



NEJCAH

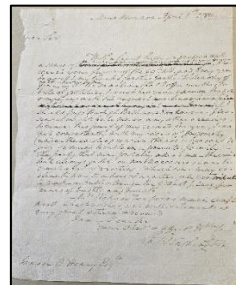
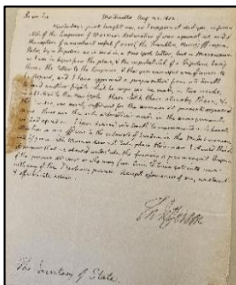
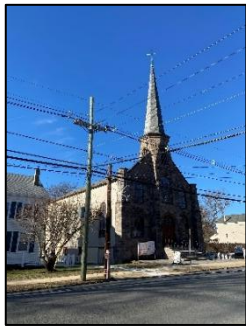
The Northeastern Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History 2026 Annual Meeting



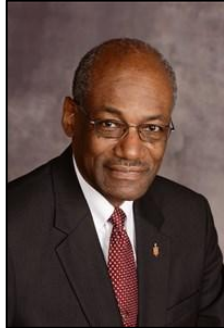
Tuesday, May 12, 2026 – Thursday, May 14 2026

Pennington United Methodist Church
60 Main St., Pennington, NJ 08534

Saving the Soul of Our Nation, State, and Church



Sponsored by
The Greater New Jersey Conference
Commission on Archives and History



Day One - Faith Forum
Striving to End the Sin of Racism in Church and State
Contemporary and Historical Methodist Perspectives

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 • 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Pennington United Methodist Church
60 Main St., Pennington, NJ 08534

Keynote Speakers:

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Resident Bishop,
Eastern Pennsylvania and Greater New Jersey Episcopal Area,
The United Methodist Church
Preacher

Bishop Ernest S. Lyght,
United Methodist Church (Retired)
“My Personal Memories of the Delaware Conference of the Central Jurisdiction:
What the Black Church gained and lost during integration,
and what gifts it gave to the wider Church”

Rupert A. Hall, Jr. JD
CEO and Founder of Hope For The City Foundation in Trenton, New Jersey.
“Economic Justice in Church and Society”

Kevin Dusenberry
Digital Archivist, General Commission on Archives and History
Archivist, Greater New Jersey Conference Commission on Archives and History
Archival Best Practices for the Local Church



Day Two - Historical Tour: Saving the Soul of Our Nation and State

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Bus loads at Courtyard by Marriott Ewing/Princeton, 360 Scotch Road, Ewing, NJ at 8:00 a.m.
Tour departs at 8:30 a.m.

Washington's crossing of the Delaware and the
continental victories at Trenton and Princeton

Turning Point United Methodist Church, Trenton, NJ
Princeton Theological Seminary Library and Archives
Princeton Battlefield
Monmouth Battlefield State Park
Historic Tenant Church, Freehold, NJ

The Rev. John D. Callanan, M.Div., BCC,
Chairperson of the Greater New Jersey Conference Commission on Archives and History
and Conference Historian, will narrate the tour.

Dinner and evening presentation at Meadow Lakes

Keynote Speaker:

The Rev. Kevin Newburg, PhD
Associate Teaching Professor in the History of Christianity and Methodist Studies, and the
Director of Methodist Studies at Drew Theological School, Madison, New Jersey
"Captain Webb's Preaching in Central New Jersey"

Reference: Washington Crossing the Delaware, painting by Emanuel Leutze, MMA-NYC (Metropolitan Museum of Art), 1851, (Public domain). Taken from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Crossing_the_Delaware, accessed 1/17/2026.

Keynote Speakers:



Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

Resident Bishop

Eastern Pennsylvania/Greater New Jersey Episcopal Area

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi was elected as a bishop of The United Methodist Church by delegates to the 2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference meeting in Lancaster, PA. She began her assignment to lead United Methodists in Western Pennsylvania on September 1, 2016.

On September 1, 2024, she began serving as resident bishop for two conferences: Eastern Pennsylvania and Greater New Jersey. On September 1, 2021, she served as an interim bishop of the Susquehanna Conference, while serving the Western Pennsylvania Conference.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Loyola College and a Masters of Arts and advanced certification in school psychology from the University of Maryland. She worked as a school psychologist for Anne Arundel County Public Schools for 17 years, serving in leadership roles as a layperson before answering her call to the ordained ministry.

She answered that call while a member of Sharp Street Memorial UMC in Baltimore, her great-grandfather's church and the church which sent her father into ministry. Her husband of three years, the Rev. Raphael Koikoi, currently serves as pastor there.

