



Rejoice

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16

MAY 21 - 23, 2017

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GREATER NEW JERSEY
PRE-CONFERENCE JOURNAL + HANDBOOK



The Mission Fund Campaign

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

TOGETHER WE CAN:

SAVE LIVES IN AFRICA, REBUILD HOMES AND LIVES FOR PEOPLE WHO SUFFERED
DEVASTATING LOSS DURING SUPERSTORM SANDY, REVITALIZE
MISSION IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND...



CHANGE THE WORLD.

www.gnjumc.org/themissionfundcampaign



The United Methodist Church
of Greater New Jersey
New Disciples • Vital Congregations • Transformed World

Rejoice always – 1 Thessalonians 5:16

In every and all circumstances, we have great reason to rejoice!

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The people of the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey have much to rejoice! God is doing a great work in our midst and I am looking forward to sharing the Good News with you at the 2017 Annual Conference session in Wildwood, NJ. We will rejoice in the ministry of our congregations, all we have engaged in our communities this year and rejoice in the plans God has in store for us.

We will also review a new shared ministry formula that will reduce shared ministry for all of our congregations, hear about a plan for student ministries – *camping, youth groups, ignite and campus ministry*, and learn about a 10 year inter cultural competency plan.

I invite you to prepare for our time together by praying. Pray for our local churches, our conference and our denomination. Pray for sanctuary in a time of fear. Pray for unity in a time of controversy. Pray for hope in a time change. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless our time of rejoicing.

Pray also for the children of Africa that suffer and die needlessly because of malaria – a treatable and preventable disease. Pray for the estimated 3,000 individuals and families who are still recovering from superstorm Sandy. Pray for the volunteers working with A Future With Hope who bring renewal to those who thought they were forgotten.

Then, put these prayers into action. Share with your congregation the good news of the Annual Conference. Listen to their concerns about the important legislation that will be presented. Take an offering in your congregation for the Mission Fund which supports Imagine No Malaria and A Future With Hope. We will take one offering during Annual Conference for the Mission Fund and your gifts will get us closer to our goal of \$12 million. Your gifts are helping to transform the world.

Keep the faith!

John Schol, Bishop

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey



A FUTURE WITH
HOPE
The People of the United Methodist Church

The job is not complete.

An estimated 3,000 individuals and families have not yet recovered from Superstorm Sandy. United Methodists remain committed to help the last, the least and the lost.

**We have completed repairs on 256 homes through February 2017.
Our goal is to complete more than 300 homes through 2018.**

Volunteer. Donate. Find Out More.

732.359.1012 • www.afuturewithhope.org



**The 18th Annual Conference Session of the
United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey**

May 21 - May 23, 2017 | Wildwood, NJ

Sunday, May 21

- 1:00 p.m. **Registration Opens**
Exhibits and Cokesbury Bookstore

- 4:00 p.m. **Clergy Executive Session** | Location: Ballrooms
Laity Session | Location: West Hall

- 5:00 p.m. **Clergy Dinner** | Location: Ballrooms
Laity Dinner | Location: East Hall

- 7:00 p.m. **Commissioning and Ordination Worship** | Location: West Hall

Monday, May 22

- 7:00 a.m. **Breakfast**
Breakfast on your own. Group prearranged breakfasts (groups are to sign up by April 28)

- 7:45 a.m. **Communion on the Beach** | Location: Convention Center Deck Ocean Side

- 8:30 a.m. **Praise and Worship** | Location: West Hall

- 8:45 a.m. **Organizing the Conference** | Location: West Hall

- 9:00 a.m. **Episcopal Address** | Location: West Hall

- 9:40 a.m. **Legislation** | Location: West Hall
Nominations, Trustees Enabling Legislation, Advance Specials, Constitutional Amendments, Historic Sites, Relationship Statements (Introduction of Vital Mission Partners)

- 11:00 a.m. **Service of Remembrance and Communion** | Location: West Hall

- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch** | Location: East Hall and East Deck
Bishop's Luncheon with memorial service families | Location: Meeting room 1 Exhibits and Cokesbury Bookstore
- 1:30 p.m. **Praise and Worship** | Location: West Hall
- 1:45 p.m. **Leadership Address** | Location: West Hall
- 2:15 p.m. **Legislation** | Location: West Hall
2019 Strategic Plan Process, Budget, Shared Ministries Formula, Pension, Equitable Compensation, Discontinuance of Churches, Cemetery Report
- 3:15 p.m. **Stewardship Foundation and Advancement Report** | Location: West Hall
- 3:45 p.m. **Workshops** | Location: Assigned Locations
Mission Project: Rise Against Hunger | Location: East Hall
- 5:45 p.m. **Adjourn for the Day**
- 5:45 p.m. **Extension Ministry Dinner**
- 5:45 p.m. **Dinner**
 For groups and individuals at the convention center.

Tuesday, May 23

- 7:00 a.m. **Breakfast**
 Breakfast on your own. Group prearranged breakfasts (groups are to sign up by April 28)
- 7:45 a.m. **Communion on the Beach** | Location: Convention Center Deck Ocean Side
- 8:30 a.m. **Praise and Worship** | Location: West Hall
- 8:40 a.m. **Teaching Moment: Cultural Competence: Erin Hawkins** | Location: West Hall
- 9:30 a.m. **Service of Passage and Reading of the Appointments** | Location: West Hall
- 10:15 a.m. **Thank you announcements** | Location: West Hall
- 10:30 a.m. **Legislation** | Location: West Hall
Student Ministry Plan, 10-year Multicultural Plan, Amend Rule #19, Plea for Obedience and Unity, Request for BOOM, Registration Fees
- 1:00 p.m. **Adjournment**



CAMP YDP

AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT, PRESCHOOL & SUMMER PROGRAMS



CAMP YDP is a full day preschool program that offers after school enrichment and full day summer program for children ages 2 1/2-13.

Learn more and how you can help at:
www.campydp.org

Like us on Facebook:

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A FUTURE WITH
HOPE
The People of the United Methodist Church
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES OF HOPE



WALKING
ALONGSIDE
CLERGY TO
ASSIST IN
ACHIEVING
LEADERSHIP
GOALS.

“It is an awesome opportunity for people already in leadership positions to hone skills and bring new people alongside of them”

– Clergy Coaching Participant

Clergy coaching helps raise up apostolic leaders by helping them fully realize their gifts, sharpen their skills and focus their calling.



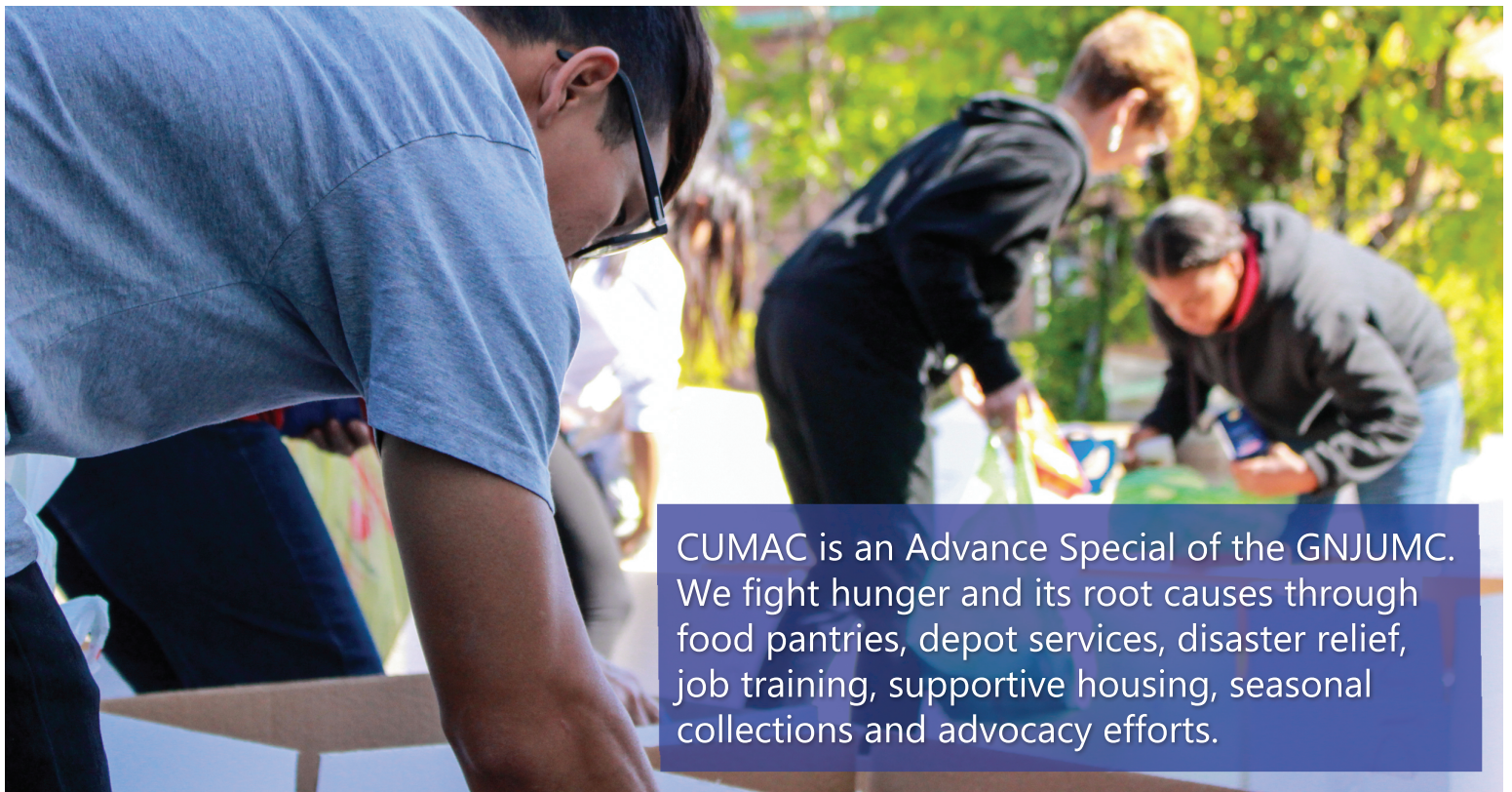
A season of coaching generally takes place over an eight month period and can be comprised of eight one hour sessions, or sixteen half hour sessions.

Find out more and register at:
www.gnjumc.org/clergy-coaching

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CUMAC is an Advance Special of the GNJUMC. We fight hunger and its root causes through food pantries, depot services, disaster relief, job training, supportive housing, seasonal collections and advocacy efforts.



1 in 5 children struggle with hunger.
You can make a difference.
www.cumac.org

Our Impact In 2016:

- Over 40,000 people in need served
- Nearly 2 million pounds of food distributed
- More than 100 families assisted after disaster
- Dozens were given job training and supportive housing

How To Get Involved:

- Hold a food drive or collection
- Schedule a volunteer trip
- Become a board member
- Make a donation
- Tour CUMAC's programs
- Spread the word about hunger



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info@cumacecho.org 973.742.5518

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- Graduate training for ministry in a variety of settings
- Flexible and focused on apprenticeship learning

Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.)

- Advanced study to augment previous theological education
- For deepening ministry or preparing for doctoral work

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)

- Multidisciplinary advanced study for ministerial leaders
- Furthers theological reflection and recharges professional expertise

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

- Advanced interdisciplinary study and research in the academic theological disciplines
- Equips university and college teachers, thought leaders, and public intellectuals

Conference Secretary Letter and General Information

Dear Annual Conference Lay and Clergy Members,

Welcome to the 2017 Greater New Jersey Annual Conference!

The conference session begins on Sunday, May 21, 2017 with registration starting at 1:00 p.m. at the Wildwoods Convention Center, Wildwood, NJ. The full agenda for Annual Conference is located on page 3 of this book. Please read the information in the Pre-Conference Journal and Handbook carefully and refer to the Table of Contents for detailed information. This handbook is an important resource for you to use as an effective member of the 2017 Annual Conference Session. Please be sure to bring it with you to Conference – there is a charge for additional books.

We hope this Pre-Conference Journal and Handbook will be helpful to you as you plan to participate in the worship, business, fellowship and celebration at the 2017 Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. David E. Wiley
Conference Secretary
The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

Reports and Resolutions:

Although reports and resolutions may be amended on the floor of Annual Conference, we urge those wishing to amend a resolution to contact the chairperson/originator of the report/resolution prior to the beginning of Annual Conference to work out a mutually agreeable revision. *For the sake of time management, we encourage you to give your attention to this important detail.*

Elected Lay Members Unable to Attend All Sessions:

If for any reason the elected Lay Member can no longer be seated at the Annual Conference, s/he is responsible for passing on the *Pre-Conference Journal and Handbook* and any other program materials to the elected Alternate (Reserve) Lay Member. The Alternate (Reserve) Lay Member can proceed to the Registration Table, identify him/herself, and obtain the necessary credentials to use while serving as the Lay Member. Before leaving the hotel to return home, s/he is asked to return the packet of materials and name badge to the Registration Table at the Convention Center.

Attendance and Name Badges:

All members are required to register for Annual Conference beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 21 in the Main Lobby of the Convention Center. Name badges will be given out at the attendance/registration desk and will serve as your meal ticket for dinner on Sunday and lunch on Monday.

Late Registration for Annual Conference:

Members who are not registered online by the **May 4** registration deadline may register at the Wildwoods Convention Center on Sunday, May 21st at the Late Registration desk. ***Late registrants are responsible for obtaining, and paying for, their own hotel room.***

Hotels:

You will receive a confirmation email once you register. Information on hotels will be linked to this email. **Conference members and visitors who register after May 4, are responsible for obtaining their own hotel room.**

Conference Secretary Letter and General Information

Childcare:

Childcare will be offered at the Convention Center on Sunday from 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Monday, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Please register for childcare by **May 4**. Additional information regarding childcare will be sent directly to parents after they register their children. Due to Safe Sanctuary guidelines, no walk-ins will be allowed.

Offering:

There will be one offering taken at the Conference during the Leadership Report. Come prepared to witness through your giving.

Workshops:

A selection of five workshops will be offered on Monday, May 22 starting at 3:45 p.m. You can sign-up for the workshop of your choice when you register for the Annual Conference. Pre-registration is required! See a description of the workshops and presenters in this booklet.

Exhibits:

Information booths for associated organizations and agencies will be located in the Main Lobby of Convention Center. Cokesbury Bookstore will be in Meeting Room 3 off the main lobby.

Mission Project:

Rise Against Hunger mission project will take place in the East Hall on Monday, May 22 beginning at 3:45 p.m. Sign-up when you register for the Annual Conference.

Service of Remembrance:

The Service of Remembrance will be held on Monday, May 22 at 11:00 a.m. It will be followed by a luncheon at 12:00 p.m. with the Bishop in Meeting Room 1 for the families of those honored.

Meals:

- Breakfast is not provided; there are numerous restaurants, coffee shops and diners nearby and on the boardwalk.
- **Dinner on Sunday, May 21** – Elected Lay Members will meet at 5:00 p.m. in the East Hall. Clergy will meet at 5:00 p.m. in the Ballrooms.
- **Lunch on Monday, May 22** – Elected Lay Members and Clergy will meet at 12:00 p.m. in East Hall and the adjacent deck.
- The **Extension Ministry dinner is scheduled for Monday at 5:45 p.m.** This dinner is for those clergy appointed to an extension ministry. Pre-registration is required; fees apply. You may register for this dinner when you register for the Annual Conference online.
- **Dinner for Visitors on Sunday, May 21 and lunch on Monday, May 22** – Visitors to the Annual Conference may join members for dinner and/or lunch if pre-registered and paid for in advance. ***Pre-payment and reservation is required.***

Focus Group Meals:

Focus group leaders will provide information on location of meals directly to all pre-registered attendees. Leaders must register in advance. Focus group leaders have until April 28 to sign up for a group meal. Focus group leaders can request space for a group meal at <https://www.qnjumc.org/2017-annual-conference/>

Conference Secretary Letter and General Information

Emergency Phone:

Should an Annual Conference participant need to be contacted **in case of emergency**, call Jay Kim, 732-272-4156.

Parking:

Parking is conveniently located on the grounds of the Convention Center. An area for those with handicap license plates and placards is clearly marked. Golf carts will be available to take those with mobility issues to the entrance.

Trolley to and from hotels:

Free transportation is available between all hotels and the Convention Center via trolley car from 2:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on Sunday; 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday; 5:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

Directions to the Wildwoods Convention Center:

From Philadelphia:

Atlantic City Expressway to Exit 7 South onto the Garden State Parkway South to Exit 4B (Wildwood/Wildwood Crest). You will be on Rt. 47 South (Rio Grande Ave.). Continue 2.3 miles to Ocean Ave. and turn left. The Convention Center is on your right directly after the turn.

From New York and Points North

Garden State Parkway South to Exit 4B and follow directions above.

From Cape May and Points South

Cape May-Lewes Ferry to Cape May. Follow signs to the Wildwoods via Garden State Parkway North to Exit 4 and follow directions above.

From Delaware Memorial Bridge

Rt. 40 East to Rt. 55 South to Rt. 47 South to the Wildwoods.

Conference Secretary Letter and General Information

Name Badges and Voting Rights

YELLOW = *Elected Lay Members, At-Large Members, Youth Members, Diaconal Ministers, Deaconesses and Home Missioners* may vote on all deliberations/measures except on the granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full conference membership, or any question concerning the character and official conduct of ordained ministers, except those who are lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and Committee on Investigation. (See ¶1602.6)

RED = *Members (Elders and Deacons) in Full Connection* may vote on all matters in the Annual Conference except in the election of lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences, and shall have sole responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. (See ¶1602.1a)

GREEN = *Provisional Clergy Members, Part Time/Full Time Local Pastors under appointment to a pastoral charge, and Affiliate Members* may vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When local pastors are members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.

BLUE = *Provisional Clergy Members and Associate Clergy Members* who have completed all of their educational requirements, and *Local Pastors* who have completed course of study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election, may vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, the election of lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When associate members are members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.

WHITE = *Retired Local Pastors* - (Retired Local Pastors may attend Annual Conference sessions with voice, but not vote. (See ¶1320.5).

TEAL = *Visitors, Student Pastors (whose memberships are in other conferences), Interim Supply Pastors, Lay Ministers and Members of other conferences.* (These have no vote; and these have no voice unless granted on the floor of the Annual Conference. (See ¶1602.9)

PINK = *Staff Members*; **Purple** = *Official Guests and Episcopal Staff*; **Orange** = *Non-Voting Youth* (These have no vote; and these have no voice unless granted on the floor of the Annual Conference.)

Conference Secretary Letter and General Information

HOW TO UNDERSTAND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES						
To Do This...	You Say This...	Interrupt Speaker?	Second Needed?	Motion Debatable?	Amendable?	Vote Needed?
SECONDARY MOTIONS IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE						
Adjourn	"I move to adjourn"	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Recess	"I move we recess until ..."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Suspend debate w/o calling for a vote	"I move that we table"	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
End Debate	"I move the previous question"	No	Yes	No	No	2/3 Majority
Limit Debate	"I move debate be limited to . . ."	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3 Majority
Postpone to specific time	"I move to postpone this matter until . . ."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Have matter studied further	"I move we refer this matter to . . ."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion or substitute	"I move to amend by ..." or "I move to substitute ..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Postpone Indefinitely	"I move to postpone indefinitely"	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
INCIDENTAL MOTIONS GROW OUT OF THE BUSINESS THE CONFERENCE IS CONSIDERING						
Correct error in parliamentary procedure	"Point of Order"	Yes	No	No	No	Chair rules
Obtain advice on parliamentary procedure	"I raise a parliamentary inquiry"	Yes	No	No	No	Chair rules
Request information	"Point of information"	Yes	No	No	No	None
MAIN MOTIONS AS TOOLS TO INTRODUCE NEW BUSINESS						
Introduce business	"I move that . . ."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Take up matter previously tabled	"I move we take from the table . . ."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Reconsider matter previously voted	"I move we reconsider . . ."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority

 **IGNITE 2017**
CONFERENCE

FIRED UP

SEPT. 29 - OCT. 1, 2017

WILDWOODS CONVENTION CENTER | WILDWOOD NJ

TEDASHII

MEREDITH ANDREWS

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AND MORE!

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Workshops

Creative Worship: Discovering the Power of the Narrative Experience

Share best practices and time-tested methodologies to create narrative worship experiences. With an emphasis on creativity over style (traditional/non-traditional), this exploration has something for everyone - regardless of church size, worship styles and budgets.



Workshop Leader: Jason Moore

With a passion for creativity and image, Jason Moore is working to change the world through deep, meaningful, creative worship. Jason is driven to help churches of all sizes, worship styles and means become as effective as possible in communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ to a creative and increasingly image obsessed world.

Creating New Spaces: Engaging Vitality

Explore the realities of today's entry or connecting points for engaging new members, and various tools available to assist in these efforts. Learn and share creative ideas on how to create a welcoming space for diverse communities to be engaged in spiritual growth, fellowship, education, service, advocacy and mission through United Methodist Women.



Workshop Leaders: Khia Shaw and Millie Vickery

Khia serves as the Executive for Membership Cultivation in the Office of Membership and Leadership Development for the national office of United Methodist Women. With a passion for justice and mission work, she has been honored by the Commission on the Status of Women, the American Red Cross and received the INC 500 Network Marketing Award.



Mollie is a United Methodist Deaconess serving as the Executive for Children, Youth, and Family Advocacy for the national office of United Methodist Women. She has long been devoted to advocacy for her students and their families. This passion for advocacy serves her well in her current position as she advocates for children and youths and their families in a variety of areas, most notably Maternal Health and Domestic Violence.

Workshops

Cultural Tapestry: Discovering and Developing a Diverse Community

Explore the biblical importance for engaging in intercultural competency and expand our concept of culture, its impact on our personal journey and its interaction with the greater community: the church.



Workshop Leader: Rev. Giovanni Arroyo

Giovanni is currently a provisional elder of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference where he is serving as Staff of The General Commission on Religion and Race while enrolled in a Doctor of Ministry Program focusing on Transformational Leadership in the Wesleyan Perspective through a joint partnership with Wesley Theological Seminary and Cambridge University.

Financial Security

Resources are available for clergy and spouses when it comes to thinking and planning for a healthy financial future. Learn about your benefits and how they will support you in retirement, free and optional services offered through Wespath Benefits and Investments, how to gain access to your online account and explore the helpful tools available and individual Retirement Benefits Projection.



Workshop Leader: Robert Christophel

Robert is a benefit educator who provides financial, retirement and other educational benefits for clergy and lay employees. Prior to joining the General Board in 2014, Bob worked for a not-for-profit multi-employer pension and 401(k) system in New York City, providing benefit communications and participant education for employees of New York museums, performing arts centers and other cultural institutions.

How to Lead your Congregation Through Change

We know where we want to go. We even know where we need to go. But what do we do when nobody else wants to go there with us? Leading people into a new era is not easy, but it doesn't have to be impossible. Join us as we practice a few habits that we can learn from great change-makers.



Workshop Leader: Trey Wince

Trey is the Director of Discipleship at the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey. He has 15 years of church leading, planting, consulting, and pastoring experience and has remained convinced that high impact churches are really just churches who know how to take care of the little stuff first.

Teaching Moment

Cultural Competence

Tuesday, May 22 at 8:40 a.m.



Presenter: Ms. Erin M. Hawkins is General Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race. She is lead official of the denominational agency that cultivates racial inclusion and the full participation of *all* people into the work, witness and life of The UMC. GCORR empowers church clergy and lay leadership to utilize the values of inclusion, racial equity and justice in the transformative work of vital congregations in order to build up the body of Christ. Ms. Hawkins works to share lessons in creating holy relationship with God by, “holding in tension our capacity for greatness that calls us, as Christians, to persevere in the struggle towards becoming our better selves, and to combat our worst tendencies, of racism, sexism and classism.”

Ms. Hawkins’ master’s degree in Organizational Development from American University in Washington, D.C. and her master’s degree in Public Policy from Indiana University have provided her an awareness of how system processes can perpetuate the sin of racism and carry from the local to the global arena.

Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association 2017 Summer Schedule

Sunday Services in the Great Auditorium



June 11 - 10:30am
Dr. Dale Whilden
President OGCMA
Ocean Grove, NJ



July 9 - 10:30am
Bishop Peter Weaver
Retired UMC Bishop
Williamsburg, VA



July 30 - 10:30am
Dr. Michael Youssef
The Church of The Apostles
Atlanta, GA



August 20
10:30am & 7:00pm
Rev. Dr. Duffy Robbins
Eastern University
St. Davids, PA



June 18 - 10:30am
Kenda Creasy Dean
Princeton Theological
Seminary Princeton, NJ



July 9 - 7:00pm
**63rd Annual
Choir Festival**
"In the Footsteps
of Our Savior"



July 30 - 7:00pm
Dr. Steve DeNeff
College Wesleyan Church
Marion, IN



August 27 - 10:30am
Dr. Barry C. Black
Chaplain U.S. Senate
Washington, DC



June 25
10:30am & 7:00pm
Pastor John Randall
Calvary Chapel
San Juan Capistrano, CA



July 16
10:30am & 7:00pm
**Pastor
Christian Andrews**
Renaissance Church
Summit, NJ



August 6
10:30am & 7:00pm
Bishop John Schol
UM Church of Greater
New Jersey, Neptune, NJ



August 27 - 7:00pm
**Annual Sacred
Masterwork**
"In the Footsteps
of Our Savior"



July 2
10:30am & 7:00pm
**Pastor Kenneth
Levingston**
Jones Memorial United
Methodist Church
Houston, TX



July 23
10:30am & 7:00pm
Dr. Mitch Glaser
Chosen Peoples Ministries
New York, NY



August 13
10:30am & 7:00pm
Dr. Timothy Tennent
Asbury Theological Seminary
Wilmore, KY



September 3
10:30am & 7:00pm
Pastor Tim Lucas
Liquid Church, Madison, NJ



September 10 - 10:30am
**Commissioner
James M. Knaggs**
Salvation Army

Bible Hour - In Bishop Janes Tabernacle Starting at 9:00am



June 19-24
Pastor Lloyd Pulley
Calvary Chapel
Old Bridge, NJ



July 10-15
**Pastor
Christian Andrews**
Renaissance Church
Summit, NJ



July 31 & August 1
Dr. Steve DeNeff
College Wesleyan
Church, Marion, IN



August 9-12
**Rev. John
DiGiamberardino**
Executive Director/COO
OGCMA Ocean Grove, NJ



June 26-July 1
**Reverend Natalie
Stephens-Stewart**
The Ronald McDonald
House of Central
& Northern New Jersey



July 17-22
**Women of
Ocean Grove**
Ocean Grove, NJ



August 2-5
Rev. Dr. Duffy Robbins
Eastern University
St. Davids, PA



August 14-19
Rev. Vito Aiuto
Resurrection
Williamsburg
Brooklyn, NY



July 3-8
Rev. Roger Casey
First Evangelical
Presbyterian Church
Milford, PA



July 24-29
Pastor Talbot Davis
Good Shepherd
United Methodist Church
Charlotte, IN



August 7-8
Bishop John Schol
The United Methodist
Church of Greater
New Jersey, Neptune, NJ



August 21-26
**Dr. James
W. Fleming**
Biblical History Center
La Grange, GA



August 28 - September 2
Rev. David Cotton
Manasquan Presbyterian
Church, Manasquan, NJ

Camp Meeting Week - Sunday, July 30 - Sunday, August 6

Many more events and activities being held during this week - see complete listing on our website.



July 30 - 10:30am
Dr. Michael Youssef
The Church of The Apostles
Atlanta, GA



July 30 & 31 - 7:00pm
Aug. 1 - 7:00pm
Dr. Steve DeNeff
College Wesleyan Church
Marion, IN



Aug. 6 - 10:30am & 7:00pm
Bishop John Schol
The United Methodist Church of
Greater New Jersey, Neptune, NJ

Continuing Education

August 7-11 • 7:00-8:30pm
**Jay Seegert - Knowing
& Defending the Truth**
Held in our
Bishop Janes Tabernacle

August 10 & 11 • 9:30-5:30pm
**Global Leadership
Summit - LIVE Simulcast**
Register at willowcreek.com/register
and select Ocean Grove, NJ

August 21-25 • 10:30-Noon
**Dr. James W. Fleming
Stories of Galilee**
Seating is limited
Held in our Community Room

September 16 • 10:00-5:45pm
**Beth Moore
LIVE Simulcast**
Seating is limited
Held in our Youth Temple



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*- Pastor from
KO-AM Cross-Cultural
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Go deeper with a peer learning group to explore and expand your ministry in your context.

Recent PaCE groups included topics ranging from Best Stewardship Practices to Healing and the Criminal Justice System. The possibilities are endless.

**Registration opens in August and January.
Look for announcements in the GNJ Digest.**

Find out more at:
www.gnjumc.org/pace



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL



Summer Programs **2017**

The Pennington School offers Summer Programs for students ages 10–15 (Grades 6–9). Sports, Arts, and Academic Enrichment Camps will run from the week of June 26 through the week of August 7.

Visit www.pennington.org/summerprograms for more details!

CAMPS INCLUDE:

- Outdoor Adventure
- Writers Workshop
- History Field Trip
- DJ Camp
- Girls' Soccer
- Boys' Lacrosse
- Engineering and Problem Solving
- Physics of Sports
- Swimming
- Science-a-palooza
- Girls' Basketball
- Magic Chemistry
- Culinary Arts
- Drawing
- Painting
- Outdoor Science
- Drama Workshop
- College Guidance Seminar



2017 Award Recipients

The Robert B. Steelman Methodist History Award:

Rick Krassow, Friendship UMC

Sponsored by the Commission on Archives and History to recognize the best overall church history within The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey this year.



Rick Krassow is the historian of Friendship UMC in Monroeville. He spent more than 20 years researching and confirming the church's history, including an accurate list of the pastors appointed to the church, in anticipation of the celebration of the church's 250th anniversary in five years. Rick has been a member of the United Methodist Church for 30 years, serving on various committees and positions, teaching Sunday school and serving as lay speaker. He is the fourth generation of his family to attend Friendship Church.

The Multi-Media Church History Award:

Marie Mahler, Midvale UMC

Sponsored by the Commission on Archives and History to recognize the best overall multi-media church history within The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey this year.



Marie Mahler grew up in West Milford. She received a B.A. in Linguistics from Montclair State University and later attended the Latin American Institute in New York City, receiving a diploma for International Trade. She and her husband Dan settled in Wanaque, not far from where they both grew up and raised three children. Marie is a genealogy "fanatic." She has discovered that her father's people came to the U.S. in 1765 and that she has Methodist roots on both her mother's and father's side. Through doing genealogy, Marie has become involved in local history. She belongs to several historical societies and is the treasurer and historian for the Midvale UMC.

The Harry Denman Evangelism Award:

Judy Colorado, Springfield Emanuel UMC

Sponsored by The Foundation for Evangelism to recognize a clergy member, lay person or a youth pastor who has an outstanding personal evangelism ministry.



Judy Colorado grew up in the Philippines and was inspired by her family's faith heritage at a young age. A registered nurse, Judy has been a respected lay leader in her congregation, serving as a role model for children, youth, young adults and elders through her transformational, servant leadership style that models Christ in her interactions with an inclusive, collaborative spirit. She is a member of the Connectional Table, the Board of Laity and the Council of Finance and administration. She is also serving as a lay delegate to Jurisdictional and General Conference.

2017 Award Recipients

The Harry Denman Evangelism Award:

Megan Gallagher, Jackson UMC

Sponsored by The Foundation for Evangelism to recognize a clergy member, lay person or a youth pastor who has an outstanding personal evangelism ministry.



A devoted Christ-follower, Gallagher will be graduating from Messiah College this spring with a B.A. in Elementary Education. She has used her gift of teaching at Jackson UMC where she has held leadership positions at summer Sunday school classes, VBS for seven years and summer camp programs for children in the community. Gallagher has served as one of the childcare providers at both Bishop's Clergy Convocation and Annual Conference for several years.

Helen Alter Davidson Award:

Rev. Fran Noll

Sponsored by the Commission on The Status and Role of Women (COSROW), to recognize a women who demonstrates vision, passion, resilience, sense of purpose, inclusiveness, perseverance, and a willingness to work with and stand for the status and role of women in ministry.



Rev. Fran Lawrie Noll was the 13th woman ordained in GNJ. She was ordained a deacon in 1979 and an elder in 1982. She served churches in Buttzville, Free Union, First Church Arlington in Kearny, Archer UMC in Allendale, and Bishop Janes in Basking Ridge. She also served as Superintendent of the Northern Shore District. Noll is passionate about the homeless and those in need. She is a member of the Somerset County Food Bank and continues to serve the poor at food banks and soup kitchens. She enjoys traveling and spending time with her grandchildren.



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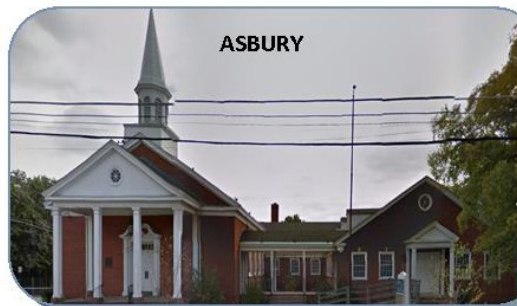
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HOPE HAPPENS HERE!

“Hope can flourish only when you believe that what you do can make a difference, that your actions can bring about a future different from the present” Jerome Groopman, M.D.



For 50 years, Respond, Inc. has supported the Greater New Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church through its Hope Happens Here programs by providing students with job training through Respond, Inc.’s Automotive Technology and Culinary Art programs. Students volunteer at the six United Methodist Churches in Camden where they receive the religious and social support that is often needed to achieve long-term success. Hope Happens Here and the H.O.P.E. centers are designed to build vital congregations.



ASBURY



FERRY AVENUE



PARKSIDE



BETHEL



NEW BEGINNINGS



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Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

Committee on Nominations

(Those to be elected since the last session of Annual Conference)

Part I: Nominations to Individual Leadership and Board, Agencies, and Committee Membership

Council on Youth Ministries ¶649

Class of 2019

David Wehrle (C)

Council on Young Adult Ministries ¶650

Class of 2019

William Wilson, Jr. (C)

Board of Global Ministries ¶633

(Conference rules apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-year terms, maximum 4 terms)

Class of 2018

Evelyn Hershey (L)

Class of 2019

Keith Cunningham (L) Don Kirchner (C)

Board of Discipleship ¶630

(Conference rules apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-year terms, maximum 4 terms)

Class of 2019

Laura Jaskot (L) Anna Thomas (C)

Board of Church and Society ¶629

(Conference rules apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-year terms, maximum 4 terms)

Class of 2018

Sherry Shumate (L)

Class of 2019

Mollie Vickery (L)

Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns ¶632

(Conference rules apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-year terms, maximum 4 terms)

Class 2019

Islin Lawrence (L) Soon Ho Kwon (L)

A Future with Hope Board of Trustees

(3 classes of 3-year terms, maximum 2 terms)

Class 2020

Dale Caldwell (L) John Cardillo (L) Christopher Heckert (C)

Richard Rinck (L) Michael Chagares (L)

Board of Ordained Ministries ¶635

Members nominated by the Bishop for 4-year terms in the same year as General Conference. Members may serve a maximum of 3 consecutive terms. GNJ Conference rules applies, 45 members.

