



Bishop Violet L. Fisher was consecrated July 15, 2000 at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference held in Somerset, New Jersey. She was the only Bishop elected in 2000 in the Jurisdiction.

Initiatives and Appeals of the Council of Bishops

The Initiative on Children and Poverty has been the commitment of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church since 1996. This commitment represents the Bishops' sense of the call and nature of God; the depth of the Bishops' concern for children and the impoverished; the new directions resulting from deepening global relationships; and the Bishops' belief that the church is to be where God is. The church, therefore, must be in community with children and the poor – as Jesus said, "the least of these."

The Hope for the Children of Africa appeal provides relief and reconciliation to thousands of children and families who have suffered and lost so much from war across the continent; and rebuilds United Methodist churches and restore ministries, with special attention to the physical, social and spiritual well-being of the children.

For more information or to donate to these missions, please contact the Area Office.

New York West Area

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The Committee on Episcopacy is responsible for interpreting the Office of the Bishop to the New York West Area. This area is comprised of the laity and clergy of the North Central New York and Western New York Conferences. For information, contact one of the committee members.



The Office of the Bishop

**The New York West Area,
The United Methodist Church**

Bishop Violet L. Fisher

The foundation of strong, nurturing Christian parents and grandparents, and her family's emphasis on education and moral values shaped and formed The Rev. Dr. Violet L. Fisher.

The second eldest of Deacon William and Mrs. Virginia Fisher's children, Bishop Fisher was called to be an evangelist at the age of 16. Rooted in the traditions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, she found the opportunity as an African-American woman to preach and be ordained in the King's Apostle Holiness Church of God. There she served as National Evangelist and as a short term missionary to Tanzania, Kenya, Jamaica, Uganda and the Republic of Haiti.



In 1983 she returned to the church of her birth where she was ordained a Deacon and an Elder in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. From 1994 to 2000 she served as a District Superintendent.

In 2000 Violet L. Fisher became the first African-American woman from the Northeastern Jurisdiction to be elected to the Episcopacy, and the only Bishop elected at that Conference.

Bishop Fisher was assigned to the New York West Area where she has served since that time. She has been active in the Council of Bishops and has served as President of the Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops.

She is Vice Chair of the General Board of Global Ministries, has served on the Board of the General Commission on Communications and of the Older Adults Committee of the General Board of Discipleship.

Bishop Fisher represents the Council of Bishops on the Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation and Union.

New York West Area and Conference Episcopal Responsibilities

A Bishop serves as a general superintendent for the church assigned to a geographical area. In the United Methodist tradition, Bishops are not "ordained" as Bishops, but are clergy elected and consecrated to the office of Bishop.

The Bishop makes all appointments of elders, deacons and local pastors in the New York West Area, composed of the North Central and Western New York Annual Conferences.

Bishop Fisher supervises nine district superintendents—four in Western New York and five in North Central New York. They, in turn, supervise all other appointed persons.

The Bishop presides at sessions of the North Central New York and the Western New York Annual Conferences.

She is responsible for all committees and teams of the two annual conferences and addresses issues and concerns which are particular to each annual conference.

In addition, Bishop Fisher serves as president of the corporation of the Western New York and North Central New York Annual Conferences. and she deals with matter of litigation and other issues that affect the life of the annual conferences.



Bishop Violet L. Fisher autographs a copy of "The Leading Women" at General Conference 2004, held in Pittsburgh, PA.

The Council of Bishops

Bishops of The United Methodist Church provide spiritual leadership to more than 11 million persons in a broad range of settings on four continents, including North America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

The Council of Bishops is made up of all active and retired Bishops of The United Methodist Church. It meets twice a year. During that time, the Bishops discuss issues of concern for the whole church. The Council has no authority in program, finance, pensions or administration. According to the Book of Discipline, "The Church expects the Council of Bishops to speak to the Church and from the Church to the world and to give leadership in the quest for Christian unity and interreligious relationships."

Bishops are assigned by their jurisdiction to serve a geographical area for a four-year term. There are 50 episcopal areas in the United States and 18 episcopal areas outside of the United States. New Bishops may not be assigned to the area where they were a clergy member for at least four years after their election.

Bishops are members of the Council of Bishops rather than an annual conference or a local church. The Council includes both active and retired bishops. Retired Bishops have voice but not vote.

Bishops give general oversight to the worldly and spiritual interests of the church. Bishops also have the responsibility to see that the rules and regulations developed by General Conference are carried out.

As the ecumenical officers of the United Methodist Church, Bishops are responsible for cooperative and complimentary work with other religious bodies.

To learn more about Bishop Violet Fisher and the other Bishops of the United Methodist Church, visit the denominational web site at www.umc.org.

The web sites of the two conferences of the New York West Area have the latest version of this brochure as well as information about the Bishop and her activities: www.ncnyumc.org and www.wnyumc.org. Some of the material for this brochure came from www.umc.org.