

A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign Manual
The United Methodist Church
Greater New Jersey Conference

*Extending the Mission of the Church
Locally, Regionally and Globally*

For use only by The United Methodist Congregations of the Greater New Jersey Conference
For A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign

A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign Manual

A Word from Bishop John Schol

Great challenges call disciples to greater faith and action. I believe God is ready to work a miracle in our midst. I have seen how God has used Greater New Jersey United Methodists to achieve amazing ministry and I believe God is ready to do a miracle through us. A miracle that will raise more than \$12 million dollars but an even greater miracle that lives will change, faith will grow and congregations will be strengthened. I invite you to journey with me through prayer, belief and a readiness to be used for the purposes of God.

This manual will assist you in carrying out a successful Mission Fund Campaign. I caution you not to take shortcuts. Great challenges are not overcome by taking shortcuts. We have developed resources and steps that are easy to implement if you pray, plan and organize as outlined in the manual.

One of the most frequently asked questions we receive is how much are we expected to give, to raise from our congregation. The mission will be blessed by whatever you raise as you carry out these steps. Do not focus on the amount, but on inviting people to make a sacrifice that is worthy of God and the mission.

So let's get started and work together to achieve the miracle God wants to bless us with.

John Schol, Bishop
United Methodist Church
Greater New Jersey Conference

Table of Contents

A Future with Hope Mission Fund Goal.....	5
Why Are We Raising Funds for Sandy, Imagine No Malaria and Local Mission?	5
Theological Grounding for Giving	5
Principles for Success.....	5
For Congregations Worshiping Under 50 Worshipers.....	6
For Congregations That Are Already Engaged in a Capital Campaign	6
Why conduct <i>A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign</i> during Your Regular Stewardship Campaign?.....	6
Overview	7
Overview of the Campaign.....	7
Overview of the Resources	7
CAMPAIGN SNAPSHOT	9
Selecting Leadership to Organize and Carry Out the Campaign.....	10
Campaign Chairperson.....	10
Three Simple Questions Chairperson	10
Worship Team Leader.....	11
Small Group Chairperson.....	11
Mission Engagement Chairperson	11
Leadership Dinner Chairperson.....	12
Celebration Luncheon Chairperson	12
Church Treasurer	12
Pastor	13
Timeline	14
Resources	19
Celebration Luncheon Tally Sheet	19
Celebration Luncheon RSVP	20
<i>A Future with Hope</i> Sunday.....	20
The Commitment Card.....	23
Leadership Dinner and Commitments.....	23
Letters to the Congregation.....	25

Worship, Small Groups and Devotional series 28
How to Organize a Mission Fair 28
Choosing a Local Mission Project for 25% of the Funds You Raise..... 29
Report Form for the Greater New Jersey Conference 29
Campaign Follow Up 30

A Future with Hope Mission Fund Goal

The clergy and lay representatives from our 580 congregations approved a campaign at the 2013 Annual Conference to raise \$12 million dollars for critical and urgent mission. This includes:

- \$7 million for Sandy relief and recovery. The total budget \$21.8 million to restore 300-500 homes of low income, elderly and disabled people. Our ministry will work with the people who do not have insurance or do not have enough funding from other sources. These are the most vulnerable in our society.
- \$2 million for Imagine No Malaria. A child dies every 60 seconds from malaria. Our fund will save an estimated 50,000 children.
- \$3 million for local church mission. Twenty-five percent of every dollar your church raises stays in your congregation to be used for mission projects in your community. Later in the manual you will find more information and a resource to help you identify your community missions.

Why Are We Raising Funds for Sandy, Imagine No Malaria and Local Mission?

Why are we conducting this campaign? Because people need us more than ever right now. There are tens of thousands of people who still are not in their homes or are living on the second floor waiting for help to repair their ground floor. There are children dying of malaria, a deadly disease that once took the lives of thousands of US citizens. Just as we have eliminated death by malaria in the US, we can do this in Africa as well. Since United Methodists have been working to end this disease, the death of children has gone from one every 30 seconds to one every 60 seconds. United Methodists, working with people around the world, will end death by malaria. Lastly, your congregation's engagement in mission not only helps people, but it also strengthens the witness of Christ through your congregation. We want to grow vital congregations through mission in our communities.

Theological Grounding for Giving

We give because God first gave to us. God gave us life, salvation and *a future with hope*. Our giving is giving back a portion of all that God has blessed us with. Here are two things to keep in mind as we give:

- God does not expect equal gifts but equal sacrifice. In Luke 21:1-4, Jesus tells the story of the widow's mite. In the story, a wealthy man expects God and others to be overwhelmed by his generosity. In reality, he gave only a very small portion of his wealth. A widow on the other hand, poor and humble gave two pennies. Jesus said her gift blessed God more because of her great sacrifice. Faithful giving flows from our heart not our wallet. Miraculous giving flows from God's abundance, not our fear of sacrifice.
- God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). If giving is duty, it is not from a Christ-like heart. We give to bless God and to bless others. Joy grows from blessing God and others. We invite this to be a joyous time in the church, not a burden; a time of hope and possibility.

Principles for Success

As you read and implement the actions and strategies in this manual, they will seem like a series of activities. They are more than activities, they are interconnected principles. Shortcuts and skipping steps will miss blessings and opportunities for a great and successful story. We will outline principles along the way to help you understand why a particular activity is critical to the blessing.

For Congregations Worshipping Under 50 Worshipers

The following strategies and resources are designed to work well with a congregation of any size. If you are worshipping under 50 worshippers, you are encouraged to combine some of the leadership positions. Your congregation generally communicates and responds differently than congregations over 50 in worship. For instance, the Campaign Chairperson and Leadership Dinner Chairperson positions may be combined. Other positions can be combined as well.

For Congregations That Are Already Engaged in a Capital Campaign

Some of our congregations are already engaged in a capital campaign. We do not expect these congregations to organize a second campaign. The most important thing you can do is to complete your existing campaign successfully. If you are in your last year of your campaign, you may want to wait a year to conduct *A Future with Hope Mission Campaign*. You can have special offerings and events that can achieve positive results without sacrificing your present campaign. We want to work with you to develop your plan of action. To discuss ideas and resources, please contact Carolyn Conover, our Director of Communications and Development, at cconover@gnjumc.org or Rich Hendrickson, our Stewardship Director, at rhendrickson@gnjumc.org.

Why conduct *A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign* during Your Regular Stewardship Campaign?

