

The gatherings will be offered through a live stream in all 12 Upper New York Conference Districts at the following locations:

- Albany District:  
Shenendehowa UMC
- Adirondack District:  
Saratoga Springs UMC
- Binghamton District:  
Endwell UMC
- Crossroads District:  
Cicero UMC
- Cornerstone District:  
Bemus Point UMC and
- Finger Lakes District:  
Cortland First UMC
- Genesee Valley District:  
Rush UMC
- Mohawk District:  
New Hartford First UMC
- Mountain View District:  
Avoca UMC
- Niagara Frontier District:  
Clarence UMC
- Northern Flow District:  
Canton UMC
- Oneonta District:  
Oneonta First UMC

## In Brief

### Register now for Annual Conference

Registration is now open for the Upper New York Annual Conference session, held June 5-8 at the Syracuse OnCenter. Visit <http://www.unyumc.org/events/annual-conference> to obtain more information about the 2019, including the registration form, menu, and housing information.

### Applications for delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conference

The Conference Committee on Sessions is now accepting applications from those who wish to be considered as candidates for the role of delegate to the 2020 General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference. Visit [http://bit.ly/UNYdelegate\\_application](http://bit.ly/UNYdelegate_application) to learn more.

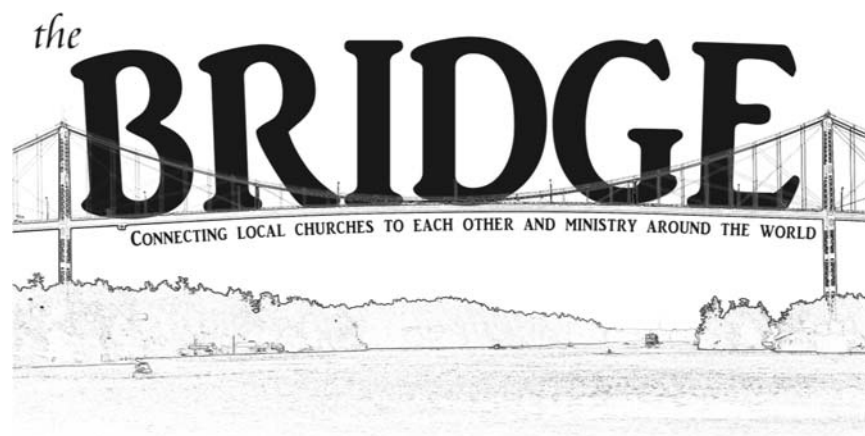
### Nominations being accepted for Conference leadership vacancies

The Upper New York Conference Committee on Nominations is accepting nominations to fill vacancies on various conference leadership teams. Visit [http://bit.ly/UNY\\_leadership\\_nominations](http://bit.ly/UNY_leadership_nominations) to learn more.

*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. For more news and stories visit:*

**[www.unyumc.org](http://www.unyumc.org)**

In addition to Bishop Mark J. Webb's letter following the Special Session of General Conference, he has released a video with both additional information and his personal insights. You can view the video at: <http://bit.ly/BishopWebbmessage>



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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# A letter from Bishop Mark J. Webb following the Special Session

*Editor's Note: Upper New York Area Resident Bishop, Mark J. Webb sent the following letter to the Upper New York Conference on Wednesday Feb. 27, 2019.*

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

The Special Session of the General Conference has concluded with the passage of The Traditional Plan. No matter where you stand on the decision and the direction taken by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, the reality is that we are a Church in deep pain and great division. I want you to know I see and feel the hurt that many of you are feeling today—a feeling that your Church has let you down. These last few days have been emotional for all and deeply harmful for many. That reality grieves my spirit. I have been in deep prayer for all of you—for all of us.

Yet, in this very present reality is a truth. Christ is with us, amid our pain. In the midst of our brokenness, the resurrected Christ is with us. The One who offers us the promise of abundant life has not forsaken us. We are the body of Christ, called to loving God, loving one

another and offering the love of Jesus Christ to the world.

The road ahead will not be an easy one for us as individuals and as a Church. I commit to traveling this road with each of you. Upper New York is a collection of beautiful people with a commitment to Christ and a potential for ministry that is endless. We can travel this road together. We can choose to stand against a culture of division and be a people who pray together, talk with one another, choose to love each other, and most importantly help one another find the ways in which we live out God's call upon our individual lives and our life together with fruitfulness and faithfulness.

Over the next few weeks and months, our commitment to Christ and one another will be tested and given an opportunity to be lived out in ways that we cannot imagine – ways that can witness to the healing presence of God. We are a people of different opinions and convictions, but our hope is a common one found in the person of Jesus Christ! May we pursue that hope with one another, in one another, and for one another.

Let us remember that we are the Church and we can choose whether we



will perpetuate the pain in one another or surround one another in a spirit of encouragement and love. I hope you will join me on Sunday March 17 from 4-6 p.m. for a livestreamed Conference-wide time of worship, prayer, sharing, and questions. Let us remember that God has called us to be the hands, feet and voice of Christ in the midst of the world.

Know I deeply love you, am grateful

for you, while holding you constantly in prayer. Pray for me.

Blessings,

Mark J. Webb,  
Bishop, Upper New York Area

## Post Special Session, Upper New York Conference-wide livestream gathering locations announced

Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb and Upper New York Conference leadership understand that many people are grieving after the re-

sults of Special Session. They believe that now it is more important than ever to gather together as a Conference and fill our hearts with faith in Jesus Christ.

All clergy and lay members of the Conference are invited to join Bishop Webb, and Upper New York Conference leadership in a time of worship, sharing,

questions, and prayer on March 17 from 4-6 p.m.

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