

1 Section 1: Ministries of Witness

2 COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY

3 *Rev. Michael Barry, Co-Chair and Rev. Dr. Emily B. Hall, Co-Chair*

4 101. ***The mission and ministry of the New York Annual Conference Committee on Accessibility is to make each***
5 ***church within the Conference welcoming and accessible for all those who attend or visit a congregation;***
6 ***to advocate for all members of the Annual Conference, both clergy and laity, affected by a disability; to***
7 ***educate local, district, and conference leadership on matters of accessibility; and to uphold all other***
8 ***responsibilities and tasks designated to it by the Discipline.***

9 102. The Committee on Accessibility continued its focus this past year on Mental Health in the Church. Our
10 focus, although slow moving, has been centered on internal and external personalized and communal
11 training in our annual conference. We've begun our Mental Health First Aid training efforts in the
12 communities outside and within our conference boundaries. Rev. Hall and Rev. Barry have conducted
13 these three well-attended trainings for lay persons in the neighborhoods surrounding their ministry
14 settings. There had been two more trainings scheduled for Church leadership in the Goshen and Sugar
15 Loaf congregations when the current Pandemic became a reality; this has put a hold on these, as well as
16 new training efforts we sought to establish. The focus of the committee leadership has been prioritized in
17 the realm of Mental Health, as it's been clearly identified as a critical aspect of Pastoral Care and ministry
18 in our Annual Conference and more. The goal of this committee is to train as many clergy and church
19 leaders as possible in 2020 and 2021. We also seek to offer these valuable resources and training to first-
20 level responders, teachers, and all those who are in human service roles in the communities that make up
21 the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

22 103. We will continue to work with the conference boards and local church to revitalize and redirect the focus
23 of the Committee toward intense Conference-wide training, individual self-awareness, and strategic
24 advocacy for current and new emerging issues surrounding Disability and the Church. We, as a team, are
25 proud of the Committee's past work and efforts, but are looking forward to a much greater committee
26 presence and awareness throughout our Annual Conference at all Levels.

27 104. The Committee continues its movement toward bettering itself and becoming a very visible force for
28 justice within the local churches and the Annual Conference, as well as the greater Church. We continue to
29 work toward being a cherished Conference resource for individuals or churches with questions regarding
30 architectural, academic, social, or any other form of accessibility.

31 MISSION u

32 *Rev. Jeffrey L. Hooker, Dean*

33 101. Mission u was held from July 26 to July 28, 2019 at the Stamford Hilton in Stamford, Connecticut. We had
34 over 120 in attendance made up of people from across our conference. The overarching theme of the
35 event was "Learning Together for Transformation of the World."

36 102. We were transformed as we explored and studied together the "The Gospel of Mark: Radical Discipleship"
37 study in plenary style led by Rev. Walter Barton. In addition to the plenary, attendees were able to choose
38 one of two studies, "Women United For Change" and the "What About Our Money?" Saturday @ Mission
39 u was made available to those who could not get away for three days; the English class and the Korean
40 class did the "Mark and Radical Discipleship" study.

- 1 103. The Children and Youth School focused on the “The Gospel of Mark: Radical Discipleship” study and they
2 demonstrated what they learned in a stirring presentation on Saturday evening.
- 3 104. Mission u included morning praise and evening vespers hosted by the Districts. In addition, attendees
4 were able to enjoy the Mission Fair, UMW time and the prayer room when classes were not in session.
- 5 105. The Mission Fair hosted by the United Methodist Women was done in two parts, Friday and Saturday
6 evening. The participants were given the opportunity to get involved with mission projects and social
7 action issues.
- 8 106. The three day event ended with a word from the Lord, courtesy of Rev. Barton. Attendees were invited to
9 join in a communion experience that ended with a sending forth in to the world to share all that was
10 learned over the event.

