference had been a place of grace for them. One spoke of coming to conference and hearing 1,000 people singing old hymns backed by a powerful organ. Another remembered drawing great strength from watching last year’s conference healing service on the live stream while sitting in the hospital with a loved one who was very ill.

Another remembered an undocumented worker who came to the church and had no benefits for her baby. The church found an office that could offer her health insurance and good health attention. From then on she became part of the Spanish mission.

Another remembered an inspiring ordination service. Another remembered Bishop Park speaking in 2011 when he said, “God loves me. God loves you. God loves everyone, no matter who you are, and there is nothing you can do about it.” Another said that the conference has offered him a chance to deepen his faith and to do so in the company of others. Another remembered a time in 1994 when she was asked to be an alternate delegate to conference and experienced a clear call to ordained ministry. Another has served beyond the boundaries of the conference but feels a spiritual home whenever he returns to the New York Annual Conference.

Another said she had experienced a call to ordained ministry but came out as a lesbian the same year that the UMC prohibited ordinations of gays or lesbians. She said she has felt grace in the people here who have spoken up against the discrimination of gays and lesbians. She remembered when the blue armbands were first handed out and worn by the clergy as a sign of protest. For her, that support was a moment of grace.

Another said that the music, the beautiful worship banners and altars, and the many meaningful intersections we have with one another are aspects of grace. Another person said she grew up in a church where they believed in the Holy Spirit but did not believe that women should be ordained. She found she was accepted here. She said she is glad for the grace that happens when others see her as a female pastor and feel that they too can go forward.

A clergy spouse came and said the singing and being together in the Spirit of God makes a difference. Being a clergy spouse can be difficult especially if one senses negativity directed at one's spouse. Conference offers a place for forgiveness and renewal of feeling on fire for the Lord and for being in the church.

Another person remembered her sense of call to ministry and the support she has received. Another person expressed appreciation for the fact that he can speak in conference, expressing views that others may not all agree with and still be greeted with grace despite differing views. Another remembered Spirit-filled preaching. Each year she has taken away a spiritual nugget. One year she came after having been arrested for something related to immigration. That same year, she was awarded the Denman evangelism award.

Bishop Middleton asked everyone to continue to share stories of God touching their lives throughout the gathering.

Rev. Fred Jackson made announcements.

All were invited to bring written requests to the prayer tent to be included in the Friday prayer service.

Following the blessing for the evening meal, the body sang "And Are We Yet Alive." Dinner was held in the student dining hall. Small groups – Women in Ministry and legislative section leaders – met during dinner.

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## JUNE 10 | WEDNESDAY EVENING

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### LAITY SESSION

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The laity were greeted by piano music as their session began at 7 p.m. in the Mack Arena at Hofstra University. Conference Lay Leader, Renata Smith announced the use of projection screens rather than paper programs in an effort to "go green." The session began with a responsive call to worship, followed by the hymn "Sacred the Body." Mary Breviglieri, interim conference director of lay servant ministries, offered the opening prayer. Junior Dixon, lay leader of the Long Island West District, read Psalm 139:13-18. Smith offered words of welcome to the laity, especially the first-time members, and introduced the board of laity. She noted that the coming year would be her last year in the position.

Smith then introduced those who would address the theme of self care: Wendy Vencuss, spiritual care coordinator for disaster recovery ministries and Donna Jolly, spiritual growth coordinator for the Catskill Hudson UMW. A video portrayed a woman who was involved in caring for others, but did not care appropriately for herself. After the

video, Wendy Vencuss read 1 Corinthians 6:19 and Proverbs 14:30. She spoke on some barriers to self-care, such as not having the time, or compassion fatigue, when the caregiver begins to feel exhausted by the care of others. She then stressed the need to care for the whole person. How do we get God to help us to transform our lives? We need to be Christ like, and allow God to help us and spiritually form us.

Jolly addressed ways to achieve wholeness physically through such things as exercise or gardening. There are two types of exercising: aerobic such as walking or jogging with a friend, and strengthening exercises. She demonstrated some simple stress relieving activities that can be done while in one's chair at work. The hymn "I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing" was sung. Jolly then moved on to nutrition, explaining some of the food group daily guidelines for a healthy lifestyle.

Vencuss then suggested that the foods that had been mentioned were not the only primary foods. "Primary foods" also include joyful play and laughter which Jolly pointed out has been documented to have medical benefits. As a way to stress the importance of listening to God in one's sacred place, Vencuss led a guided meditation. The hymn, "Spirit of the Living God," was then sung by the laity. A handout, "Individual Plan for Self-Care," was provided to help the group work on nurturing themselves. The session ended with "The Spirit Song" and a closing prayer.

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## CLERGY SESSION

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The clergy session was held in the multipurpose room of the Student Center beginning at 7 p.m. Much appreciation was given to Rev. Enrique Lebron (guitar) and Rev. Nathanael Dixon (saxophone) for providing musical accompaniment for the worship.

Bishop Middleton began her sermon by reading the Gospel passage, Luke 22:24-27, from The Message translation. Leadership, what is that all about? Early in her ministry, when asked by a member of her church whether she was going to lead the congregation or follow them, Bishop Middleton replied, "I'm going to follow you ... and push!" The bishop went on to elaborate on the role of the leader as one who serves. Pastors are the last generalists. In the midst of performing so many varied tasks, pastors must have a clear sense of call. Pastors must also be people who pray. Clergy need to take time for rest and renewal. Clergy must have integrity. Do not ask from the congregation anything that you would be unwilling to do yourself, she advised.

Rev. Bill Pfohl, chair of the board of ordained ministry, recognized and thanked all the lay and clergy members of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

The Business of the Annual Conference, Section IV, questions 17-81 constituted the agenda of the clergy session. See Journal, pages 80- 104. Forms were provided for any changes that needed to be made to the document.

Following the proceedings, Bishop Middleton expressed appreciation to the clergy for their attentiveness to the business covered. "Although it is tedious work, it is critical to the lives of many persons."

A rousing rendition of "We Are Marching in the Light of God" returned the spirit of worship to the gathering.

Rev. Lydia Lebron shared some reflections on clergy effectiveness and accountability. Rev. Dale Ashby presented metrics for evaluating clergy effectiveness. The details of this presentation are contained in the report from the conference board of ordained ministry. Rev. Bill Pfohl made a few closing remarks on this issue.

Rev. K Karpen gave a presentation on clergy recruitment. Noting that many in the room would be retiring within the next 20 years, it is important to lift up those in our congregations or communities who may be sensing a call to ordained ministry. Brochures were distributed.

The clergy session was closed with the singing of “I’m Working on a Building,” followed by the benediction by Bishop Middleton.

