



2018 Journal and Yearbook

Containing the Proceedings of the Nineteenth Session of the

Annual Conference of United Methodists of Greater New Jersey

Session held at
The Wildwoods Convention Center
Wildwood, NJ
May 20-22, 2018

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Presiding Bishop

Edited and Published by,
The Reverend Dr. David E. Wiley, III, Conference Secretary
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John R. Schol
Bishop





“Miracles Everywhere” – Psalms 77:14

“You are the God who performs miracles; you display your powers among the peoples.”

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Miracles are happening everywhere in and through GNJ. This past conference was the largest in GNJ history, where six different languages were spoken and sung and groundbreaking decisions were made for the transformation of our communities, region and the world. We celebrated the growth of worship attendance in 2017 and the rising number of people in small groups, hands-on mission, increased giving, the birth of more than 50 new faith communities and the rebuilding of 271 homes in response to Superstorm Sandy.

During what became a historic 2018 Annual Conference of United Methodists of Greater New Jersey, we publicly engaged to end school segregation in New Jersey for more than 271,000 Black and Latino students. We entered into an extraordinary partnership with Puerto Rico and Tanzania. We were graced by the presence of Bishop Hector Ortiz of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico and Bishop Mande Muyombo of the North Katanga Episcopal Region of the Tanzania Annual Conference. We set out to equip and cultivate 100 clergy and 100 laity who will make disciples who make disciples and approved a budget that reduces shared ministry.

We committed to a new mission campaign – Miracles Everywhere, which will transform and deepen the lives and faith of the Next Generation in student, campus and camping ministry, partner with Puerto Rico in hurricane relief, launch Hope Centers across GNJ and partner with the Tanzania Annual Conference to train pastors and build new congregations and a Hope Center for mission engagement. Already \$2.9 million has been committed toward the \$5.2 million fund, and the campaign is just getting started. Now that is a miracle!

Together we celebrated the miracles in our midst and the continued leadership of laity and clergy that’s developing transformational leaders and growing vital congregations to transform the world. Building on what’s been accomplished, we took on a new strategic plan focusing on leadership and discussed the challenges United Methodists face regarding gender equality, immigration, intercultural competency, diversity and inclusion.

Miracles are happening through the love and service of our presence in our communities. The details in this journal showcase the miracles at work and how they are changing the world. You too, are called to be a part of those miracles and live into God’s miraculous story for GNJ.

In the midst of denominational challenges and division, GNJ is mission-minded and united in loving alike. We’re just warming up, and God is on the move making miracles in and through us.

This journal represents past, present and future miracles. In it you will find the names of conference leadership and members who are committed to leading GNJ and its congregations, new faith communities and Hope Centers. I am thankful for our ministry and progress together.

You’re invited to step up and be a part of God’s miracles. In any and all circumstances, we can rejoice and celebrate a God of miracles who draws us in and offers us the marvelous opportunity to take part. Miracles are happening everywhere. Do you see them? All you need to do is accept God’s call and look in the mirror.

Keep the faith!

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

John Schol, Bishop
The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey