

May 2024



**New England Conference**  
The United Methodist Church

Connected is a publication of the New England Conference of The United Methodist Church. This monthly insert is designed put Conference news directly into the hands of our local church members.

Find more at [www.neumc.org](http://www.neumc.org).



# NEAC Scholarships

New England Conference Scholarships



Apply now for 2024-25



## Apply now for undergrad support

Each year the New England Conference Scholarship Committee seeks applications from adults or recent high school graduates who are pursuing undergraduate education at any accredited two- or four-year college, university or technical school.

Applicants must be United Methodist Church members

and are eligible to apply every year until they complete their undergraduate degree.

In 2023, \$29,101 in scholarships was awarded to 23 students.

Online application form and instructions can be found on our website at the address below.

Application period for 2024-25 support continues through May 24, 2024.



## General Conference continues through May 3

The postponed 2020 General Conference is taking place April 23 to May 3 in Charlotte, NC.

Use the QR code to visit the denomination's page that includes all the news and information about this important event in the life of The United Methodist Church. The page also includes a link to the live stream. Find #umcgc on social media.



Our website [www.neumc.org](http://www.neumc.org) also has links and info.



GET THE APPLICATION FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS:  
[www.neumc.org/scholarships](http://www.neumc.org/scholarships)

## Online training opportunity

# Safer Sanctuaries

Safety is a fundamental requirement if people are going to be at their best. Without a safe environment in our churches we cannot worship, learn, grow, or serve. Please join your fellow United Methodists in New England — clergy and laity — learn more about how to provide not just safe, but safer sanctuaries for all who come to your church: members, children, and vulnerable adults.

While your church may have a safe sanctuary policy in place, this new information will help you to expand your understanding of how to keep everyone safe in a new era— both digital and in person.

## Who should attend?

All clergy currently serving or taking an appointment in July are mandated to attend. Laity are highly encouraged to attend — even if there are no children currently in your congregation.

Participants should plan to share this training with the leaders in their church/es who work with children, youth, and/or vulnerable adults. The PowerPoint used in this training will be provided.

## Materials

Each church will be asked to upload an updated Safe Sanctuaries policy in Church Dashboard in preparation for the 2024 Church Conference.

The book “Safer Sanctuaries: Nurturing Trust within Faith Communities” is available

via [Amazon](#), [Cokesbury](#), [Upper Room](#)

It is recommended that each church have a copy of this valuable reference guide. If your church cannot afford a copy, contact Brenda Cayer at [bishopsoffice@neumc.org](mailto:bishopsoffice@neumc.org)



## Training sessions

- May 4 Granite District 9 am to noon
- May 6 Many Waters District 5-9 pm (includes breaks)
- May 7 Seacoast District 6-9 pm
- May 8 Green Mountain District 6-9 pm
- May 18 Commonwealth East 1-4 pm
- May 20 Commonwealth West 6-9 pm
- TBD Katahdin District

There are multiple opportunities to attend this online training; you are welcome to join any session that's convenient.



**LEARN MORE & REGISTER:**  
[www.neumc.org](http://www.neumc.org)

Heritage Sunday

## Celebrate Heritage Sunday

Heritage Sunday is a time for United Methodists to reflect on their legacy and consider their own place in the story of The United Methodist Church.

It is traditionally recognized on the third Sunday in May (May 19, 2024), but congregations may choose to commemorate the special Sunday at any time. This year's theme is “Rooted and Grounded in Love.”

The underlying message of all Heritage Sunday observances is that history is an essential part of the church's ministry, and that all members of the church family can celebrate our shared heritage.



Learn more and get resources at [resourceumc.org](http://resourceumc.org) and search Archives and History.

## Let's Connect

Do you have a story to share? A feature idea? A question to ask? Contact Beth DiCocco, Conference Director of Communications, at [communicate@neumc.org](mailto:communicate@neumc.org) or (978) 682-8055 ext. 150