



Upper New York Annual Conference 2024

Daily Notes June 1, 2024

The third and final day of Annual Conference opened with the monitoring report given by Ellen Klock and Charles Syms on behalf of the Conference Commissions on Religion and Race and Status and Role of Women.

Leadership report: The Revs. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding, Mike Weeden, Dr. Aaron Bouwens, along with Conference Lay Leader Jessica White named challenges and goals for vitality and celebrated the United Methodist connection and collaboration within the Conference.

- [Click here](#) to watch Manny Valdez (Short Version) video.
- [Click here](#) to watch Manny Valdez (Long Version) video at First United Methodist Church of Ontario.

Appointments: District superintendents read the names of pastors moving into new appointments. You can view the full appointment list [here](#).

Awards: Ken and Diane Thurlow of Central Park United Methodist Church in Buffalo were presented the Harry Denman Evangelism Award, and the One Matters Award was presented to Living Hope, Christ Church, Ogdensburg, and Madison United Methodist Churches.

Buffalo 10 Scholarship: Pastor Angela Stewart of Metropolitan United Methodist Church shared the names of those murdered in a racist massacre at a Tops grocery store in East Buffalo on May 14, 2022. The Rev. Tanya Spencer of Orchard Park United Methodist Church shared that though a scholarship won't solve white supremacy, the funds "can be a blessing by helping empower young people make the difference they feel called to make while lightening the burden of their loved ones," she said. Inaugural recipient Xavier Mann attending Lenoir-Rhyne University spoke to the conference. Dr. Scott Johnson announced the names of this year's recipients: Guyan Wiggins and Antoinette Pendegrass. "Xavier, Guyan, and Antoinette give us hope for the day that healing will be confirmed and justice will be our norm."

Recognitions: Bishop Héctor presented outgoing committee and board chairs with handmade crosses made by a UNY layperson.

Petitions:

A motion was made to suspend the rules to limit presentation and debate. The motion was supported.

Tom Schmidt presented on behalf of the resolutions and petitions committee.

UNYAC2024.1, “Beginning the Work of Reparations,” found on p. 45 of the *Pre-Conference Workbook*, was presented by Deacon Vivian Ruth Waltz presented the petition. One amendment from a petition author was proposed to include two youth on the suggested task force. The amendment was supported. The resolution was supported as amended.

UNYAC2024.2, “Local Congregation Seminary Grants and Scholarships,” found on p. 47 of the *Pre-Conference Workbook*, was presented by the Rev. Brett Johnson, who also amended the petition to change “January 1, 2025” to our “next annual conference session.” The resolution was supported as amended.

UNYAC2024.3, “Resolution to Create United Methodists of Upper New York Parental Leave Policy,” found on p. 49 of the *Pre-Conference Workbook*, was presented by the Rev. Jee Hae Song and Ian Urriola. An amendment was proposed to modify the requirement of 90 days notice to be “when feasible.” The amendment was to the appendix of resolution. The resolution was supported.

UNYAC2024.4, “Clergy Time Off Policy,” found on p. 58 of the *Pre-Conference Workbook*, was presented by the Rev. Kimberly Ferrel. The resolution was supported.

UNYAC2024.5, “End U.S. Funding for Israel’s Military Occupation of Palestine,” found on p. 59 of the *Pre-Conference Workbook*, was presented by the Rev. Merle Showers. The resolution was supported.

UNYAC2024.6 was withdrawn at a previous plenary.

UNYAC2024.7, “United Methodist Property and Events are Gun Free Zones,” found on p. 64 of the *Pre-Conference Workbook*, was presented by Heather Smith. An amendment was proposed to make exemptions for hired contracted security personnel. (The bishop clarified that this resolution applies only to conference-owned property, not by local churches, as they are stewarded by their own trustees.) A standing vote was taken, and the amendment was supported. An amendment was proposed to substitute the requirement that local churches post signs to instead encourage local churches to determine “what their needs are.” The amendment was supported. The resolution as amended was supported.

After all petitions were addressed, Bishop Héctor thanked organizers of annual conference and all who helped and participated. Conference Secretary the Rev. Carolyn Stow moved to adjourn and authorize a mail ballot if needed. The motion to adjourn was amended.

[Click here](#) for more information about Annual Conference, including stories, transcripts, and more.

[Click here](#) to view the Annual Conference Vimeo channel