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## **JUNE 11 | THURSDAY MORNING**

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### **EARLY MORNING**

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Blueprint for Wellness health screenings were held beginning at 6 a.m. Morning worship and Communion was at 6:15 a.m. led by the class of 2015 elders. Breakfast was in the student dining hall. Two groups – the Asian Council and Town and Country – met for breakfast.

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### **OPENING PRAYER**

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The Thursday morning session began at 8:34 a.m. with the singing of “Holy Ground,” followed by prayer led by the district superintendents.

The session was called to order by Bishop Middleton at 8:50 a.m. Announcements were given by the conference secretary.

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### **REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (CF&A)**

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Geof Fowler, chair, made the report; details of the presentation are contained in the proposed 2016 conference budget guide. The budget shows a 1.9 percent increase for 2016. This reverses a three-year trend of budget decreases. The increase represents an investment in our conference ministries for the future. The largest portion of the increase can be attributed to the proposed addition of six “assisting elder” positions to work with the district superintendents.

Fowler’s comments also included an item on stewardship. NYAC giving to the shared ministry apportionments dropped to 86 percent in 2014, down from percentages in the high 80s. The 2016 budget presumes a 90 percent contribution rate. Three members of CF&A then talked more about stewardship. As a connectional church, those who can give more may consider doing so in order to lift up those who are falling behind.

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### **REPORT OF PENSIONS AND HEALTH BENEFITS**

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Rev. Bill Shillady began his comments by recognizing the work of Sally Truglia, human resources and benefits manager for the conference. He also thanked the conference board of pensions and health benefits members for navigating the changing areas of pensions and health benefits. The board remains vigilant in keeping the cost of health benefits down for active clergy. This is mostly achieved by offering health plans with higher deductibles. It is a mixed blessing, Shillady said.

We work in partnership with the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits as well. We participate in the HealthFlex pool as well as pooling our investment monies through WesPath. Currently we invest more than \$51 million through WesPath. That is a piece of the \$21 billion that the GBOPHB invests in total. We remain concerned

about social justice issues and responsible investments. Rather than divesting in some companies, the GBOPHB has a desire to work with companies to help them become socially responsible. An example is the Hershey Company that has migrated to using fair-trade cocoa in their products.

Truglia spoke on a new opportunity for active clergy in the area of health coverage. New plans and pricing options are coming including a high deductible health plan. A health savings account can only be made available alongside a high deductible health plan (HDHP).

Ron Coleman, our representative from the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, brought greetings from the general secretary and expressed appreciation for the NYAC's participation in the general board programs. Coleman recognized that the GBOPHB needs to balance stewardship of resources with the benefits that are offered. While some conferences no longer offer funding for retiree health benefits, he celebrated the NYAC commitment to taking care of its retirees.

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### BLACK COLLEGE FUND OFFERING

An offering was taken for the Black College Fund. Veronica Darby presented the speaker, Nicholas Pettye, who attends Paine College in Atlanta. Pettye began by singing "Precious Lord." He brought greetings from the general secretary of the Black College Fund and the president of Paine College. He thanked the body for contributing 100 percent of the Black College Fund apportionment. Our contributions have shown Pettye that the Lord will take his hand and lead him through. The offering received was \$5,372.

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### SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Service of Remembrance began at 10:15 a.m. with meditative music and a liturgy of remembrance including prayer and the singing of "Spirit of God" and "For all the Saints."

The memorial service is always one of the most solemn and poignant moments during each annual conference session. The following people who departed since the last annual conference were remembered:

**Clergy:** Ivan Francis Gossoo, Michael Inego Nathaniel Dash, Jack William Henry Mattair, Juanita Valyou Middlebrook, Thomas Frank Beveridge, Richard Robert Guice, Kermit B. Morrison, Rachel C. Ye Kim, Paul Allen Godburn, Louise (Dominica) Thomas, Russell D. Goodwin, L. Lester McGonagle, Edward F. Dobihal, Jr., Milca Celeste Plaud

**Spouses of Clergy:** Evelyn (Silvernale) Day, Ann (Livingston) Carvalho, Katherine (Wolven) Dunlap

**Widows/Widowers of Clergy:** Ellis R. Hill, Jr., Willavene Sandbek, Cherry Grossman, Jean L. Waters, Mary Elizabeth (Stevenson) Smyres, Dorothea (Mitchell) Queen, Estelle (Miller) Jackson, Ismay A. Hoyte-Isaac, Sarah (Wilson) Ohms, Elizabeth (Keeney) Hill, Eleanor "Ellie" VerNooy, Arline Priscilla Johnson, Dorothy (Setchel) Holman, Joyce (Martin) Reid, Wilmetta (Turkington) Abel, Helen (Joslin) Gould, Francis (Templin) Olson

**Children of Clergy:** Paul S. Bosley

**Laity:** Nancy L. Pinkard Fowlkes



Special Remembrances: John Wallace Bardsley, served in NYAC before returning to Holston Conference; Sara Jo (Greever) Bardsley, spouse; Martin D. McLee, resident bishop of NYAC; Keith Allen Muhleman, Frontier Foundation president & CEO

The scripture reading was Philippians 3:20-21. Rev. Sungchan Kim, superintendent of the Long Island West District, preached a sermon entitled “From Earthly Body to Glorious Body.” He began with the question, “Who are you?” If he were to answer he would say ...

I am Sungchan Kim. No, that’s your name.  
I am Korean. No, that’s you nationality.  
I am a pastor, No, that’s your occupation.  
I am 5’6” tall. No, that’s a physical characteristic.

John Wesley’s answer would be, “I am a spirit come from God and returning to God.” We need not fear age or circumstance because we are spiritual bodies, not merely physical beings. We are spirits come from God, and we are returning to God. Victory over death is much more important than dying with dignity. We need not fear, because we know that death is not the end of life.

We are encouraged to change our residence. Our new address will be 3:16 St. John Street.

There are remedies for spiritual and physical death, but from the second death there is no remedy. We must be vigilant in proclaiming the Gospel so that those we are trying to reach may be saved from the second death.

With Rev. Kim leading the congregation in singing Fanny Crosby’s “Saved by Grace,” the sermon was concluded.

The Service of Remembrance continued with a reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant, and Holy Communion. Worship concluded at 11:40 a.m., following the singing of “Beams of Heaven” and a charge and blessing from Bishop Middleton.

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## CONFERENCE BUSINESS

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Conference business resumed. Rev. Denise Smart-Sears asked to suspend the rules to receive a petition from the jurisdictional conference delegation, Petition 2015 – GC311 Constitutional Amendment to End Codified Discrimination in The United Methodist Church. The motion was approved and the petition will be presented to Legislative Section 3.

Rev Fredric Jackson brought several announcements.

