



Miracles Everywhere Campaign Case Statement

With unbounded hope in God, extending the reach of GNJ ministry locally, regionally and globally

God works miracles through the ministry of United Methodists of Greater New Jersey. God shaped A Future With Hope and helped GNJ United Methodists rebuild 271 homes – a living miracle for the people who were devastated by Superstorm Sandy. Eighty thousand women and children in Africa experienced a miraculous God because United Methodists in Greater New Jersey supported Imagine No Malaria which provided them treatment and prevention tools, saving their lives.

- Miracles are everywhere!

United Methodists in Greater New Jersey raised nearly \$7 million in the last mission campaign. God is ready to work more miracles through our ministry.

A Trinity of Miracles

God is working through United Methodists of Greater New Jersey to bear hope and healing throughout in our neighborhoods and around the world. Jesus told his followers, be my witnesses in Jerusalem (their own community), in all Judea and Samaria (the region), and to the ends of the earth (globally).

- Acts 1:8

Jesus recognized the mission of making disciples and transforming the world is local, regional and global. God is calling all GNJ disciples to be witnesses to our neighbors in our communities, throughout our region and around the world.

1. Local Miracles

Cultivate the next generation of disciples.

Give young people a start and even when they are old they will not turn from it. - *Proverbs 22:6*

A bold new strategic direction, Next Generation Ministries, has emerged to lay the foundation of discipleship with a new generation of young and diverse disciples of Jesus Christ through the ministries of our congregations, the inspiration of IGNITE Youth Conference, the revitalization of our camps and the introduction of United Methodists on college campuses. We see a new generation of enthusiastic disciples as we:

- Start or grow 250 congregations' youth ministries to include an additional 2000 youth
- Start 10 college campus ministries that will grow the faith of 1000 college students
- Grow the IGNITE Youth Conference to more than 5000 students
- Re-start our camping ministry with an IGNITE type experiences that will serve 1000 students

Campaign goal: \$3,197,000
Raised or in hand: \$1,802,000
To be raised: \$1,395,000

Extend A Future With Hope

Work from the well-being of the community where I sent you. Pray to the Lord for when it thrives, you will thrive. - *Jeremiah 29:7*

A Future With Hope developed a robust statewide relief and rebuild ministry in response to Superstorm Sandy. God is calling us to apply this experience and capacity to respond in new ways. We will build 100 Hope Centers in our communities increasing social services and building hundreds of affordable housing units across in our communities. Hope Centers will move disciples from the pews to the pavement as we grow youth development ministries and address basic human needs. One hundred Hope Centers in and through our congregations will increase our witness with five Hope Centers in every county.

Campaign goal: \$1,000,000
Raised or in hand: \$100,000
To be raised: \$900,000

2. Regional Miracles

Assist in Hurricane Recovery

For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to your welfare and not for harm.
- *Jeremiah 29:11*

The people in Greater New Jersey know how devastating a disaster can be. In 2017, hurricanes devastated communities in Texas, Florida, Cuba, the Caribbean and Puerto Rico five years after Superstorm Sandy impacted tens of thousands of our neighbors in GNJ. We can assist others in their recovery, as so many assisted us. Working through UMCOR, we will raise funds for and send mission teams to these disaster stricken communities. Because of our significant ties to Puerto Rico and the extreme devastation of their island, 50% of what we raise will go toward Puerto Rico's recovery.

Campaign goal: \$500,000
Raised or in hand: \$250,000
To be raised: \$250,000

3. Global Miracles

A Hope Center in Tanzania

And wherever he went-into villages, towns or countryside-they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.
- *Mark 6: 55-56*

The missional impact of The United Methodist Church goes beyond national borders. We will grow our partnership with our Wings of the Morning partner, the North Katanga Conference, by building a Hope Center in Tanzania. This Hope Center will:

- Start a health clinic to provide life-saving and preventive care to the community
- Start primary and secondary schools for orphans
- Raise up and deploy young adult missionaries from GNJ for formational and immersive mission experiences in Tanzania
- Host mission teams from around the world to collaborate with the mission of The United Methodist mission in Tanzania

Campaign goal: \$500,000

Funds raised or in hand: \$0

To be raised: \$500,000

Working together and with God's help, miracles are within reach everywhere.

Miracles Everywhere Campaign: \$5,197,000

Funds raised or in hand: \$2,152,000

Total to be raised: \$3,045,000

Why a Mission Fund Campaign now?

