
SECTION 4: LEADERSHIP

All sections were approved by the indicated votes and were included in the consent calendar affirmative vote. The votes shown are those from the legislative section for each item. There were no petitions in this section.

BOARD OF LAITY

Renata Smith, Conference Lay Leader

Concur: 50, Non-Concur: 0, Abstain: 0; 100% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

101. The Board of Laity is charged with fostering awareness of the role of laity. Together laity and clergy work to achieve the mission of the church, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. There are many resources and training opportunities for lay members at the local, district and conference levels which seek to develop an understanding of the biblical and theological basis for lay life and encourage stewardship of time, talents and possessions.
102. The Board is chaired by the conference lay leader and comprises the Bishop, the Director of Connectional Ministries, the Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries, the district directors of lay speaking, representatives of the United Methodist Men, the United Methodist Women, Young Adult ministries and the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, at-large lay men and women, a representative from the Black Methodists for Church Renewal, and representatives from the Hispanic and Korean ministries.
103. In August 2010, members of the board as well as several other lay members met at Bishop Park's invitation to discuss the direction for laity following the 2010 Annual Conference. The Bishop reminded us that our youth especially needed to know why more than five thousand people gathered, and reminded us that we all should go back to our congregations more spiritually energized for God's mission aware of the future with hope that we have in Jesus Christ. He brought the Call to Action Report to our attention, pointing out the drivers of a vital congregation, namely: a mix of both traditional and contemporary worship experiences, small group ministries especially for children and youth, inspirational preaching and strong spiritual lay leadership. He reminded us that all of us as lay persons have already been commissioned by the Church to serve. He encouraged us to become "FRANgelists," and to share the gospel with friends, relatives, associates and neighbors.
104. Laity present expressed the desire to see us channel our energies into more specific avenues of service, to have United Methodist Men be truly representative of the diversity of our Conference, to focus on young adult ministries, to expand prayer and healing ministries, to have more youth attend board meetings and Annual Conference and to have more lay persons involved in new church starts.
105. At our September meeting, Rev. Ann Pearson, director of connectional ministries highlighted the four areas of focus: new places for new people, ministries with the poor, leadership development and global health. She encouraged us to be supportive of the vision bearers involved in new church starts. A proposal was made that there be a Conference Committee on Lay Speaking. This would allow for more time to be spent on lay speaking matters and free up the time in board of laity meetings to deal with more matters affecting the laity. There was unanimous agreement. Please see the report of the Conference director of lay speaking for more on this.

106. District lay leaders are to be commended for their hard work during the past year. In the Catskill Hudson District, there were several training sessions for laity in different locations around the District and the lay leaders took turns in writing articles for their district newsletter. The team took leadership roles in district events such as the camp meeting at Epworth and visited local churches.
107. Connecticut continues to be the only District with a District Board of Laity. They have a Web site with links to very useful information for laity. A sample of their Report of Annual Conference appears in the appendix 2 of *A Lay Member's Guide to Annual Conference*. Henry McCarter, Lay Leader for the New York / Connecticut District used and found *The Handbook for Local Church Lay Leaders* an indispensable training tool in the trainings he has conducted with laity.
108. The Long Island West District includes training for lay leaders in their annual district training event. Their lay leader participated in Board of Laity meetings, visited local churches and remained involved in the lay leadership of his district. In the Long Island East District, the Lay Leader worked closely with the district superintendent, led two training events, and joined a prayer ministry team that visited and prayed on the grounds and with anyone present and interested at the 75 churches in the district. She attended many of the District's charge conferences and taught a lay speaking class. Lay leaders of the Metropolitan District met with local church lay leaders and shared resources and information.
109. District directors of lay speaking, under the leadership of Peter O'Neill, conference director of lay speaking, provided consistent leadership through a variety of lay speaking programs, and by active participation in all aspects of ministry in our conference.
110. Carolyn Engelhardt, a previous delegate to general and jurisdictional conferences, was a guest presenter at our January meeting. She shared several resources with us and informed us about the privileges and responsibilities of delegates to these conferences. Thanks again, Carolyn.
111. We are blessed to have strong spiritual leadership from Bishop Park. Rev. Ann Pearson not only gives exceptional direction to the Board, but also provides delectable fare whenever we meet at the Conference Center. It continues to be a joy to work with the members of the board. They are committed and faithful in their service to God and the New York Annual Conference.

THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Kun Sam Cho, Chair & John Simmons, Vice Chair

Concur: 51, Non-Concur: 0, Abstain: 0; 100% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

101. **Fall Plenary** — The Plenary met on Saturday, October 16 at Memorial/Central Korean UMC in White Plains. We reviewed the roles of the Board of Ordained Ministry. We also had a chance to preview the schedule and content of the Ordination and Commissioning Events.
102. **Compass Program** — prepared by Rev. John Collins, Dean of the COMPASS
- When women and men are commissioned as Provisional Members of Annual Conference, they are required by the Board of Ordained Ministry to serve three years under appointment before they can be ordained as elders or deacons. For the first two years of this period, they are required to

participate in the Compass Program. During these years they are called Residents in Ministry.

- **Clergy Mentors** — Each resident in ministry is assigned a clergy mentor who works with them until they are ordained. The clergy mentor meets regularly with the resident. This non-evaluative relationship provides opportunities for personal sharing, spiritual discernment and professional growth. The mentor also meets with the resident's Pastor Parish Relations Committee to interpret both the Compass program and the connectional system.
- **Immersion Retreats** — Each winter, all residents in the program take part in a retreat designed to expose them to vital ministries and issues in various parts of the Conference. Recent events have included: Mega Church Immersion (NYC) (2011); National Issues Event in Washington, DC (2010); Cross Cultural/Cross Racial Appointments (2009), Interfaith Immersion (2008), Anti-racism Training (2007), Urban Immersion (2006). On these retreats the residents visit churches or outreach ministries for in-depth meetings with pastors and laypersons.
- **Spiritual-Growth Retreats** — Each spring, the Residents are led in a three-day retreat by the Rev. Tilda Norberg, United Methodist minister and Gestalt therapist. These retreats focus on ministries of prayer, healing and spiritual discernment. Many residents, inspired by these experiences, continue to study with Rev. Norberg or other spiritual directors after ordination.
- **Finance/Stewardship Retreats** — Every November, new residents take part in a three-day retreat led by the Frontier Foundation which focuses on church administration, clergy taxes and personal financial and retirement planning.
- **Team Building** — One of the most valuable aspects of the Compass program is the relationships which are developed by the residents over the two-year period. When the residents are commissioned, most are new to the Conference and to each other. By the time they are ordained, they have become a close-knit group which continues as a valuable support system for years to come.
- **Planning and Leadership** — The Compass program is planned each year by a team consisting of BOOM members and several Residents.

103. Evaluation Events — BOOM held three evaluation events during the 2011 Annual Conference year. Gerianne Hoernes, Event Coordinator planned and coordinated the Ordination and Commissioning events held at Mt. St. Alphonsus. The former, held on November 9-11, when we evaluated 13 provisional candidates for ordination as elders members and two local pastors seeking associate membership. The latter on January 10-12 when we evaluated 13 certified candidates, 12 of whom are on the elder's track and 1 on the deacon's track, who applied for commissioning as provisional members. This event was cut short by one day because of an impending snow storm and the plenary to vote on candidates was held on Thursday, January 20 at Memorial/Central Korean UMC in White Plains.

- 1) The Board approved 10 candidates for ordination as elders and for full membership in New York Annual Conference: Ebenezer Aduku, Jessica Lynn Anschutz, David R. Czeisel, Vicki I Flippin, Cathy S. Gilliard, Roger Jackson, Gertude Nation, Kwangwon Jung, Narcisse Cherie Philips,

and Carmen Denise Pickett and two local pastors for associate membership: Carol A. Downs and Thomas Stephen MacLeod.

- 2) Nine candidates (eight on elder's track and one on deacon's track) were approved for commissioning as provisional members in NYAC, and residents in COMPASS: elder track: Sheila Beckford, Paul Fleck, Wongee Joh, Bernadette Logan, Jennifer Pick, Anil Kuma Singh, Hwan Chris Yi, and Hyo Jung Dawn Yoon, and deacon track: Jennifer Nunno.
- 3) There is currently one application before us for Professional Certification in Specialized Ministries.

104. **Technology** — The BOOM Web site has been integrated into the NYAC Web site and BOOM information can be accessed on the Web by clicking on the ABOUT button at top of NYAC Web site and then clicking on "Board of Ordained Ministry" in the left column.

BOOM is also exploring how to use the Web to distribute candidates' files including video to BOOM members in an efficient and secure manner.

105. **Policies & Procedures** — BOOM extends care to candidates, in part, by writing policies that insure the candidacy journey is characterized by clear expectation, collegial support and orderly procedures. Each policy was researched by Executive Committee and presented to the plenary using a fourfold plan:

- 1) Present history of each needed policy
- 2) Share Executive Committee's proposal
- 3) Discuss and vote on each proposal
- 4) Clarify implications for future implementation

These policies and procedures are currently being researched and under discussion for implementation for the new quadrennium.

- 1) A way for the BOOM to have interim contact/observation with provisional members so that these observations/ reports become a part of the evaluative discussion at the ordination event plenary.
- 2) New Psychological testing structure for those commissioned (second set of psychological).

106. **Executive Committee** — The Executive Committee of BOOM met five times (Oct. 16, Nov. 9, Jan. 10, March 17 & May 19) since the 2010 Annual Conference. Its members are:

Chair: Rev. Kun Sam Cho
 Vice Chair: Rev. John Simmons
 Secretary: Rev. Richard Hansé
 Event Coordinator/Registrar:
 Mrs. Gerianne Hoernes
 Conference Relations Chair:
 Rev. Robert M. Walker
 Registrars Coordinator:
 Mr. Billy Crowder
 Candidacy & Mentor Registrar:
 Rev. William Bramble Pfohl
 Commissioning Registrar:
 Rev. Elizabeth Braddon

Elder Ordination Registrar:
 Rev. Vicky Fleming
 Deacon Ordination & Diaconal
 Registrar: Rev. Thea Crites
 Local Pastor & Associate Member
 Registrar: Rev. Eileen Daunt
 Professional Certification Registrar:
 Rev. Beverly Morris
 Dean of the COMPASS:
 Rev. John Collins
 District Committee Coordinator:
 Rev. Taka Ishii

Budget Coordinator: Rev. Ed Home	Chair, Fellowship of Local Pastors & Associate Members: Rev. Eileen Daunt
MEF Coordinator: Rev. Janet Hodge	Psychological Testing Coordinator: Rev. Gordon Edwards
Chair, Order of Elders: Rev. Constance Pak	AIEM & ABLC Registrar: Rev. Bill Smartt
Chair, Order of Deacons & Diaconals: Rev. Sonia Jermin	Ex Officio Member: Mr. Bob Miller, Conference Secretary A Cabinet Rep.: Rev. Noel Chin.

107. **Conference Relations Committee** — Under the wise leadership of Rev. Bob Walker, Chair, the Conference Relations Committee met five times (Oct 16, Nov.10, Jan. 11, March 17 & May 19) since the 2010 Annual Conference. Its 14 members are:

Rev. Bob Walker, Chair	Rev. William B. Pfohl
Ms. Beth Capen	Rev. Bill Smartt
Rev. Roy Jacobsen	Rev. St. Clair Samuel
Rev. Edwin Jones	Rev. Javier Viera
Lucy Jones	A Cabinet Rep.: Rev. Noel Chin
Rev. Eumin Kim	Ex Officio: Rev. Kun Sam Cho
Rev. Lydia Lebron	Ex Officio: Rev. John Simmons
Rev. Beverly Morris	

108. **Registrars** — It is the responsibility of each BOOM Registrar to keep full personnel records for all those under the care of the Board of Ordained Ministry. They are:

Registrars Coordinator: Mr. Billy Crowder	Deacon Ordination & Diaconal Registrar: Rev. Thea Crites
Candidacy & Mentor Registrar: Rev. William Bramble Pfohl	Local Pastor & Associate Member Registrar: Rev. Eileen Daunt
Commissioning Registrar: Rev. Elizabeth Braddon	Professional Certification Registrar: Rev. Beverly Morris
Elder Ordination Registrar: Rev. Vicky Fleming	AIEM Registrar: Rev. William Smartt

109. **Orders & Fellowships** — BOOM is responsible to provide financial and moral support to the Order of Elders (Rev. Constance Pak, Chair) and the Order of Deacons and Diaconals (Rev. Sonia Jermin, Chair). BOOM is also responsible to offer financial and moral support and coordination of continuing formation for local pastors through the Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors (Rev. Eileen Daunt, Chair). We support each order and fellowship through our annual budget.

110. **Nominations Committee** — Met twice in January and March to prepare the BOOM leadership team for the new quadrennium and will meet this fall to complete the nominating work. In addition, they nominate members for two teams: Continuing Education Team and the “Clergy Vitality Task Force.” The members are:

Rev. Elizabeth Braddon
 Rev. Kun Sam Cho, Chair
 Mr. Billy Crowder
 Rev. Gordon Edwards
 Ms. Gerianne Hoernes
 Rev. Ed Horne

Rev. Roy Jacobsen
 Ms. Marilyn Wakefield
 Rev. Beverly A. Morris
 Rev. Javier Viera
 Cabinet Rep.: Rev. Adrienne
 Brewington

111. **Conclusion** — We have continued the review and updating where necessary of policies and procedures as well as the implementation of new policies and procedures which was began in the 2008 conference year with the goal of improving candidacy process from the district level through the conference board level. We thank Rev. Thomas Carney for his dedicated and excellent work as Recording Secretary and welcome in this role for the present Rev. Rick Hanse. We trust that our work continues to strengthen connectedness throughout the New York Annual Conference.

BOUNDARIES AND SEXUAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

Report to the 2011 Annual Conference Session

Rev. Adrienne Brewington, Chairperson

Concur: 51, Non-Concur: 0, Abstain: 0; 100% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

101. After a brief period of dormancy occasioned by my transition into the chairpersonship of this committee, we have once again returned to the important task of training Conference pastors on issues regarding the maintenance of appropriate clergy boundaries. The committee members, most of whom comprise the training team, remain dedicated and enthusiastic about the work before us.
102. This Conference year we held two six-hour boundaries training sessions. Both sessions were in April. One event was held on Saturday, April 9th at the Asbury Crestwood United Methodist Church. The other event was held on Thursday, April 14th at the Conference Center.
103. The committee anticipates that in the 2012 Conference year we will again hold two training sessions – one in the Fall and one in the Spring. We hope that adhering to such a schedule will more readily facilitate attendance by those who need to be there.
104. I offer my thanks to the members of the committee: Soon Ahn, Bob Kersten, Luisa Martinez-Buck, Darlene Resling, Scott Summerville, and Betsy Ott. Without their commitment, our common work would not be possible.

COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY (2011)

Rev. Robert D. Sorozan and Rev. Kristina Hansen, Co-Chairpersons

Concur: 51, Non-Concur: 0, Abstain: 0; 100% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

101. The Committee on the Episcopacy acts as a sort of “Pastor Parish Relations Committee” for our Bishop and the New York Annual Conference. In this capacity, it works to support the Bishop in his ongoing ministry to our Conference, provide feedback regarding his ministry, be available to provide counsel, and to interpret to the people of the Conference the nature and the function of the Episcopal office (see paragraph 635.3 of *The Book of Discipline* for a full description of the function of the committee).