The Bishop is familiar with church life and ministry in rural, urban and suburban settings. Growing up in a preacher's family, when she was in elementary school, her father served a rural hilltop church. Later, they moved to serve a church in suburban Silver Spring, MD, where she went to junior high and high school.

Attending Wesley Seminary, she was appointed as a student pastor to "a small congregation with a proud EUB heritage in a section of East Baltimore that was experiencing change." The congregation had to learn how to navigate that change. Later she was appointed associate pastor at Calvary UMC, a large congregation in Annapolis.

Ordained an elder in 2010, she served on the Conference staff working with churches on discipleship. She later served as district superintendent for the Greater Washington Area, and most recently as superintendent of the Baltimore Metropolitan District.

In that role, she played a key spiritual role in the city in 2015 during the unrest after the death of Freddie Gray in police custody. She helped to organize United Methodist churches to open their doors and minister to children and families whose schools were closed, and to meet other basic needs. She became the face of the United Methodist Church, and church volunteers in red T-shirts were visible walking through neighborhoods, praying for and ministering to people.

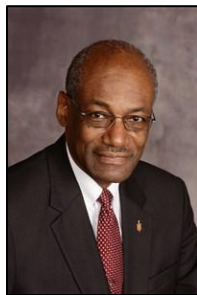
Bishop Moore-Koikoi says she sees the work of bishops as “overseeing the work of the church, working prophetically, evangelically and apostolically with all as they cooperate with the Grace of God.” A key component of that, she believes, is leaving space for the transforming movement of the Holy Spirit, especially at times when the denomination is divided and many people wonder what the future holds. “That’s spiritual work -- remembering who God is and who God has called us to be,” she said. “We got God, so we got this.”

Bishop Moore-Koikoi said she sees herself as a bridge-builder, clear and confident about what she believes, while respecting others who might not believe the same way.

Her vision is of a diverse church that embraces justice and the life-saving love of Christ. She’s committed to work for that. It won’t be easy, she said, “but I remind myself, God has got this. God is in control.”

Bishop Moore-Koikoi will be the preacher for our opening worship service.

Reference: Bishop Moore-Koikoi’s biography and photo taken from the website of The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, <https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/person-detail/2462486>, accessed 1/17/2026.



Bishop Ernest S. Lyght

Northeastern Jurisdiction (Retired)

The son of William and Attrue Lyght, Ernest Lyght was born in Salisbury, Maryland. He received the B.A. degree in history from Morgan State University and the M.Div. degree from Drew University. Princeton Theological Seminary awarded him the Th.M. degree and the D.Min. degree. Honorary doctoral degrees were bestowed on him by Bloomfield College, Centenary College, Drew University, Morgan State University and West Virginia Wesleyan College.

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference ordained Lyght as a Deacon and Elder. He later transferred to the former Southern New Jersey Conference, where he served three pastoral appointments: St. Mary Street Union Parish, Burlington, The Church of the Good Shepherd, UMC, Willingboro,

NJ, and Old Orchards UMC, Cherry Hill, NJ. After transferring to the former Northern New Jersey Conference, for ten years he served as pastor of St. Mark's UMC, Montclair, NJ. This pastorate was followed by a seven-year term as District Superintendent of the Raritan District.

Lyght served as a Jurisdictional Conference delegate in 1976 and a General Conference delegate in 1984, 1988, 1992 and 1996. He served on a variety of conference, community and general church agencies/boards, including the General Board of Church and Society (1984-1992), and the General Board of Global Ministries (1992-1996). He served as a Drew University Trustee from 1983 to 2004, when he was elected as an emeritus trustee.

Bishop Lyght was elected to the episcopacy by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 1996 and assigned to the New York Area. In 2004 he was assigned to the West Virginia Area until his retirement in 2012. During his active episcopacy, Lyght served as president of the United Methodist Men's Commission (2000-2004), secretary of the General Council on Finance and Administration (2004-2008), and secretary of the Council of Bishops for one quadrennium.

Ernest and Eleanor Bell Lyght are the parents of two sons, and they have four grandchildren. His hobbies include reading, writing, amateur (Ham) radio, and model railroading.

Publications: Co-author - *Our Father; Many Faces, One Church; The Confessions of Three Ebony Bishops; Have You Faith in Christ?* Author - *Unmasking Racism*. Contributor: *The Upper Room; By Faith Magazine*.

Bishop Lyght will celebrate the ministry of the Delaware Conference in his presentation, "My Personal Memories of the Delaware Conference of the Central Jurisdiction: What the Black Church gained and lost during integration, and what gifts it gave to the wider Church"

Reference: Bishop Lyght's biography and photo taken from the website of The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, <https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/person-detail/2463637>, accessed 1/17/2026.



