



May 2021



**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).

## Give the Laity Address

The Conference Board of Laity is pleased to invite all laypersons in the New England Annual Conference to enter the Laity Address Challenge to have an opportunity to give the Laity Address at the 2021 Annual Conference.

The 2021 Annual Conference will be held online June 10-12. The Laity Address will be pre-recorded. The specific date/time of the Laity Address broadcast has not been set.

Our Annual Conference theme is "Building Beloved Community." Our guiding scripture Psalm 137:4 NIV: "How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land?" The

address must use those as its theme.

The address should be 15-20 minutes long. Entrants must submit a written copy of their entire pro-

posed address along with a video of themselves delivering the first five minutes of the address.

The deadline to submit your proposed address and video is May 7. For more information on how

to submit your entry or to ask any questions about entering the challenge, please email Co-Associate Conference Lay Leader Joan Farrar at [cw.dll.acll@gmail.com](mailto:cw.dll.acll@gmail.com) or call [978.582.4670](tel:978.582.4670).



### Registration now open

The 2021 Annual Conference will be a multi-day online session June 10-12.

Voting members must register to get credentials to access the meeting. Only voting members need to register; others can watch the session via livestream on the Conference YouTube channel.

There is no registration fee.

Visit [www.neumc.org/acsessions](http://www.neumc.org/acsessions) to find a tentative schedule and all of the latest news and information.



GET THE LATEST NEWS AND INFO ON ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021  
[www.neumc.org/acsessions](http://www.neumc.org/acsessions)

## Conference Resource Day

# 'Deep and Wide' with Leonard Sweet

### Hosted by the Granite District

"There's a fountain flowing deep and wide."  
We will travel together simultaneously deep (local) and wide (global) in looking at the importance of four key metaphors for the future:

- 1) Do Little Large: Small is All. The Particular is of Universal Significance. Can you taste your church's terroir?
- 2) Sozo Jesus (Sozo means "save" or "heal").
- 3) Mandorla Sweet Spot (Jesus always comes in surround sound). Can you hear the double ring?
- 4) Deep Breathing exercises (Holy Spirit Breathings and Breathology)



All districts are invited to participate. This online event takes place from 10 am to noon May 22, 2021 via Zoom. Find the event on our calendar ([www.neumc.org/events](http://www.neumc.org/events)) to register.

Sweet is the author of more than 200 articles, 1,500+ published sermons and 60 books. His recent publications include the groundbreaking textbook on preaching, *Giving Blood: A Fresh Paradigm for Preaching*, the best-seller *From Tablet to Table*, *The Bad Habits of Jesus*, and the fall 2019 release of the twenty-year successor to *Soul Tsunami*, *Rings of Fire: Walking in Faith Through a Volcanic Future*.

## Celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday

Thank You for your generosity in 2020!

You gave \$288,487 to the Peace with Justice Sunday offering. Peace with Justice is a faithful expression of shalom in the Bible. It calls the church to strengthen its capacity to advocate publicly in communities and nations throughout the world.

The offering is administered by the General Board of Church and Society and benefits peace with justice ministries in the Annual Conferences and around the world.



## Coming up ...



### Online conversation: Intersectional Theology

Join an online conversation with Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim, co-author of "Intersectional Theology." Dr. Kim is professor of theology at Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, Indiana, has written numerous books and articles on the social and religious experiences of Korean women in North America.

The event will be 9:30 a.m. to noon on May 29 and is hosted



by the North Shore Regional Hub of the Commonwealth East District.

It is sponsored by the Conference Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR) and the Provisional Leadership Academy.

Find the event on our calendar at [www.neumc.org/events](http://www.neumc.org/events) to register.

## 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