



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Greater New Jersey Conference

John R. Schol, Bishop

Imagination - *Have enough light to see the hope of God's call* – Ephesians 1:18

Come, imagine with me new generations of disciples, vital congregations and a transformed world.

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am looking forward to learning where our imagination will take us at our 2016 Annual Conference session. Together we will praise God, celebrate ministry, worship, fellowship with one another and engage in the business of the conference, including an update from our General Conference delegation and considering candidates for bishop.

We will share stories of transformation. We will imagine the possibilities that God has in store. We will light up the world with our testimony of God's great work in Greater New Jersey. We are hearing stories of transformation through Team Vital, PaCE groups, Communities of Hope and coaching. We will see the hope of God in our missional work through initiatives like A Future With Hope and CAMP YDP. We will share how God's call is working through our youth at IGNITE.

God has imagined great things for Greater New Jersey. I invite you to prepare for our conferencing together by praying that we have the imagination to hear God's call for love, unity and healing. Pray that our imaginations will help us create space for holy conferencing on issues that unite and divide us. Pray that we can use God's light to make disciples of Christ and transform the world.

I also ask you to prepare by giving. Three years ago, we enacted a strategic plan that called for us to raise \$12 million for a Mission Fund to put an end to deaths by malaria in Africa and rebuild more than 300 homes for families that experienced loss during Superstorm Sandy. We are halfway to our goal and need to recommit ourselves to the vital task before us. I invite you to plan an offering with your congregation for the Mission Fund between now and May and bring that offering to Annual Conference. We have rebuilt more than 200 homes and have saved more than 90,000 children from malaria with our donations. Your gifts now will help us reach our goals.

Greater New Jersey was truly blessed in 2015. I ask you to *IMAGINE* the great things God has in store for us for the remainder of 2016.

Keep The Faith!

John Schol, Bishop

United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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Conference Secretary Letter and General Information

Dear Annual Conference Lay and Clergy Members:

Welcome to the 2016 Greater New Jersey Annual Conference!

The conference begins on Sunday, May 22, 2016 with registration starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Wildwoods Convention Center, Wildwood, NJ. Please see the full agenda for Annual Conference on page 6 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 2016 Annual Conference Session. Please be sure to bring it with you to Conference – there is a charge for additional books.

- Offerings:** There will be one offering taken at the Conference during the Leadership Report; see the Bishop’s letter in this booklet. Come prepared to witness through your giving.
- Attendance and Name Badges:** All members arriving on Saturday or Sunday are required to register for Annual Conference beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 22nd 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 6th** registration deadline may register at the Wildwoods Convention Center on Sunday, May 22nd at the Late Registration desk. ***Late registrants are responsible for obtaining, and paying for, their own hotel room.***
- Mission Project** The *Stop Hunger Now* mission project will take place in the East Hall on Monday, May 23 beginning at 3:45 p.m. Sign-up when you register for the Annual Conference.
- Workshops** A selection of six workshops of interest to both clergy and laity will be offered on Monday, May 23 starting at 3:45 p.m. 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.
- Service of Remembrance:** The Service of Remembrance will be held on Monday, May 23 at 10:30 a.m. It will be followed by a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. with the Bishop in Ballroom Room “C” for the families of those honored.
- 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.*

Conference Secretary Letter and General Information

- 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. Before leaving the hotel to return home, s/he are asked to return the packet of materials and name badge to the Registration Table at the Convention Center. 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.
- 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.
- Childcare:** Childcare will be offered at the Convention Center during plenary sessions and on Monday afternoon during the workshops and mission project. Additional information regarding childcare will be sent directly to parents who register their children by **May 6th**. No walk-ins will be allowed due to Safe Sanctuary guidelines.
- Trolley to and from hotels:** Free transportation is available between all hotels and the Convention Center via trolley car from noon to 11 p.m. on Sunday; 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday; 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday.
- Emergency Phone:** Should an Annual Conference participant need to be contacted in case of emergency, call Jay Kim, 201-463-7320.
- Hotels:** You will received a confirmation email once you register. Information on hotels will be linked to this email. ***Conference members and visitors who register after May 6th, are responsible for obtaining their own hotel room.***
- Meals:**
- Breakfast is not provided; there are numerous restaurants, coffee shops and diners nearby and on the boardwalk.
 - **Dinner on Sunday, May 22** – Elected Lay Members will meet at 5 p.m. in the East Hall. . Clergy will meet at 5 p.m. in the Ballrooms.
 - **Lunch on Monday, May 23** – Elected Lay Members and Clergy will meet at 11:30 a.m. in East Hall and the adjacent deck.
 - The **Extension Ministry lunch scheduled for Sunday at noon** is for those clergy appointed to an extension ministry. Pre-registration is required; there is no fee. You may register for this dinner when you register for the Annual Conference online.
 - **Dinner for Visitors on Sunday, May 22nd and lunch on Monday, May 23** – 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.***
- 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.
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Conference Secretary Letter and General Information

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 15 to sign up for a group meal. All meals must be paid in full by May 9th. Focus group leaders can request space for a group meal at www.gnjumc.org/2016-annual-conference/*

Wheelchair Access: There will be a seating area designated in West Hall for wheelchairs, in accordance with local regulations.

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 **2016 Greater New Jersey Annual Conference**.

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

Directions to the Wildwood 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.

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 ¶602.6)

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 ¶602.1a)

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 ¶320.5).

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 ¶602.9)

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



May 22 - May 24, 2016
Wildwood, NJ

Agenda

Sunday, May 22

- 9:00 a.m. Registration opens
- 12:00 p.m. Extension Ministry Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Registration Opens
Exhibits and Cokesbury Bookstore
- 4:00 p.m. Clergy Executive Session – Ballrooms
Laity Session – West Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Clergy Dinner – Ballrooms
Laity Dinner – East Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Clergy Gathering for Processional (Ballroom C)
- 7:00 p.m. Commissioning and Ordination Worship

Monday, May 23

- 6:00 a.m. –
- 9:00 a.m. Blueprint for Wellness Screenings – Room 7 & 8
- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast on your own; Group prearranged breakfasts (groups are to sign up by April 15)
- 7:45 a.m. Communion on the Beach – Convention Center Deck Ocean Side

Agenda for the 2016 Annual Conference

- 8:30 a.m. Praise and Worship – West Hall
- 8:45 a.m. Organizing the Conference
- 9:00 a.m. Episcopal Address
- 9:30 a.m. Introduction of Episcopal Candidate (s) and Episcopal Nominee Ballot
- 10:00 a.m. Legislation– West Hall - Nominations, Trustees Enabling Legislation, Advance Specials
- 10:30 a.m. Service of Remembrance and Communion
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch – Ballroom C
Bishop’s Luncheon with memorial service families – Meeting room 1
Exhibits and Cokesbury Bookstore
- 1:00 p.m. Praise and Worship
- 1:15 p.m. Holy Conferencing: Imagine a World without Racism
- 2:45 p.m. Leadership Address
- 3:15 p.m. Legislation – Budget, Shared Ministries Formula, Pension, Equitable Compensation, Discontinuance of Churches
- 3:45 p.m. Workshops
Mission Project – *Stop Hunger Now*
- 5:30 p.m. Adjourn for the Day
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner for groups and individuals at the convention center

Tuesday, May 24

- 6:00 a.m. –
- 9:00 a.m. Blueprint for Wellness Screenings – Room 7 & 8
- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast on your own; Group prearranged breakfasts (groups are to sign up by April 15)
- 7:45 a.m. Communion on the Beach
- 8:30 a.m. Praise and Worship and Bible Study – West Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Service of Passage and Reading of the Appointments – West Hall
- 10:15 a.m. General Conference Update
- 10:45 a.m. Legislation – West Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Adjournment

Workshops

Cultural Competence: White Fragility

White people in the U.S. live in a racially insular social environment. Because our racial perspectives are so rarely challenged within this environment, we have not had to develop the stamina needed to tolerate racial stress. I term this lack of stamina “White Fragility.” When we are challenged in cross-racial interactions, White Fragility triggers a range of defensive moves including: argumentation, invalidation, silence, withdrawal and claims of being “attacked” and “unsafe.” While these moves are effective at blocking the challenge and regaining our racial equilibrium, they are also damaging to people of color and prevent us from developing the skills we need to create a racially just society. This workshop will overview the socialization that leads to White Fragility and provide the perspectives needed for more constructive cross-racial interactions.



Leader: Dr. Robin DiAngelo is a former Associate Professor of Education. She is a two-time winner of the Student's Choice Award for Educator of the Year. Her scholarship is in White Racial Identity and Race Relations. In addition to her academic work, Dr. DiAngelo has extensive experience as a workplace consultant in issues of race relations and racial justice. She was appointed to co-design the City of Seattle’s Race and Social Justice Initiative. She has numerous publications and just completed the 2nd edition of her book, “*What*

Does it Mean to be White?: Developing White Racial Literacy. Her work on *White Fragility* has been featured in Alternet, Salon.com, NPR, and Colorlines.

Imagining Excellence: Evaluating Our Worship Services

God deserves our best in worship; but too often our evaluation of a worship service is sabotaged by our own preferences. There must be more to the conversation than what we like or think is good. Make the shift from preferences to purpose. Create the space to have honest, healthy conversations about what is really going on and how to move forward. Clergy and laity will leave this workshop with the tools to shift the evaluation of worship services from preferences and feelings to concrete, constructive conversations that lead to action and change.



Leader: Eric Drew, Director of Worship, partners with churches in GNJ to make worship great. He is passionate about using music, preaching, multimedia, and the creative arts to bring the Word of God to life. Often you can find him writing at local coffee shops, jamming on the guitar, or reading the latest book on leadership.

Be Your Own Creative Coach: Unlock the Power of Your Imagination

This workshop is for clergy only! Improve your health, relationships, and your spiritual and emotional well-being as you learn and experience how to harness the power of your imagination. A healthy, robust imagination can overcome the roadblocks that keep you from experiencing the fullness of life that God imagines for you. We will explore the all-important connection between imagination and spirituality using the tools and strategies that unlock and engage imagination as a resource for life and ministry.



Leader: Rich Hendrickson, Executive Director of GNJ Stewardship Foundation, helps churches in Greater New Jersey develop, articulate, and live out a compelling vision for ministry that motivates and drives vitality, mission, and giving. Rich's interests include creativity, storytelling, as well as cooking and traveling.

Five Strategies for Building a God-sized Brand

Why do innovative strategies for effective brand building matter in a church? A great brand has a great story to share. Before you start the dialogue, the messages must be clear and aligned with the overall mission and vision of the church. If you do not define your brand, somebody else will.



Leader: Rabiah Duncan is a brand strategist with a diverse background in sales, marketing, and promotions. She currently manages VIP Guest Services for New York Fashion Week and serves as the Communications and Media Coordinator for St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Montclair, N.J. She fosters the church's mission and improves the brand through social media platforms, advertising, public relations and traditional, electronic, and emerging media.

Little Habits, Big Changes

Have you been imagining a congregation that attracts loads of new disciples, but you're not quite feeling up to orchestrating a full-scale revolution in your church? We get it. Instead, let's consider 10 incremental shifts that any church can make toward becoming a culture that consistently fosters new disciples. (And here's the secret, the full-scale revolution will follow!)



Leader: Trey Wince, Director of New Disciples, 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. He has served as pastor of Kingston United Methodist Church, College Director (serving students at Vanderbilt, Belmont and Lipscomb Universities), Director of Young Adult Ministries at First Presbyterian Church in Nashville and international missions coordinator with Joshua Expeditions.

Financial Security

Understand the resources that 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 The General Board, how to gain access to your online account and explore the helpful tools available and individual Retirement Benefits Projection.

Time is being set aside for questions privately before and after the presentation.



Leader: Peter Hang has been with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits since 1999, first as a team developer for the Pension Administration department and most recently as a benefits educator. In his current role, he travels to annual conferences to help conduct financial and retirement seminars for clergy and lay employees.

Awards

Denman Evangelism Award – Laity: Lou Weil

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



Lou Weil has been an active member of Whiting United Methodist Church for the last 16 years. In addition to his service in the church, he has been a leader in the Northern Shore District serving as President of United Methodist Men since 2000, organizing the annual spring gathering and introducing the Amachi Program of the Big Brothers Big Sisters to young people. Weil attended the Man In the Mirror training in 2004, was sponsored by the Men’s Ministry of GNJ to become a pioneer participant in Men’s Ministry Specialist Training and has encouraged others to start UM Men’s groups. His most recent endeavor has been teaching Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University.

Francis Asbury Award – The Feed Truck Ministry, under the leadership of Jessica Winderweedle.

Sponsored by the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry to recognize and encourage support of higher education and campus ministries within The United Methodist Church.



The Feed Truck Ministry is a non-profit mobile food truck started by Kingston UMC under the direction of Jessica Winderweedle, who works to connect young adults with opportunities for volunteer service and spiritual engagement. The Feed Truck serves locally sourced, creative food offerings at food truck festivals, farmers’ markets, community events, college and seminary campuses and business parks. The Feed Truck had more than 12,000 transactions in 2015. It also selects local merchants, farmers, and employees so that they can benefit from The Feed Truck’s enterprise and ministries. Winderweedle, who serves as one of Kingston UMC’s co-pastors is a candidate for ordination in Greater New Jersey. A graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, she has extensive experience in business management and community involvement due to her decade-long career of opening and operating coffee shops.



Helen Alter Davisson Award – Rev. Pat Bruger

Sponsored by the Commission On The Status And Role Of Women (COSROW), to recognize a woman 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. Pat Bruger has always been a champion for social justice and the disenfranchised and she lives out her concerns in her daily work. She has served the city of Paterson both as pastor and as the executive director of CUMAC (Center of United Methodist Aid to the Community Ecumenically Concerned Helping Others) for the past 27 years. CUMAC is an organization that reaches hundreds of thousands of individuals and families feeding their bodies, minds and spirits.

Award Recognition

Under her transformational leadership, CUMAC has grown and expanded in both size and scope. The lives of the countless individuals have changed because of her extending God's love to all people. She works one on one with people, particularly women and children, to assure that they are treated justly. She has been recognized with numerous awards by the state, local communities and corporations. She continues to be active in United Methodist Women and as an advocate for women's rights.

Christian Unity and Interfaith Relationship Award – Congregation: Vincent UMC

Sponsored by the Commission on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relationships for a congregation that is fruitful in the area of Christian Unity and Interfaith Relationships.



Vincent United Methodist Church has been involved in ecumenical and interfaith ministry for many years. Through the Nutley Fellowship, the congregation has participated in the 9/11 Service, the Day of Prayer Service, the Blessing of Palms, a Good Friday Stations of the Cross and a Cross Walk through town. They host an annual interfaith Thanksgiving service, the weekly Care Kitchen, the Care Pantry and the Interfaith Hospitality Network. They also helped to reinstitute the Crop Walk in Nutley. The ecumenical work of Vincent UMC has led to a larger impact for God in the community.

Christian Unity Award – Laity: Carla Pitman

Sponsored by the Commission on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relationships for an individual that is fruitful in the area of Christian Unity and Interfaith Relationships.



Elmer UMC member Carla Pitman has headed the Homeless Child Christmas Gift program for the last 35 years, a program that is now affectionately called Carla's Kids. Carla's Kids are children placed by Division of Youth and Family Services/Department of Children and Families (DYFS/DCF) and do not usually receive Christmas gifts. The children are "the least, the last and the lost." Pitman coordinates churches and organizations to provide Christmas gifts to these children. Each gift includes a Bible, a Christian book or other token to show the child the love of Jesus. Over the years, she and her team, have served approximately 20,000 families living in Cumberland and Salem Counties.

Episcopal Nominations

Role, Responsibility and Accountability of a Bishop

In Greater New Jersey, the following are the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of the bishop as reviewed by the Council on Finance and Administration and affirmed by the Episcopacy Committee. This outline will provide a synopsis of the ministry and leadership of a bishop and assist the Conference in its discernment process for nominating a bishop to the Northeastern Jurisdiction Conference.

The responsibilities of the bishop are found in The Book of Discipline paragraph 414. It is expected that the bishop will carry out these responsibilities and anticipated that the results and outcomes listed below will occur. The following description adds to or amplifies the responsibilities in The Book of Discipline but does not eliminate or alter what is outlined in The Book of Discipline.

Position Summary and Objective

The bishop is the spiritual leader of the conference and responsible for leading the spiritual and temporal affairs of The United Methodist Church and in particular in GNJ. The bishop leads the Conference to follow Christ and to put into practice church membership vows to be present, pray, serve, give and witness. The bishop is to lead and develop the conference so that it creates a culture that is regenerative in recruiting and equipping transformational leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the world.

As a result of this position, the following will occur

- A clear vision and strategic ministry plan shaped biblically and theologically for GNJ's spiritual growth, mission engagement and congregational vitality is approved by the Annual Conference session
- Inspired leaders and disciples are engaged in the vision and direction of GNJ and the UMC
- Growth in the skills and number of equipped clergy and laity transformational leaders who are leading congregations toward vitality
- Growth in GNJ worship attendance, making new disciples, connecting with community residents and engaging in community mission
- Greater clarity for clergy and congregational and conference leaders about their role, expectations and how their ministry connects to the mission
- Sufficient funds to fulfill and grow the mission

Key Accountabilities

- Do the right thing to recruit, equip and support transformational leaders
- Identify what is important and urgent for GNJ and why it is important and urgent
- Cast the GNJ vision in collaboration with conference leaders and lead toward the vision and mission
- Reinforce GNJ purpose and values
- Lead so that GNJ is working toward the strategic direction and accomplishing its goals
- Connect and engage with pastors, church leaders and congregations to learn and understand progress and challenges and reinforce positive effort
- Connect GNJ leaders and congregations to the larger church and world, including ecumenical and interfaith relationships as well as key spiritual and social issues in the world
- Supervise the staff executive team, cabinet and episcopal staff
- Ensure connectionalism is valued and The Book of Discipline is carried out
- Thank people for making a difference in the mission

John Schol, Bishop
The United Methodist Church

Episcopal Nomination

1. Name: *Jisun Kwak*
2. Appointments Served: *Mendham UMC, Thiells UMC, Centenary UMC in Metuchen, Cabinet*
3. What gifts would you bring to the role of bishop? *I would bring **a pioneering soul** as the first Asian woman DS in NEJ (in each of my pastoral appointments, I was the first Asian woman at the church). **Deep spirituality** that brings powerful calmness and assuredness to tense situations. **Prayerful discipline** that transforms pains to blessing. **A peacemaker's spirit** combined with trained, effective conflict resolution skills and coaching skills. **Cultural competency** in its many forms; **Encouragement and teaching** with an inquisitive mind; **Perseverance** as one who completed a Ph. D while serving the local church as an Asian American clergy and single mother.*
4. How would you approach the role of bishop? *With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I will build consensus encouraging all voices to come to the table. I will emphasize team-building, trust, and challenging leaders to reach new levels of competency.*
5. What are three accomplishments in your ministry that indicate your experience and skill to serve as bishop?
 - *As a District Superintendent in both urban and rural contexts, we increased outreach ministry and shared ministry giving and met strategic ministry goals such as districtwide collaborated community programs and more.*
 - *In each local church I served, we experienced growth in attendance, membership, stewardship, and other vitality measurements and strategic ministry goals.*
 - *Instigated the Call to Prayer Movement within my District that brings together church leaders to implement a more consistent and deeper individual and corporate prayer life.*
6. As a bishop, what would be your priorities and what would you lead the church to accomplish?
 - **Recover Wesleyan heritage.** *Many of our churches and leaders need to be recalibrated regarding the importance of both works of piety and works of mercy as means of grace in Church life. In the Northeast Jurisdiction we tend to emphasize works of mercy over works of piety and in some cases have lost the power of holiness that comes through piety. I would lead a return to the practices of the basics of piety on both individual and communal levels as Wesley prescribed.*
 - **Cultural competency awareness and practice.** *Cultural competency not only is becoming more crucial for effectiveness in navigating an increasingly globalized world, but follows the teaching of Paul in 1 Cor 9:20-22 to become relational, accessible and understandable to share and receive God's love to ALL – recognizing, embracing and working through differences on many fronts (ethnic, generational, language, socio-economic, gender, sexuality, political, urban/rural/suburban, and more).*
 - **Reach and serve the marginalized.** *Because of the denomination's energy being expended on current deadlocked debates and initiatives that are garnering continued and increasing division within the Church, there are many forgotten and underserved children of God. I would re-energize ministries of love and liberation for the marginalized.*
 - **Grow our church younger, both in terms of leadership and discipleship.** *We need to rethink our existing models of leadership development and church to better attract young spiritual leaders and disciples. Most importantly, we need to enact new approaches by empowering and resourcing leaders with the vision and passion for attracting and building a more youthful church. Engagement and mission driven church will open the door to the young seekers.*
7. While there are a number of important issues within the life of the church today, which one do you believe is most critical and why? *Emphasize holiness: Increased piety will not only better transform us into the image of Christ, but will enhance and better empower our works of mercy.*



Episcopal Nomination

1. Name: Heasun Kim
2. Appointments Served: The First UMC in Flushing, NY; Korean Community Church of New Jersey, Englewood, NJ, Morristown UMC; Linden UMC; Simpson UMC, Old Bridge, NJ (2000-present)
3. What gifts would you bring to the role of bishop?
Spiritual and personal discipline; Pastoral and organizational leadership; Encouragement; Discernment; People skills; Stewardship; Visionary
4. How would you approach the role of bishop?
I would assume a shepherd role for the assigned conference and a leader of the denomination as a member of the College of the Bishops in the Jurisdictional Conference and Council of the Bishop.
5. What are three accomplishments in your ministry that indicate your experience and skill to serve as bishop?
 - Pastoral Leadership at Simpson UMC: Through a long-term visioning process, Simpson realized that it is necessary to build a facility for their effective ministry; education, fellowship, ministry activities, and outreach programs. Through two capital campaigns (2009-2012 & 2013-2016), we raise \$750,000 for 1.5 million dollar project. With a loan from UMDF (\$800,000), we were able to build; groundbreaking took place in September, 2014 and completion of the construction will be soon (May, 2016). This is an evidence of my ministry accomplishments in two ways; Evidence of my pastoral leadership working with/for/within the congregation from dreaming, visioning, and executing.
 - Stewardship: Simpson is a small congregation located in a blue collar town with an annual operating budget under \$200,000. We committed by faith, we give sacrificially give to build and grow! During last two campaign period (2009-2016), the members gave \$120,000 annually for the building on top of \$160,000 annually for operating budget.
 - As the chair of the Order of the Elders (2008-2011), I formed a team (one person from each District) to work for the Elders of the Conference. As a result of a great team work, we were able to communicate with the Elders through two surveys to identify the needs of the Elders. One of the accomplishment is to issue the clergy ID which serves well for not only the Elders but also all of the appointed clergy for their ministry. This is an evidence of my leadership as a team player who reach out to the community.
6. As a bishop, what would be your priorities and what would you would lead the church to accomplish?
My priorities as bishop will be focused on discovering, building, and maximizing our God-given strengths through spiritual discipline and renewal regardless of church size. The bishop and cabinet should work together as the spiritual and pastoral leaders by exemplifying the spiritual work of discipleship. Encouragement, healing, exhortation should take place in the ministry of a Conference for the churches to be a faithful and healthy body of Christ.
7. While there are a number of important issues within the life of the church today, which one do you believe is most critical and why? Strengthening the mid-size and small size churches to be the healthy churches. According to the 2015 Annual Conference reports (www.umc.org/who-we-are/2015-annual-conference-reports), 44 Annual Conferences reported the loss of membership while three conference gain (North Carolina Conference- up by 409; Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference up by 23; Texas up by 20). I believe that declining the membership and weakening the churches are by far most important issue than any other issue. When a person is suffering with life and death matters, rest of the issues around the life become the secondary issue. I believe that United Methodist Churches in the United Stated are in the critical juncture of life and death.



1 **Recommendations**

2 **Committee on Nominations**

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

5 **Part I Nominations to Individual Leadership and Board, Agencies, and Committees Membership**

7 **Conference Secretary**

8 David Wiley

10 **Conference Lay Leader**

11 Rosa Williams

13 **Conference Statistician**

14 John Cardillo

16 **Conference Treasurer**

17 John Cardillo

19 **Director of Lay Servant Ministries**

20 George Lagos

22 **Council on Youth Ministries ¶649**

23 Class of 2018

24 Seunghyun Lee (C) Deborah Barnett (C) David Little (L) Justin Cornelius (L)

26 **Council on Young Adult Ministries ¶650**

27 Class of 2018

28 Blair Goold (C) Earl Kim (C) Timothy Woody (L) Laura Fischer (L)

30 **Board of Global Ministries ¶633**

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

32 Class of 2017

33 Evelyn Hershey (L)

35 Class of 2018

36 Patty Perez (L) Isabel Quezada (C) Gyuchang Sim (L) Grace Rapp (L)

38 **Board of Discipleship ¶630**

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

40 Class of 2018

41 Debbe DeVos (C) Chuck Del Camp (L) Sugandh Salvi (L) Diane Gordon-McGrath

43 **Board of Church and Society ¶629**

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

45 Class of 2017

46 Aaron Wilson Watson (L) Kate Hillis (C)

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 Class of 2018

2 Myungsun Han (C) Barbara Whitt (L) Jonathan Campbell (C)

3

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

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

6 Class 2018

7 Kay Dubuisson (C) Alice Bennett (L) Hugo Rey (C) Waleska Trinidad (C)

8

9 **A Future with Hope Board of Trustees**

10 *3 classes of 3-year terms, maximum 2 terms*

11 Class 2017

Class of 2018

Class of 2019

12 Dale Caldwell (L) Niurca Louis (L) John Bishop (L)

13 Richard Rinck (L)

14

15 **Board of Ordained Ministries ¶635**

16 *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.*

17

Ignace Conic (L)

Jessica Brendler Naulty (C)

Glenn J. Conaway (C)

Frank Davis (C)

Hector Burgos-Nunez (C)

John D. DiGiamberardino (C)

María L. García (L)

Virginia Samuel Cetuk (C)

John W. Doll (C)

Arthur Harrell (L)

Dottie Johns (C)

Christopher D. Heckert (C)

Ilyoung Kim (C)

Han Seung Koh (C)

Betty A. Horne (C)

Ed Martin (L)

Thomas J. Korkuch

Jeffrey P. Markay (C)

Sam Noah (L)

Robert Mayer (C)

Bradford L. Motta (C)

Larry Oksten (C)

Kyu Tae Pak (C)

Juel Nelson (C)

Isabel Quezada (C)

Carolyn Pendleton (L)

Vivian Rodeffer (C)

Michelle Ryoo (C)

Johnnie Moore-Pierson (L)

David Schumacher (C)

Cynthia Stouffer (C)

Linda Romanik (L)

Rosa Williams (L)

David Yun (C)

Clarissa South Holland (C)

Eunice Vega-Perez (C)

Moushumi Ingale (L)

Douglas J. Spencer (C)

Susan Victor (C)

Laurie Zelman (C)

18

19 **Administrative Review Committee ¶636**

20 Beth Whalley Mitchell Loraine Priestley-Smith

21 Grace S. Pak Diane C. Pacione

22 Walter Jesuncosky

23

24 **Committee on Investigation of a Clergy Member ¶2703.2, 2008 BOD**

25 Clergy in Full Connection

Alternates Clergy in Full Connection

26 Scott Bostwick

Charles Bender

27 René McCleary

Gary Frieze

28 David Ravinder

Edmund Martin

29 Michelle Ryoo

30 Professing Members

Alternates Professing Members

31 Vinette Bishop

Donna Pearson

32 Evelyn Nelson

33 Jack Scharf

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 **Committee on Investigation of A Diaconal Minister ¶2703.3**

2 Diaconal Ministers or Professing Members

3 Winifred Asa-Awuku Mae Cummings

4 Cynthia Kent Jose Suarez

5

6 Alternates Diaconal Ministers / Professing Members

7 Juanita Rodriguez Elizabeth Burrus

8 Heike Graef John Hartman

9

10 Clergy in Full Connection

11 Edmund Martin LaGretta Bjorn

12 David Ravinder

13

14 Alternates Clergy in Full Connection

15 Edna Dismus Myungsun Han

16 Carlotta Aston Doug Baitinger

17

18 **Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry ¶1634**

19 *Conference rules Apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-years terms, maximum 4 terms*

20 Class Of 2018

21 Anson Wilson (L) Julie Spelman (L) Frances Preston (C) Vivian Rodeffer (C)

22

23 **Commission on Communications ¶1646**

24 *Conference rules Apply – 8 members in 2 classes of 2-years terms, maximum 4 terms*

