

THE RELAY

UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

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It is Time. GNJ's Way Forward Team Offers Path to Renewed Ministry Through New Expressions

By Carolyn Conover
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WILDWOOD, NJ

United Methodists in Greater New Jersey moved forward in response to the passage of the Traditional Plan at the February 2019 Special General Conference which strengthens the language and penalties involving inclusion of LGBTQ persons in ministry. In GNJ there are people who affirm the action of General Conference and others who are deeply disappointed with those

harsher penalties and the failure to provide congregations and clergy with a way to determine how best to be in ministry with the LGBTQ community.

The GNJ Way Forward Team, elected at a March 2019 Annual Conference session, is leading the people of Greater New Jersey forward to explore new expressions of Methodism by turning the church outward and renewing the church to focus on the call to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. In their report to Annual Conference, the GNJ Way Forward Team reviewed their transformatio-

“The current witness and mission of the United Methodist Church is weakened by our division and impasse about human sexuality. New expressions — in the form of models, methods and organization — will provide opportunity for diverse congregations to live authentic beliefs, convictions and practices, while remaining connected, to increase our impact through witness and mission in the world,” reported Rev. Sang Won Doh, the convener of the team.

On a Monday morning, May 20, in his episcopal address to the conference

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE

GNJ Methodists Rooted in Faith

By Chris Carter
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WILDWOOD, NJ

Greater New Jersey United Methodists affirmed their roots, celebrated growth and contemplated branching out at this year's Annual Conference in Wildwood. The theme of 'Rooted' recalled the passage from Jeremiah 17:8 “they shall be like a tree planted by water, sending its roots by the stream.”

The theme resonated with those in attendance. “I think the theme is appropriate”, commented Lewis Weil, lay member at large, Church of the Master in Howell, “because we're deep in our roots and won't be pulled out by any winds of change- we'll stay connected.” Cheri Maurer, lay delegate from Broadway UMC in Salem, reflected that, “the theme reminds me of faith, growing like a sapling into a tree.”

Laity and clergy representing local churches met in the Wildwood Convention Center on the evening of Sunday May 19 to start the conference with a powerful ordination service. The conference uplifted 18 newly commissioned

The GNJ Way Forward Team Timeline



Learning for What Comes Next in Tanzania at the GNJ Local Pastor School

By Carolyn Conover
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MWANZA, TANZANIA

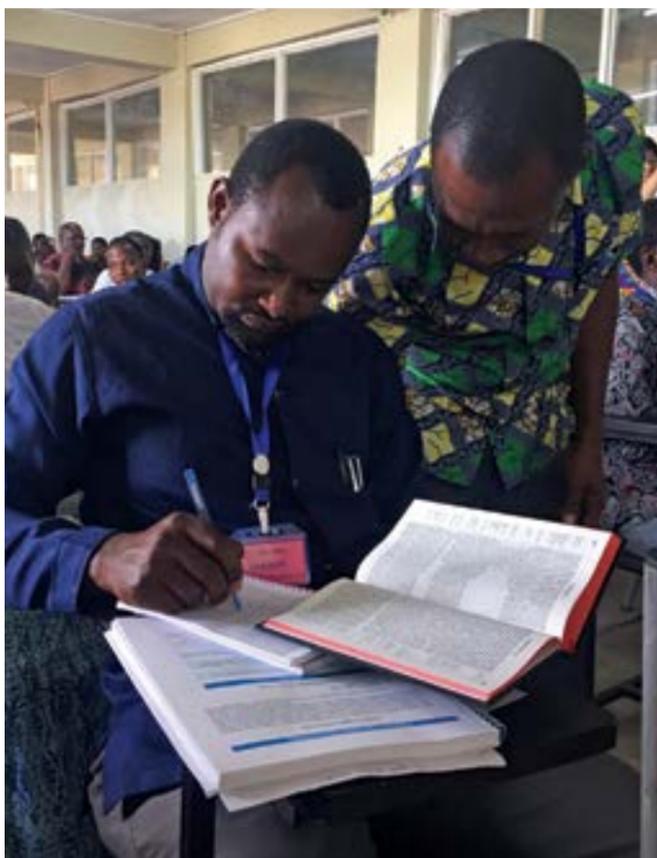
At the top of a dusty, rocky hill the people of the Nyegezi United Methodist Church welcomed Bishop Schol and a team of leaders from GNJ who had come to Tanzania to lead the Local Pastors' School. The Nyegezi church building, nestled among the signature rock formations of Mwanza, was a shell of concrete blocks and a small tarp was propped in one corner where the congregation would gather to worship.



While the women of the congregation served their guests cold drinks, the men split large boulders which will fill in the foundation of the sanctuary. The pastor explained that the congregation had grown from a small gathering of seven worshippers to one of over 40.

To the leaders of Greater New Jersey, this church symbolized how United Methodists in Tanzania were growing the church. The new church building was being constructed as a form of evangelism. The people of Nyegezi saw the construction as a sign that the congregation is foundational to the community and the permanence of the church. The space itself attracted new worshippers and changed the experience this religiously diverse community held for United Methodists. The construction was being carried out by the members of the church as a form of stewardship and generosity. Every worshiper in the church was expected to contribute, to haul supplies up the winding cobblestone road, to split rock and build the foundation or to provide refreshment for those who were laboring. The UMC of Nyegezi was carrying out the call to make disciples of Christ.

Meeting the pastor and congregation in Nyegezi, and four other congregations who faced similar challenges in Mwanza, set the tone for GNJ leaders preparing to teach at the pastor school. In 2018, United Methodists in Greater New Jersey created a partnership with Tanzania which included an annual Local Pastors' School to help equip leaders. The effort, funded by the Miracles Everywhere campaign, included a five day school held



Rev. Upendo Malaki at the GNJ Tanzania Pastors' School using his new Swahili Bible. Photo by Carolyn Conover

at Wesley College in Mwanza, Tanzania. One hundred and twenty men and 41 women leaders of churches came from across the country, some travelling 18 hours by bus, to attend the school so that they could further their ministry in their communities. Many brought their children with them.

The curriculum started with Connecting the Biblical Narrative. The GNJ team bought Swahili Bibles in Dar es Salaam to distribute because they learned last year that many of the local pastors did

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“THE THEME REMINDS ME OF FAITH, GROWING LIKE A SAPLING INTO A TREE.”

—Cheri Maurer, lay delegate of Broadway UMC, Salem, NJ

and ordained clergy, including one missionary for the General Board of Global Ministries who will serve in Mongolia. From the counties and cities of New Jersey, GNJ Methodists are sending far reaching roots.

Other services honored 21 retiring clergy representing 549 years of ministry, 141 local pastors in attendance and more than 80 newly appointed pastors and their congregational leaders. The Service of Remembrance featured a powerful sermon by Bishop Ernest Lyght in remembrance of the 28 clergy and lay members who passed in the last year.

In his opening Episcopal Address, Bishop Schol lifted up the ministries of Greater New Jersey's people sharing the ways lay and clergy leaders demonstrate love by reaching outward. Schol spoke about the good works being done by GNJ's vital mission partners as they offer financial management, engage young disciples, and fill housing needs in the community. He called for 50 church congregations to plant the seeds of the next Methodism, charging them to be pioneers in ministry. He challenged 75 congregations to be the next Hope Center, 30 to start and grow a youth ministry program, ten each start a new worship experience, and invest in the Stewardship Foundation to move GNJ

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Rooted

Like a tree planted by the water, sending out its roots. —Jeremiah 17:8

The roots of faith and the Methodist movement run deep throughout Greater New Jersey. In GNJ we have two towns named after Francis Asbury, streets named after Methodists — Wesley, Simpson, Webb, Heck, Ebury, Cookman, Dow, Whitfield and Methodist Road, one General Church agency, four mission agencies, two Methodist Universities, a premier Methodist prep school, five camp meetings, nine senior living facilities, two camps and 540 congregations.

George Whitfield's fiery preaching in North Jersey and James Early's class meetings in South Jersey launched one of the great Methodist movements. The movement grew because it was rooted in grace, evangelistic preaching, small groups, the appointment of pastors to congregations and communities, and a commitment to grow disciples spiritually and engage them in mercy, justice and advocacy ministries throughout the region.

Methodism continues to be a missional force within the region. In 2018, 25,306 GNJ United Methodists engaged in community ministries through our congregations serving 553,451 people in our communities. We raised and gave \$3,154,339 for local and worldwide mission.