Rev. Estella Voner Abel, a deacon and class of 2015 retiree, offered grace before the meal. The conference gathered for lunch at the student dining hall. Smaller group lunches were held with retired clergy and spouses, New York Theological Seminary alumni/ae, and Yale Divinity School alumni/ae.

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## JUNE 11 | THURSDAY AFTERNOON

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### LEGISLATIVE SECTIONS

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Clergy and laity joined in legislative sections to review, discuss and vote on reports and petitions during the afternoon.

#### Legislative Sections Leadership

*Coordinators: Ian B. Straker & Peggy Laemmel*

**Section 1: Ministries of Witness, Hofstra USA**

Wesley Daniel, chairperson  
Stephanie Parsons, secretary  
Carmen M. Ortiz, observer

**Section 2: Connectional Ministries and Ministries of Nurture, Student Center Theater**

Steven Knutsen, chairperson  
Denise Pickett, secretary  
Melissa Boyer and Mickey Brown, observers

**Section 3: Ministries of Advocacy, Multipurpose room**

Jack King, chairperson  
Kristina Hansen, secretary  
Karen Karpow and Steve Allen, observers

**Section 4: Leadership/Commissioning, Cultural Center Theater**

Bob Sorozan, chairperson  
Lynda J. Bates-Stepe, secretary  
Terri Sorozan, observer

**Section 5: Clergy Care & Conference Finance, Arena**

Craig Fitzsimmons and Ed Horne, chairpersons  
Sandra Mantz and Anthony Mecca, secretaries  
Peggy Ann Sauerhoff, observer

**Section 6: Administration, Plaza rooms middle & east**

Patrick Perrin, chairperson  
Bette Sohm, secretary  
Sara Giron-Ortiz, observer

Dinner was served in the student dining hall. Two smaller groups met over dinner: Methodist Federation for Social Action and Wesley Fellowship. The bishop hosted a dinner for the retiring clergy and their spouses.

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**JUNE 11 | THURSDAY EVENING**

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At 6 p.m., the festival of ministries displays opened.

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**CELEBRATION OF RETIREMENT**

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The retiring clergy and their spouses came to the stage as the “Hymn for Retirement of Pastors” by Paul Stott was sung to the tune of Sicilian Mariners. Rev. Noel Chin, conference relations chair, offered greetings and led the order of farewell. He noted that this year’s class represents 408.5 service years. The retirees have served in 91 churches, five extension ministries, and six other annual conferences.

This year’s retirees are: Estella Voner Abel; Walter C. Barton, Jr.; Susan Chadwick; Jacob S. Dharmaraj; Robert Ellis Kersten; DaleEllen Krazmien; Koonae Annie Lee; James W. Moore; Barbara J. Mungin; Tilda A. Norberg; Anne M. Rossini; Wendy Karen Steed; Judith A. Stevens; Louise Stowe-Johns; Russell G. Waldmann; Elaine E. Welsh; Elizabeth Levant Williams; and Kenny Kang Yi.

A video of thank yous and good wishes from each of the retirees was shown.

Bishop Middleton offered words of gratitude and commendation, and told the retirees that they would always be in our hearts. They faithfully served their churches. They “had loved many and were loved.” The bishop added that they may even be called on to serve again. They will be filled with the blessings of God for what has been, and what God will do again. The bishop also led the closing hymn, “Hymn of Retirement of Pastors,” to the tune of Regents Square.

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### REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

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Renata Smith, conference lay leader, was introduced by Bishop Middleton, as a woman of grace and wisdom who has a passion to serve the Lord. Smith invited the body to “Mission u” at Western Connecticut State College on July 23-25, 2015. The theme is “Health, Wholeness and Happiness.” She invited Margaret Howe, the new conference secretary, to speak about “Laity in Action,” an in-house incubator training program to empower laity leadership. It is a call to action.

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### REPORT OF THE CABINET

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Rev. James Moore, who is retiring after eight years on the cabinet, shared his feelings about the tumultuous and challenging year just experienced and made three observations.

The first was an expression of gratitude to God and to many people for sustaining us through a most unusual and difficult year. We began with Bishop McLee’s absence and illness, and then his unexpected and tragic death. We were left alone and bereft. Bishops Irons and Lyght faithfully led us for six months. We offer our thanks to Bishop Middleton who has come to offer us direction and warm leadership. This is a blessing. We also wish to extend our thanks to Ann Pearson, connectional ministries consultant, who came out of retirement to guide us for the last six months.

The second observation had to do with the Cabinet’s responsibility to make appointments. Moore shared portions of Bishop Middleton’s first episcopal letter addressing the importance and care that is given to appointment decisions. Rev. Moore continued, “We fully acknowledge that it is an imperfect process, carried out by imperfect DSs who are working with imperfect pastors and imperfect congregations, but with God’s help we strive to put pastors in the situations in which they are most likely to flourish and to provide churches with the best possible leaders to guide them in fulfilling their mission.”

The third and final observation had to do with the proposal that each district have an “assisting elder,” to work with the district superintendent. He said, as a superintendent about to retire, he hoped that the conference would support the proposed 2016 budget which includes funding for this position. Moore noted that assisting elders would not result in less work by the district superintendents but would free them to do creative and revitalizing work with pastors and congregations.

Moore closed his report with a personal note of thanks to his colleagues and friends and the people of the Catskill Hudson District with whom he has served the last eight years.

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### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHURCH DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION

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Rev. Dr. Derrick-Lewis Noble, director of Church Development and Revitalization, was introduced. In an engaging preaching style, Rev. Dr. Noble offered five keys to church vitality:

1. Our love for Jesus must be top priority in all that we do. Use our energy to serve the Lord with joy. A vibrant church is a growing church, where there is excitement about Jesus.
2. Clergy and lay leaders must actively set the spiritual temperature. Leaders can either hinder or help a church grow. Leaders are lifetime leaders.
3. There must be a deliberate focus on and planning around evangelism. Evangelism is about looking outside your door. Move outside ... plan an activity outside. Share the love of Jesus.
4. There must be an intentional focus on prayer. Prayer always precedes revival. Pray for people who are outside the door.
5. Be willing to take risks. Lives are transformed by the power of God.

Noble recommended a book, “101 Ways to Reach your Community” by Steve Sjogren. He reminded us that churches that grow open up their doors to people.

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### **INTRODUCTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES**

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The bishop introduced the new director of connectional ministries, Rev. Matthew Curry. Rev. Curry was hired following a full search for the position.

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### **ARCHIVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

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Leslie Reyman, chair of the commission on archives, introduced and recognized The Chinese United Methodist Church for its 50 years of ministry. She shared the history of the church. Although it formally began in 1966 in NYC, it dates back to the 1800s. As Chinatown grew, the church became a place where people had a sense of belonging and love. The current pastor and assistant pastor as well as former pastors were congratulated and received a plaque. Several of the former and pastors were also present.