25 Class of 2017

26 Heather Valosin (C)

27

28 Class of 2018

29 Christopher Heckert (C) Chuck Del Camp (L) Linda Ellwein (L) Hosuk Chung (C)

30

31 **Commission on Status and Role of Women ¶1644**

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

33 Class of 2018

34 Evans Rhors-Dodge (C) Michelle Ryoo (C) Ester Canty-Barnes (L) Burt Morris (L)

35

36 **Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns ¶1642**

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

38 Class of 2017

39 Shivonne McKay (C) Maria Luisa Garcia (L)

40

41 Class of 2018

42 Edward Martin (L) Vijaya Kumar (C) Wendy Whiteside (L) Ninabeth Metcalf (C)

43

44 **Commission on Archives and History ¶ 641**

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

46 Class of 2017

47 Morgan Glossbrenner (L) John Callanan (C)

48

49

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 Class of 2018

2 Todd Lattig (C) Nikolay Petrov (L) Donald DeGroat (C) Frank Friend (L)

3

4 **Commission on Religion and Race ¶1643**

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

6 Class of 2017

7 Danny Thomas (C)

8

9 Class of 2018

10 Teresita Matos-Post (C) Amanda Hemenetz (C) Jae Hei Park (L) Joe Pirone (L)

11

12 **Commission on Small Church Membership ¶1645**

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

14 Class of 2017

15 David Edwards (C) Kimberly Burse (L)

16

17 Class of 2018

18 Gina Yeske (C) Deborah Selm-Orr (L) Blessings Magomero (C) Carol Hutchison (C)

19

20 **Committee on Disability Concerns ¶1653**

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

22 Class of 2017

23 Kyung Sook Kwon (L) Gary Frieze (C)

24

25 Class of 2018

26 Barbara McShane (L) Kathy Appleton (L) Carl Anderson (L) Loraine Priestly-Smith (C)

27

28 **Parrish and Community Development Committee ¶1633.5**

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

30 Class of 2018

31 Jim Whitt (L) Brian Joyce (C) Denise Tiedemann (L) Carolyn Pendleton (L)

32

33

34

35 **Council on Finance and Administration ¶1611-618**

36 *Shall have no less than 5 no more than 21 members, one more lay than clergy, elected at the session next succeeding the*
37 *general conference or jurisdictional conference for a 4-year term. Conference Rule applies may serve a maximum of two*
38 *terms. Term Limits of GNJ Rule 58a shall apply.*

39

40 Sue Ryan Goodman (L)	Robert Dietz (L)
41 David Yamoah (L)	Michael Ernst (L)
42 Sanghoon Choi (C)	Janice Sutton Lynn (C)
43 Erik Ostrow (C)	Ruth London (L)
44 Neill Tolboom (C)	Margaret Prentice (L)
45 Paquita Henderson (L)	David Mertz (C)
46	Grace Pak (C)
47	Mark Ale (C)
48	John (Jack) Scharf (L)

49

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Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 **Board of Pension ¶639**

2 *BOD shall have a least 12 members elected in staggered 8-year terms and conference rules may serve a maximum of one*
3 *term*

4 Class of 2024

5 Jennifer Cho (C)

6 Daniel Gepford (C)

7 Erik Hall (C)

8 Debbie Santarpio (L)

9

10 **Board of Trustees ¶640 and 2512**

11 *BOD shall have 12 members elected in staggered 4-year terms and conference rules may serve a maximum of two terms*

12 Class of 2020

13 Sang Chul Shin (L)

James Ryoo (C)

Mary Beth Scherer (L)

14

15 **Committee on Episcopacy ¶637**

16 Paula Blackman (L)

Dajhia Ingram (L)

17 David LeDuc (C)

Esther Morales (L)

18 Cynthia Stouffer (C)

Dr. S. Rhee (L)

19 Douglas Goldsborough (C)

Ronald Watts (C)

20 Eleanor Hartley (L)

Rosa Williams (L)

21 John Wooding (L)

22

23 **Centenary Fund and Preachers Aid Society**

24 Class of 2019

25 Dennis Poane (L)

Jennifer Lovallo (C)

26

27 **Commission on Equitable Compensation ¶625.1**

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

29 Class of 2017

30 Rolando Santiago (C)

31

32 Class of 2018

33 Donna Hough (L)

Joseph Schmid (L)

Jesse Reyes (L)

Hyokyoung Hannah Lee (C)

34

35 **Committee on Rules of Order**

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

37 Class of 2017

38 Jeanette Block (C)

Frank Davis (C)

39

40 Class of 2018

41 Gyuchang Sim (L)

Daniel Gepford (C)

Byungil Ahn (C)

Robert Costello (C)

42

43

44 **Committee on Native American Ministries ¶654**

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

46 Class of 2018

47 Federico Quezada (C)

Franck Aguilh (C)

Roy Bundy (C)

Helen McCahill (L)

48

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Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 **Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries ¶1655**

2 Class of 2017

3 Cesar Milyares (C) Teresita Matos-Post (C)

4

5 Class of 2018

6 Gladys Zubko (L) Onay Lopez (C) Waleska Trinidad (C) Justino Cabrera (L)

7

8 **United Methodist Homes of New Jersey – Board of Directors**

9 Class of 2021

10 Dean Livingston Jason N. Sunkett Lou Strugala

11

12 **Conference Educational Society**

13 Class of 2017

14 Kevin Clour (L) Barbara Smyth (L)

15

16 **The Stewardship Foundation of the UMC of Greater Jersey**

17 Class of 2017

18 Robert Costello (C) David Mertz (C)

19

20 Class of 2020

21 William Merkert (L)

22

23 **The Pennington School – Board of Trustees**

24 Class of 2020

25 Lou Denton Cynthia Hillas Michael Jingoli
26 Donald Medley Julie Wulf Kenneth Zirk

27

28

29 **The Wesley Foundation Board at Princeton**

30 Kenda Dean Herb Mertz

31

32 **District Committees**

33

34 **Cape Atlantic District**

35

36 **District Lay Leader**

37 Nicole Troast

38

39 **Board of Church Location & Building ¶12519**

40 Class of 2019

41 Jack Aspenberg (L) Tom Hutchison (L) John Johnson (L)

42

43 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶1 669**

44 Peter Jamison (C) Jim Baker (L)

45 Linda Ross (C) Meredith Neely (L)

46 Normary Rodriguez (L)

47 Debbie Tai (L)

48 Nicole Troast (L)

49

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

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

- 2 Jeanette Block (C) Paul Hackett (L)
3 David Montanye (C) Kyug Sook Kwon (L)
4 Vena Murphy (C) Carolyn Pendleton (L)
5 Glen Scheyhing (C)
6 David Schumacher (C)
7 Robert Williams (C)
8 Jun Yoshimatsu (C)

9

10 **District Poverty Task Force**

- 11 Joyce Dunne (C) Amy Charleston (L)
12 Fred Marz (C) Fran Haggins (L)
13 Taegun Wang (C) Joe Neidinger, III (L)
14 Carolyn Taylor (L)
15 Van Taylor (L)

16

17

18 **Capital District**

19

20 **Board of Church Location & Building ¶2519**

21 Class of 2019

- 22 Trey Gillett (L)

23

24 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶ 669**

- 25 McWilliam Colon (C)

26

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

- 28 William Cook (C) Karen Murray (L)
29 John Doll (C) George Zsamba (L)
30 Glenn Miller (C)
31 Richard Nichols (C)
32 Jack Orr (C) Andrew Paek (C)
33 Kathleen Stolz (C)

34

35 **Delaware Bay District**

36

37 **District Lay Leader**

- 38 Janet Blohm

39

40 **Board of Church Location & Building ¶2519**

41 Class of 2019

- 42 Mary Reimer (L) David Repenning (C) Paul Showers (L)

43

44 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶ 669**

- 45 Sandra Callahan (C) Jeremy Andrade (L)
46 David Repenning (C) Janet Blohm (L)
47 Myoungyun Yun (C) Steve Garrison (L)
48 Ted Osler (C) Cynthia Wilks-Mosley (L)

49

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Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

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

- 2 Michael Bill (C) Jaclyn Bentley (L)
3 Carlton Bodine (C) Janet Blohm (L)
4 Carol Davies (C) June McCullough (L)
5 Christine Day (C) Virginia Moore (L)
6 Susan Flicker (C)
7 Walter Kellen (C)
8 Larry Oksten(C)

9

10 **District Poverty Task Force**

- 11 Michael A. Howard (C)

12

13 **District Co-Directors Lay Servant Ministries**

- 14 Creed Pogue

15

16

17 **Gateway North District**

18

19 **Board of Church Location & Building ¶2519**

20 Class of 2017

- 21 David Yamoah (L)

22

23 Class of 2018

- 24 Yomi Yi (C)

25

26 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶ 669**

- 27 Sharon Yarger (C) Bertha Rodriguez (L)

28

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

- 30 Sharon Burniston(C) Judy Colorado (L)
31 Molege Desir (C) Wendy Whiteside (L)
32 Gary Frieze (C) Howard Wingard (L)
33 Bradford Motta (C) Maria Luisa Garcia (L)
34 Veronica Palmer (C)
35 James Ryoo (C)

36

37 **District Poverty Task Force**

- 38 Cesar Miyares (C) Cyndi Kent (L)
39 Diana Yamoah (L)

40

41

42 **District Director of Lay Servant Ministries**

- 43 Diana Yamoah

44

45 **District Disaster Response Coordinator**

- 46 Yeol "Earl" Kim

47

48

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

Gateway South District

Board of Church Location & Building ¶2519

Class of 2017

Ron Sandmeyer (L) Jeffrey Tilden

Class of 2018

Ellen Cusack (L) Douglas Spencer (C)

Class of 2019

John Inverso (C) Bill Jennings (L)

District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶666

Douglas Goldsborough (C) Edmund Martin (L)
Tom Lank (C) William Tilghman (L)
Richard Leaver (C) Belinda Hall (L)
Walter Mander (C)
Helen Rainier (C)
Steven Shuster (C)
Patricia Wentworth (C)

Northern Shore District

Board of Church Location & Building ¶2519

Class of 2019

Dennis Poane (L) Byungil Ahn (C) Gary Albert (L)

Committee on District Superintendency ¶ 669

Jonathan Campbell (C) Don Gallagher (L)
Erik Hall (C)
Isabel Quezada (C)

District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶666

Jessica Campbell (C) Emmett Bivins (L)
Derrick Doherty (C) Robert Sterling (L)
Jill Hubbard-Smith (C) Bobbie McArdle (L)
Grace Pak (C)
Eusun Kim (C)
Federico Quezada (C)
Clarissa South Holland (C)
Donald Stevens (C)
Christina Zito (C)

District Poverty Task Force

Michael Turner (C)

District Director of Lay Servant Ministries

Lisa Lockwood

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 **District Youth/Young Adult Ministries Coordinator**

2 Blair Goold

3

4 **Palisades District**

5

6 **Board of Church Location & Building ¶2519**

7 Class of 2017

8 Scott Griffith (C) Jeff Fischer (L) Andrea Osborne (L)

9

10 Class of 2018

11 Gene Bilz (L) John Shu (L)

12

13 Class of 2019

14 Ann Chien (L) David Wehrle (C)

15

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

17 Scott Bostwick (C) Ignace Conic (L)

18 Patricia Bruger (C) Sang Surk "Sam" Noah (L)

19 Myungsun Han (C) Seon Ah Pak (L)

20 Betty Horne (C)

21 Tom Korkuch (C)

22 Kil Jae Park (C)

23 Victor Peterson

24 Michelle Ryoo (C)

25 Cyndi Stouffer (C)

26

27 **District Poverty Task Force**

28 Barbara McFarquhar (L)

29

30 **District Youth Coordinator**

31 Brian Neville

32

33 **Raritan Valley District**

34

35 **Board of Church Location & Building ¶2519**

36 Class of 2017

37 Kevin Helsby (L) Dean Peterson (L)

38

39 Class of 2018

40 Kyle Cuperwich (C) Carol Otte (L)

41

42 Class of 2019

43 Jim Bielefeldt (L) Heasun Kim (C) Evan Rhors-Dodge (C)

44

45 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶ 669**

46 David Ravinder (C) Jim Silkensen (L)

47 Michael Smith (C) Nick Tonzeich (L)

48 Debra Whitten (C)

49

50

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

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

- 2 Vicki Miller Brendler (C) Beth Crawfoeld (L)
3 Frank Davis (C) Arthur Harrell (L)
4 Onay Lopez (C) Linda DeLukey
5 David Lehmkuhl (C)
6 Frances Preston
7 Anna Thomas
8 Gina Yeske

10
11 **Skylands District**

12
13 **Board of Church Location & Building ¶2519**

14 Class of 2018

15 Ray Suttles (L)

16
17 Class of 2019

18 Ellen Mearns Bechtold (C) Jennifer Cho (C) Connie Squire (C)

19
20 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶ 669**

21 Dianna Stone (C) Pat Schutz (L) Manuel Vargas (L)

22
23
24
25 **District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶666**

- 26 John Callanan (C) Joseph Capitulik (L)
27 Ed Carll (C) Mae Cummins (L)
28 Robert Cassidy (C) John Hartman (L)
29 Brendon Cho (C)
30 Robert Mayer (C)
31 Janice Sutton Lynn (C)
32 Eunice Vega-Perez (C)

33
34
35 **Part II: Chairs of Agencies, Boards, Committees, Commissions and Teams**

36
37 **Connectional Table**

38 Sang Won Doh (C)

39
40 **Council on Youth Ministries ¶649**

41 Deborah Barnett (C)

42
43 **Council on Young Adult Ministries ¶650**

44 Blair Goold (C)

45
46 **Board of Global Ministries ¶633**

47 Isabel Quezada (C)

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

- 1
- 2 **Board of Discipleship ¶630**
- 3 Kee Young Yang (C)
- 4
- 5 **Board of Church and Society ¶629**
- 6 Myungsun Han (C)
- 7
- 8 **Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns ¶632**
- 9 Judy Colorado (L)
- 10
- 11 **Administrative Review Committee ¶636**
- 12 Beth Whaley Mitchell (C)
- 13
- 14 **Committee on Investigation of a Diaconal Minister ¶2703.3**
- 15 Cynthia Kent (L)
- 16
- 17 **Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry ¶634**
- 18 Hyun-Bo Shim (C)
- 19
- 20 **Commission on Communications ¶646**
- 21 Christopher Heckert (C)
- 22
- 23 **Commission on Status and Role of Women ¶644**
- 24 Michelle Ryoo (C)
- 25 **Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns ¶642**
- 26 Vijaya Kumar (C)
- 27
- 28 **Commission on Archives and History ¶ 641**
- 29 John Callanan (C)
- 30
- 31 **Commission on Religion and Race ¶643**
- 32 Vanessa Wilson (C)
- 33
- 34 **Commission on Small Church Membership ¶645**
- 35 Gina Yeske (C)
- 36
- 37 **Committee on Disability Concerns ¶653**
- 38 Richard Work (C)
- 39
- 40 **Parrish and Community Development Committee ¶633.5**
- 41 Maylis De La Fe (C)
- 42
- 43 **Board of Trustees ¶640 and 2512**
- 44 Clifford Still (C)
- 45
- 46 **Committee on Episcopacy ¶637**
- 47 Eleanor Hartley (L)
- 48
- 49 **Centenary Fund and Preachers Aid Society**
- 50 Eleanor Hartley (L)

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

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Commission on Equitable Compensation ¶625.1

Christine Day (C)

Committee on Rules of Order

Daniel Gepford (C)

Committee on Native American Ministries ¶654

Cynthia Kent (L)

Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries ¶655

Onay Lopez (C)

Submitted by,

Rosa Williams, Chair

Nominations Committee, on behalf of the committee

Recommendation

Trustee Enabling Resolution

1
2
3
4 **Be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church hereby ratifies,
5 approves and confirms actions taken by the Conference Board of Trustees since the last Annual Session.

6 **Be it further resolved** that if subsequent to this Annual Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of
7 the United Methodist Church and prior to the 2017 Annual Session, any property, real or personal, that is
8 conveyed or transferred to the Annual Conference by any church or other person, firm, partnership, or
9 corporation, the Board of Trustees is hereby authorized and empowered, in its discretion, provided that the
10 same be approved by the Bishop and Cabinet, to sell, transfer, lease or convey any such real or personal
11 property for such price, and at such time or times, and upon such other terms and conditions as the Board of
12 Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church shall determine; and

13 **Be it further resolved** that the proper officers of the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual
14 Conference of the United Methodist Church be and hereby are authorized in the name, and on behalf of the
15 Conference, to execute and deliver the Conference deed of conveyance or instrument of transfer and all other
16 instruments and documents to implement and carry out the purpose and intent of the foregoing resolution, and
17 to affix the corporate seal of the Conference thereto; and

18 **Be it further resolved** that the President or Vice-President or Treasurer of the Corporation is hereby fully
19 authorized and empowered to transfer, convey, endorse, sell, assign, and deliver any and all stock, bonds,
20 evidence of interest and/or indebtedness, and all other securities, corporate or otherwise, now or hereafter
21 standing in the name or owned by this Corporation and to make, execute, and deliver, any property to
22 effectuate the authority hereby conferred; and

23 **Be it further resolved** that whenever there shall be annexed to any instrument of assignment and transfer,
24 executed pursuant to and in accordance with the foregoing resolution, a certificate of Secretary or of an
25 Assistant Secretary of this Corporation in the office at the date of such certificate shall set forth these
26 resolutions and shall state that these resolutions are in full force and effect, then all persons to whom such
27 instrument with the annexed certificate shall thereafter come, shall be entitled, without further inquiry or
28 investigation and regardless of the date of such certificate, to assume and to act in reliance upon the
29 assumptions that the shares of stock or other securities named in such instrument were therefore duly and
30 properly transferred, endorsed, sold, assigned, set over and delivered by this Corporation, and that with respect
31 to such securities the authority of these resolutions and of such officers is still in full force and effect; and

32 **Be it further resolved** that subsequent to this Annual Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of
33 the United Methodist Church and prior to the 2017 Annual Session, the Board of Trustees of the Greater New
34 Jersey Annual Conference is hereby authorized to acquire or dispose of District parsonages, Program Director's
35 and Treasurer's residences, as in its discretion, it may deem necessary and advisable, and in accordance with
36 The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, the Conference Board of Trustees is hereby authorized
37 and empowered to enter into such contracts of sale and such other documents as may be necessary to
38 effectuate the sale, transfer, or purchase of such properties. Such properties, real or personal, may be sold or
39 acquired from any person or persons, firm, partnership, or corporation upon such terms and conditions as the
40 Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church shall
41 determine; and

Recommendations to the 2016 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 deeds,
3 mortgages, notes, bonds, and other documents necessary to implement the purchase or sale of such
4 Conference-owned properties.

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

7

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Recommendation

Conference Advance Specials 2016-17

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10

11 **Be it resolved** that the 2016 Session of the Greater New Jersey Conference designate the following ministries
12 and institutions as Conference Advance Specials for the 2017 conference year (without restricting in anyway a
13 local church's ability to support other mission work);

14

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

18

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

27

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

33

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

35

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

39

40 **CUMAC/ECHO** works to alleviate hunger and its root causes for those in need in Paterson, Passaic County and
41 northern NJ. CUMAC has a pantry feeding 3,000+ monthly. The Depot warehouses over 2 million pounds of food
42 annually for a network of about 40 partner feeding programs. This Community Food Coalition (CFC) distributes
43 food while also screening clients for member pantries. They advocate at the local and state level on behalf of
44 CFC clients. CUMAC also has a Community Closet that offers clothing & household items; Pathways to Work that
45 imparts job skills and hands-on experience; Place of Promise that is a supportive housing program for chronically
46 homeless individuals; and seasonal projects for school supplies, holiday gifts and other items for area children in
47 need. All of the programs rely heavily on volunteers and financial support from the community.

48

49

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

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

9
10 **First Friends of New Jersey and New York** provides advocacy, research and social services to the detained and
11 released detainees. First Friends provides a link to the outside world by providing toll free lines (English &
12 Spanish) in five different detention facilities where more than 2000 individuals are detained and through visiting
13 individuals in detention. The Pen-pal Program allows volunteers, who cannot visit to write to detainees.

14
15 **The Neighborhood Center** has served the Camden community since 1913. Today, they are a community center
16 that provides a healthy and nutritious lunch six days a week, day care, an after school program, and an evening
17 teen program. They focus on a two generation approach to lift families out of poverty. Their commitment is to
18 provide a safe space for Academic achievement, Athletic accomplishment, and a flourishing Arts program. Their
19 hope and vision for the next century of service is to create a "community living room."

20
21 **The Pennington School** is a college preparatory institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church which
22 reflects the principles espoused by John Wesley and core values of honor, virtue, and humility. Students
23 experience an environment where talents and values are forged for making a positive difference in the world.
24 Half scholarships are available for students in grade 6 to 12.

25
26 **Ranch Hope/Victory House** provides ministry to troubled boys ages 9 to 16 ½ and services to troubled girls
27 between the ages of 14–18 years. They are faith-based and provide learning environments for those whose
28 needs can best be met through experiences outside their homes. They can obtain or regain their long-term
29 academic, behavioral, and spiritual focus in their residential setting. Counseling, housing and recreation are
30 offered, as well as spiritual guidance, time to attend chapel services and Bible study. Both Ranch Hope and
31 Victory House are licensed by New Jersey State Department of Children and Families.

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33
34 Submitted by Barbara McFarquhar
35 Conference Board of Global Ministries
36

37
38

Recommendation

GNJ Strategic Ministry Plan Midway Affirmation

Whereas the United Methodist of Greater New Jersey’s strategic ministry plan is halfway toward its 2018 completion;

Be it resolved that we thank God for our progress, celebrate the congregations and leadership for their work on the plan, and affirm its direction, strategy and resourcing as outlined below:

GNJ STRATEGIC MINISTRY PLAN

VISION - We see a church like Jesus Christ—radical spirit and humble, teaching and healing, soul saving and soul tending, leader and servant, unbound and outbound for mercy and justice.

We also see a Wesleyan Church—personal holiness and social holiness, connectional and risk taking, thoughtful and inspirational, small groups and large vision, welcoming all and respectful of all.

MISSION – Recruit and develop transformational leaders to make disciples of Jesus Christ and grow vital congregations *to transform the world*.

DISCIPLES are life-long learners and followers of Jesus Christ, leaving behind safety and complacency to serve like Christ to make new disciples, end poverty, be graceful with those at the margins, connect with people who are different from us, and magnify God’s presence in the world. *This type of disciple is shaped, encouraged, sent and supported through vital congregations.*

VITAL CONGREGATIONS are inwardly transformed and missionally outbound. Vital congregations are Spirit-filled, forward leaning communities of believers that grow over time, welcome all people (Galatians 3:28); make disciples of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20); and serve like Christ through justice and mercy ministries (Micah 6:8 and Luke 4:17-21). Vital congregations engage and shape disciples in five key ministries – worship, small groups, community mission, making new disciples and generous giving. *Vital congregations transform the world.*

TRANSFORMED WORLD is a place where congregations, communities and people are working together to end poverty, eradicate racism, practice good stewardship of God’s creation, seek peace, and draw all people closer to God. This type of world is born through the Great Commandment, *love God and your neighbor* (Matthew 22). It begins with the church engaging its neighbors and working toward a peaceable kingdom as described throughout the scriptures. *A transformed world, vital congregations and new disciples require transformational leaders.*

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERS assess the gifts and needs of the congregation and community, set a courageous vision and goals, and inspire and equip the congregation to make new disciples, grow worship, grow disciples’ faith through small groups, engage the congregation in life changing mission, and increase giving to mission and ministry (Ephesians 4:11- 12). *Transformational Leaders have high expectations of themselves and for their congregations.*

LEADERSHIP EXPECTATIONS include but are not limited to: 1) **Connect and relate** well with church leadership and membership and community residents, 2) **Develop leaders** within the congregation, 3) **Lead** the congregation to deeper faith and service in the world, 4) **Increase vitality** through inspiring worship and relevant messages, attracting and making new disciples, and engaging disciples in small groups, community hands-on mission and generous giving, 5) **Raise** sufficient funds for community and world mission, ongoing congregational ministry, shared ministries, and salary and benefits.

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 **CONGREGATIONAL EXPECTATIONS** include but are not limited to: 1) **Connect with and welcome** all people in
2 the community, 2) **Engage passionately and grow** in the five key ministries of a vital congregation, 3) **Create** an
3 environment for risk taking and innovation, 4) **Support** the growth and development of transformational leaders
4 and radical disciples, and 5) **Share generously** including 100% of shared ministry and billables.

5
6 **GNJ EXPECTATIONS** – To achieve our vision and mission, GNJ is compelled to shift how it thinks and carries out
7 its ministry. These shifts include:

- 8 1. From *managing* clergy and congregations **to** *being in relationship with* clergy and congregations.
- 9 2. From Conference *programming* **to** Conference *resourcing* leaders and local congregations.
- 10 3. From *telling* clergy and congregations *what to do* **to** *supporting* clergy and congregations *to innovate*
11 *and create* how they will make disciples, grow vitality and transform the world in their context.

12
13 *Therefore GNJ will focus on recruiting and resourcing transformational leaders to make disciples and grow vital*
14 *congregations to transform the world.*

15
16 **GNJ RESOURCES** congregations and transformational leaders that are *ready* and *desire* to become vital and
17 more like Christ. Our primary resources are coaching, PaCE and Laity Pursuing Excellence groups, Team Vital,
18 and Communities of Hope. These resources come alongside and center leaders and congregations in their
19 calling, help them assess their present gifts and challenges and set a vision, create a ministry action plan and
20 provide support and technical assistance to achieve a God sized vision.

21
22 *Fruitfulness, faithfulness and effectiveness will be evaluated each year.*

23
24 **GNJ EVALUATION** includes three types of evaluations:

- 25 1. GNJ progress toward our vision, mission and developing vital congregations and its commitment to and
26 quality of its resourcing leaders and congregations. This evaluation will be done in February and
27 September and results will be reported to the annual conference session.
- 28 2. Congregational progress toward the five expectations will be evaluated every September and a report
29 given and discussed at the charge conference.
- 30 3. Clergy's leadership in the areas of the five expectations will be conducted in April. This month is chosen
31 so that it is not connected with salaries or appointments. The evaluation is a tool to help assess a
32 pastor's progress and develop a plan for continued development.

GNJ GOALS

GNJ will grow from 14% to 41% vital congregations as it:

- 33 1. Increases the percentage of churches growing in worship attendance from 33% to 51%
- 34 2. Starts 90 new faith communities.
- 35 3. Decreases the number of worshipers it takes to make a new profession of faith from 17 to 15
- 36 4. Increases the percentage of worshipers in small groups from 43% to 75%
- 37 5. Increases the number of young adults in small groups from 2820 to 3200
- 38 6. Increases our racial ethnic worshipers from 20% to 25%
- 39 7. Increases the percentage of worshipers engaged in mission from 8% to 40%
- 40 8. Increases local church dollars spent on mission 15% to 17%
- 41 9. Raises \$12 million through a mission campaign

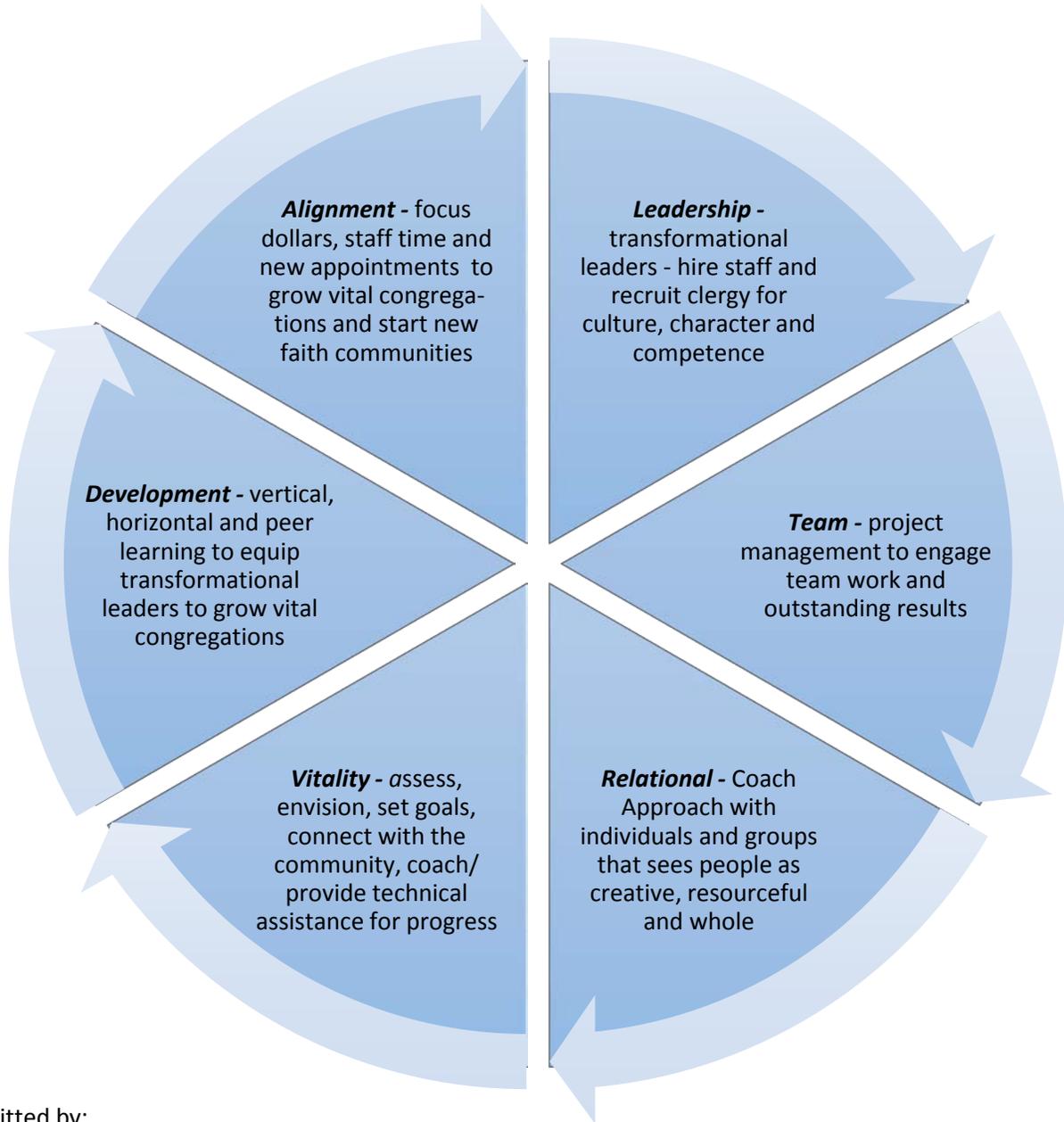
We believe accomplishing these goals will bear fruitful outcomes that include transformational leadership,
radical discipleship, vital congregations, and a transformed world as described above – all for the glory of God.

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

We recruit and develop transformational leaders
to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the world

The Path to Vitality

The ministry of GNJ is to fulfill its mission -
Our mission is a spiritual mission that requires a journey toward health and vitality.
As the staff and GNJ leadership prayerfully and faithfully travel the Path to Vitality, we see more
transformational leaders, disciples of Jesus Christ, and vital congregations transforming the world.



Submitted by:
The Connectional Table of the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

Recommendation

Asbury United Methodist Church, Warren County, Historic Site

Whereas Asbury United Methodist Church holds a unique place in the history of Northwestern New Jersey as an important preaching site for Bishop Asbury and early Methodist circuit riders.

Whereas Asbury Methodists were the first to organize a class meeting in 1792 in the area and second to build a church. Bishop Asbury made his first visit to the site in the same year. His last visit came in 1811.

Whereas Asbury United Methodist Church is the place where the first town in the United States of America was named for the Bishop. The name change, from Hall’s Mills to Asbury, took place in 1796 on the occasion of Bishop Asbury laying the cornerstone of the first Methodist church built in Northwestern New Jersey (“West Jersey Circuit”). The one acre land for the church was purchased for 15 pounds. Bishop Asbury was present for the event. He would return many times to preach and minister to Asbury Methodists.

Whereas Asbury United Methodist Church’s most historically significant member was Colonel William McCullough, a Methodist layperson who arrived in Hall’s Mills in 1784, whose friendship with Bishop Asbury began with Asbury’s first visit in 1786 and who became the driving force behind the town’s name change to Asbury. McCullough’s impact extended far from the Methodist Episcopal Church as a legislator, judge and business man in the development of Asbury’s industrial economy, and to the creation of both the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church and the Flanders Methodist Episcopal Church in Flanders, NJ.

Whereas Asbury United Methodist Church is part of the National Parks Service national registered historic places called Asbury Historic District. The designation recognizes Asbury Church as one of the significant 19th century architectural gems that make up the district.

Rationale: Asbury United Methodist Church has a special place in Northwestern New Jersey’s Methodist past. Whether it was the first town in the nation to be named after Bishop Asbury, recognition of its classic 19th century style church architecture or Asbury’s Church’s continued witness for 230 years, Asbury’s unique contribution to both New Jersey Methodism and Warren and Hunterdon counties society in its immediate parish area places Asbury as a treasure amongst Greater New Jersey United Methodism.

Therefore be it resolved that as one of the most unique and influential larger circuits in early Northwestern New Jersey, Asbury be recognized by this body as a Greater New Jersey Annual Conference Historic Site.

Respectively Submitted and Presenter of Recommendation: Reverend Bill Wilson, Chair of Commission on Archives and History

Recommendation

Drew Theological School Historic Site

Whereas Drew Theological School has had a profound effect on the history of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, United Methodism and the world Methodist movement and its alumni are trained in a leadership style that is spiritually transformative, rooted in social justice and nurtures healing ministries.

Whereas Drew Theological School became United Methodism’s first solely post-baccalaureate seminary, the first such school created by General Conference, initially offered free tuition (due to a founding gift given by Daniel Drew and his continued financial support for the seminary until his financial demise) and collected one of the greatest theological libraries in the world.

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 **Whereas** Drew Theological School has always maintained strong organizational ties to the New Jersey
2 Conferences, from its original embrace as the “Conference Seminary” of the Newark Annual Conference, from
3 hosting a total of thirty-six Newark and Northern New Jersey Annual Conference sessions on its grounds
4 between 1949 to 1998 and from seating the Resident Bishop of the New Jersey Episcopal Area on its Board of
5 Trustees throughout the seminary’s and later university’s history.

6 **Whereas** Drew Theological School has provided a premier faculty to train future church leaders, which included
7 those professors who would become known as The Great Five: Henry Anson Buttz, John Miley, George Richard
8 Crooks, Samuel Foster Upham and James Strong, and also many other New Jersey Methodists, who would serve
9 on the faculty with great distinction through the school’s history. Buttz exemplified these New Jersey faculty
10 connections, as he served as pastor of several small congregations within the Newark Annual Conference, and
11 also the Morristown Methodist Church, before becoming a Drew professor and seminary president, who served
12 the institution for over fifty years.

13 **Whereas** Drew Theological School has faithfully served the conference by preparing New Jersey Methodist
14 students for lay and ordained ministry throughout its history. Three Methodist students from New Jersey
15 (George Miller of Warrenville, Charles Coit Cokefair of Bloomfield and Grover Ruckman of New Providence) were
16 members of the Theological School’s first class in 1867.

17 **Whereas** notable New Jersey Drew graduates have included such ministers as William Warren Sweet (Class of
18 1906), Boston University president and historian; Elbert M. Conover (Class of 1913), Methodist Episcopal
19 minister and the denomination’s inspirational neo-gothic church architect; plus missionary Maud Keister Jensen
20 (Classes of 1943, 1945 and 1978), who was the first woman ordained in the Methodist Church.

21 **Whereas** Drew Theological School also became the first seminary to accept women in a full Bachelor of Divinity
22 Degree program in the fall of 1919, was the first seminary to create a faculty spot for a Christian sociologist
23 following the adoption of the Social Creed by General Conference, and has graduated more Methodist bishops
24 than any other United Methodist seminary.

25 **Rationale:** Drew Theological School’s place in the history of New Jersey United Methodism cannot be
26 overstated. From its inception Drew has trained Methodist leaders for our annual conference and those around
27 the world. Because of its commitment to high quality faculty and dedication to the denomination’s mission,
28 Drew has led the way in making United Methodism strong in its diversity and committed to deep spirituality
29 with social justice, which has made the seminary a light unto the nations by which New Jersey Methodists
30 continue to directly benefit in its local churches, mission projects and surrounding communities. The unique role
31 and place Drew Theological School in New Jersey Methodism is unquestioned.

32 **Therefore be it resolved** that the Theological School at Drew University be recognized by the Greater New
33 Jersey Annual Conference as one of its historic sites.

34 Respectively Submitted and Presenter of Recommendation: Reverend Bill Wilson, Chair of Commission on
35 Archives and History

36

Recommendation

Franklin-St. John United Methodist Church Historic Site

Whereas Franklin-St. John United Methodist Church has led the way in the spiritual well-being of Newark’s Methodist African American community since 1869-1870, when it was known as St. John Methodist Episcopal Church.

Whereas St. John Methodist Episcopal Church started out as a mission in Newark sometime around 1869 or 1870 and by 1872 had become the first organized African American church under appointment in the Newark Annual Conference (St. John’s did not transfer to the historic Delaware Annual Conference until 1893).

Whereas St. John Methodist Episcopal Church’s first pastor, The Reverend John L. H. Sweres, became the first African American minister admitted to the Newark Annual Conference. Sweres transferred to the Newark Conference from the North-German Annual Conference, where he was admitted on trial in 1871, and he transferred to the historic Lexington Annual Conference in 1873.

Whereas St. John Methodist Episcopal Church quickly planted two other successful African American churches, St. John’s in Orange (1879) and St. Mark’s in Montclair (1881) and, together, St. John and its successive church plants in Orange and Montclair would make up three of the original five African American congregations in the Newark Annual Conference.

Rationale: Franklin-St. John United Methodist Church played an important role in breaking the color barrier in the former Newark Annual Conference. Many future African American Methodist leaders within the denomination would occupy St. John’s pulpit. For 144 years, Franklin-St. John United Methodist Church stands as a testimony to United Methodism’s witness for the people of Newark by serving its African American constituency with holy piety and social justice. The church, through its various pastors, has shaped African American United Methodist leadership to what is it is to this day.

Therefore be it resolved that Franklin-St. John United Methodist Church and the leadership it supplied be recognized by the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference as one of its historic sites.

Respectively Submitted and Presenter of Recommendation: Reverend Bill Wilson, Chair of Commission on Archives and History

Recommendation

Colonel William McCullough House, Warren County, Historic Site

Whereas McCullough House provided shelter for many illustrative early circuit riders such as Bishop Francis Asbury, Martin Boehm, Ezekiel Cooper and others, served as a venue for those circuit riders to preach in and hold quarterly meetings in the barn and was the place where Northwestern New Jersey Methodist laity met who helped create the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, the first church built solely by Methodists in Northwestern, New Jersey.

Whereas Colonel William McCullough (1759-1840) proved to be one of the most faithful and fruitful Methodist laypersons in Northern New Jersey. McCullough served in the Revolutionary War, where he became close friends with the Generals Washington and Lafayette. Later he served as a state legislator, county judge and

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 owner of a number mills in the Asbury area. McCullough was converted by the preaching of Ezekiel Cooper at
2 Schooley's Mountain in 1786. The Colonel would spend the next fifty-four years in dedicated service to the
3 Methodist Episcopal Church in Northern New Jersey in both time and money. Bishop Asbury knew of
4 McCullough's commitment to Methodism long before they would meet in person.

5
6 **Whereas** William McCullough was one of the original members of the first Methodist class meeting by whose
7 house they would meet.

8 **Whereas** McCullough became the driving force to change the name of Hall's Mills to Asbury in order to honor is
9 good friend and frequent guest.

10
11 **Whereas** the McCullough house, with its original kitchen and barn still standing, are the only known surviving
12 structures where Bishop Asbury preached and taught in Northern New Jersey.

13 **Rationale:** The McCullough House stands as an enduring testament to the commitment and faith of one of
14 Northern New Jersey's most influential laypersons – Colonel William McCullough. The structures on the
15 property are one of the few places still in active use as a family home that can boast hosting prominent early
16 Methodist circuit riders such as Bishop Asbury, Ezekiel Cooper and Martin Boehm. McCullough House became
17 the fulcrum point for Methodism's success throughout Northwestern New Jersey. It is rare to be able to honor a
18 dedicated lay person's dwelling whose influence and deeds did much for New Jersey Methodism and whose
19 buildings remind us that we are direct heirs to the work of Colonel William McCullough for the Methodist cause
20 during its formative years and well into the mid-19th century.

21 **Therefore be it resolved** that the McCullough House and Barn be recognized as a Greater New Jersey Annual
22 Conference Historic Site.

23 Respectively Submitted and Presenter of Recommendation: Reverend Bill Wilson, Chair of Commission on
24 Archives and History

Recommendation

United Methodist Church of Morristown Historic Site

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29 **Whereas** the Morristown United Methodist Church's has played a vital role in the spiritual well-being in
30 Morristown and surrounding areas in Northern New Jersey, served a central role in the Newark Annual
31 Conference and provided notable leadership in the fields of education and publishing within the larger American
32 Methodist landscape.

33 **Whereas** Morristown Methodists were first visited by Bishop Francis Asbury and Henry Boehm in 1811 and by
34 1815, regular class meetings and preaching services were held in the Samuel Bonsell home, Morristown's most
35 prominent layperson at that time.

36 **Whereas** Morristown Methodist Episcopal Church organized its first permanent society in 1825 and built the
37 first church structure two years later. The church continued to grow and is remembered for two famous revivals
38 in 1828 and 1836. Both of these revivals would last for many weeks making Methodism a mainstay in the
39 bustling town.

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 **Whereas** Morristown Methodist Episcopal Church hosted the first session of the Newark Annual Conference in
2 1858, held subsequent sessions in 1871, 1892, 1907 and 1957, where church members housed all the delegates
3 for each meeting.

4 **Whereas** Morristown church had pastors and laypersons in the congregation who became nationally recognized
5 leaders of our denomination. These American Methodist leaders with ties to the Morristown church include, but
6 are not limited to: George P. Eckman, Christian Advocate editor; George T. Cobb, mid-19th century United States
7 Congressman; James M. Buckley, Christian Advocate Editor; Henry Anson Buttz, President of Drew Theological
8 Seminary and eight time delegate to General Conference; Jesse Lyman Hulbert, Executive Secretary of the
9 national Sunday School Department and editor of its publications.

10 **Rationale** Morristown United Methodist Church played an important role in the development and ministry of
11 the former Newark Annual Conference. Further, its pastors and laypersons also helped to shape and guide the
12 denomination in many important ways that are still felt today through their contributions to education and
13 publishing within the larger American Methodist landscape.

14 **Therefore be it resolved** that the role Morristown United Methodist Church in the history of Morris County,
15 Northern New Jersey and national United Methodism throughout its storied ministry deserves to be recognized
16 by the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference as one of its historic sites.

17 Respectively Submitted and Presenter of Recommendation: Reverend Bill Wilson, Chair of Commission on
18 Archives and History

19

20

Recommendation

Proposed Shared Ministries Plan

Conference Council on Finance and Administration

No Impact on the Conference Budget

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration proposes that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference approve the Shared Ministries Plan for 2017, (the budget), details of which have been provided in this pre-conference on the following pages.

John W. Bishop, President Conference Council on Finance and Administration

2017 SHARED MINISTRY PLAN		Column A	Column B	Column D	Column C	Column D	Column F
INCOME:		2016	2016	2016	2017	2017	Difference
		Approved	Revised	Expected	Recommend	Expected	2016 to 2017
I.	Income from Shared Ministries	11,998,609	11,998,609	10,310,928	11,978,542	10,457,420	(20,067)
II.	Income from Reserve Funds / Previous Year Surplus	273,386	273,386	273,386	293,481	293,481	20,095
III.	Centenary Fund Contribution	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	-
IV.	Interest / Investment Income	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	-
V.	Additional Funds received in Support of the Budget	154,000	154,000	154,000	154,000	154,000	-
		12,675,996	12,675,996	10,988,314	12,676,024	11,154,901	28
EXPENSE:							
I. CLERGY SUPPORT							
A.	District Superintendents Salary, Benefits & Office Exp. Sched.A	2,368,801	1,944,529	1,685,634	1,916,483	1,686,505	(28,046)
B.	Episcopal Fund	491,615	491,615	426,161	463,403	407,795	(28,211)
C.	Conference share of Bishop's housing	32,456	32,456	28,135	31,972	28,135	(485)
D.	Annuity Health Insurance & Benefits	2,366,427	2,366,427	2,051,361	2,401,025	2,112,902	34,598
E.	Equitable Compensation	190,342	190,342	165,000	187,500	165,000	(2,842)
F.	Conference Board of Ordained Ministry administrative expenses	49,464	49,464	42,878	48,725	42,878	(739)
G.	Bridge Fund	14,997	76,137	66,000	75,000	66,000	(1,137)
	Sub-total for CLERGY SUPPORT	5,514,101	5,150,969	4,465,169	5,124,108	4,509,215	(26,861)
II. ADMINISTRATION							
A.	Conference Council on Finance and Administration expenses	4,614	4,614	4,000	4,545	4,000	(69)
B.	Director of Administrative Services expenses Sched. B	190,002	190,002	164,705	190,678	167,797	677
C.	Director of Communication and Development Sched. B	0	190,002	164,705	190,678	167,797	677
D.	Other conference administrative agencies' expense Sched.E	1,490,090	1,689,357	1,464,436	1,714,167	1,508,467	24,810
E.	Conf. Sessions (3 days)	278,581	278,581	241,491	274,422	241,491	(4,160)
F.	Episcopal Area Office Supplement	162,722	162,722	141,057	166,907	146,878	4,185
G.	Bishop's Discretionary Fund	11,536	11,536	10,000	11,364	10,000	(172)
H.	Jurisdictional conference administrative apportionments & related exp.	41,529	41,529	36,000	40,909	36,000	(620)
I.	General Administration Fund	184,125	184,125	159,611	185,808	163,511	1,682
J.	Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	40,967	40,967	35,513	41,334	36,374	367
	Sub-total for ADMINISTRATION	2,404,167	2,793,436	2,421,518	2,820,813	2,482,315	27,376
	CLERGY SUPPORT/ADMINISTRATION (fund 100)	7,918,268	7,944,405	6,886,687	7,944,920	6,991,530	515
III. WORLD SERVICE AND CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCE							
A.	World Service Fund	1,525,042	1,525,042	1,321,998	1,539,458	1,354,723	14,416
B.	Director of Connectional Ministry - Schedule C	182,190	182,190	157,933	167,766	147,634	(14,424)
C.	Non-Cabinet Staff (4) Schedule C	617,853	617,853	535,592	618,341	544,140	488
D.	Non-Cabinet Staff (1) - Schedule C	154,463	154,463	133,898	154,585	136,035	122
E.	Administrative expenses - <i>directly related to the above III.B.</i>	248,844	222,707	193,056	232,955	205,000	10,247
F.	Connectional Table - Schedule D.	1,088,641	1,088,641	943,699	1,072,385	943,699	(16,255)
G.	Supplemental Strategic Salary Support	161,502	161,502	140,000	159,091	140,000	(2,412)
	Sub-total for WORLD SERVICE/CONF.BEN. (fund 300)	3,978,535	3,952,398	3,426,176	3,944,581	3,471,231	(7,818)
IV. OTHER APPORTIONED FUNDS							
A.	Black College Fund (fund 410)	208,861	208,861	181,053	210,822	185,523	1,961
B.	Africa University Fund (fund 420)	46,755	46,755	40,530	47,181	41,519	426
C.	Ministerial Education Fund (fund 430)	523,577	523,577	453,868	528,520	465,098	4,943
	Sub-total for OTHER FUNDS	779,193	779,193	675,451	786,523	692,140	7,330
	TOTAL EXPENSE (I,II,III, IV)	12,675,996	12,675,996	10,988,314	12,676,024	11,154,901	28

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference – Shared Ministry – 2016 Budget (continued)

SCHEDULE ABC	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected
	District		Dir. Admin. Svcs./		Dir. of Communcation/		Director of Connectional		Coordinators		Coordinators	
	Superintendents		Conference Treasurer		Development		Ministry		Four		One	
Salary	90,549	93,265	90,549	93,265	90,549	93,265	90,549	93,265	69,962	72,060	69,962	72,060
Pension												
Pension CRSP	14,148	14,572	13,338	13,738	13,338	13,738	14,148	14,572	11,320	11,659	11,320	11,659
Pension CRSP (CPP)	3,396	3,497	2,415	2,518	2,416	2,518	3,336	3,497	2,716	2,798	2,716	2,798
(CHIP)Health Insurance*	15,000	14,000	15,000	14,000	15,000	14,000	15,000	14,000	15,000	14,000	15,000	14,000
Housing Maintenance *	8,000	8,000	20,600	21,218	20,600	21,218	20,600	8,000	20,600	21,218	20,600	21,218
Utilities *	7,000	7,000	0	0	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	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	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	11,700	11,700
Administrative Assistants	20,433	20,511										
Continuing Education	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Office Expenses	5,800	5,800										
Payroll Taxes	0	0	8,503	8,758	8,502	8,758	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL COST FOR ONE (1):	180,626	182,945	164,705	167,797	164,705	167,797	157,933	147,634	133,898	136,035	133,898	136,035
	9	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	1	1
	1,625,634	1,646,505	164,705	167,797	164,705	167,797	157,933	147,634	535,592	544,140	133,898	136,035

SCHEDULE E

	2016	2016	2017	2017	2017
II D. ADMINISTRATION	Budget	Expected	Budget	Expected	Shortfall
Salaries: Central Office Staff/Service Dept.	784,450	680,008	795,918	700,408	95,510
Benefits & Payroll Taxes-Central Office	385,693	334,342	391,436	344,464	46,972
Salaries:Conference Secretary/ Secretarial Asst	13,879	12,031	14,205	12,500	1,705
Central Office Operations	178,806	155,000	176,136	155,000	21,136
Treas. Office Operations	33,627	29,150	33,125	29,150	3,975
Conference Journal	17,258	14,960	31,818	28,000	3,818
Auditing/Bonding	28,840	25,000	28,409	25,000	3,409
Capital Equip. R/R Fund	7,060	6,120	6,955	6,120	835
Information Services Support	38,530	33,400	37,955	33,400	4,555
Committee on Nominations	981	850	966	850	116
Building Maintenance Reserve	5,393	4,675	5,313	4,675	638
Gen/Jur Conference Reserve	3,922	3,400	3,864	3,400	464
Conference Business Travel	17,304	15,000	17,045	15,000	2,045
Board of Trustees	144,199	125,000	142,045	125,000	17,045
Conference Chancellor	29,417	25,500	28,977	25,500	3,477
SCHEDULE E Total	1,689,357	1,464,436	1,714,167	1,508,467	205,700

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

GNJAC							
Schedule D- Benevolence Budget							
Calendar Year 2017 Budget							
	2016	2016	2016		2017	2017	2017
	Projected	Actual	Expected		Projected	Actual	Expected
	Budget	Expected	Shortfall		Budget	Expected	Shortfall
Board of Church and Society	3,922	3,400	522		4,318	3,800	518
Board of Discipleship	208,677	180,881	27,796		206,818	182,000	24,818
Board of Discipleship	1,154	1,000	154		1,136	1,000	136
Camps & Conferences	207,523	179,881	27,642		205,682	181,000	24,682
Board of Global Ministries	23,931	20,900	3,031		22,386	19,700	2,686
Board of Global Ministries	2,538	2,200	338		2,273	2,000	273
Disaster Response	9,806	8,500	1,306		6,477	5,700	777
Mission School	11,767	10,200	1,567		13,636	12,000	1,636
Board of Higher Education	74,982	65,000	9,982		73,864	65,000	8,864
Higher Education & Campus Ministry	74,988	65,000	9,988		73,864	65,000	8,864
Board of Laity	22,785	19,750	3,035		20,455	18,000	2,455
Commission on Archives and History	8,076	7,000	1,076		7,955	7,000	955
Commission on Christian Unity/Inter. Concerns	25,381	22,000	3,381		22,727	20,000	2,727
Commission on Christian Unity/Inter. Concerns	8,076	7,000	1,076		5,682	5,000	682
NJ Council of Churches	17,305	15,000	2,305		17,045	15,000	2,045
Commission on Religion and Race	9,229	8,000	1,229		9,091	8,000	1,091
Commission on Small Membership Church	577	500	77		568	500	68
Commission on the Status and Role of Women	5,768	5,000	768		5,682	5,000	682
Committee on Disability Concerns	576	500	76		568	500	68
Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns	54,221	47,000	7,221		50,568	44,500	6,068
Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns	5,768	5,000	768		2,841	2,500	341
Korean American National Plan	11,537	10,000	1,537		11,364	10,000	1,364
Strengthening the Black Church Plan	13,844	12,000	1,844		13,636	12,000	1,636
National Hispanic Plan	23,073	20,000	3,073		22,727	20,000	2,727
Committee on Native American Ministry	577	500	77		568	500	68
Council on Young Adult Ministry	14,218	12,325	1,893		11,364	10,000	1,364
Young Adults	14,219	12,325	1,894		11,364	10,000	1,364
Council on Youth Ministry	24,804	21,500	3,304		39,205	34,500	4,705
Youth Ministry-Search	14,998	13,000	1,998		13,636	12,000	1,636
Ignite	9,806	8,500	1,306		25,568	22,500	3,068
United Methodist Men	577	500	77		568	500	68
Sub-Total - Conference Sch. D Benevolence Budget	478,301	414,756	63,545		476,705	419,500	57,205
Community Outreach Grants	210,256	182,250	28,006		207,102	182,250	24,852
Connectional Table	61,113	53,038	8,075		48,806	42,949	5,857
Congregational Development	49,031	42,500	6,531		48,295	42,500	5,795
Emerging Needs	19,612	17,000	2,612		19,318	17,000	2,318
Leadership Development	29,419	25,500	3,919		31,250	27,500	3,750
District Programming	137,287	119,000	18,287		142,045	125,000	17,045
Communications	23,073	20,000	3,073		22,727	20,000	2,727
Relay	76,142	66,000	10,142		75,000	66,000	9,000
Resource Center	4,217	3,655	562		1,136	1,000	136
Grand Total	1,088,451	943,699	144,752		1,072,385	943,699	128,686

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Recommendation

**Shared Ministry Apportionment Formula
Impact on the Conference Budget**

Whereas at the Annual Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference in 2010, a new formula for allocating the expenses of the Annual Conference was approved.

Whereas that formula was to be used beginning in 2011.

Whereas the formula would have made substantial changes in the amount billed to many individual local churches.

Whereas the Annual Conference wanted to moderate the effects of the change in local church's askings due to the formula change.

Whereas the Annual Conference authorized a system of caps on changes in local church Shared Ministry askings.

Whereas nearly all churches reached equilibrium with the new formula by the end of 2015.

Whereas Shared Ministry askings were calculated for 2016 in accord with the previously approved formula.

Therefore be it now resolved that in 2017 Shared Ministry askings shall be calculated in accord with the previously approved formula.

Rationale: Since 2016 askings were in accord with the previously approved formula, there is no reason to not do the same for 2017.

Submitted by:
John Bishop, President
The Conference Council on Finance and Administration

Recommendation

Pension Recommendations

Be it resolved that the Past Service Annuity Rate for January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 be set at \$658 per approved service year prior to January 1, 1982.

Be it resolved:

1. That effective January 1, 2017, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference will continue to sponsor CRSP for full-time, three-quarter time, and one-half time clergy and continue to sponsor UMPIP for those clergy in one-quarter time appointments.
2. That contributions for January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 for the Clergy Retirement Security Program for full-time and less-than-full-time (¼-time & ½-time) clergy, and for Conference sponsored UMPIP Plan for ¼-time clergy, be set at 12.5% of plan compensation.
3. That contributions for January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 for the Comprehensive Protection Plan be set at 3% of plan compensation for full-time and ¾- time ordained clergy, and for Conference

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

- 1 Sponsored UMLife Options for ½-time ordained clergy to be set based on an age-based premium. That
2 local churches may sponsor ¼-time ordained clergy and ¾-time part-time local pastors in UMLife
3 Options.
- 4 4. That the starting date for retirement payments for new retirees commences July 1, 2016, unless
5 otherwise stated.
- 6 5. That grants approved in lieu of pension to Bernard Shropshire are continued through 2017.
- 7 a). That the following members of the former Southern Conference be grand-parented in terms of
8 eligibility for conference-paid health benefits. Specifically, the following persons, upon becoming
9 annuitants with at least 10 years of service, will be eligible for Conference-paid health benefits:
10 Edward F. Conway, Ruth Propert Taenzer, Jae Jeong Shim, Mildred E. Bender, Charles H. Mayer, J.
11 Evans Dodds, Eileen Murphy, Nicholas Connolly, Daniel Gueh, Renee L. McCleary, William R. Hess,
12 Frances B. Ballinger and Charles D. Mitchell.
- 13 b). That Robert L. Webster and family be eligible for Conference-paid health benefits upon
14 retirement and receiving an annuity.
- 15 6. That Rev. Patricia Bruger’s actual years of appointment and service at CUMAC/ECHO, INC. from June
16 16, 1995 through retirement be fully credited for the purpose of calculation of service year credits to
17 determine allocation of pro-rated health insurance premium payment responsibility upon retirement.
- 18 That the following clergy be grand-parented to five years “under appointment through the Conference
19 immediately prior to retirement” to meet eligibility requirements for health benefits in retirement,
20 rather than the seven years as approved at the 2011 annual conference meeting (Paragraph 3 under
21 Eligibility, p. 365 of the 2011 Conference Journal). Specifically, the following persons, if, at the time of
22 retirement, meet all other eligibility requirements for health insurance in retirement, shall be grand-
23 parented under this provision: Rev. Vena Murphy, Rev. William Jacobsen, Rev. Christina Zito and Rev.
24 Sherrie Dobbs Johnson.
- 25 That clergy participants in the Conference Health Insurance Plan who have expenses associated with the
26 adoption of a child will be reimbursed up to \$10,000 per child upon the presentation of the necessary
27 documentation.
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- 28 7. That the Greater NJ Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to
29 rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:
30 **Be it resolved** that an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received
31 from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the “*Discipline*”),
32 which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (“GBOPHB”),
33 during the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled
34 clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is
35 designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such clergyperson; and
36 That the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation
37 applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds
38 authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial
39 annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity,
40 or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this
41 Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference
42 rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer
2 that employed the clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its
3 predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan,
4 annuity, or fund for such an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled clergyperson's pension,
5 severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or her gross compensation.

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

15 That clergy retiring before July 1, 2017 be reimbursed for one time moving expenses up to \$5,000.00
16 incurred while moving from church-owned housing to personal housing. This reimbursement is limited
17 to actual moving expenses, not to include moving company packing costs. The same benefits and
18 restrictions shall also apply to a surviving spouse moving out of the parsonage upon the death of a
19 pastor while in active service in the Annual Conference, and to those entering disabled relationships.

20 That the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits be authorized to make modifications to the
21 current Insurance Plan as the health care market demands. In addition, modifications to the Plan that
22 could reduce premium costs to local churches and Annual Conference are to be studied and enacted as
23 the Board determines appropriate. These changes might include increased participant deductibles, co-
24 payments, greater use of generic medications, and other avenues of cost saving and sharing. Such
25 changes will be subject to prior review of CFA and the Cabinet.

26 That the Guidelines for Health Insurance Participation, below, be approved and upon approval printed
27 in the 2016 Conference Journal and Yearbook.

PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS: 2016 HEALTH INSURANCE GUIDELINES

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

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

ELIGIBILITY

1. Clergy Eligibility:

- 39 a) Active clergy under full-time Episcopal appointment to serve a local church including Elders, Deacons,
40 Local Pastors, Associate Members, and Provisional Members
 - 41 b) Those under full-time appointment as district superintendents, clergy staff members of Conference
42 councils and boards, treasurers, bishop's assistants, or directors of parish development, general
-

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

- 1 evangelists and campus ministers for whom the Conference provides pension contribution to the Clergy
2 Retirement Security Program (CRSP) who is:
- 3 • a full elder or associate member (other than a missionary) (Book of Discipline ¶344.1a(1))
 - 4 • or an ordained clergyperson from another annual conference or another Methodist
5 denomination (Book of Discipline ¶344.1a(1), ¶346.1
 - 6 • ordained clergyperson from another denomination if not covered by the group health plan of
7 the denomination to which he/she belongs. (Book of Discipline ¶344.1a(1))
- 8 c) Enrollment in the Active health insurance plan must be completed within 31 days of appointment.
- 9 d) Waiving coverage in the Plan - Contact the Insurance Coordinator for required documents. Documents
10 must be completed and returned within enrollment deadline periods
- 11 • within 31 days of initial eligibility; or
 - 12 • once per year during the Conference open enrollment period for the following January 1; or
 - 13 • within 31 days of an open enrollment period for a spouse's plan; beginning January 1, 2016.
 - 14 • see PREMIUM PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY – ACTIVE for Waived Coverage Fees.
- 15 a. Participant must certify that:
- 16 • The plan is through a former employment or a spouse's current or former employment. Proof
17 of such coverage is required.
18 The plan is not a marketplace plan. Under these guidelines and marketplace rules, Full-time
19 clergy are ineligible for any Premium Tax Credit.
- 20 b. Re-admittance to the plan is during any open enrollment period, or within 31 days of a Special
21 Enrollment event (loss of other coverage, employment status change, divorce, or death of a
22 spouse, gain a dependent).
- 23 e) Clergy in any category under Episcopal appointment to full-time service in an Extension Ministry
24 [¶344.1a (3)(4); 344.1b; 344.1d; 331.1a,b; 326.1; 331.8 346.1; 346.2], may enroll in the Plan within
25 31 days of initial appointment. Late enrollments are permitted only during the Annual Election
26 Period or in the case of a Special Enrollment event as described in HealthFlex's Summary Plan
27 Description.
- 28 f) Part-time clergy in any category are not eligible for coverage through the Plan.
- 29 **2. Ministerial members who are placed on Medical Leave status by the Conference** shall continue
30 enrollment in the Plan regardless of whether they are eligible for Medicare disability benefits. The
31 Conference Plan remains primary until the participant becomes eligible for Medicare due to disability, at
32 which time the Conference Plan becomes secondary to Medicare. Beginning January 1, 2016, participants
33 obtaining Medicare due to disability, may choose to remain in the Active Health Plan as their secondary
34 insurance, or to enroll in the United HealthCare Retiree Plan (Medicare Advantage Plan). The premiums
35 for ministerial members on Conference Medical Leave (and their enrolled family) will be paid by the
36 Conference with Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits funds.

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

- 1 **3. Clergy in Retired Status** may be in the Plan if they were under appointment through the Conference for
2 the seven years immediately prior to retirement. Retired participants and spouses age 65 and over are
3 required to carry Medicare Part A and Part B in order to be eligible for Conference insurance in
4 retirement. A Retiree (and eligible dependents) not enrolling in the Plan at the time of retirement, or who
5 left the plan as a retiree, may enroll during any open enrollment period, or within 31 days of a Special
6 Enrollment event (including but not limited to voluntary or involuntary loss of coverage) (refer to Clergy
7 Eligibility #1, subparagraph 1b) For dependent eligibility, see #5 under "Eligibility."
- 8 **4.** Any of the following **lay persons** are eligible to enroll in the Plan upon application within 31 days of hire.
9 Late enrollments are permitted only during the Annual Election Period as allowed by the Plan, or in the
10 case of a Special Enrollment Event as described in HealthFlex's Summary Plan Description.
- 11 a) Lay employees of the Conference or any of its subsidiary agencies working a minimum of 1,560
12 hours annually (30 hrs. per week)
- 13 b) Full-time (minimum of 1,560 hours annually) lay employees of any church in the Conference that
14 adopts the program, completes a Salary Paying Unit Sub-Adoption Agreement, and whose
15 church enrolls a minimum of 75% of its full-time lay employees.
- 16 c) Retired lay employees of the Conference, local churches, Conference-affiliated UM institutions,
17 the Episcopal office, units of the Conference whose lay employees are not on the Conference
18 payroll, and the surviving spouse of such employees, may participate in the Plan provided they
19 have received or will receive a UMPIP benefit from the General Board of Pension through their
20 salary-paying unit.
- 21 **5. Dependents eligible for coverage** in the Conference Plan are limited to the spouse, children who are
22 qualified adult dependents, and children who are under age 26. Dependents may be added only during
23 the Annual Election Period as allowed by the Plan, or in the case of a Special Enrollment event. If an
24 annuitant marries (remarries), coverage of spouse and/or children may be available and premium for
25 dependents is at the retiree's expense.

26 **PREMIUM PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY – ANNUITANTS**

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

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

- 31 A. **A clergy person age 65 or older**, becoming an annuitant on or after July 1, 2002, who has less than
32 20 approved years with annuity credit in (CRSP), the Clergy Retirement Security Program (includes
33 prior plans), with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church
34 shall, in order to receive health insurance coverage under the Plan, be responsible for the payment
35 of a pro-rated share of his/her Medicare Companion premium. Such share shall be 5% times the
36 number of full years by which such years are short of 20.
- 37 B. **A lay person age 65 or older**, who has received or will receive a UMPIP benefit on or after July 1,
38 2002, who has less than 20 approved years with pension credit in UMPIP, the United Methodist
39 Personal Investment Plan (includes prior plan), of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits
40 of the United Methodist Church shall, in order to receive health insurance coverage under the Plan,
41 be responsible for the payment of a pro-rated share of his/her premium. Such share shall be 5%
42 times the number of full years by which such years are short of 20.

- 1 C. The Active premium for an **annuitant under the age of 65 commencing benefits**
- 2 a) **on or before July 1, 2003** shall be paid by the Conference subject to paragraphs A and B
- 3 above until the annuitant reaches age 65.
- 4 b) **after July 1, 2003**, the Conference shall contribute an amount equal to the coverage cost of
- 5 a Medicare-eligible annuitant, subject to paragraphs A and B above, and the annuitant shall
- 6 be responsible for the remainder of the Active premium until the annuitant reaches age 65.
- 7 Premium responsibility will be frozen at the calendar year 2014 level for annuitants retiring
- 8 prior to July 1, 2014.
- 9 c) **on or after July 1, 2014**, the Conference shall contribute an amount equal to the coverage
- 10 cost of a Medicare-eligible annuitant, subject to paragraphs A and B above, and the
- 11 annuitant shall be responsible for an annual fixed amount determined in the year of
- 12 retirement until the annuitant reaches age 65.
- 13 D. **Extension Clergy serving approved Conference Advance Specials** in the geographic bounds of the
- 14 Annual Conference who are not eligible to enroll in the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)
- 15 will be credited, solely for the years appointed to that Advance Special, with actual years of
- 16 appointment and service to the Conference, for the purpose of calculation of service year credits to
- 17 determine allocation of pro-rated premium payment responsibility upon retirement.

18 **PREMIUM PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY – PRE-ANNUITY RETIREES**

19 The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall establish rates of premiums for the participants,

20 based upon the premiums charged by HealthFlex.

21 For those who have retired early and are not collecting an annuity, the retired enrollee is responsible for the full

22 Active premium payment until they reach annuity age.

23 **PREMIUM PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY – ACTIVE**

24 The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall establish rates of premiums for the participants

25 based upon the premiums charged by HealthFlex.

26 Unless it has already been stated above under Eligibility, the Conference shall pay the premiums for all enrolled

27 active participants, lay or ministerial, from appropriate funds, except that:

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

32 1. The salary paying unit shall also be responsible for remitting premium for its lay employees

33 who are enrolled in the Plan.

34 2. Plan participants are to pay 2% of their cash salary to their own salary paying unit as their

35 share of the premium the employer (church) pays on their behalf.

36 In the case of clergy couples the following will apply:

- 37 a) Each spouse will contribute 2% of their salary to each salary paying unit that is paying
- 38 health premium, regardless of percentage of health premium paid

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

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

5 CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE AFTER CERTAIN EVENTS

- 6 A. **Voluntary and Involuntary Termination** - If a person's participation in the Plan ceases due to
7 voluntary or involuntary termination of Conference membership or employment or discharge or
8 removal from the Annual Conference, Continuation Coverage for health insurance may be available
9 through application to HealthFlex.
- 10 B. **Loss of Dependent Status** - If a dependent's participation in the Plan ceases due to divorce or to
11 attaining the limiting age, Continuation Coverage may be available through application to
12 HealthFlex.
- 13 C. **Medical Leave** - See #2 under Eligibility.
- 14 D. **Leave of Absence** (§354 and §355) - Clergy placed on voluntary leave of absence (personal, family,
15 or transitional) or involuntary leave of absence may continue in the Plan for a period of twelve
16 months, provided they pay the premiums. Continuation Coverage for up to an additional 12
17 months may be available through application to HealthFlex. Leave of absence is not an
18 appointment, causes a break in appointment years, and does not accrue annuity credit towards
19 health benefits in retirement.
- 20 E. **Sabbatical Leave** (§352) Clergy placed on sabbatical leave may continue in the Plan for a period of
21 twelve months, provided they pay the premiums. Continuation coverage may be available through
22 application to HealthFlex. Sabbatical leave is not a break in appointment years for the purposes of
23 health benefits in retirement.
- 24 F. **Death** - Surviving spouses of clergy members are subject to the same rules (see Eligibility
25 Guidelines #1 and 3) as the clergy member. Surviving spouses of lay employees of the Conference
26 and District offices are subject to the same rules (see Eligibility Guideline #4 c) as the lay employee.

27 ADMINISTRATION

28 All concerns, issues, requests, etc., relating to premiums, benefits, coverage (including voluntary termination of
29 coverage, additions or deletions to policies) and benefits at retirement must be "in writing" from the Plan
30 participant to be considered official. Such correspondence, concerns, or requests for changes in coverage must
31 be sent to the Plan Administrator or his/her designated coordinator. Commitments or resolutions of issues must
32 come in writing directly from the Plan Administrator or his/her designated coordinator.

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

41

Recommendation

Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan, 2017

The 2012 Book of Discipline ¶ 1506.6 requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations. The funding plan shall be submitted annually to the General Board of Pension and Health benefits for review and be approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBPHB). This summary document is only a portion of the information contained in the actual signed funding plan. As such, it might not contain all the information required for a comprehensive view of the benefit obligations of the conference. You may request the full contents of the 2017 comprehensive benefit funding plan from your conference benefit office.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference adopts the 2017 comprehensive funding plan below: (Note: The funding plan was submitted to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) on February 25, 2016 to fulfill Disciplinary requirements listed in ¶1506.6. It received a favorable opinion on March 4, 2016.

Following is the summary of the Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan (CBFP) that received a favorable written opinion from GBPHB for the 2017 conference benefit obligations:

CLERGY RETIREMENT SECURITY PROGRAM (CRSP)

Defined Benefit (DB) and Defined Contribution (DC)

Program overview:

The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement program providing lifetime income and account flexibility designed for those who serve as clergy of The United Methodist Church. The program is designed to provide participants with one portion of their overall retirement benefits. CRSP replaced the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1, 2007, which had previously replaced the Pre-82 Plan for service rendered prior to January 1, 1982. CRSP consists of both a defined benefit (DB) plan, which provides a monthly benefit at retirement based upon years of credited service to The United Methodist Church, and a defined contribution (DC) plan, which provides a retirement account balance established and funded by the annual conferences.

Current funding plan information:

The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP-DB) annuities total liability as of January 1, 2015 is \$1.271 billion, while total plan assets are \$1.407 billion, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 111%. The Greater New Jersey Conference portion of the liability is 1.9515% and the 2017 contribution is \$2,031,675. The conference anticipates that the amount will be funded by Surplus Redirection from their Pre82 surplus. Additionally, General Conference 2012 approved a change to CRSP that provides each annual conference the discretion to determine whether to cover three-quarter and/or half-time clergy. The Greater New Jersey Conference has elected to cover clergy serving 50%+ under CRSP effective January 1, 2017.

Effective January 1, 2014 the CRSP-DC plan was reduced from a 3% to a 2% of plan compensation non-matching contribution. Clergy have the opportunity to earn up to an additional 1% CRSP-DC contribution by contributing at least 1% of their plan compensation to UMPIP; therefore, if a participant contributes at least 1% of plan compensation to UMPIP, the individual will receive a contribution of 3%, which is unchanged from 2013. The 2017 CRSP-DC contribution is anticipated to be \$460,200 and will be funded by CRSP DC Billings to Local Churches – representing year over year in how contributions are to be funded.

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 MINISTERIAL PENSION PLAN (MPP)

2 Plan overview:

3 Supplement Three to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Ministerial Pension Plan
4 (MPP), provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from
5 1982 through 2006. MPP is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement plan. Effective January 1, 2014,
6 exactly 65% of the account balance must be annuitized when the funds are to be distributed. The remainder
7 may be rolled over to UMPIP, into an IRA or another qualified plan, or it may be paid out as a lump sum.

8 Current funding plan information:

9 The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) annuities' total liability as of January 1, 2015 is \$3.122 billion, while total
10 plan assets are \$3.509 billion, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 112% and no required contribution for
11 2017. The Greater New Jersey Conference's % of the total liability is 1.8980%. Future MPP annuitants have a
12 total account balance of \$4.145 billion and the Greater New Jersey Conference's portion of that balance is
13 \$77,563,085 or 1.87% of the total.

14 PRE-1982 PLAN

15 Plan overview:

16 Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-1982 Plan, provides
17 clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The
18 Pre-1982 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. If a clergy person retires within the Conference
19 (and does not terminate), the minimum benefit payable is based on two factors: 1) years of service with pension
20 credit and 2) the Conference pension rate. Years of service with pension credit are approved by each
21 Conference on the recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) in accordance with plan
22 provisions and *The Book of Discipline*. The pension rate, also called the Past Service Rate (PSR), is the dollar
23 amount chosen by the Conference as the amount payable for each approved year of service with pension credit.
24 The pension rate may change from year to year. The number of years of service with pension credit is multiplied
25 by the pension rate, and the product is the minimum annual benefit payable to those clergy eligible for Pre-1982
26 Plan benefits. In certain situations, the benefit received from the Pre-1982 plan may vary based on the
27 applicability of what is referred to as Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM), which is the defined contribution
28 feature of the Pre-1982 Plan. At the time that a participant retires, the DBSM account is converted to a life
29 based benefit and, at that point, the clergy's benefit is the greater of the PSR or DBSM benefit. If the conference
30 increases the PSR, the clergy's benefit is recalculated; but the DBSM based benefit does not change.

31 Current funding plan information:

32 The 2017 PSR recommended to the Greater New Jersey Conference will be \$658.00, representing a 1.86%
33 increase from the 2016 rate. The conference expects future increases to be approximately 2.00%, which is based
34 on the following rationale: Be consistent with Annual Cost of living increases.

35 The contingent annuitant percentage is recommended to remain at the 75% level.

36 Based on the final actuarial valuations from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits as of January 1,
37 2015 for 2017, the portion of the Pre-1982 liability and assets attributable to the Greater New Jersey Conference
38 and its related funded status are as follows:

39	Funding Plan Liability	\$42,579,308	
40	Assets, including In-Plan and Outside	<u>\$47,706,407</u>	
41	Funded Status	<u>\$ 5,127,099</u>	(represented by a 112% funded ratio)

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 ACTIVE HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM

2 Program Overview:

3 The Greater New Jersey Conference offers the following Active health benefit to its active eligible participants:
4 Self Funded-HealthFlex.

6 Current funding plan information:

7 The total cost of the program for 2017 is anticipated to be \$5,930,074 and will be funded by premiums that are
8 Health Insurance Billings to local Churches. It is anticipated that increases for future years will average 4.00%
9 based on the following rationale: Healthflex Plan Adjustments 2016-2020.

- 10 • ***Additional Conference Sponsored Coverage***

11 The Greater New Jersey Conference has elected to provide health benefits coverage to the following
12 groups during periods where, without conference funded premiums; the participants would not be
13 provided coverage or benefits (all figures as of 12/31/2015):

- 14 1. Clergy and/or lay participants on disability: participants at an estimated cost of \$0
- 15 2. Surviving spouses and/or children of deceased clergy and/or lay participants: participants at an
16 estimated cost of \$0
- 17 3. Clergy and/or lay participants on leave of absence: participants at an estimated cost of \$0
- 18 4. Clergy in full connection with no record of appointment: participants at an estimated cost of \$0
- 19 5. Clergy in the Voluntary Transition Program: participants at an estimated cost of \$0
- 20 6. Other (): 11 participants at an estimated cost of \$330,000

21
22 The total estimated cost of conference sponsored coverage as of 12/31/2015 is \$330,000.

24 POST-RETIREMENT MEDICAL BENEFIT PROGRAM (PRM)

25 Program Overview:

26 The Greater New Jersey Conference post-retirement medical program currently offers Insurance.

28 Current funding plan information:

29 The conference's expectation for 2017 is to offer the following benefits: Clergy eligible annuitants with 20 years
30 service or laity 20 years employment receive 100% retiree healthcare benefits. Less than 20 years receive
31 prorated benefits.

32 The funding obligation for 2017 is anticipated to be \$3,146,000 with the following funding sources: Pre-82
33 Redirection, conf. & participant contributions.

34 Based on the most recent PRM valuation dated 12/31/2014, the following is the funded position of the post-
35 retirement medical benefits:

36 1. Expected Post Retirement Obligation (EPBO) or net conference cost	Not Provided
37 2. Accumulated Post Retirement Obligation (APBO) or net conference cost	\$51,687,699
38 3. Assets designated for PRM	\$17,796,130
39 4. Service Cost (SC) or net conference cost	\$1,374,632

40
41 As a preview of the 2018 CBFP requirement, a new PRM Funding Contribution requirement will be
42 mandatory for conferences requesting a full favorable CBFP opinion. This year the calculation for
43 informational purposes only is as follows:

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

1		
2	5. Unfunded APBO, [2. – 3.]	\$33,891,569
3	6. Number of Annual Payments	15
4	7. Portion of Unfunded APBO, [5. / 6.]	\$2,259,438
5	8. PRM Funding Contribution, Informational purposes only [4. + 7.]	\$3,634,070

6 These values are based on a 5.0% long term discount rate, a 5.0% long-term expected rate of return, and a
7 current increase trend of 7.60% with an ultimate medical increase of 5.0%, beginning in 2020.

8

9 COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION PLAN (CPP)

10 Plan Overview:

11 The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits for
12 eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families. It is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church
13 plan" funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, clergy are eligible to participate in CPP if the
14 conference or salary-paying unit sponsors the plan and they are able to satisfy the eligibility requirements which
15 include full-time appointment with plan compensation equal to or greater than 60% of the Denominational
16 Average Compensation (DAC) or the Conference Average Compensation (CAC), whichever is less.

17 Current funding plan information:

18

19 The Greater New Jersey Conference has made the following elections: 95% of appointed clergy have mandatory
20 participation under special arrangements, while 5% of appointed clergy have optional participation under
21 special arrangements.

22 For 2017, the Greater New Jersey Conference has an expected required contribution to the Comprehensive
23 Protection Plan of \$749,300, which is anticipated to be funded by: Direct billings to Local Churches. The
24 anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 2.50% per year as a result of: The conference has a
25 strategic plan where the Bishop and Appointment Cabinet are transitioning Local Churches to become Vital
26 Congregations. One step of that is to increase clergy salaries which in turn increase plan obligations.

27

28 UNITED METHODIST PERSONAL INVESTMENT PLAN (UMPIP) FOR LAY AND CLERGY

29 Plan Overview:

30 The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) defined
31 contribution retirement savings plan for clergy and lay employees of The United Methodist Church and affiliated
32 organizations. Participants may make before-tax and/or after-tax contributions through payroll deductions.
33 Participant contributions, various optional plan sponsor contributions and investment earnings comprise the
34 individual's retirement account balance.

35

36 Current funding plan information:

37 Conference office lay employees working an average of 30 hours per week or more are eligible on day of hire for
38 a plan sponsor funded pension contribution of 6% of salary. Lay employees are encouraged to make
39 contributions toward their retirement through payroll deductions to the UMPIP. The estimated contribution for
40 the Greater New Jersey Conference is anticipated to be \$68,900 and will be funded via Local Church Shared
41 Ministry.

42 The Greater New Jersey Conference, as of January 1, 2017 is planning on sponsoring the UMPIP for clergy
43 serving one quarter -time and are eligible for a pension contribution of 12% of salary. The estimated
44 contribution for the Conference is anticipated to be \$68,900 and will be funded via Direct billing to local
45 Churches.

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OTHER CONFERENCE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS: DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (DC) TYPE

Plan Overview: The Greater New Jersey Conference currently offers the following DC benefit(s): UNUM Life Options. The funding obligation for 2017 is anticipated to be \$12,800 with the funding sources to be: Local Church Shared ministry. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 2.5% per year due to: Compensation increases.

CONCLUSION

The 2017 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan and the above Summary document incorporates, to the best of our understanding, the Greater New Jersey Conference’s obligations and funding requirements of the benefits provided to the clergy and laity of the Greater New Jersey Conference.

See 2017 Comprehensive Funding Plan in Appendix A.

Recommendation
Clergy Equitable Compensation
Impact on the Conference Budget

Be it resolved that the Annual Conference adopt the following recommendation for minimum salary for persons under full-time appointment in the local church effective January 1, 2017:

a) Elder and Deacon in Full Connection	\$43,520
b) Provisional & Associate Members (92%)	\$40,038
c) Full time Local Pastor (87%)	\$37,862

Any changes in clergy minimum salaries related to a change of clergy status through ordination, commissioning or licensing in 2016 will become effective as of January 1, 2017.

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

The minimum equitable salary for $\frac{3}{4}$ time pastoral appointments shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ of the required minimum in the pastor’s salary. And the minimum equitable salary for $\frac{1}{2}$ time pastoral appointments shall be $\frac{1}{2}$ of the required minimum. All appointments less than $\frac{1}{2}$ shall be considered $\frac{1}{4}$ time appointments for pension purposes and the salaries shall be determined by the district superintendent in consultation with the pastor and the local church.

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

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

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

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

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

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

7 Vacation time shall not be cumulative from year to year. Local churches may not consider time spent in
8 leadership responsibilities in conference activities as vacation time. This includes Course of Study, Local Pastors
9 Licensing School, Camps, Annual Conference-related Ministries, and other education and renewal as required by
10 The Book of Discipline (§350.2).

11 Submitted by Jennifer Cho
12 Chair, Commission on Equitable Compensation

13

14 **Recommendation** 15 **Standards for Parsonages July 2016** 16 **Impact on the Conference Budget**

17

18 **Be it resolved** that the following recommendation be adopted as the parsonage standards for the GNJUMC
19 effective July 2, 2016:

20

21 **Responsible Group in the Local Church**

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

27

28 **Standards for Parsonage (Existing Parsonages)**

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

30

- 31 1. Living room and family room furniture.
- 32 2. Dining room furniture.
- 33 3. Kitchen, including stove, refrigerator with separate freezer compartment, exhaust fan, and dishwasher.
- 34 4. Laundry equipment – automatic washer and dryer.
- 35 5. Standard cable television connection or equivalent, high speed internet service, and one telephone line
36 (cell or land line). Where possible consider bundling the services.
- 37 6. Floor coverings, solid services are preferred.
- 38 7. Window shades and blinds, or curtains and drapes, functioning.
- 39 8. One fire extinguisher in kitchen and one extinguisher outside of the furnace room. There shall be at
40 least one extinguisher per floor level. All fire extinguishers should be in compliance with local code
41 requirements for rental properties.
- 42 9. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in compliance with local code requirements for rental
43 properties.
- 44 10. Closets or free standing storage units in each bedroom.
- 45 11. Drives and walks should be hard surfaced.
- 46 12. Minimally acceptable outside lighting.

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

- 1 13. Trash cans. In municipalities where garbage pickup is not part of the tax base and is billed to the
2 parsonage, that local churches pay for this service.
- 3 14. Lawn mower and snow removal equipment (shovel or snow blower, appropriate to the need), or
4 appropriate service, the cost of which will be determined by mutual agreement between the pastor and
5 the Board of Trustees.
- 6 15. A study for the pastor in either the parsonage or church building. Office furnishing shall include a desk,
7 desk chair, minimally acceptable shelving for the pastor's library, additional chairs, and a locking filing
8 cabinet.
- 9 16. Furnishings for special rooms such as sun porch, den, etc., that may be different from one charge to
10 another.
- 11 17. Parsonage electrical service shall conform to the current National Electrical Code.
- 12 18. Parking space for a minimum of one (1) car shall be provided.
- 13 19. Each charge shall decide if it will provide a security/alarm system.
- 14 20. Septic and sewer system shall be fully functional to meet the needs of parsonage family

15

Additional Suggestions

- 17 1. Electrical service to be inspected every five (5) years by a licensed electrician.
- 18 2. Roof inspection every five (5) years.
- 19 3. Energy Audit every five (5) years.

20

Standards for Parsonages (Purchasing or Building a New Parsonage)

21

22
23 All newly constructed or newly purchased parsonages shall be in full compliance with the dictates of the Book of
24 Discipline. Consideration shall be made for those with handicapping conditions:

25 *Provide on the ground-floor of a newly constructed parsonage: (1) one room that can be used as a bedroom*
26 *by a person with a disability; (2) a fully accessible bathroom; and (3) fully accessible laundry facilities*
27 *(¶2544.4d)*

28

1. Option One

- 30 a) The use of maintenance-free materials in building and in finishing and furnishing. These contribute to
31 keeping maintenance costs lower.
- 32 b) The following room requirements:
 - 33 (a) Living Room/Family Room
 - 34 (b) Dining Room
 - 35 (c) Kitchen
 - 36 (d) Study
 - 37 (e) Baths (2)
 - 38 (f) Bedrooms (3)
- 39 c) A minimum electrical service of 200 amperes.
- 40 d) A garage of a size to accommodate 2 cars, plus room for storage of lawn mowers, bicycles, tools, garden
41 equipment, ladders, paint supplies, etc.
- 42 e) Space to store large articles of furniture and equipment.
- 43 f) The use of materials meeting the most energy efficient standards for insulation and windows.
- 44 g) Careful consideration should be given in choosing the location of the parsonage. This consideration
45 might include the distance from the church, accessibility from main streets of the community and the
46 church, the neighborhood and its future, and the community itself and its future growth.

47

2. Option Two

48

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

- 1 a) The standards of Option One would apply with consideration by the church of purchasing, leasing,
2 renting a townhouse or condominium. This option would be negotiated by the district superintendent,
3 the local charge and the pastor following consultation with the District Committee on Church Location
4 and Building.
- 5 b) The purpose of this option is to provide an alternative to the “traditional” church parsonage for ministry
6 in special situations. Allowing for the wide variety of townhouse/condo choices, it is difficult to
7 recommend a standard for such a setting.

Responsibility

1. Each pastor is responsible for:

- 10 a) Furnishings for as many bedrooms as the family needs.
11 b) Personal items such as television, vacuum cleaner, small appliances, dishes, glassware, flatware,
12 cleaning tools, wastebaskets, and decorative accessories.
13 c) The following regular maintenance:
14 (1) Floor maintenance
15 (2) Trash disposal and recycling
16 d) It is expected that the pastor shall provide minimally acceptable tenant (renters) insurance.
17 e) Restitution for any damage beyond normal wear and tear.
18 f) Exiting pastor shall remove all personal items and furniture from the parsonage and property and leave
19 in a “broom clean” state.
20

2. Each charge shall provide:

- 21
22 a) Utilities – heat, electricity, gas/oil, water, sewage, and basic non-personal telephone services.
23 b) Maintenance for all parsonage equipment.
24 c) Basic furniture for all rooms except the bedrooms.
25 d) Funds for the repair of the parsonage and its maintenance should be allocated and allowed to accumulate
26 so that continuing care and major repairs can be made when needed.
27
28

Miscellaneous

- 29
30
31 1. We recommend that, in addition to the required written reports filed annually with the Annual
32 Conference, there be a complete video inventory of all church-owned furnishings in the parsonage. The
33 inventory shall be maintained and kept current.
- 34 2. It should be the responsibility of the Parsonage Committee to become acquainted with the parsonage
35 and, after a new pastoral appointment, meet with the parsonage family to discuss the minimum
36 acceptability of housing and furnishings, and to meet annually thereafter with the parsonage family.
- 37 3. During the transition of pastoral appointment – the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Chair, the exiting
38 pastor, the new pastor and the Board of Trustee Chair will walk through the parsonage together for
39 inspection and planning. It is recommended to utilize the Church Conference Parsonage inspection report
40 for this walk through.
- 41 4. The right of the pastor to own furniture and equipment cannot be challenged. However, if s/he does own
42 furniture and goods that s/he wishes to use in the parsonage, and parsonage furniture has to be stored,
43 s/he should make every effort to store it properly so it is in good condition and does not suffer damage
44 from being stored. The site or method of storage for any church owned furniture shall be determined by
45 mutual agreement between the pastor and the Board of Trustees.—The pastor assumes financial
46 responsibility for the storage of any unused furniture.
- 47 5. The parsonage is the pastor’s for his/her tenure in that church or charge. S/he has therefore the
48 responsibility to care for the furniture to protect it from damage by pets or children and, if it is damaged,

Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

- 1 to return it to a condition equal to that when s/he received it to use. If an item of furniture is damaged
2 beyond repair, s/he is obligated to replace it.
- 3 6. In order to respect the privacy of clergy and his/her family, the church has responsibility to make an
4 appointment and secure the approval of the pastor or an adult member of the household, prior to visiting
5 the parsonage at any time.

Appeals

8

9 Appeals by the churches or pastors should be made to the district superintendent as the final authority to interpret
10 and implement the foregoing standards.

11

12

13

Recommendation

Closure of Allerton UMC

14

15

16

17 **Be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference expresses its thanksgiving for all the blessings
18 made possible by the clergy and laity who have contributed to the ministry and mission of the Allerton United
19 Methodist Church in Annandale, NJ.

20

21 **Be it further resolved** that, in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2012
22 edition, the congregation is discontinued and the assets of the church are transferred to the Trustees of the
23 Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

24

25 **Be it further resolved** that in keeping with the provisions of ¶229 of the Book of Discipline, 2012 Edition, the
26 remaining members of the church may be transferred to a United Methodist Church of their choice.

27

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

30

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

33

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

35

36 **Be it further resolved** that, in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2012
37 edition, all deeds, records, legal papers and other official documents shall be maintained in permanent
38 safekeeping with the Conference Commission on Archives and History.

39

40 Respectfully Submitted,
41 Rev. Dr. Drew A. Dyson
42 Raritan Valley District Superintendent

43

Recommendation

Closure of McCrea Memorial UMC

Be it resolved that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference expresses its thanksgiving for all the blessings made possible by the clergy and laity who have contributed to the ministry and mission of the McCrea Memorial United Methodist Church in Port Murray, NJ.

Be it further resolved that, in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2012 edition, the congregation is discontinued and the assets of the church are transferred to the Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

Be it further resolved that in keeping with the provisions of ¶1229 of the Book of Discipline, 2012 Edition, the remaining members of the church may be transferred to a United Methodist Church of their choice.

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

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

Be it further resolved that, in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2012 edition, all deeds, records, legal papers and other official documents shall be maintained in permanent safekeeping with the Conference Commission on Archives and History.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Dr. Drew A. Dyson
Raritan Valley District Superintendent

Recommendation

Closure of St. Matthew UMC, Toms River

TOMS RIVER: ST. MATTHEW UMC, DISCONTINUANCE OF

Be it resolved that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference expresses its thanksgiving for all the blessings made possible by the clergy and laity who have contributed to the ministry and mission of the St. Matthew United Methodist Church.

Be it further resolved that in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2012 edition, the congregation is discontinued and the assets of the church are transferred to the Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

Be it further resolved that in keeping with the provisions of ¶229 of the Book of Discipline, 2012 edition, the remaining members of the church may be transferred to a United Methodist Church of their choice.

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

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

Be it further resolved that in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2012 edition, all deeds, records, legal papers and other official documents shall be maintained in permanent safekeeping with the Conference Commission on Archives and History.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Regina A. Hendrickson
Northern Shore District Superintendent

Recommendation

Church Merger

**First United Methodist Church of Wildwood Crest
Trustee Resolution for the Unification of Congregations
Corporate Resolution**

At a duly called Special Charge Conference of First United Methodist Church of Wildwood Crest, Inc. (hereinafter First United Methodist Church of Wildwood Crest), a Title 16 non-profit religious corporation of the State of New Jersey, held at 6700 Atlantic Ave, Wildwood Crest, New Jersey (08260) on the 22nd day of November, 2015, for the purpose of considering a merger of First United Methodist Church of Wildwood Crest and North Wildwood United Methodist Church, the following Resolution was moved and seconded and carried by majority vote as follows:

RESOLVED THAT, with the approval of the District Board of Church Location and Building, the members of First United Methodist Church of Wildwood Crest hereby agree to merge with North Wildwood United Methodist Church and agree to attend the Special Merger Charge Conference of the churches involved.

First United Methodist Church of Wildwood Crest

BY: Clifton Slina
Chair, Board of Trustees 2/9/16
Date

**North Wildwood United Methodist Church
Trustee Resolution for the Unification of Congregations
Corporate Resolution**

At a duly called Special Charge Conference of North Wildwood United Methodist Church, Inc. (hereinafter North Wildwood United Methodist Church), a Title 16 non-profit religious corporation of the State of New Jersey, held at 2nd and Central Avenues, North Wildwood, New Jersey (08260) on the 22nd day of November, 2015, for the purpose of considering a merger of North Wildwood United Methodist Church and First United Methodist Church of Wildwood Crest, the following Resolution was moved and seconded and carried by majority vote as follows:

RESOLVED THAT, with the approval of the District Board of Church Location and Building, the members of North Wildwood United Methodist Church hereby agree to merge with First United Methodist Church of Wildwood Crest and agree to attend the Special Merger Charge Conference of the churches involved.

North Wildwood United Methodist Church

BY: Robert McCullough

Chair, Board of Trustees

Recommendation

**Annual Conference Journal Digital Publication
Impact on the Conference Budget**

Rationale: Greater New Jersey currently publishes the annual conference journal in CD format for all members of the conference and makes print copies available at a minimal cost upon request. This practice was an important step several years ago in adapting to changes in digital technology and cost saving, as the expense of printing was increasing and the use of computers was becoming more universal. As we continue to adapt to the use of emerging technology as a means of effective communication and reducing unnecessary costs, the production and mailing of CD's is no longer practical, or cost effective. Publishing the journal online through the newly redesigned conference website, while keeping the print option available, is both the most practical and cost effective method of making the journal available to the conference.

Whereas the annual conference currently publishes the conference journal in CD format, which is distributed to each member of the annual conference at a production cost of \$4,500, a set up cost of \$795 and a postage cost of \$1,379.18,

Whereas each member of the annual conference currently receives a CD copy of the conference journal, whether they have the technology to use CD's, or not,

Whereas many new laptop computers and tablet devices do not have the capability to read CD's without an extra adaptor, making them quickly obsolete in favor of online content and other digital file formats,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Annual Conference Journal of the Greater New Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church be available to all members in two formats:

- a. 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 publicized in advance. Retirees will receive a print copy of the journal free of charge by request.
- b. An online version of the journal will be available on www.gnjumc.org and available for download and review.

Be it further resolved that the conference journal will no longer be produced in CD format and mailed to each member, **saving the annual conference \$6,674.18 per year.**

Submitted by Rev. Chris Heckert, Chair
Conference Communication Commission, on behalf of the commission

Recommendation

Affirming our Covenant and Accountability

Rationale: This resolution is presented almost three months BEFORE General Conference. Current Conference Rules prevent a resolution from being presented at Annual Conference AFTER General Conference has adjourned. Annual Conference convenes two days after General Conference adjourns but all legislation must be presented to the Conference Secretary almost ninety days before General Conference even begins. Last year, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference adopted a resolution that this one uses as a basis. It may be that General Conference will work out a sustainable change to our polity or to our Social Principles and ordination standards as they relate to human sexuality. Many consider it more likely that a majority of delegates in favor of our traditional standards and existing polity will again prevail which leaves some of the clergy and laity in conferences like ours in the Northeastern Jurisdiction with difficult choices. It is not sustainable to have one denomination with one common covenant of doctrine and discipline but allow some to openly disobey that doctrine and discipline while keeping the privileges and benefits provided by the connection as a whole.

Whereas the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference believes that:

1. The United Methodist Church is a global denomination in which churches, clergy, and laypersons are bound together by a common covenant of doctrine and discipline; and
2. The United Methodist Book of Discipline represents and outlines both the privileges and the obligations of that common covenant, and legitimately governs our life together as an annual conference, to which we are accountable; and
3. We have a process that allows changes to be made to that covenant through General Conference which is a representative, democratic and public process that is always open to revisiting questions previously decided; and
4. Clergy within The United Methodist Church have voluntarily promised in ordination to uphold our church's teachings and keep its disciplinary rules;

Be it resolved that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference:

1. WILL abide by the rules of our common covenant as outlined in the Book of Discipline, and will hold one another accountable to that covenant; and
2. DECLARES that there is no necessary contradiction between love and law; and that holding one another accountable to promises made is not a punitive act, but an act of love, however painful, to maintain both order and unity in the body; and
3. AFFIRMS those among us who seek to change the provisions of our covenant through legitimate channels of "reasoning together," rather than breaking that covenant; and
4. CALLS upon those clergy who feel that they can no longer abide by our common covenant to withdraw themselves from our connection, rather than continue to cause damage to our ministry through ongoing judicial proceedings.

Submitted on behalf of the Evangelical Network for Renewal and Growth by:

Creed Pogue, Lay Member	Rev. Daniel Amey	Rev. Alan Darby
West Side UMC, Millville	Brooklawn UMC	St Paul's UMC, Brick
609/774-0634	856/287-6298	732/458-3627
creed.pogue@gmail.com	djamey0602@gmail.com	pastoral@stpaulsbrick.org

Additionally Rev. Paul Amey, Rev. Frank Brown, Rev. Paul Jaw, Paul Lehto, and Rev. David Wehrle

Recommendation

Change Rule #55 in GNJ Rules of Order

Rule 55 of the Conference Rules shall be modified to read as follows:

55 Chairpersons and Officers –

a. 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 quadrennium, 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.

(c) As in all nominations, special attention shall be given to seeking diversity in opportunities to serve to (i) people of diverse ages, genders, and racial and ethnic backgrounds; (ii) people with disabilities; and (iii) people from all size churches. (See Discipline, Paragraph 610.5).

Submitted by
Rev. Daniel W. Gepford, Chair
Committee on Rules of Order, on behalf of the committee

Recommendation

Change Rule #77 in GNJ Rules of Order

Amend Rule 77 to read as follows:

77) ~~Customary Draft Fund Allocations~~

a. When present 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.

b. Any funds remaining as of December 31st of each year of the Conference share of Peace with Justice Special Sunday giving shall be distributed by the Cabinet to food pantries hosted by United Methodist churches across the Conference.

Rationale: It appears that we are having difficulty finding grant recipients for Peace with Justice funds and continue to carry substantial balances over year after year. In the meantime, food insecurity (hunger) is a severe problem in many communities in the Conference. Matthew 6:19 warns us against holding our treasures on Earth while Matthew 25 exhorts us to feed the hungry.

Submitted by:
Creed Pogue, Lay Member Susan Miller, Lay Member
West Side UMC, Millville First UMC, Millville
creed.pogue@gmail.com sml5055@yahoo.com

Recommendation

Create New Rule #86 in GNJ Rules of Order

Create Rule 86 to read as follows:

XIV. CHURCHES WISHING TO CONSIDER WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Only the Church Conference of the local church can formally express a desire to withdraw from the Annual Conference by presenting to the Conference Secretary a written detailed explanation of the reasons for their desire to consider withdrawal by the deadline for legislation to be presented to Annual Conference. That Church Conference shall provide adequate time for the Bishop or the District Superintendent to communicate with members of the congregation the full implications of their withdrawal including that the financial obligations of Conference billings, Shared Ministries, and any denominational loans must be fully satisfied. Any discussion or negotiations by the Conference Board of Trustees regarding the ownership of any United Methodist Church property or assets with that local church must await authorization and direction by the Annual Conference.

Rationale: Last year, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference was confronted with the desire of one of their local churches to withdraw from the congregation because they perceived that denominational leadership was not enforcing the Book of Discipline. Unfortunately, this was one of the churches that was a “bright spot” and rapidly growing. There were also questions of transparency and what process should be followed in situations like this. This rule would provide for an open process that requires a formal declaration by a Church Conference and not a smaller group within the church. It also requires the knowledge and involvement of Annual Conference which may help the discernment process of not only the local church but the members themselves to avoid mass departures from a congregation. Hopefully, it will also prevent local churches from trying a “poison pill” approach like the former Wesley UMC in Quarryville, Pennsylvania used. Reasoning together is preferable to a suicide pact. This rule embodies the steps required in the resolution adopted by Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference last year.

Submitted by:
Creed Pogue, Lay Member
West Side UMC, Millville
609/774-0634

Reports

Commission on Archives and History

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4 *"If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday"*

5 Pearl S. Buck, Noble Prize Winner and Daughter of American Missionaries in China

6 *"For history does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid... A people that values its*
7 *privileges above its principles soon loses both."*

8 President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Inauguration Speech, January 20, 1953

9 The highlight of our work this year was hosting a workshop on how to research, manage, write and publish a
10 local church history, which we sponsored last September in Madison and Glendora. Marie Amerson led two
11 identical workshops at The United Methodist Archives and History Center in Madison and at the Chews United
12 Methodist Church in Glendora. There were twenty-nine registrants for the Madison workshop and eleven
13 registrants for the Glendora workshop. The group was comprised primarily of United Methodists with a few
14 Lutheran and Unitarian representatives attending as well. Besides drawing from the Greater New Jersey Annual
15 Conference, there were also United Methodist representatives from the Eastern Pennsylvania. Each workshop
16 contained four sessions, which lasted for almost five hours of instruction time. All of the participants expressed
17 great satisfaction with the workshop. Amerson agreed to privately coach any of the participants as they work on
18 their future histories. Prior to the workshop CAH published an article in the *Relay* on how writing a church
19 history benefits and unites a congregation for future outreach. Archives and History is currently preparing
20 another five articles for the *Relay* on the present themes for vital congregations.

21 It is important to honor those churches and institutions which shaped our present through the vital work of their
22 past deeds of ministry. In 2015, there were three such places recognized as historic sites because events and
23 witness that shaped the direction our annual conference in different ways. They are Flanders United Methodist
24 Church, Port Elizabeth United Methodist Church and The Neighborhood Center in Camden. Upon recognition as
25 such by the General Commission on Archives and History, each place received an historic site plaque which the
26 chair and vice chair presented at separate celebrations.

27 Another way of honoring local churches is through Robert B. Steelman Methodist History Award for best local
28 church history submission on a yearly basis. The Commission on Archives and History honors the hard work of
29 local churches who reach back to document their past ministries as a way understanding who they are as a
30 contemporary congregation that looks forward to future successful ministry. The submitted history immediately
31 becomes an outreach tool to their community as way of reintroducing the church to potential visitors and
32 members. This year's winner, United Methodist Church of Pearl River, Pearl River, New York, did exactly that
33 with their storied gift to the larger understanding of what it means to be United Methodist. The submission
34 gives the reader a useful overview of Pearl River's 250 years of active ministry within the community. The
35 church's 68 page history also illustrates their faithfulness to live and preach the Good News while lifting up their
36 godly heritage both as a Methodist congregation and those individuals who stepped forward to lead during their
37 respective lifetimes. The reminiscences towards the end are a nice addition as Pearl River continues to live their
38 story for many years to come.

39
40 Walt Jones, our archivist, reports that he has have spent hundreds of hours researching 16 baptisms, 4
41 marriages, 11 genealogies and 31 other information requests. Ancestry.com is still processing the 38 boxes of
42 closed church digital records we sent them in October, 2014. The final project produced 721,231 records in the
43 form of 99,264 images. Walt also promoted the idea of placing a Christian flag on the graves of ministers as an
44 important project for those churches that have attached cemeteries or in other cemeteries. Closed church
45 records archives this year include Gladstone, Barnegat, Gloucester, Highland Park, Bridgeton churches
46 Central and West Portal. This year's acquisitions are the pastoral record book for Rev. Lawrence Atkinson; six
47 boxes of charge conference reports from the Northern Shore District; several boxes of old relays from Whiting
48 UMC; twelve four inch binders of the Bradley Beach history and old records from the Blairstown UMC.

Reports to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 Resourcing the history of our annual conference and beyond came in the form of digitizing previous historical
2 publications of the former Northern New Jersey Historical Society that are now available on our GNJ web pages.
3 Titles include: *The Civil War Diaries of James B. Faulks and The Personal Diaries of John Summerfield Coit; The*
4 *Diaries of Stephen S. Day, 1895-1934; The Journals of the Reverend Thomas Morrell, Methodist Patriot and*
5 *Preacher, 1747-1813; The Maverick Strain: Dissent and Reform in the United Methodist Tradition, On the Trail of*
6 *Francis Asbury, Untrod Paths, A Forgotten Chaplain of the Civil War: Commander John L. Lenhart; One Hundred*
7 *Twenty-Five Years of Methodism; Skeletons in Our Closets: Unique, Amusing, and Human Incidents from the Life*
8 *of Our Churches; The Story of Our Ethnic Churches; Visiting the Past, Present and Future: A Tour of Methodism in*
9 *Northern New Jersey.*

10 We remained active in our jurisdiction CAH connection through attending the annual meeting in Connecticut
11 and by having Don DeGroat serve as a member on NEJCAH's Executive Committee. The same is true with our
12 close connection with the General Commission on Archives and History, who rents us shelving to properly store
13 the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference archives. We also offer professional assistance in all phases of
14 archival practices. Our archivist served as one of the test contributors to GCAH's revamped on-line catalog of
15 United Methodist annual conferences' holdings for public searching.

16 Other items of note include a survey of annual conference commission on archives and history budgets in order
17 to see where we fit in to the larger annual conference funding picture. A result of the survey revealed a mean
18 average budget of \$27,034. There were three conference budgets over \$100,000 and nine conference budgets
19 below \$10,000 in the mean average calculations. Some of our members speak at local churches on the value of
20 archives and history in a vital congregation. We help churches date and interpret their history. Another
21 important aspect of CAH's work is supplying and subsequently advising proper records management through
22 retention scheduling. There were times when our members helped churches with preservation of their
23 treasures whether at our repository or how-to discussions with the local church historian.

Submitted by:
Mark Shenise, Secretary
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973-408-3194

Presented by:
Reverend Bill Wilson, Sr. Chair
pastorbill@chewsumc.com
856-939-1007

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Report

Boston University School of Theology

Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! The Boston University School of Theology (STH) walks with you on the journey of discipleship, seeking to love God and to love our neighbors with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. Thank you for your prayers that inspire and support the STH mission to love God, build knowledge, and equip leaders for the church and society.

News

New faculty: This year, Boston University welcomed new faculty in ethics, psychology, theologies of spirituality, comparative theology, church renewal, Black church leadership, and mission studies. We welcomed: Nimi Wariboko (Walter G. Muelder Professor of Social Ethics); David Decosimo (Theology); Theodore Hickman-Maynard (Evangelism and Church Renewal); Andrea Hollingsworth (Theology); Barbod Salimi (Psychology and Peace Studies); and Daryl Ireland (Associate Director of the Center for Global Christianity and Mission).

Reports to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 Spiritual life: STH continued to expand and deepen its spiritual life program, led by Charlene Zuill, Spiritual Life
2 Coordinator and United Methodist elder. Bishop Susan Hassinger, Claire Wolfeich, and many others also offer a
3 rich selection of courses in spirituality and leadership.

4 Chaplaincy track: STH added a chaplaincy track to the MDiv degree, preparing students for hospitals, prisons,
5 and military settings.

6 Engaging in Dialogue: STH spent much energy this year in hard conversations on violence, racism, and injustice,
7 seeking to be honest and vigorously open to change, while honoring the dignity of all persons.

8 Power, Privilege and Prophetic Witness is the STH theme for 2015-2017: We engaged the theme in classes,
9 lectures, retreats, and workshops, seeking to stretch our capacities to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly
10 with our God.

11 Examining the intersection of theology and race: The opportunities this year included: a brilliant new
12 documentary on North Korea; a dialogical viewing of Selma; dialogues on racism with Thandeka and Andrew
13 Sung Park; a retreat on building race relations; circle worship; a student-led event Missing Voices, Daunting
14 Choices: The Erasure of Black Women in Black American Movements; and events on interfaith understanding.

15 Caring for the Church through Leadership and Service

16 Serving the United Methodist Church: Students served local churches and church bodies as interns, staff, and
17 volunteers. Faculty served with such bodies as: United Methodist Women, World Methodist Council, Ministry
18 Study Commission, Women of Color Scholars and Mentors program, Pan Methodist Commission on Children in
19 Poverty, and boards and agencies of the general church and annual conferences.

20 Empowering young Latino/a leaders: Young leaders gathered with seasoned mentors to enhance their gifts and
21 service as Christian leaders: Hispanic Youth Leadership Initiative (HYLA) and Raíces Latinas Leadership Institute

22 Facilitating dialogues on church renewal: We launched a new initiative on Evangelism and Church Renewal.

23 Reflecting on worship: We contributed to a special issue of Worship Arts Magazine, edited and written by STH
24 faculty, alumni/ae, and students, and published by the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship
25 Arts.

26 Caring for the World

27 Offering opportunities for engaged learning: Opportunities included the Doctor of Ministry program in
28 Transformational Leadership; an urban ministry course; travel seminars to India, the Arizona-Mexico border,
29 Israel-Palestine, Mexico, and Turkey (Ephesus); work with leaders in Ferguson, MO; and a travel seminar for
30 UMC clergywomen to Cuba, co-sponsored by GBHEM and STH.

31 Collaborating with the global church: Collaborations included sponsorship of the Dictionary of African Christian
32 Biography; events and art exhibits on local and global ecology; and dialogues with global church leaders.

33 As we at STH seek to be faithful and to partner with you in ministry, we give thanks for your witness. Thank you
34 too for your continuing inspiration and contributions to our shared journey.

35 Blessings and gratitude,

36 Mary Elizabeth Moore

37 Dean of Boston University School of Theology

1
2 **Report**

3 **Commission on Camps, Conferences and Retreats, Inc**

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5 GOAL: GNJ Camping will become a year-round center of Christian community that, through effective use of our
6 resources and connectionism, better serves all contingents in our shared mission of developing disciples
7 and leaders for the future.
8

9 The Greater NJ Camping Ministries has been struggling financially for many years. In order to preserve the
10 financial integrity of the ministry plan for the future effectively, the decision was made in 2015 and 2016 to rest
11 the summer camps at both the Aldersgate Center and the Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery. The Pinelands Center
12 has remained open for retreats and youth events year-round.
13

14 A new Camping Board began this past summer and has the qualities needed to discern the future of summer
15 camping ministry and it will bring forward a report for the 2017 Annual Conference session.
16

17 Report submitted by:
18 Commission on Camps, Conferences and Retreats
19
20

21 **Report**

22 **Candler School of Theology**

23
24 For more than 100 years, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has prepared real people to make a real
25 difference in the real world. Since our founding in 1914, over 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where
26 they have been shaped as Christian leaders who put faith and love into action, transforming the world in the name
27 of Jesus Christ.
28

29 One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is also one of seven graduate professional
30 schools of Emory University, a top-tier research institution offering extensive resources and a rich context for
31 study. Our location in Atlanta provides a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of the
32 21st century. Simply put, there is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major
33 denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and
34 improving global health.
35

36 In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler now offers 17 degrees: seven single
37 degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, development practice, law, public health,
38 or social work. One of our newest degrees is a retooled Doctor of Ministry that is 90 percent online, so students
39 can remain in their places of ministry as they study—and apply what they learn in real time. We’ve also partnered
40 with the University of Georgia’s School of Social Work to create an MDiv/MSW where students learn to maximize
41 their effectiveness by combining pastoral skills such as spiritual counseling with social work practices such as
42 family therapy and community assessment.
43

44 Our student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. 466 students are enrolled,
45 with 48 percent women, 34 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 29. Students represent 44
46 denominations, with 51 percent coming from the Methodist family. 82 percent of students are seeking a degree
47 to prepare them as ministry professionals.
48

1 Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and employs a multi-pronged approach to tackle this
2 issue. In 2015-2016, we awarded nearly \$5.5 million in Candler scholarships, with 92 percent of MDiv students
3 and 84 percent of all students receiving support. And our comprehensive financial literacy program teaches money
4 management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they serve—
5 well into the future.

6
7 At the end of the 2015-2016 academic year, Candler says goodbye and Godspeed to a handful of noted faculty as
8 they retire: Barbara Day Miller, Luke Timothy Johnson, Steve Tipton, and Bishop Woodie White. Yet even as these
9 legends take their leave after distinguished careers of scholarship and service, we look forward to welcoming a
10 new crop of scholar-leaders who will join us in the coming months and grow with us in the coming years. We are
11 especially pleased to welcome Bishop Larry Goodpaster, who will join the faculty as bishop-in-residence in the fall
12 of 2016.

13
14 Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our
15 ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world
16 depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry
17 in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how
18 Candler prepares real people to make a real difference in the real world.

19
20 Jan Love
21 Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics
22 Candler School of Theology

Report

[The Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society Report](#)

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26
27 The Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society was established by charter granted in 1857. In 2000 the
28 charter was amended to rename the corporation The Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society of the
29 Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. The purpose of the Fund is to
30 provide maximum income, consistent with the preservation of principal, for the support of retired clergy
31 and surviving spouses and dependent children of deceased clergy who have served in the Greater New
32 Jersey Annual Conference.

33 Since inception the Fund has received in excess of \$6 million in donations, and from the earnings on these
34 donations has provided grants to pastors and their families who have requested aid, loans to assist retired
35 pastors obtain housing in Methodist Homes, and during the period 2004 through 2015 contributed more
36 than \$5 million toward the funding of retiree healthcare. The Fund Balance as of the end of November
37 2015 was \$11,055,302 and the Distribution Base (amount that can be distributed without invading the
38 principal) was \$4,822,708, before deducting the 2015 contribution of \$539,271 toward retiree healthcare.

39 To continue support for retired clergy and their families at the current level of a half million dollars per year
40 for retiree healthcare, donations are needed from pastors and churches. Reverend Douglas Miller is the
41 Centenary Fund's Outreach Director and is working to increase our Donation Base. The Fund's Finance
42 Committee Chair is Keith Helsby. Other members of the Fund Board are Charles Bender Jr, Valerie Garron,
43 Grace Pak, Steve Poloff, Jack Scharf, and David Wiley. We hope you will help us build up the Centenary
44 Fund with your tax-free donations so that The Centenary Fund and Preachers Aid Society will be able to
45 continue to make the substantial contributions needed in the future to fund retiree healthcare and to
46 provide aid to retired clergy and their dependents. Thank you for your support to date.

47 Respectfully Submitted, Eleanor Hartley, Chair

1 The Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society

2 **Report**

3 Conference Board of Church and Society

4
5 The Board continues to look at three major issues: Immigration, Prison Reform and Poverty Reduction. In the next
6 phase of our work, we will see beyond mercy ministries and work toward including justice ministries. We also look
7 at issues related to Affordable Housing, Peace and the Environment as well as other issues that are presented to
8 us.

9 As we look to the future, we will continue to support sending two young clergy to the Young Clergy Forum
10 sponsored by GBCS each year.

11 At the 2015 Annual Conference, we had a Dessert Time. This was co-sponsored by Religion and Race, Christian
12 Unity and Interfaith Relationships and Church and Society. This is a way to share how conference agencies work
13 together on issues. This type of collaboration will continue with these and other entities.

14 **Immigration** Began to look at ways to work with Justice for your Neighbors (JFoN) to get our churches to work
15 with immigrants that need legal assistance.

16 **Prison Reform** As we move toward justice ministries, we look at supporting legislation such as the Redeem Act.

17 **Poverty** The Board became members of the New Jersey Anti-Poverty Network. Through this entity, we are able
18 to inform our churches about resources and training opportunities.

19 With the approval of the Poverty Reduction Resolution, the Board is beginning to organize District Reduction
20 Poverty Committees.

21 **Peace with Justice** We were able to give one grant to Tansboro Trinity UMC to work with children.

22 **Affordable Housing** One of the new issues we are going to work on is affordable housing. This would relate to
23 working with the homeless to those that are of need of affordable housing.

24 Cynthia Ann Kent, Chair
25 Conference Board of Church and Society

26
27
28 **Report**

29 Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns

30
31 *In John 17:20-21, Jesus prays, not only for his disciples, but also for those, who are (literally) "trusting **into** me,*
32 *through their word". His petition is inclusive of both, "so that they **all** may be one" and also reveals that this*
33 *desired unity of faith is based on and reflective of Jesus and God's own oneness: "You are in me and I am in you; I*
34 *pray that they may also be one in us." Moreover, this unity is said to validate Jesus and his mission before the*
35 *world, "so that the world may trust that You sent me."*

36
37 At least, since the Edinburgh Missionary Conference in 1910, Jesus' prayer for unity has been central to that great
38 "Movement" of the Holy Spirit, called "Ecumenical" (meaning "world-wide"). It has opened the eyes of Christians
39 everywhere, to see Christ present and at work in each other, in the various churches, and in the many peoples
40 and persons with whom they minister. As most of our commission completes their second quadrennium of
41 service, we rejoice to bear witness to the ongoing power of this prayer, which speaks of a unity that for us as
42 United Methodists "is not an option", but "a gift to be received and expressed" (Discipline, 2012, #105, p. 88).

1 Of course, this movement toward Jesus' vision of unity has struggled with the same challenges that all of the
2 churches are facing in these times of transition. Yet those of us engaged in this work of unity are not dismayed;
3 rather, we would celebrate with you just a few of the signs of God's Spirit at work ecumenically, which we have
4 been privileged to see:

- 5 • "The Episcopal/Methodist Theology Day", sponsored with the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, was held at
6 Drew Seminary on September 17, 2015 (having been delayed earlier by snow). In Holy Communion and
7 through mutual dialogue, we joyfully explored with clergy and students the "Interim Agreement on Full
8 Communion" approved by both denominations.
- 9 • "The National Workshop on Christian Unity" – begun by Roman Catholics after Vatican 2 – has for over
10 50 years been a forum for ecumenical dialogue and leadership development. Several of our
11 commissioners have shared in its discussions of emerging ecumenical issues like mission in ethically and
12 religiously diverse cultures, interaction with newer "evangelical" churches, ongoing interreligious
13 dialogue, and intergenerational engagement. The next workshop meets on April 18-21 in Louisville,
14 Kentucky, with the hopeful theme, "Christian Unity: It May Be Closer than You Think". United Methodist
15 leadership has long played a significant role in the NWCU and, in the past decade, a workshop-affiliate
16 known as UMEIT (United Methodist Ecumenical & Interfaith Training) has emerged under the aegis of
17 the United Methodist Episcopacy's Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships.
- 18 • United Methodists are also serving the New Jersey Council of Churches, both on its Board of Directors
19 and in its working groups. The "Public Policy" group engages in legislative advocacy for impoverished
20 children, prison reform, and other justice concerns. Such topics are often addressed at the NJCC's annual
21 "Issues and Actions" event. Its "Theology" group has in recent years held discussions at Hightstown
22 U.M.C. on Dr. Miroslav Volf's *Allah: A Christian Response* and Dr. Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to A*
23 *Compassionate Life*. It has also sponsored seminars on "Environment Theology" led by Dr. Laurel Kerns
24 of Drew Theological School, both at Drew University and in our Pinelands Center. On June 11, 2015, the
25 next environmentally focused seminar will examine Pope Francis' recent encyclical *Laudato Si' – On Our*
26 *Common Home* at St. George's Roman Catholic Church, Titusville, New Jersey, under the leadership of
27 Father Vincent Gartland.
- 28 • One of our members has also served on the "Intergenerational Think Tank" of the National Council of
29 Churches and, through Cynthia Kent, has been involved with the World Council of Churches, to which we
30 also have sent delegates.
- 31 • The commission has also sought at the behest of the U. M. Council of Bishops to lift up ecumenical
32 interaction and service with other Methodist denominations, like the African Methodist Episcopal,
33 Christian Methodist Episcopal, and African Methodist Episcopal Zion churches. We have also sent
34 delegates to the World Methodist Council.
- 35 • Likewise, we have sought to highlight the potential of our "Full Communion Agreement with the
36 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America", which is as yet unfulfilled.
- 37 • Also, over the years, we have raised up the importance of interfaith dialogue as an intrinsic part of Jesus'
38 unity agenda. We have done so through demonstration-dialogues at our "District Days of Learning" and
39 at "Abraham's Table" luncheons, sponsored by the Islamic based "Interfaith Dialogue Center" (now
40 known as "Peace Islands").
- 41 • Finally, every year, we have honored at least two worthy recipients of the Bishop's "Award for Christian
42 Unity and Interfaith Relations", often with many other candidates having to be passed over. This testifies
43 to the extensive grassroots involvement of our congregations and pastors in local ecumenical work
44 throughout the Greater NJ Conference.

1 All of this activity and more are for us signs of the Holy Spirit at work, answering Jesus' prayer. As many of us
2 complete our commission-terms, we look forward to seeing what wonders of grace lie ahead on the road to Jesus'
3 all-inclusive unity. For, the words of Jesus' prayer go on with repetitive force, now as then: "The glory that you
4 have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may
5 become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you
6 have loved me." (John 17:22-23)

7
8 Submitted by the Rev. John Wesley Morrison, with the Rev. Jessica Campbell, Chair, on behalf of the
9 Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns

10 **Report**
11 **CUMAC/ECHO**

12
13 **CUMAC Continues Mission to Feed People and Change Lives**

14 The Center of United Methodist Aid to the Community, known to most simply as CUMAC, is deeply grateful to
15 the churches of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference for the consistent support that allows our ministry to
16 grow in service. This year CUMAC proudly became the administering body of the Community Food Coalition
17 (CFC). The CFC is a collaborative effort amongst 28 member food pantries committed to serving those in need in
18 Passaic County and surrounding areas. It addresses hunger-related issues and manages shared food resources
19 for Passaic County, while connecting New Jersey residents with feeding programs that best fit their needs.

20 The CFC was created with the understanding that hunger is a deep and pervasion issue in our community and
21 beyond. To truly make a difference, synergistic collaboration is key. Many hands make light work, but many
22 minds, voices and advocates make lasting change.

23 The addition of our newest program advances CUMAC's longstanding tradition of forward thinking and growth.
24 That same ethos has led us on a 40 year journey from a small pantry in a borrowed United Methodist Church
25 closet to the multi-programmatic response to hunger and poverty that CUMAC operates today. In 2015, our
26 programs were able to reach many people needing to feel God's love through the action of his disciples.

- 27 • **CUMAC's food pantry helped around 38,000 people** put food on the table where otherwise they may
28 have gone hungry. Around 2 million pounds of food were distributed.
- 29 • **Two mobile pantries ensured that same help and love was extended** to people living in underserved
30 communities where barriers to food access are uniquely complex.
- 31 • **Our food depot was utilized by a network of feeding programs.** It provided the storage space,
32 refrigeration, trucking and resources necessary to bolster smaller agencies and allow them to address
33 hunger in their own communities.
- 34 • **Pathways to Work offered job training and experience to dozens of people** on the path to gainful
35 employment.
- 36 • **The Community Closet gave disaster relief to lessen the burden of recovery for over 120 individuals**
37 who had experienced fires, flooding and even a roof caving in, as well as quieter disasters like owning
38 only flip flops in the middle of winter. Our thrift shop sold high quality goods at extremely affordable
39 prices to low-income households as a means to boost self-sufficiency.
- 40 • **Place of Promise provided permanent, supportive housing** to around a dozen residents, assisting each
41 individual with setting and meeting personal goals and helping them connect to critical resources on the
42 path to meeting self-sufficiency.
- 43 • **Seasonal collections provided over 3,000 children** with Christmas gifts, Easter baskets and school
44 supplies.

1 **Through these programs, CUMAC worked ceaselessly to lift up a community truly in need of a helping hand.**
2 Among our clients are seniors and the disabled, unable to work and struggling to keep up with rising costs of
3 living. We are visited by the unemployed and underemployed, those who work two or three jobs but still
4 struggle to pay rent and put food on the table. Many are looking to rebuild after long stints of homelessness.
5 Still others turn to us to learn valuable job skills that will help lift them and their families out of poverty. Our
6 clients include children growing up with empty bellies and struggling to thrive, often without stable housing,
7 adequate clothing, proper school supplies or a network to help raise them up. Combined, our programs provide
8 the material support so many need to get by. Of equal importance they provide hope and lift people's faith in
9 the fact that they live in a world that cares about them and won't let them suffer. As God claims all people as
10 his beloved children, we strive always to lift up the least among us.

11 With CUMAC's growth story comes an exciting announcement made this year. **After 27 years of service, our**
12 **executive director, Reverend Patricia Bruger, has announced her upcoming plans to retire in the summer of**
13 **2017.** This news is being shared 18 months in advance to allow sufficient time to plan for the future of the
14 organization. Over the next year and a half a diverse team will be reviewing CUMAC's unique strengths and
15 needs, putting together a profile for the next executive director, undertaking an in-depth strategic plan meant to
16 point our agency in the right direction in the upcoming years, and beginning the search for an executive director
17 who will lead from a place of strength and growth in the years to come.

18 This 18 month timeframe also gives us time to celebrate the incredible accomplishments Pat has made during
19 her tenure at CUMAC's helm. CUMAC has seen substantial growth under Pat's leadership and we look toward a
20 future of continued accomplishment feeding people and changing lives.

21 To ensure our doors stay open to all who needs us, our circle of compassionate disciples in Christ is ever
22 expanding. The Greater New Jersey United Methodist Church time and again lives that inspiring adage "Do all
23 the good you can, in all the ways you can" in their support of CUMAC. **In 2015, 78 United Methodist Churches**
24 **lived faith in action by sharing their gifts.** This came by way of financial support, events held on our behalf and
25 special collections of food, coats, hygiene items, book bags and other critical goods. **38 United Methodist**
26 **Churches made over 110 service trips to ensure our vital work is continued.** They came as bible studies, UMW
27 and UMM groups, youth groups, summer camps, and ecumenical partnership. They brought friends and family
28 and were instrumental to growing disciples for Christ through service. With your help, we have accomplished
29 much work to make this world a kinder, more just place for all God's children.

30 We ask that you join us in celebration of all that can be accomplished when we come together to live the word
31 of Christ. CUMAC gratefully accepts volunteers to assist with a myriad of projects that make our mission
32 possible. We encourage groups and individuals to learn more about our work by coming for a tour or inviting a
33 speaker to their home church. We have many informative and engaging topics prepared and a host of activities
34 to help people of all ages grow a deeper understanding of hunger and service. Donations in all form remain
35 critical to our mission. Please consider holding a special offering for CUMAC, designating a portion of a
36 fundraiser to our work, or hosting a collection to help meet the need for food, clothing and other goods.
37 CUMAC staff and volunteers are always happy to provide support, share information and help communities
38 unite in mission to provide for the least among us.

39 CUMAC can be reached through our newly redesigned website www.cumac.org or on social media at
40 [facebook/cumacfeedspeople](https://www.facebook.com/cumacfeedspeople) and [twitter/cumacfeeds](https://twitter.com/cumacfeeds). We are available by email at info@cumacecho.org and
41 by phone at 973-742-5518. We are always happy to answer questions about our work and explore ways to
42 partner in ministry.

43 Stephanie Ames, Community Engagement Coordinator

Reverend Patricia Bruger, Executive Director



44

Report

Drew University Theological School

A Cohering Vision: Curriculum, Community, Co-Curricular Initiatives

After much collaborative discussion, discernment, and evaluation of the current state of theological education, those of us who lead, teach, and support Drew Theological School have launched on an ambitious course. Nearly 150 years after our founding, we envision a future as bright as the best eras in our past. I am pleased to share with you here the concrete steps we have taken— and are taking— to bring this future to light.

First, our efforts have been attentive to the history of Drew, in particular its Methodist roots, its long commitment to the Church and its ministries, and draw from this wellspring for inspiration and direction. Also, we have honored our progress to achieve denominational, ethnic, gender, and racial diversity in our faculty and student body. This rich diversity has become both a hallmark of Drew and an expansion of our wellspring. Forces beyond our campus—notably, that the reasons for pursuing a theological education and expected outcomes are shifting dramatically—further press the need for us to align our vision and its supporting systems with our communal reality.

Given this imperative, we are focused on the three “C’s” of our cohering vision: redesigning our curriculum, strengthening our community of learning, and deepening training through revived co-curricular initiatives. These three aspects of a Drew Theological School education will work together to enable us to empower creative thought and courageous action to advance justice, peace, and love of God, neighbor, and the earth—as well as uniquely position us to lead evolving expressions of Christianity.

Designing distinct pathways from curriculum to vocation

To remain meaningful and offer the greatest value to our students, each of the six degree paths that we offer must be as distinct as the ministry to which it leads. For example, our Master of Arts in Ministry program, which forms students for the broadest spectrum of theologically-informed advocacy and ministry, or our DMin program, which has become the “new” terminal vocational degree, must be custom rebuilt for current and emerging student needs and outcomes. This also holds true for our Master of Arts, Master of Sacred Theology, PhD, and, most critically, our Master of Divinity programs.

We have achieved our roadmap for curricular change through a period of intentional discernment, which included discussion with consultants, and with colleagues at peer institutions, who led a curricular formation retreats with our faculty; through the discernment and guidance of our faculty, and with the generous financial support of the Jesse Ball duPont Fund. Our next steps include a comprehensive analysis of pedagogical and technological trends in theological education, enrollment, and outcomes. Our redesigned curricular paths will be announced in the fall of 2017, concurrent with the 150th anniversary of the founding of Drew Theological School and the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

Student experiences rooted in community

Despite the increase in students pursuing their education through evening classes and online enrollment, we remain committed to the on-campus experience of community. This begins with a student-centered educational experience that better attends to the scheduling needs of our students, offers broader course content and availability, and more intentionally integrates vocational or career aspirations with coursework.

The success of these efforts are inextricably linked to scholarship support. Only by removing the financial barriers for students pursuing vocations can we hope to attract and retain the most promising students and free them to learn and grow in community. Related to tuition support is the need for more affordable and

1 modernized housing for those students who choose to live on campus. Together, scholarship support and
2 housing relief will also unburden our students from unsustainable debt.

3
4 **Fostering innovation in ministry and the work of spirit-filled justice**

5 To round out changes in our curriculum and on-campus learning experiences, we are also reviving co-curricular
6 initiatives. The existing Center for Lifelong Learning will be recast as the new Center for Innovation and
7 Leadership in Ministry and serve students, alumni, and others seeking to find creative and courageous
8 approaches to revitalizing ministry. Here, programming will train pastoral leaders, in particular, for service in
9 rapidly changing church environments, as well as position them to lead fearlessly and prophetically.

10
11 Our second co-curricular center will be an expansion of the current Communities of Shalom. This initiative will
12 focus on action, advocacy, and social justice work in both pastoral and lay environments. Projects will range
13 from student interns supporting the work of A Future with Hope in our home state of New Jersey, advancing
14 social justice in non-profit settings across the country and around the world, initiatives which seek to transform
15 and end systemic poverty, expansion of our Partnership for Religion and Education in Prisons (PREP) program,
16 and teaching residencies at Drew for prophetic leaders.

17
18 **Success so far through our One and All Campaign**

19 As the 14th dean of Drew Theological School, I am deeply committed to continuing our long and distinguished
20 legacy. To this end, our vision is innovative, forward-looking, and grounded in the practical needs of our
21 students—we hope, too, that it is an inspiration to the various constituencies we serve. I fully subscribe to the
22 inimitable words of Antonio Machado, that “we make the road by walking.” The road to this bright future we
23 envision will be made by the dedication, determination, and generosity of those who love Drew and believe in
24 its future.

25
26 Our vision is coming to light, in part, because of the generosity of our many alumni-donors and friends. Our One
27 and All fundraising campaign has raised more than \$12 million to date for the Theological School and has seed-
28 funded many of our burgeoning efforts.

29
30 Also, I encourage our alumni to embrace your power of influence to help grow philanthropic support for Drew
31 Theological School. Many of our largest gifts have come from the influence of alumni, particularly pastors who
32 serve in our church communities.

33
34 Yes, the needs ahead are many, yet our hope is high for a bright future for Drew Theological School. The road is
35 made by walking. Let’s walk it together.

36
37
38 The Reverend Dr. Javier A. Viera
39 Dean of the Theological School
40 Professor of Pastoral Theology
41
42

Report

Educational Society

The Educational Society has been assisting men and women of New Jersey, called by God to full time Christian service, in their pursuit of a theological education. By providing scholarships and loans for more than one hundred and fifty years to persons preparing to serve in Christian ministry, our Annual Conference has invested in the future of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Scholarships are awarded to candidates for ordained ministry who are matriculated in an accredited theological seminary or graduate school approved by the United Methodist Church University Senate (UMCUS) and who are members of a United Methodist Church within the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference (GNJAC), or who are clergy of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference engaged in continuing education at an accredited graduate or theological school approved by UMCUS who are not eligible for Ministerial Education Funds..

Interest free loans are available to men and women preparing for full time Christian service, matriculated full or half time in an accredited college, seminary, or graduate school, including Course of Study, approved by UMCUS. Applicants must be a member of a United Methodist Church within the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

The distribution of scholarships and loans is determined annually by the Board of Directors of the Educational Society. \$3,500.00 in loans were granted in 2014. In this same year, three scholarships totaling \$16,500.00 were awarded to Cynthia Lydon, Josh Mularski, and William B. Wilson Jr.. The Educational Society is supported by the repayment of loans, interest earned on early endowments, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, and contributions from local churches and individuals. Contributions may be made through the Conference Advance # 622. It is an opportunity for the local church to affirm the ministry of pastors who have benefited from Educational Society assistance by “paying it forward” through contributions to Conference Advance #622.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo D. Malessa, President

Report

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, as the name of the agency indicates, has two crucial ministerial functions: 1) Higher Education – supporting the United Methodist Students of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference to achieve their higher educations, especially through granting them scholarships; and 2) Campus Ministry – partnering with the campus ministers and local churches that are passionate about their campus ministries, as they tend the religious/spiritual needs/life of the students and faculty in college/university settings.

First of all, every year, the Board has a tough task of selecting/granting scholarship recipients. Due to the limited scholarship funding availability, the Board carefully and prayerfully selects the scholarship beneficiaries. In year 2015 (as was the case in the previous year), the Board was able to grant nineteen overtly qualified students from various backgrounds, locations, and studies their scholarships. The Board is working toward a way to grant more scholarships, without compromising the quantity and quality of the conference scholarships that we offer to our students, by contacting the UMM and UMW of our local churches and by creative fundraising event(s). The reason once again is that the Board is in agreement, refusing to turn down our U.M. students in their academic and spiritual journey in their colleges and universities settings.

1 Secondly, the Board has two responsibilities under the heading of Campus Ministry: 1) Partnering with and
2 accountable for the existing campus ministries, and 2) Connecting with and assist to the starting-up campus
3 ministries of the GNJAC.

4 With this regard, there are four existing campus ministries that the conference has been supporting in
5 consistent and persistent basis. They are:

- 6 1. Centenary College
- 7 2. Rockland County Community College
- 8 3. Wesley Foundation at Princeton
- 9 4. The FeedTruck Ministry (covering Mercer County colleges).

10

11 And in 2015, the Board was able to publicize and implement seven grants to our local churches and their
12 endeavors to doing campus ministries. They are:

- 13 1. First UMS Glassboro (Rowan University area): Tavern Theology
- 14 2. Grace Korean UMC (William Patterson University area): College Outreach
- 15 3. Monmouth Grace UMC (Monmouth University area): Race Matters
- 16 4. First UMC of Mt. Holly (Bergen County Community College area): Art with a Heart
- 17 5. Christ UMC Piscataway (Rutgers University area): Methodist Muffin Ministry
- 18 6. Princeton UMC (Princeton University area): Café Ministry
- 19 7. Christ UMC Lakewood (Georgian Court University area): Beyond the Great Divide – Bridging
20 Opportunity

21

22 This is a strategic plan, aligned with the GNJAC mission and the 2018 objectives. The objective #2 indicates,
23 “Start 90 new faith communities,” and objectives #5 asserts, “Increase the number of young adults in small
24 groups from 2,820 to 3,200.”

25 The members of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry promise to continue our support
26 to the U.M. colleges students and campus ministries of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference by doing
27 ministry more innovatively, and most of all, more prayerfully. So, the Board asks you to please join in this great
28 ministry with your care, love, and prayers!

29 Respectfully submitted by
30 Hyun-Bo Shim, on behalf of the Board of HE and CM members

31

32 **Report**
33 **Episcopacy Committee**

34

35 The Episcopacy Committee has met regularly with our Bishop during the past year for the purpose of support,
36 encouragement, communication of conference priorities, and to provide feedback where solicited. We
37 have participated in an evaluation of the Bishop, discussed matters related to the Jurisdictional Committee on
38 Episcopacy, and assured that the Episcopal residence is in excellent condition. At each meeting the Bishop has
39 issued, and we have discussed, a detailed report of his work in the conference. He has been thoroughly
40 transparent and collegial in all of our discussions and we well know that he greatly values the shared ministry of
41 all laity and clergy in the conference.

42 Respectfully submitted,

43

44 Frank Fowler
45 Chairperson, Episcopacy Committee

Report

Council on Finance and Administration

The economy of New Jersey continued improving in 2015 and the Shared Ministry collection rate was up 2%. 394 of our local churches paid 100% of their shared ministry allocation, up from 391 last year. 481 paid 100% of their billables, down from 485 last year. We are grateful to the churches of the conference for their stewardship.

As in prior years, committees, boards and agencies were prudent in their spending and the income from conference investments continued to perform well, in line with the general financial markets. Therefore overall financial results were in line with budget projections for 2015.

As a result of contributions from the Board of Trustees, the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and the Council on Finance and Administration, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference has moved into our new building mortgage free.

For the ninth year in a row, our conference paid 100% of its general church apportionments. GNJAC was one of the 26 out of 56 conferences that paid 100%. We thank the Bishop, Cabinet and Program Staff for their leadership and we thank our local churches for their faithful stewardship and hard work, all of which make these results possible.

Other items of note from our activities this year:

1. In accord with conference legislation, and with the leadership of the Bishop and Cabinet, all of the churches receiving equitable or supplemental compensation grants paid 100% of their Disciplinary Obligations.
2. Financial training has again been provided at the District Days of Learning. Emphasis was on the various matters of interest to local churches. We are looking into ways to develop services that CFA might be able to provide to local churches, such as auditing or financial planning and budgeting.
3. Conference investments again performed well in 2015, matching the benchmarks. Our portfolio is well diversified and as a result of our investment gain trends over the last several years, the CFA continues to authorize a payout rate of 5%.
4. On line collection of the data for statistical reports continues to go well. Errors have been much reduced with the new system and local churches have been much better able to meeting reporting timetables. As an added benefit, the information needed for conference management is available nearly 6 months earlier that it had been under the old system.

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration wants to thank Bishop Schol, the Cabinet and the Program Staff for their continuing support and encouragement. We also want to thank John Cardillo, Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services, and his staff for their hard work and support.

John Bishop, President
Conference Council on Finance and Administration

Report

General Council on Finance and Administration

The Financial Services Committee reviewed all General Church board and agency spending plans for 2015 and approved same. The primary elements of the review are to determine that the spending plans conform to the budget approved by the 2012 General Conference, are within the forecasted receipts and that unreasonable reserves are not being accumulated. Budgets are subject to year to year adjustments required due to economic conditions. If such adjustments are required, they are prorata among all recipients.

The full GCFA Board is working with the Connectional Table to establish the proposed budget for the 2016-2020 quadrennium. Initial numbers indicate an increase of about 1% in the budgets of the general church agencies.

The Audit Committee received and extensively discussed with the external auditor the report of the audits of all general church boards and agencies. The reports on UMC General Boards and agencies audits did not disclose any unusual problems or major weaknesses in internal control. The Audit Committee also recommended asking for RFPs from firms desiring to do the audits of the General Church Agencies and recommended a change based upon lower costs.

The Committee on Legal Responsibilities has the disciplinary responsibility to protect the UMC and its mark, the Cross and Flame. It also has a fund to be used in related proceedings regarding annual conferences or local churches. This support is to be limited to matters of denominational significance.

During the year we reviewed several requests and did provide some funding for issues involving the defense of the trust clause and also of the rights of local churches to conduct religious services in non-traditional settings. We also denied several requests for funding.

The Committee on Legal Responsibilities participated in a number of legal briefs supporting the trust clause or its equivalent in other denominations. Many denominations are having issues with breakaway congregations that want to take their building and endowments with them as they leave the mother denomination. We have the obvious interest in that an adverse decision could affect future legal actions within the Methodist denomination.

Members of the GNJAC may be aware that GCFA and GBGM had halted all payments to the East Africa Annual Conference over which Bishop Wandabula presides. Salary and office expenses were also reduced. This is a result of long term inability to get Bishop Wandabula to provide documentation to show that his uses of the funds were appropriate. This matter was submitted to the Judicial Council which ruled that the Bishop's salary cannot be reduced from that authorized by the General Conference in 2012. The Judicial Council did not reverse any of the other actions related to program expenses and office expenses which are not being paid.

GCFA has continued adjusting to a new and smaller Board (21 vs. 41 previously). It is going well and most Board members prefer the new arrangement.

I have been personally involved with an effort to have administrative services provided on a shared basis among the general boards. Quite a number of services have been integrated into a shared service among the general agencies.

John Bishop, Member
General Commission on Finance and Administration

Report

Board of Global Ministries

The Conference Board of Global Ministries works with missionaries, our Advance Specials, Agencies, Conference staff and aligns with the strategic goals of the Conference.

Advance Specials: Each Advance Special (Advanced) is assigned to a CBGM member who is its liaison with the Board to make sure that their ministry continues, and visits with the agency where possible. Advance Specials are required to submit a reapplication each year and provide supporting documents. Two Advance Specials have been dropped from last year and one new one has been added. The list can be found in the Board's resolution.

Although Conference does not fund Advance Specials directly, they are encouraged to apply directly to churches and the churches are encouraged to support them by sending funds to them through the Conference treasurer. One of the future measures of an Advance's viability will be the support it receives.

Partnerships: International Partnerships continues to be a gray areas with CBGM.

Mission Fairs: CBGM held its one Mission Fair on September 19, 2015. No future fairs are planned.

UMVIM: Kathy Ahmad led a VIM team to Haiti in January and installed over a hundred water filters.

Global Missions, Conference Secretary of (CSGM): In Greater New Jersey, the position of CSGM is also held by the Chair of the Board of Global Ministries. The CSGM works with the General Board of Global Ministries in accommodating missionaries who will be itinerating in our Conference. During 2015 Brenda and Alex Awad, Jerusalem; Rosangelica Acevedo (Robinson School in Puerto Rico); and Devorah Umipig and Ronald Julian (Japan) itinerated in Greater New Jersey. In the spring of 2016 Sun Lae Kim (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia) and Katherine Parker (Kathmandu, Nepal) are also visiting.

Grace Rapp attended the National CSGM meeting in New York City Nov. 11 – 13 in place of Barbara who was unable to attend. This was a three-day event of worship, workshops, and the opportunity to meet with current CSGM's of the Northeast Jurisdiction. Some highlights: Thomas Kemper, Secretary General, spoke of the move to the new GBGM facility in Atlanta, Georgia with transfer of some staff to be complete by Fall 2016; the 75th Anniversary of UMCOR celebrated with slide show and a birthday cake; reports from Transformation Generation and UMCOR staff; the development of four regional offices which reinforces the slogan of GBGM "From Everywhere to Everywhere."

Submitted by Barbara McFarquhar
Conference Board of Global Ministries

Report

National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministries Committee

Vision

A diverse and inclusive church that is transforming the community and expanding God's Kingdom.

Mission

To empower Hispanic/Latino leaders to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry has been supporting and strengthening Hispanic Leaders in GNJ. It has also trained leaders and created contextualized training resources. We continue developing a strong laity and clergy with resources in their own language and cultural context as part of our mission and vision of creating

Reports to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 Vital Congregations in alignment with the Strategic Plan of the Conference. Our areas of focus are Leadership
2 Development, Spiritual Growth, Social Concerns, Developing New Churches and Small Groups and Youth and
3 Young Adult Ministry.

4 Our Strategic Plan starts by identifying active leaders within our churches and communities of faith, that are
5 committed to learn, work in team with their pastors, other leaders, and with a genuine desire to growth in the
6 Wesleyan theology tradition.

7 Programs that we have developed:

- 8 ▪ The HNP Module I and II trainings were offered in 2015. As a result of this training we have 14 New Lay
9 Missioners of the National Hispanic/Latino Plan in GNJ.
- 10 ▪ We continue supporting The Walk to Emmaus in Spanish which is proving to be a highly effective
11 resource to develop lay leadership and spiritual growth. Pastors are reporting an increased level of
12 participation and commitment to the local church in those that have experienced Emmaus. We're also
13 seeing an increased understanding of the concept of servant-leadership, among Hispanic/Latino laity.
14 This year we had over 40 new pilgrims participate in the Walk to Emmaus Retreat.
- 15 ▪ We supported IGNITE 2015. More than 75 Hispanic youth participated. As a result they are doing Rallies
16 among our churches and engaging and worshipping God in their own way with their gifts and talents. As
17 the result of this effort we are developing a strategy to develop and organize our Youth and Young
18 Adults with more intentionality understanding that they are part of the present and future of the
19 church. They meet and start organizing their Annual Retreat Niños y Jovenes para Cristo for the summer
20 2016 with the support and guidance of Rev. Charles Perez, Rev. Rolando Santiago, Rev. Hector A Burgos,
21 Milagros Soto- Pillot and Jazelis Adorno-Burgos.
- 22 ▪ Our Laity Biblical Academy - (SELAH) provides enhanced/contextualized theological education for lay
23 leaders from a Wesleyan perspective in Spanish . The 2 year program covers topics such as Church
24 History, Systematic Theology, UMC doctrine and polity, Worship/Preaching, Evangelism, and more. This
25 program is making theological education available to lay leaders that otherwise would not be able to
26 have it, do to affordability, immigration status, and/or family/job responsibilities. The academy started
27 in September 2014, with 19 laity students, and its being facilitated by experienced clergy with a strong
28 theological and ministry background in our denomination. We are in the second year program with a
29 total of 22 students.
- 30 ▪ We offer connection among our clergy families. Two annual gatherings to enjoy one another and to play
31 dominoes, games, good food and relax. (summer and winter)
- 32 ▪ We celebrate after the Annual conference the new appointments and ordinations from our Hispanic
33 Clergies. Very proud of our new leaders that have decide to answer their call.
- 34 ▪ We have three New Hispanics Ministries hosted by English/Korean speaking churches. We celebrate
35 their vision and desire to be in ministry with the Hispanic/Latino community.

36 God is working in new and different ways. The Hispanic population keeps rapidly growing and we need a space
37 to worship God and to feel his love in a lot of places in New Jersey. They are so many challenges in the Latino
38 community. We are looking forward for more Hispanic Vital Congregations, for more Pastors willing to serve in
39 different ways, for new churches opening the doors to serve the Hispanics/Latino Communities. God is up to
40 something! We invite all to join us as we seek to expand the reign of God and transform the world in the love of
41 Jesus Christ.

42 *Jazelis Adorno-Burgos, Chair*

43 National Plan Hispanic/Latino Committee, on behalf of the committee

44

Report

Committee on Native American Ministries (CoNAM)

This Committee worked with the Conference on setting up an Act of Repentance Service at the 2014 Annual Conference. The Indigenous Welcome was given by Mr. Mark Gould, the Chief of the Lenni Lenape Tribe which is part of the Nanticoke Lenni Lenape Confederation. The 2015 Indigenous Welcome was given by Rev. Roy Bundy, the pastor of St. John's UMC in Fordville. This church is designated as a Native American Methodist Church and has been in existence 175 years. We hope to see this welcome continue as a part of our Annual Conferences.

We continue to work with the Lenni Lenape Tribe by:

- Supporting their Youth Camp and assisting youth with Peg Leg Flamingo participation.
- At one of CoNAM meetings, we shared with people about a trip to the historical site of the Carlisle Indian School some of the members attending. Some of the Lenape people were interested in attending as well. On June 4, 2015, forty five (45) people went on the trip. We plan to do a trip for Conference members.
- Rev. Doug Mackey from the Upper NY Conference came to St. John's UMC as a part of his seminary course. He shared how a Native American Ministries Sunday (NAMS) training could be as he shared resources from their Act of Repentance Service. With this type of training, the CoNAM will do a training for the Conference during Regional Day of Learning conferences in 2017.
- The history of the relationship between the Tribe and St. John's UMC needs to be recorded and the Archive Center at Drew University is working with the Tribe and the church to record this history.
- St. John's UMC is a part of the eight week Bridgeton Summer Program. It was held for two weeks at each church from June 29-August 21, 2015. A total of 120 children were in attendance, with 38 attending at St. John's UMC. St. John's used an in-house Native American immersion curriculum and explored how the culture and Christianity partner together to glorify the Creator. From that program, more Tribal youth are attending church and a youth program is being established by the church.

We want to develop a working relationship with the other two Tribes in the conference, they are the Powhatan Tribe in Burlington County in Central New Jersey and the Ramapough Lunaape Tribe in the Northwest corner of New Jersey in the Hunterdon County area. We will be working the District Superintendents in those areas to look at ways to open up a dialogue.

We are aware that many Native people from the state and from other places are attending colleges in New Jersey. While they are in the state, the Committee would like to be supportive of them. We are working with the Reform Church of America on a Welcome Center at the Rutgers University in New Brunswick. As we develop a plan to work with Rutgers, we will see how this activity can be presented at other schools.

The Committee continue to see how native people and issues can be included into the life and work of the Conference.

Cynthia Kent, Chair
Conference Committee on Native American Ministries (CoNAM)

Report
Board of Ordained Ministry

Vitality. Transformational Leadership. Effectiveness.

These are some of the words to which we are drawn in today's Church. They speak to both the beauty and the urgency of ministry. And they speak with power to the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry. For ours is a work of deep discernment for the sake of the God Who Calls.

When a member of my church asks me about the work of the Board, I am always eager to tell of my awe for the diverse ways in which God calls and the diverse stories of human response. I remain enthralled with the innumerable avenues through which God beckons God's children into ministry.

Through varied people with varying gifts, God continues to share grace with the world.

In seeking to serve this God Who Calls, the Board engages in tasks that may at times look like just "processes," but are, in truth, paths that lead to deep discernment and lasting empowerment. The journey of questions and mentorship and assessments and interviews and site visits (and so much more) is a rich and powerful pilgrimage of deep listening, for the individual and for the community.

In this deep listening, it is our privilege and our responsibility to equip those who are called, in order that each may fully claim the gifts God has given, and may use them with joy.

In attending to the unique spiritual timbre God has given for ministry, the door is then opened for the very things we seek: vitality, effectiveness, and even transformation. We find that these words, when we hold them with care, tap into the great mystery of how God is at work in our midst.

This quadrennium has held many important changes for the Board, as reflected in previous reports. This year, in addition to our standing responsibilities, we have been tending to the need for greater staff support, to include staffing for recruitment; we have been exploring assessment tools in languages other than English, to care for our community; and we have made the transition from the Online Candidacy Application System (OCAS) to UMCARES.

We have joined with Conference leadership in envisioning the future of vibrant ministry, continued to evolve the written requirements of candidates to reflect current insights, and nurtured the individual journeys of persons under our care.

As this season comes to an end, I would offer a word of deep thanks to all the persons who serve on the Board, for their countless hours attending to matters of call and community, their willingness to wrestle with complex issues, their commitment to care for the persons responding to God's call, and above all their openness to the movement of the Spirit.

We also thank Beverly Karlovich for her indispensable administrative wisdom and care; her grace and diligence have been integral to our work. It has been a privilege and joy to serve among such faithful servant leaders.

Collectively, we understand that we are responding to a sacred calling to engage in discernment, be attentive to the movement of the Spirit, and celebrate what God is doing in our midst. It is our privilege to serve the God Who Calls.

Shawn Callender Hogan
Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry

1 **Report**

2 Parish and Community Development Committee

3
4 The members of the Parish and Community Development Committee met on September 17, 2015, and
5 participated in the Conference's Board, Agencies and Committees Strategic Session on January 9, 2016. We
6 have reviewed our goals and affirm our recommendation to have them be examined by the Connectional
7 Ministries Team.

- 8 1. Find out how many of our churches would be considered local-community-churches verses mostly-
9 commuter-churches. This statistic would encourage conversations that would help us to define the very
10 terms parish and community as they present themselves within our conference, and would be beneficial in
11 the planning of effective clergy and laity peer group conversations and inter-congregational relationships.
- 12 2. Connectional Database for our Conference. We propose the creation of a database that would have
13 relevant reference information for ministry and outreach by offering a central place of parish-community
14 resources for our GNJUMC family. Our vision is that it would serve as a comprehensive connectional tool
15 that would help us to see the richness of gifts and experience that we already have in our churches and that
16 would encourage collaboration among our congregations. The purpose of the database would not be to
17 simply show success stories to be duplicated. We understand that every community and church is unique,
18 but we also know that we can learn from one another and that our ministries can be enriched by the sharing
19 of our experiences. Therefore, we propose the following:
- 20 a) Creation of a Connectional Database to include data to be sent by laity and clergy and to include
21 categories such as personal experiences, gifts and graces, areas of expertise, work experience,
22 success stories, and failures.
 - 23 b) That the information inputted into the database would show anonymously and would be reviewed
24 prior to posting ideally by a lay person within our conference who has experience with statistics.
 - 25 c) Care would be given to designing a system that allows contact with persons for additional sharing
26 without making their personal information public.

27 May the work of our Conference always be led by the Spirit of God with us.

28 Maylis de la Fe, chairperson

29
30 **Report**

31 Board of Pension and Health Benefits

32
33 The Greater New Jersey Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (the Board) is authorized by *The Book of*
34 *Discipline of the United Methodist Church* to contribute to the support, relief, assistance and pensioning of clergy and
35 their families, as well as other church workers and lay employees of the United Methodist Church.

36 Working with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the Board endeavors to implement and interpret
37 national and conference policy.

38 **PENSION**

39 *Pre-1982 Pension Plan*

40 The 2016 Past Service Annuity Rate for pre-1982 annuitant payment is \$646 per year of pre-1982 service. The 2017
41 Past Service Annuity Rate for pre-1982 annuitant payment will be \$658. The pre-1982 pension program continues to
42 be fully funded and in a strong position.

Reports to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 CRSP/MPP and CPP

2 The General Conference's pension plan, Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is a hybrid of defined benefit and
3 defined contribution approaches which took effect in 2007. For 2016 churches pay CRSP at 12.5% of clergy plan
4 compensation and for the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) at 3% of full time clergy's plan compensation, totaling
5 15.5% of plan compensation. For less than full time clergy, the CPP rate is 3.4% of Denominational Average
6 Compensation (DAC) for 3/4 time and 1/2 time, and 4.4% of DAC for optional coverage (1/4 time and leave status).

7 The 2012 General Conference enacted changes to the Clergy Retirement Security Program. Effective 1/1/2014 for all
8 contributions going forward, the CRSP Defined Benefit component was reduced from 1.25% of DAC to 1.0% of
9 DAC. Under the CRSP Defined Contribution component, contributions were reduced from 3% to 2% of clergy plan
10 compensation and, in addition, match up to 1% of compensation if clergy contributes 1% to UMPIP. Contributions
11 previously made will not be affected by this change and benefits paid upon retirement will be based on the previous
12 formula for all benefits accrued prior to 1/1/2014. Any benefits accrued from that date forward is based on the new
13 formula.

14 Additionally, the General Conference changed the participation requirements from all clergy under appointment to
15 only clergy under full time appointment. Clergy appointed to less-than-full-time (3/4 and 1/2-time) are eligible based
16 on the decision of the Annual Conference after approval of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The
17 Board has voted to include those clergy appointed to less-than-full-time (3/4 and 1/2 time) appointments in
18 CRSP. For clergy appointed to 1/4 time appointments, a vote of the Board has made UMPIP available as a pension
19 option for those clergy. Please contact Alexa Taylor, Benefits Services Manager, for more information on this option.
20 These changes require Annual Conference approval.

21 The rates of remittance for the Clergy Retirement Security Program/Ministerial Pension Plan (CRSP/MPP) and
22 Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) increased from last year's rates to 95.93% and 95.58% respectively. Twenty
23 percent of churches were unable to pay these bills on time. Below is a summary of 2015 remittances:

Type	Remittances Rate	2014 Shortfall	# of Churches Paying < 100%	% of Churches Paying < 100%
CRSP	95.93%	\$105,461	63	13.67
CPP	95.58%	\$25,906		

24

25 To maintain clergypersons' participation in CRSP and CPP, the Greater New Jersey Conference fully pays delinquent
26 church accounts using funds from the Reserve Account at the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. We are
27 concerned that some churches are not fully meeting their obligations with the resulting decrease in the Reserve
28 Account.

29 By 2015 year-end the cumulative delinquent amount for years prior to 2015 was \$1,805,000 for CRSP/MPP and
30 \$385,000 for CPP - a total of \$2,190,000, an increase of \$43,000.

31 We thank those churches that maintained faithful stewardship, paying 100% of their obligation. We also appreciate
32 the continuing efforts of our district superintendents, Alexa Taylor, Benefits Services Manager, to collect the past due
33 balances. More than \$185,000 of the 2002-2014 shortfalls was collected in 2015.

34 Pre-Retirement Seminars

35 As in years past, the Board sponsored a retirement education session held at St. Mark United Methodist Church in
36 Hamilton on March 3, 2016. The pre-retirement seminar focuses on those anticipating retirement within five years.
37 Fifty-five persons were scheduled to attend. Presentations by Peter Hang of the General Board of Pension and Health
38 Benefits, a Social Security representative, and Barbara Gruezke, Insurance Coordinator, provided valuable guidance to
39 assist retirement planning. Special thanks go to Donna Hough for organizing these events and to St. Mark UMC for
40 their gracious hospitality. Thanks also to Alexa Taylor, Benefits Services Manager, and Barbara Gruezke, Insurance
41 Coordinator for their support.

HEALTH INSURANCE

For 2016, the Board continued Active health insurance under HealthFlex, the health insurance plan sponsored by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The medical and prescription benefits changed from 2015, but still is the richest plan HealthFlex provides. The medical provider network is Blue Cross/Blue Shield PPO; the pharmacy benefits are provided through Catamaran. Beginning in 2015, the General Board no longer offers retiree health insurance. The Board implemented United HealthCare's National Medicare Advantage PPO Plan which combines the participants' Medicare A & B, supplemental coverage and Part D prescription plan.

The Board has again provided a contribution to participants' Health Reimbursement Accounts for 2016 of \$1,250 for single and \$2,500 for all other plan types which can be used for qualifying medical expenses (such as co-pays and deductibles). These funds do not expire and are accessed through a MasterCard branded debit card, or via a reimbursement form.

Premiums and Remittances

The following chart shows church premium rates in effect for 2016. These rates reflect a Cabinet- requested blended rate for all categories, which the Board has been moving toward for several years, so that health insurance premiums are not a factor in determining clergy appointments.

Health Insurance Premiums for 2016	
Employee	\$14,000
Employee & Child(ren)	\$14,000
Employee & Spouse	\$14,000
Employee & Family	\$14,000

The Board thanks all churches that fully paid their health insurance premiums in 2015. Overall, churches paid 99% of the total \$4,276,240 health insurance billings, an increase from the 2014 remittance rate of 98%. The 2015 shortfall was approximately \$40,000. By 2015 year end, the amount owed from years prior to 2015 had been reduced by \$224,824 and the cumulative unpaid health insurance bills had increased to \$2,830,113 owed for years prior to 2015.

Churches failing to fully pay their premiums burden all churches and result in higher health insurance premiums for all. Thanks go to the Conference/BOPHB Treasurer John Cardillo, Insurance Coordinator Barbara Gruezke, and the Cabinet for their continued efforts to collect health insurance arrearages.

The Board and the Conference staff have continued their efforts to ease the continued transitions in healthcare. The Health Insurance Guidelines included in these 2016 Conference Reports and Recommendations have been updated.

Annuitant Health Care Liability

As of the end of 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board FAS 158 liability for annuitant healthcare costs in the amount of \$51.6 million was posted to the Conference balance sheet. This liability is the estimated present value of the future costs of annuitant healthcare. The Annuitant Health Insurance Contingency Fund described below has been set up to address this large liability over time.

Annuitant Health Insurance Contingency Fund

In 2002-2003 the Board, recognizing the growing magnitude of annuitant healthcare costs, together with the Centenary Fund, representatives of CFA, the Cabinet and the Association of Retired Ministers and Spouses (ARMS), developed a plan for a long term Annuitant Health Insurance Contingency Fund that begins to offset the liability and ensure that retirees continue to enjoy conference-paid health insurance. The Fund was initiated by the 2003 GNJ Annual Conference and earmarked exclusively for healthcare costs for annuitants to cover higher premium costs expected in future years. The plan for the Fund involves a multi-year period during which excess pre-1982 retirement funds would be used to pay CRSP defined-benefit requirements, and comparable funds from churches would be used to create a permanent retiree health fund. This is a critical initiative since it is clear that the Conference cannot continue to fund retiree health insurance on a cash basis out of the Conference Budget.

1 As of December 31, 2015, the Annuitant Health Insurance Contingency Fund held a balance of \$8,985,134 after
2 transferring \$467,618 to the Annuitant Health Insurance Account to avoid a negative balance in that account at year-
3 end. In 2015 approximately \$3,055,204 came into the Contingency Fund (representing the 2% clergy and staff salary
4 contributions toward the cost of health insurance) plus the Centenary Fund's annual contribution (in excess of
5 \$300,000, separate from their \$100,000 contribution directly to the Annuitant Health Insurance Account).

6 **The Board Itself**

7 The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits endeavors to serve the Conference and the needs of those in
8 ministry. There continues to be much to accomplish, especially in the challenging field of health insurance. Christ
9 strengthens us to meet these challenges and we pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire our actions.

10 Current leadership is Rev. Paul Zorn, Chair; Donna Hough, Secretary.

11 Submitted by Paul Zorn, Chair

12
13
14
15 **Report**

16 **Property and Liability Insurance Program of the Board of Trustees**

17
18 **2016 Insurance Renewal:**

19 The 2016 insurance renewal process resulted in a \$129,721 premium increase or 3% versus the 2015 costs. This
20 includes a re-inspection of all conference properties which were completed by 12/31/15. In 2011, Hurricane
21 Irene damages, and a total fire loss, contributed to a 189% loss ratio for the property insurance. There were also
22 adverse claim developments for the workers' compensation coverage resulting in a 110% loss ratio for that line
23 of business. In 2012, Super Storm Sandy damages resulted in a Conference loss ratio of 129%. In addition, there
24 were several significant workers' compensation claims for the 2012 - 2013 policy term. The Conference has
25 been with Mercer Insurance Company for most of its coverage since 2004, and has an overall loss ratio of 80%.
26 The Board of Trustees believes the long term relationship with Mercer, and Sovereign's negotiations on our
27 behalf, allowed the Conference to avoid a steep premium increase or an outright non-renewal of insurance. In
28 2013, the wind damage deductible was increased from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for 98 churches that fall into the
29 insurers wind hazard zone. Most carriers are now imposing percentage deductibles for wind zones, such as 3%
30 of insured values, so the deductible increase is the better option for the Conference. In the event of a wind loss,
31 the Board of Trustees intends to cover the increased wind damage deductible for affected churches from its
32 surplus funds. The insurer continues to cover up to 25% more than the declared property value of any church,
33 providing a level of protection from unexpectedly high damage reconstruction costs. Mercer has re-inspected
34 and re-appraised all Conference owned properties.

35
36 **Workers' Compensation:**

37 The Workers' Compensation coverage is with Church Mutual Insurance Company effective December 1, 2013.
38 Workers' Compensation premiums were increased from \$418,052 to \$629,426 due to a statewide rate increase
39 in New Jersey, adverse claims development, and an experience modification factor increase.

40
41 **Automobile Insurance:**

42 The Board of Trustees continues to make available a voluntary automobile insurance program for church-owned
43 vehicles. The 2016 premium cost is just under 1% than in 2015. Each church has access to this insurance
44 program and pays the premium cost for any vehicle insured.

1 **Claims Experience:**

2 As previously noted, the Conference loss ratio was very unfavorable for the 2011, 2012 and 2013 policy years
3 due to several large loss events. The Board of Trustees believes Mercer Insurance understands well the nature
4 of the GNJAC loss exposures and reacted in good faith with the 2016 renewal after those three consecutive
5 unprofitable years. However, if losses continue in this fashion they could negatively impact the overall cost of
6 insurance; our current three year loss ratio with Mercer is 82%.

7
8 **Large Losses:**

9 The unfavorable loss experience of those three years were driven by large losses each year. In 2011 the
10 Conference sustained nearly \$900,000 in Hurricane Irene claims from 66 churches and a fire loss totaling over \$2
11 million. Super storm Sandy losses in 2012 totaled \$1.8 million from damages to 134 churches. In 2013 \$4.2
12 million in losses from two workers' compensation claims were sustained.

13
14 **Parity Implementation:**

15 The Parity Implementation Plan approved at the 2007 Annual Conference session continues to be implemented
16 according to the original plan. In 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and again for 2016, the Board
17 of Trustees has funded parity relief from Board of Trustee's fund balances.

18
19 **Surplus:**

20 The Board of Trustees endeavors to complete each policy year with a positive fund balance. The accumulated
21 surplus is used to cover uncollectible premiums, fund cash flow in order to pay insurers timely, pay deductible
22 differentials, and fund parity relief. Surplus is also potentially needed to offset future rate increases and
23 uninsured/underinsured defense costs and losses as prescribed by the Cabinet.

24
25 The Board of Trustees believes that it is crucial to maintain the surplus position given the adverse claim
26 experience of the past three years. The Board anticipates no addition to the surplus position in 2016.

27
28 **Summary:**

29 The Board of Trustees encourages each church to take advantage of the assistance available through Sovereign
30 Insurance (800-222-4478), the Conference insurance program's broker. The Conference insurance program
31 does not include flood insurance. We remind churches, particularly those located in a flood zone, of the need to
32 purchase flood insurance; Sovereign Insurance is prepared to help with that process.

33 Rev. Clifford Still, President

34
35 **Report**

36 **Commission on Religion and Race**

37
38 *"To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice." Proverbs 21:3*

39 At outset, I would like to thank the members of the Greater New Jersey Commission of Religion and Race (GNJ
40 CORR) and the members of the GNJ CORR Monitoring /Advisory Team for their work and valuable contributions
41 to this ministry. GNJ CORR is called to engage in activities consistent with role of the General Commission on
42 Religion and Race (G CORR). "G CORR is the core agency within the United Methodist Church tasked with
43 empowering the Church to pursue racial equity and cultural competency to build a stronger, more vibrant
44 UMC." Similarly, GNJ CORR is charged with this same task in the Greater New Jersey Conference (GNJ). By
45 promoting full and equal participation of the racial and ethnic constituency in the total life and mission of the
46 church, GNJ CORR seeks to empower clergy and laity to develop transformational leaders and vital
47 congregations.

Reports to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 In 2015, GNJ CORR continued with the goals of 1. providing resources and training; and 2. supporting and
2 providing programs of cultural competency, racial justice and reconciliation. Specifically, the 2015 activities
3 were as follow:

4 Resources and training

- 5 • GNJ CORR is working to develop collaborative solutions for presenting “The Conversation About Race”
6 for clergy and laity. We entered a conversation with Drew Theological School to have “The Conversation
7 About Race” hosted at Drew thereby allowing seminarians and other members of the Drew Community
8 to benefit from “The Conversation About Race”.
- 9 • GNJ CORR is supportive of Bishop Schol’s development of the 10-year Cultural Competency Plan, as well
10 as the Bishop’s plan for repentance and reconciliation for the African Americans who remained in the
11 United Methodist Church. We encourage building a foundation of information and education about the
12 historical, legal, financial, religious and socio-political context of race, racism and racialized systems of
13 oppression and exclusion. Acknowledging that we do not live in a post-racial or colorblind America,
14 repentance and reconciliation is necessary to build a community of faith that works diligently towards
15 the dismantling of racism in GNJ, the United Methodist Church and in this country, thereby allowing all
16 of God’s children access and equity.
- 17 • GNJ CORR worked with The Board of Church and Society and the Commission on Christian Unity and
18 Interfaith Relationships to sponsor a dessert event in which Katey Zeh, Project Director, Healthy
19 Families, Healthy Planet of the General Board of Church and Society was the keynote speaker. She
20 addressed the topic of "Building Multicultural, Ecumenical Partnerships for Global Health"

21 Supporting and providing programs of cultural competency, racial justice and reconciliation

- 22 • GNJ CORR works collaboratively with the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) in the area of
23 Fighting Mass Incarceration. In addition to advocacy, GNJ provides Healing Communities Restorative
24 Justice training for individuals and congregations interested in working with people who are leaving
25 prison. As a follow-up to the 2015 Healing Communities training, GNJ CORR trained an additional
26 twenty-four people including three people who were trained as Healing Communities’ trainers: The
27 Reverends Lourdes Magalhaes, Denise M. Wooten-Troutman and Vanessa M. Wilson. The Reverend
28 Drs. Sonia King and Brian Jackson from the Baltimore Washington Conference conducted the training.
29 The training equipped members of congregations with to work with “returning citizens”, those people
30 who are returning from incarceration. The training was sponsored by GNJ CORR, GBCS, The National
31 Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) and Rutgers University School of Law that provided the
32 training site. GNJ CORR continues to engage in legislative advocacy along with other agencies and
33 organizations in this area.
- 34 • Rev. Wilson represented GNJ CORR at Senator Lesniak’s Roundtable discussion concerning solitary
35 confinement.

36 GNJ CORR looks forward to continuing to serve GNJ through training, consultation, research and advocacy to
37 empower clergy and laity to be able to be an effective witness for Christ in a diverse world.

38
39 Respectfully submitted,
40 The Reverend Vanessa M. Wilson, J.D.
41 Chair, Greater New Jersey Commission on Religion and Race, on behalf of the commission
42
43

Report

Commission for the Small Membership Church

This Commission was approved by the GNJ Annual Conference and organized in 2015. Responsibility of the Commission is to be in harmony with the Conference mission and Strategic Plan. The Commission will focus on helping the small membership church to realize its full potential through providing resources, support and encouragement to become vital congregations. The goal of the Commission is to focus on equipping, developing and strengthening clergy and laity to become effective leaders. In order to meet this goal, the following objectives have been established:

- a) To define and determine the demographics what is a small membership church with regard to size, and location urban, suburban, rural; Is the congregation older? Declining? Stable?
- b) To advocate and support small membership churches throughout the Conference by providing resources and people that will assist churches to grow as vital congregations
- c) To help small churches determine mission objectives that will help them to connect and serve their communities.
- d) To center on worship as one of the markers of a vital congregation.
- e) To provide opportunities for training, coaching and educating the leadership of the church.
- f) To find funding that can be used to help meet the goals and objectives.

Small Membership Commission is an important ministry of the Annual Conference. As all churches' mission is to make disciples. A small membership congregation is more than numbers, although size does count. The Commission will assist small churches to pursue their mission, vision and any challenges they may have in becoming vital congregations.

In His Grip,
Millie Grey, Chair
Commission for the Small Membership Church

Report

Commission for the Status and Role of Women (COSROW)

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people (1Timothy 4:9-10a)

COSROW, is the Annual Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women, that is made up of women and men, laity and clergy who are dedicated to advocate the full and equal participation and equipping of women as transformational leaders in the total life of the church to make a difference in the vitality of our conference and its local churches.

The mission of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women is to challenge The United Methodist Church at all levels to work for full and equal participation of women in the total life of the denomination, including ordination of women, equal access to policy-making and recognition that Jesus Christ calls men and women alike to salvation, liberation, discipleship and service in church and society.

It is with great joy that I have been able to serve continually with dedicated team members throughout this past year. COSROW in the Greater New Jersey Conference carried out its purpose through the following projects: (1) **Helenor Alter Davission Award:** We developed a new award and awarded Rev. Dr. Jusun Kwak as its first

1 recipient at the 2015 Annual Conference. We are honored to award Rev. Patricia L. Bruger in 2016 to affirm her
2 courageous and transformational leadership. (2) **Leadership Development:** Four clergy members attended Do
3 No Harm Leadership Training “Best Practices for Health, Accountability and Wholeness.” (3) **Sexual Ethics**
4 **Training/Workshop** on Thursday, April 14: Its goals are to raise awareness of sexual ethics and issues, prevent
5 sexual abuse, promote healthy boundaries, and bring about justice and healing. (4) **Response Team training:**
6 Seven clergy members received training to support others in moving forward in healing and to provide
7 education to help others understand the nature of sexual misconduct by a faith leader. (5) **Display Table at the**
8 **Annual Conference** to promote our ministry and provide resources for our mission goals.

9 Lastly, I would like to give thanks to our members for their faithful service: Sonia Cancel, Maxine Harris, Gilbert
10 Morris, Diane Pacione, Iraidia Ruiz De Porras, Marcia Roebuck, Yoomi Yi, Evan Rohrs-Dodge, and Beth Caulfield,
11 who is a Conference liaison.