GNJ Raises up Leaders

GNJ congregational leaders demonstrate powerful leadership every day in their churches and in their communities. Judy Colorado worships at Emmanuel UMC in Springfield where she serves as a lay speaker for her congregation. She serves on the GNJ Board of Laity, is the Gateway North District Lay Leader, Vice Chair of the Council on Finance and Administration, and serves as a trustee for our mission partner, United Methodist Communities. Over the last four years she has represented our conference as a lay delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

Her leadership does not end at the church doors. Last month she was named one of NJ's top nurses for her role as Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President at Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health. Last week, she was one of 21 nurses honored from across the world by the Nurses With Global Impact Organization during its 3rd International Nurses Day held at the United Nations. Wow! Judy's commitment and leadership are moving the church and its mission forward.

We consecrated and ordained 18 clergy, commissioned a new missionary and licensed 18 new local pastors. We also recruited new clergy to serve in GNJ that includes

a Hispanic clergy person, 3 African American clergy persons, a Haitian clergy person and 2 Korean clergy persons. We certified 41 lay ministers and raised up 6 new certified lay ministers. We are transforming the world as we raise up leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations.

GNJ Makes and Sends Disciples

Carol Trimmer from Central UMC bakes and sells 350 pies each year to fund the mission work of her church. Kristen Raine of Sharptown UMC is leading her youth to go deeper in faith with mission trips to Philadelphia and running the vacation Bible School. Her own personal journey includes going deeper in her faith with women's retreats and small group leadership. Paul Klitsch of Cokesbury UMC started the Soles4Souls Ministry in his church, collecting 3,634 pairs of shoes that are recycled for use in Haiti, Kenya and Tanzania. He is a part of Cokesbury's feeding ministries and coordinates the annual trip to Red Bird Mission. GNJ is rich with disciples who serve Jesus Christ in their churches and in their communities.

Our disciples send deep roots as they worship regularly, engage in small group learning, serve in their community, give generously and invite others into a journey of discipleship.

GNJ Grows Vital Congregations

James Lee, who was commissioned last night, serves Wesley Church, a multicultural congregation in South Plainfield. In the last year, the worship attendance grew by 50 people including a reengaged and active youth group.

Other congregations are seeing similar transformations. Bountiful Korean in Martinsville has tripled in worship attendance. Island Heights UMC renewed their focus on young families and celebrated 30 baptisms in the last three years.

Congregations grow strong roots as they connect with the people in the community to learn and engage with those who are seeking and searching for meaning and purpose. Congregations that connect with the people in the community and consistently evaluate their ministry and adapt to changing times are growing spiritually and numerically. They continue to improve their worship, small groups, service in the community and giving to mission beyond the congregation. They inspire and equip their people to make new disciples.

In the past year we have started two new congregations, five new faith communities and seven congregations — four African American, one Hispanic and two Anglo congregations — are moving from part-time to full-time clergy appointments.

GNJ Transforms the World

We transform lives and the world everyday as we offer ministries of hope, healing and wholeness. Our work in Puerto Rico and Tanzania has restored homes and families and brought new understanding of the scriptures, the church and the world. Last year we witnessed transformation at the Tanzania Annual Conference Session when they changed their vote concerning women in service to the church after they saw GNJ's courageous women teaching and leading.

Our work, our ministry is in vain if we are not transforming lives, the church and the world. The purpose of our ministry is change, deep and wide change that stretches out through Wesleyan rootedness that is changing the landscape:

- From segregated to integrated schools
- From racism to ending privilege and creating a socially just world
- From single culture congregations to cross racial appointments and multicultural congregations
- From gender bias to valuing women and men equally
- From disability discrimination to creating a barrier free church and world where all people are treated as abled
- From excluding the LGBTQ community to welcoming and affirming all people
- From uniformity to unity through different expressions
- From an absence of Christ to a passionate following of Jesus

If there is no transformation from current conditions to something new, if there is no change of the heart, or no transformation in the systems and conditions of people in our communities, then our work is not the transformative power of Jesus Christ, but a human effort that falls short of the redemptive and resurrecting power of God.

God has a great future for us as we allow the transformative grace of Jesus Christ to reign in our hearts and is evidenced by our love for God and our neighbor.

GNJ's Mission Partners Are Doing Transformative Ministry

This transformative ministry is being extended even further through our mission partners.

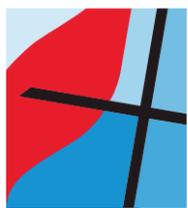
A Future With Hope has cultivated 20 Hope Centers that are bringing hope, healing and wholeness to the people in our communities. Two years ago, we said we would launch 100 Hope Centers across GNJ. We are 20% of the way toward our goal: Hope. A Future With Hope is also working on plans to help churches transform underused property into affordable housing units that include new worship spaces and places for Hope Centers that reach deep into communities. A Future With Hope is extending the mission of GNJ and transformation in communities.

The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation is growing assets for ministry and mission through the 101 congregations that are invested through the foundation. The Foundation now has more than \$46 million under management in socially responsible investments that are creating a better environment, equal employment, fair wages, better schools, and affordable housing. The Foundation is also assisting our congregations to lead giving and stewardship campaigns to grow ministry and capital budgets. The Stewardship Foundation is extending the mission of GNJ and strengthening congregations and the ministry of generosity.

Next Generation Ministries is reaching young people in new and innovative ways. Last year, they reopened camps and this year they are expanding our camping programs. They have launched a civil rights journey for students called the Joshua Generation, introduced Cultivate internships for high school and college students and oversee four Next Gen campus ministries including new ministries at Drew and Rutgers Universities. The IGNITE Youth Conference continues to grow to more than 1,500 people, but more importantly it is reviving youth ministry and welcoming new disciples of Jesus Christ. Next Generation Ministries is extending the mission of GNJ by transforming the lives of young people.

The Centenary Fund continues to support clergy retirees, their spouses and health care for all GNJ retired clergy. Listen to what one of those spouses wrote to us:

There are no words for what I want to say to you... I am so very grateful to you all for your consideration and generosity. You cannot imagine the relief that I feel having this



THE RELAY

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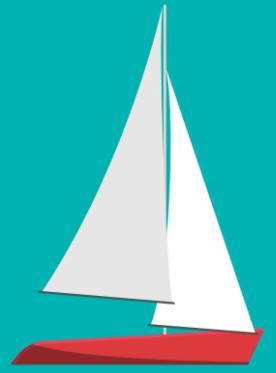
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FRESH AIR & FRESH IDEAS FOR SMALL GROUP SUMMER FUN!

Breathe some air into your small group by taking them on the road this summer.



BEACH DAY

Attend a morning worship service on a beach and spend a beach day in fellowship with your small group.

EXPLORATION

Enjoy museums, restaurants, historical churches, 5K runs and food festivals summer life in the city is exciting.

SPORTING EVENT

Visit one of the several minor league baseball stadiums in the area. Enjoy an evening of food, fireworks and fun!

ROAD TRIP

Tie in your adventures by using the Road Trip small group curriculum in the Breakthrough worship series which explores the adventures of being a follower of Jesus. Are you ready to go?

NATURE WALK

Check out the Delaware Water Gap, the Pine Barrens, Paterson Great Falls, a local arboretum, or a city park walking trail to get in touch with God's good creation!

FRIENDSHIP

Bring a friend or two along for the adventure and introduce them to church outside of the building.

CAMP

Sing around the campfire, make s'mores, join a worship service and create memories. Pinelands Center is available for day use, overnight trips, weekend retreats and week-long camping adventures.

FOR MORE SUMMER FUN:

Check out Summer Small Group Activities and Road Trip Breakthrough Worship Series at: www.gnjumc.org

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burden lifted from my shoulders. We planned for many things that might happen in retirement — but never even thought of this nasty disease that has claimed him... Now you all have done this wonderful thing — you see God led me to you.

The Centenary Fund is extending the mission of GNJ with those who served the church faithfully.

The Miracles Everywhere Campaign has exceeded all expectations by raising more than \$4 million toward our \$6.2 million goal to bring relief to Puerto Rico, provide education and resources for a Hope Center in Tanzania, strengthen Next Generation Ministries, and undergird A Future With Hope mission work. Your generosity is extending miracles everywhere.

We have exceptional ministry across GNJ that is vital, life changing, transformative, and growing. We have a great future ahead because God is with us and we have committed to raising up leaders to transform the world as we make disciples and grow vital congregations. Take courage, God is leading us into the future. We have a future with hope (Jeremiah 29:11).

General Conference

In 2004, I was a delegate to the General Conference held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It was like many other General Conferences — more legislation than is humanly possible to deal with well, people wearing buttons, hats, stoles and carrying signs proclaiming their view and advocating that their cause is the right way. Like other General Conferences, people gathered in different camps about different issues. Yes, the LGBTQI+ community and disciplinary paragraphs related to homosexuality were on the agenda, as they had been for the 30 years before that time. People moved into their camps, gathered their allies and sought to get the votes so their side would win. Something different also emerged. Something I had not experienced in the previous three General Conferences I attended. Leaders from different groups began to talk about an amicable separation. That it was time for the United Methodist Church to separate. To me, it just felt wrong, ungodly, the wrong message to send to the world.