People's first instinct is not to conduct a special campaign during the regular fall stewardship campaign. Their concern is that *A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign* will detract from the giving of the congregation. If you organize and carry out a united stewardship campaign and Mission Fund Campaign, just the opposite will occur – you will experience greater support for your congregation's existing ministry. Why? Participation in the *Mission Fund Campaign* enhances local church giving because 25% of the monies raised remain in the local church. In addition, people do not like to have multiple requests to make commitments to the same church/organization. You are encouraged to conduct your regular stewardship campaign and *A Future with Hope Mission Campaign* at the same time. In fact, the first priority is giving to the local congregation's ministry. Bishop Schol said, "*The local church is the primary place of mission and ministry. Disciples' first giving and priority should be to their congregation*" (Bishop John Schol, 2013 Annual Conference Session, May 31, 2013). A letter and video will be available to share with your congregation from Bishop Schol. In the letter and video, Bishop Schol indicates that each worshipper should make their first gift to the congregation and as a second-mile gift, a commitment to *A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign*.

Principle – Disciples prefer the congregation's regular stewardship campaign and a mission campaign to be run at the same time so that people can assess their commitments at one time. Doing both at the same time will strengthen giving to the congregation's ministry and encourage a second-mile gift.

Overview

Overview of the Campaign

A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign uses 1 Chronicles 29. In this passage, King David raises the resources to build the temple. It is a modeling process that begins first with King David making a gift from his treasury, followed by the leaders of the tribes making their gifts. When the people saw the generosity of their leaders, they gave generously. The campaign is to be conducted over a 4-week period of time. The key elements to the campaign are:

Mission: The purpose of the campaign is to support mission work in our local communities, in our region and in the world. One of the key elements is for your congregation to identify mission projects in your communities. Ideally, you should focus on two categories of local mission

1. Identify and carry out a mission project to be started or completed during the 4 week period of the campaign.
2. Identify and plan for a new or enhanced mission project to be completed with monies raised for the *Mission Fund Campaign* that will stay in your church.

Small Group Ministry: Small groups provide an avenue for dynamic and vital worship. The *Mission Fund Campaign* can be used to jumpstart your small group ministry. Small groups should be determined by the needs and worshippers of your community. A Small Group should be set up to discuss *Three Simple Questions* by Bishop Rueben Jobs (www.gnjumc.org/missionfund), but other studies can be added as you see fit to meet the needs and interests of the congregation.

Giving: A God-sized mission calls for generous giving and commitment. Gifts to the campaign can be one-time or over a three year period. Each congregation will be asked to make a three-year pledge to the Conference based on the sum of commitments from worshippers.

Principle – people follow their leaders. To experience God’s blessing and to witness a miracle, each church is called to use the biblical principle of 1 Chronicles 29: leaders model for the disciples how God is at work through their generosity and the people will follow. You will see later, that your congregation’s leaders will be invited to make their commitments first and that this witness will be shared with the congregation prior to making their commitment.

Overview of the Resources

There is a wealth of resources available to conduct the campaign. This manual outlines most of what you will need. In addition, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference has made available on the website (www.gnjumc.org/missionfund):

- A 4-week Small Group Study on *Three Simple Questions*
- A 4-week preaching series based on *Three Simple Questions*

- A list of mission consultants comprised of area pastors who have volunteered to make themselves available to work with congregations on identifying vital mission.
- A list of preachers available for *A Future with Hope Sunday* if you'd like to have a guest speaker that day.

In addition, through a grant from Imagine No Malaria, GNJAC has hired a Field Coordinator, Rebecca Nichols, (rebeccanichols@gnjumc.org) who will be available to work with you to conduct the campaign or train your congregational leaders in conducting the campaign. Rich Hendrickson, Stewardship Coordinator (rhendrickson@gnjumc.org) and Carolyn Conover, Director of Communication and Development (cconover@gnjumc.org) will also be available to work with you and your congregation.

CAMPAIGN SNAPSHOT

		Pastor	Chairs	Congregation
10 to 12 weeks in advance	Campaign Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selects campaign chairs - Reviews manual - Identify guest speakers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review manual - Set key dates - Identify mission projects - Set up Small Groups 	
7 to 9 weeks in advance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Order materials - Identify potential major donors - Start publicizing campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote Small Group series - Promote Mission fair/project - Plan Celebration Lunch - Plan Leadership Dinner 	
4 to 6 weeks in advance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Announce <i>A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign</i> - Circulate <i>Three Simple Questions</i> - Send Letter 1 - Plan worship services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invite congregation to Small Groups and Mission Fair/Project - Invite leaders to Leadership Dinner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Join Small Groups - Engage in Mission - <i>Three Simple Questions</i>
3 weeks in advance	Kick Off Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Announce campaign and goals - Send Letter 2 - Week 1 of worship series 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share local Mission Project or hold Mission Fair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meet in small groups - Engage in mission - <i>Three Simple Questions</i>
2 weeks in advance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Week 2 of worship series 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leadership Dinner - Invite congregation to Celebration lunch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meet in small groups - Engage in mission - <i>Three Simple Questions</i>
1 weeks in advance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Week 3 of worship series - Announce leadership gifts - Send invitation to worshippers who did not RSVP to luncheon invitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage congregation in mission project - Call worshippers who did not RSVP to letter invitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meet in small groups - Engage in mission - <i>Three Simple Questions</i>
Commitment Sunday!	A Future with Hope Commitment Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final week of worship series - Send Letter 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ask congregation for commitments - Hold Celebration Lunch - Announce total commitments for congregation and leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make commitments to the campaign - Enjoy lunch
1 week after Commitment Sunday		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Send Letter 4 - Share the outcome of Commitment Sunday with the congregation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report the results to GNJAC 	

Selecting Leadership to Organize and Carry Out the Campaign

Identifying and selecting leadership who will lead the organization and implementation of the plan is critical to your success. When the right leaders are in place, a project goes well.

Principle – Selecting the right leadership will make your campaign successful. The following are qualities to prayerfully consider as you select leaders.

1. Deeply spiritual and committed leaders
2. Leaders who follow through
3. Leaders that people want to follow
4. Leaders with a proven track record
5. Leaders who are collaborative
6. Leaders who are organized
7. Leaders who give time, talent and money generously

Campaign Chairperson

The campaign chairperson will lead the team and be the spokesperson for the campaign. The Chairperson:

- signs letters along with the pastor,
- speaks to the congregation about the reasons for the campaign, raises interest and enthusiasm for the campaign, and motivates the congregation to give generously by example,
- convenes the team and ensures other campaign leaders are following through, and
- ensures the campaign principles are followed.

