

*“The Urban Academy gave us more than help; it gave us new hope. Despite our great love for Christ, our church struggled with who we were and how to serve. Our attendance and attitude reflected that. The inspirational and practical lessons of the Urban Academy reminded us that all things are possible with our God. It awakened our desire to be the body of Christ for our community, not just a church.”*

Mr. Scott Johnson  
Conference Lay Leader: Western NY Conference



From left to right, Dean Hanshew, John Morris, and Russ Luecke of Bellefontaine UMC in the Missouri East Conference test out the new ramp with Keith Graffin, who will have a much easier time getting into his front door. The Bellefontaine Church was challenged in the Academy to be more inclusive, both in the church and in the community.

*“The Urban Academy is a comprehensive training program that provides a setting for lay and pastoral leaders to develop the sensitivities and skills needed to move the church forward in an urban setting. Our team found it to be absolutely essential in helping us think critically and faithfully about our future as an emerging urban congregation.”*

The Rev. Abi Foerster  
Pastor and Dean: Virginia Urban Academy



Bishop Violet Fisher (far left) celebrating worship with other participants at the Upstate New York Urban Academy.

*“There is a deep hunger to ‘do church’ in fresh, new, vibrant, and inclusive ways; shedding old patterns of top-down leadership to embrace our calling to become ever bolder about what is, and can be, called ‘holy.’ That is what the Urban Academy helped our people to realize.”*

The Rev. Lois Wagner  
Pastor and Dean: Portland, OR Urban Academy

### information

For more information on the National Urban Academy or the Office of Urban Ministries, call: (212) 870-3832, (877) 870-3832, or fax: (212) 870-3948.

Or write:  
Office of Urban Ministries  
General Board of Global Ministries  
475 Riverside Drive, Room 1550  
New York, NY 10115

Visit our website:  
<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/cim/programs/urban>



# NATIONAL URBAN ACADEMY

A two-year academy designed for your annual conference

SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF URBAN MINISTRIES  
GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## **purpose**

The purpose of the Holy Boldness National Urban Academy is to assist lay and clergy leaders with the development and implementation of strategies that will transform congregational life and increase effectiveness in community ministry. The Academy will also provide education on the seven Holy Boldness themes for United Methodist Urban Ministry.

## **design & content**

The Academy is designed to engage participants in learnings and exercises that will:

1. provide new, relevant information on congregational and community development,
2. help participants develop and carry out a church Holy Boldness plan, and
3. motivate participants to take holy and bold steps to reach new persons with the Good News.

## **anticipated outcomes**

Through the Academy, 20-50 churches (a 20-church minimum) will be trained and individual participants will learn practical strategies for urban ministry. The Academy will motivate key leadership for ministry, help congregations develop and carry out effective congregational and community development plans, and participants will develop stronger collaborative relationships for urban ministry.

*Participants in the Virginia Urban Academy gather to celebrate their work together after an Urban Academy session.*



## **year one training content**

Session One	Session Two	Session Three
SHARING THE FAITH	DEVELOPING THE FAITH	LIVING THE FAITH
PRIMARY CALLING TASKS:		
1. Reaching out to people and sharing the Faith. 2. Receiving people as they are and relating them to the Faith.	3. Developing people in the Faith.	4. Sending people to live the Faith.
Understanding the nature and importance of vision and mission.	Understanding the nature and importance of a strategic plan and its components.	Organizing and mobilizing people to carry out a local Holy Boldness plan.
HOLY BOLDNESS THEMES:		
1. Urban Theology 2. Urban Evangelism and Congregational Development	3. Developing and Strengthening Multicultural Relationships 4. Eradicating Racism	5. Leadership Development 6. Community Economic Development 7. Health, Healing, and Wholeness.

## **year two technical assistance**

During the second year of the Holy Boldness National Urban Academy, participant churches will be involved in three technical assistance sessions. These sessions will be designed for problem solving, further exploration of issues relating to the local church's Holy Boldness plan, and "how to's" related to the church's congregational and community development ministries.

*Please note: Year One Sessions are Thursday afternoon to Saturday or Friday afternoon through Sunday following worship. Year Two Sessions are Friday evening to Saturday afternoon.*

## **participants**

To receive the maximum benefits of the training, the pastor and at least three lay persons from a congregation should participate in all Academy training and technical assistance sessions. Participants from other denominations are encouraged to participate.



*The Rev. Lupina Villalpando Stewart, a Mexican missionary serving in the West Ohio Conference, delivering a keynote address to the Upstate New York Urban Academy.*

## **location**

The Academy will be held in a central location. Sessions may be held at a local church. A hotel should be easily accessible for overnight lodging.

## **leadership**

1. A National Urban Trainer from the Office of Urban Ministries.
2. A dean who will work with local and national leadership to design specific content and recruit leadership for workshop session, and facilitate the entire two-year training process.
3. Motivational speakers, national and local urban practitioners, specialists with expertise and skills in specific training areas and in leading workshops.

## **cost**

The suggested registration cost per participant is estimated at \$50-\$100 per session.