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**Streams: a bi-weekly source for nourishing ministries and souls**

1 message

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**Many Waters District** <msgs-neumc-1408@brtapp.com>  
Reply-To: Many Waters District <ka-mwoffice@neumc.org>  
To: unionchurchmaine@gmail.com

Wed, Jan 29, 2025 at 3:46 PM



## Many Waters District News

**Streams: a bi-weekly source for nourishing ministries and souls**

**January 29, 2025**



### **Join a Prayer Service of Solidarity with Our Immigrant Neighbors**

**At 7 pm on Thursday, Jan. 30**, we will gather to pray for our immigrant neighbors who are particularly vulnerable at this time. Following the prayer service we will share information on the current government policy changes

and some best practices for how to be in ministry with those who are vulnerable.

[Read a Jan. 25, 2025 pastoral letter from Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton Register](#)



**On Saturday, February 1**, the District Finance Team will be hosting a free stewardship preaching workshop entitled **“Faith Over Fear”** at Brunswick UMC from 9 AM to 2 PM. Lunch will be provided.

Both clergy and laity are invited to attend. Rev. Dr. David Abbott, Director of Stewardship & Leadership Development at the United Methodist Foundation of New England, will be the presenter.

Topics covered during the workshop include the theology of stewardship, year-round stewardship, creating stewardship sermons for various seasons of the Christian year, and more.

**In Person:** [Please register here](#)

**Livestream:** [Brunswick UMC, YouTube](#)

### **2024 Church Conference Reports closing January 31**

Thank you to all of our churches who have completed and submitted all of their 2024 Church Conference reports in the church dashboard.

***2024 reports will be closing on January 31, 2025.*** After that date, any additional reports must be added by contacting the district office at [ka-mwoffice@neumc.org](mailto:ka-mwoffice@neumc.org)

**Pastors and Lay Supply leaders of churches are responsible** for ensuring that all reports are complete and submitted by 1/31/25.

**Do you have a calling to serve as leadership in the district? Below are some committees that may have openings.**

### **District Conference Nominations**

A district conference will be held via **Zoom on Monday, February 24 at 6:30 PM** for the purpose of electing Equalization Members and to vote on nominations for district committees. We are currently inviting nominations for the following committees:

- **District Board of Church Location and Building**

This committee is charged with reviewing building renovations, construction, and acquisition or sales plans of the local church. The Board is the primary group responsible for the prevention of serious errors in church locations, facilities, financing, and construction. The Board's approval is necessary for the purchase of a church site, for every major building decision made by local churches, and for the purchase of a district parsonage.

- **District Committee on Superintendency**

This committee is primarily responsible for providing support, counsel, and advice to the District Superintendent (DS) in overseeing the pastoral leadership and ministry of local churches within the district.

- **District Committee on Ordained Ministry**

This committee is responsible for reviewing and recommending candidates for certification, licensing, or ordination, assessing their spiritual maturity, character, and suitability for ministry. This includes tasks such as conducting interviews, reviewing credentials, and providing feedback to the annual conference on potential pastors; essentially acting as a gatekeeper for ordained ministry within the district.

- **District Lay Servant Ministries Committee**

This committee plans and supervises the Lay Servant Ministries program within the district. Tasks include planning Lay Servant courses, assisting in the certification and recertification of Certified Lay Speakers and Certified Lay Ministers, and supporting and affirming Lay Servants, Lay Speakers, and Certified Lay Ministers as they serve. The committee works collaboratively with the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries.

- **District Congregational Development Team**



This committee seeks to help churches do new things in new ways to reach new people. Tasks include providing congregational training and resources, helping to revitalize existing churches, and shepherding churches in decline and crisis.

- **District Committee on Finance**

This committee serves as a resource for local churches with regard to education about stewardship and financial matters. The committee also is available as a resource for concerns about Mission Shares and has been proactive in working with churches who have struggled to meet their obligations.

- **District Leadership Committee**

This committee serves as “talent scouts” in the district. They help to identify people who have gifts and graces for service beyond the local church, and ultimately provide nominations for leaders and members of the district committees and teams.

### **2025 Annual Conference Equalization Members**

The 2025 New England Annual Conference will be Thursday, June 19 – Saturday, June 21. Attendees may participate via Zoom, or in person (Boston North Shore Double Tree, [50 Ferncroft Rd., Danvers, MA](#)). Each district is looking for suggestions or self-nominations of lay people who would like to be considered as an equalization member. These people serve in addition to a church designated Lay Member of Annual Conference.

Equalization members balance (equalize) the number of active and retired clergy members voting at conference. Lay equalization members have full voice and vote at annual conference except election of Clergy delegates, and on the matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.

