



August 31, 2020

## Niagara Frontier District E-Connection

[NiagaraFrontier@unyumc.org](mailto:NiagaraFrontier@unyumc.org)

[www.NiagaraFrontierUNY.org](http://www.NiagaraFrontierUNY.org)

247 Cayuga Rd., Suite 70  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225-1900  
716-276-8631 fax: 716-276-8632

Rev. Carlos Rosa-Laguer, *Superintendent*  
Jessica White, *District Lay Leader*

[CarlosRosaLaguer@unyumc.org](mailto:CarlosRosaLaguer@unyumc.org)  
[jdgirl25@yahoo.com](mailto:jdgirl25@yahoo.com)

*The E-Connection! goes out near the 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.*

You can also read this on our [District Web Page](#)

**The next edition will go out around September 14**

**Julie will be working remotely only beginning September 10.  
She will unavailable from Sept 10-13; apologies for any inconvenience.**

We are part of the Upper New York Annual Conference (12 Districts) – 867 churches & 65 new faith communities in 49 New York State counties!

**All Attachments are found in the e-mail message.**

Calendar of Events		
September 19	Clergy Session	Virtual Meeting
October 2	Commissioning & Ordination Service	By Invitation Only
October 3	Annual Conference	Virtual Meeting

### ~ Joys and Concerns ~

Congratulations to Giovanna Claudio-Cotto who was recently appointed as the new Principal of Frederick Law Olmsted School, a magnet school in the Buffalo Public School system. Click [here](#) to read more. Gio is a former pastor in our district.

Please keep family and friends of the Rev. Rodney Mileham in your prayers. Rev. Mileham, 64, died on Aug. 26. He was currently serving Kendall UMC. A memorial service will be held on **Friday, Sept. 4** at 11 a.m. at Indian Falls UMC, located at 7908 Alleghany Rd, in Corfu, NY. Condolences can be sent to Rev. Mileham's wife, Patricia Mileham, at 1808 Kendall Road, Kendall, NY 14476. Please click [here](#) to read Rev. Mileham's full obituary.

Please pray for the community and congregations in Collins Center, County Line, Darien and pastors George Nicholas, David Nicol, Daven Oskvig.

### ~ Local Church News ~

The Conference has created a list of churches with [online services](#). They are listed by time and then alphabetical. If your church needs to be added to the list, please contact Shelby at [shelbywinchell@unyumc.org](mailto:shelbywinchell@unyumc.org).

Please continue to be in touch with your own church about upcoming activities and ways to connect with each other.

(6/15) **COVID Compliance Affirmation** – New York State has issued new guidelines for churches planning to hold worship services, including funerals, in their buildings. In order to reopen, churches are required to electronically affirm they understand and will comply with these guidelines. Churches are also expected to create a compliant business safety plan to be kept on file at the church. Detailed instructions, including a business safety plan template, can be found by [clicking here](#). The compliance affirmation form can be found [here](#). There are (2) affirmation forms to be completed – one for NYS and one for UNY. **Please note that these need to be completed even if you are not meeting in your building!**

## ~ District and Conference News ~

The Conference Center in Liverpool is closed to visitors through Labor Day. Staff will be rotating hours to meet health guidelines in the office and also continue to work from home.

There are many articles about dealing with COVID-19 on the conference website. Click [here](#) to find items of interest to you. Other resources and information can be found at this [location](#).

### In preparation for the upcoming Church/Charge Conferences, the following information is now available:

Charge Conference forms are all located on the following page: [2020-2021 Charge Conference forms](#). There is a downloadable/printable forms check list to help ensure that each church is on track to completing the forms necessary for their Church/Charge Conference on time. Many of the forms need to be submitted to the District Office **two weeks prior to your scheduled Charge Conference**. Other forms, such as the annual audit, have later deadlines. Questions can be directed to your District Office or as noted on the forms page.

If you get an error message while trying to access the Charge Conference forms, [click here](#) for help.

The 2021 Clergy Compensation Package information has been emailed to the Staff Parish Pastor Relations Committee (SPPRC) chairs for those churches which have provided contact information. Pastors have been emailed the materials and local church treasurers have been advised where to obtain the basic information contained in the packet. The United Methodist Discipline directs the SPPRC to consult with pastor and staff regarding all aspects of compensation and to then recommend appropriate proposals to the Church Council prior to the Charge Conference; and/or on an annual basis.