On the last day of General Conference, I, with five other delegates, went to the same microphone. There was one person from each of the five U.S. jurisdictions and one from outside the United States. We boldly proclaimed what became known as the unity resolution. It called for the United Methodist Church to be one in the midst of our differences and for us to continue to work and serve together. The unity resolution passed by more than a 90% margin. We would continue as a UNITED Methodist Church.

Today, if I were a delegate to General Conference, I would again go to the microphone with someone representing each jurisdiction and someone from outside the United States, and we would again offer a resolution. But this time it would be different.

As the writer of Ecclesiastes wrote, there is a time for everything under the sun, and this time, we would offer legislation that it is time for the United Methodist Church to allow for new expressions of Methodism so that we stop hurting each other and give room for different theologies, methods for interpreting the Bible and diversity in practicing our faith. We would offer a resolution that we stop weakening the Wesleyan witness in the world and diminishing our mission in the world by allowing for new expressions of Methodism to emerge.

Here's why: while we have been working to maintain or change our polity, we have fewer congregations, fewer disciples, fewer people going into ministry, smaller Sunday schools, fewer missionaries and decreased mission in our communities and around the world. We need renewal and our renewal will not come by maintaining or changing a handful of disciplinary paragraphs.

We are also seeing colleges, universities and other institutions disassociating with the United Methodist Church. The board chairs and presidents of four institutions in GNJ contacted me about their affiliation with the United Methodist Church and I have been called upon to present or defend the recent General Conference action with two different boards of trustees.

In the past few years the Wesleyan Covenant Association has emerged to support congregations to align in a different expression to renew the church and maintain theological commitments important to them.

Additionally, Germany and other areas outside the United States, including Africa and the Philippines, have indicated that they are seeking new ways to affiliate because of the recent General Conference decision. The bishops and conference leaders from the United States Western Jurisdiction have issued a statement that they will not abide by the recent decision of the General Conference. Across the country, including in GNJ, thousands of clergy and laity have been signing statements that indicate they cannot abide by the General Conference decision.

New Methodist Expressions

We are at an impasse. New expressions must emerge so that we can renew the church and turn it outward. The task before us is to identify what we will continue in common and allow different expressions so that people live into our differences without fear of being called closed minded and discriminatory, or fear of a complaint being filed, or the knowledge that others are harmed by our rules.

The endless attempts to change or maintain disciplinary paragraphs has become not only unproductive but not of God. We are spending energy, time, money and emotion on our differences and it is the mission, witness, people and yes, the church, the body of Christ that is being hurt. In our fervent desire to change or maintain the Book of Discipline, we are hurting the body of Christ, crucifying Jesus all over again.

When the church has reached this point, year after year, General Conference after General Conference, it is time, yes, time for us to find new expressions in which we bless one another, set one another loose for mission, and free each other to pursue the Gospel with passion. It is not our unity that is at stake, but the salvation, the transformation of lives, communities, and the world.

I, together with the leadership of GNJ, will lead the laity, clergy and congregations of our great conference to find a way forward that maintains healthy historic connections and releases and blesses one another for what God has next for us. To find new expressions for the Wesleyan movement that unleashes the Holy Spirit through us. Let me be clear: I am not interested in changing a few paragraphs in the Book of Discipline and then call it a day. The Gospel demands more us, of me and of you as leaders of the church of Jesus Christ. God is ready to do a new thing through us, and while it will not look the same, it will be Wesleyan, it will be connectional, it will be transformative, and it will turn the church outward.

What does turning the church outward mean?

- Outward-serving disciples
- Outward-reaching congregations
- Outward-extending conferencing: church and annual conferencing that focuses on developing leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the world

Together we will lead for a renewal of the church. A renewed church with a vision from God that renews mission, relationships, congregations, leaders, disciples and our polity. Polity that does not change a few paragraphs but reclaims and renews the polity from focusing inward on the institution to outward focusing on the world and engaging disciples to be in the world.

This renewal will also reclaim and go deeper in our work to end racism, privilege and sexism. We know that the votes in 1956 to ordain women and in 1968 to end segregation did not change hearts. A transformation of the heart takes more than legislation and we will continue our work to grow and deepen our relationships with one another.

A church where the disciples in the pews are a friend of Jesus and friends with the people who live in their communities. A church that is unbound and outbound for the purposes of God.



This is not to say that we will no longer be connected, no longer connectional. We know there are things we do together that are not only important to us, but are transformative. I envision different expressions that continue to connect us like streams flowing into the same river. Like rivers share the same water from different streams, we will share the best that we have in common — heritage, mis-

sion, relief and recovery work, mission partners, and much more.

We have important values and ministry that demand we remain connectional and we have differences that require new expressions that set us loose for the Gospel.

The roots of Methodism started here and we are deeply rooted in Methodism's future. It was New Jersey Methodists who helped dismantle the segregated Black Central Jurisdiction and the primarily white conferences by merging together in 1966, two years before the General Conference voted to dismantle the Central Jurisdiction. GNJ Methodists helped to create one of the first seminaries to train ministers by starting Drew University. GNJ Methodists created one of the first higher education institutions for women in the country at what is now known as Centenary University. You ordained Ruth Marion Ellis, one of the first women ordained in 1956. Bishop Prince Taylor was the first African American bishop of a predominately white conference, where? New Jersey. We have been at the forefront of the Next Methodism throughout history.

God is calling us together to work on the renewal of the church, to turn the church outward again. To cease our disciplinary fights and renew ministry with the people in our communities. This is God's time, this is our time to help the larger church see this can be done by blessing one another rather than hurting one another. Supporting each other to move forward, rather than living in fear of complaints. To serve the world rather than trying to win. To renew and transform the church, rather than changing a few paragraphs in the Book of Discipline.

There will be challenging days ahead, but we have the leaders, the disciples and the congregations to transform lives, communities and the world.

What is Next?

During challenging times, times in which we will be exploring new expressions, we will not stop planting trees, sending out roots, spouting new branches and bearing fruit. The need for mission is as urgent today as ever before. The poor, the children, those searching for answers, the homeless, those who confront racism, sexism and classism every day cannot wait for us to figure out our way forward. They do not have the luxury of time. They need us today.

So, while we work on our way forward, we will continue to expand our mission to transform the lives, communities and the world as we raise up transformational leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations.

We will continue to:

- Raise up Hope Centers who bring hope, healing and wholeness in our communities. We are looking for 75 more congregations.
- Reach the next generations of disciples through campus ministries, camping ministry, and youth ministry programs. We are looking for 30 congregations over the next year to start or grow youth ministry programs.
- Be the miracle that helps bring miracles everywhere. We are looking for the next wave of 100 congregations to be a part of the Miracles Everywhere campaign.
- Invest through the Stewardship Foundation to grow assets that are socially responsible assets. We are looking for 10 new stewardship partners.
- Start new faith communities. We are looking for 10 congregations that want to start a new worship experience, a second site worship service, or start a new small group in the community. Pilot a new expression for what is next for the Methodist movement in Greater New Jersey. We are looking for 50 churches who will help us explore what God has next for the United Methodist Church.

God is not done with the Methodist movement in Greater New Jersey. The leaders and disciples of GNJ see a great future with God. We are ready to plant new seedlings, grow new trees, send out deep roots, grow new branches for what God has next for us. We see new generations of disciples, new Hope Centers, new expressions, new faith communities, new leaders, new disciples, all for God's movement to transform the world. 🌱

Pinelands at Mt. Misery Poised to Bring Creative, Innovative Summer of Camps to All

By Chris Carter
ccarter@gnjumc.org

BROWNS MILLS, NJ

There's room for every camper to create and grow this summer, as Next Generation Ministries prepares to launch an innovative and expressive season of camp.

Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery has been freshly equipped to engage the next generation of campers, thanks to the generosity of local churches through the Miracles Everywhere Campaign. As part of a \$200,000 renovation to the Pinelands Center campus, Hulett Hall has been outfitted with a new multi-media system that will bring the sounds and spectacle of IGNITE to the Pine Barrens. Additionally, the National Praise and Worship Institute in Nashville will send a five-member student band to provide live music every night, as part of their own hands-on education in music ministry. Each evening worship service will be a high energy event that brings campers together in making a joyful noise.

Next Gen is committed to making camps accessible to all in Greater New Jersey. No camper will be turned away for financial reasons. Rates are discounted for returning campers, campers who bring a buddy, families with multiple campers, and children of United Methodist clergy. Scholarships, both full and partial, are still available and more information can be obtained at the Next Generation Ministries web page www.GNJNEXTGEN.org.

'Camp Inspire', the new fine arts program, features different tracks that lets campers customize their experience, choosing from drama, music, and graphic/video arts. All campers will produce and perform in an end of the week ensemble to showcase their collaboration and creativity to family and friends from camp and home.

'Niños y Jovenes Para Cristo' returns to the pines, allowing an opportunity to educate and immerse campers in Hispanic culture, regardless of their own background. 'Niños' will also feature a closing celebration at the end of the week.



Campers at Pinelands worship together in nature at the Green Cathedral stage. Photo by Edison Lee

The middle school and high school aged camps will also have showcases to share with parents to share all they have experienced.

This summer there are new opportunities for campers to express themselves each week of camp at Pinelands Center. A video kiosk will let campers record modern letters home to their loved ones, staying connected while having fun making movies. A mini-stage will be set up to serve as an open mike booth for the crooners at camp, or any stand-ups, ventriloquists or magicians in the making.

Going to camp without knowing anyone else can be intimidating, but most campers sign up individually rather than in groups or twos and threes. By the time they get cabin assignments, campers will have found their camp friends. During the week, camp is both nurturing and welcoming to all, with the last day of camp always coming too soon.

Camping is for everyone. Now is the time to register at www.GNJNEXTGEN.org.

2019 CAMPING PROGRAMS



Fine Arts Camp: Camp Inspire 5th - 10th Grade | July 22 - 27

A week of creativity and performance! Join us as we celebrate the gifts God has given us. Campers will have the opportunity to participate in a music, theater, or photography & video track during this week of tuning into holy inspiration.

High School Camp 9th - 12th Grade | July 29 - Aug. 3

A week of connection and leadership for high school students! Campers will be given tons of opportunities to connect with God and each other while building their leadership skills and preparing for the bold future God is calling them to.

Middle School Camp 6th - 8th Grade | Aug. 5 - 10

A week of multicultural fun and discovery for middle school students! Campers will learn about the Bible, participate in special activities like soccer and STOMP and learn what it means to build bridges between different cultures.

Niños y Jovenes para Cristo 1st - 12th Grade | Aug. 12 - 16

A week of celebrating faith and Hispanic heritage! Campers will grow closer to God through age-appropriate activities and study in a place where Hispanic heritage is celebrated. This camp is welcome to anyone who wants a fun week diving into faith.



CHANGE A LIFE - YOURS

Spend a week or more at Next Gen Summer Camps with GNJ youth. The life you change may be your own.

NEXT GENERATION SUMMER CAMP PAID POSITIONS:

- Summer Camp Nurse
- Summer Camp Waterfront Director
- Summer Camp Head Female Counselor
- Summer Camp Head Male Counselor
- Summer Camp Lifeguard
- Summer Camp Photographer
- Summer Camp Counselor
- Summer Camp Administrator
- Summer Camp Maintenance
- Summer Kitchen Crew Member

NEXT GENERATION SUMMER CAMP VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:

- Next Gen Ministries Assistant Camp Director
- Next Gen Ministries Cabin Leader
- Next Gen Ministries Music Director
- Next Gen Ministries Photography and Video Director

APPLY AT:

www.gnjumc.org/job-opportunities

GNJ's Way Forward Team Offers Path

Continued from page 1

Bishop John Schol set the tone and direction for what would come in the Holy Conferencing session. "It is time," said Bishop Schol, "for the United Methodist Church to allow for new expressions of Methodism so that we stop hurting each other and give room for different theologies, methods for interpreting the Bible and diversity in practicing our faith."

New expressions will free congregations to focus on making disciples and growing vital congregations, connecting with the community, engaging younger and more diverse disciples, continuing work on cultural competence, ending racism and sexism within the church and developing Hope Centers.

Doh, accompanied by the 16-member team that represents GNJ leadership including representatives holding both traditional and progressive theologies, outlined their goals:

- Renew the church by turning the church outward — renew our relationship with God, one another and the community so that we connect a life changing and relevant Gospel message with the people in our communities



Rev. Sang Won Doh, Chair of the Connectional Table shares the progress of GNJ with leaders of the conference.

- Bless one another — while not all agreeing, we will not inhibit congregations, disciples and clergy from pursuing their convictions and calling
- Identify objectives for congregations to thrive and a structure to support their efforts
- Identify a process and guidelines for ready and willing congregations to model congregational groupings such as:
- Congregations that hold a scriptural view that same gender weddings should not be performed in our churches and that LGBTQ persons

should not be ordained

- Congregations that hold different scriptural views and can be together recognizing there will be different practices and understandings of the LGBTQ community's participation in the church
- Congregations that hold a scriptural view that Jesus invites everyone to participate fully in the life of the church and that all churches should allow same gender weddings and that all churches should be open to the appointment of an LGBTQ clergy person
- Identify the ministry, mission and administration through which we will continue to connect with one another.

Rev. Amanda Hemenetz, chair of Reconciling Ministries in GNJ and David Wehrle, vice chair of the GNJ Wesleyan Covenant Association gave powerful testimonies detailing their support of the work and their renewed hope in the ministry of Methodists in Greater New Jersey.

During Holy Conferencing, Ashley Wilson, a member of GNJ's Connectional Ministries team, led the body in teaching the principles of an outward mindset. An outward mindset is focused on breaking out of the box of collusion so that people holding opposing viewpoints can see each

other as people and not as objects. Members were called to stand and share stories of transformation using these principals.

Lelia Muckelston, lay member from Pemberton United Methodist Church, shared that she hears God's call to act now. "God is leading me, and giving me so much of the Holy Spirit," she testified before the Conference, "God's just telling me this is where to be." A school teacher, Muckelston praised the outward mindset training, concluding, "I hope the Methodist church goes in that direction."

The Way Forward Team will create sacred space and processes so that local and conference leadership can assist GNJ congregations to:

- Bless one another without trying to change each other
- Explore new expressions of ministry
- Create Sacred Space for these conversations to happen
- Thrive during transitional times
- Listen and communicate with transparency

GNJ's Way Forward Team outlined a timeline that included a Special Annual Conference Session to be called in the fall of 2019. At that time, congregations ready and willing to pilot new expressions will be launched. Fifty-nine congregations have already expressed interest in participating in the pilots. 🏳️‍🌈

To learn more about the work of the Way Forward Team, explore the tools of Outward Mindset and to sign up your congregation to pilot a new expression, go to www.gnjumc.org/the-way-forward.

GNJ Methodists Rooted in Faith at Annual Conference

Continued from page 1

forward; and Schol challenged 100 congregations to be the next miracle in the Miracles Everywhere Campaign.

In a personal and emotional witness to the church, Bishop Schol expressed his commitment to explore new expressions of Methodism in the wake of current disagreements over homosexuality. "Let me be clear, I am not interested in changing a few paragraphs in The Book of Discipline and then call it a day," Schol told the assembly, "the Gospel demands more of us, of me and of you as leaders of the church of Jesus Christ. God is ready to do new things through us and while it will not look the same, it will be Wesleyan, it will be connectional, it will be transformative and it will turn the church outward." *The full text of the Episcopal Address can be found on page 2.*

"I felt so blessed to hear the bishop encourage us to move forward," Shawn Grant, a licensed local pastor at Ballard UMC said, "in a way that we can all gather at the table."

Furthermore, on Tuesday, Bishop Schol invited members of the Way Forward Team to share their work during Holy Conferencing. The vice chair of the Wesleyan Covenant Association, David Wherle, and Reconciling Ministries chair Amanda Hemenetz both spoke about how the team provides hope in moving forward. At microphones, conference attendees spoke about times in their lives when they experienced outward reaching ministries.

Greater New Jersey's roots nourish the fruits of many labors in local churches, statewide, and throughout the wider connection. The Miracles Everywhere Campaign received \$31,281.50 from GNJ congregations, which will support partnerships in Tanzania, Puerto Rico, A Future With Hope, and Next Generation

Ministries. Sammy Arroyo, GNJ's representative to the NJ Coalition for Diverse and Inclusive Schools, updated the body on a historic lawsuit against the state of New Jersey to desegregate public schools. GNJ leaders reported on growth toward the conference's 2023 Strategic Plan Goals, and on resources like the Breakthrough Worship Series, Clergy Coaching, Congregational Leadership Development Initiative, and more. Volunteers packed over 30,000 meals during Annual Conference for Rise Against Hunger, forming an assembly line with one person ringing a gong every ten thousand meals packaged. "It was amazing," said Bonnie Simmons, lay servant visitor of Knowlton UMC, "a good time of fellowship, working and dancing and singing together."

Leaders of Greater New Jersey are equipping the next generation with skills for tomorrow's ministry, and growing leadership in local churches. Joe Jeung, currently of the Rutgers Campus Ministry, commented that the Safe Sanctuaries workshop "was really informative and will be useful in my appointment to a demographically diverse community," he will serve as associate pastor of New Brunswick UMC come July. New United Methodists are learning best practices to keep the church moving ahead with vitality, "I'm new to the denomination as of last year," Antoinette Moss, lay visitor of Trinity UMC in Highland Park told us, "and I learned how critical it is to have policies that ensure up to date background checks and training." Techniques, including outward mindset training, allow pastors and laity the space they need to find their way forward. "Outward mindset training changed the discussion from as usual to rethinking how we debate," observed Wil Wilson, associate pastor of Freehold First UMC, "we talk



The newly commissioned celebrate during the ordination service Monday night.

Photo by Shari DeAngelo

about transformation and this is aimed at transforming everyone."

Greater New Jersey's commitment to intercultural competence continued with a teaching session led by Kristina González, Director of Innovation for an Inclusive Church in the UMC's Greater Northwest Episcopal Area. She focused on cultural competency and its intersections with emotional intelligence. Through hands-on and small group exercises, attendees were encouraged to engage with each other and with skills that will further GNJ's commitment to its ten-year cultural competency plan.

Important business included the election of delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences in 2020. Annual Conference voting members elected eight delegates, four clergy and four laity, to be GNJ's voice to the denomination

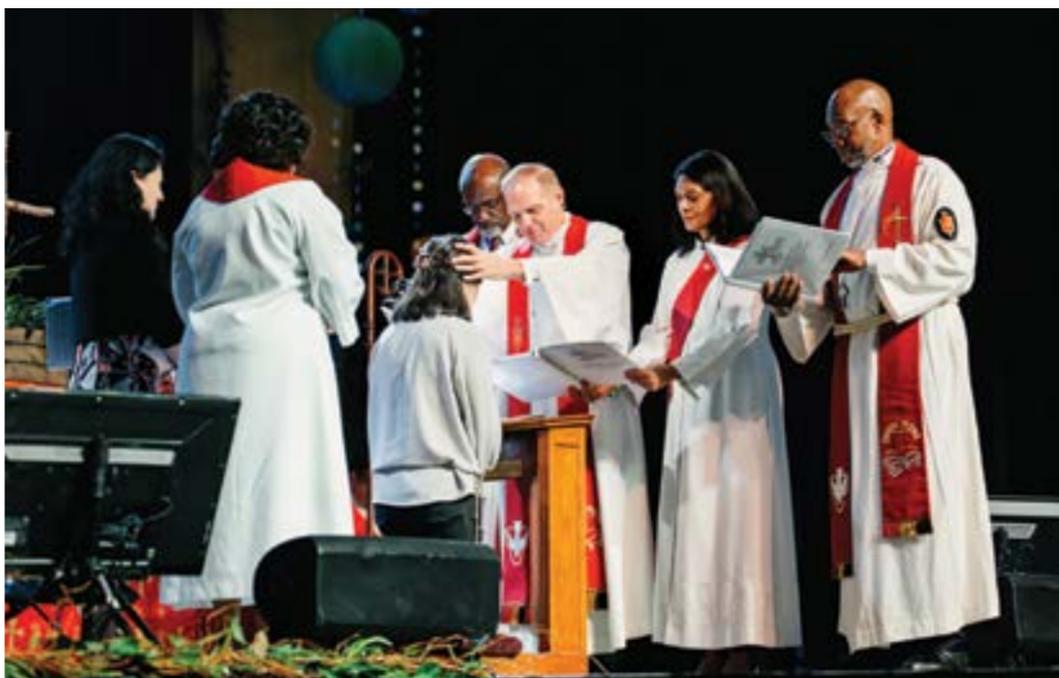
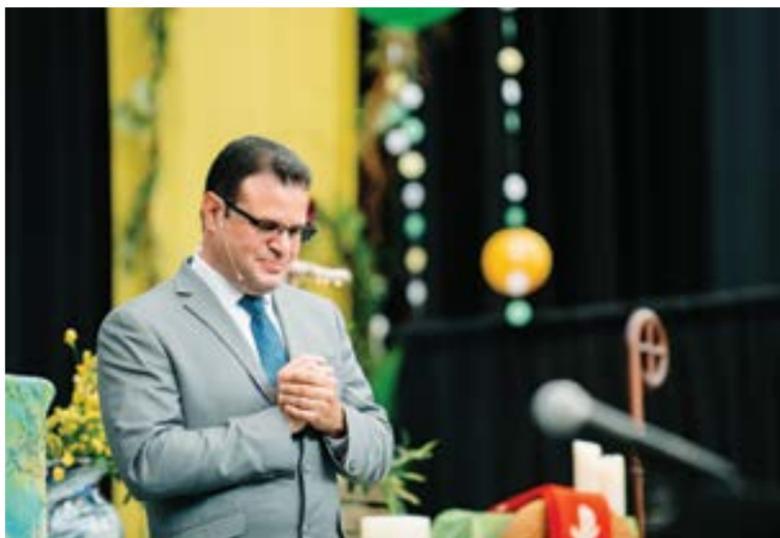
in Minneapolis next year. Another eight delegates, four lay and four clergy, were elected to attend the 2020 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in Hunt Valley, MD, one of five such jurisdictions in the U.S. *More about the elected delegates from GNJ on page 8.*

Several attendees commented on the smooth operations of this year's legislation. "It was efficient," reported Marilyn Balzer, retired deacon, "and actually fun, to see clergy and laity participating together."

As Methodists near and far envision the future of their denomination, they may look back on their roots as much as seeking fertile ground. The seeds GNJ sows are bearing fruit. The people of Greater New Jersey, like Jeremiah's tree, are firmly planted, and sending out roots by the stream. 🏳️‍🌈



Clockwise from top left: Rev. Brandon Cho gives a report to Annual Conference on Next Generation Ministries; Chun (Grace) Cho was commissioned as a missionary for Global Ministries and will serve in Mongolia; Members of the Annual Conference Choir performed at the Service of Remembrance; Moselle Jules shares a moment with a friend; Anointing at the Service of Passage; Rev. Catherine Williams was elected to serve as a clergy delegate for the Jurisdictional Conference; Bishop Schol performed the baptism of Elba Rose Pillot Stow, daughter of Jacqueline Francis Pillot and Pedro Antonio Pillot Soto; Director of Connectional Ministries, Rev. Hector Burgos delivering the leadership address.



Photos by Shari DeAngelo

Delegates Elected to General, Jurisdictional Conferences

General Conference, held every four years, is the top policy-making body of the global United Methodist Church. This year at Annual Conference in Wildwood, Greater New Jersey United Methodists elected eight delegates, four clergy and four lay members, to represent GNJ at General Conference next year. They will serve as the voice of our conference in the global connection.

Laity Delegates to General Conference



BETHANY AMEY, lay member of Trinity UMC in Clayton, will chair the lay delegation, previously having served as lay delegate in both the 2012 and 2016 General Conferences; she was one of 12 legislative committee chairs in 2016 (Church and Society, Group 1). Bethany also sits on the GNJ Rules Committee. "I pray that we continue to be change makers and leaders in the areas of disaster response and global health," said Bethany, and that "we continue to embrace love, do justice, and walk humbly with God."



JUDY COLORADO, lay member of Community UMC in Kenilworth, currently serves on the board of directors for United Methodist Communities. Judy is co-chair for the budget committee of GNJ's Council on Finance and Administration and serves on the CF&A boards at the jurisdictional and denominational level. Judy represented GNJ as delegate at both the Northeastern Jurisdictional and General Conferences in 2016. "I am hopeful that General Conference will be a time of renewal for the church," Judy stated, "and of conversations on changes that we need to explore and embrace to be more effective and efficient in our ministry work together."



HARRIETT OLSON, lay member of Morristown UMC, current CEO and general secretary for United Methodist Women and three-time delegate to Jurisdictional and General Conferences, joins the laity delegation. Harriett has also served as GNJ's Chair for the Council on Ministries and member of the denominational General Board of Discipleship. "I hope the UMC invites and welcomes people to a deep journey of faith," Harriett remarks, "We must find ways to treat each other with honor and respect, not just for our side to 'win'."



STEPHEN QUIGG lay member of Elmer UMC, currently board member of the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association, brings over 40 years of missionary experience to GNJ's delegation. Stephen has served in Nigeria and the DR of Congo as pilot/mechanic and as aviation coordinator for the United Methodist Aviation Ministries and has been a longtime mission advocate for the General Board of Global Ministries. He hopes that "in Minneapolis we lay the foundation of a fruitful and faithful UMC of the future."

Clergy General Conference Delegates



DREW DYSON, full member elder, executive director of the Princeton Senior Resource Center, will chair the GNJ clergy delegation. Drew has served as delegate to General Conference in 2012, to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 2012 and 2016 and currently sits on the NEJ Boundaries Committee. He is also the outgoing District Superintendent for the Raritan Valley District of GNJ. A missional church "moves beyond institutional survival and sees vitality not only in metrics, but in lives changes and communities transformed," said Drew, "Wesleyan faith weaves personal spiritual formation with societal transformation, towards the embodiment of God's kingdom."



