

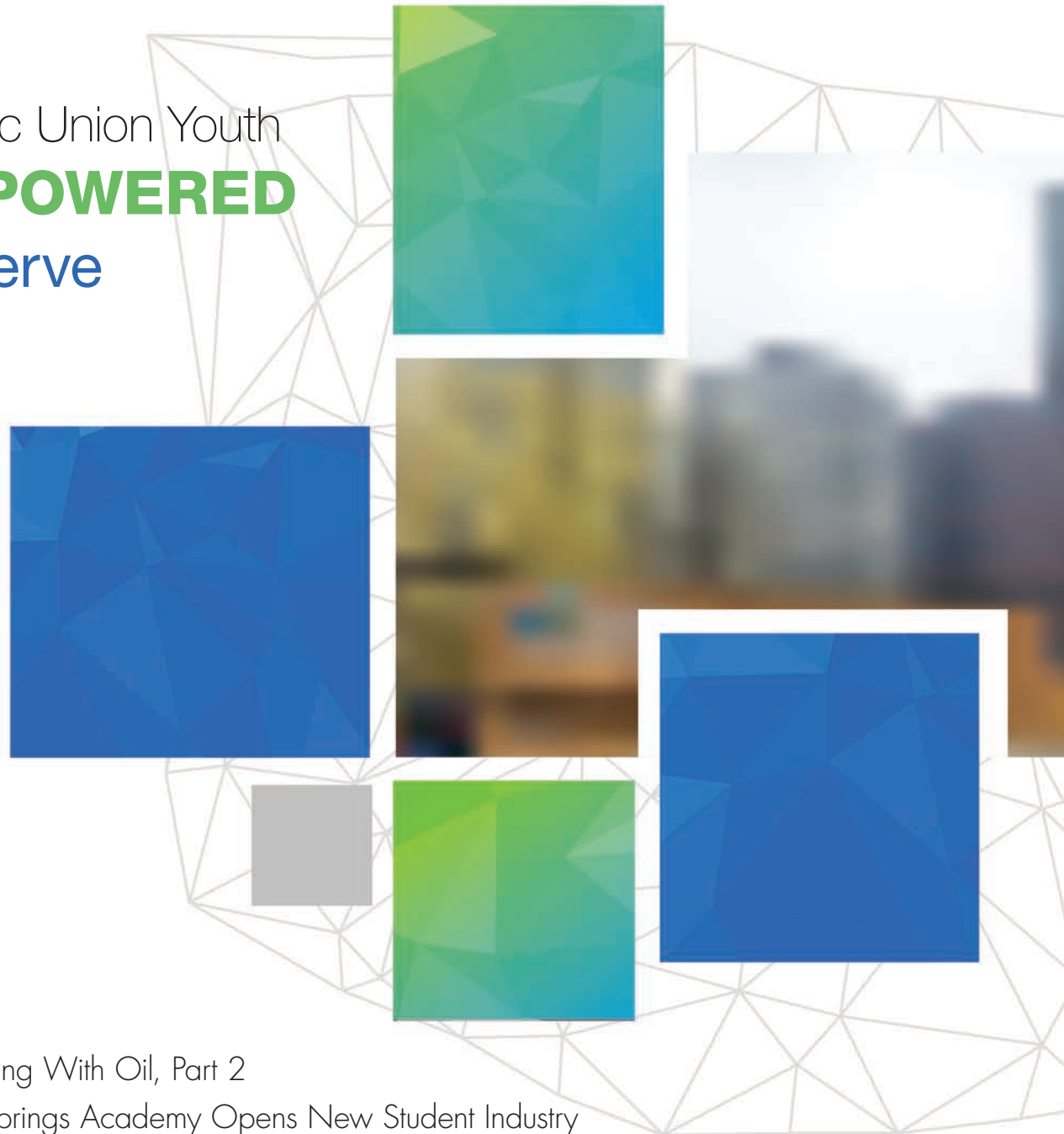
THE ATLANTIC UNION

APRIL 2019

GLEANNER



Atlantic Union Youth
EMPOWERED
to Serve



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Empowering Our Youth for Service

The youth are not only our future, but they are impacting the work of the church today. As we reflect on biblical history, many of the outstanding leaders in Israel were young adults. People such as Joseph, who distinguished himself in Egypt by standing firmly for his moral convictions and not accepting Potiphar's wife's invitation to commit adultery with her. He subsequently suffered imprisonment as a result of the lies she told her husband. He eventually became a ruler in Egypt. Another example is Esther, a young woman who became the queen of Medo-Persia, and risked her life for her people.

Jesus Christ, who was called to His ministry at the age of 30, is the supreme example. He took the form of man and lived a life of total faithfulness to His heavenly Father's will. Jesus also called young men to be His disciples. They became apostles to the world, having been empowered to do so.

The world is at a stage where one of the driving forces of our society is technology. This has opened to the youth a world of possibilities. They are very proficient with current technology and social media, which provide a platform that allows them to be connected to the world of information. With an understanding of the Word of God, the writings of Ellen G. White, and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, our youth can accomplish so much for the cause of God.

White declared, "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin! How soon, in place of a possession here, with its blight of sin and pain, our children

might receive their inheritance where 'the righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever,' where 'the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick,' and 'the voice of weeping shall be no more heard.'"—EDUCATION, p. 271.

Recently the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department conducted an inspiring Evangelism and Leadership Congress with the objectives of training, equipping, and empowering youth for ministry involvement. David McKenzie, Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries director, and his dedicated team brought together more than 1,300 young people from across the Atlantic Union. Under the tutelage of leaders from our conferences, union, division, and General Conference, the objectives were met. It was a successful conference and the youth left inspired and ready to be used by God and their churches to further the mission of the church.

The adversary of our souls, the devil, has intensified his efforts to bring discouragement upon God's church, particularly the youth. Let me encourage every young person to "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand"—Ephesians 6:11-13, NKJV.

There is a place for our youth to be engaged in ministry in the church. May they be encouraged to find their rightful place in the work of God. ☉

G. Earl Knight is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees.



“The youth are not only our future, but they are impacting the work of the church today.”

*“I stay connected to
God through prayers
and singing”*

—Amanda Babb, Dunamis church





Photos: Naquan Taitt and Ann-Marie Brown



Atlantic Union Youth Empowered to Serve

The Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department leaders are champions of the youth and young adults. To help prepare them for leadership and service, ongoing programs and events are held at all levels of the church with the aim of empowering them in their various ministries.

