

needs,” Bishop Proctor said. “This is more than symbolic reconciliation; it is the format for the construction of the beloved community.”

The Service of Commissioning and Ordination will take place on the final day of Annual Conference, June 2, at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse.

In Brief

Annual Conference 2018 Registration open

Get excited for Annual Conference, May 30-June 2 and Onondaga Community College’s SRC Arena! Registration is now open. Visit <http://bit.ly/UNYAC2018> to obtain more information about the 2018 Annual Conference session, including the registration form, the menu, and the housing form.



Getting to Annual Conference

The 2018 Annual Conference is being held at the SRC Arena at Onondaga Community College (OCC), located at 4585 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse NY 13215. Visit <http://bit.ly/gettingtoAC2018> to learn about shuttle service to and from OCC, driving, and parking during Annual Conference.

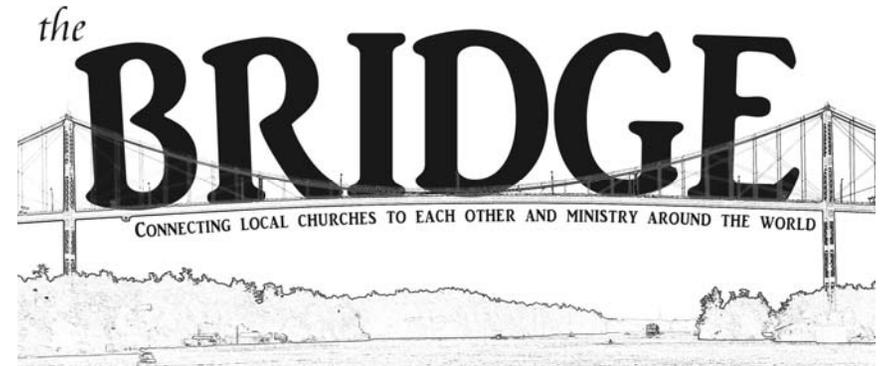
Meals at Annual Conference

All meals will be buffet style with the exception of special banquets. New this year is a continental-style breakfast from 7-9 AM Thursday morning, welcoming guests as they arrive to Annual Conference. Visit <http://bit.ly/AC2018meals> to learn more about the meal service and what's to eat around OCC and visit <http://bit.ly/AC2018menu> to view the lunch and dinner menu May 31- June 2.

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

www.unyumc.org

To learn more about the Upper New York Annual Conference visit:
<http://www.unyumc.org/events/annual-conference>



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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Dr. Rev. Gregory Jones, Annual Conference 2018 Study Leader



The Dr. Rev. Gregory Jones of Duke Divinity School will be the guest study leader and this year's Annual Conference (AC2018).

Rev. Jones said, "There is a distinctive Wesleyan Way to living and thinking and feeling as Christians, and we can chart significant paths forward into the future by mining our own best insights. This Wesleyan Way involves holding things together that others put into opposition and involves us embodying a powerful vision of social innovation." Rev. Jones will be drawing insights from the Wesleyan movement in England and will also provide modern-day examples of the Wesleyan Way in the United States and around the world.

Rev. Jones will be leading two study sessions. The title of his first

presentation is "The End is our Beginning." Rev. Jones said, "This presentation focuses on the importance of us being guided by a robust vision of the Reign of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit in conforming us to Christ while making all things new."

The title of Rev. Jones' second presentation is "Forming Christians for Social Innovation." Rev. Jones said, "The second presentation will focus on friendships and practices that shape and form us to be people who bear witness to the Holy Spirit's work."

Rev. Jones' presentations will certainly fit nicely into the AC2018

theme: "Together in Prayer: Boldly living our Call." When asked about the theme, Rev. Jones said, "Prayer is at the heart of keeping us focused on the End (bearing witness to the Reign of God and testifying to the power of the Holy Spirit). We are to be discerning our calling in all we are and do, laity and clergy alike. And we need to do so boldly by imagining and embodying extraordinary social innovation in the world."

You will leave AC2018 inspired with some imaginative examples and empowered with specific calls-to-action you can do in your home contexts after hearing Rev. Jones' presentations.

Bishop Proctor serving as Annual Conference 2018 ordination



Bishop Dennis Proctor of the North Eastern Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church will serve as the ordination speaker for the AC2018

"I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to speak to young ordinands," Bishop Proctor said. "As a Methodist Bishop, I feel that the setting aside of young women and men in ministry is indeed a sacred privilege. As such, the charge delivered at the ordination service is weighty!"

Bishop Proctor has a clinical pasto-

ral experience diploma from Western Reserve Psychiatric Habilitation Center, a Juris Doctor from The Ohio State University College of Law, and a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary.

In addition to his education, he is the founding president of the Congress of National Black Churches, Baltimore Affiliate, co-authored *Christians Under Construction*, and served on his denomination's Connectional Budget Board and Overseas Missions Board.

As ordination speaker, Bishop

Proctor said he will attempt to place a counter-culture argument to these preachers in the Wesleyan tradition, "one intent on being a credible Christian example to the flock of God."

Bishop Proctor said through the invitation to serve as ordination speaker at this year's UNYAC session, Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb is demonstrating the full scope of itinerant collaboration.

"We are shepherds of the Lord's sheepfold. Different sheep, same

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