



UMCatalyst

Weekly newsletter for the New England Conference

Feb. 25, 2026

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Webinar: Cooperative Parish 101 Training

Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM ET online via ZOOM

What is a Cooperative Parish?

Why does the Book of Discipline require annual conferences to implement a process of cooperative parish development through which cooperative parish ministries are initiated and developed in both urban and town-and-country situations?

How do Cooperative Parishes look in New England?

Lay and clergy leaders of New England Conference are invited to the introductory training around Cooperative Parish ministries. This will be the first of various and contextual training opportunities to learn more about cooperative parish ministry development.

The webinar will cover the following:

- The purposes and forms of Cooperative Parishes
- The examples of Cooperative Parish ministries in New England and beyond
- The first steps of Cooperative Parish development in various settings
- Questions/discussion

[Register here](#) The Zoom link will be sent to registrants.

Questions? Email dcm@neumc.org

Rev. We Chang, Director of Connectional Ministries

COSROW Grants available



New England Conference
The United Methodist Church



Facebook

Contacting Us

New England Conference Center
411 Merrimack Street
Suite 200
Methuen, MA 01844
Phone: 978-682-7676
Fax: 978-682-8227
communicate@neumc.org

Deadline to Submit

Monday at 4 p.m. to
communicate@neumc.org

EVENTS

[Check out our Local Church Events calendar and add your upcoming events](#)

March 7 on Zoom



The NEAC Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) offers three easy to apply for grants. Two are aimed at giving clergy and ministry students the opportunity to take time and space for renewal and refreshment.

Our Clergy Renewal Grant, for up to \$750, is for clergy of the NEAC to offer support for renewal, networking, isolation relief and cultivating connections.

Our Seminary Student Renewal Grant, for up to \$750, is for MDiv/MTS students who are candidates for ordination, and/or local licensed pastoring in the New England Conference.

The third grant, for up to \$1,000, is for **Justice Groups** operating within the Conference, and is aimed to support these groups efforts to bring people together with opportunities for rest, renewal, relief and celebration in the midst of and in service to their justice work.

Your COSROW team encourages you to imagine how one of these grants could support you in your life and ministry. Check out the application forms (found on the COSROW page of the Conference website ~ <https://www.neumc.org/cosrow> for further information.



Apply now for NEAC scholarships

United Methodist adults and recent high school graduates pursuing undergraduate education are invited to apply for a scholarship from the New England Conference for the 2026-27 academic year. Two scholarships are available: the [NEAC general scholarship](#) and the [Lottie Brown Scholarship](#); applicants can only apply for one per year. Deadline to apply for both scholarships is April 24, 2026. Learn more and get the application forms at the links above.

Ministry Exploration Summit

The Summit is an opportunity to learn about the different paths of ministry in New England. This event will especially benefit those in the early stages of candidacy or discerning their call to ministry. Participation in a Ministry Exploration Summit is required to become a certified candidate or a certified lay minister. [Registration form](#)

For more info, contact BOM Registrar, Deborah Venator, at bomregistrar@yahoo.com

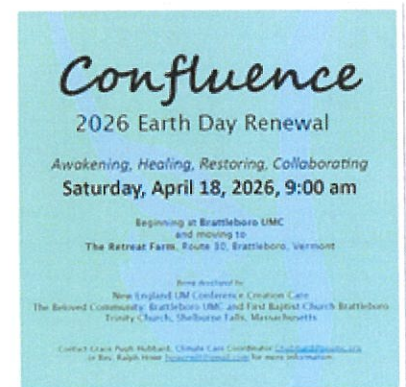
April 17 & 18

Maine Methodist Jubilee

Join the New England Conference Commission on Archives & History Cox Memorial United Methodist Church, 29 Middle St., Hallowell, ME

For more information, [Click Here](#)

April 18



Click the image to enlarge

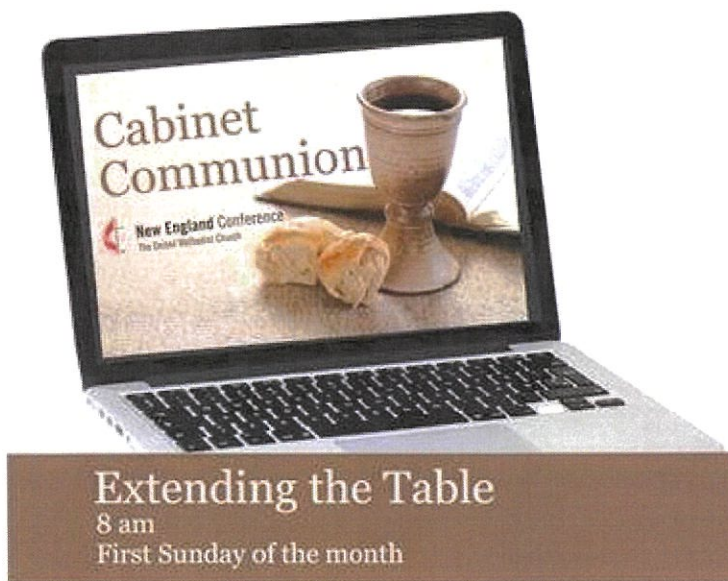
May 12 -14

Northeastern Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History (NEJCAH) announces Annual Meeting and Program:

New England Conference United Women in Faith offers scholarships to 2026 Assembly

2026 May 15-17, 2026 in Indianapolis, Indiana

Good News! There is still time to get a scholarship to offset the registration cost for Assembly 2026 in Indianapolis, Indiana. To be eligible, the applicant must reserve through the Assembly website, and then send in the attached scholarship form with reservation confirmation to Roxie Pin, Conference Treasurer. The deadline to apply for this scholarship is **March 1, 2026**. If the Assembly deadline is extended, the deadline for this scholarship will extend as long as there are funds available. Don't miss this opportunity to gather with hundreds of women from across the conference for inspiring worship, educational workshops, uplifting music and fellowship. It is when we gather that we get stronger. [Click here for the application.](#)



Extending the Table - March 1st

Extending the Table is an online Communion Service led by members of the Extended Cabinet held at 8 am on the first Sunday of each month. Participants do not need to register in advance. The Zoom link for the March 1, 2026 service and more information can be found at www.neumc.org/communion

Womens History Month Celebration via ZOOM from Union Combined Parish

The people of the Union Combined Parish invite you to celebrate Women's History Month and Lent with a line-up of dynamic preaching women! Our Lenten focus, "How We Get Free," deepens our 2026 theme, ["Connected: a Year of Interdependence"](#)

"Saving the Soul of Our Nation, State, and Church"

Hosted by the GNJ commission and Pennington United Methodist Church. The NEJCAH Annual Meeting is a 3-day event, but Day One and Day Two are special historical programs of interest and open to all.

For more info, [Click Here](#)

June 21-27



Click the image to enlarge

Come home to Family Camp! Family Camp has been held at Quinipet for over 50 years. Founded by George and Rev. Sue Klein, it has become a cherished tradition known for its warm and welcoming atmosphere. Although Methodist-based, we welcome individuals of all faiths, ages, and family statuses. For more information, please contact nicolebarrett34x@gmail.com.

Summer Camp Registration

Registration is open for summer camps at Wanakee, Mechuwana

Womanist ethicist [Rev. Dr. Emilie Townes](#), New Testament scholar [Rev. Dr. Shively Smith](#), novelist [Kim McLarin](#), seminarian [Savannah Doelfel](#), deacon-in-residence, [Rev. Ashley Renée](#), and preacher-in-residence [Rev. Nikki Renée](#) will guide us during our celebration. Join us in-building or by interactive Zoom on Sundays at 11:15am ET at unionboston.org/worship

DON'T FORGET



Funding Hope, Fueling Ministry Impact

A Forum on UMFNE's Grants Ministry Program

Whether your congregation is **dreaming boldly**, responding to **urgent community needs**, or discerning how to deepen its **justice-centered ministry**, this forum will provide you with the information and clarity to take the next step.

Join Rev. Dr. Adama Brown, the Foundation's Director of Impact and Grants where together we will explore:

- How to discern which opportunity best aligns with your ministry goals
- The Foundation's commitment to supporting impactful, justice-oriented ministry
- How we partner with congregations throughout their journey – from idea to implementation

We will also provide an overview of the purpose and vision behind each of our funding opportunities:

- Rapid-Response Grant: Urgent response for time-sensitive ministry needs
- Annual Grant: Supports sustainable, mission-driven congregational initiatives
- Engaging Communities Grant: Strengthens partnerships that foster outreach and build connections – including ecumenical, interfaith, and nonprofit
- Lexington UMC Social Justice Grant: Empowers ministries that confront inequity and embody God's liberating love
- Justice in Our Time Fund (JIOT): Responds to the racial reckoning of 2020, focusing on early childhood development and closing the racial wealth gap – two areas where faithful investment can transform generations

Come with your questions, your hopes, and your ministry dreams. The work is urgent. The possibilities are real. And we're ready to walk with you.

[Click here](#) to register for February 26 at 7 pm

and Aldersgate. Click [here](#) for more info.