Two such programs took place in the first two months of 2019. The first was the Atlantic Union Youth Leadership and Evangelism Congress, held January 18-20 at the Stamford Hilton in Stamford, Connecticut. This event occurs once every five years. The second event, the annual GODencounters Collegiate Retreat, was held February 15-17 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Leominster, Massachusetts. The organization and planning by the Atlantic Union Youth Ministries Department, along with the six local conference Youth Ministries departments, helped to make these programs a success.

Leadership and Evangelism Congress

More than 1,200 youth leaders and supporters from across the Atlantic Union territory attended the Leadership and Evangelism Congress. Attendees experienced Spirit-filled messages, soul-stirring music, and vital training sessions filled with information to enhance their ministries.

Daniel R. Jackson, North American Division president, was the guest speaker for the Friday-evening consecration service. “If Jesus is not in the center of what you teach and preach, then stop doing it,” Jackson told the group. The evening concluded with “Friday Night LIVE,” an opportunity for discussion and a question-and-answer session.

Wesley Knight, pastor of Fusion Atlanta, an urban church plant in Atlanta, Georgia; and CEO/founder of Communiversity, a leadership and ministry consultation firm, spoke for the Sabbath worship service. In his message titled “The Power

of Maybe,” Knight told the group that “While you’re in the darkness, just keep talking. . . . God will bring you out!” More than 1,500 people attended the services on Sabbath.

Sabbath afternoon included an Investiture and consecration ceremony for Master Guides and senior youth. Saturday night featured a concert with a variety of artists from around the Atlantic Union

Conference, the orchestra from Washington Adventist University, and southern gospel recording artist David Phelps.

At the Sunday-morning closing ceremony Bill Wood, retired Atlantic

Union Youth Ministries director, gave the closing charge. “Use your talents,” Wood said. “God has chosen each one of you to do something special for Him. God has chosen you to do something amazing for Him. Do it!”

I stay connected with God “by continuing to communicate with him through prayer, also with support and help from other church members encouraging me day after day. . . . It helps me to be connected and stay focused on His Word.”

—Sherrine Brown, Pleasant Street church




Naquan Iaitt



Vanessa Bentacourt

GODencounters

“Love Awakened” was the theme for the 2019 GODencounters as more than 230 Young adults from across the Atlantic Union gathered for a spiritual, life-changing experience, while engaging in worship and fellowship.

The weekend included general sessions and several breakout seminars that covered such topics as “Women in Ministry,” “Sexuality in the Church,” and “Race in the Church.” Guest speakers for the event were Jordan Tamaleaa, a senior theology major at Walla Walla University (WVU) who also serves as co-pastor for Circle Church, a WVU campus ministry; and Jonathan Leonardo, who is currently pursuing a doctorate in Systemic Theology from Andrews University. 

GLEANER staff

To view more Youth Congress and GODencounter photos, visit the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department Facebook page and click on “Albums.” www.facebook.com/AtlanticUnionAdventistYouthMinistries.

“I enjoyed Youth Congress. It is a reminder that the youth community is more than just my local church, or even the youth that I see annually at camp meeting. . . . I especially appreciate the multiple ethnicities and cultural diversity the [Atlantic] Union allows me to experience from a Christian perspective. Also, with so many images of our nation’s youth portraying a generation of mischief, destruction, confusion, anxiety, and negativity, it was refreshing to see so many young people worshipping the Lord, gathering with a purpose, and desirous of an active and working commitment to youth ministry for Jesus Christ. It reinforces my belief that, in Christ, we are all one. My one wish is that there would be more activities which encourage the young people to be engaged across conferences, and thus potentially across cultural, social, and geographic divides. Overall, it was an enriching experience with a bounty of useful information that our delegates will surely endeavor to utilize as we labor for the Master in the building up of His kingdom.”

—Robert Allison, Youth Congress participant

Love Awakened

GODencounters 2019

I stay connected to God with “daily morning devotions. I love to sing, so I’m always humming, throughout the day. I always have a song in my heart to keep me joyful, to keep me prayerful, to keep me connected.”

—Andrew James, Norwich church, New York



Photos: Vanessa Belancourt and Luis Sanchez



To stay connected with God, “as much as possible, I try to, at least every once in a while, take my distractions away, come off of Facebook, WhatsApp, and everything else, and try to focus on God and spend time with Him.”

—Ashley Isaacs, Flatbush church



Youth Ministry Supplement

[adventist youth ministries on the move]

On Driving With Oil, Part 2

There is a danger in operating a vehicle with unchanged oil and filter. The oil filter is a paper/fabric cylindrical apparatus that prevents small foreign particles from circulating in the oil. This is of significance to any vehicle, because it increases the oil's life span.

When changing a vehicle's oil, a simultaneous filter change is also recommended. This practice is essential, as it prevents the recirculation of old dirt with the new oil.

Vehicles drive across various terrains, and they start, stop, idle often, and function in rain, snow, dust, and mud, among other conditions. Thus, over time, engine oil tends to grow sluggish with the accrual of waste (dirt), and breakdown due to high heat. This can further cause the oil to weaken, become diluted, and burned out.

Much like vehicles, youth leaders need ongoing 'oil maintenance.' In reality, daily maintenance is essential for effective leadership. This maintenance will address the residues of service, the 'waste,' the issues, and the challenges that can create sluggish physical, emotional, and spiritual outcomes, and engender a diluted, burned-out ministry.

Of note is the reality that a vehicle cannot change its own oil; it requires a specialist to address this function. Jesus is the youth leader's Specialist. His desire is to remove any accumulated 'dirt' in us and fill us with His Holy Spirit. He is ever ready to respond to the cry, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me"—Psalm 51:10, KJV.

Unlike a car's oil change, which can occur without fully removing the dirt particles when the filter is not changed simultaneously, Jesus desires to baptize us with His sweet Holy Spirit, and bless us with complete cleansing. We can't afford to want an infilling of the Holy Spirit and yet hold on to yesterday's dirt—baggage that has accumulated over time.

Such cleansing is a daily experience, moment by moment, allowing God to wash our lives of unchristlike attitudes, thoughts, and words. Here, God is willing to supply the

total change that we all need. He is a God of completion. "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ"—Philippians 1:6, KJV. He wants to perform a total overhaul in us. He doesn't merely desire to manifest His power through us, but, rather, to dwell within us.