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### **CELEBRATION OF THE NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE AS A MEANS OF GRACE**

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What is grace? What are the means of grace? A video shared some responses to this question. How do we spread the Good News? The bishop reminded us that annual conference can be a means of grace. We reflected on the means of grace. We spent time in holy conferencing. In gathering for conference it is important to come and communicate with each other.

A remarkable special guest appeared – none other than John Wesley, who offered a dramatic monologue and engaged the body in reflections on the means of grace. Wesley was personified in wig and long black coat by Rev. Jim Moore.

The praise team organized by Pastor Wendy Paige performed several pieces of music and introduced her brother Jermaine Paul, the Harriman UMC worship leader, who was the winner of the television show “The Voice” in 2012. The evening ended with a rousing time of praise and worship, and a closing prayer.

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## JUNE 12 | FRIDAY MORNING

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### EARLY MORNING

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Blueprint for Wellness screenings began at 6 a.m. A 6:15 a.m. morning worship and Communion was led by the class of 2015 commissioned and provisional members. The conference met for breakfast in the student dining hall. Smaller group breakfasts were held by the Connecticut District and the Frontier Foundation.

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### OPENING PRAYER/COMMISSIONING OF MISSIONARY

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The morning began with the singing of “Holy Ground.” Certified lay ministers from the Connecticut and New York/Connecticut districts led the call to worship. Prayers of the people were collected Thursday and woven into an inclusive prayer led by lay and clergy persons.

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### THE ORDER OF COMMISSIONING AND SENDING OF A UNITED METHODIST MISSIONARY

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Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie invited the 216th session of the NYAC to praise God and give thanks for the mission ministries of the church for the transformation of the world. The body sang “Gather Us In.”

Rev. Timothy Riss introduced retired missionary Joyce Hill, who served as a General Board of Global Ministries missionary to Cuba. Hill was instrumental in translating literature for ministry. Bishop Middleton presented a pin to Hill in appreciation of her service. A cross will be mailed to her.

Riss read from Acts 13:1-3 and invited Rebecca Asedillo, executive secretary for Asia/Pacific with the General Board of Global Ministries, to introduce Elizabeth Tapia, professor of the Bible, theology and mission in the Philippines. Bishop Middleton led the examination of the candidate and commissioned her with the laying on of hands. The conference sang “God is Doing Something Wonderful in Me” as an affirmation of Tapia’s ministry. The conference sang: “God is doing something wonderful in them. God is doing something wonderful through us. Something awesome and incredible that only God will get the glory, God is doing something wonderful, incredible and awesome. God is doing something wonderful in them.”

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### READING OF APPOINTMENTS

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Rev. Betsy Ott, superintendent of the New York/Connecticut District, introduced the clergy new to the district and their appointments.

Rev. Denise Smartt Sears, superintendent of the Metropolitan District, introduced the clergy new to the district and their appointments.

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### CORPORATE SESSION

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#### Trustees Report

As Rev. Virginia Carle began the report of the trustees, she expressed appreciation for Bishop Middleton and her leadership. The trustees were introduced by name and their assignments within the board; thanks were expressed to all who worked with the board. Rev. Dr. John Carrington was recognized for his invaluable help to the board.

Justin Savarese, property manager for the camping and retreat ministries, was also thanked for his contributions.

Carle shared highlights from her report including a bequest from the estate of Rev. Raymond and Dorothea Dier. The conference also received funds specifically for African American ministries and new church starts. Camp Epworth was sold in September 2014.

Lawrence McGaughey, conference chancellor, presented his report. The Boy Scouts of America revised their charter form agreement and it has been reviewed and agreed upon by the UMC. McGaughey encouraged churches to sign the new agreement that imposes an obligation on chartering organizations to conduct background checks and be otherwise vigilant in conducting background checks.

If the local church rents space to an independent non-profit, the church should include in the lease that the program must conduct background checks. In addition, the chancellor stated that all churches must carry sexual misconduct insurance, the minimum coverage being \$1 million.

Resolution A for the discontinuation of a local church, Mamakating United Methodist Church was presented. It was voted on and passed.

Resolution B was presented for the discontinuation of a local church, The Community Church of East Norwich. It was voted on and passed.

Carle presented Resolution C - Norwalk Monies, to make the funds available from the sale of the church and parsonage of First Norwalk UMC to ministries beyond the Norwalk area, according to the conference's urban ministry strategic plan. Rev. Randy Day, pastor of Norwalk UMC, explained that the agreement with the church at the time of its closing was that the money from the sale would be used for ministry in Norwalk. A vote was held and the resolution did not pass, and it was withdrawn.

Rev. Jackson reported that the nominations for trustees were in order. Ballots were distributed.

Rev. Noel Chin asked for a progress report on new church growth and development funds. In response, Carle noted that policy was amended in 2012 with a new division of how funds for closed or abandoned properties would be divided:

- 40 percent to ministry in the community in which the church was located (top priority)
- 40 percent toward new church development
- 20 percent to trustees

A question was asked about "legal reverter" for the Ashland, N.Y., UMC as listed on page 8 of the trustees' pre-conference report/resolutions. Rev. Carle explained that if the church were to sell the property, then the funds would revert to the conference.

### **Nominating Report**

Melodye Merola, presented the report with following changes and additions:

- Page 12, under Commission on Conference Sessions, class of 2017, add STEPHEN ALLEN, NY/CT.
- Page 13, under Connectional Ministries Vision table, list Kristina Hansen as past chair and Ximena A. Varas as chair. The new vice chair will be elected within 30 days.



- Page 16, under District Directors of Lay Servant Ministries, line 7 should read WILLIE DIXON.
- Page 16, line 45, should read WILLIE DIXON.
- Page 18, under Committee on Parish Development, class of 2017, add David Mantz, LIE; Tony Mecca, CH; and DENISE PICKET, MET; for at-large members.

Corrections:

Page 11, line 71, under Camps Governing Board, class of 2019, should read PAT SCHLEGEL, MET

For information, add to BOOM members, page 25:

(14) Heather Sinclair, (14) Gene Ott and (14) Roy Grubbs.

Bishop Middleton stated that a judicial ruling was made to restore the committee on investigation. The following are names of those nominated: Clergy: John Carrington, Lorraine DeArmitt, James Moore, Constance Pak. Lay: JEFFREY HERBERT, DIANE HORNADAY, RENATA SMITH. Clergy Alternates: Edward Horne, Koonae Lee, Yongyeun Lee. Lay Alternates: FREDERICK BREWINGTON, JOONKI KIM

The nominations to the committee on investigation were approved.

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## ACT OF REPENTANCE SERVICE FOR THE HEALING OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

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A native drum call by Kevin Tarrant signaled the beginning of the Act of Repentance Service. Bishop Middleton offered opening remarks. Elder Elizabeth Thunderbird Haile offered welcome from the Shinnecock Nation. A video presentation entitled “Journey to Act of Repentance,” was shown. Prayer in song was offered with “Come Now, O Prince of Peace.” Rev. Stephen Bauman and Rev. Karen Monk read an acknowledgment of the need for repentance.

A video, “The Process of Conquest and Genocide,” followed a centering prayer. A prayer in song, “Heleluyan,” was offered in traditional Muscogee (Creek) Indian by Cynthia Kent and Kevin Tarrant, Hopi/Ho Chunk. Elaine Winward and Myrna Clinton read Psalm 85. With a drum call by Tarrant, Kent began her sermon entitled “What Does It Mean to Turn Around?” Kent is the chair of the Northeastern Jurisdiction Native Americans Ministries Committee.

Kent noted that even though she was not present at the massacres represented in the video, she is connected through her ancestors who experienced these events. Kent said that although the government, church or people state their intentions to help indigenous people, sometimes there is no action. Trust has to be built and as we move towards a covenant, actions have to follow words. More than that, there has to be intentional effort to ask the indigenous people how one can help, instead of doing things for them. Relationships can be built because we are brothers and sisters in Christ. Even though we are different, with different cultures and heritage, we can focus on our similarities and commonalities. What kind of Methodists are we going to be? Do we sit back and let things happen or stand up with native people for justice and peace efforts? We have to help one another and clear a path for God’s presence. When Jesus said, “I am about doing my Father’s work,” indigenous people believe that is when Christ came to the Americas and the gospel was shared with native people. Kent ended with the following words from scripture, “Build on the foundation with Christ as the ‘chief’ cornerstone.”

Following the prayerful song, “Who is My Mother, Who is My Brother?” Rev. Charles Ryu led the gathering in the act of repentance, with confessions by non-native people and a response of grace from native people.

A drum call for a new beginning was led by Tarrant. Bishop Middleton invited everyone to make concrete commitments as we continue to repent. The five actions of our commitment to repentance were then read by clergy and lay members. The NYAC will:

1. Commit to be educated about the full history of our nation and church in relation to Native Americans, and work diligently to repair wrongs,
2. Make intentional connections with Native American nations in our conference area and initiate ministries related to Native Americans in consultation with the NYAC committee on Native American ministries,
3. Research and learn of the places of pain and suffering that native people suffered in the region of the NYAC and organize pilgrimages to these sights and bind ourselves with the commitment, “Never Again.”
4. Support the ministries of the conference committee on Native American ministries, and
5. Ensure every congregation in the conference observes Native American Ministry Sunday.

As a conference, we tied a gray ribbon to one another’s wrists as a seal of the new covenant.

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## THANKS AND BLESSING

Bishop Middleton invited the entire staff of the conference (cabinet, extended cabinet, conference staff, episcopal office staff and assistants to the district superintendents) to come to the stage for a show of appreciation by the conference. Ross Williams, the conference chief financial officer and director of administrative services, introduced the staff and thanked them for their service.

Elaine Winward offered a blessing as the conference adjourned for lunch. Small group lunches were held by Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Drew University Theological School, Hispanic Council, Korean Council, and Methodists in New Directions.

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## UMCOR HEALTH KITS

Some 3,498 health kits were collected, along with \$5,224 for shipping costs. The kits were shipped to the UMCOR depot on Friday morning.

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## JUNE 12 | FRIDAY AFTERNOON

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### READING OF APPOINTMENTS

Rev. Kenneth Kieffer, superintendent of the Connecticut District, read new appointments in the district.

Rev. Sungchan Kim, superintendent of the Long Island West District, read new appointments in the district.

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## LEGISLATIVE SECTION REPORTS

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Rev. Ian Straker distributed the legislative section reports (also know as the “green sheets”). All but three petitions were on the consent calendar (AC102, AC305 and GC307). Bishop Middleton asked if any other petitions should be lifted from the consent calendar for discussion. GC601 was lifted for discussion by vote of the plenary session.

Petition AC102 “Walk to Emmaus” was discussed. The petition was voted on and passed.

Petition AC305 “Create Petroleum and Natural Gas Investment Screens” was discussed. The petition was voted on and passed.

Petition GC307 “Amend *Book of Discipline* Paragraph 161.f on Human Sexuality” was discussed. The petition was voted on and passed.

Petition GC601 “Eliminate Bias against Rural and Suburban Ministries in *Book of Discipline* paragraph 2549.7” was discussed. The petition was voted on and did not pass.

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## READING OF APPOINTMENTS

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Rev. Jim Moore, superintendent of the Catskill Hudson District, read new appointments in the district.

Bishop Middleton announced that Rev. Tim Riss will become the new district superintendent of the Catskill Hudson District.

Rev. Adrienne Brewington, superintendent of the Long Island East District, read new appointments in the district.

Bishop Middleton offered a prayer for the new ministries.

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## LEGISLATIVE SECTION 5 - CONFERENCE BUDGET

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Rev. Ed Horne presented the conference budget as recommended by Conference Finance and Administration to Legislative Section 5. The proposed budget is \$8,143,308. The amount of \$8,143,308 was proposed to be apportioned to the local churches. Bishop Middleton called for any discussion. There was none. The budget was approved. The bishop thanked everyone on CF&A for their hard work. She encouraged all to be a “tithing people.”

Rev. Ian Straker thanked all for submitting their petitions and working so well in the legislative process.

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## MEANS OF GRACE

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Bishop Middleton called upon people to continue to share their experiences of grace at annual conference. One person spoke of an experience of forgiveness and reconciliation with a clergy person who had been their predecessor. Another spoke of being a young man and meeting his future wife at conference. Another got a tweet regarding Native American reconciliation right before the conference began the act of repentance. Another attended Bishop McLee’s funeral service, and later found herself near death. She had a vision of the late bishop and her late father. She sensed that her time had not yet come. She feels a call to ministry with people in the hospital.

Another experienced a call to lay preaching in the church, and celebrates the love and vitality at the conference. Another spoke of conference deepening her commitment, love and grace. Another remembered his young daughter saying a prayer at conference. Now, when she gets nervous speaking before school groups, he reminds her that she spoke well before 1,000 people. Another experienced women bearing witness at conference, sharing their stories of spiritual harm related to gender issues, women's visions, what it means to be a woman in ministry, etc. Another said that once a month for more than 20 years, he and a group have sung at the Bishop Wicke Health and Rehabilitation Center. It is a powerful experience to see the residents' faces enlivened by the hymns they sing and the devotional stories they tell.

