

**NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**Pastoral Conversations 2019**

With over 500 pastors in the New England Conference, this survey is a tool to help the Bishop and Cabinet learn more about you and your current ministry setting. We strive to be pastoral to your needs as we discuss appointments and other conference business. Therefore, your thorough and honest completion of this document will guide our work. *Please be sure to read this through as some items have been updated.*

**Name:**

**Appointment:**

**Date:**

**Personal Information**

1. How is it with your soul? What have been your joys, struggles, hopes, and disappointments over the past year?
2. How are you finding support in this challenging work? Friendships, colleagues, mentors, physical activity, spiritual disciplines, spiritual direction, etc.?
3. How is your personal life? Are there family, medical, emotional, or spiritual issues, or issues of conflict about which I should know before appointment season begins this December? If yes, please elaborate here.
  - a. Do you have a child who will enter his/her junior or senior year in high school this coming September?
  - b. Do you plan to retire from active ministry in the next two years? If so, what year?

**Ministry Setting**

4. What has happened in your ministry during the past year that has given you satisfaction?
5. What has remained unfulfilled or continues to be of concern to you?
6. What would you like the Bishop and Cabinet to know concerning your current tenure, your next appointment, any change in status that you are considering?
7. How are you making disciples for Christ in your ministry setting?
8. What plan have you developed to engage members of the church and community you serve in bible study that creates discipleship growth? What fruits have you seen or do you expect to see? How are youth included in your plan?
9. Tell me about a form of continuing education (event, book, artwork, etc.) that provided a new perspective on your life, ministry, and faith walk. What are your plans in continuing education for the coming year?
10. What do you do as a circuit rider of the 21<sup>st</sup> century to reach out to people in your community through your ministry (home visits, restaurants, coffee houses, etc.)? What are you currently experimenting with in this area?

## Connectionalism

11. Conference Mission Shares – Describe how you have interpreted to your congregation our connectional missional support program and how you have led their response to mission share payments. How are you fulfilling your pastoral Disciplinary requirements in this area as cited in ¶340.c.2(e) “To lead the congregation in the fulfillment of its mission through full and faithful payment of all apportioned ministerial support, administrative and benevolent funds.”
12. Please list ways in which you currently serve the district and conference on ministry teams, committees, as coach, clergy mentor, candidacy mentor, etc.
13. Your district had training events (Resource Days, Leadership Academy, etc.) this past year. Which ones did you attend? How were they helpful to your ministry? Did your laity attend?
14. Did you attend the Bishop’s Day on your District? \_\_\_Y \_\_\_N If not, what was the reason you did not attend?
  - a. What suggestions would you like to offer for this event?
15. Did you attend the annual Pre-Lenten Gathering? \_\_\_Y \_\_\_N If not, what was the reason you did not attend?
  - a. What suggestions would you like to offer for this event?
16. Did you attend Annual Conference? \_\_\_Y \_\_\_N
  - a. What suggestions would you like to offer for this event?
17. Have you shared your call story with your congregation, as requested by the Bishop?
18. In his 2018 episcopal address, Bishop Devadhar asked every full-time pastor to read: 1) *The Anatomy of Peace: Resolving the Heart of Conflict*, by The Arbinger Institute, 2) *Unity in Mission: Bond of Peace for the Sake of Love*, by Bishop C. Andrew Doyle, and 3) ”Trust by Design: The Beautiful Behaviors of an Effective Church Culture” by Amy Valdez Barker.

How did these books inform your conversations with colleagues and practice of ministry?  
How did you share these books with your congregation? (Note: Part time clergy were strongly encouraged to read these books.)

Please note: In 2019-20 Bishop Devadhar asks all pastors and churches to read: “Piloting Church,” by Cameron Trimble.

## Future Goals

19. What are your personal goals for the next year? What are your ministry goals for the next year?