



The Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference

Communicator

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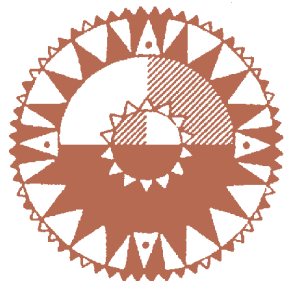
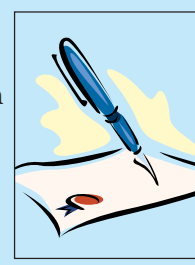
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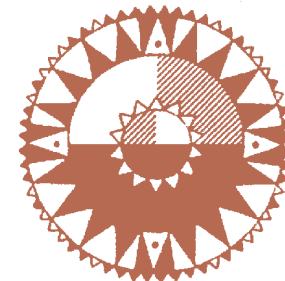
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Native American Ministries Sunday is April 10



Why do we observe Native American Awareness Sunday? What makes Native people special? Within the Body of Christ, every person, every culture has unique gifts to refresh the Church. The contributions of Native people, as individuals and groups are not more important than the contributions of other Christians. Native people, however, are among the poorest and most marginalized of society and also the Church. The unfortunate fact is that people without "power" of wealth or social status tend to be overlooked.

There are over 554 federally recognized (those with nation-to-nation status with the U.S. federal government) Native tribes, nations and villages in the United States. This does not include state recognized tribes, or those in the process of recognition with states or the federal government. In addition to these, there are over 500,000 people of primarily Native blood who are ineligible for tribal membership for one reason or another. Add these to the numbers of indigenous people from Central and South America and Canada, and one gains a pic-

ture of the complexity of cultures and backgrounds that represent Native people in the United States and The United Methodist Church. Most tribes still retain unique language, culture, religions, government and a physical tribal home. Some have lost original languages and many customs, but have retained a sense of identity as a people. There is simply no one "Indian" way of thinking, feeling, or worshipping. In order to become aware of Native people, one must be intentional in the process of ministering to them.

Native American Ministries Sunday affords the opportunity of Native and non-Native United Methodists across the denomination to become aware of the lives, gifts and ministries of Native people. Conferences are encouraged to develop ministries for and with the Native people who live within them. It also allows Native people the opportunity to fully participate in the life of the conference. They cannot do that unless we, the Church, know who they are. The Native American International Caucus proposed Native American

Awareness Sunday in a petition to the 1988 General Conference. Delegates subsequently approved the new church wide Special Sunday with offering. The 2000 General Conference changed the name of the observance to Native American Ministries Sunday. Proceeds from Native American Ministries Sunday offerings support Native ministries within conferences, provide educational assistance for Native Americans in the form of scholarships, and assist with the establishment of urban Native ministries..



Courtesy of members and friends of Bethany United Methodist Church in Pocomoke City, Maryland - we share these photos of the church after the fire that occurred on Wednesday, March 2, 2005. We continue to be in prayer for the congregation, the pastor, Rev. Russ Leiman, and the Pocomoke community as they mourn the loss and discern what the future of Bethany UMC will be.

Is the World Wide Web Changing Our Ethics?

By Marta W. Aldrich*

A boss peeks at employee e-mail. A straight-arrow college student rushes to draft a term paper by cutting and pasting entire paragraphs from Internet sites. A teenager who never would shoplift a CD has no problem downloading music without paying for it. A Colorado woman awaiting a kidney transplant tracks down her own donor through the Internet, prompting new worries about organ trafficking.

Is the World Wide Web changing our ethics?

With bullying, gambling and pornography at unprecedented levels in cyberspace, it seems anyone with a computer and modem is tempted daily with opportunities that are morally questionable. No institution is safe. Even pastors have been caught lifting whole sermons from the Web. And it's all happening at a dizzying pace.

Families, churches, business and government are struggling to catch up and develop an ethical and legal framework that can help individuals navigate this sudden explosion of access, choice and information.