Information and forms, including the Salary Report Form and benefit cost information for 2021 can be on the following page: [2021 Pastor's Compensation](#). Questions about completing the compensation form can be directed either to your District Office or to the Benefits Office.

Thank you for your attention to these important administrative ministries of your local church!

**(New)** (9/1) **Important COS Reminder** - All Course of study students have a student ID for the GBHEM (PID). Students must provide the PID from the GBHEM on their registration forms. You may obtain your PID by contacting Pamela Frost at [COSRegistrar@GBHEM.org](mailto:COSRegistrar@GBHEM.org). GBHEM will not give it out to you, so please contact Pamela to get it. **Also**, if your registration is received late, it will not be honored; there is no grace period.

(8/20) **Information about Sexual Harassment Training** – **See the Harassment Training Info attachment** for reminders about this annual training that is supposed to take place for all church employees. If you have questions on this topic, please contact Tracy Rickett, Human Resources Generalist, at [tracyrickett@unyumc.org](mailto:tracyrickett@unyumc.org) or 315-898-2017.

**(New)** (9/1) **Online pre-retirement seminar to be held October 9** – All clergy looking to retire in the next year are encouraged to attend a virtual pre-retirement seminar on **Friday, Oct. 9** from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Due to the coronavirus, the seminar will NOT be held in person at the United Methodist Center like in the past. This virtual seminar highlights and explains the benefits available through The United Methodist Church. **A pre-retirement seminar is held once each year in the fall. A retirement seminar is held each spring.**

Join Julie Valeski (UNY Benefits Administrator), Susan Latessa (UNY Conference Director of Human Resources/Benefits), Peter Hang (Wespath Conference Liaison), and Robert Christophel (Wespath Director of Benefits Education) for this important virtual meeting as they discuss topics, including the current pension plan, health insurance options, Social Security, and any moving assistance that's available.

*Preregistration by Sept. 25 is required* in order to receive all materials ahead of the meeting. Once registration closes, you will receive a link to access the virtual seminar. [Click here](#) to preregister.

## ~ UNY Annual Conference ~



[Click here](#) for the tentative added **practice session** (open to lay and clergy voting members) for the logging in process taking place on **Sept. 18**. Registration and voting details will be released as soon as they are available.

**(New)** (9/1) **The 2020 Annual Conference registration is open.** The Annual Conference will take place on **Oct. 3** at 9:30 a.m. through a secure livestream. [Click here](#) to see the full agenda.

*All eligible voting members must preregister by **Sept. 25**.* [Click here](#) to register.

Clergy members will need to register for both the Clergy Session and the full Annual Conference Session.

Any voting member (clergy, lay member or equalization member) looking to be excused from Clergy Session on Sept. 19 or Annual Conference on Oct. 3 can submit a request by [clicking here](#).

When registering individuals must provide a login email and create a password for the event. Individuals will be responsible for knowing their login information and for having the necessary technology to participate. Technical questions about the event can be directed to the Conference Director of Communications, Steve Hustedt, at [stevehustedt@unyumc.org](mailto:stevehustedt@unyumc.org).

Questions about registration can be addressed to Erica Wentworth at [ericawentworth@unyumc.org](mailto:ericawentworth@unyumc.org).

Non-eligible voting members can view the Annual Conference session via a public livestream that will be available on the Conference website.

## ~ Peter & Paul List ~ (I can help – do you have a need or I have a need – can you help?)

(8/20) **Admin Assistant needed at Harris Hill** – Part time position with flexible hours. **See the Admin Asst attachment** for more details and how to apply.

(8/20) **Grant Application for 2021 Local Ecumenical and Interreligious Ministries** – The Council of Bishops provides leadership for the ecumenical and interreligious ministries of The United Methodist Church. To that end, they are offering three grants, each in the amount of US \$1,000 to groups within Annual Conferences for projects designed to strengthen ecumenical and/or interreligious relationships. The application deadline is Sept. 14, 2020. It should be emailed to [jhawxhurst@umc-cob.org](mailto:jhawxhurst@umc-cob.org). Preference will be given to Conference groups elected to lead in ecumenical and interreligious relationships. Preference will also be given to projects that bring people together while keeping “social distance.” Projects selected will be ecumenical and/or interreligious in both invitation and goals. [Click here](#) to apply.

