

1 In an effort to begin learning about our partner conferences in the soon to be Upper  
2 New York conference, we shared people across conference lines to participate in  
3 Commissioning and Ordination interviews. Lynn Spence is coordinating an ongoing  
4 series of meetings between representatives of NCNY, WNY, Wyoming & Troy annual  
5 conference Boards of Ordained Ministry to begin planning for the new conference  
6 board. A retreat with Assistant General Secretary of GBHEM, Rev Mary Ann Moman  
7 is scheduled for later this summer to continue this planning work in earnest.  
8

9 Safe Sanctuary training has continued this year. In response to insurance guidelines  
10 background checks are in process for clergy previously grandfathered. Also, due to the  
11 stresses of the economy, Board accounts which have previously yielded adequate  
12 interest for use to offset costs of students in Course of Study this year required us to  
13 scale back scholarship assistance.  
14

15 The Board has pulled together to accomplish its demanding work and become a  
16 cohesive band of colleagues. As Co-chairs we want to acknowledge all the board  
17 members and thank them for their loyal, dedicated service. We look forward to the  
18 opportunities to rethink, recreate, and retool for the work of the Board as the new Upper  
19 New York Conference comes into existence.  
20

21 Submitted by Co-Chairs Rhonda Kouterick & Lynn Spence  
22

### 23 Order of Deacons

24 By appointment of Bishop Violet Fisher, I was asked to chair the Order of Deacons,  
25 starting in 2008. Following faithful leadership of the Reverend Kathy Barden. I have  
26 big shoes to fill.  
27

28 I submit this report with prayerful thanks for the opportunity to serve in this blessed  
29 way and asking that we keep the people called to deacon's orders in our tradition, in our  
30 prayers for their ministry among us.  
31

32 Deacons are persons called by God, authorized by the church, and ordained by a bishop  
33 to a lifetime ministry of Word, Order, and Service to both the community and the  
34 congregation in a ministry that connects the two. Deacons exemplify Christian  
35 discipleship, create opportunities for others to enter into discipleship, and connect the  
36 needs and hurts of the people with the church.  
37

38 In the world, the deacon seeks to express a ministry of compassion and justice and  
39 assists lay persons as they claim their own ministry. In the congregation, the ministry  
40 of the deacon is to teach and to form disciples, and to lead worship together with other  
41 ordained and lay persons, connecting the needs and hurts of the people with the church.  
42 (¶329)  
43

44 The appointment of deacons shall be made by the bishop. It may be initiated by (1) the  
45 individual deacon, (2) the agency seeking their service, (3) the bishop, or (4) the district  
46 superintendent. They will be non-itinerant. Deacons are accountable to the annual  
47 conference and the bishop for the fulfillment of their call to servant leadership. When  
48

## E-mail news expanded to entire New York West Area

The e-mail news clergy and lay leadership of the North Central New York and Western New York Conferences receive through their respective Conference offices was recently expanded.

Now everyone on the email lists in the entire New York West Area receives the same news at the same time with "blasts" on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

For North Central the change means recipients see additional announcements and news and they need to meet a new deadline. Articles should be sent to conference-mail@ncnyumc.org no later than 10 a.m. on the day that the piece should be broadcast, an earlier deadline than before. Items missing the deadline will be included in the next "blast."

For Western New York it means instead of multiple emails at different times during the week, everything comes in the one message and they can see what is happening Area wide. Items from WNY sources should be sent to wny-conf@wnyumc.org at least a day before the blast is scheduled to go out. This would be Saturday for the Monday mailing, Tuesday for the Wednesday edition, and Thursday for the e-mail sent on Friday.

In each "blast" there is shared news and information specific to each Conference, although reading everything is encouraged as many "specific" opportunities may just be down the road and something you would be interested in doing.

There will be the exceptions for time sensitive matters.

1 deacons serve in an agency or setting beyond the local church, the bishop, after  
2 consultation with the deacon and the pastor in charge, shall appoint the deacon to a local  
3 congregation where they will take missional responsibility for leading other Christians  
4 into ministries of service. (¶331)  
5

6 The Deacons in the North Central NY Annual Conference are small in number yet  
7 represent a unique call to ministry that embraces a wide variety of ministry specialties  
8 under the banner of the call stated above. These ministries include: pastoral leadership  
9 in the local church, community building through the local church, older adults ministry,  
10 arts, media, education, business administration, preaching, pastoral presence and  
11 counseling, workplace chaplaincy, and all the ministry that happens as people called to  
12 a life of service in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Deacons are serving the  
13 underserved and all in need, building bridges to connect people to faith, church and the  
14 redeeming love of Jesus Christ. The spiritual life of the deacons in the NY West Area is  
15 blessed.  
16

17 The deacon's of the Western NY Area met with Bishop Marcus Matthews and the  
18 assistant to the bishop, Ms. Christine Doran, for a morning of sharing our stories, be in  
19 prayer together with our spiritual leader and become better acquaintance with one  
20 another. The conversation was articulate and fruitful, with a promise that we would  
21 continue to explore more meaningful relationships with one another, the people we  
22 serve and the appointive cabinet.  
23

24 This Chairperson attended the Gathering of the Chairs of the Order in February, 2009 at  
25 Norcross, GA. As my first year of leadership to the Order of Deacons, I was learning  
26 about the responsibility of the continuing education opportunities that could be offered  
27 and the importance of affirming the spiritual life of the clergy. The gathering with the  
28 faithful leadership of the orders across the country offered many faithful examples to  
29 learn from. The fellowship proved to be enlightening and offered not only prayerful  
30 reflection and inspiration, but also a call to action. This call rings to have us hear that  
31 we must be mindful of the ministry of all who are called, as we have been wounding  
32 one another through a feeling of competition, disrespect and illusions of power. This  
33 gathering was blessed with the ministry of Rev. Gwen Purushotham whose book  
34 "Watch Over One Another in Love" (G. Purushotham, 2008) was the center of  
35 discussion, spiritual care and worship among us. A report was shared with the Board of  
36 Ordained Ministry.  
37

38 We were also invited to pray that more individuals be drawn by the Holy Spirit to our  
39 tradition of United Methodism. We are not growing as a denomination, either in the  
40 local church congregation or professional clergy. We were invited to pray and  
41 understand what attracts and keeps people actively growing in the church. We are to  
42 prayerfully seek ways to make the faith relevant to those who have not had an  
43 experience of God in their lives; we must be respectfully aware of one another.  
44

### 45 General Conference 2008

46 There were two substantive changes to the Book of Discipline (BOD) at the General  
47 Conference, 2008, with regard to the ministry of the deacon. Paragraph 331.14.e speaks  
48 to termination of a deacon with in the setting of the local church. It must be read  
49

## CCRM invites all to mark these important dates on your calendar

6/14/09  
Consecration of Emmaus Commons at Casowasco - Phase I

6/20/09  
Aldersgate Day at Camp/Open House

6/21/09  
Casowasco Day at Camp/Open House

6/28/09  
First day of Summer Camp

7/17/09- 7/19/09  
Family Life Weekend - Aldersgate

8/2/09 – 8/7/09  
Operation Purple Camp - Aldersgate

8/16/09 – 8/18/09  
Family Camp - Casowasco

9/25/09 – 9/27/09  
Adirondack Fall Getaway - Aldersgate

12/28/09 – 12/29/09  
DI Reunion - Casowasco

12/30/09 - 1/1/10  
Camp Echo - Casowasco

12/31/09 - 1/1/10  
Adult New Year's Eve - Casowasco