

CROSS & FLAME

JULY 2012

WPAUMC.ORG

Delegates to Elect New Bishops

In the United Methodist Church, each congregation is part of a district and a conference, officially called an annual conference because all clergy and at least one lay member from each church or charge in the geographic area meet yearly to conduct official business. The Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference session was held in June.

Every four years, each conference sends delegates to both the General Conference, a worldwide denominational gathering, held this year from April 24-May 4 in Tampa, Florida, and to a jurisdictional conference, where bishops are elected and assigned.

In the United States, jurisdictional conferences will be held July 18-21, 2012. Western Pennsylvania's 14 lay and 14 clergy delegates, along with alternates, will gather with delegates from the nine other conferences at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference (NEJ) in Charleston, West Virginia.

Three new bishops will be elected to replace three who are retiring this year: Bishop Peter Weaver, a Western Pennsylvanian who currently serves in New England; Bishop Ernest Lyght, who served in West Virginia until taking a medical leave several months ago; and Bishop Jane Allen Middleton, who serves the Susquehanna Conference.

Once new bishops are elected, the NEJ Episcopacy Committee will assign the six current and three new bishops to serve a geographic area for the next four years. Bishops often are reassigned to the same area for a second four-year term. After eight years, however, they generally are moved to a new area unless special circumstances require a third four-year term in the same area.

In the NEJ, Bishops Thomas J. Bickerton of Western PA, Sudarshana Devadhar of Greater New Jersey; Jeremiah Park of New York, and John Schol of Baltimore-Washington have all served eight years in their current assignments. Two other bishops—Peggy Johnson, who serves both the Eastern PA and Peninsula-Delaware conferences, and Marcus Matthews, who serves Upper New York, have been in their areas for just one four-year term.

Bishops begin serving their new terms on September 1.

To follow the balloting and assignment of bishops, use the NEJ Conference link at wpaumc.org.



NEJ 2012 Conference
Charleston, WV, July 18-20, 2012

BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER

Join United Methodists throughout Western Pennsylvania in studying these Bible passages from the Revised Common Lectionary and praying for these congregations and leaders.

JULY 1 - 7, 2012

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST-GREEN

READ: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

PRAY FOR: † **Connellsville: Albright UMC**, Connellsville Dist., Steven M. Lamb, pastor
† **Slippery Rock UMC**, Butler Dist., Keith H. McIlwain, pastor
† **Woodcock UMC**, Erie-Meadville Dist., Audrey L. Lovewell, pastor
† **Luxor UMC**, Greensburg Dist., D. Bruce Keen, pastor

JULY 8 - 15, 2012

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST-GREEN

READ: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

PRAY FOR: † **Acme and Barren Run UMCs**, Connellsville Dist., John A. Logan, pastor
† **Natrona Heights: Center UMC**, Butler Dist., James H. Ritchie, Jr., pastor
† **New Florence Charge**, Indiana Dist., Sharon Hamley, pastor; Ron Gardner, associate
† **Cooperstown Charge**, Franklin Dist., Joseph P. Martin, pastor

JULY 15 - JULY 21, 2012

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST-GREEN

READ: 2 Samuel 6:1-5; 12b-19; Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

PRAY FOR: † **Uniontown: Calvary UMC**, Connellsville Dist., Keith H. Lohr, pastor
† **South Fork: First UMC**, Johnstown Dist., Terry R. Trudgen, pastor
† **Pymatuning Charge**, Franklin Dist., John F. Bargar, pastor
† **Monroeville: Garden City UMC**, Greensburg Dist., Scott R. McCormick, pastor

JULY 22 - JULY 28, 2012

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST-GREEN

READ: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

PRAY FOR: † **Johnstown: Calvary Charge**, Johnstown Dist., Donald R. Brauer, pastor
† **McKeesport: First, Kephart Memorial, Wesley UMCs**, Greensburg Dist., Deborah Kociban, pastor
† **Good Shepherd Parish**, Indiana Dist., Donald Henderson, pastor; Lila Bachelier, associate
† **Bakerstown UMC**, Pittsburgh Dist., Dennis Swineford, pastor
† **Waynesburg: First UMC**, Washington Dist., Gary L. Grau, pastor

JULY 29 - AUGUST 4, 2012

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST-GREEN

READ: 2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

PRAY FOR: † **Whitaker UMC**, Pittsburgh Dist., Wendy L. Henderson, pastor
† **Carmichaels: First UMC**, Washington Dist., Bruce R. Judy, pastor
† **Grand Valley/Sanford UMCs**, Kane Dist., Ralph K. Culp, pastor
† **Monongahela: First UMC**, Washington Dist., Ronald E. Fleming, pastor