Quentin J. Schultze, professor of communication at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., says society's love affair with the Internet reflects the "increasingly frenetic, chaotic and morally impoverished lives" of North Americans—lives that leave precious little time to consider ethical concerns about Internet use.

"We're so busy rushing to and from, and messaging back and forth, that we barely have time to catch our moral breath," Schultze says. "In this context, the World Wide Web becomes a temptation as much as a solution."

In his book *Habits of the High-Tech Heart: Living Virtuously in the Information Age*, Schultze charges that such technology fosters individualism and self-interest over community and responsibility, leading society to stray from its moral center.

"Today, we increasingly assume that doing things quickly and effectively is more important than doing them carefully, thoughtfully and ethically," he writes. "As a result, much of our daily communication slips into junk messaging—the infor-



mational equivalent of junk food. While we gain access to more information and speedier means of messaging, we also weaken the kinds of shared practices, such as neighborliness and hospitality, that we need to maintain our moral bearings. Our manner of informational living deflates our moral character."

Steven A. Hetcher, a law professor at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., says technology is advancing faster than society's ability to develop social norms that contribute to its moral compass.

"It takes time to develop a pattern of behavior that makes up social norms, but technology is not waiting," says Hetcher, author of *Norms in a Wired World*.

For instance, the social norm among teenagers is that downloading music or copying movies without paying for them is OK. Society is still catching up with the concept that lifting intellectual property—whether it's words, ideas or creative works—is the same as stealing.

Hetcher says society should do less pointing and clicking and more talking about concerns associated with technology, including the Internet. "We must start thinking about the pace of technology and what this means to us as a society," he says.

Many schools and businesses have developed programs to teach critical thinking about appropriate Internet use. Ethicists say discussions about "cyberethics" and "Netiquette" should be served up at the family dinner table.

Ramon Barquin, president of the Computer Ethics Institute in Washington, suggests "Ten Commandments of Computer Ethics" to encourage consideration and

respect for others when using computers and the Internet. Ethicists agree such ethical guidelines are worthy of frequent review—along with a healthy awareness of cyberspace dangers—because of the Web's inherent characteristics of distance and anonymity.

"Any technology that separates the individual from his or her actions makes it much easier to engage in actions the individual normally wouldn't do," Barquin says.

For example, a soldier in the trenches sees a different kind of war than a pilot who drops a bomb from 20,000 feet. "They're both warriors," Barquin says. "But the hands of the soldier in the trenches are bloody, while the pilot can return from his mission and have a drink with the officers at the club."

The Web has that kind of anonymity and distance multiplied by millions of people. Individuals can engage in bullying, cyber smut and theft without ever leaving a keyboard. They can develop or visit Web sites that explore narcotics, gambling, violence and anything else you can think of—a worldwide mall of virtual stores where the shoppers believe identities and actions will never be revealed.

"Is the Internet revolutionary? Yes. Is it going to bring significant change? Absolutely. What exactly will that be? We don't really know. It took several hundred years just to assess the impact of the printing press on society," Barquin says.

The Web is a human creation, and humans are ethically bound to oversee it in the spirit of Jesus Christ, says the Rev. Frederick W. Schmidt, director of spiritual life and formation at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology in Dallas.

"The Gospel requires the renewing of our minds and, with it, the development of a sense of moral responsibility that cannot be laid aside simply because the landscape of information sharing has changed...," he said. "Cyberspace is fully our responsibility."

(Editor's Note: Aldrich is a freelance writer in Franklin, Tenn.—this story first appeared on the umc.org website through United Methodist News Service)

Conference Youth Activities

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT EVENTS...

If you are seeking amazing activities and effective events for youth and young adults, then plug into these power-packed happenings...

April 6-9: STOMPING OUT THE DARKNESS, a conference for youth, youth groups and parents of youth. The event will be held at Park Lane Church of God in Federalsburg, MD. Several of our UM churches are involved. For more information contact Buddy Dunn at 410.822.7654.

April 9: THE KIXX INDOOR SOCCER TEAM PRESENTS CHRISTIAN YOUTH GROUP NIGHT WITH THE BAND SANCTUS REAL IN CONCERT, at the Wachovia Spectrum in Philadelphia, PA. For more information go to www.kixxonline.com.

April 16: THE CORE, a one-day training event for adult youth workers sponsored by Youth Specialties held at Central Baptist Church in Essex, MD. For more information go to www.youthspecialties.com

April 16: Tree 63, Building 429, and Paul Coleman in concert at the Youth Temple in Ocean Grove, NJ. For more information go to www.oceangrove.org

April 18: YOUNG ADULT/HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH AND ADULTS who are interested in going on a mission trip to the BAHAMAS THIS SUMMER, JULY 9-16, ARE INVITED to attend an information, planning and prayer meeting at Connection Community Church, 100 W. Green St., Middletown, DE. The meeting will begin at 7pm and for more information contact Jenna Johnson at 877.736.3351.

April 25 AND MAY 2: WHAT ABOUT VISION AND MISSION? Does your church lack vision? Do you need to re-tool, re-group and evaluate your ministry and vision for the future? David Burke will lead a two part series on VISION AND MISSION FOR THE FUTURE OF YOUR CHURCH AT MILLVILLE UMC. These interactive sessions will begin at 7pm. Bring a whole team of various leaders from your church. The church is located at Atlantic Ave. & Clubhouse Rd. in Sussex County, DE.

April 30: THE CORE, a one day training event for adult youth workers held in Bensalem, PA at the Christian Life Center. For more information go to www.youthspecialties.com

May 10: REACHING AND KEEPING YOUNG ADULTS: David Burke will lead a seminar on beginning, re-vamping, improving, a ministry to YOUNG ADULTS IN YOUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY. The workshop will be held at Bethesda UMC in Salisbury, MD. The church is located at 406 N. Division St. Please join us at 7:00pm as we come together to be inten-



David Burke

tional about reaching this all important age level, YOUNG ADULTS.

SUMMER STUFF...

June 30-July 2: Creation 2005, a large event with over 65,000 people at the Agape Farm in Mt. Union, PA featuring numerous styles and types of Christian music, speakers and ministry. For more information go to www.creationfest.com.

July 9-16: Young Adult and High School Youth Mission Trip to Nassau, The Bahamas. Numerous opportunities to share Jesus via home repairs, direct evangelism, worship, and vacation bible school with children, etc...for more information go to www.missionencounter.com.

The Ocean Grove Camp Meeting presents two concerts this summer..

July 16: Audio Adrenaline and Falling Up

August 13: Michael W. Smith
For more information go to www.oceangrove.org.

For more information about the aforementioned as well as other ways to connect with youth and young adults, please contact the office of young people's ministry at 877.736.3351.

Communicator

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The Charitable Gift Annuity and Tax Season

My career began as a tax administrator for trusts, estates and individuals. For my clients, it was time to review their income, assets, and financial goals. As you complete your tax returns, or wait for your refund, consider the impact of a Charitable Gift Annuity to your personal finances and the gifts you make to your church.

Charitable Gift Annuities are often referred to as the "gift that gives twice" or the "gift that gives back" – because they do! First, the Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) gives you a guaranteed income stream for life. Second, a gift is

made to charity upon your death. CGA's can be set up through the Foundation to benefit your local church or any United Methodist program or agency anywhere in the world. This is a wonderful way to support the ministries of the church AND provide a return to you as well.

Here is an example: Ruth is 75 years old. As part of her assets she has \$10,000 in stock that she paid \$2,000 to purchase many years ago. The stock pays an annual dividend of 3%. Ruth would like to increase her income, but doesn't want to sell the stock and pay capital gains tax on the \$8,000 gain she would realize. Also, Ruth has been thinking about her estate plan and making a gift to her church through her will. After reviewing her options with the Foundation and her advisors, Ruth decides to fund a CGA for



Stacy Martin

\$10,000, contributing the stock in exchange for the annuity. Based on her age and current rates, she will receive a 7.1% payout on her annuity, or \$710 a year, every year until her death. About two thirds of the \$710 she receives each year will be tax-free. In addition, Ruth will receive an income tax charitable deduction of \$4,296 the year she

sets up the annuity. At Ruth's death, the remaining value of the annuity pays to her local church, helping it continue its ministries.

Using the CGA, Ruth not only increases her income but she also sets plans in place to make a gift to her church, at her death. What a great way to provide for your church! Ruth used stock to fund her annuity, but you can also use cash (and realize a better yield than CD's) shares in a mutual fund or other marketable assets. Please note that couples and families can use CGA's to provide income streams to more than one individual.

If you are interested in a gift annuity, the Foundation can easily run an illustration of what payout you would qualify for and what the charitable deduction might be. Call us at 800.828.9093 x247 or email me at stacy.martin@epaumc.org. All we need is your birth date and a dollar amount to run the illustration. Sample rates for single life

gift annuities are listed are listed here.

Charitable Gift Annuity — Details You Need to Know

CGA's are irrevocable gifts – once set up they cannot be reversed. Assets used to purchase a CGA are invested by the Foundation in a portfolio that is 65% stock and 35% bonds, with the goal of earning 9.0% a year, over time. All investments are in keeping with the Social Principles of the United Methodist Discipline.

Single Life Rate Schedule:

Age	Rate
60	5.7
65	6.0
70	6.5
75	7.1
80	8.0
85	9.5

Note: Rates for joint life annuitants are generally lower. Rates can change over time so call the Foundation for the latest rate schedule.

Stroud appeal hearing set for April 28

By Linda Bloom*
An April 28 hearing date has been set for the appeal of a former United Methodist clergywoman who lost her credentials after a church trial.

The hearing for Beth Stroud will be 9 a.m. to noon at the Sheraton International Hotel on the grounds of Baltimore-Washington Airport.

Stroud, who was serving as associate pastor of First United Methodist Church of Germantown in Philadelphia, was found guilty Dec. 2 of violating the denomination's prohibition of "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" in the ordained ministry. Since losing her clergy credentials, she has remained on staff at that church as a lay member.

The December trial was conducted by the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual (regional) Conference, which is a part of the denomination's Northeastern Jurisdiction. The jurisdiction's committee on appeals will hear the appeal.

The committee will meet in private on April 27 to consider questions for the hearing, said the Rev. William "Scott" Campbell, committee chairman and pastor of Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church in Cambridge, Mass. Committee members already will have



Beth Stroud

received briefs from Stroud and the conference as well as transcripts of the trial, he said.

Stroud has requested the hearing be open to the public, Campbell said. After the hearing, the committee on appeals will begin its deliberations, which could continue into the next day if needed. The committee's decision will be announced at the hearing site, but no time has been set.

According to the United Methodist Book of Discipline, Paragraph 2715.7, "the appellate body

shall determine two questions only: (a) Does the weight of the evidence sustain the charge or charges? (b) Were there such errors of church law as to vitiate the verdict and/or the penalty?"

"There will be an opportunity for each party to present its case orally," Campbell said.

Substitutions have been made for two of the standing members of the appeals committee because those who come from the same episcopal area as Stroud – which includes the Eastern Pennsylvania and the Peninsula-Delaware conferences – are not eligible to participate in the hearing.

The committee's clergy members hearing the appeal will be Campbell; the Rev. LaGretta Bjorn of Spring Valley, N.Y.; the Rev. Ronald McCauley of Buckhannon, W.Va.; and the Rev. John Topolewski of Owego, N.Y. Lay members will be Joy Wilcox of Etters, Pa., diaconal minister; Dale Dobbs of McVeytown, Pa., full-time local pastor; Julius Archibald of Plattsburgh, N.Y.; Sharon Bassett of Cicero, N.Y.; and N. Sharon Leatherman of Williamsport, Md.

