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PRESENTS

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton



Wednesday, July 14

11:30AM CST

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton was appointed as the spiritual leader of the 447 United Methodist congregations in the New York Annual Conference in the fall of 2016. As a part of his episcopal responsibilities, Bishop Bickerton also serves on the General Board of Global Ministries, the Standing Committee on Central Conference affairs, and the Commission on the General Conference.

Bishop Bickerton was elected to the episcopacy in 2004 and served the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference from 2004-2016. Most recently he served as the chairperson of The United Methodist Church's Global Health Initiative which deals with the church's response to the killer diseases of HIV/Aids, tuberculosis and malaria. This effort, through the church's *Imagine NO Malaria* campaign, raised over \$70 million dollars within the denomination to eliminate malaria-related death across the world.

Bishop Bickerton's life has been significantly shaped by involvement in ministry beyond the walls of the local church. His work with Volunteer-in-Mission teams in his home state, as well as in Africa, Argentina, Israel, Mexico, Russia, Cuba, and the U. S. Gulf Coast, has given the Bishop a "true global perspective on the need to be in ministry to all of God's children."

Bishop Bickerton serves on the University Senate and is the author of the book and accompanying study resources entitled, *What Are We Fighting For: Coming Together Around What Matters Most* and a contributing author to the book, *The Future of the United Methodist Church*.

Bishop Bickerton earned a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and psychology from West Virginia Wesleyan College, a Master of Divinity from Duke University Divinity School, and a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from West Virginia Wesleyan in 2015. He has served as an adjunct faculty member at United, teaching Wesleyan doctrine and United Methodist polity.