11 **UNITED METHODIST MEN – Annual Report 2019-2020**

12 ***Benjamin Nelson, President***

- 13 101. The theme for the year 2019/2020 was “Men on Fire for God.”
- 14 102. March 2019: The United Methodist Men of the New York Annual Conference participated in their annual
15 prayer breakfast which was well attended. Men around the Conference were able to share testimonies of
16 how God blessed them and requested prayers for family, friends, and community.
- 17 103. May 2019: The UMM held their annual Luncheon and the event was well attended. There was a seminar
18 on men’s health, a conversation on prison ministry and a presentation on the importance of prayer by our
19 Prayer Advocate.
- 20 104. In July 2019, five brothers from the NYAC-UMM enjoyed participating in a Workshop on Leadership with
21 the North Eastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Men.
- 22 105. October 2019: The New York Conference held its annual Retreat. We were delighted to have our Bishop
23 Thomas J. Bickerton give an inspiring and uplifting message to the men of the NYAC. There were two
24 workshops: one led by our director of Connectional Ministries, Rev. Matt Curry entitled ‘Lead Like Jesus’;
25 and for the other, we were honored to have retired pastor, Rev. John T. Simmons to once again join us
26 and facilitate a workshop on the Power of Prayer.
- 27 106. Our Prayer Advocate, Jamie Novesteras continues to develop prayer ministries in the local churches. He is
28 currently working with the District Superintendent, Pastors, and the Board of Laity to build strong prayer
29 teams in the Conference.
- 30 107. The men of the NYAC are currently working on revitalizing the Scouting Ministry; the focus is to assist local
31 churches in developing positive character traits and productive skills in young men and women.
- 32 108. In March 2020, Benjamin Nelson, the NYAC-UMM chairperson and the Prayer Advocate, Jamie Novesteras
33 traveled to Nashville, TN. for training and development in Men’s Ministry and Prayer Advocacy. Benjamin
34 Nelson was elected as the 2nd Vice President of the National Organization of the UMM and as the
35 President of the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the UMM.
- 36 109. Our theme for this year is, ‘We are our Brother’s Keeper.’ Given the current state-of-affairs in our country
37 we do believe that this must be our focus. To help achieve our other goals we are currently providing
38 contact and assistance to local churches to ensure greater communication, collaboration, and
39 accountability. May we be filled with God’s grace and guided by the Holy Spirit as we journey on.

1 **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: Faith, Hope, Love in Action**

2 **Patricia L. Knebel, President**

- 3 101. In each annual conference there shall be a conference organization named United Methodist Women,
4 directly related to the jurisdictional and national organizations of United Methodist Women as well as the
5 district and local units within the conference, and to promote its work in accordance with the plans,
6 responsibilities and policies of the United Methodist Women's national organization. (UMW Constitution)
- 7 102. **We are women with a Purpose!** "United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose
8 purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a
9 creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global
10 ministries of the church."
- 11 103. During 2019 United Methodist Women celebrated 150 years of women in mission with an eye on building
12 on this strong foundation and moving forward into the future. The national Legacy Fund Endowment
13 Campaign is one part of this emphasis, designed to assure a financial foundation to support missions with
14 women, children and youth far into the future. Since it was established in 2014, New York Conference
15 United Methodist Women have contributed over \$150,000 to the Legacy Fund.
- 16 104. In 2020, we celebrate and congratulate three of our members who have completed Deaconess training
17 and who were scheduled to be consecrated at the General Conference originally scheduled for May 2020:
18 Monica Bartley, Christi Campos, and Gail Douglas-Boykin.
- 19 105. In churches and districts across our conference, United Methodist Women units have been studying;
20 praying; actively supporting local missions; learning about and supporting UMW mission priorities
21 (Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline, Living Wage 4 All, Just Energy 4 All, and Maternal Health); and
22 supporting national and international mission institutions through their pledges and offerings. The
23 conference organization: supported these efforts; participated actively in Mission u; and conducted an
24 Annual Meeting with celebrations of mission work accomplished, adoption of a budget, and election of
25 officers and jurisdiction nominees and delegates. Three conference officers and 2 women general
26 conference delegates attended national leadership development in St. Louis in February. Since March
27 2020, as no in-person meetings have been possible, including scheduled UMW jurisdiction events, we
28 continue working virtually to worship, study, be in supportive fellowship, plan, and be in mission. New
29 members of the National Board of Directors and officers for the Northeastern Jurisdiction will be elected
30 utilizing virtual technology in July 2020.