Class of 2016

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 Jennifer Cho (C) Christina LeLache (C)
2 Lysette Perez (C) Michael Smith (C)

3

Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry ¶634

5 (Conference rules Apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-years terms, maximum 4 terms)

Class Of 2018

7 Betty Quackenboss (L)

8

Class of 2019

10 Catherine Jordan-Latham (C)

11

Commission on Communications ¶646

13 (Conference rules Apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-years terms, maximum 4 terms)

Class of 2019

15 Jevon Caldwell-Gross (C)

16

Commission on Status and Role of Women ¶644

18 (Conference rules apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-year terms, maximum 4 terms)

Class of 2018

20 Marilyn Hughes (L)

21

Class of 2019

23 Sarah Borgstrom Lee (C) Lakesha Groover (C)

24

Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns ¶642

26 (Conference rules apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-year terms, maximum 4 terms)

Class of 2019

28 Albina Busia

29

Commission on Archives and History ¶ 641

31 (Conference rules apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-year terms, maximum 4 terms)

Class of 2019

33 John Callanan (C) Ben Ridings (L)

34

Commission on Religion and Race ¶643

36 (Conference rules apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-year terms, maximum 4 terms)

Class of 2019

38 Kathleen Stone (C)

39

Commission on Small Church Membership ¶645

41 (Conference rules apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-year terms, maximum 4 terms)

Class of 2019

43 Glenn Winzer (L)

44

Committee on Disability Concerns ¶653

46 (Conference rules apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-year terms, maximum 4 terms)

Class of 2019

48 Gary Frieze (C)

49

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

- 1 **Parish and Community Development Committee ¶633.5**
2 (Conference rules apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-year terms, maximum 4 terms)
3 Class of 2018
4 Marilyn Powell (L)
5
6 Class of 2019
7 Ivan Alberts (C) Gabrielle Martone (C)
8
9 **Committee on Episcopacy ¶637**
10 Class of 2020
11 Evelyn Catterson (L) Tom Lank (C) Esther Morales (C)
12
13 **Centenary Fund and Preachers Aid Society**
14 Class of 2020
15

16 **Commission on Equitable Compensation ¶625.1**
17 (Conference rules apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-year terms, maximum 4 terms)
18 Class of 2019
19 Rolando Santiago (C)

20 **Committee on Rules of Order**
21 (Conference rules apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-year terms, maximum 4 terms)
22 Class of 2019
23 Bethany Amey (L) Evelyn Catterson (L)
24
25 **Committee on Native American Ministries ¶654**
26 (Conference rules apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-year terms, maximum 4 terms)
27 Class of 2019
28 Cynthia Mosley (L) April Whitt (L)
29
30 **Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries ¶655**
31 Class of 2019
32 Teresita Matos-Post (C)
33
34 **The Pennington School – Board of Trustees**
35 Class of 2021
36 Philip Bancroft David Marlow
37 John Celentano William Oldsey
38 Frank Davis David Paragamian
39 Harold George Judith Rosenberg-Haase
40 Ilana Gutierrez Steve Silberman
41 David Long
42
43 **United Methodist Communities – Board of Directors**
44 Class of 2018
45 Richard Carlson (2)
46
47 Class of 2019

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

- 1 Arthur Spell, Jr. (2)
2
3 Class of 2020
4 Samuel B. Preston (1)
5
6 Class of 2021
7 Gavin Stobie (1)
8
9 **District Committees**
10
11 **Cape Atlantic District**
12
13 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶ 669**
14 Chris Miller (C)
15
16 **Capital District**
17
18 **Board of Church Location & Building ¶2519**
19 Class of 2020
20 Joanie Stayton Randall (L) Jay Appleton (L)
21 Carol Capewell (L) Glenn Ferguson (C)
22 Keith Sheppard (L) Jim Conway (L)
23
24 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶ 669**
25 Kate Hillis (C)
26
27 **District Director of Lay Servant Ministries**
28 Terri Pagani
29 Deb Selm-Orr
30
31 **Gateway North District**
32
33 **Board of Church Location & Building ¶2519**
34 Class of 2020
35 Mary Beth Sherer (L) David Yamoah (L)
36
37 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶ 669**
38 Judy Colorado (L)
39
40 **Gateway South District**
41
42 **Board of Church Location & Building ¶2519**
43 Class of 2020
44 Ron Sandmeyer (L) Jeffrey Tilden
45
46 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶ 669**
47 Shelly Smith (C)
48
49 **District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶666**

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

- 1 Ron Smith (C) - Chair
2
- 3 **Northern Shore District**
4
- 5 **Board of Church Location & Building ¶2519**
6 Class of 2020
7 Ed Davis, Jr. (C) Nelson Hemstreet (L)
8 Kyewoon Choi (C)
9
- 10 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶ 669**
11 Catherine Jordan-Latham (C) Rebecca Goold (L)
12
- 13 **District Poverty Task Force**
14 Richard Romero (C)
15
- 16 **District Director of Lay Servant Ministries**
17 Lisa Lockwood
18
- 19 **District Disaster Response Coordinator**
20 Tom O’Hearn
21
- 22 **District Youth/Young Adult Ministries Coordinator**
23 Blair Goold
24
- 25 **Palisades District**
26
- 27 **Board of Church Location & Building ¶2519**
28 Class of 2019
29 John Kwon (C)
30
- 31 Class of 2020
32 Scott Griffith (C) Jeff Fischer (L)
33
- 34 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶ 669**
35 Dawn Corlew (C) Eu Yeol Choi (L)
36 Scott Bostwick (C) Tom Kemper (L)
37
- 38 **District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶666**
39 Tom Kemper (L) Suhn Hoon Ahn (C)
40
- 41 **District Poverty Task Force**
42 Teresita Matos-Post (C)
43
- 44 **District Disaster Response Coordinator**
45 Wayne Jones
46
- 47 **Skylands District**
48
- 49 **Board of Church Location & Building ¶2519**

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 Class of 2019

2 Norman Barrier (L)

3

4 Class of 2020

5 Tracey Gleason (L) David Tillisch (C)

6 Mike McKay (C)

7

8 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶ 669**

9 Todd Lattig (C) John Hartman (L)

10

11 **District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶666**

12 Jeff Edwards (C) Nancy Robinson (C)

13 Evan Rohrs-Dodge (C)

14

15

16 **Part II: New Chairs of Boards, Committees and Commissions**

17

18 **Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns ¶632**

19 Kay Dubuisson

20

21 **Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry ¶634**

22 Iraida Ruiz De Porras

23

24 **Parish and Community Development Committee ¶633.5**

25 Evans Rohrs-Dodge

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Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

Trustees Enabling Resolutions

- 1
2
3 **Be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church hereby
4 ratifies, approves and confirms actions taken by the Conference Board of Trustees since the last Annual
5 Session.
6
- 7 **Be it further resolved** that if subsequent to this Annual Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual
8 Conference of the United Methodist Church and prior to the 2018 Annual Session, any property, real or
9 personal, that is conveyed or transferred to the Annual Conference by any church or other person, firm,
10 partnership, or corporation, the Board of Trustees is hereby authorized and empowered, in its
11 discretion, provided that the same be approved by the Bishop and Cabinet, to sell, transfer, lease or
12 convey any such real or personal property for such price, and at such time or times, and upon such other
13 terms and conditions as the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the
14 United Methodist Church shall determine; and
15
- 16 **Be it further resolved** that the proper officers of the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual
17 Conference of the United Methodist Church be and hereby are authorized in the name, and on behalf of
18 the Conference, to execute and deliver the Conference deed of conveyance or instrument of transfer
19 and all other instruments and documents to implement and carry out the purpose and intent of the
20 foregoing resolution, and to affix the corporate seal of the Conference thereto; and
21
- 22 **Be it further resolved** that the President or Vice-President or Treasurer of the Corporation is hereby
23 fully authorized and empowered to transfer, convey, endorse, sell, assign, and deliver any and all stock,
24 bonds, evidence of interest and/or indebtedness, and all other securities, corporate or otherwise, now
25 or hereafter standing in the name or owned by this Corporation and to make, execute, and deliver, any
26 property to effectuate the authority hereby conferred; and
27
- 28 **Be it further resolved** that whenever there shall be annexed to any instrument of assignment and
29 transfer, executed pursuant to and in accordance with the foregoing resolution, a certificate of Secretary
30 or of an Assistant Secretary of this Corporation in the office at the date of such certificate shall set forth
31 these resolutions and shall state that these resolutions are in full force and effect, then all persons to
32 whom such instrument with the annexed certificate shall thereafter come, shall be entitled, without
33 further inquiry or investigation and regardless of the date of such certificate, to assume and to act in
34 reliance upon the assumptions that the shares of stock or other securities named in such instrument
35 were therefore duly and properly transferred, endorsed, sold, assigned, set over and delivered by this
36 Corporation, and that with respect to such securities the authority of these resolutions and of such
37 officers is still in full force and effect; and
38
- 39 **Be it further resolved** that subsequent to this Annual Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual
40 Conference of the United Methodist Church and prior to the 2018 Annual Session, the Board of Trustees
41 of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference is hereby authorized to acquire or dispose of District
42 parsonages, Program Director's and Treasurer's residences, as in its discretion, it may deem necessary
43 and advisable, and in accordance with The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, the
44 Conference Board of Trustees is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into such contracts of sale
45 and such other documents as may be necessary to effectuate the sale, transfer, or purchase of such
46 properties. Such properties, real or personal, may be sold or acquired from any person or persons, firm,
47 partnership, or corporation upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Trustees of the Greater New
48 Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church shall determine; and

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 **Be it further resolved** that the proper officers of the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual
2 Conference of the United Methodist Church are hereby empowered and authorized to execute all such
3 deeds, mortgages, notes, bonds, and other documents necessary to implement the purchase or sale of
4 such Conference-owned properties.

5
6 Submitted by:
7 Clifford Still, President
8 GNJAC Board of Trustees

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11

Conference Advanced Specials 2017-2018

12 **Be it resolved** that the 2017 Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference designate the
13 following ministries and institutions as Conference Advance Specials for the 2018 conference year
14 (without restricting in anyway a local church's ability to support other mission work):

15 **Be it further resolved** that the Executive Committee of the Connectional Table be authorized to make
16 any additions and deletions to the Conference Advance Specials list based upon recommendations of
17 the Conference Board of Global Ministries.

18 **Amistad** (meaning Friendship) is an ecumenical ministry in the greater Freehold area seeking to assist
19 Hispanic children and their families through educational, nutritional and spiritual programs. They assist
20 children from The Learning Center and Park Avenue schools. These are Spanish-origin students mostly
21 from Mexican families. They provide volunteers, adults and students from area high schools, to help the
22 children with their homework, reading and educational games. They also use the computers. Most
23 students are kindergarten, first and second graders with a few from third and fourth grades. Before they
24 start their homework they have a snack. There are also reading prizes. A Christmas party is held for the
25 kids and their families with gifts for children. There are 52 children registered with 35 volunteers.

26 **C.A.M.P. YDP** (Community Association with a Ministry to People Youth Development Program) provides
27 pre-school, after-school and summer programs for children aged 2 ½ - 13 and their families, mainly on
28 the north side of Paterson. The program runs throughout the year. They are committed to work as a
29 "partner" within the community. A stimulating and nurturing environment is provided. Total care is
30 available as well when schools are not in session with transportation available to pick up children from
31 certain schools.

32 **Centenary Fund/Preachers Aid Fund** supports retired clergy and spouses.

33 **Christian Outreach Project** provides no-cost home repairs to persons in need in the northwest area of
34 our Conference. Participants are made up of high school youth and adult volunteers. In addition to
35 home repairs, participants engage in morning devotionals, singing, worship services and recreational
36 activities.

37 **CUMAC/ECHO** works to alleviate hunger and its root causes for those in need in Paterson, Passaic
38 County and northern NJ. CUMAC has a pantry feeding 3,000+ monthly. The Depot warehouses over 2
39 million pounds of food annually for a network of about 40 partner feeding programs. This Community
40 Food Coalition (CFC) distributes food while also screening clients for member pantries. They advocate at
41 the local and state level on behalf of CFC clients. CUMAC also has a Community Closet that offers
42 clothing & household items; Pathways to Work that imparts job skills and hands-on experience; Place of

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 Promise that is a supportive housing program for chronically homeless individuals; and seasonal projects
2 for school supplies, holiday gifts and other items for area children in need. All of the programs rely
3 heavily on volunteers and financial support from the community.

4 **C.U.M.I. Camden Urban Ministry Initiative**, a cooperative After-School Program is a shared ministry
5 amongst Camden churches. This partnering reaches families to ensure positive development of children.
6 They provide a safe environment for youth activities, such as an after school program, summer day
7 camps, youth Bible study, choir and a career training program. There are arts and cultural activities for
8 all ages. The exchange of stories, wisdom, advice, and experience build a shared understanding of family
9 and community. This church-based intergenerational community surrounds youth with caring Christian
10 adults who encourage, support, and pray for them while also holding them accountable. C.U.M.I. is
11 dedicated to the spiritual, emotional and social growth of Camden Youth.

12 **First Friends of New Jersey and New York** provides advocacy, research and social services to the
13 detained and released detainees. First Friends provides a link to the outside world by providing toll free
14 lines (English & Spanish) in five different detention facilities where more than 2000 individuals are
15 detained and through visiting individuals in detention. The Pen-pal Program allows volunteers, who
16 cannot visit to write to detainees.

17 **The Neighborhood Center** has served the Camden community since 1913. Today, they are a community
18 center that provides a healthy and nutritious lunch six days a week, day care, an after school program,
19 and an evening teen program. They focus on a two generation approach to lift families out of poverty.
20 Their commitment is to provide a safe space for Academic achievement, Athletic accomplishment, and a
21 flourishing Arts program. Their hope and vision for the next century of service is to create a "community
22 living room."

23 **The Pennington School** is a college preparatory institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church
24 which reflects the principles espoused by John Wesley and core values of honor, virtue, and humility.
25 Students experience an environment where talents and values are forged for making a positive
26 difference in the world. Half scholarships are available for students in grade 6 to 12.

27 **Ranch Hope/Victory House** provides ministry to troubled boys ages 9 to 16 ½ and services to troubled
28 girls between the ages of 14–18 years. They are faith-based and provide learning environments for
29 those whose needs can best be met through experiences outside their homes. They can obtain or regain
30 their long-term academic, behavioral, and spiritual focus in their residential setting. Counseling, housing
31 and recreation are offered, as well as spiritual guidance, time to attend chapel services and Bible study.
32 Both Ranch Hope and Victory House are licensed by New Jersey State Department of Children and
33 Families.

34 Submitted by:
35 Isabel Quezada
36 Chair, GNJ Board of Global Ministries

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Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

A Future With Hope, Inc., Statement of Relationship

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Be it resolved that The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church adopts the Statement of Relationship with A Future With Hope, Inc.

The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (“GNJ”) *recruits and develops transformational leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the world.* This mission is primarily carried out through the congregations that make up GNJ. GNJ’s primary commitment is to increasing the vitality of all of our congregations.

GNJ also works with and through *Vital Mission Partners*. These partners compliment and extend the mission by supporting and/or engaging with GNJ with any of the following:

- Recruit and develop leaders
- Make new and grow existing disciples
- Assist congregations to grow vitality
- Engage disciples in hands on mission
- Develop and manage Hope Centers to serve communities
- Lead community development and service ministries
- Raise funds to support the mission of GNJ

A Future With Hope, Inc. (“AFWH”) is a Vital Mission Partner which extends the mission as identified below. It was organized in 2012 to provide relief and recovery following Superstorm Sandy. Superstorm Sandy was the second worst storm in US history and left two million households without power and damaged a very large number of homes. AFWH was organized to provide immediate relief following the storm that included temporary and day shelter, home muck out, feeding programs, and clothing. It also was organized to provide case management, volunteer management and home repair/replacement including new modular homes. AFWH has already repaired or built more than 250 homes, housed and utilized more than 11,000 volunteers from 33 states and raised more than \$16 million dollars. It also recognized and set aside funds for rebuilding communities and community development ministry. Today AFWH is completing its recovery ministry and expanding into community development ministry.

AFWH’s community development ministry focuses in three areas:

1. Engaging congregations and communities in Communities of Hope training. Communities of Hope trains congregations and communities in strategic planning, community organizing, systemic change, and working inter culturally. At the end of the training, each Community of Hope team has a community strategic plan to guide its work.
2. Developing, overseeing and resourcing Hope Centers. Hope Centers are congregations and community centers affiliated with GNJ that identify and provide needed services within a community.
3. Leading community economic development projects that include housing development and repurposing church buildings.

Although GNJ and AFWH share missional purposes and goals and although both of them support conformity with the high standards of service, each recognizes the other as an independent entity, making independent governing decisions.

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 AFWH offers members of local churches of GNJ, opportunities to serve in mission in various ways
2 including as members of its Board of Trustees (“Board”). The persons elected as Trustees do not
3 represent, nor are they amenable to GNJ. The Trustees of AFWH operate autonomously from GNJ.

4 The Bishop or the Bishop's designate will serve on the Board of AFWH with voice and vote. The
5 Treasurer of the Annual Conference will serve on the Board of AFWH as an ex officio member of the
6 Board with voice but without vote.

7 The President of AFWH shall provide a written report through the preconference journal to GNJ at its
8 Annual Conference session. The roster of the Board of AFWH will be included in GNJ’s Journal.

9 The Board of AFWH will recommend nominees to the GNJ nominations committee who will move the
10 nominations before the Annual Conference session who will elect Trustees of the AFWH Board.
11 Nominees will have the skills necessary to serve the Board and ensure a diverse Board.

12 GNJ encourages and recommends that local churches and individuals contribute to the financial support
13 of AFWH. This support is voluntary and without guarantee of amount or continuation. GNJ does not
14 guarantee nor assume any responsibility for the obligations of AFWH.

15 The legal and financial relationships between GNJ and AFWH shall also be governed and controlled
16 through a shared services agreement (“Services Agreement”) with GNJ's rights and obligations being
17 represented through its Council on Finance and Administration. The services agreement may be
18 amended when deemed proper by GNJ and AFWH. All provisions of the services agreement are to be
19 construed based on the principle that each party is independent of each other and separately
20 responsible for its own actions.

21 This Statement of Relationship shall be reviewed and amended as necessary by AFWH and GNJ upon
22 recommendation of their appropriate committees and Board. The date of approval by each of the
23 parties shall be stated on the agreement.

24 **Note:** This Relationship Statement is in conformance with the *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist*
25 *Church* (2012), ¶633.4.b. (27) which calls on Annual Conferences “[t]o strive to ensure mutual
26 representation between the annual conference unit responsible for health and welfare ministries and
27 each health and welfare institution related to the annual conference where such representation is called
28 for by mutual agreement of the institution and the annual conference.”

29 Adopted by the Board of Trustees of A Future With Hope, Inc. on February 9, 2017.

30 Submitted by:
31 Bruce Hartman
32 Chair, AFWH Board of Trustees

33

34

35

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

The Greater New Jersey United Methodist Camping Ministries, Inc., Statement of Relationship

Be it resolved that The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church adopts the Statement of Relationship with The Greater New Jersey United Methodist Camping Ministries, Inc.

The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (“GNJ”) *recruits and develops transformational leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the world.* This mission is primarily carried out through the congregations that make up GNJ. GNJ’s primary commitment is to increasing the vitality of all of our congregations.

GNJ also works with and through *Vital Mission Partners*. These partners compliment and extend the mission by supporting and/or engaging with GNJ with any of the following:

- Recruit and develop leaders
- Make new and grow existing disciples
- Assist congregations to grow vitality
- Engage disciples in hands on mission
- Develop and manage Hope Centers to serve communities
- Lead community development and service ministries
- Raise funds to support the mission of GNJ

The Greater New Jersey United Methodist Camping Ministries, Inc. (“GNJUMCM”) is a *Vital Mission Partner* which extends the mission as identified below.

The Greater New Jersey United Methodist Camping Ministries have served persons of all ages in the Greater New Jersey area in profound ways since it acquired Pinelands Center and Aldersgate Center in 1947 and 1964, respectively. The mission of GNJUMCM is to inspire, explore, and ignite a new and deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through spiritual practices in a natural environment. With our Christian faith and our Wesleyan heritage as the center of our mission, all programs are designed to foster both personal spiritual growth and self-esteem through Bible Studies, formal and informal worship, and the nurturing of a welcoming and inclusive community.

The purpose of GNJUMCM include such activities as:

- (a) To own and operate The Pinelands Center and Aldersgate Centers, its residential camps, retreat and conference facilities, and to create other ministries to enhance growth in the Christian faith and outreach;
- (b) To assist local churches of the Greater New Jersey Annual-Conference of the United Methodist Church in the planning of camp, conference and retreat ministries, either at the Aldersgate and Pinelands Center or at other locations;
- (c) To communicate the need for and benefits of a camp, conference and retreat ministries to local churches of the Conference, their congregations, and to the general public;
- (d) To develop, support and operate other camps and facilities as required to meet the program needs of GNJUMCM from time to time, as authorized by the Conference;

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

- 1 Although GNJ and GNJUMCM share missional purposes and goals and although both of them support
2 conformity with the high standards of service, each recognizes the other as an independent entity,
3 making independent governing decisions.
- 4 GNJUMCM offers members of local churches of GNJ, opportunities to serve in mission in various ways
5 including as members of its Board of Trustees (“Board”). The persons elected as Trustees do not
6 represent, nor are they amenable to GNJ. The Trustees of GNJUMCM operate autonomously from GNJ.
- 7 The Bishop or the Bishop's designate will serve on the Board of GNJUMCM with voice and vote. The
8 Treasurer of the Annual Conference will serve on the Board of GNJUMCM as an ex officio member of the
9 Board with voice but without vote.
- 10 The President of GNJUMCM shall provide a written report through the preconference journal to GNJ at
11 its Annual Conference session. The roster of the Board of GNJUMCM will be included in GNJ’s Journal.
- 12 Trustees are to be nominated by the Nominating Committee of the Greater NJ Annual Conference of the
13 United Methodist Church, in consultation with GNJUMCM, and elected to serve by the Greater New
14 Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.
- 15 GNJ encourages and recommends that local churches and individuals contribute to the financial support
16 of GNJUMCM. This support is voluntary and without guarantee of amount or continuation. GNJ does
17 not guarantee nor assume any responsibility for the obligations of GNJUMCM.
- 18 The legal and financial relationships between GNJ and GNJUMCM shall also be governed and controlled
19 through a shared services agreement (“Services Agreement”) with GNJ's rights and obligations being
20 represented through its Council on Finance and Administration. The Services Agreement may be
21 amended when deemed proper by GNJ and GNJUMCM. All provisions of the Services Agreement are to
22 be construed based on the principle that each party is independent of each other and separately
23 responsible for its own actions.
- 24 This Statement of Relationship shall be reviewed and amended as necessary by GNJUMCM and GNJ
25 upon recommendation of their appropriate committees and Board. The date of approval by each of the
26 parties shall be stated on the agreement.
- 27 Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey United Methodist Camping Ministries, Inc.
28 on Wednesday, February 22, 2017.

29
30

The Centenary Fund, Statement of Relationship

- 32 **Be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
33 adopts the Statement of Relationship with The Centenary Fund.
- 34 The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church ("GNJ") *recruits and*
35 *develops transformational leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform*
36 *the world.* This mission is primarily carried out through the congregations that make up GNJ. GNJ's
37 primary commitment is to increasing the vitality of all of our congregations.

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 GNJ also works with and through *Vital Mission Partners*. These partners compliment and extend
2 the mission by supporting and/or engaging with GNJ with any of the following:

- 3 • Recruit and develop leaders
- 4 • Make new and grow existing disciples
- 5 • Assist congregations to grow vitality
- 6 • Engage disciples in hands on mission
- 7 • Develop and manage Hope Centers to serve communities
- 8 • Lead community development and service ministries
- 9 • Raise funds to support the mission of GNJ

10
11 The Centenary Fund (the "Fund") is a Vital Mission Partner which extends the mission as identified
12 below. A charter was granted by the Legislature of the State of New Jersey on March 20, 1857 to
13 the corporation named The Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society of the Newark Annual
14 Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It was reincorporated on March 15, 1972, as the
15 Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society of the Northern New Jersey Annual Conference of the
16 United Methodist Church. The charter was amended on July 19, 2000 re-naming said corporation
17 The Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the
18 United Methodist Church.

19
20 The purposes of the Fund are to acquire and receive by purchase, gift, devise or otherwise, real and
21 personal property; or administer, invest, reinvest, lease and convey the same as an Endowed Fund;
22 and to provide maximum income, consistent with the preservation of principal, for the support of
23 the retired clergy who have served appointments with annuity claim in GNJ, and for the support of
24 the surviving spouses and dependent children of deceased clergy who have served in GNJ and for no
25 other purpose; provided, however, that the Board of the Fund may establish and maintain an Annual
26 Fund, supplemental to the Endowed Fund, the principal and income of which may be distributed
27 currently to the Fund's beneficiaries. Allocation of funds received by the Board shall be in accordance
28 with the direction of the donor or, in the absence of specific directions received from the donor, as
29 the Board in its sole discretion, may determine.

30 Although GNJ and the Fund share missional purposes and goals and although both of them
31 support conformity with the high standards of service, each recognizes the other as an independent
32 entity, making independent governing decisions.

33
34 The Fund offers members of local churches of GNJ, opportunities to serve in mission in various ways
35 including as members of its Board. The persons elected as Trustees do not represent, nor are they
36 amenable to GNJ. The Board of the Fund operates autonomously from GNJ.

37
38 The Bishop or the Bishop's designate will serve on the Board of Trustees of the Fund with voice and
39 vote. The Treasurer of the Annual Conference will serve on the Board of Trustees as an ex officio
40 member of the Board with voice but without vote.

41
42 The President of the Fund shall provide a written report through the preconference journal to
43 GNJ at its annual session. The roster of the Board of the Fund will be included in GNJ's Journal.

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 The Fund will recommend nominees to the GNJ nominations committee who will move the
2 nominations before the annual conference session who will elect Trustees of the Fund Board.
3 Nominees will have the skills necessary to serve the Board and ensure a diverse Board.
4

5 GNJ encourages and recommends that local churches and individuals contribute to the financial
6 support of the Fund. This support is voluntary and without guarantee of amount or continuation.
7 GNJ does not guarantee nor assume any responsibility for the obligations of the Fund. In like
8 manner, the Fund does not guarantee nor assume any responsibility for the obligations of GNJ.
9

10 The legal and financial relationships between GNJ and the Fund shall also be governed and
11 controlled through a shared services agreement ("Services Agreement") with GNJ's rights and
12 obligations being represented through its Council on Finance and Administration. The Services
13 Agreement may be amended when deemed proper by GNJ and the Fund. All provisions of the
14 Services Agreement are to be construed based on the principle that each party is independent of
15 each other and separately responsible for its own actions.
16

17 This Statement of Relationship shall be reviewed and amended as necessary by the Fund and GNJ
18 upon recommendation of their appropriate committees and Board. The date of approval by each of
19 the parties shall be stated on the agreement.
20

21 Reviewed

22 Note: This Relationship Statement is in conformance with the Book of Discipline of the United
23 Methodist Church (2012), ¶1633.4.b. (27) which calls on Annual Conferences "[t]o strive to ensure
24 mutual representation between the annual conference unit responsible for health and welfare
25 ministries and each health and welfare institution related to the annual conference where such
26 representation is called for by mutual agreement of the institution and the annual conference."

27 Submitted by:
28 Eleanor Hartley

29

30

United Methodist Homes of New Jersey d/b/a/ United Methodist 32 Communities, Statement of Relationship

33 **Be it resolved** that The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church adopts
34 the Statement of Relationship with United Methodist Communities.
35

36 The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church ("GNJ") recruits and
37 develops transformational leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the
38 world. This mission is primarily carried out through the congregations that make up GNJ. GNJ's primary
39 commitment is to increasing the vitality of all of our congregations.
40

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 GNJ also works with and through Vital Mission Partners. These partners compliment and extend the
2 mission by supporting and/or engaging with GNJ with any of the following:

- 3 • Recruit and develop leaders
- 4 • Make new and grow existing disciples
- 5 • Assist congregations to grow vitality
- 6 • Engage disciples in hands on mission
- 7 • Develop and manage Hope Centers to serve communities
- 8 • Lead community development and service ministries
- 9 • Raise funds to support the mission of GNJ

10

11 Although the Annual Conference and The United Methodist Communities share missional purposes and
12 goals and although each of them supports conformity with the high standards of care and operation
13 formulated by the United Methodist Association, each recognizes the other as an independent entity,
14 making independent governing decisions.

15

16 The United Methodist Communities offers members of local churches of the Annual Conference
17 opportunities to serve in mission as directors; as volunteers; as Church Ambassadors; and as members
18 of the auxiliaries at the Home' communities. Through nomination and election of The United Methodist
19 Communities to the Board of Directors and affirmation of their election by the Annual Conference, there
20 is sharing in the seeking and recognition of individuals who will support the missional goals and respect
21 the high standards of care and operation. The persons elected as directors do not represent, nor are
22 they amenable to, the Annual Conference. The Directors of The United Methodist Communities operate
23 autonomously from the Annual Conference.

24

25 The Bishop of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and a District
26 Superintendent selected by the Bishop will serve on the Board of Directors of The United Methodist
27 Communities with voice and vote. The District Superintendent shall be a member of the Board's
28 Executive Committee.

29

30 The President or Chair of UMC shall report to the Annual Conference at its annual session and his or her
31 written report will be included in the Annual Conference Journal.

32

33 Any member of any GNJAC church may make a recommendation to the UMC Governance Committee of
34 a person to serve on UMC's Board of Directors. This recommendation shall be considered by the UMC
35 Governance Committee in making its decisions on the nominations it makes to the Greater New Jersey
36 Annual Conference for Board membership. These nominations are subject to affirmation by GNJAC.
37 The full roster of the UMC Board of Directors will be included in the Annual Conference Journal.

38

39 The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference encourages and recommends that local churches and
40 individuals contribute to the financial support of The United Methodist Communities. This support is
41 voluntary, without guarantee of amount or continuation. The Annual Conference does not guarantee
42 nor do they assume any responsibility for the obligations of The United Methodist Communities.

43

44 This Statement of Relationship shall be reviewed and amended as necessary by The United Methodist
45 Communities and the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference upon recommendation of their
46 appropriate committees. The date of approval by each of the parties shall be stated on the agreement.

47

48 Reviewed:

49 May 1983

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 May 1986
2 June 1988- Northern & Southern NJ Annual Conferences
3 November 1993
4 January 1998
5 June 2002 - Greater NJ Annual Conference
6 June 2005
7 June 2009
8 June 2014
9 Sept 2016

10

11 Submitted by:
12 United Methodist Communities

13

14

The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey, Statement of Relationship

15

17 **Be it resolved** that The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church adopts
18 the Statement of Relationship with The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New
19 Jersey.

20

21 The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (“GNJ”) *recruits and*
22 *develops transformational leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the*
23 *world.* This mission is primarily carried out through the congregations that make up GNJ. GNJ’s primary
24 commitment is to increase the vitality of all its congregations.

25

26 GNJ also works with and through *Vital Mission Partners*. These partners compliment and extend the
27 mission by supporting and or engaging GNJ with any of the following:

28

- 29 • Recruiting and developing leaders
- 30 • Making new and growing existing disciples
- 31 • Assisting congregations to grow vitality
- 32 • Engaging disciples in hands-on mission
- 33 • Developing and managing Hope Centers to serve communities
- 34 • Leading community development and service ministries
- 35 • Raising funds to support the mission of GNJ

36

37 The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey (the “Foundation”) is a Vital
38 Mission Partner which extends the mission of GNJ. The Foundation was created in 1997 by action of the
39 135th Session of the Northern Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (“Northern
40 Conference”) to provide long-term financial investment management for churches with assurance that
41 the social principles of the United Methodist Church would be adhered to. The first investment in the
42 Foundation was made by the Northern Conference in the approximate amount of \$2.0 million. In 2000,
43 the Foundation became The United Methodist Foundation of Greater New Jersey Annual Conference
44 after the merger of the Southern and Northern Conferences. In 2015, the Foundation reorganized to
45 include an Executive Director, changed its investment manager to Wespath, and changed its DBA name
46 to “The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey” to emphasize the
47 stewardship efforts that are offered by the organization. In 2016, the Foundation attracted the

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 investments of The Centenary Fund and The GNJ Trustees Investment Fund. As of December 2016, total
2 investment in the Foundation was \$34 million (55 Churches, Centenary Fund and Trustees).

3
4 The Foundation invests assets from congregations, mission institutions and the Conference in socially
5 responsible funds to maximize returns and growth to support congregations and mission. The
6 Foundation also raises funds from individuals, foundations, corporations, church institutions and other
7 funding sources to further the ministry and mission of congregations, Hope Centers and GNJ. The
8 Foundation does not make discretionary grants directly but may provide funds for GNJ to make grants.

9 Although GNJ and the Foundation share missional purposes and goals and both support conformity with
10 the high standards of service, each recognizes the other as an independent entity, making independent
11 governing decisions.

12 The Foundation offers members of local churches in GNJ the opportunities to serve in mission in various
13 ways including as members of its Board of Trustees (“Board”). The persons elected as a Trustee does
14 not represent, nor are they amenable to GNJ. The Trustees of the Foundation act autonomously from
15 GNJ.

16 The Bishop or the Bishop's designate will serve on the Board of the Foundation with voice and vote. The
17 Treasurer of the Annual Conference will serve on the Board of the Foundation as an ex-officio member
18 of the Board with voice but without vote.

19 The President of the Foundation shall provide a written report through the preconference journal to GNJ
20 at its annual session. The roster of the Board of the Foundation will be included in GNJ’s Journal.

21 The Foundation will recommend nominees to the GNJ nominations committee who will move the
22 nominations before the Annual Conference session who will elect Trustees of the Foundation Board.
23 Nominees will have the skills necessary to serve the Board and ensure a diverse Board.

24 GNJ encourages and recommends that local churches and individuals contribute to the financial support
25 of the Foundation. This support is voluntary and without guarantee of amount or continuation. GNJ
26 does not guarantee nor assume any responsibility for the obligations of the Foundation.

27 The legal and financial relationships between GNJ and the Foundation shall also be governed and
28 controlled through a shared services agreement (“Services Agreement”) with GNJ's rights and
29 obligations being represented through its Council on Finance and Administration. The Services
30 Agreement may be amended when deemed proper by GNJ and the Foundation. All provisions of the
31 Services Agreement are to be construed based on the principle that each party is independent of each
32 other and separately responsible for its own actions.

33 This Statement of Relationship shall be reviewed and amended as necessary by the Foundation and GNJ
34 upon recommendation of their appropriate committees and Board. The date of approval by each of the
35 parties shall be stated on the agreement.

36 Reviewed: **Note:** This Relationship Statement is in conformance with the *Book of Discipline of the United*
37 *Methodist Church* (2012), ¶633.4.b. (27) which calls on Annual Conferences “[t]o strive to ensure mutual
38 representation between the annual conference unit responsible for health and welfare ministries and
39 each health and welfare institution related to the annual conference where such representation is called
40 for by mutual agreement of the institution and the annual conference.”

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 Submitted by:
2 Ed Bowen, Chair

3
4

2016 General Conference Constitutional Amendments The United Methodist Church

7 Rationale for Proposed Constitutional Amendments

8 Voted General Conference May 2016

- 9 I. (New ¶ 6) The Constitution contains a paragraph on racial justice but not one on gender
10 justice. The language of this petition is parallel to the language of Article 5 on racial justice
11 already in our Constitution. It is an affirmation that, as part of our core foundational beliefs,
12 this church will forever stand against any actions, organizations or individuals that
13 discriminate or dehumanize women and girls anywhere on this planet.
14
- 15 II. (¶ 4) Adding “gender” (meaning male and female) to the Constitution affirms and protects
16 The United Methodist Church’s commitment to gender equity throughout our worldwide
17 connection. “Gender” is the disciplinary term for fair treatment of women and men (e.g.,
18 ¶16). The addition of the proposed final clause allows gender-specific groups like United
19 Methodist Women and United Methodist Men.
20
- 21 III. (¶ 34) The provision in ¶ 13. *Article I. 2, “Delegates shall be elected in a fair and open*
22 *process by the annual conferences,”* is unduly vague. The addition of this one sentence to
23 paragraph 34 of *The Book of Discipline* helps clarify that General Conference delegates shall
24 be elected by the body of annual conference instead of simply being appointed by the
25 bishop. Bishops appointing delegates without delegates being properly elected has been a
26 practice in some central conferences.
27
- 28 IV. (¶ 46) As is the case for the jurisdictions, episcopal elections in the central conferences
29 should be held in the regular sessions of those conferences, except when unexpected
30 vacancies occur because of the death or early retirement of one or more bishops.
31
- 32 V. (¶ 50) Judicial Decision 475 ruled unconstitutional the Council of Bishops holding its
33 individual members accountable for their work, referencing ¶ 50 of the Constitution. This
34 legislation follows Judicial Decision 1275 requirement of a legislative resolution from
35 General Conference so the Council of Bishops may provide oversight of its members.

36 Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I

37 On May 16, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in
38 Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 746 Yes,
39 56 No (Calendar Item 121, DCA p. 2106). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.
40

41 In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, add a new paragraph between current ¶¶ 5 and 6:

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 As the Holy Scripture reveals, both men and women are made in the image of God and,
2 therefore, men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. The United Methodist Church
3 recognizes it is contrary to Scripture and to logic to say that God is male or female, as maleness
4 and femaleness are characteristics of human bodies and cultures, not characteristics of the
5 divine. The United Methodist Church acknowledges the long history of discrimination against
6 women and girls. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate
7 discrimination against women and girls, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet
8 of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with
9 others to address concerns that threaten the cause of women's and girl's equality and well-
10 being.

11 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, this would become the new ¶16, and the current ¶¶ 6-
12 61 would be renumbered as ¶¶ 7-62.

13 Proposed Constitutional Amendment – II

14 On May 20, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in
15 Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 509 Yes,
16 242 No (Calendar Item 429, DCA p. 2212). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

17 In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, ¶4, *Article IV*, amend by deletion and addition as follows:

18 After "all persons" delete "without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition".
19 After "because of race, color, national origin," delete "status," and add "ability". At the end of the
20 paragraph, add "nor shall any member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, and
21 governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin, ability, age, marital status, or
22 economic condition."

23 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 4 would read:

24 The United Methodist Church is part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The
25 United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons shall be
26 eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon
27 baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith,
28 become professing members in any local church in the connection. In the United Methodist
29 church, no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to
30 exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national
31 origin, ability, or economic condition, nor shall any member be denied access to an equal place
32 in the life, worship, and governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national
33 origin, ability, age, marital status, or economic condition.

34 Proposed Constitutional Amendment – III

35 On May 16, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in
36 Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 767 Yes,
37 22 No (Calendar Item 111, DCA pp. 2105). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

38 In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, *Article III*, (2016 *Book of Discipline*, Division
39 Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, *Article III*) amend by addition as follows:

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 After the first sentence, add, “Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the
2 annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots
3 cast.”

4 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 34 would read:

5 The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its
6 jurisdictional or central conference in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V.
7 Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and
8 delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. The persons
9 first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General
10 Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to
11 complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional or central
12 conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the
13 jurisdictional or central conference. The additional delegates to the jurisdictional or central
14 conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General
15 Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the
16 jurisdictional or central conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay
17 delegates to the jurisdictional or central conferences may act as reserve delegates to the
18 General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in attendance at
19 the General Conference.