Three Simple Questions Chairperson

A unique part of *A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign* is engaging the congregation in reading Bishop Rueben Job's book, *Three Simple Questions*. This short unique book helps disciples reflect on guiding questions for their life. The *Mission Fund Campaign* seeks to increase spirituality in the congregation through worship, small group study and reading the book, *Three Simple Questions*. The book invites disciples into a deeper relationship with God through three questions. Our goal is to have as many of the people in the congregation read the book as possible, not by purchasing a copy of the book for each worshipper, but by passing several books through the congregation. By passing the books, we create opportunities for people to share not just the books, but their thoughts and reactions as well. It is a short book and can be read in an evening. The goal is for a person to read the book and pass it on to someone else at a meeting, event or weekend worship. Each time a person reads the book, they sign the front inside cover. The conference has purchased books for your congregation and has given them to your pastor. The role of the *Three Simple Questions* chairperson is to explain the plan and encourage people to pass the book along each week. The Chairperson may want to set a goal for each book and how many times it is read. After the commitment Sunday, people are encouraged to give the book to people outside the congregation to read and pass on to someone else.

The role of the Three Simple Questions Chairperson is to:

- read and sign your name in the first book,

- recruit several people to be the first readers of the other copies of the book and then circulate it to another person explaining the concept,
- announce the project to the congregation during worship and according to the timeline presented later in the manual,
- place an article in the church newsletter and on the web page,
- track and tally total number of worshippers who have read the book and report this number to the Church Treasurer prior to Commitment Sunday, and
- help reach the goal of having 80% or more of the worshippers read the book.

Worship Team Leader

The Worship Team Leader helps to incorporate the campaign into the four week worship series leading up to commitment Sunday. Through prayer, music and other liturgy, he or she will reinforce the themes of mission, giving, and hope. There are worship resources listed on the GNJ web page under *Mission Fund* (www.gnjumc.org/missionfund). The Worship Team Leader should work closely with the pastor and may want to solicit others to join them.

Small Group Chairperson

Small groups grow disciples and provide an entry point for new people into the life of the congregation. The goal during the *Mission Fund Campaign* is to engage 75% of the worshippers in a four-week small group experience. This experience will demonstrate how small groups can support and help congregations grow in their faith. Small groups usually involve 5-10 disciples. Resources for small group leaders, including discussion starters and guided questions, can be found at www.gnjumc.org/missionfund. The Small Group Chairperson's role is to:

- identify the number of small groups you will need to engage all congregants in small groups,
- recruit leaders to facilitate the conversation for each small group,
- hold an orientation and training for the small group leaders,
- publicize the theme, locations, and times for the various small groups,
- provide a process for people to enroll in one of the small groups,
- track and tally the total number of worshippers who have participated in small groups and report this number to the Church Treasurer prior to Commitment Sunday, and
- check in with the small group leaders during the four weeks to ensure the groups are going well.

Mission Engagement Chairperson

Mission experiences are important to the life of the congregation, to the disciples of a congregation and especially to those that will be served. The goal is to provide mission and outreach opportunities for the congregation during the *Mission Fund Campaign*. Examples of mission and outreach include organizing a cleanup day, volunteering at a homeless shelter or feeding program, or visiting people. Later in the manual there is a resource for holding a mission fair following worship to engage worshippers in mission projects. The Mission Engagement Chairperson is to:

- identify a variety of mission outreach experiences,
- identify team leaders for each mission experience,
- publicize the outreach opportunities and how people can register for one of the projects,
- organize a process for people to sign up,
- report to the congregation how many people engaged in an outreach ministry,

- track and tally the total number of worshippers who have participated in mission over the 4-week period of the campaign and report this number to the Church Treasurer prior to Commitment Sunday, and
- arrange for participants to share their experience with the pastor as an opportunity for a testimony on Sunday morning.

Leadership Dinner Chairperson

The leadership dinner is an opportunity for the leaders of the local church to gather to hear about the campaign and to make their commitments. The leadership dinner should be held at someone's home or at a restaurant (outside the church building) to underline the importance of the event and honor the leaders for their service. During the meal, the campaign will be explained and the leaders will have the opportunity to make their contribution. We are following a biblical process from 1 Chronicles 29 in which the leadership creates a model of generosity and when the people see the generosity of the leaders, the people also give generously. The role of the Leadership Dinner Chairperson is to:

- work with the pastor to identify the leaders to be invited to the dinner,
- prepare and email/mail invitations to the leaders,
- identify an appropriate place other than the church to host the dinner, and
- make arrangements for the dinner.

Celebration Luncheon Chairperson

The celebration luncheon is held on *A Future with Hope Commitment Sunday*. All members and regular worshippers should be invited and those who do not respond called personally. A personal call will help build attendance and reactivate some people who have not been attending. The lunch should be catered so that all members of the congregation can be at worship. The luncheon communicates this is an important day and it increases attendance because people make a reservation for the luncheon. During the luncheon the sum of the commitments from the congregation is announced and celebrated to the glory of God. The role of the Celebration Luncheon Chairperson is to:

- prepare the invitation to the congregation for the luncheon,
- organize how people will register for the luncheon,
- identify a simple meal and how it will be catered,
- organize a team of people to call every member that did not register for the meal on the Sunday prior to the meal, and
- recruit volunteers for meal set up and clean up.

Church Treasurer

On *A Future with Hope Commitment Sunday*, the Church Treasurer is responsible for tallying and reporting the commitments to the stewardship campaign and *A Future with Hope Mission Fund*. The Treasurer will also be responsible for remitting the funds on a quarterly basis over the three years of the pledge commitments. See the *Resources Section* for a Remittance Form. The role of the Church Treasurer is to:

- recruit a team of people to calculate the gifts and commitments on *A Future with Hope Commitment Sunday* so that they may be announced during the celebration luncheon, and
- prepare the tally sheet to be shared at the celebration luncheon and returned to the Conference (see Resource Section for Tally Sheet) .

Pastor

The Pastor is the spiritual advisor for the campaign, preparing the congregation spiritually through prayer and enthusiasm for the campaign. The role of the Pastor is to:

- deliver meaningful messages on Sundays,
- work with the worship team to prepare inspiring worship experiences, and
- support the chairpersons in carrying out their responsibilities.