As we allow God to lubricate our lives with the oil of the Holy Spirit, He calls youth leaders to exhibit Holy Spirit-



anointed viscosity in ministry to God's youth and young adults. Such a quality will empower us to flow out to all whom we serve, while modeling and coaching for unity and cohesiveness.

May God's youth ministry "vehicle" continue to thrive under the anointing oil of His sweet Holy Spirit, discipling many for His kingdom. ①



David McKenzie is the director for Youth, Young Adult, Pathfinder, and Adventurer ministries in the Atlantic Union Conference.



ACS Bermuda Celebrates the Joy of Service

The Bermuda Conference Adventist Community Services (ACS) team assembled at the Midland Heights church in Hamilton Parish to celebrate God's blessings on their ministry in 2018.

The celebration began early Sabbath morning with a ministry to the community. ACS workers and children packed and distributed fruit that was well received by those walking, driving, and riding the bus past the church. The celebration continued in the sanctuary with church members and numerous community friends.

The ACS team recognized, with plaques, community members who participated with them in ministry. These included Collin Simmons, Bermuda Industrial Union education officer; Valerie Arorash, Bermuda Government Department of Health community health coordinator; and Franz Egenolf, owner of Pizza House and Eliana's restaurants. Also recognized were ACS leaders Tammy Robinson, Midland Heights church; Brenda Harris-Burchall, Warwick church; along with Melba Wilson, Hamilton church's Happy Seniors' Club coordinator.

At the celebration, several members and community friends received badges for attending disaster response training, which qualifies them for providing services in response to a disaster, including donations management through multi-agency warehouses, operating collection and distribution centers, feeding survivors and first responders; and assessing damages to buildings affected



Bermuda Conference Adventist Community Services recognizes, with plaques, members of the community who participated with them in ministry.

by a disaster. The credentials are required to minister to the people they are called to serve.

Ulric Hetsberger, pastor of the Midland Heights church, delivered the message and recounted his experience as the conference's ACS director some years ago. He expressed his gratitude for the privilege of ministering to the homeless by bringing them from the street to the hurricane shelter. Then, building on Acts 13:32-36, he drove home the point that our purpose in life is to serve our fellow human beings. He shared that as we await the coming of the Lord, we are to serve our community as King David "served his generation by the will of God." At the end of his sermon, Hetsberger and the congregation welcomed an individual who rededicated his life to Jesus and was accepted on profession of faith.

Each ACS team maintained an active program for addressing the needs of the people in their community. Community Services min-

istries included, but were not limited to, clothing and household item giveaways, feeding ministries to the schools, ministry to seniors, community fun days, GED programs, and more.

ACS workers joined other ministry groups in the conference. In partnership with the Health Ministries department, they conducted free health screenings for the community. On Labour Day at the Bermuda Industrial Union, members of the community received blood pressure, blood glucose, and health-age testing. Leonard Gibbons, Bermuda Conference Health Ministries director, and Elaine Quinones, a medical doctor volunteering at the event, provided much-needed lifestyle improvement advice to participants.

The ACS team worked in collaboration with the community nurse at the Bermuda Government's Department of Health to provide additional health screenings throughout the island, with a special out-

reach to those without health insurance. They screened more than 200 people. Additionally, the team attended lifestyle improvement workshops on topics of interest and received tools to help prevent, arrest, and reverse various diseases.

ACS workers participated in overseas outreach, as well. A team of volunteers visited the Feed My Lambs Ministry in Haiti, where they ministered to children and staff at the orphanage.

"We give thanks to God for these workers and for their dedication and commitment to giving sacrificially of their time and energy in service to the community, and [we] are equally thankful to our community friends who allowed us to work alongside them," said Dora Baker, Bermuda Conference ACS acting director. "We are tremendously grateful to our community sponsors and the Bermuda Conference for providing goods and financing."

—Adventist Community Services,
Bermuda Conference

Greater New York Academy Students Meet Atlantic Union Leaders

Five Greater New York Academy (GNYA) students and two chaperons visited the headquarters of the Atlantic Union Conference in Lancaster, Massachusetts, on December 18, 2018, to learn more about their church. The visiting students include Nathaniel Frederick, Dale Henry, Amir Peña-Mutis, Moises Reyes, and Raquel Payne-Henry, all of whom are aspiring pastors and min-

isters. Enrichment Week is about learning through involvement, or as GNYA principal Jacques Patterson emphasizes through the use of a well-known quote: “Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.” This is also the reason why five students embarked on a four-hour journey to visit the church’s headquarters in this region, so that they can feel involved

in their church and learn about it in the process.

The students toured the building and visited many offices including the office of the *GLEANER* magazine, treasury, education, and the conference meeting room. At each stop, they learned something new. They were given in-depth information that stimulated their curiosity and engaged their minds.

“I think that being the *GLEANER* editor is the most fascinating job,” said Raquel Payne-Henry. “Learning how to write is very important. It is incorporated in almost every job. I was especially impressed with the archive of all of the *GLEANER* magazines that were released from the first year in 1902. They were all preserved and kept in order.” Ednor Davison, *GLEANER* editor, explained that the magazine connects all the churches from Maine to New York, and across the sea to Bermuda.

“The most inspiring part for me was when she took the time out to tell us the story of a nine-year-old girl, [Emily Bastien], who is an author,” Payne-Henry said. “The girl has already finished her second published book. I was moved when Mrs. Davison showed me a copy of one of her books. I was inspired because I love writing, and I realized that I am capable of doing big things for the Lord.”

Indeed, every stop challenged the students to think big, reiterating in different ways: “You will lead this church,” “You will sit in this chair one day.” The message worked. By the end of the day, each student felt the awesome responsibility to live up to the call of God in their life.

They understood in a deeper sense that they must carry on the work. They knew in their hearts that this visit was not just for education—it was part inspiration. The counsel from Lileth Coke, the Office of Education assistant director and certification registrar, on the importance of the pastoral spouse and the need to choose wisely, the way the tithe is distributed and the far-reaching effects of it inspired them. Holding a little truck built by a child in Africa rendered them speechless and reminded them of the call to “Go into all the world and make disciples.”

Dale Henry, especially found the vault in the treasury department the most interesting section in the building. The students huddled with Trevor Forbes, Atlantic Union undertreasurer, in a space designed to withstand fire, burglary, and explosions. They listened to his words of counsel and bowed their heads as he prayed for them and their future. While there were no monetary bills in that vault, the students received



Greater New York Academy students, from left, Amir Peña-Mutis, Raquel Payne-Henry, Dale Henry, Moises Reyes, and Nathaniel Frederick, along with Moldavia McAlpine-Joseph, religion teacher and chairperson of the Math department, center back, visit Atlantic Union Conference Communication department.

isters. The visit was part of the school’s effort to expose students to their interests and also to facilitate learning outside the classroom.