20 Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IV

21 On May 20, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in
22 Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 621 Yes,
23 15 No (Calendar Item 468, DCA p. 2217). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

24 In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 46, *Article I*, amend by addition, as follows:

25 To the end of the paragraph, add “provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held
26 at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected
27 vacancy must be filled.”

28 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 46 would read:

29 The bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional and central conferences and
30 consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by the General
31 Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each central conference for those
32 elected by such central conference, provided that episcopal elections in central conferences
33 shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case
34 where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.

35 Proposed Constitutional Amendment – V

36
37 On May 17, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in
38 Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 715 Yes,
39 79 No (Calendar Item 446, DCA p. 2214). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

40 In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 50, *Article VI*, amend by addition, as follows:

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 After the last paragraph, add “These provisions shall not preclude that adoption by the General
2 Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their
3 work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.”

4 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 50 would read:

5 The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The
6 Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist
7 Church.

8 The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The
9 Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by the
10 jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bishop elected by a
11 central conference of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the central conference
12 electing him shall have determined.⁹⁴

13 The jurisdictional conference shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one
14 clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual
15 conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their
16 character and official administration, and report to the jurisdictional conference its findings for
17 such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power.
18 The committee shall recommend the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences
19 for final action by the jurisdictional conference.

20 These provisions shall not preclude that adoption by the General Conference of provisions for
21 the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as
22 general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.
23
24

Frankford Plains United Methodist Church, Sussex County, NJ, Historic Site

27 **Whereas** Frankford Plains United Methodist Church is one of the oldest, if not the oldest church, in
28 Sussex County, New Jersey with German Lutherans having built its first log cabin church in 1710.

29 **Whereas** Methodism came to the area through the ministry of Ezekiel Cooper and Thomas Morrell, who
30 organized the Methodist society, which gained control of the church by 1787.

31 **Whereas** other early Methodist itinerates who preached at Frankford Plains included L. D. Bently, John
32 Discona, and future Methodist luminaries such as, Jesse Lee, Robert Strawbridge, Nathan Bangs,
33 Manning Force and Bishop Francis Asbury.

34 **Whereas** the third church building, dedicated in 1809, was well known in the area as the “Frankford
35 Union Meeting House” and the “Old Plains Church,” hosted many groups needing a place to worship.

36 **Whereas** a multi-month revival under the ministry of Rev. J. Runyon following the Civil War brought up
37 to 1500 worshippers to the church and led to 176 conversions; 142 of whom joined the church.

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 **Whereas** “The Plains Church”, housed in the fourth and present church building constructed in 1860,
2 was pastored by many Drew Theological School students, who went on to serve throughout the Annual
3 Conference, and nurtured many sons and daughters of the congregation, including, Howard Voelker,
4 Herbert Heins, Corrie May Audema Cieslukowski and Alfred Jaeger, among others, who entered
5 ordained ministry.

6 **Whereas** The Plains Church hosted “The Great Cornfield Rainbow Revivals” in the 1990s and many of its
7 disciples have participated in spiritual programs, like Walk to Emmaus, and served as lay speakers.

8 **Whereas** an octagonal school house, built in 1860 to educate local children, was deeded to the church
9 and restored by the church to be a Sunday School in the 1990s.

10 **Whereas** the neighboring cemetery, though incorporated separately, has been associated with the
11 church for over 300 years and contains the sites of the original 1710 log chapel and the second church
12 building; a wood-framed meetinghouse erected in 1750.

13 **Be it resolved** that the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey recognize the Frankford Plains
14 United Methodist Church as a Conference Historic Site.

15 **Rationale:** Frankford Plains United Methodist Church is one of the oldest continuously active
16 congregations in Sussex County and the Annual Conference. It experienced the preaching of many early
17 Methodist Circuit Riders, including Bishop Asbury, and has served the spiritual needs of the surrounding
18 area and actively nurtured lay and ordained ministry for over three centuries. Its influence has touched
19 countless lives and gone well beyond the borders of Sussex County.

20
21 Submitted by:
22 Rev. John D. Callanan, Chairperson
23 Commission on Archives and History

24

25

St. John United Methodist Church (Fordville), Cumberland County, NJ, Historic Site

28

29 **Whereas** St. John United Methodist Church (Fordville) in Fordville, New Jersey is the home church to
30 many members of the Nanticoke Lenni Lenape Nation in Cumberland County, New Jersey.

31 **Whereas** many church members and Elders of the Tribe can trace Methodist roots back to the ministry
32 of Reverend Michael Swain, who first itinerated to the area in 1799.

33 **Whereas** predecessor families of the St. John United Methodist Church (Fordville) split off from
34 neighboring churches to form a Methodist Episcopal Church to maintain their tribal roots and traditions;
35 and this congregation was chartered in 1841.

36 **Whereas** the church building has been a place of meeting for tribal affairs when none were available or
37 allowed and a place of ministry to help the spiritual and physical needs of those in need.

38 **Whereas** disciples from St. John United Methodist Church (Fordville) currently serve on the Tribal
39 Council of the Nanticoke Lenni Lenape Nation; one for over forty years.

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 **Whereas** St. John United Methodist Church (Fordville) once self-identified as a “hidden” church, because
2 its heritage was not welcomed by Caucasian Methodists who forced it into the segregated Delaware
3 Conference and since has become a leader in Native American ministries to The United Methodist
4 Church of Greater New Jersey and reaches beyond to the Northeast Jurisdiction.

5 **Whereas** St. John United Methodist Church (Fordville) assisted the Annual Conference to plan a Service
6 of Repentance, as directed by the 2012 General Conference.

7 **Whereas** St. John United Methodist Church (Fordville) developed a summer Bible program for children
8 and youth emphasizing its native heritage, which has been recognized for its uniqueness by Christian
9 educators.

10 **Whereas** St. John United Methodist Church (Fordville) is a diverse congregation with a strong Native
11 American heritage that welcomes all who come to worship in many styles; including fifth Sunday
12 heritage services which engage youth as drummers and dancers.

13 **Be it resolved** that The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey recognize St. John United
14 Methodist Church (Fordville), in Fordville, New Jersey as an Annual Conference Historic Site for its
15 unique ministry among the Nanticoke Lenni Lenape Nation.

16 **Rationale:** St. John United Methodist Church (Fordville) is a historic Native American congregation with
17 strong roots and ties within the African American and Anglo communities, as well as among members of
18 the Nanticoke Lenni Lenape Nation. Since the coming of Methodism around 1799, member families,
19 who split from other churches in order to maintain their Native American heritage, have continued to
20 worship God as Methodist Christians. In recent years this previously “hidden” church has become active
21 in the Greater New Jersey Conference and beyond to share their heritage and ministry. The disciples of
22 the Church are celebrating 175 years of history and ministry. It is appropriate to recognize their
23 milestone for a unique and faithful church.

24 Submitted by:
25 Rev. John D. Callanan, Chairperson
26 Commission on Archives and History

27

28

29 **The Old Stone Church / St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, Nyack,** 30 **Rockland County, NY Historic Site**

31

32 **Whereas** the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Nyack, New York was built by the Methodist Society of
33 Nyack in 1812, opened for worship in 1813 and was dedicated March 2, 1814.

34 **Whereas** the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Nyack was on the circuit of Bergen of the Eastern

35 Pennsylvania Annual Conference and served by such future important Methodist preachers as Manning
36 Force and George Banghart.

37 **Whereas** the Methodist Episcopal Church of Nyack became known locally as “The Old Stone Church”
38 and as the “Mother Church” for Methodism in the Nyack region.

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 **Whereas** the congregation of the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Nyack, New York outgrew the Old
2 Stone Church building, moved to a larger edifice in downtown Nyack in 1844, changed their name to the
3 Second Methodist Episcopal Church and continued to grow, reaching a membership of 250 in 1873.

4 **Whereas** the congregation was reorganized and incorporated as “St. Paul’s Methodist Episcopal Church”
5 in 1877 and was honored to host the 28th Session of the Newark Annual Conference in 1885.

6 **Whereas** the congregation continued to grow, built another church building in South Nyack in 1894,
7 added a larger sanctuary in 1910, reached a church membership of 350 before World War II and
8 contributed many leaders to the Conference in the twentieth century.

9 **Whereas** The Old Stone Church was recognized as the oldest existing church sanctuary in Rockland
10 Country, New York and was named to the National Register of Historic Places on February 20, 1998, and
11 St. Paul’s United Methodist Church was additionally named to the National Register of Historic Place on
12 March 12, 2001.

13 **Therefore be it resolved** that “The Old Stone Church” in Nyack, New York, be recognized by The
14 Methodist Church in Greater New Jersey as a Conference Historic Site.

15 **Rational:** The Methodist presence in Nyack and surrounding Rockland County benefited from access to
16 transportation and provided ministry to the growing population of the county along the Hudson River.
17 The Methodist Society first erected a small church building constructed of locally quarried sandstone,
18 which continued as a place of worship long after the Methodists moved to larger quarters in the
19 business section of Nyack, the commercial hub of Rockland County. The members served Christ, for
20 more than one hundred and seventy-five years. The historical significance of the Old Stone Church and
21 the later St. Paul’s church complex are each separately recognized on the National Register of Historic
22 Places, so it is fitting for the Annual Conference to recognize the historic nature of the congregation that
23 created both of those sites and pioneered Methodism in the Nyack, New York area.

24 Submitted by:
25 Rev. John D. Callanan, Chairperson
26 Commission on Archives and History

27
28

2019-2023 GNJ Strategic Ministry Plan Process and Timeline

29
30
31

32 **Whereas** we are making strong progress toward our 2018 strategic plan. The plan has helped GNJ focus
33 and concentrate on our mission – *Recruit and equip spiritual leaders to make disciples and grow vital*
34 *congregations to transform the world.* The plan has focused Conference leadership on nine goals and
35 the overarching goal of from 14% to 41% vital congregations; and
36

37 **Whereas** it is important to follow up this important work and these accomplishments with the next
38 plan as we build on the first plan to continue progress and fruit for our ministry; and
39

40 **Whereas** a strategic plan grows GNJ health and vitality as it assesses present realities and sets
41 strategic direction. The plan focuses leadership at all levels of GNJ on a few clear goals and organizes

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 resources and activities to accomplish the goals which grows the health and vitality of our
2 congregations for mission and ministry in context;

3

4 **Be it resolved** that the Connectional Table will lead GNJ in a planning process to develop a new
5 strategic plan for 2019-2023 and allocate up to \$25,000 from the 2013 strategic plan reserve for the
6 process.

7

For information on process, timeline and considerations:

Strategic Plan Process and Timeline

- 10 1. Annual Conference approves strategic plan process and allocates budget – May 30, 2017
- 11 2. Hire a consultant – June 1, 2017 – Rev. Susan Beaumont
- 12 3. Strategic Plan Team organizes and holds evaluation and listening sessions across the conference
13 – June – September 2017
- 14 4. Strategic Plan Team gathers and assesses data and trends – July – October 2017
- 15 5. Strategic Plan Team assesses input, data and trends – September – November 2017
- 16 6. Strategic Plan Team writes the Plan – November – December 2017
- 17 7. Strategic Plan Team workshops the plan throughout the conferences adding and modifying
18 the plan as necessary. January – February 2018
- 19 8. Strategic Plan submits the proposed plan to the Connectional Table – March 1 2018
- 20 9. Connectional Table presents the plan to the Annual Conference – May 2018
- 21 10. GNJ begins work on the plan September 2018

22

The GNJ Strategic Ministry Plan will include

- 24 • A vision statement
- 25 • A mission statement
- 26 • Assessment of our gifts and assets for ministry
- 27 • Assessment of the challenges before us
- 28 • Strategic emphases
- 29 • Goals
- 30 • How we will make decisions

31

Questions for the Strategic Planning Team to Consider

- 33 1. What do we celebrate in the life of GNJ at this moment?
- 34 2. What have we learned from the most recent strategic plan?
- 35 3. Why do we exist?
- 36 4. What has God gifted GNJ with?
- 37 5. What gifts are being under used?
- 38 6. What are the challenges before us?
- 39 7. How will we be faithful to God?
- 40 8. What do we do? Where do needs, gifts and passion intersect?
- 41 9. How will we succeed? What fruitfulness points to our faithfulness?
- 42 10. What is most important right now? Why have we been called for such a time as this?
- 43 11. Who must do what? What is God's urgency for GNJ at this time?

44

45 Submitted by:
46 The Greater New Jersey
47 Connectional Table

48

49

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

Proposed 2018 Shared Ministry Plan

Be it resolved that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference approve the Shared Ministries Plan for 2018, (the budget), details of which have been provided below and in Appendix A.

Submitted by:
Robert Dietz, President
Council on Finance and Administration

Conference 5 Year Projected Budget Analysis

Assumptions

- 5 year Budget Analysis is based on 2018 Shared Ministry Plan attached.
- Apportionment Base starts at \$68,000,000 and decreases by \$750,000 in 2019 and increases by \$250,000 in 2022.
- Shared Ministry calculation will start at 16.3% of base in 2018 and decrease to 15.6% in 2022.
- Anticipated Collection rate starts at 90% in 2018 and increases to 93.0% by 2022.
- Other Income Includes:
 - Investment Income starts at \$70,000 and increases by 4% per year.
 - Centenary Fund/Miscellaneous Income starts at \$100,000 and increases by 3% per year
 - Surplus starts at \$308,000 and decreases by \$50,000 for the first 3 years, then remains constant at \$175,000 per year.
 - Shared Services income starts at \$425,000 which includes and increases 3% per year:
 - CBOPHB - \$100,000
 - F&B & Communications - \$55,000
 - Treasurer's Office - \$85,000
 - Property Manager - \$100,000
 - Additional Funds - \$85,000
- 2018 Expenses have been adjusted for 5% underspending and will increase by 1.5% per year thereafter.
 - Includes \$200,000 reduction per year for Retiree Health Costs starting in 2019.
 - Includes reductions for the below redirected compensation costs.
 - In 2021, the Dir of Stewardship compensation to be redirected to the Foundation.
 - In 2022, the Dir of Mission compensation to be redirected to AFWH.

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1

Conference 5 Year Projected Budget Analysis							
Gradual Transition from Current 17.1% of Base to 15.6%							
Gradual Shared Ministry Giving Rate from 90%-93%							
Proposed Shared Ministry Plan							
Income	Current Year Budget	Current Budgeting	Proposed Budgeting				
Year	2017	2018	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
SM Base	N/A	68,000,000	68,000,000	67,250,000	67,250,000	67,250,000	67,500,000
Shared Ministry Percentage	N/A	17.1%	16.3%	16.1%	15.9%	15.7%	15.6%
Shared Ministry Apportioned	11,978,542	11,608,706	11,084,000	10,827,250	10,692,750	10,558,250	10,530,000
Expected SM Giving Rate	N/A	90.00%	90.00%	91.50%	92.00%	92.50%	93.00%
Expected Available SM	10,457,420	10,357,536	9,975,600	9,906,934	9,837,330	9,766,381	9,792,900
Investment	150,000	70,000	70,000	72,800	75,712	78,740	81,890
Centenary Fund	100,000	100,000	100,000	103,000	106,090	109,273	112,551
Surplus	293,481	308,000	308,000	258,000	208,000	175,000	175,000
Shared Services Income	154,000	425,000	425,000	437,750	450,883	464,409	478,341
Total Income	11,154,901	11,260,536	10,878,600	10,778,484	10,678,015	10,593,803	10,640,682
Expenses							
Fund 100	4,509,215	4,553,247	4,345,509	4,210,691	4,073,852	3,934,959	3,793,984
Fund 200	2,482,315	2,519,359	2,403,157	2,439,204	2,475,792	2,512,929	2,550,623
Fund 300	3,471,231	3,561,594	3,450,794	3,502,556	3,555,095	3,439,421	3,322,012
Fund 410	185,523	181,287	181,287	184,006	186,766	189,568	192,411
Fund 420	41,519	40,571	40,571	41,180	41,797	42,424	43,061
Fund 430	465,098	404,478	404,478	410,545	416,703	422,954	429,298
Total Expenses	11,154,901	11,260,536	10,825,796	10,788,183	10,750,006	10,542,256	10,331,390
Budget Surplus (Deficit)	-	-	52,804	(9,699)	(71,991)	51,548	309,293

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1

SCHEDULE ABC	A		B		B		C		C	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected
	District Superintendents		Dir. Admin. Svcs./ Conference Treasurer		Dir. of Communication/ Development		Director of Connectional Ministry		Coordinators Six	
Salary	93,265	96,063	93,265	96,063	93,265	96,063	93,265	96,063	72,060	74,221
Pension										
Pension CRSP	14,572	15,010	13,738	14,150	13,738	14,150	14,572	15,010	11,659	12,009
Pension CRSP (CPP)	3,497	3,602	2,518	2,594	2,518	2,594	3,497	3,602	2,798	2,882
(CHIP)Health Insurance*	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
Housing Maintenance *	8,000	8,000	21,218	21,854	21,218	21,854	8,000	8,000	21,218	21,854
Utilities *	7,000	7,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cellular Phones*	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
(R/E) Prop Insurance	850	850					0	0		
Worker's Comp	750	750	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700
Expenses:										
Travel, Conferences, Bus. Entmt.	12,800	12,800	11,700	11,700	11,700	11,700	11,700	11,700	11,700	11,700
Administrative Assistants	20,511	21,054								
Continuing Education	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Office Expenses	5,800	5,800								
Payroll Taxes	0	0	8,758	9,020	8,758	9,020	0	0	0	0
TOTAL COST FOR ONE (1):	182,945	186,829	167,797	171,981	167,797	171,981	147,634	150,975	136,035	139,266
	9	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	6
	1,646,505	1,681,461	167,797	171,981	167,797	171,981	147,634	150,975	680,175	835,596
District Office Rent (Pooled)	40,000	25,000								
Total of DS package	1,686,505	1,706,461								

2

GNJAC							
Schedule D- Benevolence Budget							
Calendar Year 2018 Budget							
	2017	2017	2017	2018	2018	2018	
	Projected	Actual	Expected	Projected	Actual	Expected	
	Budget	Expected	Shortfall	Budget	Expected	Shortfall	
Board of Church and Society	4,318	3,800	518	4,043	3,800	243	
Board of Discipleship	206,818	182,000	24,818	193,617	182,000	11,617	
Board of Discipleship	1,136	1,000	136	1,064	1,000	64	
Camps & Conferences	205,682	181,000	24,682	192,553	181,000	11,553	
Board of Global Ministries	22,386	19,700	2,686	20,957	19,700	1,257	
Board of Global Ministries	2,273	2,000	273	2,128	2,000	128	
Disaster Response	6,477	5,700	777	6,064	5,700	364	
Mission School	13,636	12,000	1,636	12,766	12,000	766	
Board of Higher Education	73,864	65,000	8,864	69,149	65,000	4,149	
Higher Education & Campus Ministry	73,864	65,000	8,864	69,149	65,000	4,149	

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

Board of Laity	20,455	18,000		2,455	13,830	13,000	830
Commission on Archives and History	7,955	7,000		955	7,447	7,000	447
Commission on Christian Unity/Inter. Concerns	22,727	20,000		2,727	21,277	20,000	1,277
Commission on Christian Unity/Inter. Concerns	5,682	5,000		682	5,319	5,000	319
NJ Council of Churches	17,045	15,000		2,045	15,957	15,000	957
Commission on Religion and Race	9,091	8,000		1,091	8,511	8,000	511
Commission on Small Membership Church	568	500		68	532	500	32
Commission on the Status and Role of Women	5,682	5,000		682	5,319	5,000	319
Committee on Disability Concerns	568	500		68	532	500	32
Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns	50,568	44,500		6,068	47,340	44,500	2,840
Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns	2,841	2,500		341	2,660	2,500	160
Korean American National Plan	11,364	10,000		1,364	10,638	10,000	638
Strengthening the Black Church Plan	13,636	12,000		1,636	12,766	12,000	766
National Hispanic Plan	22,727	20,000		2,727	21,277	20,000	1,277
Committee on Native American Ministry	568	500		68	532	500	32
Council on Young Adult Ministry	11,364	10,000		1,364	10,638	10,000	638
Young Adults	11,364	10,000		1,364	10,638	10,000	638
Council on Youth Ministry	39,205	34,500		4,705	36,702	34,500	2,202
Youth Ministry-Search	13,636	12,000		1,636	12,766	12,000	766
Ignite	25,568	22,500		3,068	23,936	22,500	1,436
United Methodist Men	568	500		68	532	500	32
Sub-Total - Conference Sch. D Benevolence Budget	476,705	419,500		57,205	440,957	414,500	26,457
Community Outreach Grants	207,102	182,250		24,852	193,883	182,250	11,633
Connectional Table	48,806	42,949		5,857	17,216	16,183	1,033
Congregational Development	48,295	42,500		5,795	45,213	42,500	2,713
Emerging Needs	19,318	17,000		2,318	18,085	17,000	1,085
Leadership Development	31,250	27,500		3,750	0	0	0
District Programming	142,045	125,000		17,045	132,979	125,000	7,979
Communications	22,727	20,000		2,727	21,277	20,000	1,277
Relay	75,000	66,000		9,000	70,213	66,000	4,213

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

Resource Center	1,136	1,000		136		1,064	1,000	64
Grand Total	1,072,385	943,699		128,686		940,886	884,433	56,453

1

SCHEDULE E

	2017	2017	2018	2018	2018	
II D. ADMINISTRATION	Budget	Expected	Budget	Expected	Shortfall	
Salaries & Benefits-Central Office	1,187,355	1,044,872	1,144,694	1,076,012	68,682	0.0298
Salaries:Conference Secretary/ Secretarial Asst	14,205	12,500	13,404	12,600	804	0.0080
Central Office Operations	176,136	155,000	164,894	155,000	9,894	-
Treas. Office Operations	33,125	29,150	31,011	29,150	1,861	-
Conference Journal	31,818	28,000	29,787	28,000	1,787	-
Auditing/Bonding	28,409	25,000	26,596	25,000	1,596	-
Capital Equip. R/R Fund	6,955	6,120	6,511	6,120	391	-
Information Services Support	37,955	33,400	35,532	33,400	2,132	-
Committee on Nominations	966	850	904	850	54	-
Building Maintenance Reserve	5,313	4,675	4,973	4,675	298	-
Gen/Jur Conference Reserve	3,864	3,400	3,617	3,400	217	-
Conference Business Travel	17,045	15,000	15,957	15,000	957	-
Board of Trustees	142,045	125,000	132,979	125,000	7,979	-
Conference Chancellor	28,977	25,500	27,128	25,500	1,628	-
SCHEDULE E Total	1,714,167	1,508,467	1,637,986	1,539,707	98,279	0.0207

2

3

4

5

6

Shared Ministry Apportionment Formula

7

Whereas The United Methodist Church is experiencing consolidation in the United States; and

8

9

Whereas in GNJ we are seeing the effects of reduced congregational budgets; and

10

11

Whereas the present GNJ Shared Ministry formula does not take into consideration lower budgets and allocates the total GNJ Shared Ministry budget to fewer congregations and smaller congregational budgets; and

12

13

14

Whereas the Shared Ministry base of the collective GNJ congregations has declined from \$75,525,444 for 2009 to \$69,494,926 in 2015 and yet the percent of the base that GNJ receives from congregations continues to increase from 15.7% at the time of merger in 2003 to 17.3% in 2017 even though we reduced the apportioned amount by \$387,959.00 over the last four years; and

15

16

17

Whereas the present Shared Ministry formula worked well in a stable GNJ in which the budget of congregations were increasing each year; and

18

19

Whereas we want to keep faith with our congregations by not increasing the Shared Ministry percentage to congregations but set a goal of lowering it to pre-merger level.

20

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1
2 **Be it resolved** that the Shared Ministry percentage be set at 16.3% of a congregation's Shared Ministry
3 base for the 2018 budget and that each year the Annual Conference approve the Shared Ministry
4 percentage with a goal of achieving a Shared Ministry percentage of 15.6% over the next five years. The
5 Shared Ministry base be set at a congregation's total expenses as follows:

- 6
- 7 • Lines 48-57 of Table II of The Local Church Statistical Report
 - 8 48 – Pastor Wages
 - 9 49 – Associate Pastor Wages
 - 10 50 – Parsonage Expenses
 - 11 51 – Accountable Reimbursements
 - 12 52 – Other Cash Allowances
 - 13 53 – Deacon Salaries and Benefits
 - 14 54 – Diaconal Minister Salaries and Benefits
 - 15 55 – Staff Compensation
 - 16 56 – Church Program Expenses
 - 17 57 – Church Operating Expenses
 - 18
 - 19 • Billed amounts for prior year Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP), Clergy Retirement Security
20 Program (CRSP), Health Insurance, Property Insurance and Workers Comp
 - 21

22 **Rationale:** This new formula uses the present Shared Ministry base calculation but prevents automatic
23 percentage increases and requires GNJ to set budgets that are within a fixed percentage of the Shared
24 Ministry base. In effect, this will reduce the overall Shared Ministry apportionment to congregations by
25 \$894,542 in 2018 and will reduce each congregation's shared ministry percentage for 2018. The percent
26 apportioned goal is to be 15.6% within the next five years which is lower than at the time of merger in
27 2003.

28 Submitted by:
29 Robert Dietz, President
30 The Conference Council on Finance and Administration

31

32

Clergy Equitable Compensation for 2018

34 (Impact on the Conference Budget)

35 **Be it resolved that** the Annual Conference adopt the following recommendation for minimum salary for
36 persons under full-time appointment in the local church effective January 1, 2018:

37	a) Elder and Deacon in Full Connection	\$ 44,200
38	b) Provisional & Associate Members (92%)	\$ 40,650
39	c) Full time Local Pastor (87%)	\$ 38,450

40 Any changes in clergy minimum salaries related to a change of clergy status through ordination,
41 commissioning or licensing in 2017 will become effective as of January 1, 2018.

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 There will be a \$300 minimum increment in the base salary of each year of full-time service under
2 appointment up to 15 years. This applies to clergy (elder, provisional elder, provisional deacon, deacon
3 in full connection, associate members, and local pastor) serving in full-time appointments. The years of
4 service record for each clergy is based on the Service Record by the General Board of Pension and
5 Health Benefits, and it does not include part-time appointments or a time of leave of absence.

6 The minimum equitable salary for $\frac{3}{4}$ time pastoral appointments shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ of the required minimum in
7 the pastor's salary. And the minimum equitable salary for $\frac{1}{2}$ time pastoral appointments shall be $\frac{1}{2}$ of
8 the required minimum. All appointments less than $\frac{1}{2}$ shall be considered $\frac{1}{4}$ time appointments for
9 pension purposes and the salaries shall be determined by the District Superintendent in consultation
10 with the pastor and the local church.

11 Each pastor's salary above the minimum equitable salary is determined by the local church or by the
12 charge in consultation with the District Superintendent. Each Pastor (Staff) Parish Relations Committee
13 takes into consideration the pastor's experience, education, leadership, health and dental insurance
14 coverage, social security, and family needs.

15 All full-time pastors shall be provided with a parsonage or a housing/rental allowance as part of their
16 compensation package.

17 All full-time pastors shall have an accountable reimbursement expense line item in the church budget to
18 cover mileage for pastoral work, continuing education, and other professional ministerial expenses as
19 allowed by the IRS. This reimbursable amount shall be at least \$2,500. For the churches that are
20 receiving Equitable Compensation support, their accountable reimbursement expense line should not
21 exceed \$2,500.

22 All full-time pastors shall be entitled to receive the following vacation per appointment year:

23 Minimum 4 weeks of vacation for the first 10 years of full-time service, after that it is 5 weeks.

24 Vacation time shall not be cumulative from year to year. Local churches may not consider time spent in
25 leadership responsibilities in Conference activities as vacation time. This includes Course of Study, Local
26 Pastors Licensing School, Camps, Annual Conference-related Ministries, and other education and
27 renewal as required by The Book of Discipline (§1350.2).

28 Submitted by:
29 Christine Day, Chair
30 Commission on Equitable Compensation

31

32

33

Pension and Health Benefits

34

35 **Be it resolved** that the Past Service Annuity Rate for January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 be set at
36 \$672 per approved service year prior to January 1, 1982.

37

38 **Be it further resolved**

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

- 1 1. That effective January 1, 2018, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference will continue to
2 sponsor CRSP for full-time, three-quarter time, and one-half time clergy and continue to
3 sponsor UMPIP for those clergy in one-quarter time appointments.
- 4 2. That contributions for January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 for the Clergy Retirement Security
5 Program for full-time and less-than-full-time (¾-time & ½-time) clergy, and for Conference
6 sponsored UMPIP Plan for ¼-time clergy, be set at 12.5% of plan compensation.
- 7 3. That contributions for January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 for the Comprehensive Protection
8 Plan be set at 3% of plan compensation for full-time and ¾-time ordained clergy, and for
9 Conference Sponsored UMLife Options for ½-time ordained clergy to be set 2% of plan
10 compensation. That local churches may sponsor ¼-time ordained clergy and ¾-time part-time
11 local pastors in UMLife Options.
- 12 4. That the starting date for retirement payments for new retirees commences July 1, 2017,
13 unless otherwise stated.
- 14 5. That grants approved in lieu of pension to Bernard Shropshire are continued through 2018.
 - 15 a) That the following members of the former Southern Conference be grand-
16 parented in terms of eligibility for conference-paid health benefits. Specifically,
17 the following persons, upon becoming annuitants with at least 10 years of
18 service, will be eligible for Conference-paid health benefits: Edward F. Conway,
19 Ruth Propert Taenzer, Jae Jeong Shim, Mildred E. Bender, Charles H. Mayer, J.
20 Evans Dodds, Eileen Murphy, Nicholas Connolly, Daniel Gueh, Renee L. McCleary,
21 William R. Hess, Frances B. Ballinger and Charles D. Mitchell.
 - 22 b) That Robert L. Webster and family be eligible for Conference-paid health benefits
23 upon retirement and receiving an annuity.
- 24 6. That Rev. Patricia Bruger’s actual years of appointment and service at CUMAC/ECHO, INC. from
25 June 16, 1995 through retirement be fully credited for the purpose of calculation of service
26 year credits to determine allocation of pro-rated health insurance premium payment
27 responsibility upon retirement.
- 28 7. That the following clergy be grand-parented to five years “under appointment through the
29 Conference immediately prior to retirement” to meet eligibility requirements for health
30 benefits in retirement, rather than the seven years as approved at the 2011 Annual Conference
31 meeting (Paragraph 3 under Eligibility, p. 365 of the 2011 Conference Journal). Specifically, the
32 following persons, if, at the time of retirement, meet all other eligibility requirements for
33 health insurance in retirement, shall be grand-parented under this provision: Rev. Vena
34 Murphy, Rev. William Jacobsen, Rev. Christina Zito and Rev. Sherrie Dobbs Johnson.
- 35 8. That clergy participants in the Conference Health Insurance Plan who have expenses associated
36 with the adoption of a child will be reimbursed up to \$10,000 per child upon the presentation
37 of the necessary documentation.
- 38 9. The Greater NJ Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating
39 to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the
40 Conference:
41
42 **Be it resolved** that an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments
43 received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*
44 (the “*Discipline*”), which includes all such payments from the Wespath Benefits and
45 Investments, during the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, by each active, retired,
46 terminated, or disabled clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such
2 clergyperson; and

3
4 That the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance
5 designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans,
6 annuities, or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from Wespeth and
7 from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued
8 under a Wespeth plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any
9 service a clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or
10 a disabled clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of
11 the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former
12 denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the
13 clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and
14 that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund
15 for such an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled clergyperson's pension, severance, or
16 disability plan benefit as part of his or her gross compensation.

17
18 NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a clergyperson's gross income
19 in any year for federal (and, in most cases, state) income tax purposes is limited under Internal
20 Revenue Code section 107(2), and regulations there under, to the least of: (a) the amount of
21 the rental/housing allowance designated by the clergyperson's employer or other appropriate
22 body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (b) the
23 amount actually expended by the clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (c)
24 the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage),
25 plus the cost of utilities in such year. Each clergyperson or former clergyperson is urged to
26 consult with his or her own tax advisor to determine what deferred compensation is eligible to
27 be claimed as a housing allowance exclusion.

- 28
29 10. That clergy retiring before July 1, 2018 be reimbursed for one time moving expenses up to
30 \$5,000.00 incurred while moving from church-owned housing to personal housing. This
31 reimbursement is limited to actual moving expenses, not to include moving company packing
32 costs. The same benefits and restrictions shall also apply to a surviving spouse moving out of
33 the parsonage upon the death of a pastor while in active service in the Annual Conference, and
34 to those entering disabled relationships.
- 35 11. That the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits be authorized to make modifications
36 to the current Insurance Plan as the health care market demands. In addition, modifications to
37 the Plan that could reduce premium costs to local churches and Annual Conference are to be
38 studied and enacted as the Board determines appropriate. These changes might include
39 increased participant deductibles, co-payments, greater use of generic medications, and other
40 avenues of cost saving and sharing. Such changes will be subject to prior review of CFA and the
41 Cabinet.
- 42 12. That the Guidelines for Health Insurance Participation, below, be approved and upon approval
43 printed in the 2017 Conference Journal and Yearbook.

44
45 Submitted by:
46 William Wilson, Chair

47

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

2017 HEALTH INSURANCE GUIDELINES

1
2 The mission of the Conference Health Insurance Plan (the Plan) is to provide primary health insurance
3 coverage to full-time full, provisional, and associate ministerial members, and full-time local pastors of
4 the Annual Conference and to eligible full-time lay employees.

5 The Plan provides secondary health insurance coverage for retirees who are receiving Medicare which
6 requires both Medicare Parts A & B for coverage. For those who have retired early and are not yet eligible
7 for Medicare, primary health insurance coverage is through the same plan as those in active ministry. The
8 Plan is a non-vested current benefit for active and retired pastors and lay employees.

9 ELIGIBILITY

10 1. Clergy Eligibility:

11 a) Active clergy under full-time Episcopal appointment to serve a local church including Elders,
12 Deacons, Local Pastors, Associate Members, and Provisional Members

13 b) Those under full-time appointment as district superintendents, clergy staff members of
14 Conference councils and boards, treasurers, bishop's assistants, or directors of parish
15 development, general evangelists and campus ministers for whom the Conference provides
16 pension contribution to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) who are:

- 17 • a full elder or associate member (other than a missionary) (Book of Discipline ¶344.1a(1))
18 • or an ordained clergyperson from another annual conference or another Methodist
19 denomination (Book of Discipline ¶344.1a(1), ¶346.1)
20 • an ordained clergyperson from another denomination if not covered by the group health plan
21 of the denomination to which he/she belongs. (Book of Discipline ¶344.1a(1), ¶346.2)

22 c) Enrollment in the Active health insurance plan must be completed within 31 days of appointment.

23 d) Waiving coverage in the Plan - Contact the Insurance Administrator for required documents.
24 Documents must be completed and returned within enrollment deadline periods

- 25 • within 31 days of initial eligibility; or
26 • once per year during the Conference open enrollment period for the following January 1; or
27 • within 31 days of an open enrollment period for a spouse's plan; beginning January 1, 2016.
28 • see PREMIUM PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY – ACTIVE for Waived Coverage Fees.

29 a. Participant must certify that:

30 • The plan is through a former employment or a spouse's current or former
31 employment. Proof of such coverage is required.

32 • The plan is not a marketplace plan. Under these guidelines and marketplace
33 rules, Full-time clergy are ineligible for any Premium Tax Credit.

34 b. Re-admittance to the plan is during any open enrollment period, or within 31 days of
35 a Special Enrollment event (loss of other coverage, employment status change,
36 divorce, or death of a spouse, gain a dependent).

37 e) Clergy in any category under Episcopal appointment to full-time service in an Extension Ministry
38 [¶344.1a (3)(4); 344.1b; 344.1d; 331.1a,b; 326.1; 331.8; 346.1; 346.2], may enroll in the Plan

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

- 1 within 31 days of initial appointment. Late enrollments are permitted only during the Annual
2 Election Period or in the case of a Special Enrollment event - loss of other coverage, employment
3 status change, divorce, or death of a spouse, gain a dependent.
- 4 f) Part-time clergy in any category are not eligible for coverage through the Plan.
- 5 **2. Ministerial members who are placed on Medical Leave status by the Conference** shall continue
6 enrollment in the Plan regardless of whether they are eligible for Medicare disability benefits. The
7 Conference Plan remains primary until the participant becomes eligible for Medicare due to disability,
8 at which time the Conference Plan becomes secondary to Medicare. Beginning January 1, 2016,
9 participants obtaining Medicare due to disability, may choose to remain in the Active Health Plan as
10 their secondary insurance, or to enroll in the United HealthCare Retiree Plan (Medicare Advantage
11 Plan). The premiums for ministerial members on Conference Medical Leave (and their enrolled family)
12 will be paid by the Conference with Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits funds.
- 13 **3. Clergy in Retired Status** may be in the Plan if they were under appointment through the Conference
14 for the seven years immediately prior to retirement. Retired participants and spouses age 65 and
15 over are required to carry Medicare Part A and Part B in order to be eligible for Conference insurance
16 in retirement. Monthly premium for Part A if any, and for Part B is a personal expense. A Retiree (and
17 eligible dependents) not enrolling (waiving coverage) in the Plan at the time of retirement, or who left
18 the plan as a retiree, may enroll during any open enrollment period, or within 31 days of a Special
19 Enrollment event (including but not limited to voluntary or involuntary loss of coverage) (refer to
20 Clergy Eligibility #1, subparagraph 1d). For dependent eligibility, see #5 under "Eligibility."
- 21 **4. Any of the following lay persons** are eligible to enroll in the Plan upon application within 31 days of
22 hire. Late enrollments are permitted only during the Annual Election Period as allowed by the Plan,
23 or in the case of a Special Enrollment Event - loss of other coverage, employment status change,
24 divorce, or death of a spouse, gain a dependent.
- 25 a) Lay employees of the Conference or any of its subsidiary agencies working a minimum of 1,560
26 hours annually (30 hrs. per week)
- 27 b) Full-time (minimum of 1,560 hours annually) lay employees of any church in the
28 Conference that adopts the program, completes a Salary Paying Unit Sub-Adoption
29 Agreement, and whose church enrolls a minimum of 75% of its full-time lay employees.
- 30 c) Retired lay employees of the Conference, local churches, Conference-affiliated UM
31 institutions, the Episcopal office, units of the Conference whose lay employees are not on
32 the Conference payroll, and the surviving spouse of such employees, may participate in
33 the Plan provided they have received or will receive a UMPIP benefit from Wespith
34 Benefits and Investments through their salary-paying unit.
- 35
- 36 **5. Dependents eligible for coverage** in the Conference Plan are limited to the spouse, children who are
37 qualified adult dependents, and children who are under age 26. Dependents may be added only
38 during the Annual Election Period as allowed by the Plan, or in the case of a Special Enrollment event
39 - loss of other coverage, employment status change, divorce, or death of a spouse, gain a dependent.
40 If an annuitant marries (remarries), coverage of spouse and/or children may be available and premium
41 for dependents is at the retiree's expense.