Principle – Successful fund raising focuses on raising people’s spirituality, faith, awareness, urgency, understanding and commitment with a compelling story and broad ministries. God uses these to shape people’s hearts and generosity. As disciples engage in holistic ministry - worship, devotional life, small groups, and mission - a spirit of anticipation and hope emerges and God blesses the activities and giving. Leadership that carries out the tasks and roles as outlined above facilitates a God-sized and a God-blessed Congregational Stewardship Campaign and A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign. It is the task of leadership to fulfill their roles faithfully and timely.

Timeline

The following is a generous timeline for planning the campaign over 12 weeks. It can be condensed to 4 weeks by combining weeks 5-12. Each week begins with a **Monday and ends on a Sunday**.

- 12 weeks out
 1. The Pastor recruits the Campaign Chairperson.
 2. The Pastor and Campaign Chairperson review the manual together.
 3. The Pastor and Campaign Chairperson identify the chairs for each of the various aspects of the campaign as outlined in the section, *Selecting Leadership*.
 4. The Pastor and Campaign Chairperson set key dates for the campaign.
 5. The Pastor identifies a preacher to guest speak for *A Future with Hope Mission Fund Commitment Sunday*, if desired.

- 11 weeks out
 1. The Campaign Chairperson recruits the chairs for each of the areas of the campaign and sends each one a copy of the manual.

- 10 weeks out
 1. The Campaign Chairperson holds a meeting with all of the area chairs, reviews the manual, answers questions and encourages the leaders to begin to organize and carry out their area.
 2. The Leadership Dinner Chair sets date for the leadership dinner.

- 9 weeks out
 1. The Small Group Chair recruits small group leaders.
 2. The Mission Engagement Chair identifies mission outreach projects in the community.
 3. The Celebration Luncheon Chair starts to plan *A Future with Hope Mission Fund Commitment Sunday Celebration Luncheon*
 4. The Leadership Dinner Chair identifies a location for the leadership dinner.

- 8 weeks out
 1. The Pastor and Campaign Chairperson identify donors that have the potential to contribute \$20,000 or more. Contact Rich Hendrickson at rhendrickson@gnjumc.org to consult with how to solicit gifts of \$20,000 or more.
 2. The Pastor orders/prints materials for mailings and commitment cards (see *Resource Section*).

- 7 weeks out
 1. The Mission Engagement Chair begins to organize a mission fair (if you will hold a mission fair).
 2. The Pastor adds information to the church's website and/or newsletters about Imagine No Malaria and GNJ's relief and recovery efforts from Superstorm Sandy

- 6 weeks out
 1. The Pastor circulates the *Three Simple Questions* devotional book to key congregational leaders.

2. The Small Group Chair advertises the small group series and registers people to participate in small groups.
 3. The Mission Engagement Chair begins advertising the mission outreach projects to be completed during the campaign and/or mission fair.
 4. The Pastor begins planning the worship services for the four weeks of the campaign
- 5 weeks out
 1. The Pastor emails/mails Letter 1 from the *Resource Section*.
 2. The Mission Engagement Chair continues to promote mission outreach projects/mission fair.
 3. The Small Group Chair advertises the small group series and registers people to participate in the small groups
 - 4 weeks out
 1. The Pastor announces to the congregation on Sunday the start of a 4 week special worship series, *A Future with Hope* using *Three Simple Questions*.
 2. The Leadership Dinner Chairperson invites congregational leaders to the Leadership Dinner.
 - 3 weeks out, *Kick off Sunday* – Reminder, each week begins with the Monday. The Sunday of this week is the first of four Sundays of the worship series.
 1. The Pastor emails/mails Letter 2 from the *Resource Section* to the congregation by Wednesday.
 2. The Pastor begins the worship series and uses the worship series for the next four weeks.
 3. The Small Group Chair and small group leaders begin their series of meeting together.
 4. The Campaign Chairperson announces to the congregation that they will be invited to make a commitment on _____ (date) to engage in local church mission, help end deaths from malaria, and help repair 300-500 homes damaged by Superstorm Sandy of low income, disabled and elderly families.
 5. The Mission Engagement Chair holds the mission fair and/or shares what the local mission project will be and why this is so important for your congregation. You may want to have someone from the mission project share about the project during worship.
 6. The Campaign Chairperson announces Bishop John and Beverly Schol's financial commitment to the campaign. Suggested script for this announcement:

In four weeks, our congregation will have a special worship service to celebrate all God is doing through us and United Methodists in our communities and around the world. As part of this service, you will be invited to make a commitment to our 2014 ministry and share in A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign. The more than 500 United Methodist Churches in the Greater New Jersey Area will participate in the campaign. We are using 1 Chronicles 29 as the model for this ministry, in which the resources to build the first temple were raised. King David announced his gift, followed by the leadership announcing their gifts. When the people saw the generosity of the leaders, they too gave generously. Several months ago, Bishop John and Beverly Schol announced that they were making sacrifices to give to this campaign. Over the next three years they will give a total of \$53,000. One of the ways they are making this commitment is to stretch the life of their 10 year old car and commit the funds they would have used for a car

payment to the Mission Fund Campaign. Bishop Schol has not asked for equal gifts but for all of us to be willing to sacrifice and do our part to help those who need our help right now. Our congregation is not asked for a specific gift. Individuals are not asked for a specific gift. We are all asked to prayerfully make a sacrifice. You will hear more about this exciting campaign in the coming weeks and I know God will bless this ministry through our congregation.

- **2 weeks out**

1. The Pastor continues the worship series.
2. The Small Group Chair and leaders continue their series.
3. The Mission Engagement Chair kicks off the mission project(s).
4. The Leadership Dinner Chair holds the leadership dinner and tallies leadership giving.
5. The Celebration Lunch Chair arranges logistics for lunch including selecting caterer and menu and arranging set-up and clean-up.
6. The Campaign Chairperson announces on Sunday the total commitments of all of the GNJ clergy toward the campaign. Suggested script:

Last week we shared with the congregation about our stewardship ministry and that in three weeks we will be given an opportunity to commit to our 2014 ministry and make a Commitment to A Future with Hope Mission Fund. The _____pastors and leaders of the conference have stepped forward and made a commitment of \$_____. Our pastor was a part of that commitment. I know our church will do its part. We invite you to begin to pray about what God is laying on your heart to fund our 2014 ministry and support the \$12 million A Future with Hope Mission Fund that will repair 300-500 homes of low income persons impacted by Superstorm Sandy, help save 50,000 children's lives from dying of malaria and support right here in our community _____ mission project. God wants to do an amazing ministry through us and the United Methodists in the Greater New Jersey Area. With your help God will bless us. To celebrate our commitment to this campaign, we will hold a lunch after services on Sunday _____ (date). I hope you can join us. There is an RSVP form (in the pew/to be handed out by the ushers/or other distribution method). Please take a moment today to let us know if you will be attending. You can place your completed card in the offering plate/in baskets in the narthex.

