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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Ryoo, Chair

**Report**
**Board of Trustees**

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

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

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

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

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

Rev. Cliff Still, President