“Enrichment Week” introduced GNYA students to museums, historical sites, and education facilities across New York City. From the math museum to the African burial site, the students’ visit enriched their learning and engaged their

The students had the opportunity to meet church leaders at the Atlantic Union office and were exposed to critical aspects of the mission of the church. “I learned that the church is very organized. Even the way that it is broken down from the General Conference to the local church is amazing. It reminds me that God



Five Greater New York Academy students and their chaperones, Moldavia McAlpine-Joseph, religion teacher and chairperson of the Math department, second from left, and Nkarlo Alexander, Religion department chairperson, Greater New York Academy, right, visit the William Miller Chapel in Founders Hall on the campus of Atlantic Union College.

something of greater value—eternal treasures. It was almost as if God was working through each person as they spoke to the students. Every word uttered, every advice given, and every personal story shared was as water in a desert to a thirsty traveler. All this not only refreshed the students but also changed their lives.

They especially experienced this while seated in the large conference room. One-by-one, they received gifts designed to help them in their lives as students and in their future as ministers. The leaders of the Office of Education shared their individual life stories. Jerrell Gilkeson, director, and Marlene Alvarez, associate director, shared how

they met the Lord, their first realization of being called to service, and what triggered them to dedicate their lives to work for God for their entire career.

The students listened in amazement. One student tried to put the impact of their testimonies in words, “These things happened to them when they were our age; that’s what made it so meaningful.”

To end the trip, the students walked over to Founders Hall on the campus of Atlantic Union College. Ironically, as the trip ended, they returned to the “beginning” of the Adventist Church. Standing in the oldest Seventh-day Adventist educational building (1883) brought a sense

of grandeur and grounding. Laying their hands on a pulpit that Ellen White spoke from gave each student immediate pause—they were walking through history. Spending time in the William Miller Chapel reminded them of the great prophecies that propelled this movement—a movement fueled by young people; and somewhere deep in their hearts, they must have heard God’s voice saying, “Now carry the work forward in My strength.”

—Raquel Payne-Henry, class of 2022, and Nkarlo Alexander, Religion department chairperson, Greater New York Academy

? What’s Happening in Your Community?

We want to know more about what’s happening in your community. How are members of your church reaching beyond the walls of the church and making an impact in your community? How are the youth and young adults getting involved?

E-mail your stories with the photos to the Greater New York Conference communication director. Be sure to include a caption with each photo.

For information on what types of stories to submit, visit: atlantic-union.org/writing-guidelines. We would love to hear from you!



Donnieval Walker
Communication Director
Greater New York Conference
E-mail: dwalker@gnyc.org

Westvale Embraces Faith Community Nurse Ministry

“Hands of Health” Grant

The Westvale church in Syracuse, New York, recently received a \$1,000.00 check from William’s Wishes to convert the library at the church into a Health Ministries/ Faith Community Nurse Resource Center/Office. William’s Wishes is a foundation that seeks to seed the development of faith-based health ministries and parish nurse programs, thereby increasing the number of individuals who receive the benefits of such programs. The goal is to allow people to experience wholeness in mind, body, and spirit, even when a cure may not be available.

William’s Wishes was founded in 2014 as a legacy to a parishioner who received support and nurture within his congregation by a health ministry and their parish nurse. The Westvale church is pleased to receive this “Hands of Health” grant.

The Faith Community Nurses Team

The Westvale church is blessed to have two Faith Community Nurses (FCN) and is the first church in the



Joan Payne and Jann Cady hold their certificates of completion for the “Foundations of Faith Community Nursing” 40-hour intensive course they completed at the North American Division Health Summit.

New York Conference to embrace the Faith Community Nurse ministry. Joan Payne and Jann Cady look forward to working together as a team for the church in this ministry.

Payne and Cady attended the North American Division (NAD) Health Summit, January 20-26, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. During those days, they learned how to integrate the FCN initiative in their church and community. They both took the “Foundations of Faith Community Nursing” 40-hour intensive course. Cady took the course for the first time and Payne took it as a refresher.

On the last evening of the health summit, organizers held a special commissioning ceremony for the eight nurses who completed the course. Each nurse received the FCN pin, roses, and a certificate of completion. They are also to receive prayer shawls.

—Faith Community Nurses team, Westvale church

Union Springs Academy Alumnus Celebrates 100th Birthday

Jennie Lee Rice Herndon was born on December 17, 1917. She grew up in Central New York and attended Union Springs Academy (USA) for all four years, graduating in 1937.

Herndon vividly remembers her experience at the academy with great delight. She loved school. Her favorite class was history. She loved to sing and still remembers her music teacher, Mrs. Astrid King.

After graduating from Union Springs Academy, Herndon moved to California and became a registered nurse. She has lived a purposed life of healing and serving others.

Herndon was honored as a VIP guest during Union Springs Academy’s Alumni Weekend on September 28, 2018. She is the eldest alumna that USA is in touch



USA alumni from 1967 and before surround the oldest USA alumna, 100-year-old Jennie Lee Herndon, seated in the wheelchair.

with who attended alumni weekend. When asked about her favorite hymn, she began singing “Blessed Assurance,” and the entire congregation joined in singing with her.

It was a special weekend of celebrations on Herndon’s 100th birthday in December

2018. Union Springs Academy students sang happy birthday to her and also sang Christmas carols to her and the residents at the nursing home. She sang along, knowing every word.

Students enjoyed asking Herndon questions about

her time at school and they shared how school is different today. Her fondest memories at USA were about having fun with her classmates, especially in the winter sliding down the roads in Union Springs on cafeteria trays! She remarked how thankful she was to work on campus to help with her school bill and it taught her to work hard all her life.

Herndon currently lives in Auburn, New York, where she enjoys looking out for others, bringing them joy and a bright smile every day. She is a faithful member of the Auburn church and still attends on occasion. USA and the alumni wish Herndon many blessings as she reflects on God’s goodness to her these past 100 years.