12 Respectfully submitted,
13 Michelle Ryoo, Chair

14 **Report**
15 **Board of Trustees**

16
17 The Officers of the Board are: Chairperson – Rev. Clifford Still; Vice-Chairperson – Rev. James Ryoo; Secretary –
18 MaryBeth Scherer. The following Trustees serve as liaisons to the properties for which the Board is responsible:
19 Ed Bowen, Vicci Hahn, Rev. Hosuk Chung, Judy Hopkins, Jack Green, Rev. Peter Broomall, Rev. David Lehmkuhl,
20 Rev. Rupert Hall, Tracy Estes.

21 The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance/care of the following properties: the Episcopal residence, nine
22 District parsonages, the previous Palisades District parsonage situated in Harrington Park, NJ, the building in
23 Paterson, NJ, as well as the Conference Office building. Additionally, they oversee the actions needed to be
24 taken in reference to churches and parsonages that have been closed, representative of formal action taken at
25 prior Annual Conferences. Seven cemeteries are also under the care of Trustees.

26 Some items of note as a result of Trustee action taken during the 2016 Conference Year:

- 27 • In response to action taken at the 2013 Annual Conference, the Trustees have begun construction of the
28 new Conference office building on the two acre lot in Neptune, NJ. Expected date of occupancy is early
29 2016. The present Conference office is listed for sale and is under contract with a tentative closing date
30 of 3/31/16.

31 The Trustees are privileged to work with, and receive the cooperation of, many individuals and groups
32 throughout the Conference. The counsel which is offered to the Board from Conference Chancellors Lynn
33 Caterson, Esq. and Sanford Brown, Esq. is invaluable. John Cardillo, Conference Treasurer and Director of
34 Administrative Services, serves as Treasurer of the Board and Alexa Taylor, Benefits Services Manager, serves as
35 staff liaison to the Board. As a result of their guidance and expertise in reference to overall financial resources
36 of the GNJAC and specifically the funds which the Board oversees, the Trustees are better equipped to prioritize
37 and responsibly address the needs of the various properties. Likewise, the work of the Board has been
38 enhanced this year with the presence of The Rev. Wayne Plumstead as Cabinet liaison. His dedication,
39 leadership and interest in the matters of the Trustees, particularly as they interface with the Conference in
40 general, is very much appreciated. The Conference Trustees are also grateful for the opportunity to work more
41 closely with Bishop Schol and the Cabinet during the course of this Conference year.

42 Rev. Cliff Still, President

Report

United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey

Vision: We see congregations and conference mission organizations experiencing the joy of generosity and the excitement of increased financial resources to make new disciples, provide inspiring worship, grow faith groups and engage disciples in community mission.

Mission: The Foundation increases disciple making, congregational vitality and community mission engagement by assisting congregations and mission organizations to grow financial assets through stewardship education and investment management.

Officers of the Board: President – Edward N. Bowen, Jr. (laity), Vice President – Sue Goodman (laity), Secretary – William Markert (laity), Treasurer – John Cardillo (conference staff)

Board Members: Rev. Robert Costello, Rev. Richard Hendrickson, Rev. David Mertz, Rev. Bruce Quigley, Jay Gerken (laity), Vasanth Victor (laity)

Brief History:

- Created in 1992 by action of the 135th Session of the Northern Annual Conference
- First Investment was made by the Conference
- In 2000 became the UMF of Greater NJ after the merger of the Southern & Northern Conferences
- Currently Invested: \$6.7 million

Developments in 2015:

- The United Methodist Foundation changed its name to The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey to more accurately reflect its new direction. Rev. Richard Hendrickson was named the Executive Director of the Foundation. Rich fills the long waited and much needed position to provide daily management of the Foundation’s stewardship education and investment management activities.
- Jay Gerken and Vasanth Victor, both laity, joined the foundation to add needed strengths in the areas of financial investment and marketing skills.

Plans & Goals for 2016:

The Foundation is developing marketing and communication plans to educate the churches of the conference as to the resources and capabilities of the Foundation. The Foundation should be considered the “go to source” for all stewardship education and investment management needs of the churches of the conference. The Foundation seeks to grow the investment to over \$15 million in the short term. This will be accomplished by initiating accounts with several local churches that are already in the planning stages.

Plans for further growth will be developed and implemented as the Foundation continues to mature. Now that a solid board and daily management structure are in place the Foundation will strengthen a communication plan and will be rolling out program assistance to all churches.

Respectfully submitted: Edward N. Bowen, Jr.

Report

United Methodist Homes of New Jersey

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3
4 Since the United Methodist Homes of New Jersey (UMH NJ) board of directors approved the Strategic Plan
5 2013 - 2017, we have done much and published this progress in the last two annual reports. The theme for our
6 fiscal year 2015 annual report, Share the Magic of UMH, continues to chart that journey.

7 With Alliance Rehab, Bristol Glen and The Shores at Wesley Manor implemented SeniorFITness, a venture which
8 supports a longstanding priority — improving resident function, quality-of-life and independence. Led by
9 professional exercise physiologists, the multidisciplinary program, designed to be both fun and functional for
10 older adults, improves strength, balance, mobility and mental well-being through a wide assortment of
11 activities. As residents age, improving balance is one of the keys to preventing falls.

12 A significant step toward the Strategic Plan’s expansion of Home and Community Based Services occurred in
13 June 2015 with the launching of The Arms Café at Wesleyan Arms. They have partnered with Home Helpers of
14 Monmouth County and the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey to promote living and learning for the
15 area’s older adults. PineRidge of Montclair’s resource hub and meeting place, Senior Space, successfully
16 continues to offer weekly social interaction, physical exercise and lifelong learning at the Montclair Public Library.

17 As both hubs engage into and with their local communities, the varied calendars include: chair yoga or Zumba®,
18 art, technology, reading and book club discussions, meeting new friends, walking groups, finding information,
19 enjoying the company of others, and more. Resource coordinators offer information about elder care to
20 individuals and their families. This allows access to important resources to successfully age in place at home:
21 meals, home care, tele-health, and chore, social and transportation connections.

22 Our full-service communities continue to transition from a medical model in healthcare to household models,
23 creating environments where residents can live fulfilling, meaningful and self-directed lives. The Shores at
24 Wesley Manor has developed three neighborhoods of approximately 20 residents each. These establish a
25 person-centered model of caring for residents, giving them greater control over their daily routines. We
26 invested almost two years bringing key stakeholders together to learn about and create the model.
27 Conceptual plans of similar scope are in the works for Collingswood, followed by Bristol Glen and then Pitman.

28 As planned and in harmony with Service Expansion, The Shores at Wesley Manor opened six hospice-dedicated
29 apartments in April 2015. Located in a private assisted living neighborhood, each one-bedroom apartment has
30 been custom designed for individuals facing terminal illness that no longer responds to curative treatment. The
31 expertise of the multi-disciplinary hospice team includes advanced, traditional and alternative therapies; 24-
32 hour nursing oversight; medication management; certified caregivers; emotional and spiritual support; personal
33 services; and palliative care for symptom management and pain control. Welcoming gathering spaces for
34 families and friends complement a nurturing atmosphere.

35 We refreshed our mission, vision and values statements and celebrated Commissioning Services for our
36 executive directors and housing administrators. This focus on our Wesleyan Christian values segued into
37 Missioning Services for all associates at each community. They honored associates and their call by God to a
38 ministry of caregiving and affirmed the important impact associates make using their unique gifts and embracing
39 our core values of compassion, respect, stewardship and service. Additionally, Spiritual Care Teams and local
40 Mission Teams have been formed to develop creative ideas for celebrating the Homes’ mission and values in
41 the future.

Reports to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 United Methodist Homes concluded fiscal year 2015 with an overall increase in net assets. We completed a
2 refinancing of debt in October which reduced the amount of interest expense that UMHNJ must pay on our
3 outstanding debt and this resulted in a large decrease in interest expense in 2015. Therefore, through this
4 positive stewardship, we are realizing savings and able to retain more of our cash for other ministry purposes.
5 This promotes goals under the Strategic Plan's mandate to Strengthen the Financial Position of the Ministry.

6 Through the analysis of hospital discharge documentation, all of the full-service communities have created a
7 specialty clinical niche within their respective healthcare centers. Bristol Glen offers a pulmonary specialty
8 while The Shores focuses on cardiac rehabilitation. This initiative has effectively aligned us with several
9 hospitals for stronger referrals and consistency of clinical care as people move from hospital to home.

10 As accountable care organizations and bundled payments have surfaced as key strategies of the federal
11 government to control the cost and quality of healthcare, our ability to reduce hospital readmission rates and
12 track key clinical performance metrics have proved invaluable. This is critically important for our future and
13 will distinguish UMHNJ in the marketplace. We continue conversations with several accountable care
14 organizations and major insurance companies.

15 To advance the Strategic Plan's mandate to Strengthen the Organizational Human Capital, considerable
16 time has been devoted to developing foundational human resources policies and best associate relations
17 practices, including the Fair Treatment Process. Consistent with those outcomes, we issued an Associate
18 Resource Guide. The recruitment, hiring and on-boarding of new talent now aligns with the organizational
19 values. Also, within human resources and aligned with Integrating the UMHNJ Mission into the Fabric of
20 the Ministry, we are assimilating our values into the organizational job descriptions and reinventing the
21 performance evaluation process. In order to make decisions consistent with our organizational values, we
22 are creating a Wesleyan decision-making model.

23 Share the Magic of UMH, a daylong event filled with magic, music, information and inspiration, occurred in May
24 2015. The day held some very serious purposes: bringing together associates who work in eleven unique
25 locations; affirming and acknowledging organization-wide, local site, and individual accomplishments; giving a
26 status report on the Homes; viewing videos featuring the compassionate relationships between associates and
27 residents; and inspiring and motivating staff. Four associates received awards as determined by nominations
28 through an interdisciplinary Awards Committee.

29 United Methodist Homes of New Jersey is united by our commitment to a noble mission and common
30 purpose. Collectively, we have moved our mission and agenda forward with your help. We do this work for
31 the love of people and for the ways in which our efforts improve the human condition. We do it for our love
32 of Newton, East Orange, Montclair, Neptune, Plainfield, Red Bank, Ocean Grove, Ocean City, Collingswood,
33 and Pitman. And we do it for the love of residents who have entrusted their housing and care needs to
34 us for over 108 years.

35 While much work remains toward the Strategic Plan's initiatives, we will continue to embrace omnipresent
36 change and grow. We thank you for your many demonstrations of love, energy, passion, support, and
37 faithfulness, especially to the Fellowship Fund, the cornerstone of our charitable mission. God bless you and the
38 role you play facilitating United Methodist Homes' abundant life.

39 Virginia Samuel Cetuk
40 Chair, Board of Directors
41 United Methodist Homes

Frank Kardashian
Chair, Board of Trustees
United Methodist Homes Foundation

Lawrence D. Carlson
President & CEO
United Methodist Homes

Report

United Methodist Men

Men – according to the General Commission of Methodist Men in Nashville we are struggling. Fewer churches are renewing their charters or becoming chartered for the first time. Thank you for those churches that have been and continue to be chartered.

Reasons given for not chartering from our own churches are:

- \$80.00 annual fee is too high
- What are we getting for being chartered
- Our men’s group has folded
- Pastor does not support the men
- Only have age 60 and above attending our men’s group

Ok, enough about reasons why are churches are not participating with the General Commission of Methodist Men.

- \$80.00 is not a lot of money – look how much you spend on sporting events, eating out, movies, coffee, etc. - what do we get - personal enjoyment or full from eating
- Please look at the UMM General Commission web site www.gcumm.org to see what your \$80.00 supports.

If your men’s group has folded why not consider meeting quarterly with another church or two. There are many churches like yours that have a desire to have men get together, but are small in numbers. Try it. In Matthew 18:20 we read “For where 2 or more are gathered in My name, there am I in the midst of them”.

Pastors’ not supporting the men of your church is only an excuse. Pray about it and talk to the Pastor why he or she does not support United Methodist Men. Be strong and gather together in the name of Jesus Christ for fellowship, devotion, prayer, sharing and missions.

Younger men not coming to church men’s events is certainly an issue. Our young men today are so stretched with work, their families, sports, etc. These men do not want to sit through a meeting. How can we get them involved in men’s ministry? This is your challenge. This is our challenge. Please forward to me walkern@comcast.net if your church is reaching out to this age group.

Getting together for a conference men’s gathering has been difficult. Men do not want to travel far from home for a men’s event. Our conference has now grouped our 9 districts into 3 regions. In 2016 & 2017 there will be regional gatherings for the United Methodist Men, Having 3 gatherings travel time will be less and participation should be greater.

Men let us continue to witness for Christ and to tell others what God has done for us. We do not need a formal setting or a soap box to do this. Opportunities to do this can arise any time if we are alert to them.

In Luke we read “Good people do good things because of the good in their hearts”. Please send me what good things are occurring with the men in your church so they can be shared with other churches.

Thank you for what you are doing in your local church, community, family, district and conference.

Submitted by Rick Walker, President
GNJ United Methodist Men

Report

United Methodist Women

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4 The United Methodist Women continue to fight for the rights of women, children and youth. We practice Faith,
5 Hope and Love in action. This includes our support for social actions causes. We continue to help women who
6 are victims of domestic violence, and those forced into human trafficking. We fight for the rights of women and
7 children being held in our immigration detention centers and the need for legal representation to keep families
8 together.

9
10 We continue to acknowledge racial justice issues. Many of us traveled to Blackstone, VA , where nine
11 conferences attended a Charter for Racial Justice seminar. We discussed issues concerning the United Methodist
12 Women. Our delegates for General Conference and our Bishop received information expressing our concerns for
13 racial justice. A committee was created to become involved with our state legislators to work with the United
14 Methodist Women and its social action issues.

15
16 The United Methodist Women have concerns about those affected by mass incarceration and provide support
17 for those victims who are returning back into society. We also are fighting for providing equal pay for women
18 and supporting the working poor. This includes petitioning major food chains and restaurants to practice fair
19 labor laws for migrant workers and their families.

20
21 A campaign was launched with The League of Women’s Voters to register our youth, and seniors in assisted
22 living facilities. It is important to document addresses changes for absentee ballots and provide the opportunity
23 to vote during the upcoming presidential elections.

24
25 Environmental justices are another form of support to save our environment with its climate changes. This is
26 one of the studies being presented this year at Mission “u.” Our 2015 UMW spring meetings addressed some of
27 these issues. We had a program on “Going Green” and “ Living after Super Storm Sandy.” We learned how to
28 prepare our own natural cleaning products such as all-purpose cleaner, furniture polish and laundry soap. Then
29 we discussed how NJ disposed of the trash accumulated from the homes destroyed by Sandy. This included
30 cleaning up the debris from beaches and the back bays from the flooding. Our other environmental event
31 included “Saving the Bees.” Our bees are being destroyed by the use of GMO’s. This is the use of genetically
32 altered seeds which affect the bees and destroy their hives. Bees are an important part of our food chain in
33 pollinating our crops and fruit trees.

34
35 2015 brought awareness to our sisters of different cultures and race. Our Korean and Hispanic language
36 coordinator and Conference presidents gathered in Nashville, TN for” VOICES,” a seminar presented by UMW
37 National. We discussed topics on how to be more inclusive with our Korean and Hispanic sisters. Also we
38 discussed choosing your delegates for General Conference and to keep the decisions in prayer.

39
40 Mission “U”/ Cooperative School of Christian Mission theme for 2015 was “In Christ a new creation!” 2
41 Corinthians 5:17b. This again included three- day weekend studies at Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ.
42 Saturday included a one- day school experience. The study themes were Created for Happiness, Latin America:
43 People and Faith, The Church and People with Disabilities. The Conference study session was The Church,
44 Policing and The New Jim Crow. Classes were provided in Korean and Spanish for our Korean and Hispanic
45 United Methodist Women. We also included programs for our children and youth. This year our worship services
46 were held in Korean and Spanish with translation in English. This was a new experience and was well received.
47 Our love offering supported The Amistad After School Program. Our ingathering included collecting can goods
48 for the Food Bank of New Jersey.

Reports to the 2016 Annual Conference

1 Our fall meeting involved speakers Deaconess Molly Vickery and Rev. Vanessa Wilson who brought us
2 information and biblical support in Maternal Child Health issues. Music was provided by Grace Pugh -Hubbard.
3 Our ingathering collected 124 layette kits and extra supplies with funding for shipping and handling were sent to
4 The Northfield Hub for UMCOR distribution.

5

6 The Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women sent representatives to United Nations Seminar supporting
7 twenty years of addressing women's issues around the world. Our ladies spent time discussing racial justice
8 issues. Also they addressed the abuse of women and promoting improving self -esteem and education for
9 women with our global missionaries.

10

11 Several of our women also attended the United Methodist Women National Seminar in Chicago, IL. The theme
12 was Interrupting Indifference: Jesus Justice and Joy. The National Seminar equipped and empowered its
13 participants to engage leaders for social justice by practicing skills and tools to respond to current social issues.

14

15 Through the participation in the global ministries for the church the United Methodist Women continue to
16 practice Faith, Hope and Love in Action.

17

18 Blessings,

19 Marilyn Powell

20 GNJUMC, President

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Report
Treasurer's Report

Property & Liability Insurance – 12/31/2015				
Balance Forward		1,083,384		
Receipts:				
Interest Income	1,799			
Premiums from Churches	2,878,178			
Worker's Compensation	529,655			
Prior Year Receipts	171,215			
	3,580,847			
Disbursements:				
Insurance Premiums	3,323,706			
Auto Insurance	17,157			
Claim Deductibles	51,020			
Strategic Transformation Grants	4,151			
Worker's Compensation	436,959			
Salary	40,719			
Other Expenses	77,513			
	3,951,225			
Change in Operation		(370,378)		
Ending Balance 12/31/15		713,006		
Ending Balance as of 12/31/15 is for Reserves for Uncollectible Premiums.				

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Health Insurance Accounts - Greater NJ Annual Conference

	12/31/2014	12/31/2015	Variance
Assets			
Health Insurance Investments-BOA	7,072,845	4,139,810	(2,933,035)
A/R-GNJAC	1,894,273	1,503,867	(390,406)
Mortgage Receivable-CBOPHB	0	3,340,000	3,340,000
Total Assets	8,967,118	8,983,677	16,559
Liabilities			
Post Retirement Benefits	59,970,551	51,687,699	(8,282,852)
Total Liabilities	59,970,551	51,687,699	(8,282,852)
Actives Fund			
Balance Forward	11,675	16,521	4,846
(Receipts)			
Billing Non-Annuitants	4,782,382	4,743,577	(38,805)
Dist. Supt. & Staff Premiums	543,542	491,250	(52,292)
Staff Family Premiums	0	0	0
2% of Sal. Contrib.W/H fr Staff&DS's	39,509	38,705	(804)
Incapacity from 127	902,649	882,584	(20,065)
Transfer from 127 Subsidy	483,000	500,000	17,000
Total Receipts	6,751,082	6,656,116	(94,966)
(Disbursements)			
Non- Annuitants Premium	6,429,138	6,353,603	(75,535)
Consulting Fee	0	0	0
Other Expense	0	0	0
Transfer 2% Pastor Salary Contribution	277,889	276,026	(1,863)
Transfer 2% Staff Salary Contribution	39,210	37,544	(1,666)
Total Disbursements	6,746,237	6,667,173	(79,064)
Receipts less Disbursements	4,845	(11,057)	(15,902)
Balance	16,520	5,464	(11,056)
ANNUITANTS Fund			
Balance Forward	0	0	0
(Receipts)			
Shared Ministries for Annuitants	2,365,025	1,908,900	(456,125)
Billing for Annuitants over 65	68,138	44,522	(23,616)
Billing for Annuitants under 65	56,380	50,152	(6,228)
Medicare	177,627	0	(177,627)
2% Salary Funds Reserve Transfer	273,128	467,586	194,458
Transfer from 127 Subsidy	252,000	0	(252,000)
Total Receipts	3,192,298	2,471,160	(721,138)
(Disbursements)			
Blue Cross - Premium Expense	2,969,137	2,238,966	(730,171)
Administration Expense	19,667	18,735	(932)
Staff Expense	104,054	164,074	60,020
CBO – Salary	25,220	26,205	985
Adoption Support/ Refunds	0	0	0
Consulting Agency Fee	74,220	23,180	(51,040)
Total Disbursements	3,192,298	2,471,160	(721,138)
Receipts less Disbursements	0	0	0
Balance	0	0	0

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Reports to the 2016 Annual Conference

Reserve Fund for Retiree Health Ins.			
Balance Forward	7,792,802	8,929,812	1,137,010
(Receipts)			
Centenary Fund Additional Contribution	513,591	539,271	25,680
Transfer 2% Pastor Salary Contribution	277,889	276,026	(1,863)
Transfer 2% Staff Salary Contribution	39,210	37,544	(1,666)
Investment Income	90,366	15,337	(75,029)
Misc Income	2,867,876	2,187,026	(680,850)
Total Receipts	3,788,932	3,055,204	(733,728)
(Disbursements)			
Transfer to Annuitants	525,128	467,586	(57,542)
Transfer to Non Annuitants	483,000	500,000	17,000
Dividend Expense	0	703,025	703,025
Strategic Transformation Grants	116,280	78,682	(37,598)
GNJAC Settlement / Mortgage Subsidy	324,865	195,005	(129,860)
Transfer to Annuitants Incapacity	902,649	882,584	(20,065)
Transfer to Reserve	300,000	200,000	(100,000)
Total Disbursements	2,651,922	3,026,882	374,960
Receipts - Disbursements	1,137,010	28,322	(1,108,688)
Balance	8,929,812	8,958,134	28,322
DENTAL Fund Balance Forward			
	14,441	20,784	6,343
Billing for Dental Insurance	78,601	72,861	(5,740)
Dental Insurance Premiums	72,257	73,566	1,309
Receipts - Disbursements	6,344	(705)	(7,049)
Balance	20,785	20,079	(706)
Post Retirement Fund Balance Forward			
	(61,906,385)	(59,970,551)	1,935,834
Current Year Transactions	1,935,834	8,282,852	6,347,018
Balance	(59,970,551)	(51,687,699)	8,282,852
Interest Reserve Fund Balance Forward			
	0	0	0
Current Year Transactions	0	0	0
Balance	0	0	0
			0
Total Fund Balance	(51,003,434)	(42,704,022)	8,299,412

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Pension Accounts - Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

	12/31/14	12/31/15	Variance
ASSETS			
A/R-GNJAC	1,012,807	348,619	(664,188)
GBOP Deposit Account	1,246,811	1,521,338	274,527
Pension Investments-BOA	936,490	939,858	3,368
Accounts Receivable -GBOPHB	0	0	0
Total Assets	3,196,108	2,809,815	(386,293)

LIABILITIES			
Pension	0	0	0
Due to Conference	0	0	0
Total Liabilities	0	0	0

General Fund			
Balance Forward	3,629,895	3,196,108	(433,787)

Reports to the 2016 Annual Conference

<i>Receipts</i>			
Investment Income	37,710	3,368	(34,342)
GBOP Invest. Gain/(Loss)	12,200	(44,249)	(56,449)
GBOP Invest. Refund/Adj	0	1,209	1,209
GBOP CPP Premium Holiday	0	0	0
UM Publishing Income			0
Annual Conference Offering			0
Chartered Fund Income	1,322	612	(710)
Pre-Retirement Seminar Income	470	515	45
Total Receipts	51,702	(38,545)	(90,247)
<i>Disbursements</i>			
Global Pension Trust			
Pensions - Moving Expense Reimb	34,877	45,634	10,757
Grants/Relief	2,734	1,496	(1,238)
GNJAC -Settlement / Mortgage Subsidy	148,808	113,752	(35,056)
Pre-Retirement Seminar Expense			0
Strategic Transformation Grants	55,137	0	(55,137)
Staff Expense	173,092	128,548	(44,544)
CBO Salary Expense	25,220	26,205	985
Pension Adjustment Expense	0	0	0
Refunds	7,229	0	(7,229)
Operating Expenses	38,392	32,113	(6,279)
Total Disbursements	485,489	347,748	(137,741)
General Fund Balance	3,196,108	2,809,815	(386,293)
Receipts – Disbursements	(433,787)	(386,293)	47,494

Current Service Fund			
Balance Forward	0	0	0
<i>Receipts</i>			
General Board of Pension Income	1,967,861	2,018,996	51,135
Staff Premiums			0
Conference CRSP/ MPP Income	2,509,748	2,643,893	134,145
Conference CPP Income	577,556	590,356	12,800
Total Receipts	5,055,165	5,253,245	198,080
<i>Disbursements</i>			
Refunds/Adjustments			
Transfer to Fund 127 Retiree Health	1,989,332	2,149,227	159,895
Expense entry	1,784,928	1,814,785	29,857
GBOP Billing	1,280,905	1,289,233	8,328
Total Disbursements	5,055,165	5,253,245	198,080
Current Service Fund Balance	0	0	0
Receipts – Disbursements	0	0	0

Interest Reserve Fund			
Interest Reserve Fund Balance	0	0	0

0			
Total Fund Balance	3,196,108	2,809,815	(386,293)

Reports to the 2016 Annual Conference

2015 Receipts Comparison

Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

Fd #	Funds	2013			2014			2015			
		Budget	Dec YTD	%Budget	Budget	Dec YTD	%Budget	Budget	Dec YTD	%Budget	
Shared Ministry Funds	100	DO,ClergySup.,Admin	5,582,156	4,646,793	83.24%	5,890,456	4,989,578	84.71%	5,727,298	5,014,342	87.55%
	200	Admin. (Beginning 2005)	2,636,082	2,416,812	91.68%	3,077,536	2,806,347	91.19%	2,947,208	2,729,383	92.61%
	300	WorldService/Conf.Ben.	3,475,707	2,750,933	79.15%	3,498,839	2,909,309	83.15%	3,745,763	3,194,351	85.28%
	410	Black College	216,407	172,432	79.68%	216,512	179,375	82.85%	202,814	171,595	84.61%
	420	Africa University	48,420	40,858	84.38%	48,443	42,417	87.56%	45,383	39,369	86.75%
	430	Ministerial Education	542,572	423,998	78.15%	542,782	443,338	81.68%	508,422	424,310	83.46%
		Subtotal	12,501,344	10,451,826	83.61%	13,274,568	11,370,365	85.66%	13,176,888	11,573,351	87.83%
		Prior Yr. Shared Ministry		20,586			8,425			19,931	
Billing Funds		CRSP	3,198,781	2,953,946	92.35%	2,621,770	2,420,756	92.33%	2,594,175	2,488,714	95.93%
		2014/Prior Year CRSP	362,504	89,927		289,011	64,059		195,362	66,959	
		Prior Years CRSP	1,404,029	16,078		1,574,166	24,932		1,765,279	88,219	
		Total CRSP	4,965,315	3,059,951	61.63%	4,484,946	2,509,748	55.96%	4,554,816	2,643,893	58.05%
		Comp. Protection Plan	585,485	544,865	93.06%	590,639	558,717	94.60%	585,452	559,546	95.58%
		2014/Prior Year CPP	67,153	17,797		53,203	14,530		42,922	13,892	
		Prior Years CPP	317,390	6,844		339,013	4,310		372,875	16,919	
		Total CPP	970,027	569,506	58.71%	982,855	577,556	58.76%	1,001,249	590,357	58.96%
		Property/Liab. Insurance	2,834,348	2,590,636	91.40%	2,825,531	2,728,927	96.58%	3,056,080	2,878,178	94.18%
		2014/Prior Year P/L	268,856	59,632		246,307	54,670		245,787	73,140	
		Prior Years P/L Insurance	1,439,129	31,921		1,610,905	47,822		1,755,405	92,364	
		Total P/L Ins.	4,542,333	2,682,189	59.05%	4,682,743	2,831,419	60.46%	5,057,272	3,043,683	60.18%
		Health Insurance	4,861,555	4,559,691	93.79%	4,658,072	4,598,335	98.72%	4,276,240	4,227,385	98.86%
		2014/Prior Yr Health Ins	669,850	152,293		436,619	91,886		332,648	101,139	
		P/Ys Health Insurance	2,130,073	49,844		2,425,383	27,931		2,722,289	123,685	
		Total Health Ins.	7,661,479	4,761,827	62.15%	7,520,075	4,718,151	62.74%	7,331,177	4,452,209	60.73%
		Workers Comp Ins	475,275	455,400	95.82%	518,808	507,381	97.80%	536,164	529,655	98.79%
		2014 Workers Comp	20,707	5,891		19,650	6,030		8,799	-1,605	
		Prior Years Workers Comp	78,906	2,227		90,746	1,514		101,586	7,316	
		Total Workers Comp Ins	574,888	463,518	80.63%	629,204	514,924	81.84%	646,549	535,366	82.80%
Total Shared Min. & Billing		31,215,386	22,009,403	70.51%	31,574,391	22,530,588	71.36%	31,767,951	22,858,789	71.96%	
Special Giving		0	1,627,581		0	1,436,805		0	1,082,584		
GRAND TOTAL		31,215,386	23,636,983		31,574,391	23,967,393		31,767,951	23,941,373		

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Report

Treasurer's Report Appendix A

APPENDIX A

Approved Greater New Jersey Conference

Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

2017