(Editor's Note: Bloom is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in New York)

Hamilton Nominated to Jurisdictional Board

By Rev. Donald Hamilton

Mildred Hamilton is a very busy laywoman serving the people of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. Over the past 31 years she has worked tirelessly on behalf of missions, the oppressed and injustice. During the July session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, Mildred was elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) for 2004-2008. The GBGM is the mission arm of our denomination.

She will serve as a member of the Mission Development and Mission Education Committees among the numerous tasks the Board of Directors assume while helping to shoulder the awesome decision making that is required of this board.

Mildred has had excellent and extensive training for this new responsibility. She has held the offices of local church president, was an officer of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference UMW, chairperson of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference's Commission on Status and Role of Women (COSROW), the Salisbury District Reading Resource of UMW, co-coordinator of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference Volunteer in Missions Committee, a member of the Weaver Mission Committee, and a missionary to Zambia from 1996-99.

In addition to the Conference, she serves as a volunteer at A.I. Children's Hospital, is a member of the State Of Delaware Child Placement Board, and volunteer at the Deloris Baylor Correction Facility



Mildred Hamilton

in Wilmington.

Locally, Mildred works with her husband, Don, at Dale Memorial United Methodist Church in Middletown, Delaware where she directs the children's choir, leads the Prayer Warriors, teaches the children's church, sings in the senior choir, and supports the church in other capacities and ministries as needed.

A native of Washington, D.C., she attended DC Teachers College, Howard, and Temple University. She has served the community through her employment as a counselor at the Terry Psychiatric Center in the Division of Child Protective Services.

Married to the Rev. Donald E. Hamilton, she is the mother of 6 children, grandmother to 11 and the great grand to 1. Her motto is "May the work that I have done speak for me, and also the life I live do the same."

2005 Annual Conference Approaching

This year's annual conference will be hosted by the Salisbury District and will, once again, be held on the campus of the University of Maryland – Eastern Shore. If you haven't already done so, please mark June 10-12 on your calendar and plan to attend yourself, make sure that your church lay members and pastors attend, pray before, during and after the weekend that those deci-

sions made by the conference members are what is best for the Peninsula-Delaware Conference and for the future of our members.

The reservation forms for lay members, reserve members, and pastors have been mailed from the Felton Edwin May Resource Center and they should be in your mailbox soon, if they are not already. The Business Office needs to have these returned as soon as possible so that

they can begin to work with the campus facilities in regards to sleeping accommodations and meals.

If you think you should have received this mailing, but have not, please *first* contact your church office to be sure that your name was the one sent in on the local church officer form as the lay member and then, having confirmed that, please contact the Business Office to obtain the information needed.

Election to be held for Associate Conference Lay Leader

At Annual Conference this year we will, once again, have an election for the Associate Conference Lay Leader position which has been filled for the past four years by Ron Brown, Wilmington district. Ron has been a real blessing to the Conference Board of Lay Ministries; however, his work schedule limits the number of meetings he is able to attend. Therefore, we will be having another election at Annual Conference this year for this position. Persons from all four

districts are eligible to apply. Additional applications are available by calling the Conference Office in Dover or either of the District offices. Applications should be mailed to **Bishop Felton E. May Conference Resource Center**, 139 N.State Street, Dover, DE 19901, **no later than Friday, April 15, 2005**. Applicants will be invited to take part in an interview process after this date. If you should have any questions, please call Darlene Webster, Conference Lay Leader, 410.651.1788.

NOMINATION FORM For Associate Conference Lay Leader

Name of Nominee _____

Address _____

Telephone and/or E-Mail _____

Church/ Charge/ Committees/ Activities: _____ Years of Service: _____

(Note: If more space is needed, please use back of sheet.)

