

Episcopal Nominations

Role, Responsibility and Accountability of a Bishop

In Greater New Jersey, the following are the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of the bishop as reviewed by the Council on Finance and Administration and affirmed by the Episcopacy Committee. This outline will provide a synopsis of the ministry and leadership of a bishop and assist the Conference in its discernment process for nominating a bishop to the Northeastern Jurisdiction Conference.

The responsibilities of the bishop are found in The Book of Discipline paragraph 414. It is expected that the bishop will carry out these responsibilities and anticipated that the results and outcomes listed below will occur. The following description adds to or amplifies the responsibilities in The Book of Discipline but does not eliminate or alter what is outlined in The Book of Discipline.

Position Summary and Objective

The bishop is the spiritual leader of the conference and responsible for leading the spiritual and temporal affairs of The United Methodist Church and in particular in GNJ. The bishop leads the Conference to follow Christ and to put into practice church membership vows to be present, pray, serve, give and witness. The bishop is to lead and develop the conference so that it creates a culture that is regenerative in recruiting and equipping transformational leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the world.

As a result of this position, the following will occur

- A clear vision and strategic ministry plan shaped biblically and theologically for GNJ's spiritual growth, mission engagement and congregational vitality is approved by the Annual Conference session
- Inspired leaders and disciples are engaged in the vision and direction of GNJ and the UMC
- Growth in the skills and number of equipped clergy and laity transformational leaders who are leading congregations toward vitality
- Growth in GNJ worship attendance, making new disciples, connecting with community residents and engaging in community mission
- Greater clarity for clergy and congregational and conference leaders about their role, expectations and how their ministry connects to the mission
- Sufficient funds to fulfill and grow the mission

Key Accountabilities

- Do the right thing to recruit, equip and support transformational leaders
- Identify what is important and urgent for GNJ and why it is important and urgent
- Cast the GNJ vision in collaboration with conference leaders and lead toward the vision and mission
- Reinforce GNJ purpose and values
- Lead so that GNJ is working toward the strategic direction and accomplishing its goals
- Connect and engage with pastors, church leaders and congregations to learn and understand progress and challenges and reinforce positive effort
- Connect GNJ leaders and congregations to the larger church and world, including ecumenical and interfaith relationships as well as key spiritual and social issues in the world
- Supervise the staff executive team, cabinet and episcopal staff
- Ensure connectionalism is valued and The Book of Discipline is carried out
- Thank people for making a difference in the mission

John Schol, Bishop
The United Methodist Church

Episcopal Nomination

1. Name: *Jisun Kwak*
2. Appointments Served: *Mendham UMC, Thiells UMC, Centenary UMC in Metuchen, Cabinet*
3. What gifts would you bring to the role of bishop? *I would bring **a pioneering soul** as the first Asian woman DS in NEJ (in each of my pastoral appointments, I was the first Asian woman at the church). **Deep spirituality** that brings powerful calmness and assuredness to tense situations. **Prayerful discipline** that transforms pains to blessing. **A peacemaker's spirit** combined with trained, effective conflict resolution skills and coaching skills. **Cultural competency** in its many forms; **Encouragement and teaching** with an inquisitive mind; **Perseverance** as one who completed a Ph. D while serving the local church as an Asian American clergy and single mother.*
4. How would you approach the role of bishop? *With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I will build consensus encouraging all voices to come to the table. I will emphasize team-building, trust, and challenging leaders to reach new levels of competency.*
5. What are three accomplishments in your ministry that indicate your experience and skill to serve as bishop?
 - *As a District Superintendent in both urban and rural contexts, we increased outreach ministry and shared ministry giving and met strategic ministry goals such as districtwide collaborated community programs and more.*
 - *In each local church I served, we experienced growth in attendance, membership, stewardship, and other vitality measurements and strategic ministry goals.*
 - *Instigated the Call to Prayer Movement within my District that brings together church leaders to implement a more consistent and deeper individual and corporate prayer life.*
6. As a bishop, what would be your priorities and what would you lead the church to accomplish?
 - **Recover Wesleyan heritage.** *Many of our churches and leaders need to be recalibrated regarding the importance of both works of piety and works of mercy as means of grace in Church life. In the Northeast Jurisdiction we tend to emphasize works of mercy over works of piety and in some cases have lost the power of holiness that comes through piety. I would lead a return to the practices of the basics of piety on both individual and communal levels as Wesley prescribed.*
 - **Cultural competency awareness and practice.** *Cultural competency not only is becoming more crucial for effectiveness in navigating an increasingly globalized world, but follows the teaching of Paul in 1 Cor 9:20-22 to become relational, accessible and understandable to share and receive God's love to ALL – recognizing, embracing and working through differences on many fronts (ethnic, generational, language, socio-economic, gender, sexuality, political, urban/rural/suburban, and more).*
 - **Reach and serve the marginalized.** *Because of the denomination's energy being expended on current deadlocked debates and initiatives that are garnering continued and increasing division within the Church, there are many forgotten and underserved children of God. I would re-energize ministries of love and liberation for the marginalized.*
 - **Grow our church younger, both in terms of leadership and discipleship.** *We need to rethink our existing models of leadership development and church to better attract young spiritual leaders and disciples. Most importantly, we need to enact new approaches by empowering and resourcing leaders with the vision and passion for attracting and building a more youthful church. Engagement and mission driven church will open the door to the young seekers.*
7. While there are a number of important issues within the life of the church today, which one do you believe is most critical and why? *Emphasize holiness: Increased piety will not only better transform us into the image of Christ, but will enhance and better empower our works of mercy.*



Episcopal Nomination

1. Name: Heasun Kim
2. Appointments Served: The First UMC in Flushing, NY; Korean Community Church of New Jersey, Englewood, NJ, Morristown UMC; Linden UMC; Simpson UMC, Old Bridge, NJ (2000-present)
3. What gifts would you bring to the role of bishop?
Spiritual and personal discipline; Pastoral and organizational leadership; Encouragement; Discernment; People skills; Stewardship; Visionary
4. How would you approach the role of bishop?
I would assume a shepherd role for the assigned conference and a leader of the denomination as a member of the College of the Bishops in the Jurisdictional Conference and Council of the Bishop.
5. What are three accomplishments in your ministry that indicate your experience and skill to serve as bishop?
 - Pastoral Leadership at Simpson UMC: Through a long-term visioning process, Simpson realized that it is necessary to build a facility for their effective ministry; education, fellowship, ministry activities, and outreach programs. Through two capital campaigns (2009-2012 & 2013-2016), we raise \$750,000 for 1.5 million dollar project. With a loan from UMDF (\$800,000), we were able to build; groundbreaking took place in September, 2014 and completion of the construction will be soon (May, 2016). This is an evidence of my ministry accomplishments in two ways; Evidence of my pastoral leadership working with/for/within the congregation from dreaming, visioning, and executing.
 - Stewardship: Simpson is a small congregation located in a blue collar town with an annual operating budget under \$200,000. We committed by faith, we give sacrificially give to build and grow! During last two campaign period (2009-2016), the members gave \$120,000 annually for the building on top of \$160,000 annually for operating budget.
 - As the chair of the Order of the Elders (2008-2011), I formed a team (one person from each District) to work for the Elders of the Conference. As a result of a great team work, we were able to communicate with the Elders through two surveys to identify the needs of the Elders. One of the accomplishment is to issue the clergy ID which serves well for not only the Elders but also all of the appointed clergy for their ministry. This is an evidence of my leadership as a team player who reach out to the community.
6. As a bishop, what would be your priorities and what would you would lead the church to accomplish?
My priorities as bishop will be focused on discovering, building, and maximizing our God-given strengths through spiritual discipline and renewal regardless of church size. The bishop and cabinet should work together as the spiritual and pastoral leaders by exemplifying the spiritual work of discipleship. Encouragement, healing, exhortation should take place in the ministry of a Conference for the churches to be a faithful and healthy body of Christ.
7. While there are a number of important issues within the life of the church today, which one do you believe is most critical and why? Strengthening the mid-size and small size churches to be the healthy churches. According to the 2015 Annual Conference reports (www.umc.org/who-we-are/2015-annual-conference-reports), 44 Annual Conferences reported the loss of membership while three conference gain (North Carolina Conference- up by 409; Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference up by 23; Texas up by 20). I believe that declining the membership and weakening the churches are by far most important issue than any other issue. When a person is suffering with life and death matters, rest of the issues around the life become the secondary issue. I believe that United Methodist Churches in the United Stated are in the critical juncture of life and death.

