

**CONFERENCE BOARD OF LAITY:
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN LAY MINISTRY**

1. **Purpose of award:** The mission of the Western New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is to recruit, resource, refresh, and release spiritual leaders of excellence. Through this new award the WNY Conference Board of Laity seeks to recognize laypersons who have fulfilled this mission with distinction.
2. **Criteria for selection:** This award will be given to a layperson who has demonstrated the following traits in her or his service to Christ and the United Methodist Church:
 - a. extensive service at the local and connectional levels: Since this is a conference award we wish to recognize individuals who have served the broader connection as well as their local church.
 - b. demonstrated results of ministry and service: Ultimately our service to our Lord and Savior fulfills His commandment to “love one another as He has loved us” or “to make disciples of all nations.” The committee will give preference to those nominees who can provide evidence of the impact of their service on their churches, communities, or other relevant contexts.
 - c. inspirational leadership for others: The board is looking to celebrate those individuals who bring out the best in others through their examples of Christ-like servant leadership.
 - d. effective partnerships with clergy: The board affirms the priesthood and ministry of all believers. Effective lay ministry will involve healthy partnerships with pastors. Excellence in lay ministry will provide guidance and support for clergy that will produce good fruit for God’s kingdom.

The Board will accept nominations until May 2. The decision made at May 14 Board of Laity meeting with the award bestowed at the annual conference session this June. A nomination form must be completed for each nominee. While letters supporting the nomination of a particular individual are welcome, the Board will only consider the first three letters received in support of a particular nomination. Electronic submissions preferred. Nomination forms and supporting letters should be addressed to The Board of Laity Award for Excellence in Lay Ministry at the Western New York Conference center.

**CONFERENCE BOARD OF LAITY
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP BY LAITY**

Contact information:

Nominee Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Church:

Nominator Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Church:

Record of Service:

Ministry	Years/term	Office held (if applicable)	Accomplishments

Inspirational leadership: please describe how the nominee's leadership has encouraged and stimulated faithful service and discipleship in others

Partnership statement: Please describe ways in which the nominee's ministry has supported the ministry of the clergy.