

# THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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## Task Force to Present Legislation on Inter-Cultural Competency Plan

By Josh Kinney  
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A Cultural Competency Task Force made up of a diverse, wide-ranging collective of leaders from across GNJ, will propose an Executive Summary of a 10-year strategic plan at the 2017 Annual Conference in Wildwood. The plan's goal is to develop GNJ leadership capacity and intercultural competence skills to lead a systemic shift from diversity to inclusion.

"Intercultural competence is critical to our mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world," said Rev. Hector Burgos, Director of Connectional Ministries and a member of the Task Force. "It's at the center of fruitful discipleship."

Burgos said that the members of the task force, who represent the rich diversity of GNJ, have engaged the undertaking with "great passion and openness of mind and heart" with insights and wisdom providing focus, clarity and direction.

"It has truly been a privilege to help facilitate their work," said Burgos. "My hope is that in the years to come, we grow as a connectional body in intercultural competence in such way that it becomes part of our DNA. Intercultural competence

allows us to be in relationship and ministry in our complex and diverse mission field so our congregations reflect God's intended diversity already present in our communities and so all can live into their God-given potential."

Rev. Giovanni Arroyo, a Provisional Elder of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference who serves on staff of The General Commission on Religion and Race, has led and facilitated the task force, acting as a resource for GNJ.

"Within this group there is a commitment to give our best," said Giovanni. "It feels like what church should be."

The conversations and vulnerability brought to the discussions from various ages, backgrounds and races have contributed to an understanding of the lenses through which many in the group view the world and their experiences.

"The receptiveness to hearing each other has been very powerful," he added.

Greater New Jersey is already one of the most diverse conference in the denomination. The task force is creating a strategic plan that will develop intercultural competence in our leadership to create a systemic shift in GNJ from diversity to intercultural competence.

"How do we develop leaders that are culturally competent and able to work



Rev. Giovanni Arroyo, Team Leader for Program Ministries of The General Commission on Religion and Race facilitates a meeting of the GNJ Cultural Competency Task Force at the Mission and Resource Center. Photo by Josh Kinney

across a diverse spectrum?" Giovanni asked the group. "We need to work toward changing the culture of GNJ so that cultural competency is embraced in all that we do."

The group meetings have created a theological framework as to why intercultural competency is important, and has engaged in a 10 year vision of what that could look like.

"We've had hard conversations,"

Giovanni honestly expressed. "We've hit walls and had to stop to pray and discern."

For most GNJ churches, the challenge is not a desire for diversity of race, rather there is often resistance to making the changes needed that make such diversity more likely. Churches typically realize their need for greater diversity, even in locations where the surrounding

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## Next Generation Ministries Proposal to Come Before Annual Conference

By Josh Kinney  
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The connections between youth ministry within GNJ can lead to a powerful transformative experience for the next generation of Christian leaders is the basis of the findings by Ministry Architects, a consulting firm tasked with developing a strategic plan for camping, campus, and youth ministries in GNJ.

After meeting with 112 stakeholders including youth, young adults, parents, youth workers, campus ministry workers, camp staff, pastors, and conference staff with an additional 110 people completing surveys related to camping, collegiate, and student ministries, Ministry Architects is working with Hector A. Burgos, Director of Connectional Ministries on an executive summary to present to the 2017 Annual conference session in Wildwood at the end of the month. The summary will be provided in an addendum to the Pre-Conference Journal and made available on or about May 15.

Mark DeVries, president of Ministry Architects praised GNJ for its "wonderful opportunities."

"We've just begun to scratch the surface in building the systems to raise up a generation of young leaders in the conference," he said, expressing a desire to build on the positive energy throughout GNJ among local church leaders who seek to work collaboratively in clusters and regions.

The core recommendations from the plan include designing and implementing innovative, Christ-centered, connective leadership development structures for youth and college students throughout the conference and a development plan for GNJ camps. The plan details a key 10 year goal of establishing Next Generation Ministries in GNJ which would involve 20,000 young people and decrease the average age of GNJ congregations by 5%.

"GNJ vision and strategic priorities include raising new generations of enthusiastic disciples of Jesus Christ who are connecting, engaging in and leading ministry in congregations and participating as healthy young people within a global society," said Rev. Burgos. "Through the Next Generations



GNJ children enjoy the lake at The Pinelands Center in Mount Misery, NJ. Photo provided

Ministries plan GNJ intends to leverage the resources we have available through our Youth and Young Adult councils and the Board of Higher Ed and Campus Ministry, and GNJ Camps to equip and support our congregations and their

leaders for vital and sustainable students' ministry". This holistic approach seeks to provide a holistic experience that engages students in life transforming and faith deepening ministry that is built around the things that are most important to students: meaning, purpose, belonging, challenge, fun and meaningful relationships with adults", he added.

The plan starts with connecting youth ministries by reframing the current Camps and Retreats Board, which is an affiliated 501c3 organization, as the GNJ Next Generation Ministries Board which will establish clear leadership for all GNJ initiatives related to youth. The Next Generation Board will serve to coordinate and collaborate the work of the Councils of Youth and Young Adults, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, a Camps and Retreats Committee and a staff action team for operations.

Suggestions include design and implementation of a long-term funding plan for Next Generation Ministry, investigating and cataloguing creative funding sources and developing programs that are innovative, flexible and scalable.

For detailed information, survey results, and Ministry Architect's full assessment report, please visit [www.gnjumc.org/markersofvitality/newsdisciples/camping-listening-sessions](http://www.gnjumc.org/markersofvitality/newsdisciples/camping-listening-sessions). The Executive Summary of the Next Generation of the Strategic Plan will be available for review on or about May 15.

## Regenerative Ministry Makes Five Year Plan for Reduced Shared Ministry Possible

By Carolyn Conover  
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The 2018 proposed budget that will be voted on at the upcoming Annual Conference session uses a flat Shared Ministry formula of 16.3% for all local churches in Greater New Jersey. This proposal, if affirmed, will have several immediate beneficial effects on at both the local and conference level of GNJ:

### Local Church

In 2017, GNJ churches paid an aver-

age of 17.2% in Shared Ministry. The 2017 formula was variable and based on the budgets of the local church and the Greater New Jersey Conference. Converting to a flat rate of 16.3% for Shared Ministry provides an immediate financial benefit for 83% of congregations and is a recognition from GNJ leaders that the local church is closest to the mission field and resources must be strengthened there to fulfill the mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ to change lives and transform communities

The 2018 budget proposal also outlines a plan to continue to decrease the flat Shared Ministry percentage for five consecutive years (see inserted plan). The intent of the plan is to reduce the Shared Ministry percentage to 15.6% by 2022 freeing up more resources that will remain at the local church level.

### GNJ Strategic Ministry

The proposed five-year budget plan focuses on creating regenerative ministry and mission that raises money through

grants and other funding sources. GNJ has a proven track record in making this shift to regenerative ministry. A Future With Hope, which was founded as a response to Superstorm Sandy, has generated more than \$17 million in gifts and resources to fund rebuilding efforts. A Future With Hope leaders are building on that success to evolve the organization into developing Hope Centers, leading mission training and becoming the mission arm of the conference. The

*Continued on page 6*

# A Message from the Bishop



## What are we looking for in clergy leadership?

Each year I meet for a two day retreat with those being ordained and commissioned to get to know them better and to talk about their leadership in the church. Here are some of the things we look for in GNJ leaders:

### • Leadership

- Passionate
- Open to new ideas and differences of opinion
- Relational and results oriented

### • Competence

- Transformational - initiate a vision, develop strategies and inspire people to work together to achieve goals
- Analytical - make excellent decisions and resolve challenges using prayer, scripture, knowledge, input from others, data and experience
- Managers of Multiple Projects - flexible and adapt to added work or challenges while maintaining excellence and a Christ-centered spirit
- Organized - plan, formulate steps, prioritize and carry out work on time and with excellence
- Communicators - listen for understanding, articulate with clarity, express directly and clearly and inspire people through verbal and written communication

### • Expectations

- Connect and relate well with church people and community residents
- Develop leaders within the congregation
- Lead the congregation to deeper faith and service in the world
- Grow the five markers of vitality – new disciples, worship, small groups, disciples in mission and giving to mission
- Raise sufficient funds for community and world mission, ongoing congregational ministry, shared ministries and salary and benefits

It is not easy to be a pastor today. Congregations are more diverse, the church and community environment continues to change, the competition for people's time and commitment in a fast paced over-worked world is a significant challenge and continued shrinking resources makes it harder and harder to do the ministry that needs to be done. But we cannot shrink before the challenges rather we must grow our character and competency to face into the challenges and expectations.

I found our new clergy during the two day retreat to be highly engaged and open to suggestions. They are eager to learn and serve well. They want to partner with the laity and cultivate more lay leadership. And they want to grow disciple's faith in Christ. This eagerness must be fed with prayer of course, but also by congregations that are willing to let their pastors explore new ideas and make mistakes. They need encouraging laity even when things don't go well.

Early in my leadership, I made a mess of some things. But Frazier R. Horton was a patient Church Council leader who believed in me, listened to me and gave me thoughtful guidance. His guidance was not to try and change everything in me but to encourage incremental changes that were doable. Every leader needs a Frazier Horton who sees possibility in them. There were others who tried to influence my leadership but were not as helpful. They mostly criticized rather than finding positive things in my leadership. They tended to focus on what they would do rather than recognizing there are several ways to lead. I never had the sense they prayed for me. Frazier prayed for me all of the time. They did not give regular thoughtful feedback but waited until there was a problem to "unload" their issues and concerns.

To have excellent pastoral leadership, we need healthy congregations in which the pastors see laity as ministry partners and laity provide prayer and healthy feedback to their pastors.

I have great hope in the church because I see clergy all around GNJ who feel called to serve God, the church and the community, and want to do well. I believe in them, trust them and pray for them. I hope you will do the same.

Keep the faith!

John

John Schol, Bishop  
The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL RULING



To read Bishop Schol's message on the Judicial Council ruling regarding the consecration of Bishop Karen Oliveto, please visit:

[www.gnjumc.org/news](http://www.gnjumc.org/news)

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# THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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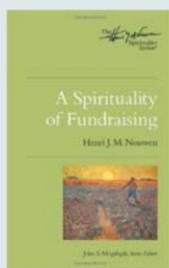
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is May 23, 2017**



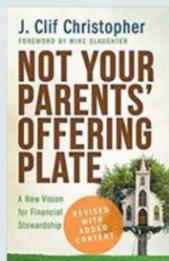
## RESOURCES FOR ENCOURAGING YEAR ROUND GENEROSITY



### The Spirituality of Fund Raising

by Henri Nouwen

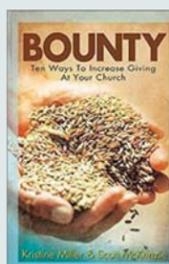
This is a great book to begin the discussion with leadership teams about seeing fund-raising as ministry.



### Not Your Parents' Offering Plate

by J. Clif Christopher

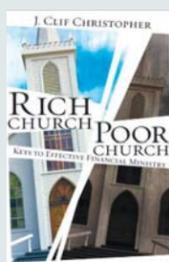
A wonderful book that gives a foundational understanding for stewardship and generosity as well as practical, concrete steps for improving giving.



### Bounty: 10 Ways to Increase Giving

by Kristine Miller and Scott McKenzie

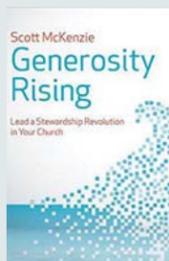
Practical suggestions and resources for increasing giving in your church. Each chapter concludes with a very practical how to section.



### Rich Church/Poor Church

by J. Clif Christopher

Clif offers insights into the basic differences in churches that are financially healthy and those that are financially struggling. For many churches this will be an eye opener as they realize much of what they do is identified with those churches that are financially struggling.



### Generosity Rising: How to Lead A Stewardship Revolution

by Scott McKenzie

If you are tired of reading books and attending workshops but seeing nothing change, this may be the book for you.

Generosity Rising is a complete plan for beginning and sustaining a revolution in generosity.

**\*top 3 reasons why people give to a nonprofit comes from J. Clif Christopher's Not Your Parents Offering Plate**

## TOP 3 REASONS PEOPLE GIVE TO A NONPROFIT

- 1 Believing in the mission.
- 2 Regard for staff leadership.
- 3 Fiscal stability.

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**Topic ideas:** Outcomes, changes lives and thank you
- **SAY THANK YOU!**
- **INVEST IN KEY RELATIONSHIPS**  
 Pay attention to the 20% who give the time and money to keep ministry alive

*“When we seek to raise funds we are not saying, “Please could you help us out because lately it’s been hard.” Rather, we are declaring, “We have a vision that is amazing and exciting. We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you, your energy, your prayers and your money –in this work to which God has called us”*

– Henri Nouwen, *The Spirituality of Fund Raising*

## Apostles in our Midst: Rev. Jeff Bills and HOPE UMC, Voorhees

*A 2017 Series on Apostolic Leadership in GNJ*

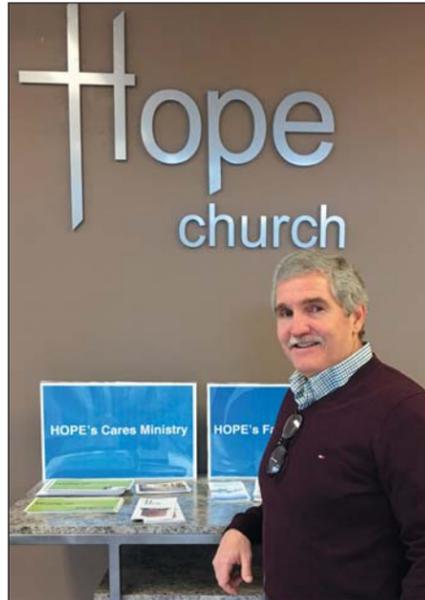
**Mission:** For the last 26 years, HOPE UMC of Voorhees has been intentional in creating a culture that attracts and welcomes all people on the spiritual spectrum, particularly those who “don’t do church.”

“We can only begin our task of making disciples of Jesus Christ by first getting people to walk through the front door,” said Rev. Jeff Bills, founding and lead pastor. “Every avenue is utilized to invite others to HOPE, from social media to snail mail, but we place the highest value on that personal, one-on-one invitation because we know that works best in getting people to give church a try.”

Once through the doors, first-time visitors are warmly welcomed by HOPE’s Lobby Team. Team members not only bring their God-given talent for friendliness to the job, they rely on their training to help optimize that first-impression opportunity. Whether it’s helping folks find the restrooms, the nursery, or a cup of coffee, the team is accessible, open and well-equipped to answer any and all questions. The key to this level of hospitality is making sure each member of the lobby team understands her/his role in the overall mission and vision of the church.

Cutting-edge music, thought-provoking and inspiring videos, along with a weekly message that is both practical and relevant, help make HOPE’s Sunday worship experience a little different from what many expect when they think of church. “We are committed to engaging people in a clear and understandable way,” Bills said. “Our approach is to start where people are and then help lead them to the place Jesus calls us to be. We have always sought to be clear about the difference between the timeless truths of the Gospel and the temporary styles of communication. Styles are ever-changing and the church needs to adapt to stay relevant. The Gospel is the unchanging foundation that keeps us anchored.”

About five years ago, HOPE made a paradigm shift, casting a vision of being a church of small groups rather than a church with small groups. Today, the church has close to 60 small-group



**Rev. Jill Bills of Hope UMC in Voorhees.**

*Photo provided*

offerings. There is literally something for everyone at HOPE UMC, where individuals can connect with others, form communities and grow together in their faith walk. “This past year, we launched a successful, online small-group opportunity for those whose schedules might not permit attending a Bible study in person or for those who are not part of the HOPE family,” Bills said.

Additionally, HOPE’s youth ministry sees anywhere from 65 to 80 middle-school and high-school youth attending worship and small groups each Sunday evening. More than 90 children make up the weekly Kidz Connect Sunday morning worship and small-group gatherings.

Following Jesus’ model, the community of HOPE serves others through the operation of a food pantry, support of annual adult missions teams traveling to Haiti and Cuba, and partnering with several Camden City initiatives, including Urban Mission Fellowship, which was founded by a member of HOPE Church.

In a world that is constantly changing, HOPE tries to stay open to all that might lie on the horizon. “We keep the

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**Bishop John Schol’s prayer ministry for the GNJ districts led to powerful stories and a glimpse into what God is doing through clergy and laity throughout the conference.** *Photo by Josh Kinney*

## Moving Stories of Hope Emerge From Bishop’s Prayer Ministry

**By Josh Kinney**  
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When Bishop John Schol started a two month-long ministry of praying specifically for each district in GNJ, he had no idea of the impactful blessing and stories that would surface. For nine weeks starting on February 6, Bishop Schol prayed for the districts and heard the joys and concerns of laity and clergy, encouraging them to share their requests.

“Some invited me into their deep hunger and pain in their life,” said Bishop Schol, who felt a “deep honor” to be entrusted with the prayers.

Others shared their concern for the world and the people they knew. Bishop Schol was asked to pray for people addicted to heroin, organ transplants, hunger, loved ones who were dying or had died, immigrants and various other concerns. The prayer time became part of his daily devotion as many throughout GNJ shared stories of how God was making a difference in their congregations.

Here are some of the stories GNJ shared:

### Small Church Prayers

Rev. Laura Steele, who is part of Mo-

saic Ministries, pastors at East Millstone UMC and Mt. Zion, Hillsborough. She came from a background of working in medium-to-large size churches in both New Jersey and Virginia to Mt. Zion; a one room sanctuary church on the side of a mountain.

“You actually have to take a dirt road to get to it!” Steele exclaimed. “What a shock for me having lived in New York City and the D.C. metro area to be serving such a small, rural church.” Steele shared with Bishop Schol that at first she was scared and confused and wondered how the church could be thriving with no programming and about 25 worshippers.

“Well, I will tell you something,” she said, “I have never experienced the Holy Spirit so consistently in Sunday morning worship as I have at this tiny little mountain church. As we are inundated with church growth formulas, programmatic strategies, and “big thinking” visions, I want to take a minute to reflect on how special small churches can be.”

Steele described Sunday morning’s with congregants moved to tears of joy and voices raised high among the mountain trees.

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# Lay Ministry Recognized for Leadership, Outreach

By Josh Kinney  
jkinney@gnjumc.org

GNJ laity were recognized for their faithfulness, achievements, and apostolic initiatives on April 22 at the Mission and Resource Center. As primary agents of God's mission in today's world, United Methodist Lay members gathered to share, connect and honor each other for the work they're doing to transform lives throughout GNJ.

"We are called to serve in our homes, our work, our local community and the world," said GNJ Lay Leader Rosa Williams. "The laity role is that of a servant who models the love of Christ by example and the local church is where our labor is constant in witnessing and sharing our faith experiences of the gospel in many different ways."

Many of those experiences were showcased in a diverse, wide-ranging spectrum at the recognition ceremony which brought together lay leaders throughout GNJ from different ages, races, and walks of life and faith journeys.

Some of the 14 lay ministers recognized included Annette Thurkauf of Boonton UMC who began the church food pantry, Katie Lally of Vernon UMC who started a "Mommy and Me" ministry that reaches young parents in the community, and Edna Winans of Manahawkin UMC's "loads of love" ministry, providing free wash and dry services for community members in need.

"The honorees all have a great sense of responsibility to reach out to their communities and go outside of their walls," said Williams. "Among those honored who had responded to their call to ministry in many different ways, most focused on the dimension of human needs and in helping people to develop a loving relationship with God."

Williams was inspired by the honorees emphasis on people's social and emo-



GNJ Lay Leader Rosa Williams stands before an audience of faithful lay ministers at a special day of recognition on April 22 at the Mission and Resource Center.

Photo by Doug Dunlop

tional well-being by providing services to meet their physical necessities while at the same time honoring their dignity and self-worth as a privilege to serve.

"These people have served their communities for many years and I was very proud to say thank you for doing the work of the Kingdom here on earth," Williams said.

Edie Turi and Ray Schmidt of Christ UMC in Piscataway received recognition for their "sacrificial love" and "tireless

volunteerism" with the FISH Hospitality ministry which seeks to overwhelm those in need with hospitality by showcasing God's unconditional grace and love.

Simpson UMC was recognized for its ShareGood Thrift Shoppe, which has developed strong relationships with the community as well as a partnership with Sayreville UMC.

"The Garden of Eden" ministry started by Christ Church of Paterson's Garden Ministry was also celebrated for its efforts in reaching the community and connecting with neighborhood schools to allow children to plant and harvest vegetables.

"I often encourage us all to share the stories of opportunities to reach out to meet needs of the community," Williams stated, expressing a belief that stories encourage and inspire others to ministry. "What are the needs and what kind of outreach ministry will meet those needs in your community?" she asked, recommending partnerships with other church communities to maximize impact.

"God has uniquely gifted each congregation with those who excel in particular types of outreach," Williams continued. "And what an honor it is to say thank you."

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# Five Year Plan for Reduced Shared Ministry Possible

Continued from page 1

expectation is that the organization will continue to fund itself through grants and donations. At the same time, salaries, administrative overhead and other expenses associated with Greater New Jersey mission work is being strategically shifted to A Future With Hope easing the budget of the conference and providing a window to reduce Shared Ministry to the local church.

A similar shift is happening with GNJ's partnership with the United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey. By creating shared services with the Stewardship Foundation, the conference is opening an opportunity to fund staff positions, stewardship resources and growth without passing the financial commitment through Shared Ministry to the local church. It is a mutually beneficial relationship. The more resources GNJ local churches invest with Wespeth through the Stewardship Foundation, the more resources can be returned to the local church through the work of Greater New Jersey.

A Future With Hope and The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey are regenerative ministries. By aligning and leveraging resources with these vital mission partners, both Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and the local churches receive the benefits. The conference is continuing to build these types of relationships and funding strategies throughout the region so that vital and sustainable ministry can continue to flourish at all levels of the church in the long term.

### Other Factors

Another key to the implementation of the five year plan is the continued commitment of the local church to pay 100% of their Shared Ministry. In the last several years, Shared Ministry fulfill-

### Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

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
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>11,154,901</b>	<b>11,260,536</b>	<b>10,878,600</b>	<b>10,778,484</b>	<b>10,678,015</b>	<b>10,593,803</b>	<b>10,640,682</b>
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
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>11,154,901</b>	<b>11,260,536</b>	<b>10,825,796</b>	<b>10,788,183</b>	<b>10,750,006</b>	<b>10,542,256</b>	<b>10,331,390</b>
<b>Budget Surplus (Deficit)</b>	-	-	<b>52,804</b>	<b>(9,699)</b>	<b>(71,991)</b>	<b>51,548</b>	<b>309,293</b>

ments have increased in local churches. In 2016, local churches gave 88% of their Shared Ministry commitment. The five year plan calls for more churches to fulfill 100% of their commitment to

Shared Ministry as their Shared Ministry payments decrease. Future decreases in Shared Ministry will depend upon the local church fulfilling its commitment.

The details of the proposed budget and five year plan accompany this article to help all congregations understand the immediate and long term affects.

### 2018 SHARED MINISTRY PLAN

INCOME:	Column C 2017 Recommended	Column D 2017 Expected	Column C 2018 Recommended	Column D 2018 Expected	Column E 2018 Shortfall	Column F Difference 2017 to 2018
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
	<b>12,676,024</b>	<b>11,154,901</b>	<b>11,979,294</b>	<b>11,260,536</b>	<b>718,758</b>	<b>(696,730)</b>
EXPENSE:						
<b>I. CLERGY SUPPORT</b>						
A. District Superintendents Salary, Benefits & Office Exp. <b>Sched.A</b>	1,916,483	1,686,505	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. Annuitants 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	<b>5,124,108</b>	<b>4,509,215</b>	<b>4,843,880</b>	<b>4,553,247</b>	<b>290,633</b>	<b>(280,228)</b>
<b>II. ADMINISTRATION</b>						
A. Conference Council on Finance and Administration expenses	4,545	4,000	4,255	4,000	255	(290)
B. Director of Administrative Services expenses <b>Sched. B</b>	190,678	167,797	182,959	171,981	10,978	(7,720)
C. Director of Communication and Development <b>Sched. B</b>	190,678	167,797	182,959	171,981	10,978	(7,720)
D. Other conference administrative agencies' expense <b>Sched.E</b>	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	<b>2,820,813</b>	<b>2,482,315</b>	<b>2,680,169</b>	<b>2,519,359</b>	<b>160,810</b>	<b>(140,643)</b>
<b>CLERGY SUPPORT/ADMINISTRATION (fund 100)</b>	<b>7,944,920</b>	<b>6,991,530</b>	<b>7,524,049</b>	<b>7,072,606</b>	<b>451,443</b>	<b>(420,872)</b>
<b>III. WORLD SERVICE AND CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCE</b>						
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 - <b>Schedule C</b>	167,766	147,634	160,612	150,975	9,637	(7,154)
C. Non-Cabinet Staff (6) <b>Schedule C</b>	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	(14,869)
E. Connectional Table - <b>Schedule D.</b>	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 <b>WORLD SERVICE/CONF.BEN. (fund 300)</b>	<b>3,944,581</b>	<b>3,471,231</b>	<b>3,788,930</b>	<b>3,561,594</b>	<b>227,336</b>	<b>(155,651)</b>
<b>IV. OTHER APPORTIONED FUNDS</b>						
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	<b>786,523</b>	<b>692,140</b>	<b>666,315</b>	<b>626,336</b>	<b>39,979</b>	<b>(120,208)</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE (I,II,III, IV)</b>	<b>12,676,024</b>	<b>11,154,901</b>	<b>11,979,294</b>	<b>11,260,536</b>	<b>718,758</b>	<b>(696,730)</b>
<b>Shortfall Budgeted</b>			<b>1,521,123</b>		<b>718,758</b>	
<b>Total Expense Budget</b>	<b>12,676,024</b>	<b>11,154,901</b>	<b>11,979,294</b>	<b>11,260,536</b>	<b>718,758</b>	<b>(696,730)</b>

# Cooperative School of Christian Mission: Mission U 2017

The Cooperative School of Christian Mission's 2017 Mission U program will take place this summer with two sessions: a three day school from July 7 – 9 at Georgian Court University in Lakewood, and a one day event on July 22 at Arcola Korean UMC in Paramus.

This year's program will pursue studies under the general theme of "Live What Jesus Taught." The program's centering scripture comes from Romans 12:9-10 of The Message version of the Bible, which reads: "Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle." Mission U Dean, Rev. Richard Hendrickson, invites all – men and women, laity and clergy – to experience new opportunities for learning, worship and fellowship. Youth and children are invited to attend the three day school where classes designed for their age groups will be offered.

To encourage new people to attend Mission U, first-time, full-time attendees will not pay the \$40 registration fee. They

will pay only housing and food fees, receiving a \$40 discount. All who attend will not only engage in study, there will also be time for strolling through the campus gardens, swimming, bird watching, nature hikes, movies, tours by an arborist, a tour of the mansion, and other activities.

## Red Bird Mission Craft Store at Mission U

Those who enjoy shopping will be able to purchase hand crafts made by artisans in Appalachia at the Red Bird retail store at Georgian Court University. Funds provide vital, fair income to people in the Appalachian region of the U.S. by marketing their hand crafts. Red Bird works with artisans who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed. To find out more about the Red Bird Mission, visit [www.rbmission.org](http://www.rbmission.org)

Adult school studies and topics will include:

**Living as a Covenant Community** – a spiritual growth study of major covenants throughout the Bible, taught in English and Korean.

**The Bible and Human Sexuality: Claiming God's Good Gift** – a study that helps explore the complexity of the biblical text and varied understandings of human sexuality, taught in Spanish.

**Missionary Conferences in the U.S.** – a geographic study which lays a foundational understanding of the three U.S. Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church: Alaska United Methodist Conference, Red Bird Missionary Conference and Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference.

**Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action** – A social action study designed to deepen understanding and awareness of climate change and its impact on God's creation, taught in English and Korean.

**The Sea Is So Wide & My Boat Is So Small** – The Conference Study at Lakewood in which the focus is on the role and responsibility of the faith community impacting children's lives.

**Vulnerable Children** – The Conference Study at Arcola Korean UMC will focus on ministry to special needs and autistic children.

**The Youth School** – open to coed youth ages 12-18 who have completed grades 7 through 11, will focus on the country of Sierra Leone, its history, struggles, and reality. Along with the study, participants will be taking part in various activities ranging from swimming to movies, bowling to games and hands-on mission.

**The Children's School** – Offering two classes: one for children who have completed grades K-3 and one for children who have completed grades 4 – 6. The children will learn about Missionary Conferences in the U.S. A guardian must be on site attending the Adult School of Mission U.

Mission U is co-sponsored by The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey and the GNJ United Methodist Women (UMW). Mission U endorses and abides by all Safe Sanctuary guidelines.

For more detailed information, access to full brochures and registration forms with costs, visit [www.gnjumc.org/events/mission-u-2017](http://www.gnjumc.org/events/mission-u-2017)

## Moving Stories of Hope Emerge From Bishop's Prayer Ministry

Continued from page 4

"The walls literally shake with excitement and our shared life in Jesus Christ," Steele said. "The church has not only changed its members, it has changed me."

Steele's testimony spoke to the power that lies in small churches; giving voice to what the Holy Spirit does in those spaces.

### Acts of Kindness

Rev. Peter Mantell, pastor of Kingwood UMC in Stockton shared with Bishop Schol a story of how one small act of kindness led to a bequest that included approximately \$750,000 and two parcels of land totaling 86 combined acres.

"To think it happened because we simply delivered a Shepherd's Pie to a homebound woman in Kingwood," said Mantell, who upon learning of his appointment to the church three years ago, heard that it was known far and wide for its roast beef dinners.

"This tiny little church pulls together and serves 300-400 meals in a single night," he said. "It's truly amazing how well this operation works, and they've been doing it for about 40-50 years!" In the last 18 months, the church started

their Shepherd's Pie ministry.

The church has focused on visioning before spending, and has since worked with the United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey on how to be the best stewards of the new-found resources.

### Mission of Music

Pastor Paul Jaw of Flemington UMC said that his community is reinventing itself to attract young families, branding itself as a community of music and arts. The church decided it would reach this demographic through music; something Jaw considers "second nature" to his church.

Through trial and error, Jaw learned from his experiences and invited several music groups to use the church for performance and practice, including The Hunterdon Harmonizers, The Denzer Piano Studio, and the NJ Women Song. There has been interest in using the building to generate income for the church.

"The trustees agree that we should give special consideration to any organization or entity who will contribute to branding our church as the leader of music and children's ministries," said Jaw.

The success of the church's Youth Music Showcase, a program that offers scholarships for young people to compete and earn, has been wide-reaching. Two years ago the church received a \$170,000 bequest from a graduate of the Flemington Choir School, which was the first in the country. The second Youth Music Showcase was held in February and the response was overwhelming. Almost 40 young people competed for \$2,700 of prizes. The showcase provides incentive and recognition to talented, motivated students who perform their pieces of music in a public formal setting. County residents have called to thank Jaw for the event, and regional music teachers have registered their students in participation.

The Hunterdon County Council for Young Children began holding their meetings at the church with Jaw joining the council. At the meeting, mothers discussed needing a place for their children to play in the winter.

"So we decided to turn our Fellowship Hall into a children's winter playground," said Jaw. "We named it 'The Fun Zone' which runs from January through March." The response was so overwhelming the church decided to hold a Fun Zone program for the summer months as well

with now more than 70 new families participating.

"Now that we've got these children and families to swim our water, it's time to put in some hooks to keep them here," said Jaw, who plans on starting a drama program to teach children important skills, grow imagination, and develop friendships.

"My hope is that parents will enjoy seeing their children perform and make memories," he said. "We can also use drama to teach Bible stories."

As an answer to prayer, a congregant stepped up to lead the drama program with a goal to open it to the community this fall. The church is also exploring win-win partnership options.

Jaw hopes the programs will succeed in branding the church as musical and youth friendly.

"New possibilities will begin to emerge with new people in the church," he said. "The church will also impact the community to become a community of music and arts."

Bishop Schol praised the exciting developments at Flemington and across the GNJ districts and said, "God answers the prayers, faith and hard work of the church."



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## Blueprint for Wellness Is Coming

Earn \$100 PulseCash\* and Up to 120 Wellness Points



Event: GNJ Annual Conference  
Date: Mon., May 22 and Tues., May 23  
Time: 6 am to 9 am - this is a fasting test!  
Location: Wildwoods Convention Center  
Meeting Rooms 7 & 8  
Register by: 5/8 for 5/22; 5/9 for 5/23 by 11:59 pm

### Register!

Strongly recommended for on-site event; walk-ins are very limited.  
Required for screening at Quest Diagnostics facility to avoid out-of-pocket costs.

Registration Key  
Employer group: HealthFlex or United Methodist Church  
Phone: 1-855-623-9355  
Online: [wespath.org](http://wespath.org) > HealthFlex/WebMD Log In  
Then Select "Quest Blueprint for Wellness"

Reasonable alternatives or waivers will be made available for those who cannot achieve recommended or improved measures due to an underlying medical condition. Requests for a reasonable alternative may be made by:

- E-mail: [incentiverequest@wespath.org](mailto:incentiverequest@wespath.org)
- U.S. mail: Wespath Benefits and Investments  
Attention: Incentive Request  
1901 Chestnut Avenue, Glenview, IL 60025

We will work with you (and your primary care provider, if you wish) to find a reasonable alternative in order for you to be able to achieve the same reward.

\* Must be enrolled in HealthFlex and in Virgin Pulse to earn PulseCash.

Blueprint for Wellness (BFW) provides an opportunity to learn about your health, and earn \$100 PulseCash\* and up to 120 Wellness Points (depending on your screening results) on your path to 150 Points (and \$150 more in PulseCash). You'll also receive personalized data on 30 health factors.

### Blueprint for Wellness Highlights

- Incentives**—\$100 PulseCash\* and up to 120 Wellness Points. Participant and spouse in HealthFlex can each earn incentives.
- Convenient options**—take the screening at our on-site event or at a local Quest Diagnostics facility.
- No cost to you if taken** at an on-site event or registered at a local Quest Diagnostics facility.
- Wellness Points**—earn 20 Points for each of six health measures that meet the American Heart Association's recommended range (or for showing improvement vs. your 2016 Blueprint for Wellness results). Six health measures that meet the criteria = 120 Wellness Points total. If you didn't do Blueprint for Wellness in 2016, don't miss out in 2017!
- Fast the night before** for the most accurate results. Ask your doctor or other primary care provider (PCP) if it is safe for you to fast.
- Confidential results mailed directly to you.** Share the results with your PCP.

### Learn More!

[wespath.org](http://wespath.org) > "HealthFlex/WebMD"  
The 2017 Incentives FAQ includes details about registration, health measures and how to receive the screening incentive if you can't get to an on-site event or Quest Diagnostics facility.

Participation in HealthFlex wellness programs is voluntary.  
The IRS considers cash wellness incentives as taxable income. Please consult your tax adviser.  
Wespath Benefits and Investments is the new name for the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits—it invokes John Wesley, and indicates a health and wholeness path to follow for those we serve. While our name has changed over the years, our commitment to helping participants achieve well-being aligned with the principles of The United Methodist Church has remained the same.

# OUTBOUND Conferences Motivates Evangelism

By Josh Kinney  
jkinney@gnjumc.org

With a focus on making disciples, OUTBOUND, A Day on Evangelism at Bethany Wayne UMC sparked a renewed enthusiasm for outreach.

At the conference held on March 25, participants from across GNJ gathered to engage in workshops and hear from prominent evangelists using innovative new ways to reach into the community.

Sponsored by the Northern Regional Team, OUTBOUND featured keynote speaker Paul Nixon, a United Methodist pastor who coaches church leaders in North America and Europe. Nixon is based in Washington, D.C. where he works as regional strategist for Path 1 New Church Starts and as CEO of the Epicenter Group, a coaching and stewardship development organization in North America and the U.K., Nixon worked onsite with more than 800 congregations. As the author of eight books, including "Weird Church: Welcome to the 21st Century" Nixon spoke on "changing ministry gears in a Post-Gutenberg world" and led a workshop on promising ministry models.

Greater New Jersey pastors were featured in a lunch panel and included Emad Gerges, from Wesley UMC in Bayone, Herbert Junker Silva, from New Canaan UMC in Kearny and Michelle Ryoo, from First UMC in Ridgefield Park.

The several hundred clergy and lay in

attendance left inspired by the event. "It was a great day of learning, inspiration and motivation," said participant David LeDuc.

Lourdes Magalhaes, pastor at Davis Memorial UMC in Harrison said she was "blessed and inspired" by the event.

Social media expert, Regina Heater led workshops on using Facebook, Twitter and other media as a tool for evangelism and doing theology online. With people using Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, SnapChat and Periscope, Heater discussed how these mediums can be

used in church and what to consider when starting or growing a community's digital ministry.

Shannon Kiser, who serves as the Director of Training for Fresh Expressions U.S., leading a team of mission strategists and trainers in inspiring and equipping leaders and churches to start fresh expressions of church, led two workshops.

As featured on GNJ's Uncovered Dish Christian Leadership Podcast, Mike Baughman, founding pastor and Community Curator for Union Coffee, an

innovative new church start in Dallas, TX, led a workshop on attracting millennials to the church. Other speakers and workshop leaders included Rev. Chris Heckert of Haddonfield UMC, Rev. Sang-Won Doh of Calvary Korean UMC, District Superintendent Steve Bechtold, and James Lee, GNJ Director of Visual Arts.

"My prayer remains that all who attended received power and knowledge that they will actively use to be and lead Jesus' witnesses in their communities, bringing a foretaste of glory divine," said Rev. Beth Caulfield.

## NEW BOOK BY KAREN SINCLAIR

Author, Analyst, Lay Minister



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## Task Force

Continued from page 1

population is virtually from one race.

"All churches have gaps between the makeup of their churches and communities, whether it's race, age, gender, education, economic status or a range of other differences," said Giovanni. "Diversity is clearly an issue for all churches in the decades to come as the U.S. continues its greatest change in the diversity of its population in centuries. If we are to develop attitudes and actions that are necessary to live as authentic Christians in a complex and diverse world, we will need to effectively interact across differences."

For GNJ, the benefit of being a highly diverse conference is the potential for intercultural competent leaders that can connect across those differences. The task force identified four specific audiences to build contextual cultural competency: clergy, laity, BOOM (Board of Ordained Ministry) and GNJ leadership and staff.

"As a team, we have a covenant among each other because we all come from different perspectives," explained Giovanni. "No one is right or wrong and all are honored and respected."

Deep conversations regarding forgiveness, justice, and reconciliation have been had among task force members.

"All of the participants in this process struggled with our own definition of what cultural competency is all about and engaged in conversation about what it is not," said GNJ Lay Leader and task force team member, Rosa Williams. "This process was sometimes painful, but encouraged self-examination and I would venture that I left the table looking at cultural competency in a new light." Williams believes that the ten-year strategic plan for GNJ is one that over time can change the cultural landscape of the conference.

Rev. Onay Lopez, a task force member who represents the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry Committee, expressed gratitude that GNJ has taken this step toward cultural competency.

"I know that GNJ is one of the most culturally diverse conferences in the United States," said Lopez. "For that reason the work of this task force is of vital importance. We need to raise awareness among our people about the cultural diversity between us as a conference.

We need to learn more from each other and increase collaboration between different caucuses and ethnic committees. I believe that we have common goals, and for that reason, we should work together and pool our resources."

Lopez expressed concerns over cross-cultural appointments and immigration issues in the church.

"A lot needs to be done," he said. "But the good news is that we already took the first step, we are working hard on a plan for the next ten years and we know that great things will come out of the implementation of that plan."

GNJ Director of Mission and task force team member, Nicole Caldwell-Gross, approached the first meeting with caution and skepticism but came away encouraged.

"It wasn't just lip service," she said. "These people genuinely struggled together and were committed to genuinely struggling together. I am encouraged by the fact that I live and work with people who are not afraid to take on something for the long haul and recognize that this isn't a quick fix but requires our deep engagement and commitment over several years. I'm ready to continue this journey and let God lead it and walk alongside other leaders who are committed to doing the same thing."

Within GNJ, 114 of 511 congregations are multi-cultural, which is defined as those with at least 30% of their membership being of a different race. Nine languages are spoken on any given Sunday during worship in local GNJ churches and there are 146 cross-racial, cross-cultural appointments. Amid GNJ's forward leaning commitment to diversity, there is significant room to grow, with racial ethnic diversity representing 22% of conference membership, yet almost 50% for the state's population.

"Diversity is more than ethnicity," said Giovanni. "Diversity includes people of different races, classes, theologies, ages, sexual orientation, disabilities, and people new to the faith."

Bishop John Schol commented, "GNJ needs to be shaped by the great diversity of our region as was the early Christian church as reported in Acts 10."

The executive summary of the plan will be available in May to accompany legislation that is being presented for vote of the Annual Conference.



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# Hand Written Bibles: A Labor of Love and Learning

By Paula Jensen  
Pj531@hotmail.com

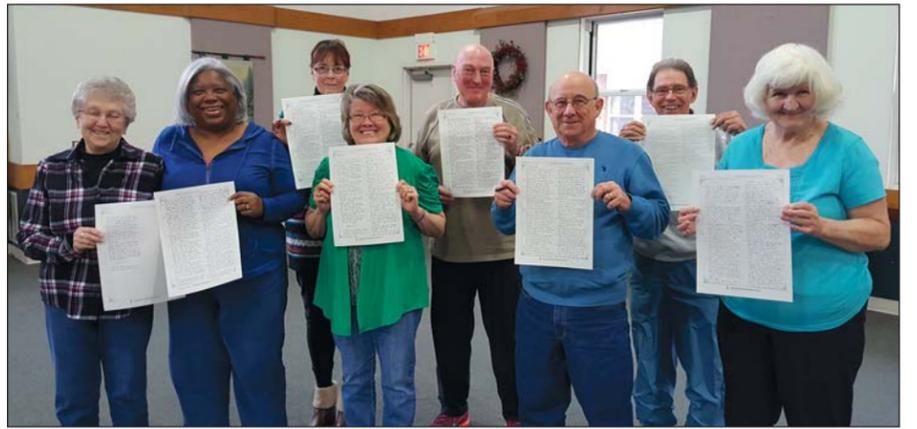
Before Guttenberg invented the printing press and produced the first typeset Bible in 1455 A.D., Bibles were painstakingly reproduced by hand. However, all were in Latin as was Guttenberg's printed version. Early transcribers who dared circulate English language manuscripts of scripture in the 1380s were condemned by Rome; one was even burned at the stake in 1415 with English Bibles as kindling. It would be another 100 years for the Word to be accessible when Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German in 1522; the first complete English Bible was finally printed in 1535.

Now, many years and a variety of translations later, the advent of copiers, laser printers, and electronics have the Bible literally at our fingertips. Why then would someone want to step back in time and replicate the Bible in longhand?

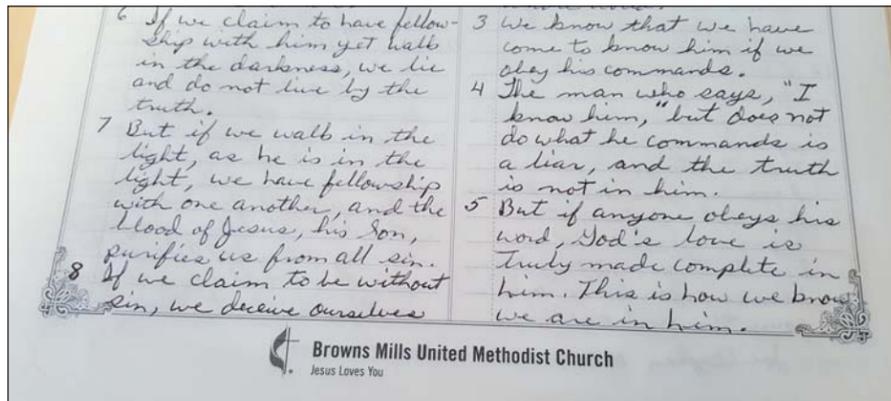
The congregation at Browns Mills UMC was challenged by their pastor, Rev. Daeil Min, to do just that. Daeil was inspired by a similar project 30 members of the Westwood KUMC had completed a few years ago by writing the entire Bible in both Korean and English to mark the church's 30th anniversary. Min had met Rev. Hark Bum Chang at a meeting and

he had shared what his church had accomplished and how it deepened their faith. Two members even went so far as to begin personal projects to copy the Bible on their own as gifts for their children.

Min also had firsthand knowledge in how writing heightens learning. He began teaching himself English by copying a 400 page grammar book, not only once but twice; giving him a comprehensive view of the language instead of doing repetitive, isolated lessons. Scholars agree the motor skill of writing aids comprehension. We not only see what we are writing, we have to process the meaning of the words into our mind. We are not just copying letters in sequence but grasping the context of them in combination. They



Members of Browns Mills UMC are pictured together participating in a hand written Bible writing project. L to R: Gloria Foulkes, Sheila Hill, Cheryl Gant, Judy Fink, Don Bakes, Ken Fink, Charles Evans, Dolores Van Why. Photo provided



are actualized in our brain before our hand can execute the written form. So, we see, know and feel each character, word, phrase, sentence, paragraph and chapter. Writing is experiential.

Much like his learning exercise, Min thought the Bible project would be a way to become much more intimate with scripture as well as engage the members in a meaningful, collective Lenten meditation with individual devotions. It would also produce tangible evidence of the time and love invested in such a group effort.

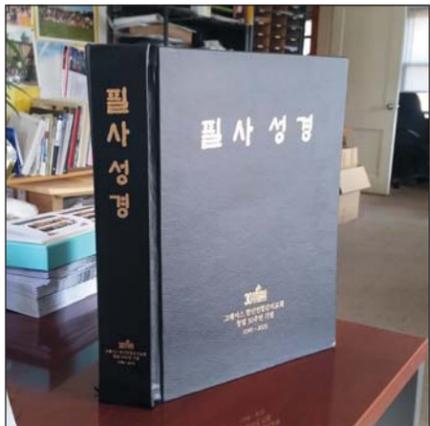
Members of Browns Mills began meeting every Wednesday evening and Saturday morning in March for two hours

of writing and fellowship. Between ten and 15 people attend each session for the shared experience that adds to the unity of the congregation. All ages contribute. The Sunday school children are writing Thessalonians; an eight year old is among them. A grandmother is writing along with her 11-year-old granddaughter. Two college students are squeezing this project in along with their studies at Drew University. One man with Parkinson's disease has found the writing therapeutic, physically and mentally. All have learned more about each other, themselves, and the Bible through this project.

Each participant was asked to sign

up for specific books they wanted to transcribe. But, those who did not get their desired sections felt they learned more by writing those books they were less familiar with. Sheila Hill asked for Psalms, but was given Leviticus. As she wrote it, it was no longer just a boring list of regulations, but became careful instructions to God's beloved children. Candy Newhouse is writing Ezra and is finding that politics haven't changed much but the amount of gold and silver to build a church certainly has.

The pages are large, 10x14", divided in two columns with the church name at the bottom. As in Westwood, the completed pages at Browns Mill will be bound; the project is slated to be completed by this summer. The result will be an imposing volume instead of a compact pew Bible. However, another aspect of the project is how unique each contributor is. As our handwriting is distinctive, each page will literally have the signature and personality of the individual who so patiently wrote it. Future generations will be able to reflect on certain passages and recognize the source by the penmanship. Like the Bible itself, this reflects that many people actually contributed to it. And, not unlike a church, each member has a voice yet is truly an integral part of the whole.



A bound Korean Bible from Westwood KUMC. Photo provided

## GNJ Employment Opportunities GNJ is seeking:

### Administrative Services Manager

For the Connectional Ministries Team (CMT) to oversee administrative services and insure that activities within the team are completed on time, accurately and with excellence. The Administrative Services Manager works with the Director of Connectional Ministries to ensure GNJ is recruiting and equipping transformational leaders so that we make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the world.

### Director of Small Groups

To lead and inspire growth in small group ministries through biblical and theological understanding of small groups. The Director of Small Groups will seek to increase the number of worshippers engaged in small groups within GNJ congregations and work with the Connectional Ministries and Regional teams to ensure GNJ is recruiting and equipping transformational leaders so that we make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the world.

### Director of Stewardship

To work with the local church and The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey. The Director of Stewardship will work with pastors and lay leaders to grow financial resources to increase and grow transformational leaders, disciple making, congregational vitality and community transformation. The Director will lead and inspire the biblical and theological understanding of giving.

### Regional Administrative Assistant

To support the superintendents in the Southern Region, ensuring activities within regional teams are completed on time, accurately and with excellence. The Regional Administrative Assistant works with the team to ensure GNJ is recruiting and equipping transformational spiritual leaders so that we make disciples and grow vital congregations for world transformation.

Visit [www.gnjumc.org/about-us/inspire-create-innovate](http://www.gnjumc.org/about-us/inspire-create-innovate) for full job descriptions, qualifications, and to apply.

## Marcia's Melodies

The lovely new choral anthem, "So Great Thy Love" with lyrics by Margaret G. Juckett and music by Marcia J. Hendron celebrates God's unfailing love. The words speak of salvation, God's promise of peace, joy, and gladness in life and God's provision of a beautiful world for us to enjoy. The greatness of His love is amazing.

Order #: SP1045 SATB @ \$2.00

Marcia's Melodies will be featured at The Hub in Ocean Grove again this summer.

You will find many interesting and challenging songs for sale including catalogs for solos, choral numbers, anthems and new devotional songs and choruses. There are C.D.'s from Marcia's concerts as well as a few song books.

All are available at the desk or by special order.

The Hub preview and sale begins May 13 and opens for the season on May 20!

To receive catalogs or to order music:

Call: 732.988.3191 | Email: [marciasmelodies15@gmail.com](mailto:marciasmelodies15@gmail.com)

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION OPEN First UMC of Toms River



Full-time: Monday-Friday | 8:30- 4:00 p.m.

The successful applicant must have excellent communication skills in speaking and writing. The administrative assistant must also understand the need for utmost confidentiality.

Email resumes to: [fmuller6@comcast.net](mailto:fmuller6@comcast.net)

For more information on requirements and job duties, please visit: [www.fumctr.com](http://www.fumctr.com)

# Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association 2017 Summer Schedule

## Sunday Services in the Great Auditorium

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <br><b>June 11 - 10:30am</b><br><b>Dr. Dale Whilden</b><br><i>Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association, Ocean Grove, NJ</i>                     | <br><b>July 9 - 10:30am</b><br><b>Bishop Peter Weaver</b><br><i>Williamsburg UMC Williamsburg, VA</i>                 | <br><b>July 30 - 7:00pm</b><br><b>Rev. Dr. Steve DeNeff</b><br><i>College Wesleyan Church Marion, IN</i>                                 | <br><b>August 27 - 10:30am</b><br><b>Dr. Barry C. Black</b><br><i>Chaplain U.S. Senate Washington, DC</i>             |
| <br><b>June 18 - 10:30am</b><br><b>Rev. Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean</b><br><i>Princeton Theological Seminary Princeton, NJ</i>                    | <br><b>July 9 - 7:00pm</b><br><b>63rd Annual Choir Festival</b>   | <br><b>August 6</b><br><b>10:30am &amp; 7:00pm</b><br><b>Bishop John Schol</b><br><i>UM Church of Greater New Jersey Neptune, NJ</i>     | <br><b>August 27 - 7:00pm</b><br><b>Annual Sacred Masterwork</b><br><i>"In the Footsteps of Our Savior"</i>           |
| <br><b>June 25 - 10:30am &amp; 7:00pm</b><br><b>Pastor John Randall</b><br><i>Calvary Chapel San Juan Capistrano, CA</i>                    | <br><b>July 16 - 10:30am &amp; 7:00pm</b><br><b>Pastor Christian Andrews</b><br><i>Renaissance Church, Summit, NJ</i> | <br><b>August 13</b><br><b>10:30am &amp; 7:00pm</b><br><b>Rev. Dr. Timothy Tennent</b><br><i>Asbury Theological Seminary Wilmore, KY</i> | <br><b>September 3</b><br><b>10:30am &amp; 7:00pm</b><br><b>Pastor Tim Lucas</b><br><i>Liquid Church, Madison, NJ</i> |
| <br><b>July 2 - 10:30am &amp; 7:00pm</b><br><b>Pastor Kenneth Levingston</b><br><i>Jones Memorial United Methodist Church, Houston, TX</i> | <br><b>July 23 - 10:30am &amp; 7:00pm</b><br><b>Dr. Mitch Glaser</b><br><i>Chosen Peoples Ministries New York, NY</i> | <br><b>August 20</b><br><b>10:30am &amp; 7:00pm</b><br><b>Rev. Dr. Duffy Robbins</b><br><i>Eastern University, St. Davids, PA</i>       | <br><b>September 10 - 10:30am</b><br><b>Commissioner James M. Knaggs</b><br><i>Salvation Army</i>                    |

## Bible Hour

In Bishop Janes Tabernacle Starting at 9:00am

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <br><b>June 19-24</b><br><b>Pastor Lloyd Pulley</b><br><i>Calvary Chapel, Old Bridge, NJ</i>   | <br><b>July 10-15</b><br><b>Pastor Christian Andrews</b><br><i>Renaissance Church Summit, NJ</i>               | <br><b>August 2-5</b><br><b>Rev. Dr. Duffy Robbins</b><br><i>Eastern University St. Davids, PA</i>                        | <br><b>August 21-26</b><br><b>Dr. James W. Fleming</b><br><i>Biblical History Center La Grange, GA</i>              |
| <br><b>June 26-July 1</b><br><b>Rev. Natalie Stephens-Stewart</b><br><i>The Ronald McDonald House of Central &amp; Northern New Jersey</i> | <br><b>July 17-22</b><br><b>Women of Ocean Grove</b><br><i>Ocean Grove, NJ</i>                                 | <br><b>August 7-8</b><br><b>Bishop John Schol</b><br><i>The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey Neptune, NJ</i> | <br><b>August 28- September 2</b><br><b>Rev. David Cotton</b><br><i>Manasquan Presbyterian Church Manasquan, NJ</i> |
| <br><b>July 3-8</b><br><b>Rev. Roger Casey</b><br><i>First Evangelical Presbyterian Church Milford, PA</i>                                 | <br><b>July 24-29</b><br><b>Pastor Talbot Davis</b><br><i>Good Shepherd UMC Charlotte, NC</i>                  | <br><b>August 9-12</b><br><b>Rev. John DiGiambardino</b><br><i>OGCMA Ocean Grove, NJ</i>                                  |  |
|   | <br><b>July 31 &amp; August 1</b><br><b>Rev. Dr. Steve DeNeff</b><br><i>College Wesleyan Church Marion, IN</i> | <br><b>August 14-19</b><br><b>Rev. Vito Aiuto</b><br><i>Resurrection Williamsburg Brooklyn, NY</i>                        |  |

## 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.

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <br><b>July 30 - 10:30am</b><br><b>Rev. Dr. Michael Youssef</b><br><i>The Church of The Apostles Atlanta, GA</i> | <br><b>July 30 &amp; 31 - 7:00pm</b><br><b>August 1 - 7:00pm</b><br><b>Rev. Dr. Steve DeNeff</b><br><i>College Wesleyan Church Marion, IN</i> | <br><b>August 6 - 10:30am &amp; 7:00pm</b><br><b>Bishop John Schol</b><br><i>The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey, Neptune, NJ</i> |
|---|--|---|

SAVE THE DATE

# JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup>-24<sup>TH</sup>

OCEAN GROVE, NJ  
[www.bridgeradio.org](http://www.bridgeradio.org)

## Bridgefest

# 2017



## BIBLE STUDY / CONTINUING EDUCATION

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <br><b>Saturday, April 8, 2017</b><br><b>Priscilla Shirer LIVE Simulcast</b><br>Join women from around the world for this inspiring one-day event with Priscilla Shirer! You're invited to be part of this global, one-day simulcast that focuses on the power of prayer and learning to study God's Word for yourself. 9:00am Registration, 10:00-5:45 Simulcast. Held at Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association Youth Temple, 22 Pilgrim Pathway, Ocean Grove. \$23.00 (+\$2.00 processing fee) for tickets <a href="http://www.oceangrove.org/seminars">www.oceangrove.org/seminars</a> . | answers and actions to help us survive and even thrive when we're "Stuck in the Middle!" Join us on the Ocean Grove beach just south of the beach office at Embury Avenue.   | <br><b>August 21-25 • 10:30-Noon</b><br><b>Dr. James W. Fleming</b><br><b>Stories of Galilee</b><br>Explore the geographical background that helped to shape the theology of the major prophets of the Old Testament. Isaiah's message to Galileans experiencing conquest by the Assyrians, Jeremiah's message to Judah as Babylon came to power, and Ezekiel's message to the Jews who lived in Babylonian captivity and received release from the Persians - all were influenced by the stage on which these major events played out. Understand more accurately the world of the prophets to hear more clearly the words of warning and of hope they offer. Being held in our Community Room. Ticket price is \$125.00 (+\$2.00 purchasing fee) |
| <br><b>July 3, 10, 17, 24 &amp; August 7 • 7:00pm</b><br><b>Ladies, Join Us Under The Umbrella</b><br>Bring your own beach chair and a friend and look for the pink striped umbrellas (at 2 different locations) for a relaxing time of fun, friendship and a focus on God! Small group discussions open to all women. Main Avenue Beach and at The Hub courtyard. (Rain location for July sessions at the Bishop Janes Tabernacle)  | <br><b>August 7-11 • 7:00 - 8:30pm</b><br><b>Jay Seegert</b><br><b>Knowing &amp; Defending the Truth</b><br>International speaker and author Jay Seegert is currently the Managing Director of The Starting Point Project and has been speaking on the Authority of Scripture for 31 years. Christians are often unsure of how to defend their beliefs and consequently are hesitant to share their faith with others, sometimes even with their own children. This seminar will greatly strengthen the Christian's faith and better position them to guide others to Christ in a very powerful but gracious manner. Being held at the Bishop Janes Tabernacle. | <br><b>September 16 • 10:00-5:45pm</b><br><b>Beth Moore - LIVE Simulcast</b><br>Beth founded Living Proof Ministries in 1994 with the purpose of teaching how to love and live on God's Word. Beth Moore is devoted to investing in the Spiritual lives of people of every color and denomination through sound Biblical teaching and uplifting praise and worship. Don't miss your chance to attend this special event. Ticket price is \$23.00 (+\$2.00 purchasing fee). Seating is limited. Being held in our Youth Temple.   |
| <br><b>July 11, 18 &amp; 25 • 7:00-8:00pm</b><br><b>Bible Study on the Beach with David Cotton</b><br>Ever been in a situation where you couldn't go back but couldn't seem to move forward either? "Stuck in the Middle" explores the Lord's  | <br><b>August 10 &amp; 11</b><br><b>9:30-5:30pm</b><br><b>Global Leadership Summit - Live Simulcast</b><br>The Global Leadership Summit is a two-day, world-class leadership event experienced by more than 170,000 leaders around the world. It's telecast LIVE from Willow Creek's campus near Chicago. This event is crafted to infuse vision, skill development and inspiration to those attending. Join us by registering at <a href="http://willowcreek.com/register">willowcreek.com/register</a> and select Ocean Grove, NJ. Held in our Youth Temple.  |   |

## CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

### Benefit Concert for A Future With Hope

An evening of inspiration showcasing a wide variety of music will be held on May 20 at Calvary UMC in Dumont with 10% of profits going to A Future With Hope; furthering the commitment to help bring the estimated 3,000 people struggling to get home. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$12 for children and can be purchased at [www.calvarydumont.com](http://www.calvarydumont.com). For more info, email [calvary185@verizon.net](mailto:calvary185@verizon.net) or call (201)384-3630.

### A.R.M.S. Celebration and Recognition Lunch

A.R.M.S., the Association of Retired Ministers and Spouses will meet for lunch and a time of celebration and recognition of the new retirees and members of the Golden Circle (those with 50 years or more of ministry) 12:30 P.M. Monday, May 22, 2017 at the North Wildwood UMC, 139 E. 2nd Ave., North Wildwood, New Jersey. Cost, including lunch, is \$15.00 per ARMS member. New retirees are our guests. So that adequate preparation can be made, please email Don DeGroat at [Dfdegroat4@aol.com](mailto:Dfdegroat4@aol.com) or (507) 646-9298.

### Bounce House (Moon Bounce) Insurance Required

Church Mutual, GNJ's insurance carrier, has information available for churches on how to plan and operate a safe carnival or fair. This is a reminder that our property insurance program does not insure use of bounce houses. Additional insurance can be obtained at nominal cost by emailing Tiffany Lupo at [tiffanyl@sovinsurance.com](mailto:tiffanyl@sovinsurance.com) or calling (800)222-4478.

### Prevent Copper Claims

A discount program from Church Mutual, GNJ's Property Insurer, is being offered for exterior air conditioner cages which are an effective deterrent to copper theft. Interested churches should visit [chuchmutual.com](http://chuchmutual.com). Mention that you're a Church Mutual customer to receive discount.

### Interpretation Equipment Available

GNJ has interpretation equipment available for agencies, committees and other groups so your next event or service can be interpreted in up to four languages. Visit [gnjumc.org/translation-equipment-request-form](http://gnjumc.org/translation-equipment-request-form) to request use of this equipment.

### Religion and Race Offer Grants

The United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race, the denomination's racial justice agency, is seeking to fund innovative United Methodist initiatives that disrupt racism and xenophobia. The agency's CORR Action Fund is making available \$750,000 for U.S. grants for 2017 to 2020. The agency will begin accepting applications in May. The deadline is August. Visit [gcorr.org](http://gcorr.org) for more info or email [sewing@gcorr.org](mailto:sewing@gcorr.org) or call (202)547-2271.

### Global Leadership Summit Live Simulcast in Ocean Grove

The Global Leadership Summit, a two-day, world-class leadership event experienced by more than 170,000 leaders around the world, representing more than 14,000 churches, will be streamed at The Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association on Aug. 10-11 from 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. This event is crafted to infuse vision, skill development and inspiration. Visit [oceangrove.org/continuing-education](http://oceangrove.org/continuing-education) to learn more and register.

## OBITUARIES

**Ramon Putman**, Retired Local Pastor, died on April 3. A Celebration of Life took place on April 12 at New Brooklyn UMC in Williamstown, NJ.

Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent to Animal Welfare Association, 509 Centennial Blvd., Voorhees, NJ 08043.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Judith Putnam, 444 East Barber Ave., Woodbury, NJ 08096

**Clarence M. Wilson "Clancy"**, Retired Full Elder, died on April 9. A Celebration of Life took place on April 15 at Trinity UMC in Ventnor City, NJ.

Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent to Jersey Shore Jazz Vespers, c/o Asbury UMC, 1213 Pacific Ave., Atlantic City, NJ 08401 or South Jersey Area Wind Ensemble, 214 Blackman Rd., Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Pamela Cernjul (daughter), 5624 Aspenleaf Dr., Park City, UT 84098, [pam@cernjul.com](mailto:pam@cernjul.com) or Clarence Wilson (son), 180 Exton Rd., 11-5, Somers Point, NJ 08244, [cmwilson@aol.com](mailto:cmwilson@aol.com)

**Roberta Greiner**, Spouse of Retired Member Rev. Newtown W. Greiner, died on April 21. A Celebration of Life took place on April 26 at Stuart-Fortune-Keough Funeral Home in Tupper Lake, NY. A second service took place on April 29 at Plattsburgh UMC in Plattsburgh, NY.

Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent to the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Ave., Dallas, TX 75231, [Review.personal.info@heart.org](mailto:Review.personal.info@heart.org), [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Rev. Newton W. Greiner, 880 State Route 3, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

## Apostles in our Midst:

*Continued from page 4*

idea that everything changes as our underlying focus," Bills said. "Our expectation is that change is inevitable, so we work hard to create an environment that is open to that idea and where failure is also an option."

Not being afraid of change or failure, HOPE has grown steadily into one of the largest churches in GNJ, with more than 1,500 individuals calling it their faith home. "HOPE in 2017 looks very different from how it looked in 2000, and how it looked in 2000 is very different from 1990. All along, I have taught and modeled that growth requires change, change often creates conflict, and conflict handled in God-honoring ways, makes things better," Bills said.

**Apostle:** Rev Jeff Bills serves as lead pastor of HOPE UMC and lives in Voorhees along with his wife, Marilyn and two sons, Joshua and Matthew. He served as an associate pastor at Haddonfield UMC for six years overseeing education ministries before launching HOPE Church

in 1990. Bills has served as Chairman of the Board for Urban Promise in Camden and for Urban Promise International. He was Vice-President of the Board for the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association and is presently a member of the Key Communications Committee for the Voorhees Township school system.

"As the church has grown I have had to learn new ways to lead and empower others to do so as well," said Bills. "I have loved the challenge personally and have loved seeing how God has brought great leaders to expand each area of ministry. I can honestly say that I have loved every day that I have been privileged to be a part of this amazing church!"

For several years, Bills resisted God's call on his life to full-time ministry. When he finally said "yes" everything changed quickly. Doors were opened that were previously shut, he met his wife Marilyn the following week and within a few months was accepted into seminary.

"Looking back I can see God's fingerprints everywhere," he said.

## WHAT FOOTPRINTS DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE?



After a life of service, retirement should be simple, peaceful and fulfilling. For more than 25 years, Clergy Retirement Advisors has worked with ministers to create effective retirement plans. We will review all your retirement options which may include pensions, social security, property and other investments, and create a personalized plan designed to maximize your monthly payments to help provide a secure financial future for you and your family.

For years you have dedicated yourself to the service of others. Now, let Clergy Retirement Advisors help you secure a thorough financial plan, so you can focus on the things you love.

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THE PEOPLE OF GREATER NEW JERSEY  
HAVE MUCH TO REJOICE!

# Rejoice!

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017  
1 THESSALONIANS 5:16

The 2017 Annual Conference will have **one offering to benefit the Mission Fund** during the Leadership Address on **Monday, May 22**. All congregations are invited to take an offering in advance of Annual Conference and share it during the Leadership Address. Rejoice Always!

