



MIRACLES EVERYWHERE CAMPAIGN GUIDE

*Next Generation Disciples, Hope Centers, Hurricane Recovery,
Missional Partnerships with Puerto Rico and Tanzania.*

www.gnjumc.org/miracleseverywhere



The logo features the words "Miracles Everywhere" in a dark blue, cursive script. The word "Miracles" is on the top line and "Everywhere" is on the bottom line. Behind the word "Miracles" is a bright yellow sunburst graphic with numerous thin rays radiating outwards.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

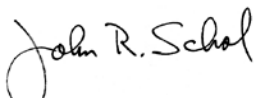
God's miracles are everywhere. We see and experience them as we are open to God's movement in our lives, the church and the world. God wants to continue to do miracles through you and your congregation. There is no doubt in my mind that God is ready to do miracles through our Miracles Everywhere campaign, particularly with students, community mission, hurricane recovery and the launching of new congregations and Hope Centers in Tanzania.

In the following campaign guide you will find the information you need to run a successful campaign. A successful campaign will grow you church spiritually and missionally, increase stewardship and lay the foundation for greater work through your congregation.

While the manual will help you with each step of the campaign, we have gifted leadership who are prepared to assist you as well.

God is ready to do a miracle through your church. I invite you to participate fully in the Miracles Everywhere Campaign.

Keep the faith!

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "John R. Schol".

Bishop John R. Schol
The United Methodist Church
of Greater New Jersey

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Miracles Everywhere Campaign Goals

The clergy and lay representatives from our 549 congregations approved a campaign at the 2018 Annual Conference to raise \$5.197 million dollars for critical and urgent mission. This includes:

- \$3.197 million for Next Generation Ministries.
- \$1 million to Extend A Future With Hope to create Hope Centers.
- \$500,000 for a Hope Center in Tanzania.
- \$500,000 to assist in Hurricane Recovery

Next Generation Ministries

Give young people a start and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6

Next Generation Ministries combines GNJ's youth ministries including IGNITE, camping and campus ministries to prepare and nurture a new generation of young and diverse disciples. Next Gen ministries goals include:

- Growing 250 youth ministries for 2000 youth
- Starting 10 campus ministries to engage 1,000 college students
- Inspiring 5,000 students yearly to the IGNITE Youth Conference
- Relaunching camping ministry to serve 1,000 young people.

Hope Centers

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 is pivoting from rebuilding to renewing and is partner with congregations and affiliated nonprofit to unite with the community to bring social services, affordable housing and youth development programs where they are most needed. One hundred Hope Centers across Greater New Jersey will bring our disciples from the pews to the pavement.

Hurricane Recovery and Missional Partnership with Puerto Rico

For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to your welfare and not for harm.

Jeremiah 29:11

We are assisting survivors of hurricanes Irma, Maria and Harvey by financial assistance, mission teams and resources from our A Future With Hope Sandy recovery ministry. Because of our significant ties to Puerto Rico, 50% of our recovery work will be dedicated to the people of Puerto Rico.

Missional Partnerships with Tanzania

And wherever he went into villages, town 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 heal.

Mark 6: 55-56

Miracles go beyond borders and walls. GNJ will build on its partnership with the North Katanga Episcopal Area which funded the Wings of the Morning, to go deeper in ministry with the Tanzania Conference by building a Hope Center that will house a health clinic school and mission site and by supporting pastor development so that we can spread the word of God to the people of God in Tanzania.

Theological Grounding for Giving

We give because God first gave to us. God gave us life, salvation and our giving is a testimony to all that God has blessed us with. Here are two things to keep in mind as we give:

1. 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.
2. 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.



Miracles
Everywhere

Overview of the Campaign Logistics

Miracles Everywhere 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 key elements to the campaign are based upon this biblical modelling.

In late 2017, the United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey and the GNJ Council on Finance and Administration started working on the outlines of the campaign. They identified initiatives that would expand on United Methodists mission to transform the world. They build on Greater New Jersey's mission to equip and develop spiritual leaderships to make disciples of Christ. The people who will benefit from the campaign, young people in Next Generation Ministries, communities through Hope Centers, survivors of hurricanes and ministerial partnerships with Puerto Rico and Tanzania will bless people of the United Methodist Church in Greater New Jersey just as much as our giving will bless them.

