

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