Another spoke of pastoral changes at their church that had caused concern. He spoke to his district superintendent at conference. The spirit of God was in the pastors that were appointed and he sensed that God wants the churches to grow and thrive. Another remembers being a Baptist who was invited to the Methodist church by a female pastor who was bathed in the light of God. She came to conference for the first time and appreciated someone who sat with her and schooled her in church polity. She said, "This is the best annual conference."

Another with Native American heritage was touched by the familiar music in the day's worship. Another said she came to conference in her mother's womb and attended conference as a child with her parents. She thinks each year of all the people who have touched her over the years for this is her church. When her father died relatively young she remembers a woman who often sent her a card with a little money in memory of her father. She urged us to honor and celebrate the people all around us.

Another spoke of the Section 3 advocacy section that over the years has discussed difficult issues like war and peace, genocide and nuclear arms. We live in a world where people are so separated from one another – red and blue. Here we have all that diversity and differences of opinion and yet there is grace. Another spoke of meeting some strangers last night at the hotel when one of the men asked for prayers. The man gave him a list of the names to pray for "so that you don't forget." He reminded us that we often say we will pray for someone and must then remember to do so. Another spoke of his wife entering ministry and being told by her Methodist denomination that there were already too many women – two. So she was ordained in another denomination and later the grievous wrong was righted and her orders were transferred to the Methodist church. Another remembered a gay man being told he was not appointable. The clergy session discussion was extended and the conference voted to overturn the recommendation of the board of ordained ministry and the cabinet. He said, "Sin boldly that grace may abound." Another commented positively on the growth in the number of women in ordained ministry.

Bishop Middleton spoke of reconciliation. She said that over the years we may harbor in our hearts a broken relationship. She encouraged any who might feel a brokenness in a relationship with someone in the body to open to God's grace for healing of that relationship.

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## TRUSTEE ELECTION

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All of the original nominees for trustee were elected. Two people whose names were submitted as write-ins were not elected. Those elected were: Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt, Tiffany M. French, Rev. David D. Henry, Colette H. Stanford and Claude N. Stuart.

## APPOINTMENTS

The list of appointments for 2015-2016, as of June 9, was distributed. This list will be updated for the 2015 journal.

Announcements were made.

The clergy spouses invited all spouses to join their group for prayer, singing and fellowship throughout the year. They led the conference in singing “Cry of my Heart,” and said grace. The conference met for dinner in the student dining hall. Two small groups gathered for dinner: Church and Society, and Volunteers in Mission.

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## JUNE 12 | FRIDAY EVENING

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### ANCHOR HOUSE PRESENTATION/OFFERING

Anchor House is a NYAC-sponsored drug and alcohol rehabilitation center. The residents of Anchor House presented their gift of song, “Dance with the Spirit.” The director of Anchor House, Alison King, lifted up the successes in the program; Rev. Bill Shillady encouraged the gathering to give generously to the Anchor House offering. Bishop Middleton offered a prayer for the people of Anchor House. The offering totaled \$4,966.

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### SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD PRESENTATION

Rev. Sandy Mantz, chair of the commission on higher education and campus ministry, presented the following scholarships:

#### **New York Education Society**

##### **\$2000 Merit**

Katherine Borchert, Poughkeepsie UMC, American University

##### **\$2000**

Chidimma Aadaeze Madu, Christ Church (Port Jefferson), SUNY Binghamton  
Annah Mae Heckman, St. Paul and St. Andrew, Bard College

##### **\$1500**

Morgan Emma Snyder, Simpson UMC, Molloy College  
Stephanie Ho, Tutti St. Marks-Broken Builders, Fordham University  
Yoon Sang Timothy Cho, Tutti Manhattan Valley-Broken Builders, Manhattan School of Music  
Zoey Jewel Lee, Bayville UMC, James Madison University

##### **\$1000**

Brandon Edwards, Westchester UMC, Stony Brook University  
Brandon Fields, Trinity UMC, SUNY Purchase  
Gordon Edwards, Westchester UMC, American University  
Helton Morais Quissico, Epworth UMC, George Washington University  
Kevin Sundeep Thomas, UMC of Shrub Oak, Manhattan College  
Koeun Grace Chung, Community UMC John, Teachers College-Columbia University  
Marissa Downes, Reservoir UMC, Hartwick College  
Travis Gordon, Butler Memorial UMC, SUNY Delhi  
Victoria Burke, Metropolitan Community UMC, Spelman College  
Wonil Chung, BrokenBuilders UMC, New York University

**\$750**

Daniel Barber, Fishkill UMC, Messiah College  
 Haley Merritt, Union UMC (East Northport), Vassar College  
 Joyce K. Mensah-Quaye, Ghana UMC, Hostos Community College  
 Marisa Rose Orozco, Highland Mills UMC, Nyack College

**\$500**

Garrett Holmes, Centerport UMC, Binghamton University  
 Juhyun Park, BrokenBuilders Queens, Baruch College  
 Kendall Marie Reis, UMC of Wappingers Falls, SUNY Plattsburgh  
 Lloyd Laurino, Setauket UMC, Suffolk County Community College  
 Lucie Tshama Wa Mbiya, Community UMC (East Norwich) Wesley Seminary  
 Selom Kojo Ahiaku, Ghana UMC, Touro College  
 Shevonne Cleveland, Setauket UMC, Stony Brook University

**GBHEM: NYAC Merit Scholars**

**From Special Sunday offering of \$1880; \$940 each**

Juhee Kang, Plainview UMC, Boston University  
 Seung Kwon Yang, Korean UMC of Great Neck, pursuing master of divinity at Duke University

**Gloster Current Scholarships**

**\$2000**

Brittany Baptiste, St. Marks UMC, Brooklyn; Rutgers University

**\$500**

Francis Kalombo Ngoy, East Norwich Community UMC, Denison University  
 Travis Gordon, Butler Memorial UMC, SUNY Delhi  
 Jackia Rice, Epworth UMC, College of Staten Island

**UMCS Urban Ministry Scholarships**

Presented by Rev. Bill Shillady

Bruce Lamb, Christ UMC, Manhattan; Union Theological Seminary  
 Lea Matthews, Christ UMC, Manhattan; Union Theological Seminary  
 Deborah Normandia, Fenimore Street UMC, New York Theological Seminary  
 Heidi Thomas, Fenimore Street UMC, New York Theological Seminary  
 Clyde Wint, Springfield Gardens UMC, New York Theological Seminary  
 Angel Abakah, Ghana Wesley, Drew Theological School

**Francis Asbury Award**

Presented by Rev. Mantz

Rev. Dr. Paul Moon, pastor, BrokenBuilders UMC

A non-monetary award to recognize and encourage support of higher education and campus ministries within the UMC.

**Youth Service Fund Award (\$1500)**

Willis Avenue UMC, Hope for Mott Haven project

**UM Frontier Foundation (\$2500)**

Asbury UMC in Forestville, Conn.  
 First UMC of Walton, N.Y.



**Rev. Dr. William James Family Fund Scholarship**

Charlene Brew  
Victoria Burke

**Shirley Parris Award**

Magdalene Russell-Tattall, Vanderveer Park UMC

**One Matters Discipleship Award**

Given by General Board of Discipleship  
Tian Fu UMC in Brooklyn

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**MISSION CELEBRATION**

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**Missionary Introductions**

Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie introduced via Skype, United Methodist missionaries in Nepal, El Salvador, the Philippines, Japan and Ecuador. Ewoodzie also welcomed to the stage Rev. John Calhoun, GBGM; and Nick Nicholas, UMCOR/UMVIM jurisdictional coordinator.

**Mission Glocal (global and local) Awards**

**Gold Awards:**

Catskill Hudson: New Paltz UMC  
Connecticut: Golden Hill UMC, Simsbury UMC  
Long Island East: Babylon UMC, Centerport UMC, New York Plainfield UMC,  
Long Island Korean UMC  
Metropolitan: Wakefield Grace UMC  
New York/Connecticut: First Stamford UMC, New Canaan UMC, Shrub Oak UMC

**Silver Awards:**

Catskill Hudson: Kaaterskill UMC, East Jewett UMC  
Connecticut: Bristol Prospect UMC, Great Hill UMC  
Long Island East: Islip UMC; Union, East Northport UMC

**Bronze Awards:**

Catskill Hudson: Overlook UMC, Monticello UMC, Hillsdale UMC  
Connecticut: First Ansonia UMC, First Wallingford UMC, Shelton UMC  
Long Island West: Immanuel-First Spanish UMC  
Metropolitan: Bronx Epworth UMC  
New York/Connecticut: Putnam Valley Grace UMC

**Youth Ambassadors in Antiqua**

A film was shown of their building work at a church in Antiqua.

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**COMMISSIONING OF MISSIONARIES**

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Bishop Ernest Lyght was introduced to a round of applause. He commissioned the cabinet and extended cabinet who will be traveling to Cambodia and Korea in November.

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**AFRICA UNIVERSITY**

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A banner was presented recognizing the NYAC's 100 percent apportionment contribution to Africa University.

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## UMCOR PRESENTATION

Thanks were expressed by Pastor Melissa Hinnen for our commitment to UMCOR.

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## IMAGINE NO MALARIA

A film was shown in which a Methodist bishop in Africa expressed the importance of sleeping nets in preventing malaria deaths. Lynda Gomi, conference field coordinator for Imagine No Malaria, spoke of the importance of the campaign. Bishop Middleton earlier challenged each church to give \$10 per congregant. Gomi and a team dressed in superhero mosquito fighter costumes, presented a slide show of various fund raising programs by children and youth. Stevens Memorial UMC completed its \$50,000 donation for Imagine No Malaria. The Imagine No Malaria offering, which covers many areas of malaria prevention, will be taken during the ordination service tomorrow.

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## SERVICE OF ANOINTING

The gathering music was “Holy Ground.” Scripture readings were Luke 9:1-6, 10-11 and John 14:12-13. Pastor Debbi Mygatt of Jesse Lee UMC gave a testimony of healing from her church’s ministry and invited all to trust in – and participate in – the present-day healing power of Jesus Christ. Bishop Middleton prayed over the anointing oil. Healing teams anointed and prayed with many people all around the arena as the music team provided healing music and song. The service closed with a quietly sung benediction.

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## JUNE 13 | SATURDAY MORNING

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### SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS FOR SERVICE, ORDINATION OF ELDERS AND PRESENTATION OF LICENSES TO LOCAL PASTORS

The music team opened the service with a collage of praise music and scripture readings. A prelude, “A Charge to Keep I Have” was provided by the brass ensemble. The processional hymns were: “For the Healing of the Nations,” “God, Whose Song Became Creation,” and “All Around.” Liturgical dancers lead the procession of participants that included clergy and laity. The greeting and prayer were offered by Bishop Jane Middleton. A silent prayer and a unison prayer followed. The dance call to worship was offered by the Spirit Builders troupe to the song, “You Amaze Me.”

Bishop Middleton greeted and introduced the special guests, asking each to say a few words: Bishop F. Herbert and Shirley Skeete, Bishop Alfred Johnson, Bishop Ernest and Eleanor Lyght.

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### PRESENTATION OF LICENSES TO LOCAL PASTORS

The hymn, “Lord, I’m Available to You” was sung. Rev. Eileen Daunt, the registrar for local pastors, read the names of Peter L. Brown, Walter Curtis Haff, Donna R. LeRoy, Amy Ayn Tompkins, Ximena A. Varas and John Parille (who could not be present) as candidates to be licensed local pastors. Bishop Middleton described their ministry, examined the candidates and presented the newly licensed local pastors to the body. The conference music team offered the song, “God is Doing Something Wonderful in Me.” A medley of the hymns “How Great Though Art” and “Majesty” was performed by the New York Plainview UMC Youth Orchestra.



**2015 NYAC Local Pastors**

From left to right: Walter Curtis Haff, Peter L. Brown, Bishop Jane Allen Middleton, Ximena A. Varas, Amy Ayn Tompkins, Donna LeRoy. Not shown: John Parille

**PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE COMMISSIONED, ORDAINED AND RECOGNIZED**

Renata Smith, conference lay leader, and Rev. William Pfohl, chair of the conference board of ordained ministry, presented a deacon candidate for commissioning. Rev. John Simmons, registrar of commissioning, read the name of Arletha Miles-Boyce.

Smith and Pfohl then presented those to be commissioned as provisional elders. Rev. Simmons read the names of the 10 candidates: Karina Feliz, Melissa Hinnen, Steve Young Dong Kim, Yountae Kim, Joyce Jayoon Lee, Sun Joo Lee, Sharon Angella Petgrave-Cundy and Alison VanBuskirk Philip (not present due to giving birth in the past week), Siobhan A. Sargent, and Derrick T. Watson.

The three persons to be ordained as full elders were presented by Smith and Pfohl. Their names were read by Rev. Vicky Fleming, the registrar of elders: Daniel J. Cho, Suhee Kim, and Hwi Joon Park.

Bishop Middleton led all the candidates through the general examination.

**Proclamation and Response**

The prayer of illumination, "Into My Heart," was sung. The conference music team sang "On Eagles' Wings." The first passage, John 3:1-8, was read in Spanish. The Gospel, John 14:1-6b, was read in Korean. The conference choir sang "Order My Steps."

