

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

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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.