HECTOR BURGOS, full member elder, current Director of Connectional Ministries for GNJ, recently appointed Capital District Superintendent and member of both the Board of Ordained Ministry and Next Generation Ministries, joins the clergy delegation. Hector is also director of communications for the national Hispanic caucus, MARCHA. Hector states "I hope that General Conference, guided by the Holy Spirit, will set a bold vision for mission in the world and gracefully discern a clear, courageous, implementable and sustainable plan that will strengthen our witness around the world and welcome and include all people."



KALEIGH TOMICH CORBETT, provisional member, currently pastor at Frankford Plains UMC (recently appointed to Milford UMC) and previously associate pastor of Princeton and Bishop Janes UMCs, brings her experience in youth ministry to the delegation. Kaleigh has served on GNJ's Youth and Young Adult Ministries Team and worked in GNJ's camping ministry. "It is time to move towards reconciliation and hope in becoming inclusive to all" noted Kaleigh, "I believe there is a way to both honor our diverse theological perspectives and remain in ministry together."



JENNIFER CHO, elder, pastor at Bridgewater UMC, member of the Board of Ordained Ministries and vice-chair of the Board of Pension, joins the GNJ clergy delegation. Jennifer has previously chaired the Commission on Equitable Compensation for GNJ and sat on the national EC board. Jennifer hopes that at General Conference "the UMC will offer a large tent of inclusiveness which embraces people of all backgrounds, cultures, lifestyles, theologies and convictions," and adding the quote (from the Latin) that prescribes, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

Clergy Jurisdictional Conference Delegates



CATHERINE WILLIAMS, elder, is Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, PA. Catherine has previously served as associate pastor and administrative pastor at Princeton UMC and Chambers UMC in Trenton. Catherine prays that "the United Methodist Church comes to terms with what it truly means to be a global church," and to, "demonstrate radical hospitality to all God's people." She adds, "I hope and pray for the spirit of love, grace and unity to prevail, through us and in spite of us."



THOMAS LANK, full member deacon, jurisdictional coordinator for United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (Northeastern) is also serving as vice chair on both GNJ and the NEJ's Committees on Episcopacy as well on the interjurisdictional COE board. Thomas represented GNJ at the General and Interjurisdictional Conferences in 2016. "The current moment is a test of our faith," Thomas stated, "my hope is that we come through the test stronger, ready to tackle new challenges with prophetic voice, such as taking action in climate change."



September 28, 2019

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WILLIAM WILLIAMS III is a full member elder, pastor at FUMC Westfield, recording secretary for GNJ’s Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and serves on the Raritan District Committee on Ministry. William has also served as Cape Atlantic District’s Circuit Elder and as recording secretary for the Northeastern Jurisdictional chapter of Black Methodists for Church Renewal. William hopes the UMC will “makes strides against discriminatory and exclusionary practices,” and at General Conference, “clear legislative statements of inclusion and hope, celebrate and affirm our denomination’s theological diversity, and lead us forward with tangible plans for our local churches.”



EUNICE VEGA-PEREZ, elder, currently pastor at Bishop Janes UMC, Skyland District Superintendent appointee and executive committee member on GNJ’s Board of Ordained Ministries, joins the jurisdictional delegation; she also serves on the United Methodist Women’s program advisory group and board of the General Commission on the Rights and Status of Women. Eunice represented GNJ at the 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. “My hope for this church is one that remains relevant for future generations,” and that “our decisions are done in a respectful and spirit-filled way.”

Clergy Reserves

Three clergy were selected as reserve delegates and will act as alternate conference representatives in extenuating circumstances. The reserve clergy are: Tanya Linn Bennett, Robert Costello and Sang-Won Doh.

Laity Delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference



DALE CALDWELL, lay member of UMC at New Brunswick, will represent GNJ as one of the lay delegates to the jurisdictional conference. Dale previously served on the board of trustees for A Future with Hope and was a member of GNJ’s Council on Finance and Administration. “We were able to work around the division on race,” Dale reminded us, “and with God’s help we can work through the current division.” He quotes 1 Peter 3:8: ‘Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart and a humble mind.’



CYNTHIA KENT, lay member of Wesley UMC in Belleville, serves on GNJ’s Native American Committee and chairs both the Native American Ministries Committee for the Northeastern Jurisdiction and the Native American International Caucus. She has previously served on the Board of Ordained Ministry and Committee on Church and Society in GNJ. Kent is also a member of the denomination’s Connectional Table. For Cynthia, General Conference is “an opportunity for people from different backgrounds, coming together, to work on ways for our denomination to be a beacon of hope for the world.”



MOSELLE JULES, lay member of Haddonfield UMC, youth and young adult delegate to GNJ’s Annual Conference, joins the laity delegation from Greater New Jersey at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. She traveled with several youth selected by the NEJ to Cuba, in the 2018 Mission of Peace program. Moselle hopes that the UMC can “fully embrace the phrase ‘open hearts, open minds, open doors,’” noting that “because we are a church that is able to spread God’s love, we are also a church that can, and has, caused pain.”



CAROLYN PENDLETON lay member of Asbury UMC in Atlantic City, current lay leader for the Cape Atlantic District and member of the Board of Ordained Ministries, will return to the jurisdictional conference as a delegate, having served in 2016. Carolyn also represents the Northeastern Jurisdiction’s chapter of Black Methodists for Church Renewal at the national level. “Without the presence of the Holy Spirit,” Pendleton said, “confusion will reign, and church ministry will suffer.”

Laity Reserves

Three lay members were selected as reserve delegates and will act as alternate conference representatives in extenuating circumstances. The reserve laity are Jane Ehlers, Creed Pogue and Andrea Wren-Hardin.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019



Pastor Teresita Matos-Post of Totowa UMC feels the Holy Spirit moving through Wildwoods Convention Center.

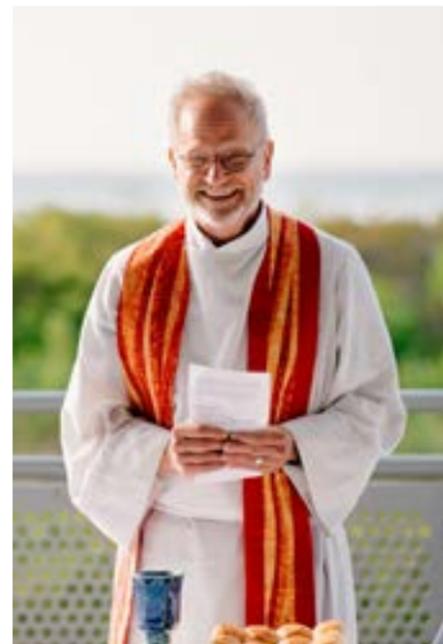


Bishop Ernest Lyght delivered a powerful sermon as a part of the Service of Remembrance.

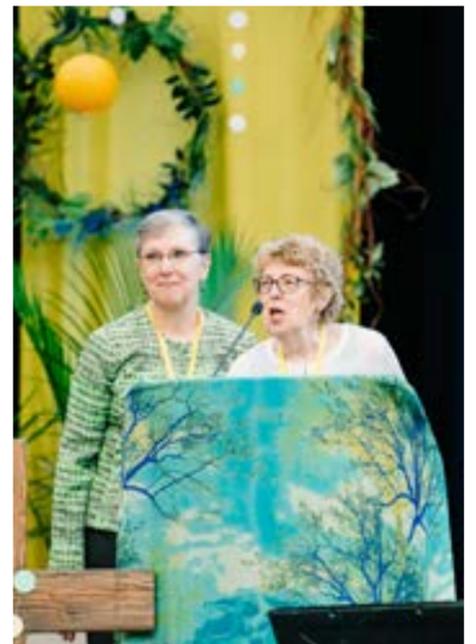
Photos by Shari DeAngelo



Kristina Gonzalez, Director of Innovation for an Inclusive Church for the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area, led a teaching session and workshop on intercultural competence.



Rev. Blair Goold of Island Heights UMC serves communion on the beach.



Harriett Olson, General Secretary of United Methodist Women and Kathy Schulz, GNJ’s President of United Methodist Women, celebrated 150 years for the organization.

Bishops Teach Tanzanian Methodists about the Role and Relationships of the Global Church

By Carolyn Conover
cconover@gnjumc.org

MWANZA, TANZANIA

The five-day Tanzania Local Pastors' School, led by a team from Greater New Jersey, included topics ranging from an overview of the Bible to leading the congregation toward vitality, and from stewardship to the Trinity. Bishop Mande Muyombo of the North Katanga Episcopal Area led a session on the Global Church and invited Bishop John Schol to talk about what is occurring in the U.S. following the February General Conference Special Session.