**Sermon**

Bishop Lyght delivered the sermon, "Stepping with Jesus." In his sermon, he spoke about being back home in New York, back to where it all began. He recalled his first sermon that he delivered as resident bishop of the New York area, entitled "Let's Go Pilgrims!" He spoke of his young son, when he was a young child taking his first

steps, of his growing up into a young man and playing on his high school team. He was growing up, developing and changing. Bishop Lyght spoke of how God is guiding our journeys. He reminded the ordinands and the ordained clergy to remember their calling. It is not their call, but God's call. He reminded the ordinands that even though BOOM has qualified them to be ordained and the clergy session qualified them,



**2015 NYAC Commissioning Class**

From left to right: Derrick T. Watson, Siobhan A. Sargent, Sharon Angella Petgrave-Cundy, Sun Joo Lee, Joyce Jayoon Lee, Yountae Kim, Steve Young Dong Kim, Melissa Hinnen, Karina Feliz, Arletha Miles-Boyce.  
Not shown: Alison VanBuskirk Philip



**2015 NYAC Ordination Class**

From left to right:  
Daniel J. Cho, Bishop Jane Allen Middleton, Suhee Kim, Hwi Joon Park

they will not be qualified until God qualifies them. He said, “When God calls you, God qualifies you.” Everyone was reminded that it is easy to not hear God’s calling since his calling is not direct, but today could be the day they get “a text message or Instagram” from God.

Bishop Lyght spoke of how God will point the way to go, not the GPS. The people of Moses complained a lot. They knew nothing about GPS, but God showed them the way. The bishop told the ordinands that their call is God’s call. It is not about them, it’s not about God. It’s God’s ministry. It’s God’s church, and God is God. Deny yourself, pick up your cross and follow Jesus, knowing that God is with you all the time, he said. “Don’t follow the preacher, follow Jesus.” He reminded everyone – clergy and laity alike – to be in step with Jesus, and follow his rhythm, like marchers in a parade. Everyone must have prayer time with God. They should not just spend most of that prayer time asking God for something, but also should listen to God, and tell God what is on one’s mind and what is in one’s mind. God can handle our burdens. God will take care of you. Bishop Lyght then spoke of how God called people such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Mother Theresa, and Martin Luther King, Jr. He summarized by saying when you get the call from God, follow it.

The hymn “The Summons” was sung.

### **Prayer of Commissioning and Laying on of Hands**

Bishop Middleton led the liturgy for the commissioning of provisional members, followed by the prayer of commissioning. Rev. Simmons invited the candidates two at a time, to come forward for the commissioning and laying on of hands. This was followed by the hymn, “God is Doing Something Wonderful in Me.” The conference music team offered “I Go to the Rock.”

### **Examination of and Laying on of Hands of Elders**

As Bishop Middleton highlighted the ministry of an elder, symbols appropriate to that order were lifted for all to see: a Bible, paten and chalice.

Bishop Middleton called the gathering to uphold the persons to be ordained as elders through silent prayer. Bishop Middleton then prayed over the candidates after the music team sang, “Ven Espiritu Ven.” Rev. Fleming then read the name of each candidate as he or she prepared to approach the kneeler for the laying on of hands and prayer.

The sung response “God is Doing Something Wonderful in Me” was sung by the music team. This was followed by the hymn, “God of Spirit, Guide and Guardian.”

### **Invitation to Discipleship and Ordained Ministry**

Bishop Middleton spoke of the various ways to serve God in the church. It could be as ordained ministers or as a lay minister, where someone serves the church in a more secular setting. The bishop then invited those who feel called to ministry to come forward for prayer with members of BOOM and other clergy members.

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## **IMAGINE NO MALARIA OFFERING**

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Lynda Gomi introduced the offering for Imagine No Malaria by noting that someone dies from malaria related illness every 60 seconds. The NYAC goal is to raise \$1.2 million. This conference has raised \$700,000 for the campaign. With the help of the Imagine Malaria workers in Sierra Leone, the outbreak of Ebola did not escalate as badly as it could have. The offering totaled \$61,215.60.

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### Dismissal with Blessing

Bishop Middleton thanked all those who helped put this annual conference together, including the staff, the musicians, and those who assisted and participated. Bishop Middleton then offered a blessing to the body.

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### CLOSING OF THE 216TH SESSION OF THE NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bishop Middleton then declared this conference session closed.

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### SETTING THE DATE OF THE NEXT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 217th session of the New York Annual Conference will be June 8-11, 2016.

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### RECESSIONAL HYMN

The participants in the service and the clergy recessed to the hymn, "And It Can Be," and other hymns.

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## C. NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE CERTIFICATES

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### CERTIFICATE OF PRESIDING BISHOP & SECRETARY

This is to certify that the foregoing minutes are a complete and accurate rendering of the proceedings of the 216th session of the New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (the forty-seventh session of The United Methodist Church and the fifty-first since reunion with the New York East Conference after 115 years of separate existence), held at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York, June 10-13, 2015, and, as such, the printed records with related data incorporated by reference have been adopted by the Annual Conference as its official record.



**Jane Allen Middleton**  
Presiding Bishop



**Margaret Howe**  
Conference Secretary

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### CERTIFICATES OF CONSECRATION

This is to that at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York on Friday, June 12, 2015, I commissioned as follows:

**Missionary:** Elizabeth Tapia



**Jane Allen Middleton**  
Presiding Bishop



This is to certify that at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York on Saturday, June 13, 2015, pursuant to the election of the New York Annual Conference, I commissioned as follows:

**COMMISSIONED AS PROVISIONAL MEMBERS**

**Elder Track:**

Karina Feliz  
Melissa Hinnen  
Steve Young Dong Kim  
Yountae Kim  
Joyce Jayoon Lee  
Sun Joo Lee  
Sharon Angella Petgrave-Cundy  
Alison VanBuskirk Philip  
Siobhan A. Sargent  
Derrick T. Watson

**Deacon Track:**

Arletha Miles-Boyce

**RECEIVED LICENSE FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY**

Peter L. Brown	John Parille
Walter Curtis Haff	Amy Ayn Tompkins
Donna R. LeRoy	Ximena A. Varas



**Jane Allen Middleton  
Presiding Bishop  
Hempstead, New York  
June 13, 2015**

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**CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION**

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This is to certify that at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York on Saturday, June 13, 2015, pursuant to the election of the New York Annual Conference, I ordained, as follows:

**ELDER'S ORDERS AND FULL MEMBERSHIP**

Daniel J. Cho  
Suhee Kim  
Hwi Joon Park



**Presiding Bishop Jane Allen Middleton  
Hempstead, New York  
June 13, 2015**