Qualifications:

- Must have been a member of the UMC for two years preceding election.
- Must have been active in the UMC for the preceding 4 years.

Additionally, each district should nominate the following as equalization members (these

nominees do not need to meet the two-year/four-year requirements above, but do need to be active professing members of the UMC):

- Two of whom shall be of high school age (18 or younger)
- Two of whom shall be young adults (under age 31)

Equalization member nominees will be voted on at the February 24 District Conference. Prior to the district conference vote, their status as equalization member must be voted on at the church conference or at an announced Administrative/Church Council/Board meeting. After district conference approval, they are strongly encouraged to attend a Pre-Conference Briefing (via Zoom) to learn about legislation coming before the Annual Conference, and the process of Annual Conference (voting credentials, etc.).

Equalization members are responsible for the cost of attending Annual Conference. There is some scholarship funding available to each District, but it must be requested *before a member registers*.

If you would like more information about this role or Annual Conference, speak with someone from your church who has attended (your Lay Member of Conference or your Pastor).

If you would like to recommend yourself or someone else for any of these committees, or if you have questions, please reach out to DS Arlene at [mwds@neumc.org](mailto:mwds@neumc.org).



**New England Conference**

The United Methodist Church

### **New England Annual Conference - Open Positions**

We are seeking talented, detail-oriented team players to join the New England Conference staff in our Methuen, MA office. The following positions

are open:

## **FINANCE ASSOCIATE, A/R & A/P**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

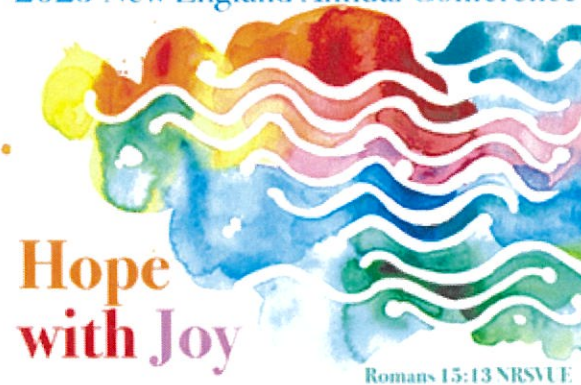
Each position is full time, in-office five days per week with competitive pay and generous benefit offerings. Click the link to find the job description for that position.

All applications must include a resume and cover letter. Submissions, via email or regular mail, will be accepted through **Feb. 14, 2025**. No phone calls please.

Email: [DAM@neumc.org](mailto:DAM@neumc.org)

New England Conference  
411 Merrimack Street, Suite 200  
Methuen, MA 01844  
ATTN: Director of Administrative Ministries

### 2025 New England Annual Conference



### **2025 New England Annual Conference**

As you prepare for the 2025 New England Annual Conference session, among the items of business that must be considered are the constitutional amendments proposed for ratification.

There are four (4) proposed amendments based on the actions of the 2020/2024 General Conference.

The New England Conference is sharing the draft of [the proposed constitutional amendments](#), so that members of the annual conference (lay



and clergy) can be more informed in preparation for the ratification vote (click the link above)...[read more here](#)

### **Annual Statistical Reporting Due Friday, February 14, 2025**

Each year, local churches are required by the Discipline to submit an annual statistical report that numerically summarizes membership, worship attendance, programs and ministries, spending, and income for the calendar year. This information for year 2024 is **due on February 14, 2025**.

Conference Statistician, Joy E Mueller sent an [email](#) to Pastors, Treasurers, and Office Administrators on December 30, 2024, that included details on accessing ACStats. All United Methodist Churches must use ACStats to complete Tables 1-3. ***Federated or United churches*** (churches with more than one denomination) have the option of completing a shortened version found on the conference website [here](#) in place of using ACStats.

Joy is available for questions and help: [joyemueller@comcast.net](mailto:joyemueller@comcast.net) or by calling (not texting) 508-694-5679. [Details, Tutorials, and Resources](#).

### **This Possible Kin-dom Pilgrimage**

Come away to remember why worship matters. This July, the liturgical resourcing team of the Iona Community ([Wild Goose Resource Group](#)) will lead "Worship in the Wilds," a weeklong workshop at Iona Abbey in Scotland. The Iona Community is an ecumenical, inclusive intentional community with laity in leadership and international membership. This workshop theme asks, "How can we respond to the wilds of God and our world through worshipping and singing together?"

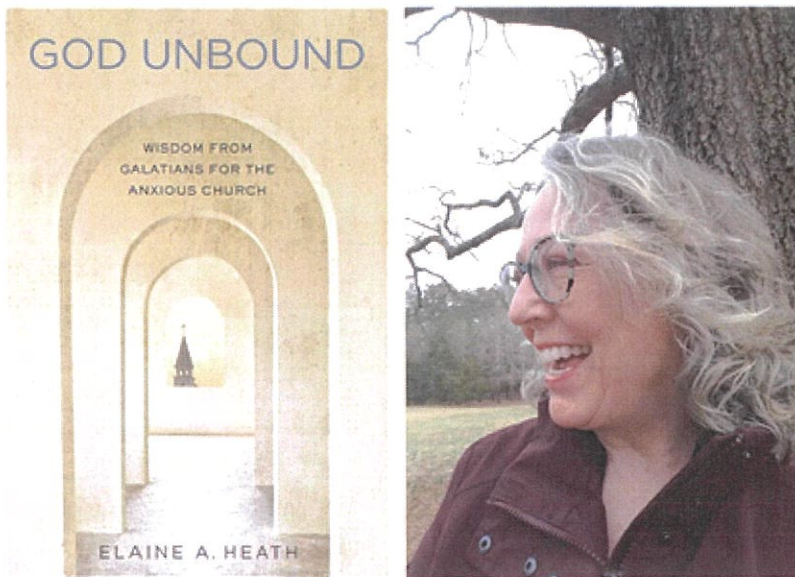
**What:** This Possible Kin-dom Pilgrimage, An Immersive Experience of Creative Community in Iona, Scotland

**When:** July 10-19, 2025

**Cost:** \$3,279

**New England pilgrimage leaders:** Rev. Lourey Savick and Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Brannen

[Registration and more here](#)



### **God Unbound: Webinar series with Elaine Heath**

As part of the New England Conference Board of Discipleship's Year for Spirituality in 2025, you are invited to join this free webinar series with author, speaker and retreat leader [Elaine A. Heath](#).

This three-session webinar will focus on Dr. Heath's book *God Unbound: Wisdom from Galatians for the Anxious Church*.

Consider inviting your congregation to come together and use this as a 3-week study.

- Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM ET
- Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM ET
- Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM ET

*This event recurs Weekly from Thursday, February 6, 2025 to Thursday, February 20, 2025*

#### **Virtual Meeting Link**

<https://zoom.us/j/95577528786>

#### **Email**

[hjosselyn@hotmail.com](mailto:hjosselyn@hotmail.com)

#### **Contact**

Heather Josselyn, Discipleship Board chair

**New England Church Resources**



### **Informational Links / Calendar**

[Safer Sanctuaries Training - recording and resources](#)

[Lay Servant Ministry Course Offerings](#)

[Connected](#) - monthly publication for churches

[SPRC Training - Resources and Recording](#)

See and Post [Local Church Events](#)

Church [Donations to UMCOR](#)

Go Green, Save Money, Save the Earth – [Creation Care Page](#)

[Rolling Ridge – Upcoming Retreats and Events](#)

United Methodist Foundation of New England [Current Webinars](#)

### **United Methodist Anti-Racism Resources**

[Now, Christians, let's have a real conversation](#)

[NEAC Commission on Religion and Race Resources](#)

[2024 reading list - NE Conference Commission on Religion and Race](#)

Visit the [UMC End Racism](#) website for ideas.

[Vital Conversations on the Realities of Race and Racism](#)

[Daily Prayers for Anti-Racism](#)

[Resources for responding to systemic racism](#)

### **UMC Worship Resources**

[Disability Ministries Committee](#)

[UM Publishing House Extends Permissions for Worship Materials](#)

[Online Worship Services by District](#)

[How to Count Virtual Attendance](#)

[UM Communications - Website Services](#)

MANY WATERS DISTRICT EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER FOR LORI

[ka-mwoffice@neumc.org](mailto:ka-mwoffice@neumc.org)

**978-682-7676 X280**

**Office Hours:** M-Th 7:00-4:00 Fri 7:00-9:00

ARLENE'S DISTRICT PHONE NUMBER

**978-682-7676 X281**

[mwds@neumc.org](mailto:mwds@neumc.org)

## Our District Contact Info

**District Superintendent** Rev. Arlene Tully

**Regional Administrator** Lori C. Umberhind

**Address** New England Conference Center, [411 Merrimack St., Suite 200, Methuen, MA 01844](#) Attn: Many Waters District

**Office Phone** 978-682-7676 ext. 280

**Email** [MWDS@neumc.org](mailto:MWDS@neumc.org) / [KA-MWoffice@neumc.org](mailto:KA-MWoffice@neumc.org)

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