

1 **Report**

2 Parish and Community Development Committee

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4 The members of the Parish and Community Development Committee met on September 17, 2015, and  
5 participated in the Conference’s Board, Agencies and Committees Strategic Session on January 9, 2016. We  
6 have reviewed our goals and affirm our recommendation to have them be examined by the Connectional  
7 Ministries Team.

- 8 1. Find out how many of our churches would be considered local-community-churches verses mostly-  
9 commuter-churches. This statistic would encourage conversations that would help us to define the very  
10 terms parish and community as they present themselves within our conference, and would be beneficial in  
11 the planning of effective clergy and laity peer group conversations and inter-congregational relationships.  
12 2. Connectional Database for our Conference. We propose the creation of a database that would have  
13 relevant reference information for ministry and outreach by offering a central place of parish-community  
14 resources for our GNJUMC family. Our vision is that it would serve as a comprehensive connectional tool  
15 that would help us to see the richness of gifts and experience that we already have in our churches and that  
16 would encourage collaboration among our congregations. The purpose of the database would not be to  
17 simply show success stories to be duplicated. We understand that every community and church is unique,  
18 but we also know that we can learn from one another and that our ministries can be enriched by the sharing  
19 of our experiences. Therefore, we propose the following:  
20 a) Creation of a Connectional Database to include data to be sent by laity and clergy and to include  
21 categories such as personal experiences, gifts and graces, areas of expertise, work experience,  
22 success stories, and failures.  
23 b) That the information inputted into the database would show anonymously and would be reviewed  
24 prior to posting ideally by a lay person within our conference who has experience with statistics.  
25 c) Care would be given to designing a system that allows contact with persons for additional sharing  
26 without making their personal information public.

27 May the work of our Conference always be led by the Spirit of God with us.

28 Maylis de la Fe, chairperson

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30 **Report**

31 Board of Pension and Health Benefits

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33 The Greater New Jersey Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (the Board) is authorized by *The Book of*  
34 *Discipline of the United Methodist Church* to contribute to the support, relief, assistance and pensioning of clergy and  
35 their families, as well as other church workers and lay employees of the United Methodist Church.

36 Working with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the Board endeavors to implement and interpret  
37 national and conference policy.

38 PENSION

39 *Pre-1982 Pension Plan*

40 The 2016 Past Service Annuity Rate for pre-1982 annuitant payment is \$646 per year of pre-1982 service. The 2017  
41 Past Service Annuity Rate for pre-1982 annuitant payment will be \$658. The pre-1982 pension program continues to  
42 be fully funded and in a strong position.