[Find our newsletter archives here](#)

[CLASSIFIEDS](#)

[Executive Director - Reconciling Ministries Network](#)

[Church Musician Wanted](#) - Augusta, ME

[Part-time Music Director](#) - Nashua, NH

[Sunday School Assistant -- Peterborough, NH](#)

[Director of Youth Ministries](#) - Richmond, VA

[Office Administrator](#) - Arlington, MA

[Wanted - Music Leader for Mission u](#) - Alton Bay, NH

[UMC News](#)

Episcopalians, United Methodists honor Wesley brothers

WASHINGTON — The Episcopal Church observes the Feast Day of John and Charles Wesley each March 3 by honoring the brothers as influential priests in the Church of England and as founders of the Methodist Movement within the Anglican tradition. This year, all United Methodists and Episcopalians are invited to join in marking this special day with prayer for each other and for our shared relationship. The Rev.



Resolution Work Groups at Annual Conference

After praying over the feedback from the circle process listening sessions on legislative sections held this winter, the Sessions Team preparing for Annual Conference has adopted a version of legislative sections that we'll be calling Resolution Work Groups. We believe that the majority of voices present at the listening sessions agreed that Resolution Work Groups are worth trying to strive after perfection in our conference session time: still doing the business of God's kin-dom while carving out more time for Spirit revitalization through fellowship, worship, and workshops.

You can click [here](#) to find a recording of one of the listening sessions, the feedback received, and FAQs.

We are also looking for volunteers to lead the Resolution Work Groups. Please visit the above link for more information on the leadership roles needed and available. You can contact Rev. John H.D. Lucy, Agenda Chair, at john@cc-umc.org or Rev. Leigh Goodrich, Sessions Chair, at revLgoodrich@gmail.com if you are interested in serving in one or more of the Resolution Work Group roles.



The Board of Discipleship is offering webinars to help you think about worship in new ways

Wednesday, February 25 at 7 PM
[https://zoom.us/j/99560190892?](https://zoom.us/j/99560190892?pwd=IOLnqa50BEMsBx03QcPfaTHiedmuEv.1)

[pwd=IOLnqa50BEMsBx03QcPfaTHiedmuEv.1](https://zoom.us/j/99560190892?pwd=IOLnqa50BEMsBx03QcPfaTHiedmuEv.1)

**Zoom Conversation with Heather Josselyn-Cranson:
“Helping the Church Sing!”**

Jean Hawxhurst of the Council of Bishops office offers a prayer as both denominations work toward full communion.

[Read story and prayer](#)
[UM News: Full communion with Episcopalians gets closer](#)

Grants available for history researchers

MADISON, N.J. — Researchers interested in United Methodist history are urged to apply for several grants and awards. The deadline is Feb. 28 for grants including the \$10,000 Josephine Forman Scholarship for minority graduate students pursuing archival science. The scholarships will be awarded for use during the 2026-2027 school year.

[Learn more](#)

WWW.UMC.ORG

Intended Appointment Changes

All appointments for the 2026-2027 appointment year are set by Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton at the Annual Conference session. During this season of appointment-making, we will announce those appointments the bishop *intends* to make. These are pending final review and may be changed at any time.

In 2026, we will publish intended appointment changes as instructed by Bishop Bickerton and the Cabinet. The final report will be the end of May. After that, announcements will be made at Annual Conference.

[Click here](#) for list of intended appointment changes.

You are invited to a Zoom session with **Heather Josselyn-Cranson** to discuss simple and practical ways to encourage your congregation to lift its voice in song. Singing benefits the Church in many ways – come learn some common-sense techniques to boost singing at your church. This conversation is especially targeted at people who don't consider themselves musicians! Pastors and lay leaders, as well as choir directors, organists, ministers of music, and others will find plenty to consider at this session.

Dr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson, OSL is the Sister Margaret William McCarthy Endowed Chair in Music at Regis College. She graduated from Boston University School of Theology with degrees in Sacred Music and Liturgy and has taught courses in music and worship for Northwestern College, the Hymn Society of North America, and the Russian Methodist Seminary. You can find more of her work in *The Reason Why We Sing: Function and Congregational Song in Different Musical Traditions* (OSL Publications) and *Living the Church's Song: Propositions for an Ecumenical Theology of Liturgical Music* (GIA Publications).

Upcoming webinars:

- *March 10, 6:30 PM – Hybrid Worship with Jason Moore
 - *April 14, 7 PM – Intergenerational Worship with Nelson Cowan
 - *May 6, 7 PM – Maintaining Energy and Flow in Worship with Taylor Burton-Edwards
-

[Clear Openings](#)

The bishop and Cabinet will also post the appointments that are clearly open as part of this year's discernment process for assignments. That list can be found at www.neumc.org/openings.



NEW HOPE EPISCOPAL AREA

THE NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCES

◀ THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH