

August 2020



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.



Church-During-Pandemic Think Tanks

The New England Conference Parish Consultants will offer four Church-During-Pandemic Think Tanks via Zoom in the coming weeks.

These free, one-time events will give an opportunity for conversation and cross-fertilization of ideas and strategies among the clergy and lay leadership of the conference.

At the end of each session, participants will discern opportunities for further learning, coaching, and/or connection.

The Think Tank topics are:

- ◆ **Double-Duty Worship:** How do we continue a meaningful on-line worship presence while also resuming in-person worship (without burning out or going crazy)?
- ◆ **Creating the Craft of Asking:** How can we be confident in asking for money? How can we cultivate donors and financial support in these challenging times?
- ◆ **Growing the Body of Christ while Apart:** How do we nurture the congregation and the connections within our churches while still social distancing?



- ◆ **Creating Community Connections:** How can we cultivate new and stronger connections with the community around our church buildings? How do we meet pandemic and post-pandemic mission needs?

Interested? Email Rev. Barb Lemmel, Parish Consultants Coordinator, at barblemmel@mac.com or call/text her at 802-881-3267 with this information:

1. Your name, church, position (pastor, SPRC chair, etc.)
2. Which Think Tank(s) interest you.
3. Best time of day to meet (daytime, evenings only, Saturday morning/afternoon, etc.)
4. Any other meeting limitations (vacation time, child care etc.)



**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
CARING FOR OR IMPROVING
YOUR CHURCH'S PROGRAM
OF HISTORY?**



Local church historian training offered as free online course

Are you interested in the story of your church?

If so, a new course from the General Commission on Archives and History may be right for you.

The online course, offered for free and set to begin Sept.14, 2020, will cover a wide range of skills needed to become a church historian.

Those participating will benefit from a new consciousness of their heritage and legacy and be motivated to study their unique stories and proclaim it to those around them.

People can take the 12-week course at their own pace.

Learn more and register at gcah.org/resources/local-church-historian-school



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PARISH CONSULTANTS ON OUR WEBSITE
www.neumc.org/NE-parish-consultants

Anti-racism information and resources

Camp Aldersgate begins anti-racism education initiative

In light of the recent protests and demonstrations in support of Black Lives, Aldersgate struggled as to how we could best support our community of campers, staff, volunteers, and families.

As we continue to strive for Aldersgate to be a sacred space, empowering all in faith and friendship to change the world, we need to recognize that at this time, Aldersgate must stand as an anti-racist voice in order to uphold our mission.

Anti-Racism is actively opposing racism and working towards changing racist policies and organizations

We will be sharing videos on our Facebook and YouTube,



some made by our staff, some shared from other organizations, and we hope these videos will be conversation starters for you and your family.

We will also be sharing a panel discussion featuring members of our staff. They'll be sharing their experiences as People of Color and how many of the video topics have affected them. We welcome you

to submit questions and we will try to address as many as possible in our panel discussion.

As you watch these videos, if you need someone to talk about the feelings or emotions that the video brings up, please reach out to us at antiracism@campaldersgate.com.

UMC anti-racism resources

Coming up ...



General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR)
www.gcorr.org

GCORR has a large variety of resources for learning about how to combat racism, white privilege and how to respectfully engage with and learn from people from different cultures and backgrounds.

Some examples:

- **GCORR Real Talk** is a series of conversations with community and faith leaders to discuss and uncover the disparities of race, ethnicity, age, and socio-economic status.
- **Communion Liturgy: Black Lives Matter**
- **Online Course – Implicit Bias: What We Don't Think We Think:** Based on the popu-

lar *Implicit Bias Workbook*.

- **How to Share Video Evidence of Racial Trauma Honorably**

ResourceUMC
www.resourceumc.org

The "Dismantling Racism: Pressing on to Freedom" initiative is a multi-level effort throughout the church to initiate a sustained and coordinated effort to dismantle racism and promote collective action to work toward racial justice.

The churchwide effort kicked off on June 19 to coincide with Juneteenth, the commemoration of the end of slavery in the U.S.

Visit resourceumc.org and under topics, choose "Dismantling Racism" to find a number of articles, videos and other resources.



Church of the Resurrection's Leadership Institute is online

Registration is now open for The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection's Leadership Institute 2020, which will be held online Sept. 24-25.

The online format is packed with relevant and actionable leadership development content through a live-streamed event, plus on-demand

bonus material spanning across all ministry areas.

Early Bird price of \$49 is available through Sept. 1.

Details and registration can be found at li.cor.org.

For questions, contact the ShareChurch Team at sharechurchconferences@cor.org or 913-232-4139

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 or (978) 682-8055 ext. 150