

# UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCES 2024

- **GENERAL CONFERENCE**  
April 23-May 3, in Charlotte
- **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
May 19-21, in Wildwood
- **NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE**  
July 10-12, in Pittsburgh



# **GENERAL CONFERENCE**

- General Conference is the top lawmaking assembly of The United Methodist Church and speaks for the entire denomination. It convenes every four years, with delegates from the denomination's regions around the world.**
- The 2020 General Conference met in 2024 and approved major ground-breaking legislation that will change the structure of the conference and remove prohibitions relating to gay weddings and gay pastors.**

# Major Action: Regionalization

- Regionalization allows each region of the church to make decisions that will best support outreach and ministry efforts in their specific setting.
- Nine regional conferences will comprise The UMC: one in the U.S. and eight in Africa, Europe and the Philippines.
- Regional conferences can reorganize their annual conferences, districts or charge conferences to best serve their missional needs and convene their own judicial courts
- Regional conferences can develop practices around weddings, funerals and other rites that align with cultural contexts and laws in each country
- Regional conferences can work with annual conferences to ensure policies and practices align with the laws in each country
- Regional conferences can draft and publish their own regional Book of Discipline, hymnals, books of worship and other liturgical resources
- Regional conferences can set requirements for ordination and licensed ministry with respect to their needs and resources

# Major Action: Regionalization (continued)

- Regional conferences cannot create their own constitution or adopt any policy in violation of the constitution contained in the General Book of Discipline
- Regional conferences cannot alter Doctrinal Standards, Our Theological Task, The Ministry of All Christians or The Social Principles
- The regionalization plan will require amending the United Methodist Constitution. Constitutional amendments must be passed by at least 2/3 of General Conference, which already happened.
- Now, the amendments must be ratified by annual conferences. Amendments must be supported by 2/3 of the total voting members of all the annual conferences combined – this process could last until 2026.
- The Council of Bishops will announce when the amendments have met the threshold to become church law

# Major Action: Regionalization (continued)

The US Regional Conference would have the following jurisdictions and numbers of bishops and annual conferences:

- South Central Jurisdiction with 6 active bishops serving 10 annual conferences.
- Southeastern Jurisdiction with 10 bishops serving 14 annual conferences; one bishop shared with the Northeastern Jurisdiction.
- Northeastern Jurisdiction with 6 bishops serving 10 annual conferences; one Bishop shared with the Southeastern Jurisdiction.
- North Central Jurisdiction with 6 bishops serving 10 annual conferences.
- Western Jurisdiction with 5 bishops serving 7 annual conferences.  
Two bishops were elected in July.

# Major Action: Removal of Restrictive Language and Prohibitions

- Removal of the language that the “practice of homosexuality ... is incompatible with Christian teaching.”
- Removal of the ban on the ordination and appointment of “self-avowed practicing homosexual” clergy.
- Adopted the statement: “No clergy at any time may be required to provide for or compelled to perform, or prohibited from performing, any marriage, union, or blessing. All clergy have the right to exercise and preserve their conscience when requested to perform any marriage, union, or blessing.
- Affirmed that “marriage is a sacred, lifelong covenant that brings two people of faith (adult man and adult woman of consenting age or two adult persons of consenting age) into a union of one another and into deeper relationship with God and the religious community.

# Other Major Actions

- Approved a constitutional amendment addressing the denomination's commitment to eradicating racism.
- Approved an amendment to include "gender" and "ability" among the attributes that should not impede full participation in the life of the congregation.
- Approved a full communion agreement with the Episcopal Church.
- Approved a new defined contribution retirement plan for U.S. clergy, called Compass. The plan takes effect in 2026.
- Approved a motion to allow four Eurasian conferences to leave the denomination and form an autonomous church.
- Reduced the number of US Bishops to 32.

# NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

- Currently has 10 Annual Conferences
- Reduced its episcopal areas from nine to six at this conference
- Eight annual conferences will each share a bishop and two conferences will each have one bishop.
- Currently, the jurisdiction is served by seven bishops, including Bishop John Schol, who retires at this conference, and Bishop Peggy Johnson, who will return to retirement status
- Those retirements leave five active bishops.
- The 2024 General Conference voted in May to apportion six bishops to the Northeastern Jurisdiction
- Since no current bishops were able or willing to transfer, the NEJ agreed to share a bishop with the Southeastern Jurisdiction



# **NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION**

***The Northeastern Jurisdiction includes the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and West Virginia, as well as the District of Columbia.***

# *The Northeastern Jurisdiction* of The United Methodist Church



# EPISCOPAL ASSIGNMENTS

- **Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware:** Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling
- **Eastern Pennsylvania and Greater New Jersey:** Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
- **New York and New England:** Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
- **Upper New York and Susquehanna:** Bishop Héctor A. Burgos-Núñez
- **Western Pennsylvania:** Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball
- **West Virginia:** Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, who also will lead the Holston Conference in the Southeastern Jurisdiction

# The Northeastern Jurisdiction Episcopal Areas



Bishop Cynthia Moore-Kaikai

Greater New Jersey  
Eastern Pennsylvania



Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

Baltimore-Washington  
Peninsula-Delaware



Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

New England  
New York



Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez

Upper New York  
Susquehanna



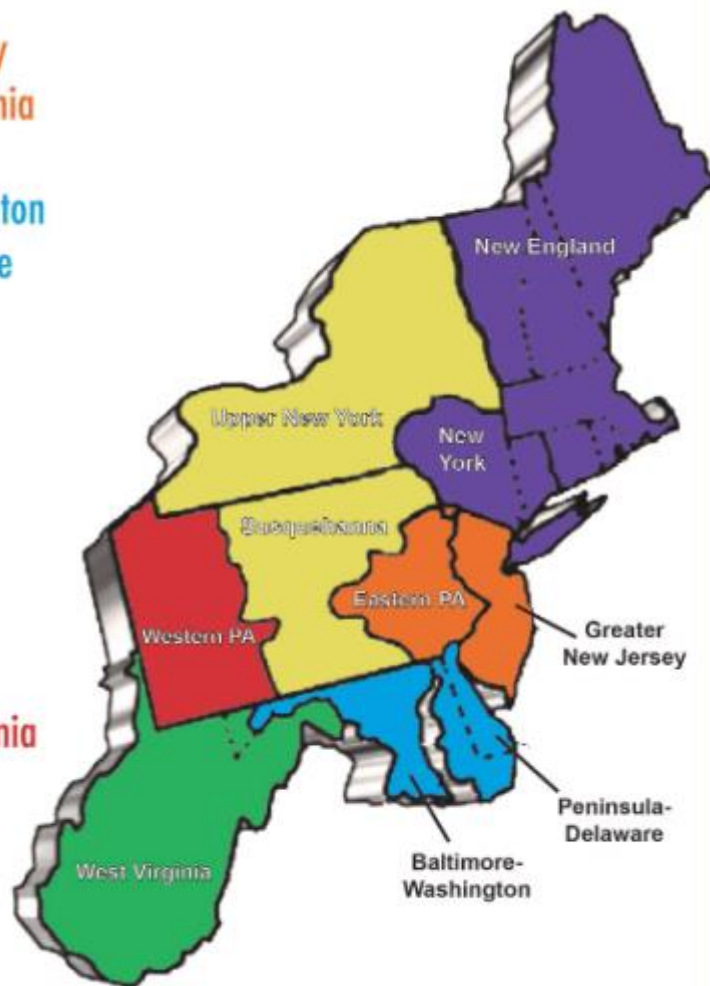
Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball

Western Pennsylvania



Bishop Debra Wallock-Padgett

West Virginia





**Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball**



**Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton**



**Bishop Héctor Burgos Núñez**



**Bishop LaTrelle Easterling**



**Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi**



**Bishop John Schol**

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- **Appointments and Closures**
  - Eight clergy members were ordained or commissioned
  - Five churches were closed
  - Numerous pastoral appointments were announced
- **Services**
  - Service of Commissioning and Ordination
  - Service of Remembrance
  - Service of Passage with Anointing
- **Legislation and Reports**