—Alumni association, Union Springs Academy

Union Springs Academy Opens New Student Industry

Union Springs Academy (USA) students, faculty, staff, and alumni are excited about the opening of USA's newest venture, USA Packaging Industry. The business currently employs 15 students to construct and fill variety-pack boxes of healthy nutrition bars. Completed boxes are loaded onto pallets and shipped to Amazon for distribution. Boston-based IQ Bar is the first client to sign on with USA Packaging Industry.

Students work in two-hour time blocks—juniors and seniors in the morning; freshmen and sophomores in the afternoon. Wages earned by the students are deducted from their

tuition and, unique to this particular campus job, students also receive a cash incentive they can use as personal money.

In the works for more than two years, making USA Packaging Industry a reality was a joint effort by many people, including Hilde Barrera, USA's principal; Miguel Crespo, New York Conference president; and the finance committee, which includes business owners as members, for their expertise and wisdom in the process. In addition, USA alumni and supporters have worked diligently since July 2018 to renovate the former broom factory building in preparation for



Newly-opened USA Packaging Industry employs Union Springs Academy students to construct and fill variety-pack boxes of healthy nutrition bars.

the packaging industry's grand opening.

—Janica Caster, vice principal of development, alumni relations, recruitment; Union Springs Academy

North Country 10th Annual Women's Retreat

Camp Cherokee, Saranac Lake, New York

June 7-9, 2019

Wanted
Strong Faithful Women for Christ



Featured Speaker
Julia Bellman

We will be exploring our identity in Christ and how women of strength and faith will be most needed in end times.

For more information, contact:

Sharon King at (315) 481-9898 or e-mail: kingsharon193@ymail.com

Union Springs Academy Presents
The Passion Play

Theme: Jesus, Ever Present

Where: Held at Union Springs Academy
40 Springs Street
Union Springs, NY

When: Friday, April 19 & Saturday, April 20 @ 7 pm

Who: All Welcome - No Admission Fee

Come experience the story of redemption throughout earth's history, from creation to the second coming in a dramatic musical production.
Brought to you by the students of Union Springs Academy.

Church Sponsors Conversation About Alzheimer's Disease

The Jet Setters of the Berea church in Boston, Massachusetts, continued their community awareness on Alzheimer's and dementia during the month of January. This workshop helped to shine a light on the stigma associated with the disease.

The first presenter, Binta Barry, Alzheimer's Association diversity outreach coordinator, spoke on the process of aging and how normal acts of misplacing and forgetting items, and the ability of adjusting and immediately rectifying these acts, don't pose a problem.

In contrast with the normal forgetfulness, when the brain is affected by dementia, it cannot be rectified immediately, and Alzheimer's could cause this. Many people refer to dementia and Alzheimer's



Participants of the workshop on Alzheimer's and dementia held at Berea church in Boston take a group photo with the presenters.

interchangeably, but the two are not the same. The main focus of Barry's presentation was to delineate the differences between dementia and Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's is a form of dementia and can affect everyone in various ways. It is a progressive form of brain disease.

Pamela MacLeod, a senior program development asso-

ciate at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, spoke on the risk factors of Alzheimer's, which include age, family history, head injuries, and heart disease. There are treatments available that can temporarily relieve symptoms, such as food choices, medication, socializing, physical activities, brain exercises, and others.

Both presenters spoke about the need to treat Alzheimer's like any other illness. The main focus of the afternoon was on experiences of the audience who have had some relational capacity with this disease, finding support and suggestions for removing the stigma that's associated with it, and the need to eradicate the sense of loneliness of both caregiver and patient.

Several participants shared their stories and the forum opened the opportunity for future conversations. More presentations on Alzheimer's will be offered to the community, including Berea church's second annual Memory Sunday on June 9.

—Barbara J. Defoe, member and Jet Setters leader, Berea church, Boston, Massachusetts

Corona Church Member Celebrates 100th Birthday

Corona church in Corona, New York, recently celebrated the first milestone of 2019—the 100th birthday of longtime member Cynthia King, affectionately known as “Sister King.”

At an early age, King made a decision about Whom she would serve. She was baptized at the age of 14 at Bethel church in Brooklyn, New York, and she remained a member there until after her mother's death in the early 1980s.

King says that while she was a member at Bethel,



Family members surround Cynthia King at Corona church during her 100th-birthday celebration.

the mother of her friend, Isis Graham, invited her to Sabbath services at the Adventist mission in Corona. This mission

eventually became Corona church.

As for the celebration of her very special birthday and how it feels to reach

the century mark, King said, “I don't know. It's the same. There's a lot of excitement and I don't like a lot of fanfare. Some days I feel like 16 and some days I feel like 60.”

King has a daughter, Lillian, who provides her daily care, as well as one grandchild, and one great-grandchild. Cynthia King shows no sign of slowing down. A widow for almost nine years, King says she feels anything but 100.

—Marcia Comrie, member, Corona church

Pastor Shares How Prayer Made a Difference

Donnett Blake, pastor of Northeastern Conference’s New Dimension church in Brooklyn, New York, shared stories about what is working in her church to provide opportunities for people to follow Jesus through baptism and membership. Blake was one of several presenters at eHuddle 2019, a North American Division (NAD) Ministerial Department event, held February 18-20, in San Diego, California.

Over three days, attendees participated in five sessions corresponding to five voted outcomes of evangelism. Blake’s presentation related to the fifth outcome pertain-

ing to baptism. Blake shared how she led the church to incorporate “an intensely intentional and deliberate” prayer plan focusing on evangelism through prayer. She outlined several ways in which church members incorporated prayer, including online prayer sessions five days a week from 4:00-5:00 a.m.; Sabbath-morning prayer from 8:00-9:00 a.m.; opening the church to the community for prayer on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; and on Sabbaths, inviting people from the community to brunch and prayer.

Following the intensely intentional and deliber-



Emo Müller

Donnett Blake, New Dimension church pastor, shares her story of leading her church to incorporate an “intensely intentional and deliberate” prayer plan.

ate prayer plan, between 2017-2018, 115 people were baptized. After baptism, the church spends time teaching newly-baptized members, continuing to make connections, and forming relation-

ships with the community through prayer. (See related article on page 19.)

—Debra Banks Cuadro, assistant communication director, Atlantic Union Conference

Northeastern Holds Town Hall Meeting on Conference Expansion

Nearly 700 people packed the Temple Salem church in Boston, Massachusetts, for a town hall meeting to hear reports and express ideas on the establishment of another regional conference in the Atlantic Union Conference. The “North Atlantic Conference” would consist of 15,000 current members of the Northeastern Conference (NEC), representing congregations in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. (To date, Northeastern does not have churches in Maine or Vermont.)

