

WHAT'S NEW ONLINE?

Follow AC '15 with live coverage on Conference website

There will be no *Weekly Digests* sent the weeks of May 27 and June 3 because the Conference Communications Ministry Area will be posting news about the 2015 Annual Conference session to the Conference website as it happens. You can find all news items tagged with "Annual Conference 2015" at www.tinyurl.com/AC2015NewsSearch or simply browse the website. The *Weekly Digest* will return to its regular publishing schedule the week of June 10.

You can also follow the AC' 15 session with our live stream when it goes active at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27

www.unyumc.org/events/ac-live

Superhero costumes, mosquito nets help *Imagine No Malaria*

www.tinyurl.com/SuperCostumesINM

'Blessed' volunteers build home for family

www.tinyurl.com/HomeForBlairFamily

If you missed the pre-conference briefings, you can watch a video of the briefing at the Asbury Camp & Retreat Center

www.unyumc.org/news/video/6042

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

May 25 – Memorial Day, Conference & District offices closed

May 27-30 – 2015 Annual Conference session, OnCenter, Syracuse

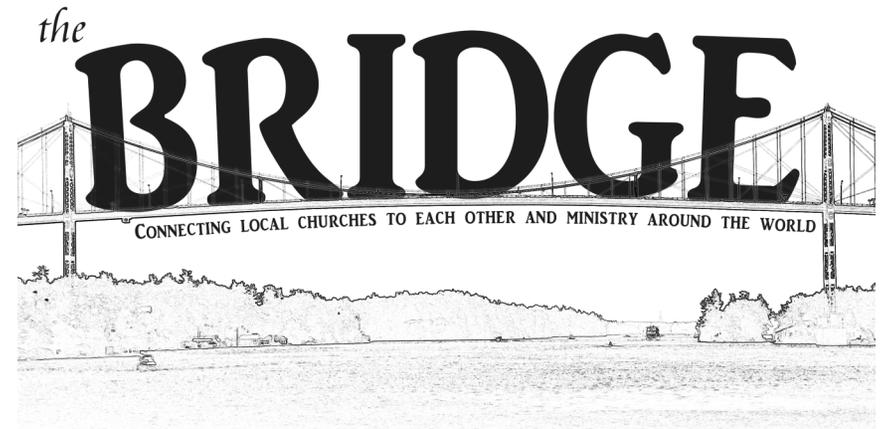
May 31 – Peace with Justice Sunday

www.tinyurl.com/PeaceWithJustice2015

The Bridge is a Conference Communications Ministry tool that delivers to local churches news and stories of ministry from around the Conference and the world.

www.unyumc.org

KEEP IN PRAYER THE 2015 AC SESSION: MAY 27-30



The Upper New York Conference's vision is to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places.

A LOOK INSIDE!

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How the AC session impacts you

The Annual Conference session is a yearly meeting for clergy and laity to worship and to conduct Conference business. But what does the AC session mean for congregants? Here are the top seven affects of the session:

- Future goals are set. For example, there will be reports presented about the Conference goal with regards to leadership development, more detail about the mission map (the strategic plan for the Conference), and the FACT Report (“a resource to help achieve Conference vitality and sustainability”). View the report at www.tinyurl.com/qcqrbo.
- Future programs are adopted. Last year, for example, the Conference approved \$1M for *Imagine No Malaria* as part of *Africa 360*, and the *Illuminate Preaching Academy* – which enhances pastors’ preaching skills – rolled out. This year, the *Leadership Academy* will launch.
- Future budgets are adopted, which impact ministry shares and determine where ministry dollars are focused. View the proposed budget in the Pre-Conference Workbook: www.tinyurl.com/PCworkbook.
- Petitions and resolutions are voted upon. Resolutions and petitions impact everything from our public stance on political issues to the way clergy are cared for.
- Clergy are commissioned and ordained. The path to ordination begins when a local church formally endorses a member to explore a call to pastoral ministry. After many steps, that individual is elected by clergy colleagues into Conference

membership at clergy session, ordained to representative ministry on behalf of the Church by the Bishop, and appointed to a local church or other ministry setting.

- Pastoral appointments become official and are celebrated at AC session. This is when pastors are assigned to Conference churches.
- **Special this year:** Delegates from our Conference will be elected to serve at General and Jurisdictional conferences (May 10-20, 2016; July 11-15, 2016). General Conference is the top decision-making body for The United Methodist Church for all matters; Jurisdictional Conference is charged with, among other things, electing the bishops of the Church.
- **Special this year:** There will be an *Act of Repentance*, where attendees are invited to repent for the wrongs United Methodists have committed against Native people. Clergy and laity are encouraged to bring elements from the service to their local churches.

Every AC session is different, and there are many other ways congregations are impacted. Be sure to stay informed.

5 ways to connect to AC '15

- Visit www.unyumc.org/news/video/6042 to watch a Pre-Conference briefing
- Visit www.unyumc.org/events/ac-live to view the session’s live stream
- Visit www.tinyurl.com/UNYAC15 to view AC news items
- Follow or use hashtag “#UNYAC15” on social media
- Look for the Post-Conference issue of the *Advocate*

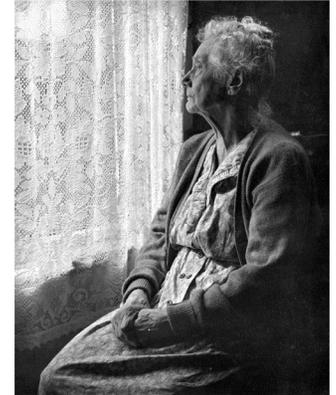
GOLDEN CROSS OFFERING

SUNDAY, MAY 17
or a Sunday of your choosing

**This is someone’s mother,
or sister, or aunt.**

This is OUR mother, sister, aunt.

**We are the Church, the community
of God, and our elderly in
residential care belong to US.**



The chaplaincy programs of the senior-living facilities within the Upper New York Conference offer visitation, Bible study and worship opportunities.

Chaplains minister to the individual spiritual needs of residents. They have officiated at weddings, baptisms and in offering Holy Communion. They also act as liaisons between residents and their local church pastors. These programs are an essential component of residents’ total well-being. The work that chaplains do each day helps to maintain a model of care that allows senior residents to age with dignity and grace.

Please give to the chaplaincy program at United Methodist associated homes in the Upper New York Conference by donating to the Golden Cross Offering.

www.tinyurl.com/GoldenCross2015