Leadership Dinner
Suggested script for the Campaign Chairperson

On \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **[date of scheduled Commitment Sunday]** 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.

This year we will have the opportunity to support a mission larger than we alone could undertake. United Methodists of Greater New Jersey are embarking on a campaign to make new disciples called Miracles Everywhere. As a result of this campaign we will partner with Tanzania to support pastors, congregations and a new mission center. We will invest in our youth by expanding youth groups in our churches, widening and deepening our campaign programs, multiplying the experience of IGNITE and launching campus ministry programs at Drew and Rutgers. We will redefine what it means to partner with our communities by helping our congregations create Hope Centers to bring solve social services and housing needs and we will assist those in recovery from the aftermath of hurricanes in Florida, Texas and Puerto Rico.

**[If possible, share the overview video of the Miracles Everywhere campaign here. While the video is playing pass out the commitment cards]**

Our first gifts are to our church so that we can enrich the ministry here in our community. In Matthew 5: 41, Jesus asks us to go the second mile. Our second gifts – or our second mile giving is to the Miracles Everywhere Campaign.

As leaders we are asked to give first and then our gifts will be tallied to share with the congregation. Let me share with you how our conference leaders have gone that second mile:

* Bishop John and Beverly Schol committed $42,500 to be given over three years
* Superintendents and other members of GNJ leadership committed $300,000 to be given over the next three years
* United Methodist Clergy from every district and region in GNJ committed $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be given over the next three years.
* Several lead gifts and grants have already been committed.
* This totals more than $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ toward the goal of $5.2 million.

**[Explain the Commitment Card]**

On one side of the commitment card, you will see a series of circles that indicate giving per week. Find the circle that is closest to your present weekly giving. 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 the campaign.

On the other 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 Miracles Everywhere.

You will also see a place to indicate that you would like to consider including gifts of stock or planned giving. This type of generosity will provide a legacy for years to come. Understanding that planned giving can vary greatly as it appreciates, please make an estimate of your planned giving or your investment pledge so we can include this amount in our tally. We’ll have someone follow up with you separately and privately to discuss the opportunity in more detail.

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, serve dessert and announce the gifts with thanksgiving for their generosity. ]**