

April 2024



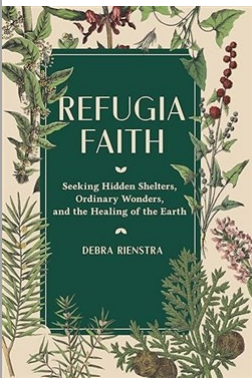
New England Conference  
The United Methodist Church

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).



## Join online book study on climate change & theology



You are invited to join a six-week inter-church book study on climate change and theology offered by the [Green Church Movement](#) of the New England Conference.

The book is [Refugia Faith: Seeking Hidden Shelters, Ordinary Wonders, and the Healing of the Earth](#) by Debra Rienstra, Published by Fortress Press, 2022.

NEAC Creation Care Task Force member Peggy Drew will lead the weekly online study April 3 to May 8. A UMC Global Ministries EarthKeeper, Drew is a lay servant at Main Street UMC in Nashua, NH. She has an MA Spiritual Formation and MA Theological Studies.

Participants are expected to attend all six sessions and have the capacity to read ~40 pages each week.

To learn more or register, visit [www.neumc.org/events](http://www.neumc.org/events)

## Getting ready for AC 2024

The 2024 New England Annual Conference will be Thursday to Saturday, June 20-22. This will be a hybrid session online via Zoom or in person at the DoubleTree Boston North Shore in Danvers, MA. The session will be streamed live on the NEAC YouTube channel.

This year's theme is "Co-Creating Justice & Joy" and our guiding Scripture is Isaiah 58:6-14, The Message.

The 2024 Clergy and Laity sessions and the Preachers' Aid Society Luncheon will be June 19.

As we prepare for the session, here are some opportunities to participate:

### Nominate a Ziegler Preacher

The Wilbur C. Ziegler Award for Excellence in Preaching is awarded each year at the New England Annual Conference session to a person who demonstrates excellence in preaching the whole Gospel, addressing both personal and social salvation. The honoree is invited to

preach during the Annual Conference session in June. Deadline for nominations is Tuesday April 30, 2024.

### Celebrate laity social justice action

The New England Conference Board of Church and Society will present the John Bryant Award for Excellence in Social Justice Action at the 2024 New England Annual Conference in June. This award will honor a lay person (non-clergy) who lives in New England and embodies the vision of social justice as interpreted by the [United Methodist Social Principles](#). Nominations will be accepted from groups or individuals within the New England United Methodist Conference. **Continued on page 2**

2024  
Co-Creating  
Justice & Joy  
New England Annual Conference

Isaiah 58:6-14  
The Message



GET ALL THE AC 24 NEWS AND INFORMATION  
[www.neumc.org/acsessions](http://www.neumc.org/acsessions)

## Getting ready for the 2024 New England Annual Conference session

# Enter to give the Laity Address at AC 24

Continued from page 1

Deadline for nomination submissions is Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

Find Bryant and Ziegler nomination forms at [www.neumc.org/CSawards](http://www.neumc.org/CSawards)

### 2024 Laity Address Challenge

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 2024 Annual Confer-



### 2024 Laity Address Challenge

ence. The Laity Address is tentatively scheduled for Saturday morning, June 22, either in person or pre-recorded. The deadline to submit your proposed address and video is May 5.

For additional information on how to submit your entry or to ask any question about entering the challenge, please email Co-Associate Conference Lay Leader, Ruby Blake at [msrube65@gmail.com](mailto:msrube65@gmail.com) or call 617-953-6964.

## Peace with Justice Sunday is May 26

Your support for this special offering funds programs and ministries to educate, equip and mobilize actions on identified Economic, Health, and Gender Justice Priorities. Your donations provide funds for three different grants for United Methodist congregations and organizations. Your generosity is transforming our social impact. Learn more at [resourceumc.org](http://resourceumc.org)

Special Sunday



## Do you feel called ...

### ... to serve as Conference Lay Leader or Assoc. Lay Leader?

New England Conference Lay Leader Rich Hughen will step down as of July 1.

The Annual Conference will elect a new lay leader at the upcoming session in June.

If you are feeling called to serve as either the

Conference Lay Leader or Associate Conference Lay Leader, please contact Leadership/Nominations Committee Chair Karen Cassidy, and she will lead you through the process of nomination.

Her email is [kdcassidy@msn.com](mailto:kdcassidy@msn.com)

Scan the QR code to get all the latest news and info on AC 2024



### 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