As the initiatives of the campaign were developing, Greater New Jersey seed money and foundational gifts helped ground our goals. When the campaign was announced in legislation to Annual Conference, the legislation included the news that \$2.1 million was already collected. Following the modelling outlined in 1 Chronicles, Bishop and Beverly Schol announced their gift of \$42,500 to the campaign. The leaders of Greater New Jersey met and pledged an additional \$300,000 and the offering at Annual Conference received more than \$30,000. As of June 1, 2018, the Miracles Everywhere Campaign has raised \$2.9 million of the \$5.2 million goal.

During the summer months of 2018, GNJ clergy and lay leadership will be making their pledges to the campaign to set the example for their congregations. GNJ will continue to report out the results of our modelling for our congregational leaders to use as they share the campaign with worshipers in their communities.

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. Your congregation's leaders will be invited to make their commitments first and 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 guidebook outlines most of what you will need. In addition, the Miracles Everywhere [resources pages on the website](#) include:

- Small group questions that coordinate with the series
- A 4-week worship series that includes a call to worship, prayers, offering introductions and song ideas
- Print ready commitment cards for congregational use.
- A list of preachers and speakers available to be guests to share their witness about Tanzania, camping, IGNITE, Puerto Rico, hurricane recovery and Hope Centers.
- Videos for download
- Sample scripts
- Graphics, logos and more.

If you or your congregation would like help on scheduling, logistics or implementation of the campaign, please contact:



Jana Purkis-Brash
Executive Director
United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey
732-359-1057
jpurkisbrash@gnjumc.org



Leadership and Responsibilities for the Campaign

Identifying and selecting leadership to implement 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. Look for the following qualities

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 chair:

- 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.

Worship Team

The worship team incorporates the campaign into a four week series leading up to commitment Sunday. GNJ has created resources for worship, the Miracles Everywhere Sermon Series, which includes:

- Preaching notes
- Liturgies
- Coordinating music suggestions
- Sample prayers

Small Groups

Small groups grow disciples and provide an entry point for new people into the life of the congregation. The goal during *Miracles Everywhere* is to engage all disciples in a four-week small group experience that has been designed specifically for our campaign. Small Group responsibilities include:

- identify the number of small groups needed to engage your worshipping community
- 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
- check in with the small group leaders during the four weeks to ensure the groups are going well.

Leadership Dinner

The leadership dinner should be held outside the church building at someone's home or at a restaurant 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. The campaign follows the biblical process from 1 Chronicles 29 in which the leadership creates a model of generosity and the people see the generosity of the leaders and also give generously. Tasks for the leadership dinner:

- 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
- make arrangements for the dinner.

Celebration Luncheon

The celebration luncheon is held after worship on the day the congregation makes commitments to the *Miracles Everywhere Campaign*. 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 lunch the sum of the commitments from the congregation is announced and celebrated to the glory of God. The responsibilities involved in the celebration lunch include:

- prepare the invitation for the luncheon
- organize R.S.V.P.'s
- arrange for catering
- organize a team to call members that did not register for the meal on the Sunday prior
- recruit volunteers for meal set up and clean up.

Church Treasurer

On *Miracles Everywhere Commitment Sunday*, the church treasurer is responsible for tallying and reporting the commitments to the stewardship campaign and *Miracles Everywhere Campaign*. The treasurer will also be responsible for remitting the funds over the three years of the pledge commitments. See the *Miracles Everywhere Resources* for an [online tally sheet](#) and [a downloadable remittance form](#). Both the tally sheet and remittance form should include the pastor's pledge and payment as well as the congregation's pledge and payment. The role of the church treasurer is to:

- recruit a team of people to calculate the gifts and commitments on *Miracles Everywhere 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 GNJ
- remit scheduled pledge payments for your campaign using [the downloadable remittance form](#).

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 leaders 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 stewardship campaign and *Miracles Everywhere 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

- The pastor recruits the campaign chairperson.
- Together, they:
 - review the campaign guide and resources.
 - identify congregational members to take leadership roles.
 - set key dates for the campaign.
- The Pastor identifies a preacher or guest speaker for *Miracles Everywhere Campaign Fund Commitment Sunday*, if desired.