102. We have met together twice during the past year. Our meetings have been very cordial with a free flow of give and take between the committee members and the Bishop. We have found Bishop Park to be very open and receptive in these discussions. Bishop Park has always followed up, when needed, with the issues raised.
103. We have talked, at great length about the implications of the Council of Bishops "Call to Action." Even though the document is still in the process of being completed, it does have enormous implications for the future of our Annual Conference. We will continue to be in dialog with the Bishop as he continues to present the findings of the "Call to Action" to the laity and clergy of our Conference.
104. The Bishop has been very busy reaching out to the clergy of our Annual Conference. He has met with clergy around the conference to talk about the upcoming New York Annual Conference and its emphasis on Missions. We look forward to the Saturday program at Hofstra University. We are often surprised by our Bishop's enthusiasm. When he presents his plans for Annual Conference, the committee members wonder how he will "pull it off;" when the Saturday program comes around, and thousands of enthusiastic United Methodists arrive to participate in the program, we all stand back in wonder. We don't know how he does it, but we suspect he has a little help from God.
105. Our committee is also tasked with the care of the "Episcopal Residence." We are pleased that only normal maintenance issues need to be addressed — there are no major concerns at this time. We would like to take the opportunity to thank the Conference Trustees for their assistance in the care and upkeep of the Episcopal Residence.
106. Finally, this year will be a challenging one for our committee. We have begun the process of evaluating the ministry of our Bishop for the Northeastern Jurisdiction. This is part of a normal process which is undertaken by every Annual Conference every four years. This process provides input to the Jurisdiction and to our Bishop about the needs and future direction of our Annual Conference. We will be contacting the Chairpersons of the various Conference Committees for their perspectives on the role of Bishop Park in the life of our Conference. It is our hope that this will be a positive experience for all involved.

CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

Renata Smith

Concur: 51, Non-Concur: 0, Abstain: 0; 100% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

101. The role of the Conference Lay Leader is to advocate for laity in the life of the church, to increase their participation in the sessions and structure of the Annual Conference, and to encourage lay persons in the general ministry of the church in cooperation with the bishop, district superintendents and pastors. The Conference lay leader chairs the Board of Laity, serves on the Connectional Ministries Vision Table, the Conference Committee on Nominations, the Episcopacy Committee, the Annual Conference Sessions Committee and in any other area as assigned by the Annual Conference. The Conference Lay Leader presents a report to the Annual Conference and is a member of the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders.
102. Over the past year, I had the privilege of visiting several churches in the Conference. This afforded me the opportunity to meet with local church lay

leaders, share resources, observe mission in action and share in the joys and the challenges faced by laity.

103. I participated in meetings of all the committees mentioned in paragraph 101. In addition, I serve on a task force with other church leaders to analyze the economic situation in the Conference and to make recommendations. I worked closely with the Bishop on matters pertaining to the laity.
104. I continue to write an article for *The Vision* under the caption *Laity on the Move* and to maintain a Web page on the Conference Web site.
105. I attended the joint meeting of Annual Conference lay leaders and Conference directors of lay speaking held in Indianapolis, Indiana February 24-27, 2011. This allowed for renewed fellowship and networking with other Conference lay leaders. The main topic was a look at *The Call to Action Report* by Dr Scott Johnson, president of the association and member of the Call to Action committee. I also attended The Financial Leadership Forum, in Fort Worth, Texas, March 1-2, 2011. Here, we looked at the financial state of the general church. Although the picture is a grim one, and changes will have to be made in our denomination, signs of hope lie in making some necessary changes in the living out of our mission, that of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
106. On the jurisdictional level, I serve as secretary for the Northeastern Jurisdiction of Annual Conference Lay Leaders. The annual meeting of this body will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 14-16, 2011. District lay leaders and associates, the Conference director of lay speaking as well as district directors of lay speaking will be invited to attend.
107. It continues to be a humbling and challenging experience to serve as the lay leader of the New York Annual Conference. I thank God for the grace and strength He gives me daily, and from the support and prayers of so many of you.