A copy of the RSVP is provided in the *Resource Section*.

- **1 week out** – Week prior to the third Sunday of the campaign and activities for the third Sunday

1. The Pastor continues the worship series.
2. Small groups continue with their leaders.
3. The Mission Engagement Chair conducts mission project and tallies participants.
4. The Pastor and the Campaign Chairperson send a letter inviting the congregation to A Future with Hope Commitment Sunday (or weekend for congregations that hold worship on days in addition to Sunday) and the Celebration Luncheon following worship.
5. The Celebration Luncheon Chair announces the celebration meal again as listed under the previous week.
6. The Celebration Luncheon Chair recruits volunteers to help make calls to members who have not responded to the lunch invitation. The team needs to have enough people so that no one makes more than 10 calls.

7. The Leadership Dinner Chair announces the commitments of the congregation's leadership.
- *A Future with Hope Commitment Sunday Week* – The day God brings everything together to work a miracle through your congregation.
 1. The Pastor emails/mailed Letter 3 in the *Resource Section* to the congregation by Wednesday.
 2. The Celebration Luncheon Chair and team makes calls to all church members who have not registered and invite them to worship and the meal. The goal is to speak to each person and receive a verbal yes or no if they will be attending. The team should report their numbers by Wednesday night.
 3. The Celebration Luncheon Chairperson makes final arrangements for luncheon based on lunch RSVPs.
 4. The Pastor completes the worship series.
 5. The Campaign Chairperson and the Pastor use the script in the Resource Section to pass out commitment cards and solicit commitments from the congregations.
 6. The Church Treasurer tallies commitment cards immediately after service.
 7. The Campaign Chairperson announces totals including gifts, # of small group participants, and # of mission participants at the end of the luncheon.
 - *Week following A Future with Hope Sunday*
 1. The Campaign Chairperson and Pastor email/mail Letter 4 in the *Resource Section* to those that did not make a commitment on Sunday.
 2. The Treasurer completes the tally sheet and emails it to the GNJUMC Treasurer's Office at JStorer@gnjumc.org.
 3. The Campaign Chairperson or Pastor shares the outcome of commitments made during *A Future with Hope Commitment Sunday*. The following is a script for that announcement:

We had a great Future with Hope Sunday last week and a great four weeks of worship, mission, and small group gatherings. God blessed us and you blessed the mission of the church with your gifts and commitments. Here are some of the extraordinary things that occurred.

 - a. ____ commitments and gifts (in the blank insert the total number of households that gave a gift and/or made a commitment) last Sunday. For our congregation's 2014 ministry budget, \$_____ was committed. This is \$_____ more dollars than the previous year. To our *Future with Hope Mission Fund* \$_____ was committed to repair 300-500 homes damaged by Sandy, to work to end deaths from Malaria and to do mission in our own community.
 - b. ____ people participated in a mission outreach project during the campaign.
 - c. ____ people participated in a small group during the campaign.
 - d. We estimate that ____ people read *Three Simple Questions*.
 - e. We had an increase in worship attendance of ____ people over this same time last year.

Today, I would like to thank everyone who helped to organize and carry out the campaign and I thank all of you who participated. Working together, God has done a great work and ministry through us. If you did not have an opportunity to make a commitment to the campaign, we have commitment cards that you may complete in the (identify how people can receive a card – e.g. in the pew rack, in the bulletin, an usher will give you one if you raise your hand, etc.). You may complete the card and put it in the offering plate/basket. Your commitment is key to our ministry of repairing the 300-500 homes of low income people affected by Superstorm Sandy, ending deaths from malaria in Africa and serving people in our community (name the mission project in your community that 25% of what you raise will go to). Working together we will be a gift to people in our community, the region and around the world. Thank you for your support.

Principle – Successful stewardship campaigns follow a timeline and complete all of the activities. The activities support one another to raise spirituality, worship, mission and giving.

Resources

Celebration Luncheon Tally Sheet

The Treasurer completes this tally sheet and emails it to the GNJUMC Treasurer's Office at JStorer@gnjumc.org.

Church #:	
Church Name/City:	
Contact Name/Phone Number:	
1 2014 Ministry Budget	
a. \$ amount committed to the local church for 2014 stewardship campaign	\$
b. # of commitments made for 2014 toward stewardship	#
c. \$ amount committed to our local church for 2013 stewardship campaign	\$
d. # of commitments made for 2013 stewardship	#
2 <i>A Future With Hope Mission Fund</i>	
a. # of gifts or pledges to A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign:	#
b. \$ amount pledged to A Future With Hope Mission Fund over 3 years:	\$
3 Brief description of mission outreach project held during the 4 week campaign:	
Estimated number of people impacted by your mission outreach project:	#
4 # who participated in a mission outreach project during the 4 week campaign	#
5 # who participated in a small group during the 4 week campaign	#
6 # that read <i>Three Simple Questions</i>	#
7 Change in worship attendance as compared to the same time last year	+/-

Celebration Luncheon RSVP

COMMITMENT SUNDAY LUNCHEON RESERVATION CARD

I (we) will be present for morning worship and the Celebration Luncheon on Sunday, _____
(date).

___ Yes ___ No

___ Number attending

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

A Future with Hope Sunday

All of the promotional materials and activity lead toward this important worship experience. On this day people will make their commitment to your congregation's 2014 ministry (budget) and to the *A Future with Hope Mission Fund*. Worship liturgy should be briefer to allow more time in the service for talking about and making commitments. Also you are encouraged to have special music and multiple choirs sing during the service. A celebration and upbeat service that is hopeful. A typical worship service and day might look like this.

