

## Missional Partnership between The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico and The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

### **The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico (MCPR)**

The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico is comprised of 100 congregations in the main island, Vieques, Culebra, and St. Croix USVI. The Methodist movement has been in Puerto Rico for more than 100 years. The MCPR have strong ties with the United Methodist Church. Their mission is to “Make Disciples for Jesus Christ with the purpose of collaborating with God in the transformation of Creation.” The MCPR is committed to be a vibrant church present in the community working with vulnerable populations such as children, elderly, impoverished communities, and single moms.

### **The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey (GNJ)**

The United Methodist Church of Greater Jersey is a national leader in mission and ministry. Comprised of over 500 congregations, this network of 45,000 disciples transforms communities through meaningful and life-changing mission. Any given day, one may find United Methodists in mission through food distribution, affordable childcare, after-school programming, homeless housing, English as a Second language classes, immigration reform, refugee settlement, racial justice, job development, elder care, community development and various other social services.

### **Growing a Missional Partnership**

GNJ and MCPR celebrate their unique histories and ministries, common Wesleyan heritage and calling to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. GNJ is blessed with lay and clergy leadership from Puerto Rico and thousands of disciples that claim the island as their homeland.

The missional impact of GNJ and MCPR goes beyond distance, language, culture. Therefore, GNJ and MCPR will partner to engage in:

1. *Cross Cultural Immersion Experiences* – foster youth, young adults, laity and clergy leadership exchanges so that we develop a deeper understanding of and appreciation for one another’s uniqueness, culture, history, spirituality and ministry in making disciples and transforming communities.
2. *Joint Educational Experiences* - co-sponsor joint educational experiences for laity and clergy so that we leverage best practices for growing and strengthen passionate disciples and vital congregations in a multicultural ministry field.
3. *Appointing Puerto Rican Pastors* – GNJ will work with the MCPR to provide appointment opportunities to Puerto Rican pastors without congregations because of Hurricanes Irma and Maria so that they can lead in GNJ congregations with their gifts and experiences.
4. *Local Churches Companionship* – opportunities for MCPR & GNJ local churches to establish church to church companionship relationships so that meaningful relationships based on mutuality are cultivated and joined mission opportunities are developed.
5. *Mission Volunteer Exchanges* - deploy disciples to mission experiences in Puerto Rico and Greater New Jersey so that people and communities experience healing and wholeness from God.
6. *Financial support for the recovery of Puerto Rico*: GNJ will raise funds through its *Miracles Everywhere Mission Campaign* over the next 3 years to support the recovery, rebuild and renewal of communities impacted by hurricanes Irma and Maria in the island, in coordination with UMCOR and the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico.

May 21, 2018

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**Bishop Hector F. Ortiz**  
Methodist Church of Puerto Rico



**Iglesia Metodista de Puerto Rico**

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**Bishop John Schol**  
United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