FELLOWSHIP OF LOCAL PASTORS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Eileen M Daunt, Chairperson

Concur: 51, Non-Concur: 0, Abstain: 0; 100% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

101. The Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members held its annual breakfast meeting at annual conference at Hofstra University on Friday, June 10, 2010. About 15 local pastors and associate members attended. We ate and shared in fellowship around the tables then opened with a devotional. Each person present introduced themselves and shared a bit themselves and about their ministry. It was wonderful hearing about what some of pastors are doing in their local ministry setting. We discussed ways that the fellowship might help all local pastors and associate members. We also discussed options of how best to connect for fellowship, learning, and sharing. The hope is that one day we will have an active fellowship in our conference.
102. We recognized Steven Knutsen as a new associate member in our Conference. We also recognized Don Adams and Carol Bloom, the newest local pastors in our Conference. We also want to acknowledge that Carol Downs, Linda Kay Nealon, and Westley Villazon completed their Course of Study at Wesley Seminary, July 2010.

103. As the Fellowship Chair I attended the National Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors Meeting at St. Simons Island, GA in September. The educational training focused on prayer was excellent. About 100 clergy and spouses attended from around the country. This annual gathering is great for fellowship, connecting, and learning from fellow pastors. The annual gathering will be in Branson, MO September 14-17 2011. The Rev. Dr. Leonard Sweet will be the speaker/educator and the theme is "Get Up and Be Not Afraid." I was elected for a 2-year term to serve on the leadership team with the National Fellowship as the Local Pastor Representative.
104. In December I registered to attend the national bi-annual meeting The Gathering of the Chairs for all the Orders and Fellowships that will be held in Orlando, FL February 1-3, 2011. This event is hosted by GBHEM.
105. It is within the function of the Fellowship to promote fellowship, learning and connectionalism with our pastors and Conference. It continues to be an honor to serve our Conference as the fellowship chair.

ORDER OF ELDERS

Constance Y. Pak, Chairperson

Concur: 51, Non-Concur: 0, Abstain: 0; 100% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

101. Usually the Leadership Team of the Order of Elders holds its meeting during the spring retreat. However, due to the cancellation of the retreat this year, the Team has conducted all business transactions and communications via e-mails and phone calls.
102. The present Leadership Team of the Order of Elders include: Constance Y. Pak (Chair), Eldon Simpson (Vice-Chair), Thomas Theilmann (Treasurer/Registrar), T. Anne Daniel (Recording Secretary), Joseph Piccirillo, Enrique Lebron, Joyce Wilkerson, Carmen M. Ortiz, Janet Hodge, Evelyn McDonald, Ann Pearson (Ex-Officio: Director of Connectional Ministries). Joyce Wilkerson retired this June and her position has not been filled yet. For re-forming the whole structure of the Leadership Team, the chair will discuss this matter/process with the Board of Ordained Ministry. As far as business matters related to the Cabinet were concerned, the chair has directly communicated with the Dean of the Cabinet, Rev. Noel Chin.
103. Immediately after the New York Annual Conference in June, as in previous years, the chair sent out a congratulatory welcome letter to the newly ordained Elders (9), and thank-you and farewell letters to the retirees (17 Elders and one Local Pastor) of the class of 2010. A bookmark was included with the letter as a gift for each individual.
104. As the presenter and a panelist for the overview of the Elders and the Order of Elders of The United Methodist Church, Chairperson Constance Pak was invited once again to the Discernment Event sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry at the Scarritt Bennett Center, Nashville, TN, on September 9 – 11, 2011.
105. Each year, usually a couple of weeks after Easter, the Leadership Team of the Order of Elders has offered a Spiritual Retreat for all clergy in our Conference. This retreat has happened for the past nine years. It has been our sacred time together individually and communally. Unfortunately, however, the Leadership

Team decided to cancel our retreat this year due to a schedule conflict with another program which was sponsored by Bishop and Connectional Ministry. Bishop/Cabinet and the Connectional Ministry office felt that our Conference needed to invite Rev. Paul Nixon again for Part 2 of his seminar (“I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church”) as a follow-up from the Bishop’s retreat last fall. In his busy schedule, the only time he could come to our Conference was April 15-17, 2010. It was only a few days before our retreat (we originally planned our retreat on April 20-23, 2010). We tried to combine these two events creatively; however, things didn’t work out. Therefore, there was no retreat for the Order of Elders this spring. Instead, we helped to promote Paul Nixon’s seminar by strongly encouraging and recommending the clergy to attend this event instead of our retreat.