Rupert A. Hall, Jr. JD

Rupert Arvel Hall, Jr. is the Founder and CEO of Hope For The City, a nonprofit organization based in New Jersey. Before founding Hope For The City, he served as a senior pastor in cross-cultural and cross-racial appointments at Groveville and Turning Point United Methodist Churches. Beyond his local church duties, Rupert for many years has been deeply involved in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. He currently serves on the Episcopacy Committee, the Commission on Archives and History, Coordinator of Black Methodists for Church Renewal and the Central District Committee on Church and Location.

While serving in Trenton, NJ, he embraced the belief that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is tangibly expressed by actively engaging with the community outside of the walls of a church building. He continues to be involved in various organizations dedicated to bringing hope and stability to urban areas. Currently, he is the President of the Board of Kingsbury Corporation, a nonprofit that owns and manages a 53-year-old 305-unit affordable housing complex in Trenton, which is undergoing an \$80 million renovation. He also serves on the Board of the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (T.A.S.K.), an organization that has been serving meals for over 42 years. Additionally, he is involved with the Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness, Mercer Street Friends Food Bank, the Ewing Cemetery Association, and the New Jersey Poor People's Campaign, where he serves as one of three co-chairs.

Before his pastoral career, Rupert practiced law for 34 years, was a Commercial Banker and worked as a Business Development Counselor for the City of Philadelphia. Rupert earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and a Juris Doctorate from Rutgers School of Law. He also studied at the American University Washington School of Law and pursued theological studies at New Brunswick, Wesley, and Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminaries.

In his spare time, Rupert enjoys spending time with his family and friends, playing golf, and restoring his classic 1991 Chevrolet Corvette. He is married to Anne, a retired teacher who dedicated 45 years to the Philadelphia School System. They have three adult children and two grandsons.

He will speak on "Economic Justice in Faith and Society" where he will frame the challenges we confront and obstacles to overcome as we seek to end the sin of racism in our midst.



The Reverend Dr. Kevin D. Newburg

The Rev. Kevin Newburg, PhD is Associate Teaching Professor in the History of Christianity and Methodist Studies at Drew Theological School in Madison, NJ.

Rev. Newburg was a full-time minister for sixteen years in the state of Washington following his completion of a Master of Divinity degree. His family moved to New Jersey in 2004 when he enrolled in doctoral studies at Drew. Kevin defended his dissertation in October 2009, “Sermons and Shaping of Northern Methodist Identities, 1885-1905.”

Dr. Newburg has been teaching full-time at Drew’s Theological School since the fall of 2012. He has taught Church History, United Methodist History, United Methodist Doctrine and Polity, United Methodist Mission, the History of Preaching in American Methodism, United Methodist Book of Discipline, United Methodist Evangelism, Worship in the Methodist Tradition, The Preached Word in Wesleyan Traditions, and other methodist related subjects.

Kevin was the Interim Methodist Research Specialist, Methodist Library, Drew University, while a search was conducted for a permanent Methodist Librarian and he was also the Assistant Research Archivist, General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church. Rev. Newburg is an elder in full connection of the Greater New Jersey Conference of The United Methodist Church and serves the Livingston United Methodist Church in a half-time capacity in addition to teaching at the Drew Theological School.

Dr. Newburg will present “Captain Webb’s Preaching in Central New Jersey and the Growth of the Methodist Episcopal Church”.

Reference: Dr. Newburg’s photo and biography taken from the Drew University website, www.drew.edu, 1/17/2026.



Kevin Dusenberry

Kevin serves full time as the Digital Archivist for the General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH) at the United Methodist Archives and History Center on the campus of Drew University in Madison, NJ. Additionally, he works part time as the Archivist for the Greater New Jersey Commission on Archives and History.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Film Production from Emerson College, a Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Management from Liberty University, and graduated with a Master of Library and Information Science degree with a concentration in Archives Management from Simmons University.

At NEJCAH 2026 he will lead a workshop covering current digital archival best practices that will be of interest to conference archivists, conference commission members and local church historians. He will also identify archival resources for Black, Hispanic, Korean, and other ethnic congregations.



The Reverend John D. Callanan, M.Div., BCC

John is the Chairperson of the Greater New Jersey Conference Commission on Archives and History (GNJCAH), Conference Historian, and a Board-Certified Chaplain (BCC) serving in an extension ministry appointment at Meadow Lakes, a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) in Hightstown, New Jersey.