- Set up for worship and the celebration luncheon the day before or so that it is completed ½ hour before the service.
- Simplify liturgy for the day. The worship order for the latter part of the service should follow this format:
 - Review of the commitments of church leadership (following 1 Chronicles 29). You could say the following: *For several weeks, we have been praying, studying, worshipping and serving to raise a future with hope. It has been a blessed season within our congregation and within the 580 other United Methodist congregations in Greater New Jersey that are a part of this Mission Fund Campaign. Later in the worship service, you will be invited to make a commitment but I want to again share how church leadership have stepped forward to make sacrificial commitments.*
 - *Bishop John and Beverly Schol committed \$53,000 to be given over three years.*
 - *29 superintendents, district lay leaders and conference leaders committed \$386,000 to be given over the next three years.*
 - *The United Methodist Clergy of the Greater New Jersey Area committed \$_____ to be given over the next three years.*
 - *Several lead congregations have already given \$508,000.*
 - *This totals more than \$_____ toward our \$12,000,000 goal.*
 - Scripture
 - Message

- Explanation of the commitment card. Ask the ushers to come forward and pass out the commitment card. The following is a recommended script to use by the Campaign Chairperson to explain the card and to invite people to make a commitment first to the ministry of the congregation during 2014 and secondly to *A Future with Hope Campaign*.

For those who are visiting with us, we are grateful for your presence. Today we share in an experience that confirms our commitment to God through our offerings. As a new visitor we do not expect you to participate. Your presence here today is an offering and blessing to us. We do welcome you to the luncheon following the service but we do not expect you to complete a commitment card today.

To our church family, I want to share a few things with you before you complete your commitment card. Today is an important day in the life of our congregation. For several weeks we have been worshiping, praying, studying and serving as a witness to our faith. Today we celebrate all God is doing and is about to do through us. We and 580 other United Methodist Churches in the Greater New Jersey Area are supporting the ministry of our congregations and A Future with Hope Mission Campaign. Bishop Schol, the bishop of The United Methodist Church in the New Jersey area, wanted me to share with you that your first gift is to the local church. As he has said at the start of this campaign, the local congregation is the primary mission of the church and to make your commitment first to your congregation's ministry. Bishop Schol said no other commitment you make today should diminish your commitment to the ministry of our congregation. As you heard earlier, Bishop Schol, conference leadership and the clergy of Greater New Jersey have made commitments of \$_____ toward our \$12 million goal.

I invite you to turn to the second side of the commitment card. There you will see a series of circles. These numbers indicate giving per week. I would like for you to find the circle that is closest to your present giving and consider widening your circle of generosity by one or two circles. Your generosity will make a difference in our ministry. On the front side of the card, you will find a place for your information and directly under that a place to make your commitment to our congregation's ministry.

Beneath the commitment to our congregation's ministry is a place for you to make a commitment and/or gift to A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign. This campaign will raise \$12 million dollars through generous commitments of United Methodists throughout the Greater New Jersey area to restore 300-500 homes of low income families, bring an end to deaths from malaria and revitalize local mission work in our community. Twenty-five percent of what we raise will go to our local mission and we will be supporting _____.

You will also see a place to indicate that you would like to consider including the church in your will. This type of generosity will provide a legacy for years to come.

Once you have completed the card we invite you to bring it forward and place it in the basket here in the front. I invite our pastor to pray before we make our commitments.

- The pastor prays

- Music is played while people make their commitments
- When people come forward, the pastor and campaign chair may stand at the basket to greet and thank people.

The Commitment Card

You are encouraged to run the cards on card stock and in color. You can use the colors to explain the different aspects of the card and commitments. On the GNJ website (www.gnjumc.org/missionfund), you will find printable versions that a local Staples or copy center can use to print your materials. There are two sets, one in color and one in black and white.

A Future with Hope Mission Fund Commitment Card

Name _____ Email _____

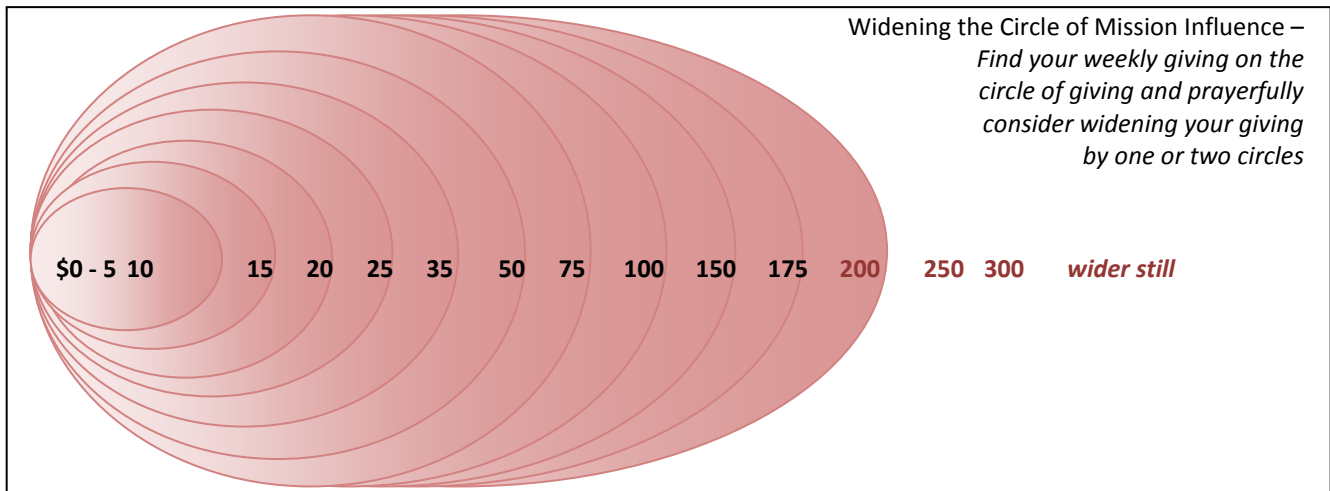
Address _____ Phone _____

I commit to give to our congregation's ministry during 2014 \$ _____
 (___ a week or ___ a month or ___ a year)

I commit to give to *A Future of Hope Mission Fund*
 \$ _____ a year in 2014, 2015 and 2016

___ A onetime gift of ___ stock ___ property ___ cash valued at \$ _____

___ I would like to talk with someone about including the church in my will



Leadership Dinner and Commitments

As mentioned earlier, a key component of the campaign is Church leadership honoring God with their commitment and model for the congregation's generosity as found in I Chronicles 29. The leadership dinner is a time to bring together the core leadership of the congregation (key elected leaders) to thank them for their leadership and to invite them to lead the congregation by making their commitment. It is important to have the dinner at a location that is special, a member's home or restaurant with a private

room. It is also important to invite the spouses of the elected leaders because they will make their commitment together. The following is an outline for the evening.