Online Resources for Week 12:
Campaign Guide
Guest Speaker and Preacher List

www.gnjumc.org/miracleseverywhere

11 weeks out

- The campaign chair invites congregational leaders to join the campaign.
- Together they
 - review the guide to understand their responsibilities
 - set the date for the Leadership Dinner
- Leaders start to organize their areas of responsibilities.

10 weeks out

- Planning starts for the *Celebration Luncheon*
- Planning starts for the Leadership Dinner

9 weeks out

The pastor and campaign chairperson identify donors with major gift potential. The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey can consult regarding personal solicitation of \$20,000 or more.

8 weeks out

The pastor orders/prints materials for mailings and commitment cards.

7 weeks out

The pastor adds information to the church's website, social media and/or newsletters about Miracles Everywhere.

Online Resources for Weeks 7-8:
Commitment Card
Graphics
Newsletter and social media announcements

www.gnjumc.org/miracleseverywhere

6 weeks out

- The small group leaders advertise the small group series and registers people to participate
- The worship team begins planning the worship services for the four weeks of the campaign

4-5 weeks out

- The pastor emails/mails Letter 1.
- The pastor places series announcement in the bulletin and addresses the congregation during worship about the upcoming campaign.
- Campaign leadership invites congregational leaders to the Leadership Dinner.
- Pastor shares Miracles Everywhere campaign [overview video](#) for congregation.

Online Resources for Weeks 4-5:
Worship Materials
Small Group Curriculum
Letter 1
Overview Video

www.gnjumc.org/miracleseverywhere

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.

- The pastor emails/mails Letter 2 to the congregation by Wednesday.
- The pastor begins the worship series and uses the worship series for the next four weeks.
- Small group leaders begin their series of meeting together.
- The campaign chairperson announces to the congregation that they will be invited to make a commitment on _____ (date) to Miracles Everywhere.
- During worship, the campaign chairperson introduces Bishop Schol's giving announcement video or announces Bishop John and Beverly Schol's financial commitment to the campaign. See *Miracles Everywhere Resources* for suggested script.

Online Resources for Week 3:
Letter 2
Bishop Schol's Giving Announcement Video
Kick Off Sunday suggested script

www.gnjumc.org/miracleseverywhere

2 weeks out

- The pastor continues the worship series.
- The small groups continue their series.
- The leadership giving is tallied at the Leadership Dinner.
- The Celebration Lunch is planned.
- The Campaign Chair announces on Sunday the total commitments of all of the GNJ clergy and lay leadership toward the campaign. See *Miracles Everywhere Resources* for suggested script.

Online Resources for Week 2:
Downloadable Graphics
Clergy and Lay Leadership Commitment Script

www.gnjumc.org/miracleseverywhere

1 week out

Week prior to the third Sunday of the campaign and activities for the third Sunday

- The pastor continues the worship series.
- Small groups continue.
- The pastor and the Campaign Chairperson
 - send a letter inviting the congregation to *Miracles Everywhere Commitment Sunday* and the Celebration Luncheon following worship.
 - Announce the Celebration Lunch in worship
- Recruit volunteers to help make calls to members who have not responded to the lunch invitation.
- The campaign chair announces the commitments of the congregation's leadership.

Online Resources Week 1:
Sample Invitation Letter
Congregational Leadership Commitment Script

www.gnjumc.org/miracleseverywhere

Miracles Everywhere Commitment Sunday Week

The day God brings everything together to work a miracle through your congregation.

- The pastor emails/mailed Letter 3.
- The Celebration Luncheon 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.
- The Celebration Luncheon team makes final arrangements for luncheon based on lunch RSVPs.
- The pastor completes the worship series.
- The campaign chair and the pastor use Commitment Sunday script to pass out commitment cards and solicit commitments from the congregations.
- The church treasurer tallies commitment cards immediately after service.
- The campaign chair announces totals including:
 - numbers of donors and total pledge to stewardship,
 - number of donors and total pledged for Miracles Everywhere and
 - number of small group participants.

Online Resources for Commitment Sunday:
Letter 3
Commitment Sunday Script

www.gnjumc.org/miracleseverywhere

Week following Miracles Everywhere Sunday

- The campaign chairperson and pastor email/mail Letter 4 to those that did not make a commitment on Sunday.
- The Treasurer completes the tally sheet and submits the totals in the online form.
- The campaign chairperson or pastor shares the outcome of commitments made during *Miracles Everywhere Commitment Sunday*.

Follow Up Online Resources:

Letter 4

Tally Sheet Form

Announcement script

www.gnjumc.org/miracleseverywhere

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

There are a wealth of resources for the Miracles Everywhere Campaign online at www.gnjumc.org/miracleseverywhere. We will be updating the resources pages frequently with information on the campaigns progress, videos, testimonies and more. The following outlines some major resources available:

Celebration Luncheon Tally Sheet

Submit the results of your campaign on the [Tally Sheet online form](#).

Celebration Luncheon RSVP

Include an [rsvp card](#) with your invitation to the lunch. The Miracles Everywhere resources include ready to print cards you can use in both black and white and color.

Worship Resources and Ideas

All of the promotional materials and activities lead toward this important worship experience. On this day people will make their commitment to your congregation's 2019 stewardship campaign and to Miracles Everywhere. Worship liturgy should be briefer, include testimony and special music. The service should be upbeat and hopeful

The Commitment Card

Several versions of [commitment cards](#) are available for download in color and black and white. Graphics can also be used to create your own cards. Options are available for campaigns that run alongside stewardship and those that run alone.

Leadership Dinner and Commitments

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. Suggested outlines, scripts and commitment cards for the leadership dinner are included in our [online resources](#).

Small Groups and Devotional Series

Miracles Everywhere will raise faith through our worship, our mission and our generosity. Engaging small groups as a part of the campaign will deepen faith formation and commitment.

Letters

A [series of letters](#) coordinated with the campaign will reinforce the message and help connect those who are not regular worshippers. Samples of these letters are available for mailing or emailing.

Emails

Using an email marketing system to manage your letters is an easy way to personalize the campaign and cut back on administrative time. If you are not currently using emarketing and would like to, we can help. You'll need to provide a spreadsheet aligned with the specific fields outlined on our resources pages and we'll do the rest.

Newsletter, Webpage Articles, Facebook posts and Graphics

Communicating with the congregation about the importance of the ministry through a variety of mediums will increase the effectiveness of your campaign. We've created sample posts for you to use on social media or in newsletters. You can download and drop them into your media or modify them to fit your needs.

Thank You and Celebrate

Thanking your congregation for their individual contributions and their total commitments is important. Have your leadership write individual thank you cards, announce the campaign results in your worship, on your social media and in your newsletters. Celebrate the connection by including the campaign totals that will be regularly announced in the GNJ Digest.

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 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 updated resources so that we achieve fruitful results.

Need More?

We are happy to help customize your campaign. If you need additional resources to help communicate your campaign to your congregation, just ask the [GNJ Communications team](mailto:communications@gnjumc.org) communications@gnjumc.org.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we conducting a mission campaign?

Why are we conducting this campaign? Because people need us more than ever right now. There is no convenient time for hurricane relief. There is no right time for the church to be engaged in making disciples in the world. God does not want us to wait a few years before we commit to the next steps in our young people's ministry. The time is now.

What do we do if our congregation has less than 50 worshipers?

These 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 follow this guide as faithfully as possible even if you have to combine some of the steps.

What do we do if we 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 *Miracles Everywhere 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 Jana Purkis-Brash, Executive Director for United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey at jpurkis-brash@gnjumc.org.

Why conduct *Miracles Everywhere 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 the *Miracles Everywhere Campaign* will detract from the giving of the congregation. If you organize and carry out a united stewardship campaign and *Miracles Everywhere Campaign*, just the opposite will occur – you will experience greater support for your congregation's existing ministry.

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.



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Transformational leaders for people and communities to experience healing, renewal and wholeness from God.

Mission and Resource Center
205 Jumping Brook Rd. Neptune NJ 07753
723.359.1000 | www.gnjumc.org