He completed a BA degree at Lycoming College, where he majored in history, and a Master of Divinity Degree from the Theological School at Drew University, where he became inspired with a passion for the ministry of memory. He has served in various leadership positions on the Historical and Archival Trustees of the Northern New Jersey Conference, the GNJCAH, and the GNJ Historical Society over the past forty years.

He will provide the narrative for the historical tour.

NEJCAH 2026 Annual Meeting Overview:

Our theme for the NEJCAH 2026 Annual Meeting is “Saving the Soul of Our Nation, State, and Church”. We will meet at the Pennington UMC in Pennington, NJ, which was one of our earliest congregations that credibly goes back to a Methodist Class Meeting started by Captain Webb and Brother Bunn.

Day One will be called “Faith Forum” and will focus on the theme of “Striving to End the Sin of Racism in Church and State: Contemporary and Historical Methodist Perspectives” which will be addressed by three keynote speakers.

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Resident Bishop of the EPA/GNJ Episcopal Area, will be our preacher for the opening worship service.

Bishop Ernest S. Lyght (Northeastern Jurisdiction/Retired) will share his personal reminiscences of the Delaware Conference of the Central Jurisdiction and the process of integration with GNJ’s predecessor conferences. His reflection will focus on what the black church gained and lost during the merger and what it offered to the white church.

Rupert A. Hall, Jr. JD, CEO and Founder of Hope For The City Foundation in Trenton, New Jersey, will speak on “Economic Justice in Faith and Society” and will address the challenges we confront and obstacles we need to overcome as we seek to end the sin of racism in our church in our midst.

Additionally, Kevin Dusenberry, Digital Archivist for the General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH) and part-time Archivist for Greater New Jersey Commission on Archives and History (GNJCAH), will also lead an archival workshop for conference archivists and historians, as well as local church pastors and historians identifying archival best practices that can be embraced by any congregation. Keeping with the day’s theme, he will also identify archival resources for Black, Hispanic, Korean and other ethnic congregations.

Dovetailing on our nation’s 250th anniversary, Day Two’s historical tour will focus on “Saving our Nation and State” by examining New Jersey’s role in the American Revolution and Captain Webb’s ministry in central New Jersey.

We will lead off by visiting Washington’s Crossing State Park and exploring Washington’s Crossing of the Delaware and the Continental Army’s crucial victories at the battles of Trenton and Princeton.

While in Trenton, we will visit Turning Point UMC, the successor to the second Methodist Class started in New Jersey by Captain Webb and Jospeh Toy and an innovative urban ministry today.

Since nothing says “Jersey” like diner, we will then enjoy an authentic Jersey diner experience by stopping for lunch at a local diner, where attendees can purchase whatever delights they might choose. Remember that Jersey diners are known for breakfast at any time, great burgers and soups, and huge portions! Bring your wallet and your appetite!

We will then tour the new Princeton Theological Seminary Library and Archives, where we will see an impressive library renovation and view original documents by our nation’s founders including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Benjamin Franklin.

Later that afternoon we will drive by the Princeton Battlefield and conclude our tour by visiting Monmouth Battlefield Park and Historic Tenant Church. The latter was a key congregation in the formation of the Presbyterian Church in America, and a stopping place of Francis Asbury, who was friends with the Tenant brothers.

Wednesday’s dinner will be at Meadow Lakes, the first CCRC in NJ. Formerly part of Presbyterian Homes of New Jersey, it is now part of Springpoint and is a non-profit, non-sectarian, community in East Windsor, NJ. Our dinner will be provided by the Meadow Lakes Marketing and Sales Team.

The theme of “Saving our State” will be addressed after dinner by Dr. Kevin Newburg, Associate Teaching Professor in the History of Christianity and Methodist Studies at Drew Theological School. Dr. Newburg will explore Captain Webb’s ministry in central New Jersey.

Lodging

We have booked a block of rooms which will be held until April 11th, at Courtyard by Marriot Ewing/Princeton, 360 Scotch Road, Ewing, NJ 08628. The hotel is conveniently located near the Trenton-Mercer Airport and roughly 10 minutes from the Pennington Church. This location will be convenient for attendees flying into New Jersey from out of state and minimizes the impact of morning rush hour traffic on the commute to the Pennington church. Day Two’s Historical Tour will depart from the hotel parking lot.

The rooms are reserved for three nights with arrival scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2026 and departure on Thursday, May 14, 2026. The discount rate is \$134.00 per night, plus tax, which is extremely reasonable for the New Jersey and Princeton markets.