PREMIUM PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY – ANNUITANTS

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall establish rates of premiums for the
2 participants, based upon the premiums charged by the insurance carrier(s).

3 Unless it has already been stated above under Eligibility, the Conference shall pay the premiums for all
4 enrolled annuitants of the Conference, lay or ministerial, from appropriate funds, except that:

5 A. **A clergy person age 65 or older**, becoming an annuitant on or after July 1, 2002, who has less
6 than 20 approved years with annuity credit in (CRSP), the Clergy Retirement Security Program
7 (includes prior plans), with Wespath Benefits and Investments, shall, in order to receive health
8 insurance coverage under the Plan, be responsible for the payment of a pro-rated share of
9 his/her Plan premium. Such share shall be 5% times the number of full years by which such
10 years are short of 20. Monthly premium for Part A if any, and for Part B (both required) is a
11 personal expense.

12 B. **A lay person age 65 or older**, who has received or will receive a UMPIP benefit on or after
13 July 1, 2002, who has less than 20 approved years with pension credit in UMPIP, the United
14 Methodist Personal Investment Plan (includes prior plan), of Wespath Benefits and
15 Investments, shall, in order to receive health insurance coverage under the Plan, be
16 responsible for the payment of a pro-rated share of his/her premium. Such share shall be 5%
17 times the number of full years by which such years are short of 20. Monthly premium for Part
18 A if any, and for Part B (both required) is a personal expense.

19 C. The Active premium for an **annuitant under the age of 65 commencing benefits**

20 1. **on or before July 1, 2003** shall be paid by the Conference subject to paragraphs A and
21 B above until the annuitant reaches age 65.

22 2. **after July 1, 2003**, the Conference shall contribute an amount equal to the coverage
23 cost of a Medicare-eligible annuitant, subject to paragraphs A and B above, and the
24 annuitant shall be responsible for the remainder of the Active premium until the
25 annuitant reaches age 65. Premium responsibility will be frozen at the calendar year
26 2014 level for annuitants retiring prior to July 1, 2014.

27 3. **on or after July 1, 2014**, the Conference shall contribute an amount equal to the
28 coverage cost of a Medicare-eligible annuitant, subject to paragraphs A and B above,
29 and the annuitant shall be responsible for an annual fixed amount determined in the
30 year of retirement until the annuitant reaches age 65.
31

32 D. **Extension Clergy serving approved Conference Advance Specials** in the geographic bounds
33 of the Annual Conference who are not eligible to enroll in the Clergy Retirement Security
34 Program (CRSP) will be credited, solely for the years appointed to that Advance Special, with
35 actual years of appointment and service to the Conference, for the purpose of calculation of
36 service year credits to determine allocation of pro-rated premium payment responsibility
37 upon retirement.

PREMIUM PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY – PRE-ANNUITY RETIREES

39 The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall establish rates of premiums for the
40 participants, based upon the premiums charged by the carrier.

41 For those who have retired early and are not collecting an annuity, the retired enrollee is responsible for
42 the full Active premium payment until they reach annuity age.

PREMIUM PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY – ACTIVE

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1
2 The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall establish rates of premiums for the
3 participants based upon the premiums charged by the carrier.

4 Unless it has already been stated above under Eligibility, the Conference shall pay the premiums for all
5 enrolled active participants, lay or ministerial, from appropriate funds, except that:

6 A. Each church shall pay the premium(s) or Waived Participation Fee(s) (which is equal to the
7 blended premium) of each of its full-time appointed clergy (including clergy spouse and
8 dependent children if enrolled) who are either a full, provisional, or associate member of the
9 Conference or a local pastor.

10 1. The salary paying unit shall also be responsible for remitting premium for its lay
11 employees who are enrolled in the Plan.

12 2. Plan participants are to pay 2% of their cash salary to their own salary paying unit as
13 their share of the premium the employer (church) pays on their behalf.

14 3. In the case of clergy couples the following will apply:

15 a) Each spouse shall contribute 1% of their salary to every salary paying unit that is
16 paying health premium, regardless of percentage of health premium paid
17

18 B. Each eligible enrollee, whose fees are not paid as provided above, shall pay his or her own
19 premiums either directly or with employer participation. In every case, the individual enrollee
20 is responsible for seeing that payment of his or her own premium is made if the party with
21 PRIME responsibility fails to make the payment.

CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE AFTER CERTAIN EVENTS

22
23 A. **Voluntary and Involuntary Termination** - If a person's participation in the Plan ceases due
24 to voluntary or involuntary termination of Conference membership or employment or
25 discharge or removal from the Annual Conference, Continuation Coverage for health
26 insurance may be available through application to HealthFlex.
27

28 B. **Loss of Dependent Status** - If a dependent's participation in the Plan ceases due to divorce
29 or to attaining the limiting age, Continuation Coverage may be available through application
30 to HealthFlex.

31 C. **Medical Leave** - See #2 under Eligibility.

32 D. **Leave of Absence** (§353 and §354) - Clergy placed on voluntary leave of absence (personal,
33 family, or transitional) or involuntary leave of absence may continue in the Plan for a period
34 of twelve months, provided they pay the premiums. Continuation Coverage for up to an
35 additional 12 months may be available through application to HealthFlex. Leave of absence
36 is not an appointment, causes a break in appointment years, and does not accrue annuity
37 credit towards health benefits in retirement.

38 E. **Sabbatical Leave** (§351) Clergy placed on sabbatical leave may continue in the Plan for a
39 period of twelve months, provided they pay the premiums. Continuation coverage may be
40 available through application to HealthFlex. Sabbatical leave is not a break in appointment
41 years for the purposes of health benefits in retirement.

42 F. **Death** - Surviving spouses of clergy members are subject to the same rules (see Eligibility
43 Guidelines #1 and 3) as the clergy member. Surviving spouses of lay employees of the
44 Conference and District offices are subject to the same rules (see Eligibility Guideline #4 c)
45 as the lay employee.

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 ADMINISTRATION

2 All concerns, issues, requests, etc., relating to premiums, benefits, coverage (including voluntary
3 termination of coverage, additions or deletions to policies) and benefits at retirement must be “in writing”
4 from the Plan participant to be considered official. Such correspondence, concerns, or requests for
5 changes in coverage must be sent to the Plan Administrator or his/her designated coordinator.
6 Commitments or resolutions of issues must come in writing directly from the Plan Administrator or his/her
7 designated coordinator.

8 The Benefits Officer and Administrator for the Conference Plan is the Conference Treasurer/Director of
9 Administrative Services. The Benefits Officer shall be a member of the Conference Board of Pension and
10 Health Benefits without a vote. He/she shall be responsible for promptly enrolling all eligible persons, for
11 collecting all amounts due from churches, agencies or individuals for participation in the Plan, for
12 arranging for their prompt deposit in a Conference account, for checking all billings from the Insurance
13 Carrier to certify their completeness and accuracy and for making proper remittances on schedule for the
14 Plan; and such Officer shall delete from the Plan any enrollee whose premium is not paid by the end of
15 the month for which the premium is due. Termination is effective the first day of the month for which no
16 payment has been received.

17

18

19

20

Standards for Parsonages July 2017

(Impact on the Conference Budget)

21 **Be it resolved** that the following recommendation be adopted on the standards for parsonages for the
22 GNJUMC effective, July 3, 2018:

23 Responsible Group in the Local Church

24 The Book of Discipline does not mandate a parsonage committee however, it is strongly recommends that
25 each local church Charge Conference form a parsonage committee. The committee will follow-up to
26 assure timely resolution of parsonage problems affecting the health of the pastor or pastor's family. The
27 chairperson of the committee on pastor-parish relations, the chairperson of the board of trustees, and
28 the pastor shall make an annual review of the church-owned parsonage to assure proper maintenance.
29 (§ 258.2 g (16) and § 2532.4)

30

31 Standards for Parsonage (Existing Parsonages)

32 All parsonages shall meet local requirements for a Certificate of Occupancy.

33

34 For existing parsonages, each local charge shall provide and maintain the following furnishings:

35

36 1. Living room and family room furniture.

37 2. Dining room furniture.

38 3. Kitchen, including stove, refrigerator with separate freezer compartment, exhaust fan, and
39 dishwasher.

40 4. Laundry equipment – automatic washer and dryer.

41 5. Standard television connection (providing at least 30 channels), high speed internet service and
42 one telephone line (cell or land line). Where possible consider bundling the services.

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

- 1 6. Floor coverings, solid surfaces are preferred.
- 2 7. Window shades and blinds, or curtains and drapes, functioning.
- 3 8. One fire extinguisher in kitchen and one extinguisher outside of the furnace room. There shall
- 4 be at least one extinguisher per floor level. All fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and carbon
- 5 monoxide detectors are to be in compliance with local code requirements for rental properties
- 6 or certificate of occupancy.
- 7 9. Closets or free standing storage units in each bedroom.
- 8 10. Drives and walks should be hard surfaced.
- 9 11. Minimally acceptable outside lighting, for safety and to illuminate walkways and driveways.
- 10 12. Trash cans. In municipalities where garbage pickup is not part of the tax base and is billed to the
- 11 parsonage, that local churches pay for this service.
- 12 13. Lawn mower and snow removal equipment (shovel or snow blower, appropriate to the need), or
- 13 appropriate service, the cost of which will be determined by mutual agreement between the
- 14 pastor and the Board of Trustees.
- 15 14. A study for the pastor in either the parsonage or church building. Office furnishing shall include
- 16 a desk, desk chair, minimally acceptable shelving for the pastor's library, additional chairs, and a
- 17 locking filing cabinet.
- 18 15. Furnishings for special rooms such as sun porch, den, etc., that may be different from one
- 19 charge to another.
- 20 16. Parsonage electrical service shall conform to the current National Electrical Code.
- 21 17. Parking space for a minimum of one (1) car shall be provided.
- 22 18. Each charge shall decide if it will provide a security/alarm system.
- 23 19. The septic or sewer system shall be fully functional and meet the needs of the parsonage family.
- 24

Additional Suggestions

- 25
- 26 1. Electrical service to be inspected every five (5) years by a licensed electrician.
- 27 2. Roof inspection every five (5) years.
- 28 3. Energy audit every five (5) years.
- 29

Standards for Parsonages (Purchasing or Building a New Parsonage)

- 30
- 31
- 32 All parsonages shall meet local requirements for a Certificate of Occupancy.
- 33
- 34 All newly constructed or newly purchased parsonages shall be in full compliance with the dictates of the
- 35 Book of Discipline. Consideration shall be made for those with handicapping conditions -
- 36 *Provide on the ground-floor of a newly constructed parsonage: (1) one room that can be used as a*
- 37 *bedroom by a person with a disability; (2) a fully accessible bathroom; and (3) fully accessible*
- 38 *laundry facilities (¶ 2544.4d)*
- 39

1. Option One

- 40
- 41 a. The use of maintenance-free materials in building and in finishing and furnishing, these
- 42 contribute to keeping maintenance costs lower.
- 43 b. The following room requirements:
- 44 i. Living Room/Family Room
- 45 ii. Dining Room
- 46 iii. Kitchen
- 47 iv. Study
- 48 v. Baths (2)
- 49 vi. Bedrooms (3)

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

- 1 c. A minimum electrical service of 200 amperes.
- 2 d. A garage of a size to accommodate 2 cars, plus room for storage of lawn mowers, bicycles, tools,
- 3 garden equipment, ladders, paint supplies, etc.
- 4 e. Space to store large articles of furniture and equipment.
- 5 f. The use of materials meeting the most energy efficient standards for insulation and windows.
- 6 g. Careful consideration should be given in choosing the location of the parsonage. This
- 7 consideration might include the distance from the church, accessibility from main streets of the
- 8 community and the church, the neighborhood and its future, and the community itself and its
- 9 future growth.

2. Option Two

- 12 a. The standards of Option One would apply with consideration by the church of purchasing,
- 13 leasing, renting a townhouse or condominium. This option would be negotiated by the District
- 14 Superintendent, the local charge and the pastor following consultation with the District
- 15 Committee on Church Location and Building.
- 16 b. The purpose of this option is to provide an alternative to the “traditional” church parsonage for
- 17 ministry in special situations. Allowing for the wide variety of townhouse/condo choices, it is
- 18 difficult to recommend a standard for such a setting.

Responsibility

1. Each pastor is responsible for:

- 22 a. Furnishings for as many bedrooms as the family needs.
- 23 b. Personal items such as television, vacuum cleaner, small appliances, dishes, glassware, flatware,
- 24 cleaning tools, wastebaskets, and decorative accessories.
- 25 c. The following regular maintenance:
- 26 i. Floor maintenance
- 27 ii. Trash disposal and recycling
- 28 d. It is expected that the pastor shall provide tenant (renters) insurance, to cover property loss and
- 29 personal liability.
- 30 e. Restitution for any damage beyond normal wear and tear.
- 31 f. Exiting pastor shall remove all personal items and furniture from the parsonage and property
- 32 and leave in a “broom clean” state.

2. Each charge shall provide:

- 35 a. Utilities – heat, electricity, gas/oil, water, sewage, and basic non-personal telephone services.
- 36 b. Maintenance for all parsonage equipment.
- 37 c. Basic furniture for all rooms except the bedrooms.
- 38 d. Funds for the repair of the parsonage and its maintenance should be allocated and allowed to
- 39 accumulate so that continuing care and major repairs can be made when needed.

Miscellaneous

- 42 1. We recommend that, in addition to the required written reports filed annually with the Annual
- 43 Church Conference paperwork, there be a complete video/photo inventory of all church-owned
- 44 furnishings in the parsonage. The inventory and all videos and photos shall be maintained
- 45 annually.
- 46 2. It should be the responsibility of the Parsonage Committee to become acquainted with the
- 47 parsonage and, after a new pastoral appointment, meet with the parsonage family to discuss
- 48 the minimum acceptability of housing and furnishings, and to meet annually thereafter with the
- 49 parsonage family.

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

- 1 3. During the transition of pastoral appointment – the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Chair,
2 the exiting pastor, the new pastor and the Board of Trustee Chair will walk through the
3 parsonage together for inspection and planning. It is recommended to utilize the Church
4 Conference Parsonage inspection report for this walk through.
- 5 4. The right of the pastor to own furniture and equipment cannot be challenged. However, if s/he
6 does own furniture and goods that s/he wishes to use in the parsonage, and parsonage furniture
7 has to be stored, s/he should make every effort to store it properly so it is in good condition and
8 does not suffer damage from being stored. The site or method of storage for any church owned
9 furniture shall be determined by mutual agreement between the pastor and the Board of
10 Trustees.–The pastor assumes financial responsibility for the storage of any unused furniture.
- 11 5. The parsonage is the pastor’s for his/her tenure in that church or charge. S/he has therefore the
12 responsibility to care for the furniture to protect it from damage by pets or children and, if it is
13 damaged, to return it to a condition equal to that when s/he received it to use. If an item of
14 furniture is damaged beyond repair, s/he is obligated to replace it.
- 15 6. In order to respect the privacy of clergy and his/her family, the church has responsibility to
16 make an appointment and secure the approval of the pastor or an adult member of the
17 household, prior to visiting the parsonage at any time.

18

Appeals

19 Appeals by the churches or pastors should be made to the District Superintendent as the final authority
20 to interpret and implement the foregoing standards.
21

22 Submitted by:

23 Christine Day

24 Chair of Commission on Equitable Compensation
25

26

27

Closure of First UMC in Salem

28 **Be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference expresses its thanksgiving for all the
29 blessings made possible by the clergy and laity who have contributed to the ministry and mission of the
30 First United Methodist Church in Salem, NJ.

31 **Be it further resolved** that in keeping with provisions of ¶ 2549.2b of the Book of Discipline, 2016 edition,
32 the congregation is discontinued and the assets of the church are transferred to the Trustees of the
33 Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

34 **Be it further resolved** that in keeping with the provisions of ¶ 229 of the Book of Discipline, 2016 Edition,
35 the remaining members of the church may be transferred to a United Methodist Church of their choice.

36 **Be it further resolved** that the Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference shall be directed to
37 distribute net proceeds from the disposition of the assets as follows:

- 38 a) All outstanding loans and other obligations owed to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference
39 shall be repaid upon the sale of the property, and liquidation of any other assets, and
- 40 b) Upon receipt, the remainder shall be directed to the Strategic Disciple Making Fund.

41 **Be it further resolved** that in keeping with provisions of ¶ 2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2016 edition, all
42 deeds, records, legal papers and other official documents shall be maintained in permanent safekeeping

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 with the Conference Commission on Archives and History.

2 Submitted by:

3 Rev. Myrna Bethke

4 Gateway South District Superintendent

5

6

Closure of Union UMC in Center Square

8

9 **Be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference expresses its thanksgiving for all the
10 blessings made possible by the clergy and laity who have contributed to the ministry and mission of the
11 Union United Methodist Church in Center Square, NJ.

12

13 **Be it further resolved** that in keeping with provisions of ¶2549.2b of the Book of Discipline, 2016
14 edition, the congregation is discontinued and the assets of the church are transferred to the Trustees of
15 the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

16

17 **Be it further resolved** that in keeping with the provisions of ¶229 of the Book of Discipline, 2016 Edition,
18 the remaining members of the church may be transferred to a United Methodist Church of their choice.

19 **Be it further resolved** that the Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference shall be directed
20 to distribute net proceeds from the disposition of the assets as follows:

21 a) All outstanding loans and other obligations owed to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference
22 shall be repaid upon the sale of the property, and liquidation of any other assets, and

23 b) Upon receipt, the remainder shall be directed to the Strategic Disciple Making Fund.

24

25 **Be it further resolved** that in keeping with provisions of ¶2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2016 edition,
26 all deeds, records, legal papers and other official documents shall be maintained in permanent
27 safekeeping with the Conference Commission on Archives and History.

28 Respectfully Submitted:

29 Rev. Myrna Bethke

30 Gateway South District Superintendent

31

32

Closure of Cadwalader- Asbury UMC

34

35 **Be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference expresses its thanksgiving for all the
36 blessings made possible by the clergy and laity who have contributed to the ministry and mission of the
37 Cadwalader-Asbury United Methodist Church.

38 **Be it further resolved** that in keeping with the provision of ¶2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2016
39 edition, the congregation is discontinued and the assets of the church are transferred to the Trustees of
40 the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 **Be it further resolved** that in keeping with the provisions of ¶ 229 of the Book of Discipline, 2016
2 Edition, the remaining members of the church may be transferred to a United Methodist Church of their
3 choice.

4 **Be it further resolved** that the Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference shall be directed
5 to distribute net proceeds from the disposition of the assets as follows:

6 a) All outstanding loans and other obligations owed to the Greater New Jersey Annual
7 Conference shall be repaid upon the sale of the property, and liquidation of any other asset.

8 **Be it further resolved** that in keeping with the provisions ¶2549.7 of the Book of Discipline, 2016
9 Edition, that remaining proceeds shall be invested with the Harvest Mission Fund for urban ministry and
10 in particular in the city of Trenton. These funds are to be directed through the grant making practices
11 and procedures of GNJ based on the Harvest Mission Fund policies.

12 **Be it further resolved** that in keeping with the provisions ¶2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2016
13 Edition, all deeds, records, legal papers and other official documents shall be maintained in permanent
14 safekeeping with the Conference Commission on Archives and History.

15 Submitted by:
16 Rev. Varlyna Wright
17 Capital District Superintendent

18

19

20

Future Management of Cemeteries Owned by GNJ Annual Conference

21

22 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though*
23 *they die. John 11:25*

24

25 **Whereas** over the past several years The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey has received
26 five (5) cemeteries which were once part of former United Methodist congregations. Approximately
27 20% of GNJ churches own and manage cemeteries. In the 2013 GNJ Congregational study, it was
28 reported that more than 120 congregations will close by 2030 and therefore we can reasonably estimate
29 that we will be managing as many as 25 more cemeteries. Further, we are finding that some
30 congregations are using cemetery perpetual care funds for ongoing church operations. Because we are a
31 connectional system, GNJ has a responsibility to ensure churches are good stewards of the property and
32 resources entrusted to them and prepare for the potential increases of cemeteries under management.

33

34 **Whereas** because of these concerns the 2016 Annual Conference passed the following motion:

35

36 *"Be it resolved that CF&A and the Conference Trustees perform a study on the ways to create a*
37 *permanent fund to handle expenses related to cemeteries that become the responsibility of the*
38 *Conference. The CF&A and Trustees will bring a report to next year's Annual Conference with any*
39 *action they may propose."*

40

41 **Whereas** in September 2016 CF&A and the Conference Trustees mutually appointed a joint Task Force
42 to complete this assignment from the 2016 Annual Conference.

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

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Task Force Members include:

- Mr. Jack Scharf, CF&A, Chair
- Mr. Bob Dietz, CF&A
- Mr. David Yamoah, CF&A
- Ms. Alexa Taylor, Trustees
- Rev. Cliff Still, Trustees
- Ms. Tracy Estes, Trustees
- Mr. Jack Green, Trustees
- Ms. Cari Cruz, Regional Services Manager
- Mr. John Cardillo, Conference Treasurer/DAS
- Ms. Lida DeNardo, Staff
- Mr. Alex Mayer, Property Manager

The Task Force developed a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a professional study of each of the five orphan cemeteries to ascertain:

- Title of Ownership and Deed
- Whether the Cemetery was active or closed
- Whether burials are restricted to members of the UMC or one of the UMC’s historical denominations
- Was a certificate of authority ever obtained for the cemetery going back to 1971
- What funds, if any, were being used to manage the cemetery
- Actual management and maintenance of the cemetery
- What liabilities and costs are currently being incurred for the management of these cemeteries
- Physical size of the cemetery
- Number of graves
- Have any graves been located to other sites
- Have there been any attempts to sell the cemetery property
- Are there any existing liens or lawsuits pending against the property

After reviewing several proposals, the Task Force awarded the study to **Hunter Research, Inc.**, which has done extensive previous historical research on cemeteries throughout New Jersey. The study was conducted between October and December 2016 and the draft report was presented to the Task Force in January 2017.

The Hunter Research, Inc. study addressed all of the above questions and runs 70 pages in length and is available to Conference members. Below is a spread sheet summarizing the key findings for each of these five cemeteries.

- Estellville Methodist Cemetery in Estell Manor, NJ
- Mount Zion Methodist Cemetery in West Cape May
- Pointville Cemetery in Cookstown, NJ
- Union United Methodist Cemetery in Swedesboro, NJ
- Whitesville Methodist Cemetery

Whereas high level key findings from the study include:

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

- 1
- 2 1. The Pointville Methodist Episcopal Cemetery is currently owned by the Pointville Methodist
- 3 Episcopal Cemetery Association and no action is required at the present time except to
- 4 encourage that the existing cemetery association maintain links with the local UMC
- 5 congregation.
- 6 2. Although it is assumed that the other four cemeteries are owned by the GNJAC the titles and
- 7 deeds for these cemeteries could not be located. This is not unusual for historical cemeteries,
- 8 but the GNJAC will have to retain professional legal assistance in either locating or in drawing up
- 9 new deeds and titles for these four cemeteries.
- 10 3. Mount Zion and Union cemeteries are still in use while the Estellville and Whitesville cemeteries
- 11 are currently closed.
- 12 4. Currently these cemeteries are receiving basic maintenance principally through local volunteers.
- 13 Several of the cemeteries are in need of new fences, major clean-up of shrubs, and repairing of
- 14 grave stones. This work will require retaining professional assistance.
- 15 5. There currently are no liens or litigation associated with these cemeteries.
- 16 6. The possibility of selling these cemeteries was discussed with the principals of the study. The
- 17 only feasible sale would be to another cemetery or cemetery association, which would then
- 18 provide on-going management of these cemeteries. A sale to a commercial developer is not
- 19 feasible because of the need to relocate the graves and remains to another acceptable
- 20 cemetery. These costs would be prohibited.

21

Be it resolved

- 23 1. When a church that has a cemetery closes, the trustees through staff will ensure there is an
- 24 accounting of funds and separate perpetual care funds from operational funds. The perpetual
- 25 care funds will go with the cemetery when the property is disposed of.
- 26 2. CFA will conduct a study of all churches with cemeteries and assess:
 - 27 a. The state of perpetual care funds
 - 28 b. How perpetual care funds are invested
 - 29 c. How cemeteries are managed
 - 30 d. Identify which cemeteries may be at risk within the next 10 years
- 31 3. That the Annual Conference authorizes the formation of a Cemetery Association, which will
- 32 have overall responsibility for these four cemeteries and any additional cemeteries acquired by
- 33 the Conference. This Cemetery Association will develop and carry out the on-going
- 34 maintenance and management of conference cemeteries. The Association will work to
- 35 incorporate other United Methodist cemeteries to be a part of the Association.

36

Rationale:

- 38 1. Given the likelihood that the number of cemeteries associated with closed churches will only
- 39 increase with time there needs to be a separate conference entity tasked with the ethical and
- 40 legal responsibility for appropriately managing these cemeteries.
- 41 2. There is a significant ethical and legal liability associated with these cemeteries and the
- 42 formation of a separate Cemetery Association will provide some additional protection for the
- 43 Conference as a whole.

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

- 1 3. Other religious organizations, such as the Roman Catholic Church, which owns and operates
2 many cemeteries, uses this management model of a separate incorporated cemetery
3 association.
- 4 4. That the Annual Conference use the chancellor to obtain clean titles and deeds for these four
5 cemeteries as soon as feasible.

6
7 **Further Rationale:** Clear and free ownership of these cemeteries is essential and should be
8 undertaken as soon as possible. Title and deeds can then be transferred to the newly formed GNJAC
9 Cemetery Association.

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11 Submitted by:
12 Jack Scharf, Chair

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Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

HUNTER RESEARCH, INC.

Table 7.1. Five United Methodist Church Cemeteries - Summary Data

Cemetery Name	Historical/ Alternative Names	Street Address	Municipality	County	Tax Parcel	Current Owner/ Deed	Physical Size	Approx. # of Graves	Earliest Burial	Most Recent Burial	Comments
Estellville Methodist Cemetery	Old Estellville Cemetery; Methodist Episcopal Church at	180 Walkers Forge Road, Estell Manor, NJ 08319	Estell Manor City	Atlantic	Block 42, Lot 15	GNJUMC	0.61 acres	138	1838	1996	church still standing and in occasional use; cemetery is closed and no longer in use
Mount Zion Methodist Cemetery	(Mount Moriah Cemetery)	Shunpike Road, West Cape May, NJ 08204	Lower Township	Cape May	Block 752.01, Lot 37 (two parcels)	Southern NJ Annual Conference of the UMC (GNJUMC); Mt. Moriah Cemetery @ Harris	1.46 acres (two parcels: 1.21 and 0.25 acres)	296	1887	2015	church removed (?1930s); Mt. Moriah Cemetery exists within limits of Mount Zion Methodist Cemetery; cemetery is still in use
Pointville Cemetery	Methodist Episcopal Church at Bethel Cemetery; Pointville Methodist Episcopal Cemetery; (Fort Dix	Texas Avenue (Trenton Road), Cookstown, NJ 08511	New Hanover Township	Burlington	Block 15, Lot 2	Pointville Methodist Episcopal Cemetery Association	2.31 acres	953	1846	2007	church removed in 1949; plot plan exists identifying plot owners and interments; cemetery is still in use
Union United Methodist Church Cemetery	Methodist Episcopal Church of Union Neck Cemetery	2180 Center Square Road, Swedesboro, NJ 08085	Logan	Gloucester	Block 2805, Lot 20	Union United Methodist Church	2.17 acres	413	1844	2016	church still standing (closed 2016); cemetery is still in use
Whitesville Methodist Cemetery	(Jackson Cemetery)	Whitesville Road, Jackson, NJ 08527	Jackson Township	Ocean	Block 22601, Lot 13	Southern NJ Annual Conference of the UMC (GNJUMC)	0.85 acres	306	1818	2015	cemetery used to be associated with nearby Whitesville Methodist Episcopal Church (now St. Thomas A.M.E.); cemetery is closed and no longer in use except for unfilled family-owned plots

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

HISTORICAL AND MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT: FIVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERIES

Table 7.2. Five United Methodist Church Cemeteries - Summary of Current Management and Maintenance Issues

Cemetery Name	Bearer of Maintenance					Recommendations
	Cemetery Association	Cemetery Management	Costs	Liability	Comments	
Estelville Methodist Cemetery	Friends of Old Estelville Methodist Church (unincorporated; not certified by the New Jersey Cemetery Board)	GNJCUMC and Friends of Old Estelville Methodist Church	Friends of Old Estelville Methodist Church (Trust Account held by GNJCUMC)	GNJCUMC	church still standing and used for annual service in October; mowing by Friends group	draw up new deed; strengthen links between Friends group and Mays Landing UMC; renegotiate perpetual care agreement between GNJCUMC and Friends group; repair fence and remove tree limbs and brush
Mount Zion Cemetery	none	GNJCUMC and local volunteers	GNJCUMC; periodic maintenance	GNJCUMC; insured landscape maintenance contractor	major clean-ups in 2000 and 2013; mowing and brush clean-up by contractor hired by GNJCUMC	clarify ownership and draw up new deed; consider sale of cemetery to A.M.E. congregation; strengthen links between GNJCUMC and local A.M.E. and UMC congregations; explore feasibility of creating local cemetery association; continue maintenance on current basis for the time being
Pointville Methodist Episcopal Cemetery	Pointville Methodist Episcopal Cemetery Association (incorporated 1925; certified in 1972 by the New Jersey Cemetery Board [#0202])	Pointville Methodist Episcopal Cemetery Association and JBMDL	Pointville Methodist Episcopal Cemetery Association and JBMDL	none	mowing by prison labor under JBMDL oversight; tree pruning and gravestone repairs by cemetery association; access required through JBMDL Visitor Center	no action required; encourage existing cemetery association to maintain links with local UMC congregation, formalize maintenance arrangements with JBMDL and improve public access
Union United Methodist Church Cemetery	none	GNJCUMC and Union UMC	Union UMC	GNJCUMC and Union UMC		draw up new deed; ensure continuation of cemetery maintenance; further recommendations should await GNJCUMC decisions on future of church and cemetery
Whitesville Methodist Cemetery	Whitesville Cemetery Club (defunct)	local volunteers	none	GNJCUMC	mowing by local volunteers	draw up new deed; establish link between GNJCUMC and local UMC congregation; consider formation of cemetery association to manage cemetery; develop agreement between GNJCUMC and cemetery association or other entity (contractor) to maintain cemetery

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

Student Ministry Plan

Whereas students are a key part of our commitment to reach new generations of disciples of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas a comprehensive plan integrating strategies for camping, IGNITE, youth groups and campus ministry will be more effective and a good steward of resources;

Be it resolved that GNJ proceed in implementing the student ministry plan and integrate it into the GNJ strategic ministry plan.

Student Ministry Plan to be available May 15, 2017.

10 Year Inter-Cultural Competence Plan

Whereas Greater New Jersey is one of the most diverse conferences in the United Methodist Church; and

Whereas a comprehensive plan will guide a process for inter-cultural competence in GNJ that acknowledges, value and celebrates our rich diversity;

Be it resolved that GNJ proceed in implementing the 10-year inter-cultural competence plan and integrate it into the GNJ strategic ministry plan.

Ten-year Inter-Cultural Competence Plan to be available May 15, 2017

Amend Rule #19:

To Provide that all Legislation will receive Consideration by Annual Conference Plenary Session
(Possible impact on the Conference Budget)

Be it resolved that Rule 19, Section b, subsection i is to read:

b. Recommendations - i. The Pre-Conference Workbook shall contain all proposed legislation and all reports of agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils or teams that have been received by the Annual Conference offices by the first business day in March (or such other deadline as the Conference Secretary may establish). **All proposed legislation that has been received by the deadline shall be considered in a plenary session of that year's Annual Conference.**

Rationale: General Conference 2016 has amended the *Book of Discipline* after failing twice to consider all legislation before it and provided in para. 507, sections 10 and 11 of the *Discipline* that all petitions shall receive a vote. Last year was the first time since merger that we have not considered all business before the Annual Conference. Our tradition has been that all submissions receive the respect of

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 consideration by the full body. Whatever the issue, whatever your perspective, we should all be able to
2 agree on this.

3

4 Submitted by,

5 Creed S. Pogue

6 Lay Member to Annual Conference

7 West Side (Millville) UMC, 609-774-0634

8

9 Lee Schubert

10 Lay Member to Annual Conference

11 Morristown UMC, lwschubert@gmail.com

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Plea for Obedience and Unity

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15

16 **Be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference fully supports the church's sexual ethics
17 and its teachings on marriage; it encourages its boards and agencies to abide by them, and its bishop to
18 enforce them.

19 **Rationale:** This is written in the middle of February. The Commission on A Way Forward is working to
20 present recommendations to a possible called General Conference in 2019. We do not know what the
21 Judicial Council will do this spring regarding episcopal leadership in the Western Jurisdiction. Eight
22 Annual Conferences, seven Boards of Ordained Ministry, and two Jurisdictions have stated or voted that
23 they will not fully uphold The Book of Discipline regarding our standards for ordination. We know that
24 our Lord Jesus prayed for the unity of the church (John 17). Our Lord stated that a house divided against
25 itself cannot stand (Mark 3.25). United Methodists are united by a common doctrine, discipline and
26 mission (The Book of Discipline ¶¶ 102-105). We should be able to agree that unity does not necessitate
27 a unanimity of belief but does require faithfulness to the covenant that makes us one. We need to be
28 able to trust each other.

29 Submitted by:

30 Creed S. Pogue

31 Lay Member to Annual Conference

32 West Side (Millville) UMC

33 609/774-0634

34 Rev. Daniel Amey, Brooklawn UMC

35 Rev. Paul Amey, Trinity UMC (Clayton)

36 Rev. Frank Brown, St. Paul's UMC (Port Republic)

37 James Ogilvie, St. John's UMC (Turnersville)

38 Rev. Jerry Ruff, Sharptown UMC

39 Rev. Gary Turk, Billingsport UMC (Paulsboro)

40 Rev. David Wehrle, Leonia UMC

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

Request for BOOM to Consider Solutions to our Current Situation

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Whereas the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference faces a situation of having more clergy looking for full-time appointments than churches able to support a full-time appointments

Be it resolved that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference respectfully urges the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM) to prayerfully consider the broadest range of possible solutions including a temporary moratorium on commissioning new provisional members until our numbers of clergy and pulpits regains equilibrium and respectfully asks that BOOM report back for the 2018 Annual Conference.

Rationale: We are being told that there may be more clergy seeking full-time appointments than we have churches able to support a full-time appointment. When we commission a new provisional elder, we create a time-limited situation since provisional elders are supposed to either be ordained or exit the ordination track within seven years. It is not likely that any changes will be made by General Conference to our current “guaranteed appointment” structure. We may have to look at other ways to support the educational debt load of recent seminary graduates who may be guided to full-time local pastor status. Hoping that current elders in full connection would voluntarily go to part-time status may in the long-term create unintended consequences for our health insurance and pension programs. There are no easy or painless solutions to our current situation but our turnaround efforts may be outpaced for a while by the continuing difficulties of our current situation.

Submitted by:
Creed S. Pogue
Lay Member to Annual Conference
West Side (Millville) UMC, 609/774-0634

Registration Fee for Retired Elders and Deacons in Full Connection (Impact on the Conference Budget)

Whereas retired Elders and Deacons in full connection and retired Associate Members, not under appointment (said clergy) are currently being charged a fee of \$25 to attend a portion of Annual Conference. A portion is defined as less than a day and directly related to the Services of Remembrance; and

Whereas many said clergy are subject to this fee just to attend the Services of Remembrance held during Annual Conference; and

Whereas said clergy can register as a “guest” for free but are charged the fee of \$25 to register as clergy; and

Whereas the privilege of voting rights at Annual Conference should not be conditional on one having paid a fee.

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 **Therefore be it resolved** that no fee will be charged for said clergy to attend a portion of Annual
2 Conference; and

3 **Be it further resolved** that said clergy retirees will be treated and respected as such and given the same
4 lanyard as active Elders and Deacons in full connection.

5 **Rational:** The fee charged to said clergy to attend a portion of the Annual Conference did not exist prior
6 to 2014, and as said clergy receive no goods or services for such registration – other than the right to
7 vote – charging a fee, or having such clergy register as a “guest,” and thus not welcome to sit within the
8 bar of the session, is inappropriate and unjust.

9 **Further Rational:** This motion does not apply to said clergy who choose to pay and attend the entire
10 Annual Conference and receive benefits of food and housing.

11 Submitted by:
12 Rev. Dr. Lawrence H. Potts
13 Franklinville United Methodist Church
14 revlarrypotts@gmail.com
15 (856) 287-2947

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Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

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APPENDIX A Shared Ministry Plan – 2018 Budget

2018 SHARED MINISTRY PLAN		Column C	Column D	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
<u>INCOME:</u>		<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Difference</u>
		<u>Recommended</u>	<u>Expected</u>	<u>Recommended</u>	<u>Expected</u>	<u>Shortfall</u>	<u>2017 to 2018</u>
I. Income from Shared Ministries		11,978,542	10,457,420	11,076,294	9,975,600	1,100,694	(902,248)
II. Income from Reserve Funds / Previous Year Surplus		293,481	293,481	308,000	308,000	-	14,519
III. Centenary Fund Contribution		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	-	-
IV. Interest / Investment Income		150,000	150,000	70,000	70,000	-	(80,000)
V. Additional Funds received in Support of the Budget		154,000	154,000	425,000	806,936	(381,936)	271,000
		12,676,024	11,154,901	11,979,294	11,260,536	718,758	(696,730)
<u>EXPENSE:</u>							
I. CLERGY SUPPORT							
A. District Superintendents Salary, Benefits & Office Exp. Sched.A		1,916,483	1,688,505	1,815,384	1,706,461	108,923	(101,099)
B. Episcopal Fund		463,403	407,795	423,919	398,484	25,435	(39,484)
C. Conference share of Bishop's housing		31,972	28,135	29,931	28,135	1,796	(2,041)
D. Annuity Health Insurance & Benefits		2,401,025	2,112,902	2,315,201	2,176,289	138,912	(85,824)
E. Equitable Compensation		187,500	165,000	175,532	165,000	10,532	(11,968)
F. Conference Board of Ordained Ministry administrative expenses		48,725	42,878	45,615	42,878	2,737	(3,110)
G. Bridge Fund		75,000	66,000	38,298	36,000	2,298	(36,702)
Sub-total for CLERGY SUPPORT		5,124,108	4,509,215	4,843,880	4,553,247	290,633	(280,228)
II. ADMINISTRATION							
A. Conference Council on Finance and Administration expenses		4,545	4,000	4,255	4,000	255	(290)
B. Director of Administrative Services expenses Sched. B		190,678	167,797	182,959	171,981	10,978	(7,720)
C. Director of Communication and Development Sched. B		190,678	167,797	182,959	171,981	10,978	(7,720)
D. Other conference administrative agencies' expense Sched.E		1,714,167	1,508,467	1,637,986	1,539,707	98,279	(76,181)
E. Conf. Sessions (3 days)		274,422	241,491	256,905	241,491	15,414	(17,516)
F. Episcopal Area Office Supplement		166,907	146,878	156,253	146,878	9,375	(10,654)
G. Bishop's Discretionary Fund		11,364	10,000	10,638	10,000	638	(725)
H. Jurisdictional conference administrative apportionments & related exp.		40,909	36,000	40,426	38,000	2,426	(484)
I. General Administration Fund		185,808	163,511	169,977	159,778	10,199	(15,831)
J. Interdenominational Cooperation Fund		41,334	36,374	37,812	35,543	2,269	(3,522)
Sub-total for ADMINISTRATION		2,820,813	2,482,315	2,680,169	2,519,359	160,810	(140,643)
CLERGY SUPPORT/ADMINISTRATION (fund 100)		7,944,920	6,991,530	7,524,049	7,072,606	451,443	(420,872)
III. WORLD SERVICE AND CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCE							
A. World Service Fund		1,539,458	1,354,723	1,431,479	1,345,590	85,889	(107,979)
B. Director of Connectional Ministry - Schedule C		167,766	147,634	160,612	150,975	9,637	(7,154)
C. Non-Cabinet Staff (6) Schedule C		772,926	680,175	888,932	835,596	53,336	116,006
D. Administrative expenses - <i>directly related to the above III.B.</i>		232,955	205,000	218,085	205,000	13,085	(14,889)
E. Connectional Table - Schedule D.		1,072,385	943,699	940,886	884,433	56,453	(131,499)
F. Supplemental Strategic Salary Support		159,091	140,000	148,936	140,000	8,936	(10,155)
Sub-total for WORLD SERVICE/CONF.BEN. (fund 300)		3,944,581	3,471,231	3,788,930	3,561,594	227,336	(155,651)
IV. OTHER APPORTIONED FUNDS							
A. Black College Fund (fund 410)		210,822	185,523	192,859	181,287	11,572	(17,963)
B. Africa University Fund (fund 420)		47,181	41,519	43,161	40,571	2,590	(4,020)
C. Ministerial Education Fund (fund 430)		528,520	465,098	430,296	404,478	25,818	(98,225)
Sub-total for OTHER FUNDS		786,523	692,140	666,315	626,336	39,979	(120,208)
TOTAL EXPENSE (I,II,III, IV)		12,676,024	11,154,901	11,979,294	11,260,536	718,758	(696,730)
Shortfall Budgeted			1,521,123		718,758		
Total Expense Budget		12,676,024	11,154,901	11,979,294	11,260,536	718,758	(696,730)



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**The United Methodist Church
of Greater New Jersey**

RULES OF ORDERⁱ

Paragraph (¶) references are to the *2012 Book of Discipline, as corrected by Errata notations issued by the General Conference*
Portions in “quotations marks” are Disciplinary wording.

GENERAL

These Rules (hereafter called the "Rules") shall be standing rules for the governance of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. At all times, the Rules shall be subject to the provisions of the applicable provisions of the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (hereafter called the "Discipline". Unless otherwise indicated, all paragraph references below shall refer to the paragraph numbers and letters indicating provisions of the Discipline). Except as they may be inconsistent with applicable provisions of the Discipline, the Rules shall remain applicable unless and until modified or suspended as set forth below.

I. MEMBERSHIP

1) **Composition** – “The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing lay members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization and one young person between the ages of twelve and seventeen and one young person between the ages of eighteen and thirty from each district. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members.” (¶ 32) Each church shall elect a lay member and an alternate lay member as outlined in Rule 3a. Additional lay members, as provided in Rule 6, shall be members under the lay equalization formula.

2) **Clergy Membership** – “The clergy membership of an annual conference (¶ 370) shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection (¶ 333), provisional members, associate members (¶ 327), affiliate members (¶¶ 344.4, 586.4), and local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment to a pastoral charge (¶ 317). (See also ¶ 32).” (¶ 602.1)

a. “Clergy members in full connection shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except in the election of lay delegates to the general and jurisdictional or central conferences, and shall have sole responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.” (¶ 602.1a)

b. “Provisional clergy members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. (¶602.b) Provisional clergy members who have completed all of their educational requirements may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional or central conferences. (See Judicial Council Decision #1181 and ¶ 35, Article IV).”

c. Associate clergy members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When

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associate members are members of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. (§ 602.c) Affiliate clergy members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except the constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General, jurisdictional or central conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. (See Judicial Council Decision #1181 and § 35, Article IV).

d. Full-time and part-time local pastors under appointment to a pastoral charge shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments; election of delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When local pastors are members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. (§ 602.d) Local pastors who have completed course of study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional or central conferences. (See Judicial Council Decision #1181 and § 35, Article IV).

3) Election and Qualifications of Lay Members –

a. Lay members and one or more alternate lay members for each church shall be elected quadrennially at the regular meeting of the charge conference following the meeting of the general conference. “Both the lay members and the alternates shall have been professing members in good standing of The United Methodist Church for at least two years and shall have been active participants for at least four years next preceding their election (see § 32), except in a newly organized church, which shall have the privilege of representation at the annual conference session.” (§ 251.2) There shall be no restriction as to the number of terms for which a qualified person may be elected a lay member or alternate lay member.

b. District youth and young adult representatives may be elected annually by the Ministries with Young People Team (or its successor, however named).

4) Seating of Lay Members – Lay members and alternate lay members shall take office as of January 1 following their election, and the term of office shall be for the ensuing quadrennium. If the regular meeting of a Charge Conference is delayed beyond the year of the meeting of the General Conference, the lay member and alternate lay members shall take office immediately upon election. If the office of lay member or alternate lay member of any church becomes vacant during the quadrennium, a replacement for the unexpired term shall be elected at the next regular meeting of the Charge Conference or at a special meeting thereof. Each District Superintendent shall provide the Conference Secretary with a correct list of lay members from charges within the district by January 15 prior to the first meeting of the Annual Conference in the quadrennium. It shall be to the lay members so listed that credentials shall be issued for seating at sessions of the Annual Conference.

5) Lay Representation of a Local Church – If the church’s lay representative to the Annual Conference “shall cease to be a member of the charge or shall for any reason fail to serve, an alternate lay member in the order of election shall serve in place.” (§ 251.2) If there is no alternate lay member who can attend, another lay member or alternate lay member may be elected by the Charge Conference.

a. The pastor may request the District Superintendent to authorize a special session of the Charge Conference for the purpose of electing a lay member or alternate lay member. A special session of the Charge Conference requires the written consent of the District Superintendent in his/her absence, and at least ten days advance notice to its members. (§ 250)

b. The pastor shall report to the District Superintendent and the Conference Secretary, in writing, the name and address of the elected lay member or alternate lay member.

c. Under no circumstances shall a person who is not duly elected as stated above be seated at sessions of the Annual Conference.

6) Equalization of Lay Members – “If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay

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members to equalize the number of lay and clergy membership of the Annual Conference.” (§ 32) Members will be added in the order nominated or recommended for selection until the required number of additional lay members is reached. All terms will be for the quadrennium with the exception of category “i” below which shall be annually.

- a. The following persons shall be named as additional Lay Members to Annual Conference:
 - i. The Conference Secretary, Conference Treasurer, and Conference Statistician, when persons elected to these offices are lay persons who meet the disciplinary requirements for Conference membership and are not otherwise elected.
 - ii. Elected Lay Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.
 - iii. Lay Chairpersons of the following agencies not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference: Council on Finance and Administration, Commission on Archives and History, Commission on Equitable Compensation, Committee on the Episcopacy, Board of Pensions, Board of Trustees, Board of Church and Society, Board of Discipleship, Board of Global Ministries, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Commission on Camps and Conferences, Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, Commission on Religion and Race, Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Commission on Communications, and Commission on the Ethnic Local Church.
 - iv. The past conference Lay Leaders not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference. This includes the former Northern New Jersey and Southern New Jersey Conferences as well as the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.
 - v. Laity members of the Council on Finance and Administration not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.
 - vi. Laity members of the Sessions Committee not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.
 - vii. The District Presidents of United Methodist Women and District Presidents of United Methodist Men not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.
 - viii. Lay Missionaries not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.
 - ix. The District Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.
 - x. The co-secretaries of the Ministries with Young People Team, the Youth Service Fund Chairperson and one additional Youth and Young Adult from each District not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.

b. Nominations for additional Lay members from local churches: In the year preceding the beginning of the quadrennium, the Laity Council shall solicit nominations for additional Lay Members from local churches through Administrative Boards or Councils. The Laity Council will receive the nominations and elect those who will serve as additional Lay Members for the succeeding quadrennium. Vacancies that occur during the quadrennium shall be filled by the action of the Laity Council.

7) Lay Membership – “The lay members of the annual conference shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures except on the granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full conference membership, or any question concerning the character and official conduct of ordained ministers, except those who are lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the committee on investigation.” (§ 602.6)

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8) **Seated Without Vote** – The following shall be seated without vote in the Annual Conference and shall be given the privilege of the floor without vote: student local pastors, lay missionaries regularly appointed by the Board of Global Ministries in fields outside the United States, and the Conference Chancellor(s) “if not otherwise a voting member of the annual conference” (§602.10) The following shall be invited to attend the Annual Conference, without voice or vote, on the same financial basis as members of the Annual Conference: spouses of deceased clergy members, persons not officially eligible for appointment who have been assigned by the District Superintendents between sessions of Annual Conference as pastors in charge with the intention of appointment or reassignment for the ensuing conference year, and persons to be presented for consecration as Diaconal Ministers or ordained as Deacons or Elders. Staff and clerical personnel necessary for the conducting of the Annual Conference Session shall attend at conference expense.

9) **Attendance of Members** – “It is the duty of every member and all provisional members and local pastors of the annual conference to attend its sessions and furnish such reports in such form as the *Discipline* may require. Any such person unable to attend shall report by letter to the conference secretary, setting forth the reason for the absence. Should any ordained minister in active service be absent from the session of the annual conference without a satisfactory reason for the absence, the matter shall be referred by the conference secretary to the Board of Ordained Ministry.” (§ 602.8)

II. ORGANIZATION

10) **Presiding Officer** – The bishop assigned shall preside over the annual conference, or “in case of inability, shall arrange for another bishop to preside. In the absence of a bishop, the conference shall by ballot, without nomination or debate, elect a president *pro-tempore* from among the traveling elders. The president thus elected shall discharge all the duties of a bishop except ordination.” (§ 603.6)

a. The Presiding Officer shall see that all business pertaining to the Conference shall be brought forward and conducted in a proper manner, according to the provisions of the *Discipline* and Rules for the Conference.

b. The Presiding Officer shall decide all questions of order, subject to the right of appeal by any member of the Conference.

c. The Presiding Officer shall appoint all committees and officers not otherwise designated to the Nominating Committee, unless otherwise directed by the Conference.

d. The Presiding Officer shall appoint an elder to preside at the Conference during any temporary absence.

11) **Conference Secretary** – At the session following the General Conference, the Annual Conference shall elect a Secretary to serve for the succeeding quadrennium. The Nominating Committee, in consultation with the Bishop and Cabinet, shall present the nomination. Term of office shall not exceed two consecutive quadrennia. “In the case of a vacancy in the interim of the sessions, the bishop, after consultation with the district superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next session of the annual conference.” (§ 603.7) Term limits of Rule 58a. shall apply.

a. The Secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Conference, authenticating by signature all acts of the Conference.

b. The Secretary shall handle all notification and communications directed by the Conference.

c. Unless otherwise directed, the Secretary shall handle all other matters that normally come under the Secretary’s responsibility.

d. The Secretary shall have the responsibility for editing, publishing and distributing the Journal, Yearbook and Minutes of the Annual Conference.

e. The Secretary shall nominate any staff that require election by the Conference.

12) **Conference Statistician** – At the first session following the General Conference, the Annual Conference shall elect a Statistician to serve for the succeeding quadrennium. “In the case of a vacancy in the interim of the

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sessions, the bishop, after consultation with the district superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next session of the annual conference.” (§ 603.7)

13) **Conference Treasurer** – The “annual conference, on nomination of its council on finance and administration, shall at the first session of the conference after the quadrennial session of the general conference or jurisdictional conference, or at such other times as a vacancy exists, elect a conference treasurer/director of administrative services. If a vacancy shall occur during the quadrennium, the council shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the annual conference.” (§ 619)

14) **Conference Chancellors** – The Annual Conference may designate as Chancellor one or more laypersons, each of whom is a member in good standing of one of the local churches or a clergyperson who is a member of the Annual Conference in the Episcopal Area, and who is a member of the appropriate bar or bars in the Episcopal Area. Each chancellor, who shall be nominated by the Bishop and elected by the Annual Conference, shall serve as legal advisor to the Bishop and the Annual Conference. (§ 603.8)

15) **Conference Parliamentarian** – There shall be a Parliamentarian at each Plenary Session of the Annual Conference. The Bishop shall select the Parliamentarian(s).

16) **Rules of Order Committee** –

a. There shall be a standing Rules of Order Committee of eight (8) members, four (4) clergy and four (4) lay, nominated by the Committee on Nominations. The Conference Parliamentarian, if not already a member, shall be an ex-officio member of this committee with vote.

b. Prior to the consideration of any other business of an Annual Conference Session, the Rules of Order Committee shall present, for informational purposes only, any changes to the Rules mandated by changes in the Discipline.

c. The Rules of Order Committee shall also present for adoption by the Conference any other changes to the Rules that the Committee recommends. If any member of the Annual Conference desires to propose any other change to the Rules, the member shall submit a resolution setting forth the proposed change in accordance with the deadline for submitting proposed legislation. See Rule 19b. Upon its submission, the proposed legislation shall be referred to the Rules Committee for its review and response, prior to any vote on the legislation by the Conference.

III. BUSINESS PROCEDURES

17) **Roll Call** – The Conference Secretary shall take the roll of all members of this Annual Conference, both clergy and lay, by card registration while the Conference is in session, and the attendance shall be recorded in the Journal. Upon registration, members shall receive a name badge which shall state name, church or position, and which shall also indicate voting rights.

18) **The Bar of the Conference** – The bar of the Conference shall be fixed at the beginning of each Annual Conference on motion of the Secretary. All members of the Conference, lay and clergy, must be within the bar of the Conference to have the privilege of the floor and to vote. Other persons shall be seated outside the bar of the Conference as indicated by the ushers.

19) **Pre-Conference Reports and Recommendations** –

a. Reports –

i. There shall be a Pre-Conference Workbook which shall contain all reports of Conference, Jurisdictional and General agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils or teams received at the Conference offices by the first business day of March (or such other deadline as the Conference Secretary may establish). Such reports are to identify how the agency or other body has helped the Conference make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, how the agency has furthered the goals of the Conference, and the goals of the agency or other body for the coming year. Any such report may be included in the Journal of the Annual Conference, subject to editorial corrections, at the discretion of the Conference Secretary. Any recommendations from such an agency or other body must be submitted

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separately as legislation for consideration by the Annual Conference, in accordance with applicable procedures and deadlines for legislation.

ii. Except as provided in (b) below, no reports or recommendations of any Conference agency excepting the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Committee on Nominations, and then only with the consent of the Bishop, shall be acted upon unless (1) they shall have been correctly and timely submitted to be included in the Pre-Conference Workbook as reports or legislation (as indicated above).

b. Recommendations -

i. The Pre-Conference Workbook shall contain all proposed legislation and all reports of agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils or teams that have been received by the Annual Conference offices by the first business day in March (or such other deadline as the Conference Secretary may establish).

ii. All proposed legislation and reports received after March 1 shall be submitted to the agenda committee for review. Upon the agenda committee's recommendation and the bishop's consent, such items may be included in the agenda where urgent and appropriate.

20) **Program** – The program as contained in the Pre-Conference Workbook shall be the official program of the session of the Annual Conference, subject to necessary modifications by the Chairperson of the Session Agenda Subcommittee.

21) **Official Journal** – The Conference Journal, signed by the Presiding Officer and the Secretary, shall be the official Journal of the conference. Among other materials included by the Conference Secretary, the Conference Journal shall contain all legislation and recommendations agreed to by the Annual Conference.

22) **Copy for the Journal** – All materials for publication in the Conference Journal shall be in the hands of the Editor of the Journal (who shall be the Conference Secretary, or a person selected by the Conference Secretary) by the close of the Conference Session. Exceptions to this rule shall be at the discretion of the Editor.

a. All substantive actions of the Conference shall be indicated in the Conference Journal. The Editor of the Journal shall have authority to make all appropriate, non-substantive editorial and conforming changes and corrections. Where explicitly so authorized by the Conference, the Editor of the Journal and the author of the action shall also be empowered to edit the contents of a given action together, to reflect the intent of the Conference. Rationales, preambles or supporting statements shall not be printed except in the case of complimentary resolutions.

b. Memoirs shall be limited to five hundred (500) words.

c. Addresses delivered to the Conference Session shall not be included in the Conference Journal, except for those of the Bishop, the District Superintendents and Conference Lay Leader(s). A motion to so include shall be out of order unless prior permission to make the motion shall have been received in writing by a committee composed of the Secretary of the Conference, the Editor of the Journal, the Chair of the Council on Finance and Administration, the Chair of the Conference Sessions Committee and the Dean of the Conference Cabinet.

23) **Distribution** – The Journal shall be distributed according to the following formula:

a. One mailed paper copy for each surviving spouse of clergy or laity member in the year the Memorial is printed in the Journal at no cost.

b. One paper copy to each conference officers, agency chairpersons, and general and jurisdictional agencies as required by the *Discipline*.

c. One mailed paper copy upon request to retired clergy.

d. A hard copy printed journal will be produced and available to all members upon request. A minimum fee for production and mailing costs will be assessed to each hard copy journal request. The amount to be paid for the journal will be published in advance.

e. An online version of the journal will be available on www.gnjumc.org and available for download and review.

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f. All Annual Conference reports will be made available on the conference website.

g. The Conference Journal will not be produced in CD format.

24) **Copyright** – In order to protect its directories and contents from unauthorized use, the Conference Secretary shall copyright the Journal on behalf of the Annual Conference.

25) **Mail Ballot** - In an emergency situation as declared by the Council on Finance and Administration, a mail ballot may be taken of the Annual Conference. All members of the Annual Conference immediately preceding the emergency will receive ballots. The vote will be confidential with the outside envelope requiring the signature of the member.

IV. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

26) **Order of Precedence of Motions** –

a. Not debatable

Privileged

Fix time at which to adjourn (when compared to other privileged)*#

Adjourn (when compared to other privileged)

Take a recess (when compared to other privileged)*#

Raise a question of privilege

Call for the orders of the day

ii. Subsidiary

Lay on the table (2/3)

Previous question (2/3)

Limit or extend time of debate (2/3)

b. Debatable

Postpone to a certain time

Commit or refer

Amend

Postpone indefinitely

Main motions

* Can be amended; the others cannot be amended. (from *Robert's Rules of Order*)

Is privileged only when other business is before the Conference. (from *RRO*)

27) **Main Motion** – A main motion is a proposal that the Conference take certain action, or that it express itself as holding certain views. Any member may make a motion.

28) **Motions Which Are Not Debatable** – The following motions shall be acted upon without debate:

a. To adjourn, when unqualified, except to adjourn the conference.

b. To suspend the rules. (2/3 vote)

c. To take from the table.

d. To call for the previous question. (2/3 vote)

e. To reconsider a non-debatable motion.

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f. To limit or extend the limits of debate. (2/3 vote)

g. To call for the order of the day.

29) **Precedence of Secondary Motions** – If any one or more of the following motions are pending, the order of precedence in relation to one another shall be the same as the order of their listing below:

a. To fix the time at which the Conference shall adjourn. (This motion is subject to amendment or it may be laid on the table.)

b. To adjourn.

c. To take a recess.

d. To order the previous question.

e. To lay on the table.

f. To limit or extend the limits of debate.

g. To postpone to a certain time.

h. To commit or refer.

i. To amend or substitute.

j. To postpone indefinitely.

30) **When a Second is not Required** – The following do not require a second, pursuant to latest edition of *Roberts Rules of Order*.

a. To raise a question of privilege.

b. Question of order.

c. Objection to the consideration of a question.

d. Call for the order of the day.

e. Call for the division of the question.

f. Call for the division of the Conference (for voting).

g. Call for the motion to reconsider.

h. Filling blanks.

i. Nominations.

j. Leave to withdraw a motion.

k. Inquiries of any kind.

l. Presentation of a report or recommendation by a Conference agency.

31) **Division of Question** – Before a vote is taken, any member has the right to call for the division of the question as the member indicates, if it is subject to division. If no member objects, the division shall be made; but if there is objection, the Chair, not waiting for a second, shall put the division to a vote.

32) **Tabling Related Motions** – No motion that adheres to another motion or has another motion adhering to it can be laid on the table by itself. If they are laid on the table, such motions carry with them the motions to which they respectively adhere or which adhere to them.

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33) Motions After Speaking on a Pending Question –

a. A member may make a motion after a speech, although strict parliamentary practice requires motion to be made and seconded before a speech is made so the Conference may determine if it wishes to hear the matter.

b. No member who has spoken on a pending question shall at the close of the speech have the right to call for the previous question, to move for indefinite postponement, or to lay the motion on the table.

34) Previous Question – To move the previous question is to move that the vote now be taken on the motion or motions pending.

a. When moving a previous question, a member shall indicate to what such action applies if any secondary motion or motions are pending. If the member does not so indicate, the chair may regard it as applying only to the immediate pending question. This vote shall be taken without debate and if, in the judgment of the chair, two thirds (2/3) of those present vote for its adoption, the vote shall be taken on the motion or motion to which it applies.

b. It shall not be in order to move the previous question in cases involving character or Conference relations, or where the Rules otherwise expressly limit when it is in order to move the previous question.

35) Reconsideration of a Question – A motion to reconsider an action of the Conference shall be in order at any time during the prevailing session if offered by a member who voted with the majority. If the motion it is proposed to reconsider is not debatable, the motion to reconsider may not be debated.

36) Suspension of Rules – The application of any of the provisions of these Rules of Order may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Conference.

37) Motions and Resolutions are to be Written –

a. All motions, resolutions and reports shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary, properly signed by the movers thereof.

b. Motions made on the floor shall be written on forms provided by the Secretary.

38) When a Motion is in Possession of the Conference – When a motion is made and seconded, or a resolution introduced and seconded, or a report presented and/or read before the Conference, or stated by the Chair it shall be deemed in possession of the Conference. But any motion may be withdrawn or altered by the mover with the consent of the Conference at any time before voting has commenced.

39) Amendments and Substitutions –

a. Only one amendment to an amendment shall be in order.

b. It is in order to move a substitute for the main motion. In such case, the Chair shall proceed to perfect the original motion. When the main motion has been perfected, the Chair shall state the question on the substitute. If the substitute is adopted, it shall replace the original main motion and become the main motion. The Chair will then state the question on the (new) main motion. The new main motion can be amended only by addition. If the substitute does not carry, the Chair shall state the question on the original main motion as it has been perfected.

40) Order of Amendments – When a main motion, report or resolution is under consideration, only one amendment and one amendment to that amendment are permissible. While there can be only one amendment of each degree pending at the same time, any number of amendments can be offered in succession. A substitute and one amendment to the substitute may be offered while amendments of the first and second degree are pending. The permissive order then is: 1) main motion, 2) amendment, 3) amendment to the amendment, 4) substitute, and 5) amendment to the substitute. The voting in this order is 3, 2, 5, 4, 1. If the substitute becomes the main motion, it shall be treated as such.

41) Appeal – An appeal from the decision of the Chair shall be taken without debate, provided that after the Chair shall have stated the reason for the decision, the appellant may give the grounds for the appeal. (¶ 51)

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42) **The Question of Consideration** – The question of consideration may be raised by any member upon the presentation of any matter that shall be deemed irrelevant, unprofitable or contentious, and shall be decided without debate by majority vote. This applies only to the main motion.

43) **Method of Voting** – Voting shall be by voice vote and/or show of hands, or by standing count (provided that in such a count those who cannot stand may vote by raising hands), or by ballot, at the discretion of the Presiding Officer, unless otherwise ordered by the Conference. It shall be in order for any member to call for a vote by count on any question before the Conference, and, if the call be sustained by one-third (1/3) of the members present and voting, a vote shall be taken as called for.

44) **Robert's Rules of Order, Supplemental Authority** – In any parliamentary situation not covered in these Rules of Order, the Conference shall be governed in its action by the appropriate provisions of the latest revision of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

V. SPEAKING ON THE FLOOR

45) **Securing the Floor** – Before speaking in debate or delivering any matter to the Conference, a member shall approach and wait at a microphone provided for addressing the Conference from the floor, or shall raise a card provided for the purpose of gaining recognition. When the member has been recognized by the Bishop, the member shall proceed to speak at a designated microphone. Before addressing the purpose of speaking, members shall state their names and local church or affiliation.

46) Limitations on Debate –

a. The chairperson of the agency that originated the report or recommendation(s) shall present them as the main motion before the plenary session, and shall have five (5) minutes for comment, except as provided under h) below.

b. If there is a (are) minority report(s) or recommendation(s) from members of the agency, a representative shall be allowed five (5) minutes for a presentation.

c. All debate on the floor of the Conference shall follow the principle of alternate debate, that is, a speaker for, then a speaker against. When no speaker on the side opposed to the last speaker is ready, the President may recognize one who desires to speak on the same side as the prior speaker.

d. No person shall speak more than once on the same question without permission of the Conference, except as provided under g) below.

e. No person shall speak more than three (3) minutes at one time without permission of the Conference, except as provided under a) or h).

f. The initiator of the main motion shall in all cases be entitled to three (3) minutes to either

i. oppose the motion to lay the report or recommendation(s) on the table.

ii. close the debate before the report or recommendation is voted upon.

g. An agency presenting Special Reports at the direction of the Conference shall have sufficient time as determined by the Sessions Committee to present such reports and recommendations.

h. Except for non-debatable motions, no report or motion shall be put to the question without the opportunity having been given for at least two (2) speeches for and two (2) speeches against the pending question. After two (2) speeches pro and two (2) speeches con and provided no secondary (subsidiary, privileged--other than "previous question"-- or incidental) motions come to the floor and no other member seeks the floor to speak on the pending question, the question shall automatically be put to the question.

j. The motion for the previous question shall not be in order on the pending question until opportunity has been given for at least two (2) members to speak on each side of the pending question. If, after reasonable opportunity has been offered by the chair, no member has requested to speak against a resolution, motion or amendment, any member may move the previous question, to close debate. Likewise, if one member has spoken against a resolution, motion or amendment, but, after reasonable opportunity has been offered by the

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chair, no second member has requested to speak against the measure, any member may move the previous question, to close debate.

47) **Representation of Committees** – When the chairperson of a Conference agency is not in harmony with a report or recommendation adopted by the agency, it shall be the chairperson’s duty to state the fact to the agency. The agency may then elect one of its members to represent it in the presentation of the report or recommendation in Conference. If the committee fails to elect such a representative, the chairperson may designate a member to represent the committee.

48) **To Limit or Extend Debate** – To move to limit or extend the limits of debate is in order at any time, except when a member has the floor, except as otherwise specifically provided elsewhere in the Rules.

49) **Interrupting the Speaker** – No one shall interrupt a member who has the floor except for a breach of order, a misrepresentation, a departure from the question, to direct the attention of the Conference that the time has arrived for a special order of the day, or to raise a very urgent question of high privilege.

50) **Questions of Privilege** – All requests from the floor to be recognized for matters of privilege must be made in writing to the Conference Secretary. They shall state the reason for the request to address the conference and the purpose of the request. The requests will be reviewed by a committee composed of the Conference Lay Leader, Conference Secretary, and the Chair of Conference Sessions. The committee shall recommend to the Presiding Bishop whether or not to recognize the requestor for the purpose of presenting the matter of privilege. The Presiding Bishop shall have sole authority in receiving and acting upon the recommendation of the committee.

51) **Announcements, Courtesy Presentations and Distribution of papers** –

a. Announcements of matters of information to the Conference shall be submitted on the Announcement Authorization Form to the Conference Secretary before the conclusion of the plenary session prior to the plenary session when the announcement will be made unless it is an emergency matter which may be submitted as soon as possible after the matter is known.

b. Requests to make Courtesy Presentation speeches during a plenary session by a person not a member of Annual Conference or by a member are subject to the discretion of the bishop. As a general rule, no presentations or speeches will be made to the Conference outside the agenda.

c. Papers or other materials may not be distributed to the members during the Conference sessions, except with express prior permission by the bishop.

52) **Privilege of the Floor for Lay Members of Conference Agencies** – Laypersons not members of the Conference but currently serving on Conference agencies shall have the privilege of the floor without vote.

53) **Lay Officers of a Conference Agency** – Any Lay Officer of any Conference agency, who is not a lay member of the Conference, shall have the privilege to move and defend the report of the group such Lay Officer represents, without vote.

VI. NOMINATIONS

54) **The Committee on Nominations and its Ministry** – The Committee on Nominations will consist of the District Lay Leaders, the Conference Lay Leader, the Director of Connectional Ministries and the District Superintendents. The Committee shall nominate the appropriate number of people each year to the Annual Conference Session for election.

a. The Committee on Nominations will develop and use a system to identify nominees based on their gifts, experience, and skills that will help the Conference achieve its vision, mission and goals as adopted by the Annual Conference, particularly leadership evidenced in making and maturing disciples, growing vital congregations and transforming lives and communities. Additionally, the Committee shall ensure the nominations reflect the diversity of the Conference.

Rules of Order

b. Agency members shall be elected and placed into four staggered classes and each class will serve for a term of two years. An agency member may serve for four terms for a maximum of eight years. Nominations and elections will follow the rotation schedule unless otherwise mandated by the Book of Discipline.

c. In order to aid the Committee on Nominations in its work, it is requested that any member of the Conference who has a personal preference to serve on any particular agency communicate such personal preference to the chairperson of the Committee on Nominations on the appropriate form prior to January 1.

d. Nothing herein shall exclude additional nominations from the floor of the Conference. All nominations from the floor must be submitted on forms supplied in the pre-conference mailing or secured from the Chairperson of Nominations prior to placing the name in nomination. The signatures of the nominator and nominee must be on the form or it will be declared invalid.

55) Chairpersons and Officers –

a. For the sake of empowering diverse leadership, the Committee on Nominations shall nominate, and the Annual Conference elect, all chairpersons and officers for agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils and teams except where the Book of Discipline instructs differently. All terms shall be for the quadrennial, or such other period as specified by the action of the Conference.

b. The Committee on Nominations shall nominate all chairpersons and officers for agencies, boards, commissions, committees, council and teams [hereinafter Agency/Agencies] that the Book of Discipline requires to select its own chair and officers. These nominations shall not come before Annual Conference, but shall be presented directly to the respective Agencies for vote at their first meeting after Annual Conference. In the absence of a duly elected Chair, whose term has not yet expired, the District Superintendent assigned to the agency either permanently, or for the election process, shall chair the meeting until the new chair is elected.¹

c. In all nominations, special attention shall be given to seeking diversity of inclusion by gender, age, racial and ethnic background, and to inclusion of people with disabilities and from all size churches. (See Discipline paragraph 610.5)

56) To Fill Vacancies –

a. The Committee on Nominations is to recommend to the Connectional Table Executive Committee any persons to fulfill an unexpired term of any agency vacancy between Annual Conference Sessions except where the *Discipline* instructs differently.

b. Preference will be given to members of the Annual Conference to serve on conference agencies when they have the skills, experience and qualities being sought for an agency.

c. The Connectional Table Executive Committee shall approve the appointments or request additional nominations, in which case the Committee on Nominations is to submit new nominations. These individuals serve until they or someone else is elected at the next Annual Conference Session.

d. When a person duly nominated and elected to any Conference agency does not attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the agency, it shall be the responsibility of the chairperson to attempt to contact that person by mail or telephone with a view to activation or resignation. The chairpersons shall report in writing annually to the Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations regarding contact with all non-participants and the results of such contacts. This information shall be provided by January 31 of each year.

57) Elections –

a. The report of the Committee on Nominations shall be distributed in the Pre-Conference mailing and/or the packet received at the seat of the Annual Conference. The report shall be presented without reading. Upon adoption of a motion to close nominations, the Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations shall move the election of all nominees whose elections are uncontested.

¹ See Judicial Council decision 1328.

Rules of Order

b. When the number of persons nominated exceeds the vacancies on an agency or when more than one person is nominated for a specific office, there shall be a secret ballot listing only those persons where a contest exists. The ballot will be taken at a time subsequent to the election in a) above. The ballot shall be distributed, collected and tallied by tellers selected by the Conference Secretary, who shall report the results listing only those elected. Election shall be by a majority of those voting. Lacking a majority, there shall be another ballot listing only those receiving 25% or more of the votes.

58) Quadrennial Agencies -

a. An elected member of a conference or district committee, board or agency shall be eligible for not more than two consecutive four year terms unless specified otherwise in the Book of Discipline. Service of two years or more in filling an unexpired or vacated position shall be counted as a full four-year term. For this purpose, annual conference to annual conference shall be considered one year, regardless of the actual dates of the conferences.

b. Persons elected by the Annual Conference to serve in an affiliated organization* may serve in accord with the by-laws of the organization in which they are elected to serve, except that no term of office may exceed five years. All persons elected or reelected to serve in an affiliated organization shall be elected in accord with the Annual Conference rules on nomination and election.

*An affiliated organization is one that wishes to maintain a connectional relationship with the United Methodist Church through the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

c. Members of the Annual Conference who are voting members of a general agency shall serve as ex-officio (with vote) members of the corresponding annual conference agency or its equivalent structure (§§610.6, 710.4 and 710.6).

59) **Quorum** – The members present and voting at any duly announced meeting of a Conference agency, board, commission, committee, council or team shall constitute a quorum.

60) **Limitations of Service** – No person shall be elected to more than two conference agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils or teams, except for persons who are ex-officio members by virtue of an office or as a member of a general agency.

61) **District Superintendent Voting** – A District Superintendent regularly assigned to any Conference agency by the Cabinet shall have a vote in that agency, and shall be the only District Superintendent who shall have the right to vote in such agency, except where the *Discipline* provides otherwise.

VII. PETITIONS AND ELECTIONS TO GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

62) **Petitions to General Conference** – All petitions to General Conference shall be presented as prescribed in ¶ 507 of the *Discipline*. Petitions for endorsement by the Annual Conference to General Conference will only be considered in the year in which General Conference delegates will be elected.

63) **Nominations** – In a year in which elections to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences are to be held, the Conference Secretary shall open nominations for lay and clergy delegates on December 15 and nominations will be closed on February 15. An individual who desires to be a delegate shall download and complete a candidacy nominations form from the web page. On the bottom of nominations for Lay Delegates shall be the names of two Lay Members of the Annual Conference who endorse the nomination of the candidate. On the bottom of nominations for Clergy Delegates shall be the names of two Clergy Members who are eligible to vote for such delegates, and who endorse the nomination of the candidate.

a. Nominees may address their respective sessions for no more than one minute each, provided that no more than forty five minutes shall be allotted for speeches. If more than 45 lay persons or clergy persons are nominated, the allowed times for individual speeches will be adjusted accordingly. No speeches regarding nominees will be in order after the original time allotted for such speeches.

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64) **Balloting** – The Conference Secretary shall announce the number of clergy delegates to be elected. A like number of lay delegates will be elected.

a. The time of initial balloting shall be set by the agenda committee.

b. Balloting shall be by electronic or mechanical means.

c. The Secretary shall announce a Chief Clergy Teller and a Chief Lay Teller, and two lists each of clergy and lay assistants.

65) **Voting** – All members, lay and clergy, must be within the bar of the Conference to be eligible to vote.

a. Before each ballot, the President shall announce the number of delegates each ballot shall elect. To be effective, a ballot must list the exact number of names of lay or clergy delegates to be elected.

b. The intent of the voter shall be allowed regardless of mistakes in spelling.

c. Where there is more than one member with the same family name, the Christian name or identifying initials shall precede the family name.

d. A majority of valid votes cast shall be necessary for election, except on the ballot to elect reserve delegates pursuant to Rule 68.

e. Only those nominated are eligible for election. If a ballot lists someone who has not been nominated, the ballot will be disqualified.

66) **Counting and Reporting** –

a. After a ballot has been counted, the chief teller, either clergy or lay, shall furnish a written report to the bishop, which shall contain (a) the number of ballots cast; (b) the number of ballots not valid; (c) the number of valid ballots counted; (d) the number of ballots necessary to elect; and (e) the list of names of persons voted for, including the number of votes received by each. The results will be disclosed or displayed before the next ballot is taken.

b. **Minimum Votes.** On the first ballot for both General Conference and the jurisdictional conference, the presiding officer shall read or distribute all names receiving 5 or more votes, together with the number of votes cast for each. Thereafter, the minimum number of votes received to be included in the next ballot shall be increased by five for each delegate elected (that is, on the first ballot a minimum of 5 votes to be included in the next ballot; after the election of the first delegate, a minimum of 10 votes to be included in the next ballot; after the election of the second delegate, a minimum of 15 votes, etc.). After the ballot in which the last delegate is elected to the General Conference, all the names that were originally nominated are available for election to Jurisdictional conference. Those elected to General Conference will not be listed.

c. If necessary, another ballot shall be taken in like manner, and so on, until the proper number of delegates has been chosen.

67) **Qualifications** –

a. **Clergy Delegates** – The *Discipline*, ¶ 35 (Article IV), permits any active or retired member of the Annual Conference in full connection to be eligible for election to the General or Jurisdictional Conferences.

b. **Lay Delegates** - The *Discipline*, ¶ 36 (Article V), asserts that lay delegates shall be elected “without regard to age, provided that such delegates shall have been professing members of the United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in the United Methodist church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the Annual Conference electing them at the time of holding the General and Jurisdictional Conferences.”

68) **Reserve Delegates** – After the authorized numbers of delegates have been elected, 3 clergy and 3 lay reserve delegates shall be elected on a single ballot, with the 3 persons receiving the greatest number of votes in each category being elected in the order of the number of votes received.

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VIII. CONCERNING FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

69) **Budget** – The Annual Conference shall adopt at each Annual Session a budget for each of the following: Clergy Support, Administrative Costs of the Annual Conference, World Service, Conference Benevolences, and other Apportioned Funds. These budgets become effective for the fiscal year beginning on January 1st following the session. Apportionments of these budgets shall be sent to the several churches as soon after the session as is feasible.

70) **Apportionments** – The Conference Shared Ministry Budget shall be apportioned annually among the churches of the Conference according to a formula recommended by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and adopted by the Annual Conference. Following adoption, the formula will remain in effect until such time as changes are recommended by the CF&A and adopted by the Annual Conference. The formula shall be outlined on a Shared Ministry data sheet, which shall be distributed to the churches as soon as practical after the end of each year's annual conference, but in no event later than the end of the fiscal year.

71) **Prior Action by Council on Finance and Administration** – Every motion, recommendation, resolution or other legislative act having to do with budgeting, apportionments, allotments or expenditure of funds shall first be submitted to the Council on Finance and Administration. After adequate time is allowed for investigation and study, the council shall report its recommendation to the Conference. This report shall be received before such legislation may be acted upon by the Annual Conference.

a. No agency or member of the Conference shall commit the Conference financially for the support of programs within or beyond the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference without first obtaining the approval of the Annual Conference after study and recommendation of the Council on Finance and Administration, and not until funds are available or have been allocated to meet such commitments.

b. Any person or agency requesting an emergency offering should contact one of the Team Coordinators, who will present the matter to the Cabinet and the Council on Finance and Administration. Any funds received as a result of such an offering will be held by the treasurer and administered by a task force established by the Cabinet for that particular appeal.

72) **Time Limit on Submitting Budget Requests** –

a. Requests for inclusion of an item in the Clergy Support Budget and/or the Administrative Costs of the Annual Conference Budget to be acted on by an Annual Conference shall be submitted to the Treasurer's office by the third Monday of January preceding the date of the Annual Conference, except in cases of unavoidable emergency.

b. Requests for inclusion of an item in the World Service Budget and/or the Conference Benevolences Budget to be acted on by an Annual Conference shall be submitted to the Connectional Table by January 15 preceding the date of the Annual Conference, except in cases of unavoidable emergency.

73) **Amending Allotments** – An agency shall not attempt to amend its allotment in a proposed budget submitted to an Annual Conference unless it has previously presented an appeal to the Council on Finance and Administration at a meeting held preceding the date of the Conference.

74) **Increased Asking by Amendment** – In amending a proposed budget on the floor of the Annual Conference, no item shall be increased above the amount originally requested by the responsible agency in its asking to the Council on Finance and Administration, except when the consent of both the agency and the Council on Finance and Administration has been obtained.

75) **Proper Use of Budgeted Funds** – No agency of the Conference shall spend budgeted funds for any purpose other than the general purpose for which the funds were originally requested, unless the consent of the Council on Finance and Administration and the Ministries Team has been obtained for such a reallocation. An expenditure item shall be budgeted for the year when it is expected to be spent, and it shall be spent only in the year for which it is budgeted. When uncontrollable circumstances warrant, an emergency request may be directed through the Ministries Team to the Council on Finance and Administration for a budget adjustment.

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76) **Financial Appeals to the Churches** – Any agency planning to send a communication or appeal to the churches requesting contributions to any agency or fund shall first submit its proposed communication or appeal to the Council on Finance and Administration. The Council shall ascertain if the procedure is in accord with existing legislation, and shall make certain that remitting instructions are correct. Any contribution received by the Conference Treasurer in response to a communication which has not been cleared as herein provided shall be credited automatically to World Service and Conference Benevolences through the remitting church.

77) **Customary Draft** – When presented and endorsed, the customary draft from the United Methodist Publishing House shall be turned over to the Conference Treasurer for pensions for clergy of the central conferences.

78) **Bonding** – All persons who hold or disburse conference funds shall be bonded in such amounts as may be deemed wise by the Council on Finance and Administration.

79) **Fiscal Year** – The fiscal year shall coincide with the calendar year, unless another fiscal year is designated by the Conference Treasurer after approval by the Conference. All payments to be credited to a given fiscal year shall be in the hands of the Conference Treasurer not later than the following January ~~10th~~ 20th. All local church financial reports shall be forwarded to the Conference Treasurer by a deadline to be announced annually.

80) **Audit** – The Council on Finance and Administration shall be responsible for arranging that a Certified Public Accountant shall audit the accounts of the Annual Conference. The Council on Finance and Administration shall publish a statement of Certification of each audit in the Journal.

IX. CONSENT CALENDAR

81) **Consent Calendar** –

a. The Conference Agenda Committee may present to the Annual Conference a proposed consent calendar, including those items which the Annual Conference may approve with one vote of approval by the Conference membership.

b. A written list of items on the consent calendar, including the name of the motion, name of the author, and page number in the Pre-Conference Workbook will be presented to all members of the Conference upon check-in at the Conference session.

c. The consent calendar list will include a space where Conference members may check any item(s) which they would like to see removed from the consent calendar.

d. To vote to remove an item from the consent calendar, Conference members must:

i. Check the item(s) they wish to see removed from the list, or

ii. Write in an item which has been added subsequently by Conference action.

iii. Print his or her name and church on the list, and sign the list.

iv. Bring the list to the Conference Secretary's table and give the list to the Conference Secretary or one of the Assistant Secretaries.

e. If any item on the consent calendar receives ten (10) or more such votes in favor of removing it from the consent calendar, that item will be removed and placed on the Conference agenda by the Agenda Committee.

f. All requests for items to be removed from the consent calendar shall be delivered to the Conference Secretary as early as possible, but no requests will be received within the last twenty-four (24) hours before the stated time of adjournment of the Conference session. During this last twenty-four (24) hour period, items may only be removed from the consent calendar by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the Conference.

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X. NOMINATION OF EPISCOPAL CANDIDATES

82) **Nomination of Episcopal Candidates** - The procedure for nomination of Episcopal Candidates to the Jurisdictional Conference as permitted by ¶405 of the *Book of Discipline* shall be as follows:

a. In a year in which one or more Episcopal Candidates are to be nominated by the Annual Conference, the Conference Secretary shall provide for the receiving of nominations until the deadline for submission of proposed legislation for that year's annual conference. Each proposed nomination shall be submitted on one side of an 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper or by electronic means designated by the Conference Secretary. Only eligible persons may be nominated. The Bishop shall, before the ballot is taken, remind the Annual Conference of the eligibility requirements for election to the office of the episcopacy.

b. The Jurisdictional Conference delegates (acting as a group) shall have the privilege to speak to the Annual Conference on behalf of the person(s) they have endorsed for nomination to the episcopacy (provided they have submitted such nomination in the manner described in Rule 82(a) above). If no other nominations have been submitted as indicated in Rule 82(a) above, the Bishop shall call for a vote of the body. A majority vote will be sufficient for this person (these persons) to be recognized as the episcopal nominee(s) of the Annual Conference.

c. If there are additional nominations submitted in accordance with Rule 82(a) above, the Bishop shall call for a written or electronic ballot following this procedure:

i. Nominees may each give a three minute speech. There shall be no seconding speeches.

ii. If any ballot contains the name of an ineligible person, that name shall not be tallied, but other names on the ballot shall be tallied.

iii. Conference members may vote for one such nominated individual. An individual must receive 60% of those voting to be nominated by the Annual Conference. If an individual does not receive 60% of the vote by the fifth ballot there will be no nominee. If someone is nominated, the conference will take up to three ballots to see if a second person is nominated. If no one receives 60% of the vote by the third ballot there will not be a second nominee. Those who do not wish to see anyone nominated may so indicate that desire on their ballots (in the manner prescribed by the Conference Secretary) and the ballot shall be counted as cast.

d. Only the persons selected in the foregoing manner shall be deemed Nominees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

e. This procedure shall not foreclose efforts by individuals or groups in the Annual Conference to promote the candidacy for the episcopacy of other persons.

XI. RULES OF ORDER RESOLUTIONS

83) **Resolutions to change the Rules of Order** –

a. Any resolution or proposed change, by addition or deletion to the Rules of Order, with the exception of **VIII. Concerning Financial Operations**, shall first be referred to the Committee on Rules of Order for its recommendation. The Committee shall submit its recommendation to the body prior to any action by the body. The initiator of any proposed change to be included in the Pre-conference mailing shall at the same time submit a copy of said proposed change to the chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Order. The Rules Committee may request a meeting with the initiator prior to the convening of the Annual Conference.

b. If the change is proposed at the site of the Annual Conference, it shall be referred to the Committee on Rules of Order and a report to the body will be made no later than the next plenary session.

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XII. HOLY CONFERCING PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITIONS

84) A procedure to facilitate holy conferencing shall be used, at the Bishop's discretion, to discuss petitions to General Conference regarding issues related to human sexuality or such other issues that would benefit from the same procedure.

A special order of the day will be established to provide for holy conferencing. The special order of the day shall proceed as follows:

- 1) Representatives of the two primary positions selected by the Bishop will each make a twenty-minute presentation.
- 2) Upon conclusion of the opening presentations, the Bishop shall bring the Conference into silent prayer for two minutes.
- 3) Then ten minutes will be provided for delegates to share what they heard with their fellow Christians seated to their immediate left and right. This is not a time for debate, but rather to listen to what their neighbors heard.
- 4) The Bishop will then call the Conference to order. Delegates will then have the opportunity to share their thoughts with the Conference. The Bishop shall establish a total amount of time for discussion, not to exceed sixty minutes. No member may speak longer than two minutes. All speakers will be notified when ten seconds remain of their time. The speaker will be allowed to finish a sentence at the expiration of allotted time. Then, that microphone will be cut off and the next speaker will be recognized. This will continue until the total allotted minutes have elapsed or everyone who wished to be recognized had an opportunity to speak, whichever comes first. No subsidiary, privileged or incidental motions will be in order during this time of discussion.
- 5) The regular business of the Conference will then resume.

At a previously noted time during plenary session on the following session day, the petitions will be voted upon by secret written ballot. Thirty minutes will be allotted for this vote. No debate or motions will be in order at this time.

XIII. HOLY CONFERCING PROCEDURE FOR PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

85) A procedure to facilitate holy conferencing shall be used at the Bishop's discretion to discuss proposed Constitutional amendments coming from the General Conference.

A special order of the day may be established to provide for holy conferencing. The special order of the day shall proceed as follows:

1. The co-chairs of the delegation to General Conference will present the proposed amendments to the Conference in a fifteen-minute presentation.
2. Upon conclusion of the opening presentation, the Bishop shall bring the Conference into silent prayer for two minutes.
3. Then up to ten minutes will be provided for members to share what they heard with their fellow Christians seated to their immediate left and right. This is not a time for debate, but rather to listen to what their neighbors heard.
4. The Bishop will then call the Conference to order. Members will then have the opportunity to share their thoughts with the Conference. Sixty minutes will be allotted for this. No member may speak longer than two minutes. Each speaker will be notified when ten seconds remains of their time. The speaker will be allowed to finish a sentence at the expiration of their time. Then, that microphone will

Rules of Order

be cut off and the next speaker will be recognized. This will continue until sixty minutes have elapsed or everyone who wishes to speak has been recognized whichever comes first. No changes are permitted to be made to Constitutional amendments.

5. The regular business of the Conference will then resume.

At a previously noted time during a subsequent plenary session, the amendments will be voted upon by secret ballot. Members will be able to vote in favor of or against each individual amendment. If a member wishes to abstain, the member will leave the ballot blank for that particular amendment.

Should any of the foregoing Rules of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference be in conflict with the provisions of the current Book of Discipline, then the provisions of the Discipline shall take precedence.

ⁱ As amended by the Seventeenth Session of the Annual Conference, May 2016

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ACROSS GNJ
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opportunities
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Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

A Future With Hope

A Future With Hope (AFWH) is a GNJ Vital Mission Partner working to extend our conference mission and ministry. Organized in 2012 to provide relief and recovery following Superstorm Sandy, AFWH has accomplished the following in support of this ministry.

- Disaster case management services provided to 452 families
- Repaired or built 254 homes
- Housed and utilized the skills of more than 11,000 volunteers from 36 states and Canada
- Raised more than \$16 million dollars toward Sandy recovery efforts

Currently there are an estimated 3,000 families who have not yet completed their Sandy recovery and AFWH is one of the last remaining ministries still available to support these families. Working collaboratively with three other community partners we recently received access to funds in excess of \$1.8 million dollars to bolster our generous UMCOR grant and donations received through the A Future With Hope Mission Campaign. We are blessed by the continued support of many GNJ churches who serve as volunteer host sites, organize and send volunteer teams, provide volunteer meals and offer generous financial support.

When organizing, AFWH also recognized the need, and set aside funds for, rebuilding communities through community development ministry. While disaster recovery continues, AFWH is also expanding into this new area of ministry focusing in three areas.

- Engaging congregations and communities in Communities of Hope training. Communities of Hope trains congregations and communities in strategic planning, community organizing, systemic change, and working inter culturally. At the end of the training, each Community of Hope team has a community strategic plan to guide its work.
- Developing, overseeing and resourcing Hope Centers. Hope Centers are congregations and community centers affiliated with GNJ that identify and provide needed services within a community.
- Leading community economic development projects that include housing development and repurposing church buildings.

To date eleven GNJ United Methodist churches have completed Communities of Hope Training and have been commissioned to carry out their strategic plan. In the area of Hope Center development, CAMP YDP continues a successful turnaround with outstanding growth from 30 to 110 students enrolled in just 11 months. Additional Hope Center exploration continues in eight communities including Paterson, Jersey City, North Hudson, Camden, Roebing, East Brunswick, Bridgeton and Atlantic City. Our near term goals for this area of ministry include Communities of Hope Training for an additional 15-20 congregations and the development of 5 to 10 Hope Centers.

A Future With Hope is exceedingly grateful to Bishop Schol for his vision to create a God-sized ministry to support not only Sandy Survivors but all those in need throughout New Jersey.

Submitted by:
Bobbie Ridgely
Executive Director

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

Africa University

Africa University ended 2016 poised to celebrate its Silver Jubilee and eager to embrace new opportunities for transformative ministry over the next 25 years.

It is a great joy to recognize and thank the Greater New Jersey Conference for a 100 percent investment to the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2016. All ten conferences in the Northeastern Jurisdiction led by example, giving to the AUF at 100 percent or higher for the second consecutive year. In 2016, the tremendous commitment to connectional giving and participation of local churches enabled 34 of the 56 United Methodist annual conferences in the United States — up from 32 in 2015 — to invest 100 percent or more of their asking to the AUF.

The university community acknowledges, with heartfelt appreciation, the many ways in which the Greater New Jersey Conference has been active, faithful, and generous in helping Africa University to realize its mission.

Through Africa University, the Greater New Jersey Conference helps young people to discover and sharpen their gifts for leadership. The dream of the global United Methodist Church is alive in the contributions of the university's 7,000+ graduates. More than 90 percent of these graduates are still in Africa, serving communities in 32 countries. Currently, more than two dozen Africa University graduates are missionaries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe, under the auspices of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. People who would otherwise be on the margins are actively bringing God's grace, peace and abundance to the lives of others.

Over the past year, your Africa University has continued to evolve and serve by:

- Restructuring its academic units in order to remain relevant and provide a broader-based education to meet new demands in the African workforce.
- Providing leadership formation experiences and learning for more than 1,400 students from 26 African countries. (*Contrary to the norm for African higher education institutions, women represented more than half of the student body.*)
- Generating new knowledge and capacity to support peacebuilding and to improve food security, human rights, and leadership for the African continent.

The ongoing support of the Greater New Jersey Conference is of vital importance to Africa University. As part of its observance of AU's 25th anniversary, we invite the individual members as well congregations and districts of the conference to celebrate Africa University. Engage in a season of daily prayer for Africa University. Join Africa University's honorary alumni association. Consider hosting a special "AU@25" event or Africa University Sunday in your local church or area. Use your event to increase awareness of Africa University's ministry and invite attendees to each give at least \$25 each in honor of the 25th anniversary.

Thank you for your unwavering response to the call to faith, hope, action and renewal in the world. We pray that blessings continue to abound for all who lead and serve in disciple-making ministry in the Greater New Jersey Conference.

Submitted by:

James H. Salley

Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

Africa University Development Office, P O Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007

Tel: (615) 340-7438, jsalley@gbhem.org , www.support-africauniversity.org

1 **Archives and History, Commission on**

2
3 2016 was a fruitful year for the Commission on Archives and History (CAH) as we engaged in the ministry
4 of memory. We equip clergy and lay leaders to strengthen our Wesleyan identity, as we fulfill our
5 Disciplinary mission to identify, preserve and make available the historic record of ministry within GNJ.
6 Highlights include:

7 **Ancestry.com:** Our GNJCAH page on Ancestry.com received a total of **481,790 hits** between its inception
8 in February 2016 and December 31, 2016. Our closed church vital statistics (births, baptisms, deaths,
9 marriages, etc.) have been digitized, are now being searched on a daily basis and are available far
10 beyond GNJ!

11 **History Awards:** We award the 2017 **Robert B. Steelman Methodist History Award** to the **Friendship**
12 **UMC in Monroeville, NJ**, for submitting the best overall church history within GNJC this year. The
13 Steelman Award is given annually to the local church that submits a history which best exemplifies an
14 inclusive narrative on the life and ministry of the congregation from its beginnings to the present day.
15 We congratulate Friendship UMC and especially commend Rick Krassow, Church Historian, for
16 undertaking and completing an excellent church history. We award the **2017 Multi-Media Local Church**
17 **History Award** to **Midvale United Methodist Church of Wanaque, NJ**, which is recognized for
18 submitting the best overall multi-media church history within GNJC. This is a special recognition, as this
19 is the first-ever presentation of the Multi-Media Local Church History Award. We are excited to give that
20 honor to Midvale UMC and commend Marie Mahler, Church Historian, for developing and submitting
21 this unique local church history. We extend special thanks to each church and church historian who
22 submitted publications for consideration this year. We are grateful for the high caliber of the histories
23 we received.

24 **Conference Historic Sites:** We are presenting three nominations for Conference Historic Site status to be
25 approved by vote of the 2017 Session of GNJAC. These three recommended sites are the St. John UMC
26 in Fordville, NJ; Frankford Plains UMC in Frankford Plains, NJ and The Old Stone Church / St. Paul's
27 United Methodist Church, in Nyack, NY (please see the individual recommendations for specific
28 information about each church).

29 **Archivist:** Our volunteer archivist, Walt Jones answered 53 information requests ranging from
30 membership, baptism, marriage, death, and local church information. He also worked with
31 Ancestry.com to finish the digitization of closed local church records and make them available on the
32 Ancestry website.

33 **Speakers:** We also supported local churches by providing speakers and attending celebrations. Our
34 chairperson preached at Flanders UMC's 227th Anniversary Service and attended the 150th Anniversary
35 celebration for Linden UMC. Another member spoke at both Flanders and Mendham UMCs. Our
36 members remain available to support other congregations reflect on their Wesleyan identity and
37 historic role within Methodist mission in GNJC.

38 **NEJCAH:** We continue to have a representative, Donald DeGroat, serving on the Northeast Jurisdiction
39 Commission on Archives and History (NEJCAH) Executive Board, which gives GNJCAH a presence and
40 leadership role on the jurisdictional commission. Additionally, four other commission members
41 attended the 2016 NEJCAH Annual Meeting in Dover, Delaware in April of 2016, where our conference
42 delegation actively participated in and supported the ministry of the Jurisdictional Commission.

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1 **Best Practices:** Our recent publication, [Celebrating the Ministry of the Delaware Conference](#), has been
2 shared with other groups by Rev. Fred Day, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives
3 and History (GCAH), as a model for promoting their mission. Further, GNJCAH is still being utilized
4 periodically as an example in the GCAH social media outlets. We are thus becoming known in our
5 connectional circles as a leader in the field.

6 **Digital Library:** We began moving our digital library to Internet Archive (IA) website. IA is a free service
7 that will allow us to post an unlimited amount of historical material on the internet. To date, all of our
8 Historical Trail and Circuit Rider publications (SNJ & NNJ historical journals) have been uploaded to the
9 IA website through the dedicated efforts of Mark Shenise. Moving our digital library to the IA website
10 will significantly increase the volume of historical resources we are able to make available online
11 without raising GNJC data rates.

12 **Heroes of Faith:** During the coming year, we plan to develop a series of short resources that tell the
13 stories of our “Heroes of Faith.” Our goal is to highlight inspirational faith stories, especially those of
14 laity. As the project develops, we hope to highlight stories about vital ministry in our present and
15 reinforce that preserving our history is simply about telling our story faith.

16 **Hispanic/Latino Working Group:** Our chair attended a GCAH conference led by the Committee on the
17 Study of the History of Hispanic/Latino United Methodism held in October at Drew University in
18 Madison, NJ. The agenda was to identify ongoing efforts to collect, preserve and publish the story of
19 Hispanic/Latino ministries within NEJ and to develop strategies for strengthening those efforts. As a
20 result, GNJCAH plans to partner with the GNJ Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries to create a
21 working group to craft strategies that will work within our conference.

22 **Archival Depository:** We provide for the safekeeping of the historical records of all closed churches
23 within the bounds of our annual conference and its antecedents and for the retention of corporate
24 records of conference boards, agencies and committees. Our collection is housed in a fire-safe and
25 climate controlled archival depository located in the GCAH vault at Drew University in Madison, NJ. Our
26 archives space is secured through a unique and cost effective rental agreement with GCAH, which
27 insures the preservation of our historical records and models good stewardship by limiting the impact of
28 archival costs on our shared ministry budget.

29 **Resourcing:** In addition to the items noted above, CAH continued to fulfill its Disciplinary mandate by
30 posting resources on our CAH webpage on the GNJ website and by hoisting a display table at annual
31 conference.

32 **Collaboration:** We co-sponsored a program entitled “**Celebrating the Ministry of the Delaware**
33 **Conference**” on November 12th in collaboration with the Mt. Zion UMC in Lawnside, NJ and the GNJC
34 Historical Society. Bishop Ernest S. Lyght spoke about the history and unique spiritual experience within
35 the former segregated conference of African American churches within the boundaries of the present
36 GNJC. He identified what African American Methodists both gained and lost when the Delaware
37 Conference was integrated into the Caucasian SNJ & NNJ (predecessors to GNJ) Conferences. The local
38 history tour focused on the historical significance of Lawnside and Mt. Zion UMC in the resistance to
39 racial prejudice and the struggle for African American self-determination. The day was a success, with
40 many laity expressing appreciation for us honoring an important part of their spiritual heritage. We were
41 privileged to support Mt. Zion’s ongoing effort to lift up the historical significance of their congregation’s
42 witness and mission, which includes leadership in the formation of the Underground Railroad, providing
43 a safe haven for freed blacks and escaped slaves prior to and during the Civil War, and being a place of
44 security and support for African Americans to this day. Many participants expressed that they found the

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 day very moving. Several African American participants expressed appreciation that the program
2 honored the uniqueness and vitality of the spiritual heritage in which they were raised, but had become
3 distanced from due to the integration of their churches into the Caucasian church's structural culture.
4 Others expressed gratitude for Bishop Lyght identifying how African Americans provided leadership and
5 important social justice witness within the greater church, through resistance to racial prejudice and by
6 modeling the role of women in lay leadership. One attendee even stated that the program helped her
7 see that her community was not helpless but, in fact, spoke truth to power through their efforts to resist
8 racism and embrace self-determination. Likewise, many Caucasian participants expressed a new level of
9 awareness about how difficult the African American experience has been and gained greater sensitivity
10 to how contemporary issues are experienced within the that community. All throughout the program
11 was woven the power of faith to undergird and transform lives and the ongoing witness of the
12 Methodist church, all be it imperfect, to embrace a vision of racial inclusion and social justice, and
13 provide consistent opportunities to move in that direction.

14 Submitted by:
15 Rev. John D. Callanan, Chairperson
16 jcallanan@umcommunities.org
17 (908) 596-0412 (c)

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Boston University School of Theology

21

22 Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! The Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) travels with you
23 in the vital journey of seeking God, building knowledge, and equipping leaders for the church and
24 society. We celebrate our students, alums, and church partners, who join hands in serving God and
25 building toward transformed communities.

26

27 **BREAKING NEWS:**

- 28 • **Congregations:** We welcomed Jonathan Calvillo as a new faculty member in sociology of
29 religion, leading us toward better understanding of congregations and faith identity. See also
30 our website of congregational resources: [http://www.bu.edu/cpt/current-projects-
31 2/congregational-research-and-development/](http://www.bu.edu/cpt/current-projects-2/congregational-research-and-development/).
- 32 • **Doctor of Ministry:** The DMin program in Transformational Leadership is soaring with deeply
33 committed student cohorts who are widely ecumenical, culturally diverse, and increasingly
34 global. The blended model includes intensives, online courses, and close work with faculty
35 mentors.
- 36 • **Scholarships:** We multiplied funding for student scholarships and housing, including the Vincent
37 Machozi Scholarship for African students who seek to cultivate ministries of compassion, justice,
38 & peace in their homelands.
- 39 • **Religion and Arts Initiative:** The Initiative sponsored a hymn-writing contest this year,
40 complementing the photography contest last year and STH's rotating art exhibits. The current
41 exhibit focuses on ecological healing: "Sense of Place" by women print-makers from Ecuador
42 and Maine.

43

44 **PARTNERING FOR MINISTRY AND TRANSFORMATION:** Preparing students for ministry means
45 meaningful partnerships with the local spiritual community.

- 46 • **Congregational courses:** Courses in congregations with church leaders and students learning
47 together.

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- 1 • **Religion and Conflict Transformation Clinic:** Internships, workshops, and projects that foster
2 justice and reconciliation.
- 3 • **Travel seminars:** Courses engaging local communities on Arizona-Mexican border and in Cuba,
4 Germany, and Indonesia.
- 5 • **Ecumenical partnerships:** Continuing close work with UMC, AME and other Wesleyan
6 denominations, while building strong programs with the Episcopal Church and United Church of
7 Christ.
- 8 • **Partnership with Hebrew College:** Joint courses and public events, plus co-sponsoring *The*
9 *Journal of Interreligious Studies*. The focus is on enriching theological education and developing
10 religious leaders who are faithful and wise.

11 12 **TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:**

- 13 • **Campus action:** Work with Boston University to improve accessibility and sustainability: to
14 provide full access for all persons (a work in progress) and to live sustainably with the planet.
- 15 • **Internships in global service and peacemaking:** Student-initiated internships for service with
16 communities across the world, and for just peacemaking projects with international
17 organizations.

18 19 **RENEWED COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE:** Celebrating differences while joining together for action.

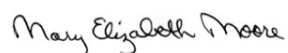
- 20 • **Standing with Standing Rock:** Several BUSTH students and alums joined indigenous peoples at
21 the Oceti Sakowin Camp in North Dakota to protest the pipeline on sacred Sioux land.
- 22 • **Deep conversations:** Faculty, students and administrators have led deep conversations on issues
23 that divide, but with respectful listening that builds community life and communal action.

24 25 **OTHER NOTABLE HEADLINES:**

- 26 • Our own **Associate Dean Pamela Lightsey** was featured in Boston University's 2016 Annual
27 Report for her pursuit of justice, empowerment, and change.
- 28 • Our graduating senior, **Rev. Mariama White-Hammond** (AME) led the Boston Women's March,
29 and some 75 STH faculty and students marched, calling for social and ecological justice as we
30 build new futures in the United States.
- 31 • Students of all theological and social orientations are asking and then acting: "What can I do to
32 make this world better?" "How can I witness to my Christian faith?"

33
34 As BUSTH looks back on 2016, it celebrates transformational leaders who have loved God and cared
35 mightily for God's world. Their living legacy gives us hope and courage for the future.

36
37 Submitted by:

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40 Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean

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Cabinet

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The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey equips spiritual leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the world. Within that broader mission, the cabinet is charged with the specific responsibilities of being missional strategists for the Conference and specifically in each of the districts and regions where we serve. We celebrate that we are moving forward in Greater New Jersey's turn-around goal of reaching 41% highly vital congregations by 2018, knowing that there is still work ahead for us. Over 30% of our congregations are growing in worship attendance. New worship experiences, new opportunities for hands-on mission, emerging communities of hope, growing our small group ministries and increasing our mission giving through shared ministries and beyond are other signs of renewed life, commitment and a hope-filled future in Greater New Jersey.

This year, we celebrate some beginnings and endings. The Rev. Dr. Varlyna D. Wright will end her six-year term as District Superintendent of the Capital District in June. Varlyna will relocate to Georgia to continue to live out God's calling on her life. We will miss her voice and insights at cabinet's meetings. We also celebrate the beginning appointments of two new district superintendents: The Rev. Glenn Conaway and The Rev. Frank Davis who will be serving the Delaware Bay and Capital Districts respectively. Both pastors have had fruitful and growing ministries and will bring great gifts and experiences to the cabinet. We give thanks to God in the midst of these transitions.

The impact of the Cabinet's ministry is strongly felt by those churches and pastors that engage in the resourcing we offer. Cabinet members are currently engaged in coaching clergy, facilitating churches in Team Vital, and leading PaCE groups. The annual church conferences have been refocused to provide opportunities to engage in learning and meaningful conversation among the laity to help to move the church forward.

Our regional teams are creating workshops to help churches learn and grow into what it means to be in ministry in today's reality. The Central Region offered a day of dynamic worship resourcing with *Doxology*. The Southern Region has partnered with Horizon Stewardship Foundation to offer a retreat for clergy; as well as a training program for local churches called *Revolutionary Stewardship*. The Northern Region sponsored *Outbound*, a day of resourcing focused on making disciples and evangelism. All of these resources are helping local churches and clergy grow as vital congregations.

The Cabinet is given specific responsibility to work with the bishop in making appointments. In doing so, we work closely with the Staff Parish Relations Committees of our local churches to identify needs and clarify the future missional opportunities in the church and community. In the appointment process, the Cabinet reviews a pastor's willingness, passion, ability, and track record to engage a congregation in being faithful and fruitful, with the goal being to maximize disciple making throughout the Conference. Pastors are also invited to request consideration for open churches during the appointment season, providing additional information in the discernment process. We have found this new practice to be very helpful.

The 2012 Discipline added the term "Chief Missional Strategist" to the job description of the District Superintendent. We live into that through our maintenance to mission goals. Maintenance work is important. However, if all your time is spent on work that will need to be done over and over you will simply stay in the same place. It is the focus on mission work that resources congregations and helps us move into the new mission field. The goal of the cabinet is to spend 20% of our time in maintenance

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 work, 60% of our time resourcing congregations through Team Vital, Coaching, PaCE groups and other
2 resources; and 20% of our time in the new mission field.

3
4 In order to evaluate our progress towards this goal, time surveys have been done. Initial reports
5 indicate we are making progress in certain areas. We have transferred the administration of our
6 resources to the Connectional Ministries Team. Our Administrative Staff is now making sure needed
7 reports are in on time. There is still work to be done in other areas. We are working on transitioning
8 conflict matters to the Episcopal Office. We also need to do more work in evaluating the load of our
9 Conference agency responsibilities. The area that we need to focus on most is the 20% of time that is to
10 be spent in the new mission field and creating new faith communities.

11
12 In the midst of the progress and challenges we are heartened to know that this division of our time has
13 resonated with our churches. We continue to hear stories from congregations who are looking at how
14 their church spends their time, specifically working towards spending more time in new mission work
15 and resourcing the congregation to make this possible.

16
17 Moving forward, however, there are challenges that the Cabinet faces. While we celebrate moving
18 closer to our conference goal of 41% highly vital congregations, sustainability is an issue. Over the past
19 ten years 25% of our full-time appointments moved to part-time and the total amount for clergy salaries
20 dropped by more than a million dollars, creating appointment and ministry challenges. Congregations
21 living off endowments for many years have used up these funds and the current level of mission and
22 ministry is no longer possible. Second, the richness of our diversity within Greater New Jersey is a
23 blessing and a gift to be celebrated, but creates recruitment challenges to meet leadership needs of
24 such a diverse church. Third, the changing culture requires that there be new approaches to ministry to
25 which most laity and pastors have not been trained. Leadership styles that worked a generation ago no
26 longer bear the fruit that they once bore. We need to learn new methods, but also grow deeper in our
27 understandings of ministry in this new chapter in the church's life. Together we are working to develop
28 new ways of ministry and mission as the next right answers.

29
30 Our next steps as a Cabinet include actively addressing these challenges in partnership with the
31 Connectional Ministries Team and other teams within the Conference. The Cabinet is committed to
32 engaging further in developing new church starts, second sites, and new worship experiences for new
33 people, working with willing and ready congregations and leaders gifted in church planting. The blessing
34 of our diversity requires that every pastor and church grow in cultural competency so that our
35 congregations will more accurately reflect the communities and context for our ministries. In our work
36 with pastors and congregations, we look forward to living out our conference's plan to combat racism
37 and grow in our understanding of one another as children of God.

38
39 As we begin to look at new ways to serve Jesus Christ in the world, a major step will be engaging laity
40 and clergy in rethinking and reimagining what it means to be a church sent into the world, and how we
41 begin to live into apostolic leadership. This will require reflection, resourcing and an openness to
42 rethink ministry so that together we will continue on the journey towards vitality and transformation
43 that is Christ's call on all of our lives. The Cabinet is confident that the laity and clergy of Greater New
44 Jersey together will meet the challenges ahead because we see the Spirit alive throughout our churches
45 and communities. For God is with us – and in God is our hope.

46
47 Submitted by:
48 Myrna Bethke
49 District Superintendent, Gateway South

The Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society Report

The Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society was established by charter granted in 1857. In 2000 the charter was amended to rename the corporation The Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. The purpose of the Fund is to provide maximum income, consistent with the preservation of principal, for the support of retired clergy and surviving spouses and dependent children of deceased clergy who have served in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

Since inception the Fund has received more than \$6.25 million in donations; and from the earnings on these donations has provided grants to pastors and their families who have requested aid, loans to assist retired pastors obtain housing in Methodist Homes, and during the period 2004 through 2016 contributed more than \$5.5 million toward the funding of retiree healthcare. The Fund Balance as of the end of November 2016 was \$10,962,380; and the Distribution Base (amount that can be distributed without invading the principal) was \$4,688,270 before deducting the Fund's 2016 contribution of \$547,072 toward retiree healthcare.

To continue support for retired clergy and their families at the current level of over a half million dollars per year, donations are needed from pastors and churches. Reverend Douglas Miller is the Centenary Fund's Outreach Director and is working to increase our Donation Base. Donations to the Fund in 2016 were \$49,223.

The Fund's Finance Committee Chair is Keith Helsby. Other members of the Fund Board are Charles Bender Jr., Jennifer Lovallo, Grace Pak, Steve Poloff, Dennis Poane, Jack Scharf, David Wiley, and John Cardillo (ex officio). In July, 2016, the Board moved its Funds to be invested by the Stewardship Foundation, adding more than \$10 million to the Foundation. Currently our investments via the Foundation are in Wespath's Multiple Asset Fund which has a long term allocation of 65% equity, 35% fixed income and employs an investment approach guided by the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church.

We hope you will help us build up the Centenary Fund with your tax-free donations so that The Centenary Fund and Preachers Aid Society will be able to continue the substantial contributions needed in the future to fund retiree healthcare and to provide aid to retired clergy and their dependents.

Thank you so much for your support to date.

Submitted by:
Eleanor Hartley
Chair, The Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society

Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns

1
2 The Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns is happy put forward the report for the
3 year 2016.

4 The Committee met twice in person in the fall, once in February and once over a conference call in April.
5 We are committed to the purpose and goal of our agency and took the challenges of the current society
6 in our meetings.

7 A committee member has attended the Episcopal Diocese Annual meeting as the representative of
8 the Annual Conference.

9 Four people (two clergy and two lay) have attended the National Workshop on Christian Unity in
10 Minnesota to be trained to serve our Conference and their congregations.

11 We have actively been involved and participated in the New Jersey Council of Churches participating in
12 their theology discussion groups, issues and Actions Day.

13 We have presented two Bishop's Awards for Christian Unity at the 2015 Session of the Annual
14 Conference, one to the Church that involved in ecumenical activities and the other to an individual who
15 has contributed to Christian Unity in society.

16 We are actively involved in World Methodist Conference, World Council of Churches, and Religions for
17 Peace, USA and the denominations office of Christian Unity.

18 The Committee would like to propose the following programs for the coming years:

19 Creating an Interfaith Bus Tour, participating in the District Days of Learning with ecumenical unity
20 topics, continuing our work with New Jersey Council of Churches, World Methodist Conference, World
21 Council of Churches and the National Workshop on Christian Unity, and also continuing to seek and
22 promote ecumenical work by presenting Bishop's Awards for Christian Unity.

23 The chairperson is actively involved in Ministerium of Scotch Plains and Fanwood, New Jersey. The
24 Scotch Plains-Fanwood Ministerium is comprised of clergy from various faith communities, along with
25 leaders of non-profit organizations, the school district, and civic leaders from our two municipalities. He
26 was given a chance to share the word of God on the occasion of Community Thanksgiving. He is also
27 involving in the activities of "Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council" that facilitate regular
28 interfaith meetings in order to make way for the building of bonds within the interfaith community. This
29 Council respects and encourages the inclusion and welcoming of others regardless of faith, race or
30 disability and strives to be proactive on social issues.

31 We as a committee request the members of the conference prayerfully consider to promote unity
32 among ecumenical bodies in their local level and we do submit this plea for your prayerful
33 consideration.

34 Submitted by:
35 Rev. Dr. Vijaya Kumar Chairperson
36 CUIR

37

Church and Society, Board of

All the glory and honor to our God who is the King of Peace and the Master of Justice!

For last quadrennial, Church and Society has diligently worked on the three areas of social justice, which are Immigration Justice, Criminal Justice, and Anti-Poverty Movement. At the first meeting of this quadrennial, Church and Society decided to continue to work on the same three areas from last quadrennial.

Recently, the right of immigrants and refugees has been one of the most heated issues in the US. Our Social Principle is crystal clear on the rights of immigrants “to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination”(Book of Discipline ¶162. H.) As United Methodists, we are urged to advocate the right of immigrants as basic human rights. In a response to the current issues of immigration and refugees, Church and Society is discussing a possible educational event on immigrants’ rights as well as the sanctuary church movement.

As for criminal justice, Church and Society has recently supported the New Jersey State Senate’s Legislation of Isolated Confinement Restriction Act(S/51, A/547) and Independent Prosecutors for Police Killings(S/2469). Both pieces of legislation were vetoed by the Governor. Then, the Church and Society co-sponsored the rally of faith leaders in New Jersey to end isolated confinement in the Trenton area on January 11, 2017. This rally was organized by New Jersey Campaign Against Isolated Confinement.

As for anti-poverty, I would like to praise the active works of our District Anti-Poverty Taskforce Teams, especially, the active works of Palisades, Cape Atlantic, and Gateway South District Anti-Poverty Taskforce Teams. Also, we continued to support the Poverty Summit which was organized and hosted by Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey.

Besides our work on these three areas of concentration, two exciting changes wait for us. First, we have recently decided to create a Peace with Justice program for youth and young adults in our Conference. Many exciting ideas have been discussed to make an innovative program for our youth and young adults. Secondly, we are planning to create a promotion video to encourage our church leaders to be more engaged with the ministry for justice while respecting the ministry of mercy. Whenever the Board of Church and Society meet, we spend an extended time to passionately discuss how we lead the church leaders in our Conference to be more engaged with ministry for justice. We believe creation of the promotion video will be a great starter.

We continued to support a young clergyperson in our Conference to attend Young Clergy’s Forum at General Board of Church and Society. Also, we continued to make a strong coalition with the Coalition of Peace Action by supporting their Annual Conference in Princeton. Finally, we couldn’t be more excited to have Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, who is a General Secretary of GBCS, as a guest speaker for our focus dinner during the Annual Conference.

As a new chair for this important body, I could not thank enough each and every member of Church and Society. Since I am still in a stage of learning the works of the Church and Society, I am so grateful for the commitment and devotion for social justice of each and every member of the Board. I hope we can do more prophetic works for justice and peace as we grow stronger in such a time like this.

Submitted by: Myung Sun Han

Coalition of Religious Leaders

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Important to ecumenical and interfaith relationships for the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference is the Coalition of Religious Leaders in New Jersey. Its history began in 1967; then Governor Richard Hughes called upon religious leaders in the state to address the issues of civil unrest following the Newark riot, one of the most devastating riots in U.S. history. The Coalition today includes some fifty members representing, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant faith communities as well as Jewish and Muslim leaders in the state.

The Coalition meets semi-annually, addressing issues of mutual concerns around issues of mercy and justice in New Jersey. The Coalition affords opportunities for faith leaders to develop partnerships that sustain ecumenical and interfaith relations.

The Coalition meets annually with the New Jersey State Governor and the two United States Senators, as well as others in political and civic leadership.

In August 2015, in partnership with US Senator Cory Booker, the Coalition hosted a forum on Criminal Justice Reform. Bishop John Schol played a leading role in the program design and welcoming over four hundred persons in attendance. Over seventy-five attendees were members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, including some thirty clergy from our conference.

Over the past year, Coalition members have met with legislative leadership in the New Jersey Assembly and Senate. Members shared their concerns around affordable housing, criminal justice reform, and the prevention of gun violence.

In the fall of 2016, the Coalition provided a forum for its leadership, centered around a conversation with Mark Morial, Present and CEO of the National Urban League, and Ryan Haygood, President and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. The design of the program addressed the question of how religious leaders may work cooperatively in addressing racism and how they, too, may lead their faith communities in addressing issues of racism.

The Coalition, in 2017, welcomed to its membership, His Eminence Joseph William Cardinal Tobin as Bishop of the Newark Archdiocese. Bishop Schol and Coalition president, Bishop Mark Beckwith, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, participated in the service of installation, welcoming the Archbishop on behalf of Christian communions. Bishop Schol will host the Spring 2017 meeting of the Coalition at our Conference Mission and Resource Center.

Over the past fifty years, the Coalition has served as a forum for religious leaders to gather in affirming the importance of Ecumenical and Interfaith relations.

Submitted by:
Rev. Jack Johnson

1 **CUMAC (the Center of United Methodist Aid to the Community)**

2 Throughout 2016, the staff and Board of Trustees at CUMAC (the Center of United Methodist Aid to the
3 Community) embarked on an ambitious and exciting strategic planning process and finalized the
4 working document in October. The plan outlines CUMAC’s purposes and will guide the organization’s
5 operation and development over the next four years. Continuing our 30 year mission to feed people
6 and change lives, we remain committed to following God’s call to serve the poor while working to
7 alleviate hunger and its root causes for those in need in Paterson, Passaic County and northern New
8 Jersey.

9 At our core, we serve low income individuals in need of some of life’s basic necessities, such as food,
10 water and clothing, with compassion, kindness and love. The feeding people part of the mission is
11 straight forward. We have uniquely positioned ourselves to provide immediate and direct help to
12 individuals with present and perhaps emergent needs. The “changing lives” comes into play in our
13 ongoing efforts to provide job training, encourage independence and to advocate for the
14 disenfranchised. At every level of engagement, CUMAC staff and board seek to promote individual
15 dignity and to serve with loving hearts.

16 The objectives and strategic direction set forth in the plan are based on the environment that CUMAC
17 operates in and an assessment of the strengths we have and the challenges we face. At the end of a
18 detailed and spirit led evaluation process, we formulated four important objectives; with the most
19 critical being the successful management of CUMAC leadership throughout 2017, as our beloved
20 Executive Director, Reverend Patricia Bruger, retires after 27 years at the helm. Additional objectives
21 include achieving financial stability, developing and begin implementation of a new facilities plan and
22 strengthening our programs to move clients toward self-sufficiency.


23 Throughout our history and especially in recent years, CUMAC has witnessed unprecedented growth in
24 the number of people coming to us in need of our feeding programs, disaster relief services, affordable
25 housing, job training and other offerings. Meeting this increase in need has often required a leap of
26 faith, growing our feeding efforts exponentially in the face of increased and pervasive hunger and
27 pursuing new opportunities to care for those who need us most with trust that the resources necessary
28 to run our programs –the space, staff, equipment, funding and support that make our work possible-
29 would follow. Our strategic plan has provided an opportunity to step back and determine how we can
30 best provide for our clients and community going forward. With its direction, CUMAC board and staff
31 will take tactical and deliberate steps toward a future of strength, where we will have the staff,
32 facilitates and equipment, programs and financial resources necessary to effect real and lasting change
33 in our community over the years and decades to come.

34 Over the past 3 decades, the unwavering compassion and unrivaled generosity of our United Methodist
35 partners has allowed us act as a beacon of hope for so many people with nowhere else to turn. As
36 CUMAC takes exciting steps to guarantee our present and future success in ministry to the poor and
37 disenfranchised, the support of our friends within the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference will mean
38 more than ever. Going forward, your food and clothing collections will allow us to continue providing
39 direct support. Financial gifts made as donations, taken as special offerings, and shared as event
40 proceeds will be a critical part of our growth story and our ability to expand our work. Volunteers will
41 continue to play a vital role in our everyday feeding efforts, but will also be needed as industry experts,
42 as board members, and as committee people. You, your generosity of spirit, and your commitment to
43 live the words of Christ will make all the difference to mission and to those we serve. We are ever
44 grateful of and humbled by all who come together to help feed people and change lives and we look

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 forward to continued collaboration to ensure none among us suffer the pain and indignity of poverty or
2 hunger.

3 Submitted by:

4
5 
Reverend Patricia Bruger
Executive Director


Laura Purdy
Assistant Executive Director


Stephanie Ames
Development Director

6
7 Ph: 973-742-5518
8 Fax: 973-742-5118
9 info@cumacecho.org

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Drew Theological School

13 As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of our founding this year, we find ourselves in the unique position
14 of reflecting deeply on our past and, at the same time, looking with confidence and enthusiasm toward
15 the future. Drew Theological School has, throughout its long and distinguished history, fostered a
16 vibrant spirit of learning and community that allows for a rich diversity of both expression and
17 experience. These qualities of inclusion and a steadfast commitment to social justice are what make the
18 Theo School what it is today – and have, in fact, defined it from the beginning of its existence.

19

20 In the spirit of our founders, we continue to educate students from all over the United States and
21 throughout the world. We continue to pursue a mission of empowering students to “creative thought
22 and courageous action to advance justice, peace and love of God, neighbor and the earth.” In the
23 classroom and beyond, we continue to focus on educating and forming rooted, innovative, and bold
24 leaders for the church, the academy, and the world.

25

26 These are the principles that attract students to our programs, and they guide us in all we do to support
27 them during their time with us.

28

29 We have seen the effects of this in our rising enrollment numbers. In the last three semesters, the
30 Theological School has seen a steady growth in both applications and enrollments, and early indications
31 strongly suggest we will continue that trend this year. Our students hail from across the country,
32 represent 21 different denominations, as well as a sturdy non-denominational presence, making Drew a
33 truly ecumenical community. Yet we could not have arrived here on our own: over 30 percent of our
34 applicants come to us through recommendations from our alumni and friends.

35

36 We also have a history of great success when we open our doors to prospective students and invite
37 them to explore our programs first-hand. Of the students who attended our *Open Doors at Drew* event
38 last March, more than 50 percent enrolled.

39

40 These gatherings are so successful because they offer prospective students an opportunity to see Drew
41 in person – to see Drew *in action*. We allow them to immerse themselves for the day in dynamic
42 classroom conversations, worship services, and panel discussions with both current students and
43 alumni. These events highlight our efforts to create a truly collaborative, comprehensive, and
44 transformative experience that involves the entire Drew community.

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

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A recent report by the Pew Research Center, “America’s Changing Religious Landscape,” made clear that seminaries and theological schools must reimagine their programs and how they reach students who are seeking out new expressions of Christian theology, ethics, liturgy, and gathered community.

In order to accommodate these prospective students and offer them the kind of dynamic and relevant theological training they seek, we embarked on an ambitious transformation of our curriculum, thanks in part to a generous grant from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund.

This project has been guided by our efforts to address the changing needs of our students, those who may not choose to pursue a traditional ministerial path, and those who require a more flexible structure to their education. While our commitment to the Church and to the training of pastoral leaders is unwavering, we have also focused on ensuring that our current curriculum, teaching, and student assessment are aligned with more diverse demographics, changes in vocational choices, and the need to prepare religious leaders to serve effectively in multi-faith, secular, and even non-religious settings. We aim to serve the students whose vocational goals may include chaplaincy in healthcare settings, the military, or corporate venues, those who may seek to work as life coaches, or who may pursue careers in advocacy, social activism, and the non-profit world more generally. The focus is on preparing students for transformational leadership, wherever their vocation is lived out.

Our curriculum transformation project also includes a focus on various modes of delivery – online classes and a flexible course schedule for students who are unable to attend class during the day or those who live too far from campus to attend in person regularly. These changes will expand our sphere of influence and the contexts in which our students serve, inspiring us to think more broadly about what is required for leadership-in-context. It will also hopefully bring us an even more diverse student body, something that Drew values highly.

The curriculum that we hope to implement will more clearly and intentionally help students root themselves in the cumulative wisdom of their tradition (more Bible and theology) but also prepare them to be adaptive leaders who confidently innovate ancient wisdom and tradition in order to address contemporary needs and challenges. They will do more and sit less.

Their mentors in learning and experimenting will extend beyond our residential faculty and draw from the rich resources of partner organizations and networks which can provide the real-world settings for these “experiments in courage,” where the pursuit of wisdom and godly living can be more vigorously pursued.

The majority of our students come to us with experience in ministry, and many are currently exercising some form of public religious leadership. Additionally, an increasing number of students come to us with a wide range of experience in the foundational understanding of basic biblical texts and theological concepts. Furthermore, an emphasis on public theology and the role of the public theologian and leader is an essential aspect of the work of Christian ministry today, and more attention will be paid to helping our students develop this aspect of their ministry.

All of these efforts will make it possible to offer our bold vision to a wider audience of students. While these changes will be significant, they will in no way alter the spirit that has distinguished a Drew Theological School education for 150 years. Indeed, these changes have their source and their end in that very spirit, and they will, we are confident, contribute to its continued vitality.

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

1
2 We are thrilled by how our vision for the future of the Theo School is unfolding and taking shape. We
3 look forward to our continued work with the entire Drew community – both past and present, on and
4 off-campus – as we transform this center of learning, pastoral formation, and service to respond in
5 relevant and powerful ways to the changing needs of our churches, our communities, and the world.
6

7

8

The Educational Society

9 The Educational Society is an agency of the Greater NJ Annual Conference of the United Methodist
10 Church whose goal is to assist with the education of clergy for the edification of the church. We are
11 composed of clergy and laity from across the Conference and have been assisting men and women of
12 New Jersey called by God to full-time Christian service by providing scholarships and loans for more than
13 one hundred and fifty years. We are supported by the repayment of loans, interest earned from long-
14 standing endowments, grants from the Annual Conference, and by local churches and individuals
15 through the Conference Advance #622. The Conference Advance #622 is an opportunity for local
16 churches to subsidize and affirm the ministry and education of Greater New Jersey United Methodist
17 pastors who have reaped the benefits of the Society's ministry by supporting the Educational Society in
18 its historic mission.

19

20 In 2016 the Educational Society was delighted to award \$20,000 in scholarships to 4 recipients (Donald
21 Kirschner, Joshua Mularski, Rachel Callender, Nova Villa Vitug) in order to further their seminary
22 education. Applications for GNJ Educational Society scholarships and loans can be downloaded from the
23 conference website at www.gnjumc.org/resource/2016-educational-society-application/
24

25

26 If you would like more information about the Educational Society and its ongoing ministry of
27 underwriting seminary education, please stop by our display at Annual Conference or email Rev. Donald
28 Stevens (revdon64@hotmail.com) or Mrs. Jo D. Malessa (ma_malessa@comcast.net).

29

30 Submitted by:
31 Rev. Donald M. Stevens, President
32 (732) 892-3233
33 revdon64@hotmail.com
34

35

36

Episcopacy Committee

37 The Episcopacy Committee has met quarterly with Bishop Schol during the past year for the purpose of
38 support, encouragement, communication of Conference priorities, and feedback when solicited. We
39 have participated in an evaluation of the Bishop, discussed matters related to the Jurisdictional
40 Committee on Episcopacy, and assured that the Episcopal residence is in excellent condition. At each
41 meeting the Bishop has provided a detailed report of his work and goals for the Conference. The
42 Committee has had lively discussions of the reports, and the Bishop has responded candidly to our
43 questions. We have shared in his excitement in the move to the new Resource Center in Neptune and
44 we appreciate his warmth in expressing his gratitude for the shared ministry of all laity and clergy in
the Conference.

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 Submitted by:
2 Eleanor Hartley, Chairperson
3 973-714-4535
4 Eleanor.hartley@gmail.com
5
6

Finance and Administration, Council on

7
8 Greetings in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

9 As we close 2016 and look forward to 2017 and beyond, we do so knowing together we have
10 accomplished much with the resources God has blessed us. Under the leadership of our Bishop and
11 Cabinet, the Council on Finance and Administration has been able to support the ongoing effort of the
12 many programs within the Conference, particularly the focus on "Maintenance to Mission".

13 Our congregations have led the support for these efforts by again raising the Shared Ministry collection
14 rate to 86.7%, an increase of 1.6% over the prior year. We were blessed that 407 of our local churches
15 paid 100% of their shared ministry allocation, while 452 paid 100% of their billables. We are grateful to
16 the churches of the Conference for their stewardship and support, together we are accomplishing many
17 things.

18 During 2016 we were able to maintain our commitments to funding many programs, while also
19 completing the reorganization of our District Superintendent support, allowing for improvements and
20 refocus of our talent and gifts. In doing so, expenses were well controlled throughout the Conference,
21 allowing our Conference to finish the year in a position to pay 100% of our General Church
22 apportionments, for the 10th consecutive year.

23 The year also was marked by continued prudent investment returns, managed in partnership with
24 Wespath Inc., as well as an enviable audit report of 2015, reflecting only minor areas of opportunity for
25 improvement. All of the Council's sub committees were efficient and timely in their respective areas,
26 insuring effective management of our precious resources.

27 As we look forward to 2017, we are excited about the possibilities to where Christ is leading us. We are
28 working to develop support in the form of shared services for new efforts based on Hope Centers,
29 where individual charities would be established to address key areas in our communities. Additionally,
30 we recognize the need to address our current Shared Ministry formula and are committed to
31 introducing a new methodology for the 2019 budget. Other areas of focus are for shared procurement
32 and long term management of cemeteries within the conference.

33 I would be remiss if we did not recognize the efforts of our Treasurer and his staff for their continued
34 excellence in performing their roles. Likewise, the leadership of the Council transitioned from John
35 Bishop and we are grateful for his many years of dedication and service to the Council and Conference.
36 We are blessed to have them and are grateful and thankful for the blessings of them in our conference
37 and lives!

38 In closing, on behalf of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, we offer our thanks to
39 Bishop John Schol and the Cabinet for their leadership and support, as together we continue to spread
40 the good news of Our Savior Jesus Christ.

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 Submitted by:
2 Bob Dietz, President
3 Conference Council on Finance and Administration
4
5

Global Ministries, Board of

7 The Conference Board of Global Ministries works with missionaries, our Advance Specials, agencies, and
8 Conference staff, aligning with the strategic goals of GNJC.

9 **Advance Specials:** Each Advance Special is assigned to a CBGM member who acts as the liaison with the
10 Board to assure that their ministries continue. Visits with the agency have been planned for Spring
11 2017. Advance Specials are required to submit a reapplication each year and provide supporting
12 documentation. The list of Advance Specials may be found in the Resolution section of the pre-
13 conference journal. Although the Conference does not fund Advance Specials directly, they are
14 encouraged to apply to churches and the churches are encouraged to support them by sending funds to
15 them through the Conference treasurer.

16 **Global missions, Conference Secretary (CSGM):** In the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference the
17 position of CSGM is held by the Chair of the Board of Global Ministries as well. The CSGM works with
18 the General Board of Global Ministries in accommodating missionaries who will be itinerating in our
19 Conference. In 2016 Marilia Alves Schuler itinerated in Greater New Jersey.

20 Isabel Quezada attended the Northeastern Jurisdiction CSGM 2016 fall retreat from October 17-20, 2016
21 in Haverford, PA. This was a three day event of worship, workshops and the opportunity to meet with
22 current CSGM's of the Northeast Jurisdiction. Highlights from this gathering include: Rev. John Calhoun,
23 Mission Advocate, Northeastern Jurisdiction had been reappointed to Ukraine, effective December
24 2016.

25 The Conference Board of Global Ministries has met several times during this period to discuss activities
26 for 2017. There is a unanimous interest from committee members to be more involved in
27 communicating mission opportunities to youths and young adults in our Conference.

28 Submitted by:
29 Isabel R. Quezada, Chair
30 Board of Global Ministries
31
32

Laity, Board of

34 "To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to
35 the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full
36 stature of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12-13).

37 Working to do ministry and mission is always a challenge for many local churches because of the many
38 hats laity may need to wear as well as limited resources to do the work that need to be done. The Laity
39 Board has continued its work in equipping laity to this valuable work of ministry and to carry out God's

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 mission through hands on training. We know that ministry is to be carried out by the entire church, by
2 both laity and those ordained. Laity should be the primary agents for this work and there is one reason
3 God has given us the church is to enable the community to work together to build up the Kingdom.

4 The Laity Board continue to focus on equipping laity to do ministry with specialized education such as
5 the Laity Leadership Academy and providing small seed grants for those who attend the academy and
6 wish to start new ministries. The Lay Servant and CLM program continue to train laity along with other
7 leadership development programs in our districts. Lay Ministry Recognition provides opportunities to
8 share ministry with other churches and to tell stories of ministries.

9 Why Do We Need To Equip Laity?

- 10 • We know that a pastor cannot do ministry alone.
- 11 • God intends for all Christians to be involved in mission and ministry.
- 12 • Equipped Laity is able to work as partners with the pastor.
- 13 • Pastor can concentrate on shepherding and leading church mission and vision.
- 14 • Disciple-making begins in our immediate environment-in our own community.
- 15 • If revival, renewal and awakening are to occur, it will be done by trained disciples.
- 16 • Excited and equipped laity will help us meet our goals and strategic plans for principle
17 leadership, profession of faith, small groups, reaching new people in GNJAC.

18 I would like you to imagine a well mobilized equipped and excited laity in our Conference of CLM's, LSM
19 Teams, elected officers fully trained in their role, ministry teams who are equipped for ministry. What
20 would it look like to have a church council who plans ministry, stewardship ministry constantly renewing
21 the church's finances? I see a small church of a 2-3 point charge with a CLM in each one of the churches
22 to work in partnership with the pastor. I see a LSM person leading small groups, Bible study, Sunday
23 school and a worship team that knows how to develop creative worship experiences and outreach
24 ministries that include community representatives. When laity intentionally become equipped to model
25 the life of Christ, the church will soar to new heights in making disciples and building the Kingdom of
26 God.

27 Submitted by:
28 Rosa Williams
29 Conference Lay Leader

30

31

32 **National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry Committee**

33 "Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their
34 food with glad and generous praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the
35 Lord added to their number those who were being saved." Acts 2:46-47

36 **Reviewing of our vision, mission and strategic plan**

37 The National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry Committee within GNJ began the quadrennium with new
38 leadership, welcoming five new members and making a reviewing of our vision, mission, strategic plan
39 and structure in partnership with the leadership of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry.

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 As part of this process, we met with clergy, laity (youth and adults) of our current Hispanic/Latino
2 congregations in order to know what were their principal values and vision for the committee. We
3 completed the process of aligning our vision, mission and strategic plan with the Conference and
4 National Plan Hispanic/Latino. We did an evaluation of the work and the role of the committee. We also
5 created a new structure for the committee that include the executive team and an extended committee
6 that will focus its work on three areas: Current Leadership Development, Youth Leadership and
7 Community Outreach.

8 Leadership Development

9 Our committee has continued offering training for our lay leaders. We offered Modules 1 and 2 of
10 National Plan Hispanic/Latino. The students of SELAH, our Laity Biblical Academy, concluded their
11 program of study successfully. On March 18, 2017, 17 students from SELAH and 15 from Modules 1 and
12 2 graduated at Drew Theological School. Dean Javier Viera was the speaker of the day.

13 The Rev. Hector Burgos and Rev. Cesar Miyares have been instrumental in a project to turn SELAH in a
14 Hispanic/Latino Theological and Leadership Development Training Center. The mission of SELAH will be
15 to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and its purpose is recruit and
16 develop transformational leaders for the church of the 21st century by providing theological and
17 practical ministry, and leadership development education in the Wesleyan tradition. We have been
18 working on SELAH new curriculum, choosing the teachers who will be part of the faculty and the
19 administration team. Our committee has been working with Javier Viera, Dean of Drew Theological
20 School, on getting certification for the program of SELAH.

21 Support to Children and Youth Ministry

22 As every year we supported the Hispanic/Latino Children and Youth Retreat called “Niños y Jovenes para
23 Cristo” that usually take place at Pinelands Center. This year we offered scholarships to 48 campers and
24 4 youth counselors. In addition to offering scholarships, the chair of our committee visited Pinelands
25 Center during the retreat to support the staff and chat with the campers. We celebrate the leadership of
26 Milagros Soto, Rev. Charles Perez and Rev. Rolando Santiago in keeping this program going, and offering
27 spiritual direction for our children and youth. We also offered 34 scholarships to support the youth
28 going to IGNITE 2016. Charles Perez has been instrumental in keeping alive the IGNITE Movement
29 among the Hispanic/Latino churches. Our youth continue doing their rallies during the year. During the
30 rallies they praise God together, and get inspired to live life to the full and share the good news of
31 salvation.

32 Support to Methodist Men and Walk to Emmaus

33 On September 24, 2016 in Matawan UMC, we held the first gathering of Hispanic /Latino Methodist
34 Men. The event was attended by 47 men, including 3 women who helped with hospitality. The men
35 worshipped God together, and they engaged in conversation about their discipleship and leadership in
36 the local church, community, and daily life. Our committee supported this historic event with funds and
37 we participated in its organization. We acknowledge the leadership of Rev. Hector Burgos and Samuel
38 Perez in the organization of this event.

39 After 12 years, the Comunidad Emaus Latina Emanuel (CELE) became the second Hispanic Emmaus
40 Community in the nation. Our committee has provided consistent and strong economic support for
41 facilitating the walks. The ministry of Walk to Emmaus is a highly effective resource to develop lay
42 leadership and spiritual growth. Walk to Emmaus provides spiritual formation for people to become

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. We acknowledge the leadership of Elizabeth Gonzalez as the Director of
2 the Community and Rolando Santiago as their Spiritual Director.

3 Events to strengthen unity among our clergy and laity

4 We organized our Epiphany Service once again this year. This event has great relevance for our
5 community, because it strengthens the unity and traditions of the Hispanic/Latino people, and it is
6 attended by all our congregations within GNJ. Bishop Schol was our guest speaker, and he was assisted
7 by members of the Cabinet in serving communion and pray for the people. We also organized two clergy
8 gatherings during the year, a picnic during the summer and a party in the winter. These gatherings
9 provide opportunity for building strong relationships between our clergy and their families.

10 Our goals looking ahead

11 Some of our goals of our committee looking ahead:

- 12 • Encouraging all our congregations to get involved in Team Vital.
- 13 • Provide support for lay missionaries starting new Hispanic/Latino communities of faith
- 14 • Provide resources for community outreach projects, Evangelism and Small Groups Ministries.
- 15 • Organize workshops about cultural competence, and support our pastors serving in cross-
16 cultural appointments.
- 17 • Support the development of youth leadership and youth ministries.
- 18 • Continue working with the Commission on Archives and History on identifying the
19 Hispanic/Latino Methodist history within GNJ and encourage the preservation of significant
20 documents, artifacts and transformational personal faith stories.

21 Acknowledgements

- 22 • God, our Sustainer and Divine Partner, without God's help will be impossible to reach our goals
23 as a committee.
- 24 • Jazelis Adorno-Burgos, our former chair who prepared the way for us and provided support and
25 guidance during the transition.
- 26 • The members of our committee, Rev. Waleska Trinidad, Rev. Teresita Matos, Rev. Cesar Miyares,
27 Rosemary Rentas, Gladys Zubko and Justino Cabrera. They have worked hard on organizing
28 events, and creating new strategies to support and grow the Hispanic/Latino ministry.
- 29 • Bishop John Schol, for his encouraging presence and support. Bishop School has spent time in
30 meeting with our clergy and laity to better understand the Hispanic/Latino culture; and he has
31 invited us to explore new possibilities for the continued growth of the Hispanic/Latino ministry.
- 32 • Our DCM Rev. Hector Burgos and DS Rev. Manuel Sardiñas for walking and meeting with our
33 committee, providing guidance and creative ideas.
- 34 • Manuel Padilla from National Plan Hispanic/Latino for helping the committee in the process of
35 organizing better, and to adopt strategies that best serve the needs of the Hispanic / Latino
36 people.
- 37 • Ginny Kaiser, for providing amazing support to the work of our committee.

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 Working with the Wespath Benefits and Investments, the Board endeavors to implement and interpret
2 national and conference policy.

3 **PENSION**

4 *Pre-1982 Pension Plan*

5 The 2017 Past Service Annuity Rate for pre-1982 annuitant payment is \$658 per year of pre-1982
6 service. The 2018 Past Service Annuity Rate for pre-1982 annuitant payment will be \$672. The pre-1982
7 pension program continues to be fully funded and in a strong position.

8 *CRSP/MPP and CPP*

9 The General Conference's pension plan, Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is a hybrid of defined
10 benefit and defined contribution approaches which took effect in 2007. For 2017 churches pay CRSP at
11 12.5% of clergy plan compensation and for the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) at 3% of clergy's plan
12 compensation, and UMLife Options at 2% of plan compensation for ½ time clergy.

13 The 2012 General Conference enacted changes to the Clergy Retirement Security Program. Effective
14 1/1/2014 for all contributions going forward, the CRSP Defined Benefit component was reduced from
15 1.25% of DAC to 1.0% of DAC. Under the CRSP Defined Contribution component, contributions were
16 reduced from 3% to 2% of clergy plan compensation and, in addition, match up to 1% of compensation if
17 clergy contributes 1% to UMPIP. Contributions previously made will not be affected by this change and
18 benefits paid upon retirement will be based on the previous formula for all benefits accrued prior to
19 1/1/2014. Any benefits accrued from that date forward is based on the new formula.

20 Additionally, the General Conference changed the participation requirements from all clergy under
21 appointment to only clergy under full time appointment. Clergy appointed to less-than-full-time (3/4 and
22 1/2-time) are eligible based on the decision of the Annual Conference after approval of the Conference
23 Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The Board has voted to include those clergy appointed to less-
24 than-full-time (3/4 and 1/2 time) appointments in CRSP. For clergy appointed to 1/4 time appointments,
25 a vote of the Board has made UMPIP available as a pension option for those clergy. Please contact Alexa
26 Taylor, Benefits Services Manager, for more information on this option. These changes require Annual
27 Conference approval.

28 The rates of remittance for the Clergy Retirement Security Program/Ministerial Pension Plan (CRSP/MPP)
29 and Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) increased from last year's rates to 94.36% and 99.60%
30 respectively. Thirteen percent of churches were unable to pay these bills on time. Below is a summary of
31 2016 remittances:

Type	Remittances Rate	2016 Shortfall	# of Churches Paying < 100%	% of Churches Paying < 100%
CRSP	94.36%	\$143,608	62	13.62
CPP	99.60%	\$2,318		

32

33 To maintain clergypersons' participation in CRSP/UMPIP and CPP/UMLife Options, the Greater New Jersey
34 Conference fully pays delinquent church accounts using funds from the Reserve Account at Wespath
35 Benefits and Investments. We are concerned that some churches are not fully meeting their obligations
36 with the resulting decrease in the Reserve Account.

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 By 2016 year-end the cumulative delinquent amount for years prior to 2016 was \$1,916,000 for CRSP/MPP
2 and \$412,000 for CPP - a total of \$2,328,000, an increase of \$138,000.

3 We thank those churches that maintained faithful stewardship, paying 100% of their obligation. We also
4 appreciate the continuing efforts of our district superintendents, Alexa Taylor, Benefits Services Manager,
5 to collect the past due balances. More than \$113,000 of the 2002-2015 shortfalls was collected in 2016.

6 *Pre-Retirement Seminars*

7 As in years past, the Board sponsored a retirement education session held at the Mission and Resource
8 Center of Greater NJ on March 2, 2017. The pre-retirement seminar focuses on those anticipating
9 retirement within five years. Fifty persons were scheduled to attend. Presentations by Peter Hang of the
10 Wespath Benefits and Investments and a Social Security representative provided valuable guidance to
11 assist retirement planning. Special thanks go to Jennifer Cho for organizing this event. Thanks also to
12 Alexa Taylor, Benefits Services Manager, for assisting and providing support.

13 **HEALTH INSURANCE**

14 For 2017, the Board continued Active health insurance under HealthFlex, the health insurance plan
15 sponsored by the Wespath Benefits and Investments. The medical provider network is Blue Cross/Blue
16 Shield PPO; the pharmacy benefits are provided through OptumRx. Beginning in 2015, Wespath no longer
17 offers retiree health insurance. The Board implemented United HealthCare's National Medicare
18 Advantage PPO Plan which combines the participants' Medicare A & B, supplemental coverage and Part
19 D prescription plan.

20 The Board has again provided a contribution to participants' Health Reimbursement Accounts for 2017 of
21 \$1,250 for single and \$2,500 for all other plan types which can be used for qualifying medical expenses
22 (such as co-pays and deductibles). These funds do not expire and are accessed through a MasterCard
23 branded debit card, or via a reimbursement form.

24 *Premiums and Remittances*

25 The following chart shows church premium rates in effect for 2017. These rates reflect a Cabinet-
26 requested blended rate for all categories, which the Board has been moving toward for several years, so
27 that health insurance premiums are not a factor in determining clergy appointments.

28

Health Insurance Premiums for 2017	
Employee	\$14,000
Employee & Child(ren)	\$14,000
Employee & Spouse	\$14,000
Employee & Family	\$14,000

29

30 The Board thanks all churches that fully paid their health insurance premiums in 2016. Overall, churches
31 paid 97% of the total \$3,872,800 health insurance billings, a decrease from the 2015 remittance rate of
32 99%. The 2016 shortfall was approximately \$141,000. By 2016 year end, the amount owed from years
33 prior to 2016 had been reduced by \$123,247 and the cumulative unpaid health insurance bills had
34 increased to \$3,056,309 owed for years prior to 2016.

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 Churches failing to fully pay their premiums burden all churches and result in higher health insurance
2 premiums for all. Thanks go to the Conference/BOPHB Treasurer John Cardillo, Insurance Administrator
3 Barbara Gruezke, and the Cabinet for their continued efforts to collect health insurance arrearages.

4 The Board and the Conference staff have continued their efforts to ease the continued transitions in
5 healthcare. The Health Insurance Guidelines included in these 2017 Conference Reports and
6 Recommendations have been updated.

7 Annuitant Health Care Liability

8 As of the end of 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board FAS 158 liability for annuitant healthcare
9 costs in the amount of \$49.5 million was posted to the Conference balance sheet. This liability is the
10 estimated present value of the future costs of annuitant healthcare. The Annuitant Health Insurance
11 Contingency Fund described below has been set up to address this large liability over time.

12 Annuitant Health Insurance Contingency Fund

13 In 2002-2003 the Board, recognizing the growing magnitude of annuitant healthcare costs, together with
14 the Centenary Fund, representatives of CFA, the Cabinet and the Association of Retired Ministers and
15 Spouses (ARMS), developed a plan for a long term Annuitant Health Insurance Contingency Fund that
16 begins to offset the liability and ensure that retirees continue to enjoy conference-paid health
17 insurance. The Fund was initiated by the 2003 GNJ Annual Conference and earmarked exclusively for
18 healthcare costs for annuitants to cover higher premium costs expected in future years. The plan for the
19 Fund involves a multi-year period during which excess pre-1982 retirement funds would be used to pay
20 CRSP defined-benefit requirements, and comparable funds from churches would be used to create a
21 permanent retiree health fund. This is a critical initiative since it is clear that the Conference cannot
22 continue to fund retiree health insurance on a cash basis out of the Conference Budget.

23 As of December 31, 2016, the Annuitant Health Insurance Contingency Fund held a balance of \$8,748,335
24 after transferring \$565,260 to the Annuitant Health Insurance Account to avoid a negative balance in that
25 account at year-end. In 2016 approximately \$3,406,000 came into the Contingency Fund (representing
26 the 2% clergy and staff salary contributions toward the cost of health insurance) plus the Centenary Fund's
27 annual contribution (in excess of \$300,000, separate from their \$100,000 contribution directly to the
28 Annuitant Health Insurance Account).

29

30 The Board Itself

31 The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits endeavors to serve the Conference and the needs
32 of those in ministry. There continues to be much to accomplish, especially in the challenging field of
33 health insurance. Christ strengthens us to meet these challenges and we pray for the Holy Spirit to guide
34 and inspire our actions.

35 Current leadership is Rev. Dr. William Wilson, Sr., Chair; Rev. Dr. Jennifer Cho, Vice Chair; Rev. William
36 Williams III, Secretary

37 Submitted by:

38 Rev. Dr. William B. Wilson, Sr., Chair

39

Property and Liability Insurance Program of the Board of Trustees

2017 Insurance Renewal:

At the 2017 insurance renewal coverage has been moved to Church Mutual Insurance Company. The 2017 insurance renewal process resulted in a \$158,500 premium increase or 4% versus the 2016 costs. This includes the final increase in property values as a result of property inspections that were completed in 2013 to 2015. The Conference had been insured with Mercer Insurance Company for most of its coverage since 2004. But due to the poor loss history, Mercer this year had proposed over a 30% increase in premiums. The Board of Trustees believes that the long relationship with Mercer was mutually beneficial for many years, but in light of the significant premium increase, coverage limitations, and at the recommendation of our broker Sovereign Insurance have decided to move the insurance coverage to Church Mutual. As a result of Sovereign's negotiations the Conference was able to avoid a steep premium increase and a large reduction in coverages by moving to Church Mutual. Church Mutual Insurance is the largest insurer of churches in America and has already met with GNJAC staff and Bishop Schol. Additional loss control information and services will become available to local churches and we look forward to the new partnership with Church Mutual.

Workers' Compensation:

The Workers' Compensation coverage is with Church Mutual Insurance Company effective January 1, 2017. Workers' Compensation premiums were increased from \$629,426 to \$660,038 due to adverse claims development which resulted in an experience modification factor increase.

Automobile Insurance:

The Board of Trustees continues to make available a voluntary automobile insurance program for church-owned vehicles. The 2017 premium cost is overall 18% lower than in 2016. Each church has access to this insurance program and pays the premium cost for any vehicle insured.

Claims Experience:

As previously noted, the Conference loss ratio was very unfavorable for the 2011 to 2016 policy years due to several large loss events. The Board of Trustees believes Church Mutual understands well the nature of the GNJAC loss exposures and look forward to engaging in active loss control measures to achieve more favorable results. If losses continue in an undesirable fashion they will negatively impact the overall cost of insurance; our current five year loss ratio is 105%.

Large Losses:

The loss experience for the past five years has been driven by several events and a few specific claims. In 2011 the Conference sustained nearly \$900,000 in Hurricane Irene claims from 66 churches and a fire loss totaling over \$2 million. Super Storm Sandy losses in 2012 totaled \$2.1 million from damages to 142 churches. In 2013 \$4.7 million in losses from two workers' compensation claims were sustained. In 2016 there was a total fire loss with damages totaling over \$1.9 million and a roof collapse claim totaling over \$600,000.

Parity Implementation:

The Parity Implementation Plan approved at the 2007 Annual Conference session continues to be implemented according to the original plan. In 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 and again for 2017, the Board of Trustees has funded parity relief from Board of Trustee's fund balances.
2 The 2017 billing is the final year of the ten year Parity Plan.

Surplus:

3
4
5 The Board of Trustees endeavors to complete each policy year with a positive fund balance. The
6 accumulated surplus is used to cover uncollectible premiums, fund cash flow in order to pay insurers
7 timely, pay deductible differentials, and fund parity relief. Surplus is also potentially needed to offset
8 future rate increases and uninsured/underinsured defense costs and losses as prescribed by the
9 Cabinet.

10
11 The Board of Trustees believes that it is crucial to maintain the surplus position given the adverse claim
12 experience of the past five years. The Board anticipates \$100,000 addition to the surplus position in
13 2017.

Summary:

14
15
16 The Board of Trustees encourages each church to take advantage of the assistance available through
17 Sovereign Insurance (800-222-4478), the Conference insurance program's broker. The Conference
18 insurance program does not include flood insurance. We remind churches, particularly those located in
19 a flood zone, of the need to purchase flood insurance; Sovereign Insurance is prepared to help with that
20 process.

21
22 Submitted by:
23 Rev. Clifford Still
24 President

25
26

Religion and Race, Commission on

27
28 *"To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice." Proverbs 21:3*

29 Thank you to the members of the Greater New Jersey Commission of Religion and Race (GNJ CORR) and
30 the collaborating ministries for their work and valuable contributions. GNJ CORR is called to engage in
31 activities consistent with role of the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR). "GCORR is the
32 core agency within the United Methodist Church tasked with empowering the Church to pursue racial
33 equity and cultural competency to build a stronger, more vibrant UMC." Similarly, GNJ CORR is charged
34 with this same task in the Greater New Jersey Conference (GNJ). By promoting full and equal
35 participation of the racial and ethnic constituency in the total life and mission of the church, GNJ CORR
36 seeks to empower clergy and laity to develop transformational leaders and vital congregations.

37 In 2016, GNJ CORR continued with the goals of 1. Providing resources, training and 2. Supporting and
38 providing programs of cultural competency, racial justice and reconciliation. Specifically, the 2016
39 activities were as follow:

40 Resources and training

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

- 1 • GNJ CORR worked with The Board of Church and Society and the Commission on Christian Unity
2 and Interfaith Relationships to sponsor a dinner at the 2016 Annual Conference, The keynote
3 speaker was Dr. Kenzoe Brian Selassie who provided tools on “*How to Communicate Effectively*
4 *in a Polarized World*”. We were provided with valuable tools to engage in fruitful conversations.
- 5 • Rev. Vanessa Wilson provided relevant information to GNJ CORR from the General Conference.
6 GCORR will produced new material regarding cross-cultural, cross-racial sites for use by Annual
7 Conferences in 2017. When the final edition is printed, we hope to use it in Greater New Jersey.
- 8 • GNJ CORR hosted at *Just-in-Time Conversation about Race*, at Drew University Theological
9 School, in an effort to address postelection tension. “*Leading with Love and not Fear*” was an
10 opportunity to gather, worship, learn and support each other and was co-sponsored by the
11 Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns and the Committee on Native American Ministries
12 (CoNAM) The guest speakers and conversation leaders included Dr. Leah Gunning Francis, Rev.
13 Charles D. Mitchell, Rev. Dr. Ralph Bunche Terrell, Ms. Tammy Bormann and Rev. Vanessa M.
14 Wilson, J.D.

15 GNJ CORR looks forward to continuing to serve GNJ through training, consultation, research and
16 advocacy to empower clergy and laity to be able to be an effective witness for Christ in a diverse world.
17 In 2017, we will focus our efforts on supporting those in cross-cultural cross-racial sites as well as
18 proving resources and tools for effective cross-cultural conversation.

19 Submitted by:
20 The Reverend Vanessa M. Wilson, J.D.
21 Chair, Greater New Jersey Commission on Religion and Race
22 vanessa@vanessawilson.info
23 (609) 388-8852

24 *GNJ CORR Members*
25 Ms. Bonnie Smith Harley (L),
26 Reverend Amanda Hementez, (C)
27 Ms. Laura Lin (L)
28 Ms. Jee Hai Park (L),
29 Reverend Terisita Matos Post (C)
30 Reverend Danny Thomas (C),
31 Reverend Vanessa M. Wilson (C) Chair,

32

33

34

Small Church Membership, Commission on

35 The Commission on Small Church Membership was formed in 2016. The GNJAC website makes the
36 following statements of goals for the Commission on Small Church Membership: “This committee helps
37 create resources for smaller churches. It provides opportunities and creative solutions for greater
38 collaboration, cutting edge resources, and spiritual growth. This strengthens and broadens the work
39 smaller churches do in their communities – and supports the people sustaining these special, and often
40 historical, sanctuaries in our region’s landscape.”

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 In 2017 the Commission on Small Church Membership is focused on the goal of growing worship
2 attendance. We are addressing the question of how to best resource pastors and lay leadership to offer
3 excellent worship in their settings. The focus is to increase the percentage of churches growing in worship
4 attendance. Small church leaders have challenged the committee to assist them by offering an actionable
5 plan and some resources to help clergy and laity take the steps necessary towards transformation.

6 We began our work at the Doxology Conference in November. I spoke on “Small Church Worship” and
7 over 100 persons attended the workshop. Many of the pastors and laity asked for more resources on
8 small church ministry. Building on the interest of these local church leaders we are working on gaining
9 insight into the needs of small membership churches and ideas around how the conference can best
10 resource them for growth.

11 The first objective of the committee was to define a small membership church. Discipleship Ministries
12 defines small membership church in this way. “A small-membership congregation is more than numbers,
13 but size counts. A small congregation is one that has fewer than 200 members or fewer than 150 in
14 worship ([https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/how-to-worship-in-small-membership-](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/how-to-worship-in-small-membership-congregations)
15 [congregations](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/how-to-worship-in-small-membership-congregations)).” In GNJAC this definition includes many churches. To work effectively this committee
16 needed to refine that definition. The committee agreed it would be best to focus on churches that on
17 average worship less than 90 persons.

18 The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference is made up of 552 churches, in 2015 three hundred and
19 seventy nine (379) of our churches had an average worship attendance of less than 90 worshippers. That
20 represents 68% of all congregations. The good news is nearly 50% of our small membership churches
21 brought in new members in 2015. The committee is exploring how to best build on this growth and
22 determine if there are any common strategies that result in an increase in membership.

23 Small membership churches share many of the same challenges such as older congregations and aging
24 facilities. They also are very diverse in locality and community needs. We also recognize that 261
25 churches in GNJAC report less than 50 in average worship attendance. We are considering the different
26 challenges these churches face in attracting new worshippers.

27 We are actively working on ways to connect small church pastors on a regular basis so they may share
28 their challenges, as well as resources. Another goal is to offer a full day of learning for small membership
29 church leaders both laity and clergy.

30
31 Submitted by:
32 Rev Gina Yeske

33
34 Committee: Janet Boetticher, David R Edwards, Millie Grey, Carol Hutchison, Faindan Blessings
35 Magomero, Debi Selm-Orr

36

37

Status and Role of Women, Commission on (COSROW)

39 “The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women advocates for full participation of women in
40 the total life of The United Methodist Church. We’re helping the church recognizes every person – clergy
41 and lay, women and men, adults and children - as full and equal parts of God’s human family. We believe

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 that a fully engaged and empowered membership is vital to The United Methodist Church's mission "to
2 make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

3 COSROW in the Great New Jersey Conference has carried out that purpose through the following
4 projects:

- 5 1. Helenor Alter Davisson Award in order to recognize and affirm the courageous and outstanding
6 women leaders in our Greater New Jersey. Rev. Patricia Bruger was awarded in 2016;
- 7 2. Review possibilities for mandatory Sexual Ethics Training for all clergies under appointment(s) in
8 order to end sexual misconduct, abuse, and harassment by those entrusted with ministerial roles
9 in The United Methodist Church;
- 10 3. Leadership Training: "Annual Conference Networking and Strategic Planning Meeting" Nashville,
11 TN ;
- 12 4. Display table at the Annual Conference to promote our ministry and provide resources for our
13 mission goals.

14 Two of GCSRW's key pieces of legislation passed by the General Conference in May of 2016 in Portland,
15 OR.

- 16 1. "Ensuring inclusiveness of gender and age in the worldwide UMC" - Book of Discipline Paragraph
17 4. Article IV;
- 18 2. "**New Social Principle: Pornography**" - Add new Social Principle to ¶ 161 Book of Discipline. Please
19 visit our website gcsr.org for more information.

20 All our meetings are open to the public, and you are welcome to contact any COSROW member about
21 your attendance. Here are our members: Diane Pacione, Gilbert Morris, Yoomi Yi, Iraidia Ruiz de Porras,
22 Evan Rohrs-Dodge, Sonia Cancel, and Beth Caulfield. I am so thankful for their faithful work for full and
23 equal participation of women in the total life of the church and beyond.

24 We are honored to serve all of the Greater New Jersey Conference to have the benefit of the wisdom, life
25 experiences, and perspectives of women for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the
26 world. For by our baptism "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no
27 longer male and female; for all of [us] are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

28 Submitted by:
29 Michelle Ryoo, Chair
30
31

32 **Trustees, Board of**

33 The Officers of the Board are: Chairperson – Rev. Clifford Still; Vice-Chairperson – Rev. James Ryoo;
34 Secretary – Mary Beth Scherer. The following Trustees serve as liaisons to the properties for which the
35 Board is responsible: Ed Bowen, Hosuk Chung, Judy Hopkins, Jack Green, Rev. Peter Broomall, Rev.
36 David Lehmkuhl, Rev. Rupert Hall, Sang Chul Shin and Tracy Estes.

37 The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance/care of the following properties: the Episcopal
38 residence, nine District parsonages, the previous Palisades District parsonage situated in Harrington
39 Park, NJ, the land in Paterson, NJ, as well as the Conference Office building. Additionally, they oversee

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 the actions needed to be taken in reference to churches and parsonages that have been closed,
2 representative of formal action taken at prior Annual Conferences. Six cemeteries are also under the
3 care of Trustees.

4 Some items of note as a result of Trustee action taken during the 2017 Conference Year:

- 5 • Alex Mayer has been hired as Property Manager in accordance with the Maintenance to Mission
6 Plan. Alex has since sold five of the closed churches in accordance with the Annual Conference
7 action.

8
9 The Trustees are privileged to work with, and receive the cooperation of, many individuals and groups
10 throughout the Conference. The counsel which is offered to the Board from Conference Chancellors
11 Lynn Caterson, Esq. and Sanford Brown, Esq. is invaluable. John Cardillo, Conference Treasurer and
12 Director of Administrative Services, serves as Treasurer of the Board and Alexa Taylor, Benefits Services
13 Manager, and Alex Mayer, Property Manager serve as staff liaisons to the Board. As a result of their
14 guidance and expertise in reference to overall financial resources of the GNJAC and specifically the funds
15 which the Board oversees, the Trustees are better equipped to prioritize and responsibly address the
16 needs of the various properties. The Conference Trustees are also grateful for the opportunity to work
17 more closely with Bishop Schol and the Cabinet during the course of this Conference year.

18 Submitted by:
19 Rev. Cliff Still, President

20

21

United Methodist Men

22

23
24 “I will make you fishers of men, if you follow me”.

25

26 WOW – If we follow him. Thank God for *the twelve* that followed him.

27

28 We, the men of the Greater NJ Annual Conference sometimes need to be reminded and nudged to
29 follow our Lord. Men, we need to be still and listen and discern with what God is asking us to do. We
30 need to have strong United Methodist Men groups in our churches. Are we willing to be the men God
31 has called us to be?

32

33 What is our role as men in our churches?

34 We are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ to be Godly husbands, fathers, sons and brothers to
35 step up in leadership in our churches and communities to be mentors to be disciple makers.

36

37 For the last several years, this report has noted that the Methodist Men in the local church has fallen
38 off. Looking at the number of churches that are nationally chartered this is true, but talking to churches
39 throughout our conference men are very active.

40

41 Today’s men want to be more hands on and with less meetings. Thank you men and your churches for
42 the following:

43 Prayer ministry

44 Feeding the homeless

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

- 1 Clothing the needy.
- 2 Serving on your local church committees
- 3 Prison ministry
- 4 Fellowship among each other
- 5 Ushering
- 6 Cooking & serving meals
- 7 Assisting with worship services
- 8 Leading small groups
- 9 Mentoring young men in the church & community
- 10 Scouting ministry
- 11 Supporting the Upper Room Ministry
- 12 Walk to Emmaus

13
14 Besides the above, there are many more ministries being done by the men of the Greater NJ Annual
15 Conference.

16
17 Thank you for your service and devotion to our Lord and Savior.

18
19 Submitted by:
20 Rick Walker
21 GNJUMM President

22

23

24 **United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey**

25 **Vision:** We see congregations and Conference mission organizations experiencing the joy of generosity
26 and the excitement of increased financial resources to make new disciples, provide inspiring worship,
27 grow faith groups and engage disciples in community mission.

28 **Mission:** The Foundation increases disciple making, congregational vitality and community mission
29 engagement by assisting congregations and mission organizations to grow financial assets through
30 stewardship education and investment management.

31 **Officers of the Board:** President – Edward N. Bowen, Jr. (laity), Vice President – Sue Ryan Goodman
32 (laity), Secretary – William Markert (laity), Treasurer – John Cardillo (Conference staff)

33 **Board Members:** Rev. Robert Costello, Rev. David Mertz, Jay Gerken (laity), Vasanth Victor (laity)

34 **Brief History:**

- 35 • Created in 1992 by action of the 135th Session of the Northern Annual Conference, with the first
36 investment made by the Conference.
- 37 • In 2000, became the UMF of Greater NJ after the merger of the Southern & Northern
38 Conferences.
- 39 • Wespath Investment Management became the investment manager in August 2015. Assets
40 totaled \$7 million at 12/31/15.

41 **Developments in 2016:**

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

- 1 • Rev. Richard Hendrickson, the Executive Director of the Foundation, was appointed to a
2 local church. Sue Ryan Goodman assumed the role of Interim Executive Director while
3 the Foundation searched for a full time Executive Director.
- 4 • Under Sue's direction the Foundation attracted the investments of the Centenary Fund,
5 the GNJ Investment account of the Board of Trustees and three new local churches. The
6 amount of investment in the foundation increased from \$7 to \$36 million.
- 7 • Marketing materials and account documentation were updated and a Planned Giving
8 brochure was developed.
- 9 • In October, joint meetings with Wespath were held throughout the state with existing
10 Foundation members and larger churches.

11 Plans and Goals for 2017:

12 The Foundation will be hiring a full time Executive Director. The Executive Director will be responsible
13 for positioning the Foundation for future growth. The focus of the Foundation is three fold; fund raising,
14 stewardship and investment management. The Foundation has become the "go to source" for
15 stewardship education and investment management needs of Conference churches.

16 The Foundation seeks to increase investments to \$50 million by the end of 2017. This goal will be
17 accomplished by reaching out to churches of all sizes across the conference that would benefit from our
18 services.

19 It's an exciting time in the history of the Foundation. The organization is solid and becoming stronger.
20 Our investment track record is healthy and confidence in the organization continues to build.

21 Submitted by:
22 Edward N. Bowen, Jr.
23 President

24

25

26 United Methodist Women

27

28 The GNJUMW had a busy and productive year!! In January a group five new GNJ Conference officers and
29 President Marilyn Powell went to Lake Junaluska, NC for a three day weekend called Leadership
30 Development Days, run by United Methodist Women National. The theme of the weekend was "Esther -
31 Preparing for Leadership."

32

33 Our spring meeting on April 2, 2016 focused on Immigration. We were hosted by Rev. Heidi Bak's
34 church, Beverly UMC. Our worship service was enhanced by the presence of Katherine Parker, our UMC
35 missionary to Nepal. She thanked us for the emergency grant money that UMW sent to Nepal after the
36 major earthquakes a couple of years ago. With this money they were able to buy food and water and
37 transportation to reach those rural areas that had been cut off from aid. The program following the
38 worship featured a presentation by First Friends, a non-profit group out of Kearny, NJ, that visits,
39 advocates for, and befriends immigrants in detention centers, specifically the Elizabeth Detention
40 Center. Tim Roebuck, a volunteer visitor, spoke to the importance of this work, as this visit represents
41 not only the "First Friend," but, in most cases, the "only friend" that those interned have.

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

1 The program was closed by Pastor Esther Morales who shared her experiences writing poetry in a diner
2 in the midst of an immigrant community.

3
4 We sent delegation of about 15 women from GNJUMW to the Northeast Jurisdiction meeting held June
5 16-18 in Syracuse, NY. The theme of the meeting was "A Fresh Wind is Blowing." Bishop Schol was
6 present to participate in worship. Our very own Marisa Gonzales was elected as a UMW Northeast
7 Jurisdiction Representative and Yvonne Bouknight became a member of the Program Advisory Group for
8 National United Methodist Women from GNJUMW.

9
10 We co-sponsored Mission "U" with the GNJC, offering 4 courses, including a weekend session at
11 Georgian Court University at Lakewood, NJ July 15-17, and a day session at the Arcola UMC, Paramus
12 July 22. There was also an active youth contingent at Georgian Court. Dean Yvonne Bouknight ably
13 coordinated the team that brought the school together, and Grace Pugh Hubbard led us in music and
14 praise! The issue of Climate Justice was one of the workshop topics. "The Sea Is so Wide and my Boat is
15 so Small," a book by Marian Wright Edelman, was a study at Arcola. This was led by Nicole Caldwell-
16 Gross, the GNJC Director of Mission. This book focuses on underserved American children that are
17 plagued by poverty.

18
19 Our fall October 15th meeting was devoted to Environmental Justice. We were welcomed into the GNJC
20 Mission Resource Center by Bishop Schol. Our worship message was delivered by Rev. Pat Watkins our
21 first UM missionary appointed to minister to the earth and to encourage environmental stewardship. Dr.
22 Nina Chen of the Nature Conservancy clearly outlined many individual strategies to heal the earth in
23 terms of water runoff, energy conservation and air quality. A representative of the Citizens' Climate
24 Lobby described the destructive effects of increased levels of CO2 on the earth. Their solution to this is
25 quite simple, a carbon tax that will encourage companies to cut their CO2 emissions.

26
27 The fall meeting closed with an election of officers. Rev. Jessica Campbell graciously officiated at the
28 installation of the new Mission Team.

29
30 The last meeting of 2016 was the Mission Team Meeting and the Officer Training of District Officers
31 November 18-19 at the GNJC Mission Resource Center. We were introduced to a simulation game on
32 the effects of pollution on people, the earth, health, jobs and housing.

33
34 We wish to thank all the Conference staff, especially Joanne Sullivan who prayed us out of the Resource
35 Center after our Team Meeting, and Kaitlyn Deal who helped us use the technology of the Center, while
36 she also documented and photographed our meetings.

37
38 Further, we also wish to thank Grace Pugh Hubbard who we have affectionately named GNJUMW
39 musician of the year for her faithful accompaniment of so many of our events.

40
41 Submitted by:
42 Kathleen Schulz,
43 President of GNJUMW

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United Theological Seminary

Where Dreams Take Flight

United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, was founded in 1871 by Milton Wright, a Bishop in The Church of the United Brethren in Christ and father of aviation pioneers Wilbur and Orville Wright. The Wright brothers had a passionate dream of developing the first successful "flying machine." They experienced great difficulties, hardships and setbacks in achieving their dream. Through their determination and commitment, however, their dream eventually was fulfilled, and they were the first human beings to achieve sustained flight.

God often plants a vision or dream in someone's heart to become a full-time servant of Jesus Christ. In St. Peter's sermon on Pentecost, Peter quotes the prophet Joel who said, "God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams" (Acts 2:17). When God pours out the Spirit on someone and calls them into ministry, United seeks to partner with that person in helping them to grow spiritually and intellectually in achieving their God-given call and dream.

In the fall of 2016, 418 students enrolled at United to answer God's call and vision for their lives.¹ Our prayer is that God will use United to prepare these students to become faithful, fruitful and effective pastors and church leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. According to a recent survey, 86% of our graduates are either currently serving in local congregations or are retired from serving in local congregations.² United alumni/ae are making an impact.

On January 1, 2017, United celebrated the beginning of a new partnership in ministry with Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO). United has become an extension site for the Course of Study School of Ohio located at MTSO, providing a convenient hybrid program for part-time pastors pursuing a local pastor's license. Through United's Course of Study, pastors experience a Friday-Saturday weekend on campus and finish coursework online over the weeks that follow. Courses are offered four times per year.

If you feel God calling you to serve in any form of Christian ministry, we encourage you to go online to united.edu to discover the option that fits your ministry and calling. May God bless you as you respond to God's dream for your life to serve in either the ordained, commissioned or lay ministry.

Submitted by:
Dr. Kent Millard
President, United Theological Seminary
Dayton, Ohio
www.united.edu

¹ Fall 2016 headcount of masters' and doctoral students enrolled in courses.

² According to the 2014 United alumni/ae survey.

Treasurer's Report

Property & Liability Insurance
December 31, 2016

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Balance Forward		713,006
Receipts:		
Interest Income	32,871	
Premiums from Churches	3,015,522	
Worker's Compensation	621,632	
Prior Year Receipts	186,025	
	3,856,050	
Disbursements:		
Insurance Premiums	3,237,912	
Auto Insurance	16,755	
Worker's Compensation	651,838	
Salary	43,664	
Other Expenses	3,163	
	3,953,332	
Change in Operation		(97,282)
Ending Balance 12/31/16		615,724
Ending Balance as of 12/31/16 is for Reserves for Uncollectible Premiums.		

5

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

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**Health Insurance Accounts
Greater New Jersey Annual Conference**

	12/31/2015	12/31/2016	Variance
<u>Assets</u>			
Health Insurance Investments-BOA	4,139,810	7,376,176	3,236,366
A/R-GNJAC	1,503,867	1,418,724	(85,143)
Mortgage Receivable/Accrued AR-CBOPHB	3,340,000	0	(3,340,000)
Total Assets	8,983,677	8,794,900	(188,777)
<u>Liabilities</u>			
Post-Retirement Benefits	51,687,699	49,555,111	(2,132,588)
Total Liabilities	51,687,699	49,555,111	(2,132,588)
Actives Fund			
Balance Forward	16,521	5,464	(11,057)
(Receipts)			
Billing Non-Annuitants	4,743,577	3,917,623	(825,954)
Dist. Supt. & Staff Premiums	491,250	496,954	5,704
Staff Family Premiums	0	0	0
2% of Sal. Contrib.W/H fr Staff&DS's	38,705	42,319	3,614
Incapacity from 127	882,584	898,167	15,583
Transfer from 127 Subsidy	500,000	970,000	470,000
Total Receipts	6,656,116	6,325,063	(331,053)
(Disbursements)			
Non- Annuitants Premium	6,353,603	5,997,065	(356,538)
Consulting Fee	0	0	0
Other Expense	0	0	0
Transfer 2% Pastor Salary Contribution	276,026	284,306	8,280
Transfer 2% Staff Salary Contribution	37,544	42,737	5,193
Total Disbursements	6,667,173	6,324,108	(343,065)
Receipts less Disbursements	(11,057)	955	12,012
Balance	5,464	6,419	955
ANNUITANTS Fund			
Balance Forward	0	0	0
(Receipts)			
Shared Ministries for Annuitants	1,908,900	1,980,101	71,201
Billing for Annuitants over 65	44,522	52,163	7,641
Billing for Annuitants under 65	50,152	55,504	5,352
Medicare	0	6,283	6,283
2% Salary Funds Reserve Transfer	467,586	565,260	97,674
Transfer from 127 Subsidy	0	0	0
Total Receipts	2,471,160	2,659,311	188,151
(Disbursements)			
Blue Cross - Premium Expense	2,238,966	2,407,043	168,077
Administration Expense	18,735	18,977	242
Staff Expense	164,074	184,135	20,061
CBO - Salary	26,205	28,856	2,651
Adoption Support/ Refunds	0	0	0
Consulting Agency Fee	23,180	20,300	(2,880)
Total Disbursements	2,471,160	2,659,311	188,151
Receipts less Disbursements	0	0	0
Balance	0	0	0

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

Reserve Fund for Retiree Health Ins.			
Balance Forward	8,929,812	8,958,134	28,322
(Receipts)			
Centenary Fund Additional Contribution	539,271	547,072	7,801
Transfer 2% Pastor Salary Contribution	276,026	284,306	8,280
Transfer 2% Staff Salary Contribution	37,544	42,737	5,193
Investment Income	15,337	333,573	318,236
Misc. Income	2,187,026	2,198,408	11,382
Total Receipts	3,055,204	3,406,096	350,892
(Disbursements)			
Transfer to Annuitants	467,586	565,260	97,674
Transfer to Non Annuitants	500,000	970,000	470,000
Dividend Expense	703,025	175,519	(527,506)
Strategic Transformation Grants	78,682	34,000	(44,682)
GNJAC Settlement Mortgage	195,005	872,949	677,944
Transfer to Annuitants Incapacity	882,584	898,167	15,583
Transfer to Reserve	200,000	100,000	(100,000)
Total Disbursements	3,026,882	3,615,895	589,013
Receipts - Disbursements	28,322	(209,799)	(238,121)
Balance	8,958,134	8,748,335	(209,799)
DENTAL Fund Balance Forward			
	20,784	20,079	(705)
Billing for Dental Insurance	72,861	93,887	21,026
Dental Insurance Premiums	73,566	73,820	254
Receipts - Disbursements	(705)	20,067	20,772
Balance	20,079	40,146	20,067
Post Retirement Fund Balance Forward			
	(59,970,551)	(51,687,699)	8,282,852
Current Year Transactions	8,282,852	2,132,588	(6,150,264)
Balance	(51,687,699)	(49,555,111)	2,132,588
Interest Reserve Fund Balance Forward			
	0	0	0
Current Year Transactions	0	0	0
Balance	0	0	0
0			
Total Fund Balance	(42,704,022)	(40,760,211)	1,943,811

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

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**Pension Accounts
Greater New Jersey Annual Conference**

	12/31/15	12/31/16	Variance
ASSETS			
A/R-GNJAC	348,619	148,559	(200,060)
GBOP Deposit Account	1,521,338	1,584,615	63,277
Pension Investments-BOA	939,858	991,964	52,106
Accounts Receivable -GBOPHB	0	0	0
Total Assets	2,809,815	2,725,138	(84,677)
LIABILITIES			
Pension	0	0	0
Due to Conference	0	0	0
Total Liabilities	0	0	0
General Fund			
Balance Forward	3,196,108	2,809,815	(386,293)
<i>Receipts</i>			
Investment Income	3,368	52,106	48,738
GBOP Invest. Gain/(Loss)	(44,249)	112,986	157,235
GBOP Invest. Refund/Adj	1,209	164	(1,045)
GBOP CPP Premium Holiday	0	0	0
UM Publishing Income			0
Annual Conference Offering			0
Chartered Fund Income	612	367	(245)
Pre-Retirement Seminar Income	515	825	310
Total Receipts	(38,545)	166,448	204,993
<i>Disbursements</i>			
Global Pension Trust			
Pensions - Moving Expense Reimb	45,634	41,402	(4,232)
Grants/Relief	1,496	1,496	0
GNJAC -Settlement / Mortgage Subsidy	113,752	0	(113,752)
Pre-Retirement Seminar Expense			0
Strategic Transformation Grants	0	0	0
Staff Expense	128,548	142,528	13,980
CBO Salary Expense	26,205	28,852	2,647
Pension Adjustment Expense	0	0	0
Refunds	0	0	0
Operating Expenses	32,113	36,847	4,734
Total Disbursements	347,748	251,125	(96,623)
General Fund Balance	2,809,815	2,725,138	(84,677)
Receipts - Disbursements	(386,293)	(84,677)	301,616
Current Service Fund			
Balance Forward	0	0	0
<i>Receipts</i>			

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

General Board of Pension Income	2,018,996	1,942,051	(76,945)
Staff Premiums			0
Conference CRSP/ MPP Income	2,643,893	2,496,318	(147,575)
Conference CPP Income	590,356	597,225	6,869
Total Receipts	5,253,245	5,035,594	(217,651)
<i>Disbursements</i>			
Refunds/Adjustments			
Transfer to Fund 127 Retiree Health	2,149,227	2,025,832	(123,395)
Expense entry	1,814,785	1,749,415	(65,370)
GBOP Billing	1,289,233	1,260,347	(28,886)
Total Disbursements	5,253,245	5,035,594	(217,651)
Current Service Fund Balance	0	0	0
Receipts - Disbursements	0	0	0
Interest Reserve Fund		0	
Interest Reserve Fund Balance	0	0	0
Total Fund Balance	2,809,815	2,725,138	(84,677)

Reports to the 2017 Annual Conference

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**2016 Receipts Comparison
Greater New Jersey Annual Conference**

Fd #	Funds	2014			2015			2016		
		Budget	Dec YTD	%Budget	Budget	Dec YTD	%Budget	Budget	Dec YTD	%Budget
Shared Ministry Funds	100 Clergy Support	5,890,456	4,989,578	84.71%	5,727,298	5,014,342	87.55%	5,319,436	4,625,288	86.95%
	200 Administration	3,077,536	2,806,347	91.19%	2,947,208	2,729,383	92.61%	2,853,078	2,639,495	92.51%
	300 WorldService/Conf.Ben.	3,498,839	2,909,309	83.15%	3,745,763	3,194,351	85.28%	3,765,928	3,411,579	90.59%
	410 Black College	216,512	179,375	82.85%	202,814	171,595	84.61%	197,700	171,411	86.70%
	420 Africa University	48,443	42,417	87.56%	45,383	39,369	86.75%	44,256	39,683	89.67%
	430 Ministerial Education	542,782	443,338	81.68%	508,422	424,310	83.46%	495,598	424,616	85.68%
	Subtotal	13,274,568	11,370,365	85.66%	13,176,888	11,573,350	87.83%	12,675,996	11,312,072	89.24%
Prior Yr. Shared Ministry		8,425			19,931			9,879		
Billing Funds	CRSP	2,621,770	2,420,756	92.33%	2,594,175	2,488,714	95.93%	2,548,698	2,405,010	94.36%
	2015/Prior Year CRSP	289,011	64,059		195,362	66,959		201,461	42,324	
	Prior Years CRSP	1,574,166	24,932		1,765,279	88,219		1,806,657	48,984	
	Total CRSP	4,484,946	2,509,748	55.96%	4,554,816	2,643,893	58.05%	4,556,816	2,496,318	54.78%
	Comp. Protection Plan	590,639	558,717	94.60%	585,452	559,546	95.58%	577,523	575,205	99.60%
	2015/Prior Year CPP	53,203	14,530		42,922	13,892		49,906	9,379	
	Prior Years CPP	339,013	4,310		372,875	16,919		384,986	12,642	
	Total CPP	982,855	577,556	58.76%	1,001,249	590,357	58.96%	1,012,415	597,225	58.99%
	Property/Liab. Insurance	2,825,531	2,728,927	96.58%	3,056,080	2,878,178	94.18%	3,269,240	3,015,522	92.24%
	2015/Prior Year P/L	246,307	54,670		245,787	73,140		285,459	69,918	
	Prior Years P/L Insurance	1,610,905	47,822		1,755,405	92,364		1,836,095	94,050	
	Total P.L. Ins.	4,682,743	2,831,419	60.46%	5,057,272	3,043,683	60.18%	5,390,794	3,179,490	58.98%
	Health Insurance	4,658,072	4,598,335	98.72%	4,276,240	4,227,385	98.86%	3,872,800	3,731,749	96.36%
	2015/Prior Yr Health Ins	436,619	91,886		332,648	101,139		352,028	60,587	
	P/Ys Health Insurance	2,425,383	27,931		2,722,289	123,685		2,827,528	62,660	
	Total Health Ins.	7,520,075	4,718,151	62.74%	7,331,177	4,452,209	60.73%	7,052,356	3,854,997	54.66%
	Workers Comp Ins	518,808	507,381	97.80%	536,164	529,655	98.79%	622,560	621,632	99.85%
	2015 Workers Comp	19,650	6,030		12,694	-1,605		32,162	18,677	
	Prior Years Workers Comp	90,746	1,514		101,586	7,316		104,178	3,281	
	Total Workers Comp Ins	629,204	514,924	81.84%	650,444	535,366	82.31%	758,900	643,590	84.81%
Total Shared Min. & Billing	31,574,391	22,530,588	71.36%	31,771,846	22,858,789	71.95%	31,447,276	22,093,570	70.26%	
Special Giving	0	1,436,805		0	1,082,584		0	1,018,866		
GRAND TOTAL	31,574,391	23,967,393		31,771,846	23,941,373		31,447,276	23,112,436		

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