**Seeking PT District Admin Assistant** – The UNY Conference is currently seeking a part-time District Administrative Assistant for the **Niagara Frontier District office** located in Cheektowaga, NY. This is a part-time position for up to 29 hours per week. The person in this position must maintain good working relationships with staff members, attend quarterly District Administrative Assistant meetings either in person or via Zoom, and is encouraged to attend the Annual Conference. This person should also foster and maintain good relationships with clergy, retirees, local church members, and collaborate with other District Administrative Assistants in the Conference. [Click here](#) to apply.

(8/3) A new job opening has been posted for a **Site Director for Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center**. If you have any referrals for this position, please ask candidates to [apply online](#) through our website. Please contact Tracy Rickett ([tracyrickett@unyumc.org](mailto:tracyrickett@unyumc.org)) with any questions. Thank you.

(8/3) **Does your church offer an online Bible study?** The UNY Conference Communications team is building our digital resource lists. During the COVID-19 pandemic, churches are finding ways to connect digitally. Currently, the UNY Conference has a directory of [UNY church worship services](#) that are available online. Has your church offered or plans to offer an online Bible study catered to adults or family? If so, send information and the link that people can use to join the Bible study to [shelbywinchell@unyumc.org](mailto:shelbywinchell@unyumc.org) and we will add your Bible study to the directory.

## ~ Opportunities, Ministry Aids and “Stuff” ~

**(New)** (9/1) **“Day Apart” Workshops at Asbury Retreat Center** – Come to Asbury for any of three “day apart” workshops that are being offered. **Tuesday, September 15** is *Lessons from the Garden*; **Thursday, October 22** is *Bearing Fruit and More Fruit*; **Tuesday, November 17** is *Putting it All Together*. Each session is from 9am-3pm and lunch is included for \$25pp. They will be led by Bonnie Kreutter, a UNY certified Spiritual Director. Have questions or want to register? Call 585-237-5262 or [info@asburyuny.org](mailto:info@asburyuny.org).

(8/20) **INR Zoom Study** – Rev. David Nicol and Deacon Vivian Waltz will facilitate a 6 week study exploring issues of religion and race on **Wednesdays from September 9-October 14** from 7-8:30pm. Space is limited and you are expected to participate each week. **See the INR Zoom attachment** for more info and how to sign up. You can also find info on their Facebook [event](#) page. **PLEASE NOTE! This course is approved as a 10 hour Advanced Lay Servant course.**



(8/20) **Tips to Engage Your Virtual Community During In-Person Worship** – Worship is evolving. Merge your new virtual worship with your returning in-person worship community. Our A/V specialist shares helpful tips to engage your worship community virtually and in-person. Click [here](#).

(8/20) **Online Courses for Laity and Clergy** – Click [here](#) to learn more about resources for equipping world-changing disciples from Discipleship Ministries! Featured courses include: \* See All the People: Discipleship begins with relationship; \* The committee teaching series; \* How to have a courageous conversation; \* Disciples living generously and \* How to start small groups.

(8/20) **How social media is the perfect platform for discipleship** – Once people have become engaged in your social media platforms, the potential is unlimited to invite them to the church be it online or in the building. This influence may take some time to grow, but it will be well worth the wait. [Click here](#) to read an informative article about how Facebook and Instagram are perfect platforms for [digital discipleship](#).

Also note, that the Summer 2020 issue of the *Advocate* focuses on "Keeping Connected;" the issue focuses on stories like this. Be sure to [click here](#) to read the issue and learn about the many ways that the COVID-19 pandemic was a catalyst for churches across Upper New York to keep connected with their communities and congregations, and even expand their reach.

(8/20) **UMW Newsletter** – **See the UMW Newsletter attachment** for the August issue of the District UMW newsletter.

**(Update)** (9/1) **Media Resource Center now partially open!** Please send back any items that you currently have as soon as possible. If you need to readjust return dates, please contact [Karen Campolieto](#), Media Resource Coordinator and Archives Assistant. The Media Center will not be available for personal pick-up, but you can mail materials until further notice as our offices are still officially closed to the public at this time.

Click here for the [August newsletter](#). Click here for the [September newsletter](#).