While we realize some attendees may desire to stay at a discount hotel chain, we strongly recommend that you consider staying at the conference hotel. Since New

Jersey rush hours, and especially those on the Rt. 1 corridor near Trenton and Princeton, are typically measured in hours per mile rather than miles per hour, we do not recommend staying at lodging further from our venue, because doing so may add as much as one hour or more to the commute.

You may reserve a room at Courtyard by Marriot Ewing/Princeton, 360 Scotch Road, Ewing, NJ by calling the hotel directly at 1-844-631-0595 or by registering on-line at the Marriott Link:

<https://app.marriott.com/reslink?id=1767626564787&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

For the hotel, our event is listed as “Commission on Archives and History, Greater New Jersey Conference.”

Meals

Dinner on Tuesday and Wednesday, and Thursday’s boxed lunch are covered in the registration fee, as are coffee, water, and snacks for breaks at the church. The tour dinner on Wednesday will be provided by the Meadow Lakes Marketing and Sales Team.

Participants are asked to bring extra money to pay for their lunch on their own at a Jersey diner while we are on the tour.

The hotel has a restaurant where guests may choose to purchase anything from coffee to a full hot breakfast, according to personal preferences.

Transportation

We will offer limited, complimentary, transportation from the Trenton-Mercer Airport and the AMTRAC Station in nearby Trenton, New Jersey. Requests for this transportation must be made in advance via the registration form/process.

If you choose to fly into Newark or Philadelphia International Airports, we request that you handle your own ground transportation.

Registration

You may register and pay online by clicking on the link below or copying and pasting the link into your browser:

<https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Form/e8975f9b-7a0e-4ee7-8d0b-835b16134516>

You may also register by mail using the following form:

**The Northeastern Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and
History
Annual Meeting May 12 - 14, 2026**

Saving the Soul of Our Nation, State, and Church

Hosted by the Greater New Jersey Conference Commission on Archives and History
And the Pennington United Methodist Church

Registration

There are Four Different Options for Registration:

_____ **\$ 75.00 - Day One only (Faith Forum) - Tuesday, May 12, 2026**
Pennington United Methodist Church, 60 Main St., Pennington, NJ 08534

_____ **\$ 90.00 - Day Two only (Historical Tour) – Wednesday, May 13, 2026**
Bus departs 8:30 a.m. from Courtyard by Marriott Ewing/Princeton,
360 Scotch Road, Ewing, NJ 08628

_____ **\$ 150.00 - All 3 Days (Full NEJCAH Annual Meeting) – Will Book Hotel**
Tuesday, May 12 to Thursday, May 14, 2026 inclusive
Includes a \$50 rebate for those who book lodging at the conference hotel.

_____ **\$ 200.00* - All 3 Days (Full NEJCAH Annual Meeting) – Not Booking Hotel**
Tuesday, May 12 to Thursday, May 14, 2026 inclusive
Discounted price for registrations received before April 11, 2026.
**Registration after April 11th reverts to the full rate of \$250.00.*

_____ **\$ Total Enclosed**

Make check payable to: Greater New Jersey Conference
Write “Archives and History – NEJCAH2026” in the memo line

Name _____ Annual Conference _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Personal Concerns: dietary restrictions, food allergies, mobility, transportation
from/to airport, etc.

We will offer limited, complimentary, transportation from the Trenton-Mercer Airport and the AMTRAC Station in nearby Trenton, New Jersey if you make us aware of your need and travel plans in advance during registration.

If registering by mail, send a copy of this completed form to:

Rev. Donald DeGroat, Registrar
PO Box 25, Long Pond, PA 18334

If you have any questions, please call Don at 570-646-9298 or email him at:
dfdegroat4@aol.com

Lodging:

Lodging is your own choice. However, we strongly recommend that you use the conference hotel. We have a block of rooms at the ***Courtyard by Marriot Ewing/Princeton, 360 Scotch Road, Ewing, NJ 08628***, just minutes to the meeting location at Pennington United Methodist Church.

The rooms are available at the discount rate of **\$134.00 per night, plus tax**, for three nights with arrival scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2026 and departure on Thursday, May 14, 2026.

The discount rate is extremely reasonable for the New Jersey and Princeton markets (*the normal rate is \$179/night for mid-week reservations*).

The last day to book a room at the discount rate is Saturday, April 11, 2026.

Please book your lodging directly with the Courtyard Marriott Ewing Princeton by calling the hotel at 1-844-631-0595 or register on-line at the Marriott Link:

<https://app.marriott.com/reslink?id=1767626564787&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

A Warm Welcome Awaits You in New Jersey!

The Northeastern Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History 2026 Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 – Thursday, May 14 2026

Pennington United Methodist Church
60 Main St., Pennington, NJ 08534

