

“It’s Revival Time!”

The New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
Special Annual Conference Session
White Plains High School – White Plains, NY
Saturday, September 24, 2022

And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, empower, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever; Amen. - (1 Peter 5:10-11 NRSV)

- 8:00 am Arrival**
- 8:45 am Gathering Music**
- 9:00 am Opening worship - REVIVAL**

You are my strength, strength like no other
Hear my cry Oh Lord, attend unto my prayer
From the end of the earth, will I cry out to thee
When my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the rock
That is higher than I that is higher than I

WE GATHER

Welcome - Ms. Monique Blount and Rev. Young Choi, (Conference Sessions Co-chairs)

Praise and Worship

It’s so Amazing, your love for me
It’s so amazing, your sacrifice for me
For every blessing, given unto me
For every valley you used to strengthen me
I don’t deserve your love, your tender mercy
If not for your grace where would I be
I stand amazed at glory, I stand amazed at your strength
I stand amazed at your power, so amazing amazing

Opening Prayer/Liturgy - Rev. Alpher Sylvester

O Lord, how excellent is your name in all the earth. We gather as your Church, the body of Christ, the people of God in this place representing the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. And the people of the Catskill Hudson District respond:

We the people of the Catskill Hudson District are ready to revive our souls through the Cooperative Parishes of Asbury, Columbia-Greene, Delaware, East Sullivan, Esopus, Mountaintop, Onteora, Riverside, Southern Valley, Western Orange, and Western Sullivan for the power and the glory of the God of all Grace.

It is good to be together; to behold the face of one another - our family, brothers and sisters. So much has happened since we last assembled, so much pain and loss, fatigue and anxiety but by your grace we are here this morning and we celebrate the gift of one another. And the people of the Connecticut District respond:

We the people of the Connecticut District are ready to revive our souls through the Cooperative Parishes of CT Central, Greater Bridgeport, Greater Hartford, Meriden, The New Room, Northwest, Shoreline and Haven, The Valley, and Western Frontier for the power and the glory of the God of all Grace.

Bless our time together and may this gathering be a witness of your grace. Focus our minds, soften our words, open our hearts, and make us ready to receive what you have for us. And the people of the Long Island East District respond:

We the people of the Long Island East District are ready to revive our souls through the Cooperative Parishes of Central Nassau, Central Suffolk, Easter End, Middle Island, North Middle Island, North Shore Nassau, North Shore Suffolk, South Central, South Shore, Southwestern End/County Line, and Western End for the power and the glory of the God of all Grace.

In your mercy, do not restore us to who we were but give us a new vision of hopefulness. Renew us to what is yet to be and strengthen our resolve to do your glorious work of liberation, healing, peace, and justice for all. And the people of the Long Island West District respond:

We the people of the Long Island West District are ready to revive our souls through the Cooperative Parishes of Brooklyn Central, Brooklyn Downtown, Brooklyn Downtown South, Brooklyn Southwest, Nassau, Queens Central, Queens North, Queens South, and Queens West for the power and the glory of the God of all Grace.

May your Holy Spirit revive our souls, giving us courage and leading us forward. Remind us that you dwell with us always and your grace is sufficient for all that we are called to do. And the people of the Metropolitan District Respond:

We the people of the Metropolitan District are ready to revive our souls through the Cooperative Parishes of Eastern Bronx, Greater Harlem, Greater White Plains, Lower Hudson Valley, New Amsterdam, New York Harbor, Upper Manhattan, and Western Bronx for the power and the glory of the God of all Grace.

Hear our prayers, O Lord, as we attend to the business of your church. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. And the people of the New York Connecticut District respond:

We the people of the New York Connecticut District are ready to revive our souls through the Cooperative Parishes of Eastern Orange, Northern Hills, Northern Westchester Parish, Ridgefield, Southern Dutchess, Southern Fairfield for the power and the glory of the God of all Grace.

And all God's people say
Amen

Passing of the Peace - Ms. Janine Ware

Hymn - "And Are We Yet Alive" – UMH #553

WE PROCLAIM

Scripture – 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Message - *Take Aim* Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer – Rev. Derrick and Rev. Crystal Watson

And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, empower, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever; Amen.

As we enter our prayers of the people this morning, our response is

Leader: To serve the present age

People: our calling to fulfill

You will be invited to name your prayers lifting them into this space out loud or in the silence of your heart. Your voices will overlap and mingle with one another creating a song of prayer to God who hears and knows all. Let us pray.

God of all grace who knows our suffering
Thank you for Christ Jesus who is restoring, empowering, strengthening, and
establishing us individually and as your church.

Mighty God, strengthen the leaders of the NY Annual Conference for the mission of
reviving your people in the NY Annual Conference. Restore, empower, strengthen, and
establish them to live out your eternal glory in Christ:

Bishop Bickerton, District Superintendents, and the cabinet

Conference Staff

Cooperative Parish Leaders

Clergy and Laity

We pray with gratitude mingled with sorrow for the saints who rest from their labors
And we give thanks for those who have retired this year, for the new clergy who have
been ordained to serve you, and for those who are just hearing their call to ministry in
this moment.

