

Report

Commission on Camps, Conferences and Retreats, Inc

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

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

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

Report submitted by:
Commission on Camps, Conferences and Retreats

Report

Candler School of Theology

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

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

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

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

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.

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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.

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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.

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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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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