District Offices/ Committees: _____

Conference Offices/ Committees: _____

Jurisdictional or General Conference Offices/ Committees: _____

Community Service/ Organizations: _____

Has nominee had Lay Speaking Training? Yes No

Is nominee Certified Lay Speaker? Yes No

Has nominee seen list of duties and responsibilities? Yes No

Other Comments/ Qualifications/ Reasons for nomination _____

Is nominee willing to serve? Yes Nominated by: _____

Duties and Responsibilities Of ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE LAY LEADER(S)

- Chair the Bylaws Committee
- Work with Host District for Annual Conference Banquet and Program
- Coordinate and arrange any Conference wide gatherings (e.g. Lay Speakers Seminar)
- Liaison between Conference UMM, UMW, Youth Council, etc. to promote Conference wide events
- Serve on Conference Lay Speaking Committee
- Shall assist the Conference Lay Leader in fulfilling the duties of that office
- Shall preside over all Conference Board of Lay Ministries meetings in the absence of the Conference Lay Leader
- Help plan and execute Laity Session (at Annual Conference)
- Responsible for arranging devotions at opening of meetings
- Shall assume the position and complete the term of Conference Lay Leader should a vacancy occur in that office
- In the event of the death or resignation of the Associate Conference Lay Leader, the Conference Lay Leader shall appoint a qualified person to serve in that position until the next Annual Conference
- If an additional position of Associate Conference Lay Leader is added to these Bylaws, the senior Associate Conference Lay Leader shall assume the position of Conference Lay Leader; should a vacancy occur, the senior Associate Conference Lay Leader would assume this position until the next Annual Conference.

Communication Tips

A communication tip from the Conference Communications Office, the Communications Briefings newsletters, or other expert source will be printed here. If you or someone in your congregation has a communications question, please e-mail the question to tward@pen-del.org or call 1.877.736.3351, ext. 24 and leave a message, or write to Communications Question, c/o Peninsula-Delaware Conference, 139 N. State Street, Dover, DE, 19901. We will do our best to print as many questions/answers that we can. Not all questions/answers will be printed but, rest assured, if yours is one that isn't printed, it will still be answered so please leave/send a name and address where your answer should be mailed. Names will not be used but the district where the question originated will be printed.

April 8, 2005 – Power Point Presentations – Ensure that Power-Point presentations run smoothly by choosing fonts that work on any platform – Arial, Tahoma and Verdana are safe bets. That way, if you need to transfer your presentation to another machine, substitute fonts won't throw your material out of position. **Other Tips – Keep the number of slides as low as possible.** Highlight key concepts, but don't include the speech's entire text. **Manage your audience's expectations.** At the beginning of the presentation, tell them how many slides you'll be using. **Simplify the text.** Don't clutter slides with too many bullets – and never use blocks of text. **Choose pictures over text.** Graphics make a point better than words can, especially if you animate the slide. **Maintain a lively pace.** Don't leave one slide up for too long – 45 seconds should be enough to view a slide. Any longer than that means the slide's too complicated.

Conference Calendar of Events

April 2005

- 9 Dover District Lay Academy, Georgetown: Grace UMC & Wesley UMC, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- 11 Credit Union Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.
- 12 CARE Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
Communications Commission Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 12:00 p.m.
Enabling Ministries Resource Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Leadership Development Team Meeting, Wesley College-Carroll Room, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Council on Finance & Administration Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Personnel Committee Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.
Insurance Committee Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.
Investment Committee Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Board of Pensions Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.
- 21 Committee on Native American Ministries Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
Staff Development Day, BFEM Resource Center, CLOSED
- 26 Conference Board of Trustees Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- 28 Embracing The Black Church Task Force Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.
Conference Nominating Task Force Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m.

May 2005

- 5 Resource Development Management Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 6 Conference Laity-Clergy Banquet, Dover: Modern Maturity Center, 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Credit Union Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.
Volunteers In Mission Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.
Peter D. Weaver Mission Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:30 p.m.
- 10 Pre-Conference Orientation, Wilmington District: TBD, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 11 Board of Pensions Luncheon, Dover: Sheraton Hotel, 11:00 a.m.
- 12 Pre-Conference Orientation, Easton District: TBD, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 16 Congregational Development Corporation Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
Pre-Conference Orientation, Dover District: TBD, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 17 Communications Commission Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
Equitable Compensation Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
Insurance Committee Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.
Investment Committee Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.
Board of Pensions Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.
Conference Nominating Task Force Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m.