

## March 2025

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. **For more news and events, visit [www.neumc.org](http://www.neumc.org).**



## 2025 Annual Conference session

Theme: Hope with Joy

Guiding Scripture: Romans 15:13  
"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

**June 19-21, 2025**

Hybrid

Boston North Shore DoubleTree  
50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA

**June 18, 2025**

Clergy Session/Laity Session  
Preachers' Aid Society Luncheon

Get the latest news and info at  
[www.neumc.org/acsessions](http://www.neumc.org/acsessions)



Finance Department staffers Clare Chapman and Thelma Phelan to retire this year.

## Staffers to retire in 2025

**Clare J. Chapman**, New England Conference Treasurer/CFO, Director of Administrative Services, took over the role following the death of John Cardillo in 2023. She has announced that she will retire on April 1, 2025.

After 20 years serving in the New England Conference, **Thelma Phelan**, Assistant Conference Benefits Officer, will retire on June 27, 2025.

Read the full stories on our news page (address below) or scan the QR code.



Read the full stories on our website at  
[www.neumc.org/news](http://www.neumc.org/news)

## New England Conference Leadership Training

# Online sessions for local church leaders



March 10, 2025

 New England Conference  
The United Methodist Church

## For Trustees

In this online training to be held at 7 pm Thursday, March 20, 2025, the New England Conference Trustees will discuss the functions of the Board of Trustees and its importance in the life of the local church. This training is part of a series being offered by the NEAC for local church leaders.

Both sessions will be recorded and resources offered in the session will be made available following the trainings.

## For SPRCs

Join District Superintendents Rev. Jill Colley Robinson and Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan and DCM Rev. We Hyun Chang for an online training for members of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC).

This online session will begin at 7 pm on Monday, March 10, 2025.

Some topics will include:

- Roles/duties of the SPRC
- Keys for effective and healthy SPRC ministry
- Creating a monthly SPRC ministry calendar
- Resources for staff-parish relations



March 20, 2025

 New England Conference  
The United Methodist Church



Get details and register  
[www.neumc.org/events](http://www.neumc.org/events)

## Join VT flood recovery

New Hope Area Resident Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton is calling on United Methodists in the New England and New York conferences to “blitz” Vermont — which is recovering from five floods that took place in a period of just 12 months — with mission teams this spring and summer.

The NEAC and UMCOR are already at work there, but as you likely know, flood recovery requires long-term



Flood Recovery/Rebuilding Mission

NEW HOPE EPISCOPAL AREA  
THE NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCES  
© THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

effort. There are many opportunities for church mission teams to serve our siblings in Vermont — particularly in the Northeast Kingdom.

Bishop Bickerton is calling on all New Hope Area members to support this important work by encouraging all our churches to consider

sending a mission team to Vermont for a week during the 2025 season May 18 to Oct. 18, 2025.

Teams of all sizes and skill levels are welcome.

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

## 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