"Connectionalism makes the United Methodist Church unique," said Bishop Muyombo, "John Wesley meant the annual conference to be a place of relationship. The global relationship of our church calls us to be together and at the same time recognize our diversity." Bishop Muyombo recognized that the church is struggling because of different understandings of how to be in ministry with the LGBTQ community.

Bishop Schol emphasized that our connection builds relationships and increases our capacity for mission, but that our relationship and mission was in danger.

"Sometimes what is voted in General Conference does not give those of us in the United States room to adapt," he continued, "there are unique differences around the world."

"THE GLOBAL RELATIONSHIP OF OUR CHURCH CALLS US TO BE TOGETHER AND AT THE SAME TIME RECOGNIZE OUR DIVERSITY."

—Bishop Mande Muyombo of the North Katanga Episcopal Area

Using the example of electrical connections in different countries, Bishop Schol demonstrated how we need to adapt ministry to different contexts. "In Africa, we use this electrical cord," said Bishop Schol as he held up a three-pronged plug specifically designed to receive electricity in Tanzania but would not work in the U.S. "In



Bishop Mande Muyombo of the Tanzania Conference.

the United States we use this kind of electrical cord," he continued, holding up a plug standard for use in the U.S. "Both cords give us electricity, however if you try to force one plug out of context, you will burn out the plug and even the piece of equipment you want to use."

Bishop Muyombo asked those who attended the Special Session of General Conference in St. Louis to share their experiences. One delegate shared that he did not understand the issues before going and got confused by the language while there. Two of

the women delegates shared that they were happy to hear the progressives at the conference share that they will not give up on the church. One shared, "They will stay and fight because their families, their mothers and fathers and their grandparents are all a part of the church."

Tanzanian delegates all shared that they believed United Methodists left unified about the outcome of General Conference and would continue as a unified church.

Bishop Schol tempered the understanding, "If there is not room created for different contexts by 2020, the church will most likely divide."

To demonstrate the challenges in Greater New Jersey, Bishop Schol called on the pastors in attendance to share their experiences.

Rev. Ronell Howard, Christ UMC in Piscataway, shared that her congregation is divided and concerned. "We've talked about the issues facing the church and we've agreed on three priorities moving forward. The first is love, the second is unity and the third is understanding."

Rev. Javier Barroso, from Fourth UMC in Millville shared that his church is more supportive of the present policy of the Book of Discipline and he recognizes there are different understandings.

Unable to restrain passionate tears, Rev. Heather Valosin explained that while she loves her denomination, she agrees with her congregation. Her church, Denville Community Church UMC is known as 'The Church of the Open Door' and is proud to welcome all people. The decision at General Conference conflicts with their identity, and has caused Valosin stress. The African delegates were visibly moved by her witness. Bishop Muyombo called for prayer and delegates gathered around Valosin to pray for her, her church and the denomination.

Bishop Muyombo asked her to personally bring his message of hope and unity back to her congregation. "The church is open to everyone," he declared.

Bishop Schol concluded the conversation asking the Tanzanians for their support for allowing differences in the U.S. and prayers to remain a global church. "My life is better by people thinking and practicing their faith in different ways," he said.

GNJ Local Pastor School in Tanzania

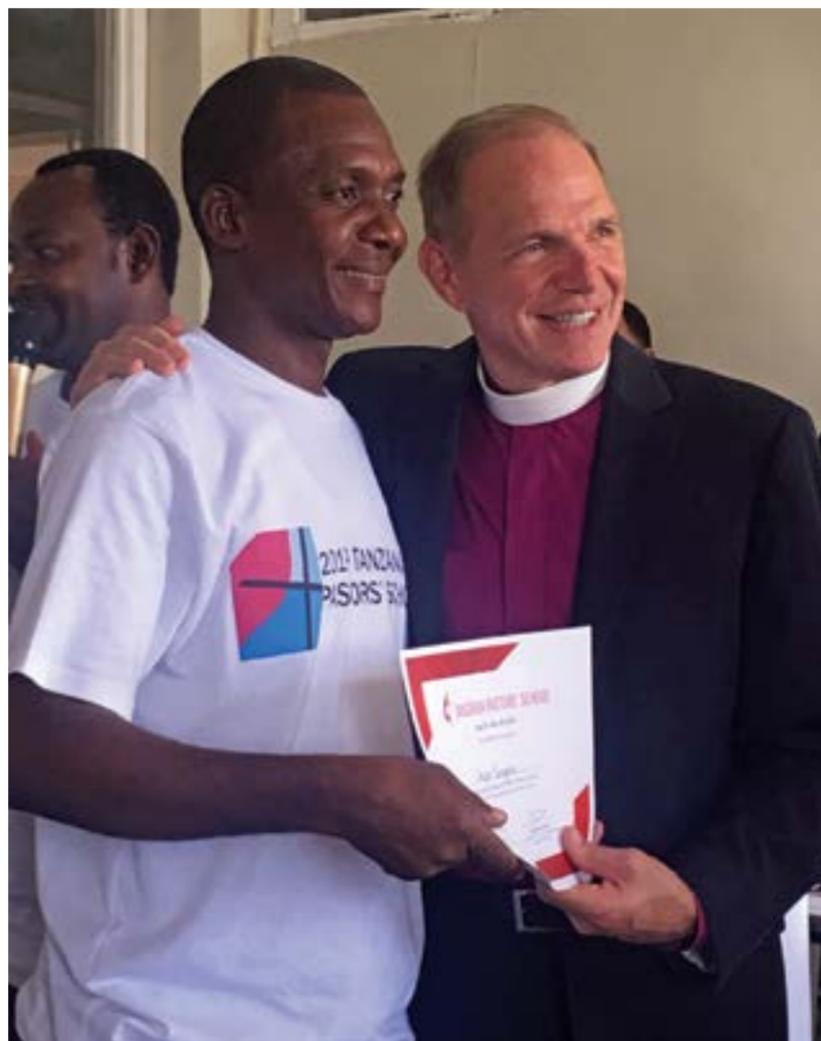
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not have one. Also, there were only two graduates of seminary among the group.

"I saw God at work as the people bolted up to the front to pick up their Bibles and then immediately opened it to the scriptures being used in the lessons that day," said Rev. Dr. Gina Hendrickson, Superintendent of Northern Shore who led the first sessions on Connecting the Biblical Narrative. "My teaching came alive and people were so thankful."

After hearing Rev. Ronell Howard of Christ UMC in Piscataway lead a session on generosity, James Mnkondya, a student at Wesley College said, "In Africa, we believe we are poor. But now I understand that we have so much to give. Generosity is not about money. It is about using the resources we have. We have been equipped and we can transform the world thanks to the teaching of the GNJ." The session on spiritual gifts led by Rev. Heather Valosin from Denville Community UMC, was particularly meaningful to Rev. Young-Seon (Christina) Kim, a GBGM missionary who is serving as the Director of Next Generation Ministries in Tanzania. "Young people in Tanzania need to recognize their spiritual gifts to lead the church," said Kim. "Our pastors need to hear how identifying spiritual gifts in the young people in the congregation will help their ministry go wider in the community."

Music, dancing and singing united the group each day in joyful worship and devotion. Rev. Javier Barroso demonstrated how to lead through a sermon, using a powerful example of his own personal experience and connecting it to the story of the Prodigal Son. His vulnerability opened up the following small group session to create a safe space for the Tanzanian pastors to share



Asaph Sungara receives a certificate from Bishop Schol for completing the Tanzania Pastors' School in Mwanza. Photo by Carolyn Conover

their personal testimony as sermons. "We all learn that our own stories are the most powerful testimonies to transform lives," said Barroso.

Bishop John Schol who led the team summed up the experience, "The GNJ Tanzania Pastors' School provides valuable insight into creating a transformative church for these leaders in Tanzania. The reality is that we have much in common with our brothers and sisters in Tanzania and face many of the same challenges in the church. We are learning so much from this partnership."

Bishop Mande Muyombo of the North Katanga Conference inspired the students by sharing the powerful message of evangelism. "The people are waiting in the villages and neighboring cities to hear us share the word of God. Jesus Christ used the church to heal each and every one. Now it depends on you. It all depends on your faith."

The GNJ team knew these words to be true because they had seen them in action at the Nyegezi church. The people of Nyegezi see each day the investment the congregation is making in their community. They are curious about what comes next. They are waiting to hear the word of God. By putting their faith into action, the congregation in Nyegezi and congregations throughout Tanzania, just like congregations in Greater New Jersey, are sharing the message of Christ and transforming the world.



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- Most campers come as individuals and not in groups. They may come alone but they leave with new friends and connections that change their lives.
- No camper will be turned away for financial reasons. Rates are discounted for returning campers, campers who bring a buddy, families with multiple campers and children of United Methodist clergy.
- Scholarships, both full and partial, are still available and more information can be obtained at the Next Gen website.