106. In the fall, the Order of Elders offered the Day Apart on Thursday, October 14, 2010 at the Memorial/Central Korean United Methodist Church in White Plains, New York. We gathered at 9:00 a.m., and adjourned by 2:45 p.m. Even though the Order of Elders sponsored this event, it was open to all clergy members of our Conference. About 80 clergy attended and they earned 0.4 point of continuing education credit. For this spiritual gathering, the Leadership Team invited a special guest speaker, The Reverend Canon Petero A. N. Sabune. Under the theme of “Beyond the Walls,” Canon Sabune guided us to break through the walls which hinder our vision of creating a just, fair, and equal world by helping us to see God’s Kingdom on earth beyond our imagination. A native of Uganda and the son of a priest, he has been journeying a unique path of calling as an Episcopal priest. Canon Sabune had been the Protestant chaplain at Sing Sing Correctional Facility, a New York state maximum security prison in Ossining since 2004. However, he has been named African partnership officer for the Episcopal Church beginning May 17, 2010. Canon Sabune has been a candidate for bishop in the dioceses of Long Island, New Jersey and Newark, and is currently a member of the Episcopal Church’s Executive Council. Spotters cited Canon Sabune’s catalytic role in helping faith communities become involved in social transformation. Additionally, he is the adopted son of our colleague, Rev. Richard Parker.
107. Presently the Leadership Team is preparing for the Retreat 2011. We expect that it will be another great spiritual nurturing event, which will be held on May 9 (Monday) – May 12 (Thursday), 2011 at Mount Saint Alphonsus in Esopus, NY. We are excited to have two very highly respected leaders/speakers for this retreat: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kah-Jin Kuan, new Dean of Drew Theological School since January 1, 2011, and Prof. Mark A. Miller, who teaches sacred music and worship at Drew Theological School and Yale University.

The Leadership Team of the Order of Elders expresses its gratitude to all clergy in the New York Annual Conference for their faithful ministries. We are honored to serve and assist them for their spiritual growth and for strengthening collegiality.

SEXUAL RESPONSE TEAM REPORT 2011

Lorraine De Armitt, Convener

Concur: 50, Non-Concur: 0, Abstain: 1; 100% concurrence, NYAC conference session: adopted

101. The purpose of the Sexual Ethics Response Team remains: to facilitate the response to allegations of clergy sexual misconduct; to provide a trained resource for the Cabinet in dealing with an allegation; to assist in recommending advocates for complainants and support persons for those accused; to assist the Cabinet in determining the feasibility of mediation and settlement; to provide a resource for intervention with congregations impacted by misconduct and/or allegations of misconduct. The Response Team is not a mediation team, nor is it an investigative body.
102. We have a team of qualified persons in place, with a good geographical spread throughout the Conference boundaries, with some diversity regarding cultural and language background.
103. Two of us attended the “First, Do No Harm” Conference for Safe Sanctuaries workers and Response team members in Houston January 2011, and were able to network with our peers from throughout the nation.
104. Anyone who feels the need to discuss a concern regarding sexual misconduct may contact their clergyperson, another UMC clergyperson, a District Superintendent, the Bishop, and/or a member of the Sexual Ethics Response Team. It is expected that all Staff-parish Relations Committees, lay members to Annual Conference and clergy shall have received and keep available the Sexual Ethics Policy and Procedure booklet. Questions or concerns can be directed to the Rev. Lorraine De Armitt.