- Gathering and fellowship
 - Welcome by the Campaign Chairperson to thank the leaders for coming and the leadership they provide to the congregation
 - Grace
 - The meal
 - Prior to dessert, the Campaign Chair explains the campaign and why their gift is important.
- Suggested script for the Campaign Chairperson.

- Explanation of the commitment card. Have someone pass out the commitment cards. The following is a recommended script to use by the Campaign Chairperson to explain the card and to invite the leaders to make a commitment first to the ministry of our congregation during 2014 and secondly to *A Future with Hope Campaign*.

On _____ (date) our congregation will gather together to celebrate God's generosity and have the opportunity to bless God with their generosity. One of the things our congregation will consider is what we as leaders do. That is why we have gathered here this evening, to lead our congregation in making their commitments. As a group of leaders, our gift will set the pace for others.

We and the leaders of 580 other United Methodist Churches in the Greater New Jersey Area are supporting the ministry of our congregations and A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign. Bishop Schol, the bishop of The United Methodist Church in the New Jersey area wanted me to share with you that your first gift is to the local church. As he has said at the start of this campaign, the local congregation is the primary mission of the church and to make your commitment first to your congregation's ministry. Bishop Schol said no other commitment you make today should diminish your commitment to the ministry of our congregation. In fact, Bishop John and Beverly Schol and conference leadership have made their commitments for local church ministry and in addition to these commitments have done the following:

- *Bishop John and Beverly Schol committed \$53,000 to be given over three years*
- *29 superintendents, district lay leaders and conference leaders committed \$386,000 to be given over the next three years*
- *The United Methodist Clergy of the Greater New Jersey Area committed \$ _____ to be given over the next three years.*
- *Several lead congregations have already given \$508,000.*

This totals more than \$ _____ toward our \$12,000,000 goal.

On the second side of the commitment card, you will see a series of circles. That indicates giving per week. I would like for you to find the circle that is closest to your present giving and Bishop Schol and I would like you to consider widening your circle of generosity by one or two circles. Your generosity will make a difference in our ministry. On the front side of the card, you will find a place for your information and directly under that a place to make your commitment to our congregation's ministry.

Beneath the commitment to our congregation's ministry is a place for you to make a commitment and/or gift to A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign. This campaign will raise \$12 million dollars through generous commitments of United Methodists

throughout the Greater New Jersey area to restore 300-500 homes of low income families, bring an end to deaths from malaria and revitalize local mission work in our community. Twenty-five percent of what we raise will go to our local mission and we will be supporting _____.

You will also see a place to indicate that you would like to consider including the church in your will. This type of generosity will provide a legacy for years to come.

Once you have completed the card we invite you to bring it forward and place it in the basket here in the front. I invite our pastor to pray before we make our commitments.

- The pastor prays
- People make their commitments
- When people come forward, the pastor and campaign chair may stand at the basket to greet and thank people.
- Dessert is served
- The gifts from the evening are announced. You should announce the number of households that made a commitment, the total amount committed to the church's ministry, and the total amount committed to *A Future with Hope Campaign*. Thank everyone for their generous commitments and ask them to pray for the congregation and other congregations that will be making commitments.

Letters to the Congregation

The following are letters to the congregation that may be emailed or mailed. It is important for every member to receive the following letters.

LETTER 1: 2 weeks prior to Kick Off Sunday

Dear Church Family,

We are preparing to engage in a campaign to grow our faith and mission and I would like to invite you to two very important *A Future with Hope* events in the life of our congregation:

1. Our kick-off Sunday, _____ (insert date) at _____ (insert worship times) worship services will be the start of a campaign to focus on mission. It will be an uplifting worship experience and our theme will be: _____.
2. *A Future with Hope Celebration Sunday and Luncheon* is scheduled for Sunday, _____ (insert date). The meal will celebrate how God is working through our congregation. It is important for everyone in our church family to attend this special day. There is no cost for the meal, but a free will offering will be received. **You will receive further information later about how you can RSVP for the luncheon.**

To begin to prepare for *A Future with Hope Sunday*, I invite you to watch the video that can be found at www.gnjumc.org/missionfund or your church web address.

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

In Christ

_____,
Senior Minister

_____,
Campaign Chair

LETTER 2: 1 week prior to Kick Off Sunday

Dear Church Family,

This Sunday we begin a special worship series called, A Future with Hope. The next four weeks we will reflect on three simple questions to help shape our lives. In addition to the worship series, we have small groups that are forming and mission outreach projects. We would like everyone to participate in worship, a small group and a mission project.

We invite you also to read Bishop Rueben Job's book, *Three Simple Questions*. We will reflect on the message of this book in worship and through our small groups. A number of people have a copy of the book and will be passing the book on to others each week. Be looking for someone to share the book with you on Sunday, at a church meeting, or in a small group. We would like as many people from the church to read the book as possible.

We are engaging in this series to grow our discipleship and mission. During the next four weeks you will learn about:

- the important ministries of our congregation and how your prayers and generosity make a difference,
- how United Methodists from Greater New Jersey are healing lives and repairing homes for low income persons impacted by Superstorm Sandy,
- what we as United Methodists are doing to end deaths from malaria in Africa, and
- important mission ministry in our own community.

We know you will be blessed by this experience. Working together we will become *A Future with Hope* for others. To learn more about how United Methodists are responding to Superstorm Sandy, we invite you to view a video at www.gnjumc.org/missionfund or your church web address.

In Christ,

_____,
Senior Minister

_____,
Campaign Chairperson

LETTER 3: 1 week prior to A Future with Hope Commitment Sunday

Dear Church Family,

Together we have been growing a future with hope through the *Three Simple Questions Devotional*, serving in outreach ministries, attending small group studies and participating in spirit-filled worship. God has a future for our ministry as we grow and serve together.

In two weeks we will gather for worship and a celebration meal on _____. Your presence is important to the success of *A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign*. We are growing our ministry and stewardship to fulfill our ministry in 2014, help repair 300-500 homes of low income persons whose homes were damaged by Superstorm Sandy, help end deaths from malaria and engage in important mission in our own community.

I would like you to watch a video to help you witness some of the important ministry we have been doing as United Methodists to end malaria (www.gnjumc.org/missionfund or your church web address).

