

May 2023



**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).



## Training for church leaders



Each year, the New England Conference offers training for local church leaders. In three online sessions, there is training for local church trustees, members of the staff-parish relations committee and one for church treasurers and finance chairs. Recordings from this year's sessions for trustees and SPRCs can be found on our website along with supporting materials used in the trainings.



**The training for finance teams will be 7 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023.** Watch the weekly e newsletter and our website for details.

## Congregations invited to join Green Church movement

For Rev. Bumshik Min, awareness of the need to care for the Earth and protect the environment has always been present.

“When I was little, one of the worldwide issues was the environmental protection movement. I grew up with that situation,” he said.

In the intervening years, the climate crisis has only become more acute and even more prominent, and Rev. Min, who serves Suncook (NH) UMC, found himself considering:

“As a Methodist and as a Christian ... how I [could] respond to this social issue — not only as a as an individual, but also as a church and also in my ministry.”

The answer he came to is the Green Church movement: “The Green Church movement will be an active and practical way to respond to the climate crisis on the congregational level.”

“When it comes to environmental protection, it sounds like a very big idea



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READ THE FULL STORY & GET RESOURCES AT  
[www.neumc.org/news](http://www.neumc.org/news)

## UMC Special Sunday

# Peace with Justice Sunday is June 4

In 2021, you gave \$328,463 last year towards ministries funded by the Peace with Justice Special Sunday offering.

Half of the funds collected provide grants to local churches, districts, conferences and other affiliated organizations that advocate for peace with justice. The other

fifty percent of the offering remains in your annual conference to develop local peace with justice ministries and support a peace with justice coordinator.

Learn more and get resources to celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday at [www.umcsgiving.org](http://www.umcsgiving.org)



## Green Church, continued from page 1

and seems a little far away from our practical life,” Rev. Min said, “but I want to embark on this movement at the level of the congregation, more practically.”

Rev. Min began the Green Church movement in his last appointment. He was serving Alton and Orono UMCs in Maine when, in July 2021, the state banned single-use plastic bags.



Rev. Bumshik Min

He said in the past the churches had used mugs and other branded items, but the plastic bag ban inspired the idea of creating a reusable tote, or eco-bag, featuring the Green Church logo (The logo and other info is available on our website at [www.neumc.org/news](http://www.neumc.org/news)).

“[Church members] can use the bags to protect nature, and at the same time, they can advertise the presence of the church in town,” he said.

The next step for the movement, Rev. Min said, is to engage with other churches via Zoom to develop ideas and policies and look at some concrete ways to move forward.

Churches interested in learning more or joining the Green Church movement can contact Rev. Min at [euphoricdays@gmail.com](mailto:euphoricdays@gmail.com)

***I’m thinking about what kind of good things  
can I pass on to my children?***

## More stories ...

**cross currents** is a quarterly electronic publication created by the Conference Communications Team.

Team members share stories and information to resource churches across New England Conference.

The Jan/Feb/March

2023 issue includes: A profile on an American Sign Language interpreter who is helping Deaf congregants participate in worship at Rock Church’s Amesbury, MA, campus.

Free software and tools that make editing video easy and accessible.

And more ...

[www.neumc.org/crosscurrents](http://www.neumc.org/crosscurrents)

### cross currents quarterly

GET IDEAS FROM ACROSS THE NEAC Shared by members of the Communications Team



cross currents  
quarterly

helping  
ideas and resources  
flow across the NEAC

Produced by the Conference Communications Team

## 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