



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Greater New Jersey Conference

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Between the covers of the 2015 Conference Journal are people, ministries and mission, all of which make up the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey.

People

Contained in these pages are names and information for the 906 clergy and 744 lay members who make up GNJ. Each one is a gift from God. Also listed are the faithful lay members and clergy who died over the past year. We remember them with thanksgiving.

Among our people are the leaders who have served and continue to serve congregations, communities and the world to fulfill our mission. They are the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey. I give thanks for their service and commitment to the church.

Ministries

Also in these pages are the reports and budgets of our ministries. The congregations in the conference are making new disciples, commissioning and ordaining clergy, rebuilding Sandy-damaged homes, preventing malaria, educating young people in colleges, universities and seminaries, feeding people, equipping laity and clergy to grow vital congregations, and transforming lives and communities. I praise God for this ministry and thank God for the generosity and service that is making a difference.

Mission

The 2013 Annual Conference session enacted a bold strategic ministry plan that said by 2018, GNJ would have 41 percent of its congregations be highly vital. We have made great progress moving from 16 percent to more than 32 percent in two years. We are well on our way.

We also said we would organize the conference to equip spiritual leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations. We continue to take steps to fulfill the mission and to align our ministry to achieve God's purposes.

Let's allow this journal to remind us of our priorities – people, ministries and mission. Let us continue to pray together and serve together so that God will be glorified through the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey.

Thank you for your service and commitment to the church.

Keep the faith!

John Schol, Bishop
The United Methodist Church
Greater New Jersey