Leader: To serve the present age

People: our calling to fulfill

Most powerful God, creator of the world

Empower us to be healers of your creation

Empower us to build up and plant for the restoration of you planet Earth

Empower us to see and welcome the stranger, especially those who are fleeing violence
and seeking refuge.

Empower us to be peacemakers when we see this country's leaders perpetuate
violence.

Leader: To serve the present age

People: our calling to fulfill

Gracious God, who knows our suffering

Pour out your Spirit on this gathered body of Christ

Hear our prayers for your church, your world, and all those whom we love

As we lift them out loud into this space in our heart language or raise them to you in the
silence of our soul.

Leader: To serve the present age

People: our calling to fulfill

According to your abundant mercy, receive all these prayers and establish us to be
agents of your empowerment, strength, and restoration in the world for revival in the
name of Jesus who taught us to pray . . . Lord's Prayer

WE RESPOND

Hymn – “*A Charge to Keep I Have*” - *UMH #413*

Opening of the Special Annual Conference Session

Organizational Rules Dr. Gennifer Brooks and Ms. Margaret Howe

GNTV – David Wood

Report from Nominations – Rev. David Henry

JFON Board

Conference Trustees

Conference committees

Litany of discipleship “We are in Covenant” – Rev. Roslyn Lee:

We give thanks to you, O Lord, for these your servant leaders who have been called to serve on behalf of the people of the New York Annual Conference. Grant them grace to give themselves wholeheartedly in your service. Reward their faithfulness that through them and all of us your purposes might be fulfilled to the glory of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Revive our souls, O Lord.

May Christ always be with you, to lead, guide, and strengthen you; to give you wisdom and discernment in all things so that you might be good stewards of justice, hope, and good-will.

Revive our souls, O Lord.

You are not alone for we stand together. In the darkness, the waiting and uncertainty, God takes us into action, challenges us to work for change, to bear one another’s burdens, and to be used by the Holy Spirit to build communities of hope.

Revive our souls, O Lord.

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us. Help us to work in love, peace, joy, and unity so that our life together may be a sign of your presence and so that your purposes might be fulfilled. Revive our souls and give us courage for the journey.

Revive our souls, O Lord, and give us courage for the journey. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Musical Selection

Stretch break 5 minutes

11:00 am - Praise and Worship songs reflecting God's abundance (2-3 songs)

Prayer - Mr. Dawson Horn

Report from Conference Finance and Administration (CF&A) –

Mr. Jerry Eyster and Mr. Kevin Feltz

Budget Vote

Musical Selection – “God’s Strength Is Perfect” - Amiyra Mason arr. R. Trapp

The Great Thanksgiving - Bishop Bickerton and Rev. Doris Dalton

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Reviving Resurrecting God you made us in your image and placed us in the garden of original grace.

You gave us everything we needed but we chose to go our own way.

We entered into lives of chaos and broken relationships.

Some of us become perpetrators of racism and misogyny.

Some of us made you into our own graven image.

We fractured your vision for us.

You sent prophets to guide us back to a full relationship with you and your creation.

You tried to empower us.

You promised to strengthen us.

You sent Jesus to show us the possibility of perfect love for you and for our neighbor.

You saved us from the worse parts of ourselves and set before us the way of revitalized life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you established your Church,
delivered us from lives that do not glorify you
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

By your great mercy we continue to be born anew
to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus and the revival of justice and joy.

We come as your imperfect people of the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church,
thankful for how you are at work within us reviving, empowering, strengthening, and establishing us to do Christ's work in the world.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread,
gave thanks to you,
broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, including the one who would betray him, the one who would deny him, and the one who would doubt him and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, revived, empowered, strengthened, and established by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at the heavenly table where right relationship with you and your creation is restored.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
To you be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The table is set. Every single person who desires a stronger relationship with God through Jesus is welcome at the table. This is God's table and crosses every boundary of race, age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, and socio-economic situation.

Receive the elements as they are passed in the baskets. You will also receive a small bottle of oil for later in the service.

If you require gluten-free wafers, please raise your hand. If you see that a neighbor needs help with the packaging, please help them.

This is the body of Christ broken for you.

This is the cup of salvation poured out for you. Amen

Special Offering for Hurricane Fiona (online Link available)

Music during communion

In Christ Alone, I place my trust
And find my glory in the power of the cross
In every victory, let it be said of me
My source of strength, my source of hope
Is Christ alone.

WE GO OUT

Call to Rededication - Rev. Melvin Boone

Benediction – Bishop Bickerton

12:30 pm - Closing of Special Session – Bishop Bickerton

Song- May the Peace of the Lord

May the peace of the Lord, go with you

The peace of the Lord, go with you

May God's spirit rest within you, to comfort and befriend you

God is right beside you to constantly remind you

God's peace it lives within.