

July 2022



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).



### Members approve 2023 Conference Budget

Members approved a slightly amended budget for 2023. An additional \$600 was added to the Archives and History Commission’s budget to account for an increase in the cost of archiving inactive church records.

Total expenses: \$7,068,371  
Total spending limit: \$6,069,700

Rev. Nancy Bischoff, vice chair of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, presented the budget.

“CCFA is particularly pleased to be presenting a budget that reflects a 10 percent decrease in Connectional Mission Shares billable to local churches totaling \$100,000,” she said. “The 2023 budget continues a steady decrease in overall expenses since 2020 that now totals more than \$1 million.”

Rev. Bischoff also announced that CCFA plans to review “several long-standing Conference rules related to Mission Shares” to consider how they are applied and whether they are still relevant. CCFA expects to bring a report to the 2023 Annual Conference session.

### Welcome to the 2022 Clergy Class

The events of the 2022 Annual Conference session ended in celebration on Saturday afternoon, June 11, with the annual Service of Ordination and Commissioning as New England welcomed its newest class of clergy.



2022 Clergy Class with Bishop Devadhar

In his sermon, Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar told the story of a pastor who insisted on being called “reverend,” and said:

“Our titles do not grant us any authority. God gives the authority for ministry through the actions of the church. We gain authority in the eyes of those we serve by how we function as servants of Jesus Christ.”

“... when we go into our churches as shepherds, we are called to work together in unity with the laity who

are also ministers of the gospel,” the bishop said.

#### Ordained as elders

- Sara Taylor Garrard
- Jennifer Larson Mihok
- Adam Paul Randazzo
- Nami Yu

#### Welcomed from another denomination

- Rev. Kai Chur

#### Commissioned as a deacon

- Sarah Brooks Laflamme

#### Commissioned as elders

- Lisa Marie McColgan
- Nikki Young



FIND RECAPS AND PHOTOS FROM EACH DAY OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
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## Some key legislation approved by the 2022 Annual Conference

# Members approve the ‘New England Declaration’

### RS-22-228 – DECLARING OUR COMMITMENT TO LOVE, LIBERATION, FREEDOM, AND FULL INCLUSION (“THE NEW ENGLAND DECLARATION”)

The New England Annual Conference (NEAC), at its June 2022 session, declares itself to be an annual conference in The United Methodist Church that is rooted and structured in God’s unconditional love that leads to liberation, freedom, and full inclusion of all.

The 2022 session of the NEAC calls upon all entities, boards, councils, and agencies of the New England Conference ... to act intentionally in ways that advance liberation and intersectional justice. All conference entities are encouraged to examine equity in policies and actions, and to empower those who have been marginalized to advance the flourishing of all.

### RS-22-229 — RENEWING VISION AS THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

The Conference adopted the following as its vision statement: “Local churches and individuals are valued, empowered, and equipped to connect strengths and assets to build God’s beloved community.”

### RS-22-223 – IDENTIFYING AND OPPOSING APARTHEID IN THE HOLY LAND

The NEAC recognizes that the Israeli government has established a system of apartheid, affirms that apartheid is antithetical to the Gospel message, and opposes this injustice and oppression in whatever form it presents itself.

The Conference calls on the U.S. government to condition U.S. funding to Israel upon Israel’s willingness to dismantle its apartheid system and implement all the rights due to Palestinians under international law.

The Conference urges all United Methodist clergy and laity:

1. to listen to the voices of Palestinians regarding their situation, by meeting with them in their homeland, by seeking opportunities to hear from them in person or at online events, and through the study of the Palestinian Christians’ landmark 2020 document entitled “Cry for Hope: A Call for Decisive Action;”
2. to join with and support all persons of good will who are seeking justice for all people in the Holy Land.

### RS-22-225 – REGARDING THE HISTORY OF REDLINING, RACE COVENANTS, AND SUNDOWN TOWNS IN NEW ENGLAND

New England towns and cities have a long, devastating history of said racist and segregationist practices supported by government housing policies, including but not limited to redlining, restrictive covenants based on race or religious identity, and sun downing.

In response, NEAC resolves to engage in personal and communal acts of repentance for knowingly or unknowingly participating in such practices and supporting such policies (inviting and engaging the larger community whenever possible) no later than Peace with Justice Sunday on June 4, 2023, and work to eradicate any remaining practices and existing racist and segregationist housing policies in our ministry area.

The Conference Commission on Religion and Race will be a resource, upon request, for local churches, etc. that need assistance with researching the congregation’s complicity in these sinful practices and policies and with conducting an act of repentance, and will act as a resource, upon request, for the NEAC to fashion a corporate act of repentance at a future session of Annual Conference.

### RS-22-224 – RESOLUTION TO PREPARE NEC FOR STRATEGIC SERVICES AND REINVESTMENT

Endorses the concept of a not-for-profit, mission-focused community development corporation (CDC) to work with the NEAC, local churches and outside partners.

Many churches want to increase building use for innovative mission and to strengthen community engagement but don’t know how to proceed. Many churches also feel burdened by the maintenance needed for buildings. The CDC would come alongside churches with consulting services, property development expertise, sale and repurposing resources to enhance and expand mission.

### RS-22-222 — STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION: RESPONDING TO GLOBAL CLIMATE CRISIS

The New England Annual Conference (NEAC) shall create a Creation Care Task Force that will implement, resource, educate, and monitor the implementation of climate justice measures and education.

And will hire a part-time climate coordinator responsible for offering resources and expertise to local congregations and other conference entities about how to respond to the climate crisis by adapting their properties and/or becoming effective advocates to combat climate change.



FIND MORE ENACTED LEGISLATION IN OUR AC RECAPS  
[www.neumc.org/news](http://www.neumc.org/news)

## Let’s Connect

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