Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

Be it further resolved that the proper officers of the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church are hereby empowered and authorized to execute all such deeds, mortgages, notes, bonds, and other documents necessary to implement the purchase or sale of such Conference-owned properties.

Submitted by GNJAC Board of Trustees
Clifford Still, President

Recommendation
Conference Advance Specials 2016-17

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

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

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

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

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

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

CUMAC/ECHO works to alleviate hunger and its root causes for those in need in Paterson, Passaic County and northern NJ. CUMAC has a pantry feeding 3,000+ monthly. The Depot warehouses over 2 million pounds of food annually for a network of about 40 partner feeding programs. This Community Food Coalition (CFC) distributes food while also screening clients for member pantries. They advocate at the local and state level on behalf of CFC clients. CUMAC also has a Community Closet that offers clothing & household items; Pathways to Work that imparts job skills and hands-on experience; Place of Promise that is a supportive housing program for chronically homeless individuals; and seasonal projects for school supplies, holiday gifts and other items for area children in need. All of the programs rely heavily on volunteers and financial support from the community.
Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference

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

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

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

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

Ranch Hope/Victory House provides ministry to troubled boys ages 9 to 16½ and services to troubled girls between the ages of 14–18 years. They are faith-based and provide learning environments for those whose needs can best be met through experiences outside their homes. They can obtain or regain their long-term academic, behavioral, and spiritual focus in their residential setting. Counseling, housing and recreation are offered, as well as spiritual guidance, time to attend chapel services and Bible study. Both Ranch Hope and Victory House are licensed by New Jersey State Department of Children and Families.

Submitted by Barbara McFarquhar
Conference Board of Global Ministries