# Legislation and Reports

- Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Ethics
- Safe Sanctuary
- Memorandum Of Understanding with EPA
- Strategic Direction for GNJ
- Conference Financial Report and Budget
- Conference Advanced Specials, such as Ranch Hope, Pennington School, Makers' Place, etc.
- Trustees Enabling Resolutions: Repurposing churches rather than selling the property
- Minimum Parsonage Standards
- Pensions and health benefits for active and retired clergy
- Minimum Equitable Salaries
- GNJ Arrearage Policy
- A Future With Hope bylaws

# REFERENCES – GENERAL CONFERENCE

## **General Conference**

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>

## **The United Methodist Church Talking Points**

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/talking-to-your-congregation-about-general-conference-2020>

## **General Conference Legislative Recap**

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/general-conference-legislative-recap>

## **Effective Dates for General Conference Legislation**

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/effective-dates-for-general-conference-legislation>

## **Beginner's Guide to General Conference**

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/a-beginners-guide-to-general-conference>

## **General Conference News**

<https://www.gnjumc.org/news/gc-begins-with-a-spirit-of-cautious-hope/>

<https://www.gnjumc.org/news/long-delayed-general-conference-has-begun/>

<https://www.gnjumc.org/news/general-conference-april-29-review/>

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/40-year-ban-on-gay-clergy-struck-down>

## **Wrap-up Video General Conference**

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/wrap-up-video-general-conference-2020>

## **Regionalization**

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/regionalization-effective-ministry-in-every-culture>

## **UMC Organizational Map and Bishop Assignments see big changes**

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/us-sees-big-changes-in-bishop-assignments>

## **Episcopal Impacts to US jurisdictions**

<https://nejumc.org/interjurisdictional-committee-on-episcopacy-shares-report/>

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/bishops-in-us-receive-assignments>



# References – NE Jurisdictional Conference

## **NE Jurisdiction website**

<https://nejumc.org/>

## **NE Jurisdiction Conference website**

<https://nejumc.org/2024-jurisdictional-conference/>

## **NE Jurisdiction Conference Documents**

<https://nejumc.org/2024-documents/>

## **NE Jurisdiction Conference News**

<https://www.gnjumc.org/news/wrestling-with-hope-nej-begins-with-memorial-service-and-communion/>

<https://www.gnjumc.org/news/overflowing-with-scriptures-hymns-and-tongsung-prayers-northeastern-jurisdiction-gathers-in-pittsburgh/>

NE Bishops confirm decisions of the General Conference

<https://www.gnjumc.org/news/bishops-confirm-end-to-church-disaffiliations-freedom-regarding-same-gender-weddings/>

## **Episcopal Impacts to US jurisdictions**

<https://nejumc.org/interjurisdictional-committee-on-episcopacy-shares-report/>

<https://nejumc.org/nej-reduces-episcopal-areas-to-six-will-share-bishop-wallace-padgett-with-sej/>

<https://www.umnews.org/-/media/umc-media/2024/07/12/21/58/nej-episcopal-map-2204-2247px>

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/bishops-in-us-receive-assignments>

<https://www.gnjumc.org/news/gnj-epa-ahead-of-the-curve-with-collaboration-and-mous/>

# REFERENCES – ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## **2024 Annual Conference Videos and Agenda**

<https://www.gnjumc.org/ac2024/>

## **2024 Annual Conference FAQs**

<https://www.gnjumc.org/ac2024/faqs/>

## **2024 Annual Conference Workshops**

<https://www.gnjumc.org/ac2024/2024-focus-groups-2/>

## **2024 Annual Conference Focus Groups**

<https://www.gnjumc.org/ac2024/2024-focus-groups/>

## **2024 Annual Conference Workbook**

[https://www.gnjumc.org/content/uploads/2024/04/GNJ-PCWB-2024\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.gnjumc.org/content/uploads/2024/04/GNJ-PCWB-2024_WEB.pdf)

## **EPA GNJ MOU**

<https://www.gnjumc.org/news/gnj-epa-ahead-of-the-curve-with-collaboration-and-mous/>