

**Report**

**Council on Finance and Administration**

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The economy of New Jersey continued improving in 2015 and the Shared Ministry collection rate was up 2%. 394 of our local churches paid 100% of their shared ministry allocation, up from 391 last year. 481 paid 100% of their billables, down from 485 last year. We are grateful to the churches of the conference for their stewardship.

As in prior years, committees, boards and agencies were prudent in their spending and the income from conference investments continued to perform well, in line with the general financial markets. Therefore overall financial results were in line with budget projections for 2015.

As a result of contributions from the Board of Trustees, the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and the Council on Finance and Administration, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference has moved into our new building mortgage free.

For the ninth year in a row, our conference paid 100% of its general church apportionments. GNJAC was one of the 26 out of 56 conferences that paid 100%. We thank the Bishop, Cabinet and Program Staff for their leadership and we thank our local churches for their faithful stewardship and hard work, all of which make these results possible.

Other items of note from our activities this year:

1. In accord with conference legislation, and with the leadership of the Bishop and Cabinet, all of the churches receiving equitable or supplemental compensation grants paid 100% of their Disciplinary Obligations.
2. Financial training has again been provided at the District Days of Learning. Emphasis was on the various matters of interest to local churches. We are looking into ways to develop services that CFA might be able to provide to local churches, such as auditing or financial planning and budgeting.
3. Conference investments again performed well in 2015, matching the benchmarks. Our portfolio is well diversified and as a result of our investment gain trends over the last several years, the CFA continues to authorize a payout rate of 5%.
4. On line collection of the data for statistical reports continues to go well. Errors have been much reduced with the new system and local churches have been much better able to meeting reporting timetables. As an added benefit, the information needed for conference management is available nearly 6 months earlier that it had been under the old system.

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration wants to thank Bishop Schol, the Cabinet and the Program Staff for their continuing support and encouragement. We also want to thank John Cardillo, Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services, and his staff for their hard work and support.

John Bishop, President  
Conference Council on Finance and Administration