Administrative leaders from the Northeastern Conference and the Atlantic Union Conference were available to field questions from the audience. Daniel Honoré, Northeastern



Northeastern Conference Facebook

Hundreds listen intently to reports and ideas about the establishment of another regional conference during a town hall meeting at Temple Salem church in Boston.

Conference president, directly answered questions on Facebook about the proposed measure.

“NEC is one of the fastest-growing conferences in [the North American Division] and is projected to reach 60,000 members this year. As disciples birth other disciples, and churches birth other churches, sometimes conferences birth

other conferences. For the body to grow, cells divide,” Honoré wrote.

Citing growth of the regional conferences in both the Southern Union and the Columbia Union after regional conferences restructured, Honoré anticipates the same will happen for Northeastern. First proposed in 1999 by former NEC president, the late Stennett

Brooks, Honoré says that Northeastern Conference has experienced a 98 percent increase in membership. “The primary purpose of restructuring would be to advance [the] mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Such a move would also enhance organizational efficiency, evangelistic outreach, as well as corporate and individual accountability,” says Honoré.

Those attending the town hall meeting showed unanimous support in favor of the proposed restructuring. A special constituency session of the Northeastern Conference is expected to be called to recommend a formal proposal to the North American Division.

—Debra Banks Cuadro, assistant communication director, Atlantic Union Conference

NNEC Church-Planting Effort Gains Momentum

Church planting is a major evangelistic thrust across the North American Division, and it is also the major evangelistic thrust in the Northern New England Conference (NNEC). Currently, there are six distinct church-plant efforts underway in the conference, with more being added. If all the active church-plant efforts are successful, the number of churches in the conference will grow by more than 10 percent!

Church-planting efforts are taking a multitude of forms. Take, for instance, the congregation that has formed out of The Ark in Lewiston, Maine, which is considered the most post-Christian city in the United States. About five years ago The Ark, formed by conference evangelist Rick Kuntz and numerous volunteers, focused on health education and outreach, along with a vegan restaurant, The Olive Branch Café.

A small group of volunteers gathered in the restaurant on Sabbath mornings for worship. That small group dramatically blossomed a little over a year ago when an outreach was made to children of refugee families in the area. Now, there are 60-plus people packed



The Ark fellowship is pretty much standing-room-only on Sabbath mornings. The group is seeking a larger space in which to meet.

into the restaurant on Sabbath mornings and the company has its own pastor and is looking for a larger worship place.

Some church plants come together in a matter of weeks, such as recently happened in Williston, Vermont (see accompanying story on page 17). Most often, however, church plants require years of patient work. Such work is underway in Hanover, New Hampshire. There, a group of Adventists, who have planted a church that is literally a stone's throw from Dartmouth College, are engaged in steady and targeted outreach on the campus. That group includes community members and students.

Other efforts include sites that are part of The

Planting Project, a long-term church-planting model that deploys teams of patient, long-term, tent-making young adult missionaries that use the Adventist Frontier Missions' model of raising up communities of believers. Two teams are currently preparing to plant and more are being recruited. The project, that is anticipated to function for a decade or more, is intended to plant up to 20 churches over its life.

Overall the North American Division plans to add up to 1,000 churches through individual planting projects over the next 5-10 years. This is a massive goal, but the Northern New England Conference is determined to at least make a dent in that number.

Some of the church plants underway in NNEC are designed according to a mother/daughter model where a church (the mother) provides the people, space, and leadership necessary to plant a new congregation (the daughter). Some of the plants are the result of focused outreach (such as happens at The Ark) and some are definite missionary outposts taking place in areas where there are few or no Adventists (such as happens with The Planting Project).

Whatever the design of a church plant, where they are successful they expand Christ's kingdom, and that means a substantial effort is justified.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

Long Weekend WorkBee at Washington Church in June

Do you have a passion for Adventist history, a willing spirit, and desire to help with an important outreach? The Washington church in New Hampshire—the very first Seventh-day Adventist Church in history—is having

a workbee from Friday, June 22 through Tuesday, June 25. Those interested are invited to come, camp at the church (or nearby state park) and join in the work, fellowship, and worship for as much of that weekend as they care to.

The church site is an important tourist site and outreach, with visitors coming from around the world each year. Keeping the church and the Sabbath Trail in presentable condition is a yearly undertaking

that not only maintains the site, but facilitates witness and outreach.

Volunteers are needed to do the important work of maintaining the Sabbath Trail portion of the church site, including brush clearing

and chipping. Several experienced tree cutters (with their own chainsaws) would be an excellent addition as they could be on hand to lead work groups and keep a chipper fed throughout the period. You say you are not quite an experienced “tree feller” but know how to cut brush? Bring your saw and we’ll put you to work!

There is also plenty of other work to do. Volunteers can wash the monuments in the historic Adventist graveyard and the engraved monuments on the Sabbath Trail, as well as paint the letters on the trail monuments where necessary.

Volunteers can trim roadside trees allowing buses an easier path to get to the site. In addition, volunteers can



The historic church in Washington, New Hampshire, is the first place where Sabbath-keeping Adventists met.

install roadside signs to help people find their way.

Volunteers can also clean bathrooms and the church, as well. In addition, cooks are needed help to prepare food under the new pavilion

to feed all the hungry workers and volunteers.

A naturalist is needed to help change the habitat on one area of the property, making it more open for rabbits and grouse. This job

may also require transplanting briar-type plants from other parts of the trail.

Workers are welcome to park and camp at the church. The Washington church will provide all meals during the workbee. A work crew of 30-40 would get the job done (and many hands make for light work), so please consider joining the work crew for some, or all, of the workbee.

To help make sure sufficient food is ordered, please call (603) 477-1064 to let the organizers know you are coming, or e-mail washingtonsda@nnec.org. If you have any questions about the workbee or about the church or Sabbath Trail, please call or write.

—Ken Brummel, site manager, Washington church

Williston Church Cares for New Refugee Arrivals

A baby being placed in the arms of its mother for the first time is a fitting analogy describing the recent arrival of 30 refugees at Williston church’s doorstep. These refugees—Adventist families from Kenya and the Congo—were new arrivals in a strange land and able to do little for themselves. They would need a great deal

of assistance to be able to crawl, then walk, then run in their new home.

The Williston church district in Vermont recently received notice of the arrival of these refugee families. It was a big surprise, though perhaps it should not have been. Northern New England is increasingly a destination for refugees admitted into

the United States, and the arrival of this group hints at an increasingly diverse future for the region and the church.