- God is calling us to raise up young and diverse disciples of Jesus Christ.
- People and communities are hurting from disasters and life-threatening poverty.
- God calls us to minister to our neighbors who live here in our conference and who live in our global neighborhood.

Why is this campaign important?

This campaign will change lives and congregations because it will:

- Focus on raising the spiritual and discipleship climate.
- Equip and resource leaders and congregations in faith sharing, mission & outreach engagement in the community and stewardship.
- Grow the number of vital congregations.
- Raise the funds to further our witness in our communities, the regional and around the world.

How will GNJ resource leaders and congregations for a successful campaign?

Resources will be developed and available to all leaders and congregations to:

- Learn and share the gospel imperatives for mission engagement and generous giving .
- Interpret, promote and engage the Mission Campaign in their churches.
- Celebrate the progress made to inspire further participation.
- Consult with and support individual church campaigns.

How will these miracles happen?

- Prayer will be the foundation of the campaign.
- 549 Churches giving - \$3,045,000 million dollars towards the Miracles Everywhere Campaign.
- Congregations give what they can. Sample Giving Ladder:
 - 20 churches giving \$10,000 a year for 3 years = \$600,000
 - 40 churches giving \$5,000 a year for 3 years = \$600,000
 - 89 churches giving \$2,500 a year for 3 years = \$667,500
 - 125 churches giving \$1,500 a year for 3 years = \$ 562,500
 - 125 churches giving \$1,000 a year for 3 years = \$ 375,000

- 160 churches giving \$500 a year for 3 years = \$ 240,000
- Total 559 churches giving = \$3,045,000

Church contributions will grow our witness and mission and support God's miracles through:

- **Next Generation Ministries:** Cultivate new generations of enthusiastic disciples of Jesus Christ that connect, engage and lead in their congregations and communities to transform the world.
- **A Future with Hope:** Implement 100 Hope Centers that will focus on youth development, education, social services and community housing.
- ***Disaster Relief:** Help people, particularly the people of Puerto Rico, who were impacted by hurricanes in 2017.
- **Tanzania Project:** Grow our global impact by building a Hope Center in Tanzania that will provide life-saving and preventive treatment to the community

**All funds already given by local congregations to GNJ Disaster Relief in response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria will be counted toward their campaign goal.*

What does the Bible teach about raising funds for the mission?

God is in the miracle business and God has a plan for United Methodists in Greater New Jersey. King David gives us a prime example of raising funds for God-sized miracles. Here are some of the principles incorporated into raising funds for the Temple, as we find recorded in 2 Chronicles 29. It is still valid for us today.

King David said to the whole assembly, "My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is great; for the temple will not be for mortals but for the Lord God. So, I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, besides great quantities of onyx and stones for setting, antimony, colored stones, all sorts of precious stones, and marble in abundance. Moreover, in addition to all that I have provided for the holy house, I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God: three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, for overlaying the walls of the house, and for all the work to be done by artisans, gold for the things of gold and silver for the things of silver. Who then will offer willingly, consecrating themselves today to the Lord?"

Then the leaders of ancestral houses made their freewill offerings, as did also the leaders of the tribes, the commanders of the thousands and of the hundreds, and the officers over the king's work. They gave for the service of the house of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. Whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the Lord, into the care of Jehiel the Gershonite. Then the people rejoiced because these had given willingly, for with single mind they had offered freely to the Lord; King David also rejoiced greatly. Then David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly; David said: *"Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestor Israel, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth, is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. - 1 Chronicles 29:1 - 13*

How does this model apply to us?

David's generosity as witnessed in 1 Chronicles 29 and his passion can be witnessed in Psalm 132, where he describes a drive so strong for providing a Temple for God that he will not even take a nap until it is accomplished. The people will not surpass their leaders in either passion for the project, or in a financial

sacrifice to support it. Leaders cannot "sit this one out" when it comes to a major funding project. Once people see the passion and commitment of their leaders, they will give even more generously.

We will follow the model of 1 Chronicles 29, which is a modeling process:

1. The Bishop will make a pledge to the Miracles Everywhere Campaign
2. The Cabinet, the Extended Leadership Team and key conference leaders will make their pledge to the campaign
3. Funds on hand or already raised will be added
4. Lead gifts from donors will be sought
5. Clergy will be invited to make a gift
6. Lead churches will be invited to give
7. Churches will be invited to make pledges to the campaign

Once people see the generosity of their leaders, they will give generously.