Please keep our congregation in your prayers and join us on _____ for the special Sunday Service.

In Christ,

Senior Minister

_____,
Campaign Chairperson

LETTER 4: 1 week AFTER *A Future with Hope Commitment Sunday*

(This letter is to go on the Monday after Commitment Sunday to those that did not make a commitment. With the letter include a commitment card and a stamped return envelope. Personally addressing the letter, using the individual or family's name will increase participation.)

Dear _____,

We were blessed by the participation and commitments from many within our congregation this past Sunday for our *A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign*. We learned about all God is doing through our congregation because of our people and our ministries. We also learned what God is doing through The United Methodist Church. With our sister congregations, we are healing lives and are repairing 300-500 homes impacted by Superstorm Sandy. As United Methodists, we are bringing an end to deaths from Malaria in Africa. We are blessed by God.

Together we received and blessed \$_____ in commitments to our 2014 ministry and \$_____ to *A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign*.

We invite you to join us. Enclosed with this letter is a commitment card for our 2014 ministry and for *A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign*. Your commitment will add to the blessing we are experiencing and make a difference in our ministry. We hope you will take time today to pray about your commitment and complete the card and mail it back to us. We would like to include your

commitment as we share the additional commitments that came in the week following *A Future with Hope Commitment Sunday*.

In Christ,

Senior Minister

Campaign Chairperson

Worship, Small Groups and Devotional series

The *A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign* will raise faith, mission engagement and generosity. You can find online resources for all of these starting August 1 at www.gnjumc.org/missionfund. These resources will help you plan and carryout inspiring worship, engaging messages, small group ministries and mission outreach projects. Engaging fully will grow faith not only for the series but your future ministry as well.

How to Organize a Mission Fair

Mission helps disciples and congregations grow in their faith and their commitment to God. Through mission outreach projects, congregations provide important mission ministry, witness to their community the love of God, and engage new people in the life of the congregation. Each church will find a unique way to organize mission outreach projects in the community and recruit people to participate. One effective method is to hold a mission fair 2-3 weeks prior to people participating in the mission work. Mission fairs are held on Sundays after worship and between worship. It is an opportunity to provide information about different projects and community organizations for people to serve. You can set up tables with information about the opportunity and a place for people to sign up. It is also good to have a representative from the mission outreach project to staff the table. Here is an outline for a mission fair to promote community outreach projects and to sign people up:

1. Develop your team and appoint a Chair from the group:
 - Pastor
 - Outreach Committee
 - Mission Engagement Chairperson
 - Members of all ages who are creative.
2. Set the date.
3. Plan enough lead time to organize, recruit mission projects, and promote the fair.
4. Consider projects that are indoors and outdoors.
5. Select diverse outreach projects that include weekend and weekdays; indoor and outdoor.
6. Make team assignments for each mission project.
7. Assign one person to each mission program to design table, provide resources, and to “tell the story”. Consider inviting a representative or speaker or arranging for videos or Skype conferencing for speakers from distant missions.
8. Publicize the fair in advance.
9. After the fair, thank everyone who made the fair possible and everyone who attended.

10. Publicize the success of the event and let people know how they can get involved.

Choosing a Local Mission Project for 25% of the Funds You Raise

Twenty-five percent of each dollar raised for the *A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign* will stay with your congregation to use for a mission project in your community. If you do not already have a mission project in mind, identifying a project that is important and inspiring will help your ministry move forward. Supporting mission in your community is a witness to the community of God’s love through the Church. It is important to identify the project prior to the first week of the campaign so you can share about the project with your promotional materials. The following are questions you can use to identify a mission project.

1. What are important needs in our community?
2. What are the mission interests of our congregation?
3. What are we supporting already?
4. What mission project will capture the hearts and minds of your congregation?

Report Form for the Greater New Jersey Conference

Two weeks following *A Future with Hope Commitment Sunday*, the Church Treasurer should email the following report to your superintendent and JStorer@gnjumc.org.

<i>A Future With Hope Mission Fund Campaign Remittance Form</i>	
Date	_____
Church #	_____
Church Name/City	_____
Contact Name/Phone Number	_____
Total Amount	_____
a. Received	_____ (church RETAINS 25% of total receipts)
b. Retained Amount	_____ (church REMITS 75% of total receipts)
c. Remitted Amount	_____
d. Restricted Gifts by Donor: <i>if applicable</i>	Sandy Recovery _____ Imagine No _____
e.	Malaria _____
Please mail this remittance form with check to : GNJAC - Mission Fund Campaign, 1001 Wickapecko Dr, Ocean, NJ 08753	

It is important to complete the Remittance Form correctly so that the Conference Treasurer’s Office is able to accurately track all funds raised for the *A Future with Hope Mission Fund* including those retained by the local church as well as those sent to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference (GNJAC).

The local church should REPORT the full amount received for the campaign but RETAIN 25% of all received monies.

Please enter the following:

Line a. Enter the total amount received for *A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign*.

Line b. Enter the amount received for *A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign* that will remain at the local church for local church missions. *As per the resolution passed at the 2013 Annual Conference, 25% of all funds raised by the local church for the A Future With Hope Mission Fund will remain at the local church for use towards local church missions.*

Line c. Enter the total amount of the check being sent to GNJAC. *As per the resolution passed at the 2013 Annual Conference, 75 % of all funds raised by the local church for A Future With Hope Mission Fund will be remitted to GNJAC for GNJ Sandy Relief and Imagine No Malaria.*

Line d. Enter the amount specifically designated by the donor for the GNJ Sandy Relief Fund *if applicable.*

Line e. Enter the amount specifically designated by the donor for the Imagine No Malaria Campaign *if applicable.*

Newsletter, Webpage Articles, Facebook posts and Bulletin Announcements

Communicating with the congregation about the importance of the ministry through a variety of mediums will increase the effectiveness of your campaign. To assist you, on August 1 at www.gnjumc.org/missionfund you will find a variety of resources to assist your communication. We encourage you to use all of the resources as outlined.

Campaign Follow Up

Following through after the campaign will lead to a successful result. The commitments are the first step. Our goal is to help you raise more than what was committed to your congregation's ministry and to *A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign*. Some campaigns do well to raise 90-95% of what is committed. With appropriate follow through, some stewardship campaigns raise 105-115% of the commitments. We will send you updates throughout the year and provide resources on the webpage so that we achieve fruitful results.