Upon hearing of the group, the Williston church members scrambled to find solutions to their needs. After meeting and developing a team strategy, the church began working on a plan to provide warm clothes, assist with financial needs, develop a solid Sabbath worship plan, assist with transportation, and provide an interpreter.

Looking to the future, the district plans to help the group become a church company, assist with submitting tithes and offerings, and with establishing strong leadership. The district reached out to the conference for assistance with some of these goals.

The Lord has clearly shown His desire to meet the needs of His children by directing the Williston church team. The local Methodist church has been secured for Sabbath worship and the large group of refugee children are receiving spiritual training. Volunteers from the district, anxious to serve, are assisting with transportation and other needs.

With the arrival of this refugee group, a new church is being birthed in the Northern New England Conference. With any fragile newborn, care and prayer are essential. Please join your prayers with the Williston church in support of these new arrivals.

—Bruce Wilkinson, pastor, Williston district



This group represents about half of the new refugee group in Williston who are meeting for the first time in a rented facility.

Academic Advising Groups Guide High School Students

South Lancaster Academy began a new guidance program this school year for the high school students. “We started advisor groups, primarily to address the academic needs of our students. Everything from study skills for our freshmen to college planning for our seniors,” says David Branum, SLA principal.

Each week, students meet with five or six of their peers and a faculty advisor. They begin their meeting with a short worship, followed by discussions about their current academic progress, developing good study habits, time management, scheduling, career preparation, preparing for SATs, applying for college scholarships, and more.

“As [the program] continues to grow, it also provides students with an adult on campus [with whom] they can share whatever is on their mind,” says Branum. “The ultimate goal is that students are better prepared for life from a social, academic, spiritual, and physical perspective.”

Rheannon Grace LeBlanc, SLA junior, appreciates the valuable advice she is getting in her academic advising group with Tish Brahmia, science teacher. “I like how Mrs. Brahmia takes the time to go over not only study hacks and time management or scheduling, but also how to cope with your anxiety or depression, or even how



A South Lancaster Academy student meets with a faculty advisor as part of the new guidance program implemented at the school.

to avoid weighing yourself down and stressing yourself out. She does a happy mix of both and I appreciate that she not only focuses on our grades, but on our mental stability as well. It feels

nice to know that someone cares about us as a person and not just as a student,” says LeBlanc.

—Shauna Neidigh, development director, South Lancaster Academy

Suicide Prevention Program in Place at SLA

South Lancaster Academy (SLA) has chosen to implement the Signs of Suicide Prevention Program that helps students, families, school personnel, and the

community recognize and better address depression and signs of suicide.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death in three age groups: 10-14,

15-24, and 25-34. The suicide rate is alarmingly increasing in the 10-14 age bracket. Furthermore, 90 percent who die by suicide have a mental health disorder that is treatable, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Thinking that this could not be in our community is dangerous,” says Ginnie Hakes, SLA vice principal.

The Signs of Suicide Prevention Program was introduced to the ninth-through twelfth-grade students. They learned the risk factors for suicide, myths, and what to do if they or a friend are contemplating suicide.

The ACT acronym is a helpful way to remember the steps for helping a friend:

Acknowledge, Care, and Tell. Acknowledge that the person may be considering suicide and don’t ignore a comment assuming that “they’re not serious.” Show care and empathy for their feelings, even if you don’t understand them. Tell a trusted adult who can get the person the help he or she needs.

“Our school family is now trained to recognize flagged behavior in a student and use ACT to get him/her connected to help,” says Hakes. “By us all working together, we hope to cast an even wider and tighter safety net for our precious young people.”

—Shauna Neidigh, development director, South Lancaster Academy



SNEC Representatives Highlight Stories at eHuddle 2019

Representatives from the Southern New England Conference (SNEC) presented stories and principles learned in their field to attendees at eHuddle 2019, a North American Division (NAD) Ministerial Department event, held February 18-20, in San Diego, California.

Over three days, attendees participated in five sessions corresponding to five voted outcomes of evangelism. The session, focusing on community-based church planting, featured the leadership team from Southern New England Conference's Remix Community church in Clinton, Massachusetts. David Dennis, SNEC president, introduced David Bracetti, Remix pastor;



Ivan Williams, Sr., North American Division Ministerial director, far right, interviews, from left, David Dennis, Southern New England Conference (SNEC) president; Gilbert Caraballo, Remix treasurer; David Bracetti, Remix pastor; Pete Casillas, campus pastor for the Canyon Creek Project in Texas; Milton Marquez, SNEC Youth Ministries director; and Sergio Quevedo, One Connection pastor.

Gilbert Caraballo, Remix treasurer; and Milton Marquez, SNEC Youth Ministries director.

The three men shared testimonies about their unique, multi-generational church geared toward youth and young adults. (For more

on Remix, see the February 2019 GLEANER, p. 18).

In addition, Sergio Quevedo, a SNEC pastor and church planter, shared the story of the four One Connection church plants which he helped to start in the Boston metro area. (The

story appears in the March GLEANER, pp. 4-7.)

An annual evangelism visioning and leadership meeting sponsored by the NAD Ministerial department, eHuddle brings pastors and conference administrative leaders, as well as representatives from Adventist health-care and school administrators from around the division, to collaborate and learn from each other. The event was also streamed live on Facebook. This year's meeting focused on church revitalization, growing younger churches, and ministering to large, unreached people groups in the NAD. (See related article on page 15.)

—Debra Banks Cuadro, assistant communication director, Atlantic Union Conference

SNEC Welcomes New Administrators and Directors

The Southern New England Conference (SNEC) Executive Committee at its January meeting elected Cesar Perozo, to serve as the new executive secretary. Perozo was the pastor of the Stoneham Spanish church in Stoneham, Massachusetts, prior to accepting the position.

The committee also elected Tom Murray as conference treasurer/CFO. Murray has served the conference for many years as stewardship and trust services director, as well as the SNEC Association secretary.

The executive committee elected Frankie Vazquez to serve as the Adventist Community Services

director, a position that had not been filled for several years. Prior to the vote, Vazquez actively served the conference assisting churches and other ministries to make an impact in their surrounding communities.

In addition, the committee elected Luz Rodriguez as manager/director of the Adventist Book Center. Rodriguez has served as the interim manager for the center since October 2018.

—President's Facebook page, Southern New England Conference



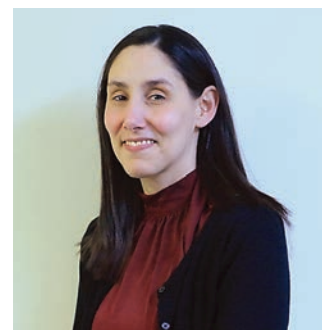
Cesar Perozo, newly-elected executive secretary



Tom Murray, newly-elected treasurer



Frankie Vazquez, newly-elected Adventist Community Services director



Luz Rodriguez, newly-elected Adventist Book Center manager



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Teen Camp	June 30–July 7
Junior Tween Camp	July 7–14
Adventure Camp	July 14–21
Family Camp 1	July 28–August 4
Family Camp 2	August 4–11
Homeschool Family Camp	August 18–23

CAMP VICTORY LAKE

For more information, call Camp Victory Lake at (845) 229-8851, or visit www.campvictorylakenc.com.

Session 1	July 7–21
Session 2	July 21–August 4
Full Session	July 7–August 4

CAMP LAWROWELD

For more information call, the Northern New England Conference Youth Department at (207) 797-3760, ext. 216, or visit www.camlawroweld.org.

Junior Camp	June 23–30
Family Camp	July 14–21
Blind Camp	July 21–28
Teen Camp	July 28–August 4

CAMP WINNEKEAG

For more information, call the Southern New England Conference Youth Department at (978) 365-4551, or visit www.campwinnekeag.com.

Adventurer Camp	June 23–29
Junior Camp	June 30–July 6
Tween Camp	July 7–13
Teen Camp	July 14–20
Family Camp 1	July 21–27
Family Camp 2	July 28–August 4



Visit Atlantic Union Conference Adventist Youth Ministries online for information on youth and young adult events, activities, and other ministries at auyouth.com, facebook.com/atlanticunionadventistyouthministries, and twitter.com/auyouth.

Photos courtesy of the camp staff from the camps in the Atlantic Union.

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ISRAEL TOUR with Pastor Jim Gilley and friends, Nov. 17-25, 2019; \$3295.00. Includes airfare, daily breakfast and dinner buffets, all tips, taxes. From New York, Chicago, or Los Angeles. Other departure cities available. Call Maranatha Tours at (602) 788-8864.

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Sunset Table

May 2019	3	10	17	24	31	Daylight Saving Time
Bangor, ME	7:43	7:52	7:59	8:07	8:13	
Portland, ME	7:46	7:54	8:02	8:09	8:15	
Boston, MA	7:47	7:54	8:01	8:08	8:14	
South Lancaster, MA	7:49	7:57	8:04	8:11	8:17	
Pittsfield, MA	7:55	8:03	8:10	8:17	8:23	
Hartford, CT	7:52	7:59	8:06	8:13	8:18	
Providence, RI	7:47	7:54	8:01	8:08	8:14	
New York, NY	7:55	8:02	8:08	8:15	8:20	
Albany, NY	7:56	8:04	8:11	8:18	8:24	
Utica, NY	8:05	8:13	8:20	8:27	8:33	
Syracuse, NY	8:08	8:16	8:24	8:31	8:37	
Rochester, NY	8:15	8:22	8:30	8:37	8:43	
Buffalo, NY	8:19	8:26	8:34	8:41	8:47	
Keene, NH	7:53	8:00	8:08	8:15	8:21	
Manchester, NH	7:49	7:57	8:05	8:12	8:18	
Portsmouth, NH	7:47	7:55	8:02	8:09	8:15	
Brattleboro, VT	7:54	8:01	8:09	8:16	8:22	
Burlington, VT	8:00	8:08	8:16	8:23	8:30	
Rutland, VT	7:57	8:05	8:13	8:20	8:26	
Hamilton, Bda	8:00	8:05	8:10	8:15	8:19	

ANNOUNCEMENT

ATLANTIC UNION

Compassion Sabbaths: Every second Sabbath of the month is designated Compassion Sabbath in the Atlantic Union: Apr. 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, and Dec. 14. Find more information at auyouth.com.

NORTHEASTERN

The Northeastern Conference Global Prayer Line is open 24 hours a day for prayer and study.

The telephone number for the prayer line is (641) 715-3660, access code: 888974# or (712) 432-0075, access code: 607372#. For more information, visit the website at www.globalprayerministries.com.

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Join the Northern New England Conference Morning Prayer Line from 6:00-7:00 a.m., call (605) 468-8026 (toll charges apply), access code 310654#. For more information, visit the website at www.nneccprayerministries.com.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Atlantic Union College Corporation
of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special constituency meeting of the Atlantic Union College Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 10:00 a.m. (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.) on Sunday, May 19, 2019, in Machlan Auditorium, 338 Main Street, Lancaster, Massachusetts, 01523.

The purpose of this meeting is to give an update on Atlantic Union College, hear reports, and any other business which may properly be brought before the body.

The members of this corporation are the members of the board of trustees of Atlantic Union College; representatives of the College who shall be regular, full-time employees elected by the college officers and academic and auxiliary department heads not to exceed one-third of the total number of constituents excluding General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist representation; the local conference educational superintendents, senior academy principals and either the secretary or treasurer of each local conference of the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; the members of the executive committee of the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; the members of the North American Division and/or General Conference Committee of Seventh-day Adventists in attendance at any meeting of this corporation; the North American Division and/or General Conference delegates shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the total number of delegates; the president and other elected officers of the Atlantic Union College Student Association; six lay persons and six denominational employees each, appointed by the executive committee of each local conference in the Atlantic Union Conference territory, plus one additional representative for each 10,000 members and major fraction thereof for local conferences having 10,000 or more members; up to 15 Atlantic Union College alumni who are not included in the other categories, selected by the AUC alumni executive committee.

G. Earl Knight, President
Pierre E. Omeler, Secretary

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FEATURED SPEAKERS



Kiti Freier Randall
Pediatric
Neurodevelopmental
Psychologist



Hyveth Williams
Professor of Homiletics
Andrews University



Katia Reinert
Associate Director
GC Health Ministries

MUSICAL GUESTS



Kelly Mowrer



Gale Jones Murphy



Message of Mercy

TEEN TRACK SPEAKERS



Heather Thompson-Day
Author, Speaker,
Professor, Andrews
University



Novella Smith
Youth Pastor



Amie Regester
Digital Media Evangelist



Justin and Emily Khoe
Hosts, That Christian Vlogger