Pastors Explore Best Practices in Worship Design

By Rev. Melissa Hinnen

NEPTUNE, NJ

Are you looking for strategies to refresh your worship planning process?

Would a five-week sermon series, worship guide, and small group curriculum allow you to focus on other aspects of ministry this summer?

The Greater NJ United Methodists have developed resources to help you 'Breakthrough' with creative and relevant worship plans; they are free for you to use and adapt at www.gnjumc.org/breakthrough.

Gina Yeske, Director of Small Groups and Lan Wilson, Director of Worship recently led a workshop on the 'Road Trip' series from the Breakthrough program. Pastors learned how to more fully utilize the resources while sharing ideas and best practices with each other.

According to Wilson, the Road Trip material is ideal for summer or other ordinary time when people are traveling. The series is designed so that different leaders can step in from week to week while maintaining a sense of continuity.

The workshop opened with worship, incorporating elements of the Breakthrough model. From the gathering praise music and liturgy, to a sermon preached by Rev. Jonathan Campbell, the service presented opportunities for creating a meaningful order of worship. Rev. Yeske led an extemporaneous communion liturgy that connected with the sermon and other parts of worship.

Wilson later pointed out that while there are no prescribed words, a good communion practice includes a call, invitation, prayer of thanksgiving, words of institution, and consecration of elements. Wilson said that Bishop John Schol encourages leaders to ask, "How does the prayer of thanksgiving reflect what's already been said in worship and connected to what is next as people go out into the world?"

Breakthrough uses a sermon preparation strategy developed by Rev. Andy Stanley that incorporates five motions. Workshop participants used the method to prepare a sermon outline based on the Great Commission in Matthew 28: 16-20. The format follows the pattern: 'me, we, God, you, we'.

Starting with a personal story ('me'), the preacher might talk about being sent somewhere to complete a mission. Participants then considered various focal points of the story to several profiles of people in their congregation ('we').



According to Wilson, it is important to include different angles because people are going through different experiences at any given time. "How would five people you know respond to the Great Commission?" he asked.

He continued, "Look at disciple-making through parishioners' eyes." For example, in preaching about the text of the Great Commission, pastors might address different assignments or responsibilities that people are tasked with that are perhaps overwhelming. Or the preacher might talk about how mission and ministry is lived out through the faith community.

The third movement of the sermon is the exegesis, exploring what the Word says historically and connecting it to our context today ('God').

After unpacking the Scripture, what is the challenge for the congregation based on the message ('you')? What is the personal commission for each person who hears the sermon?

Finally, what is the hope found when we live out God's challenge in the world ('we')? What will the impact be as the church makes disciples for all the world who follow the teachings of Jesus?

Wilson suggested that using this format is a great way to share a message through a joint process. He selected ten people to share the sermon in two different ways. Each person quickly prepared one of the movements and then brought it together with the other four people on the team. Even though each person developed a section independently and from his or her own perspective, the final result was a meaningful and coordinated message.

The sermons in the Breakthrough series connect directly with a companion small group discussion resource. The small group can meet after church or later in the week. Yeske explained, "The program is set up to utilize the sermon as the 'DVD' or introduction in preparation for the small group."

Each session in a five-week series builds on the sermon topic and includes a prayer, icebreaker activity, discussion questions, and next steps with a measure of accountability. Breakthrough is designed "as a template for laity to feel empowered to facilitate without deep study and preparation," Yeske explained. 🇺🇸

Wilson and Yeske are passionate about helping planning teams reimagine worship and small groups. They encourage church leaders to break out of traditions that have become idols. Those interested in learning more can contact Wilson or Yeske on the Breakthrough webpage and download the material: <https://www.gnjumc.org/breakthrough>.

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Pemberton UMC, 3rd Oldest in Nation, Celebrates 250 Years

By Lisa Challenger

PEMBERTON, NJ

This year marks the 250th anniversary for Pemberton United Methodist Church, making it the third oldest congregation in the country. The church celebrated this milestone at a May 3 gala attended by more than 200 current and former parishioners.

The congregation began in 1769 under the leadership of Captain Thomas Webb, who wore a patch over his right eye and dressed in his British military uniform. Bishop Francis Asbury preached here in 1772 and the first church building was constructed in 1775. In 1785, Dr. Thomas Coke wrote, "This church has been favored with a faithful ministry for sixteen years."

The building has changed over the years and the church was rebuilt in 1895 after a disastrous fire. But throughout its history the congregation has continued to flourish with a faithful ministry that today includes God's Closet, a Food Pantry and the Loads of Love Ministry. Through this outreach people can receive gently used clothes, non-perishable food items, and vouchers to wash and dry clothes on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month.

The celebration included music from violinist Monique Brooks-Roberts and keynote speaker Dr. Tony Campolo.

Shirley Adams, member of Pemberton UMC for over 71 years, told us, "I am so happy that my whole family is here to witness this exciting day in the history of our church." 🇺🇸



Rev. William Carter III and leaders of the Pemberton United Methodist Church celebrated the 250th anniversary of the congregation. They are the third oldest United Methodist congregation in the country. Photo by Paul Guba

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Frenchtown UMC Blesses Bikes and Riders

By Chris Carter
ccarter@gnjumc.org

FRENCHTOWN, N.J.

Pastor Peter Mantell hosted Frenchtown United Methodist Church's first Blessing of the Bikes on Sunday May 26 as part of FUMC's effort to reach out to the community. Riders of all types of bikes were invited to have their two-wheeled mounts blessed in the church parking lot.

Frenchtown, on the banks of the Delaware River, is a haven for cyclists, bikers, or those just along for the ride seeking to connect with God's creation. The 70-mile Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park winds through the Hunterdon County community and provides a bucolic trail to explore, whether on two feet or two wheels.

One of the congregants anointed Pastor Mantell and his own bicycle as well. He plans to hold several similar events over the summer but, "rather than having people come to the church, I'll go down to the river by the bridge that spans the Delaware and offer blessings to the many bikers who are out enjoying this beautiful community."

Mantell observed that, "whether you're riding a Harley or a Schwinn, getting out on the open road is a great feeling of liberation." He reminded the attendees that no matter what, "they're not riding alone. God is with them always," adding, "I hope that our bike blessing offered them God's peace as they ride."

The Blessing of the Bikes was the brainchild of Kingwood UMC board member, Will Goeckeler; that church in neighboring Stockton is Mantell's other charge. An active rider, Goeckeler thought it would be a great way

to raise the church's profile in the community. "Jesus invited everyone to the table," he told us, "and I know that if He was in Frenchtown, the motorcyclists would be the first group He'd gravitate towards."

Frenchtown resident Adam Blackburn came to the blessing with his son Charlie to have both of their bikes blessed. "This was such a special moment for us," said Blackburn, "I love how the congregation welcomed us into their warm fellowship." 🇺🇸



"Whether you're riding a Harley or a Schwinn, getting out on the open road is a great feeling of liberation," Rev. Peter Mantell commented at the May 26 event.



Rev. Peter Mantell blesses a rider and bicycle at Frenchtown UMC's first blessing of the bikes.

CUMAC's Pathways to Work Sets Paterson Man on Road to Education and Career

By Adrian Diaz

PATERSON, N.J.

Meet Anthony. He's a Paterson native and a father of two boys. He loves writing, comic books, and hanging out with his family. Anthony has spent most of his adulthood working in warehouse operations and enjoys the challenges that come with it. He never graduated high school, but Anthony has always worked hard and provided his family with everything they need. One day everything changed for Anthony. After 14 years with his employer, he became a casualty of budget cuts and lost his job. The news turned his whole world upside down. To get by, he worked odd jobs and late nights, but couldn't seem to find a steady position. As time passed, Anthony's savings started to run low and he had to budget carefully. Soon, his worries turned into panic. For the first time in his life, Anthony was struggling to make ends meet.

Determined to get his life back on track, Anthony joined the Center of United Methodist Aid in the Community, or CUMAC's Pathways to Work last year and quickly immersed himself in the program. Since then, he has worked in several departments to gain job experience and completed forklift certification training to add even more skills to his resume. At the same time, he's been studying regularly to get his high school diploma. The Pathways program now offers tutoring for GED prep and college readiness so Anthony has worked closely with CUMAC volunteers to prepare. He tells us that the extra support has made a big difference. "It's something I thought I'd never go back to, getting my diploma" says Anthony. "But I'm glad I'm doing this. It's been a great experience."

Along with providing resources to become a more

qualified job candidate, CUMAC has also assisted Anthony with the job search process through mock interviews and special workshops. "CUMAC took the time to help us do resumes, which I appreciate because now I know how to write a resume" says Anthony. "I never knew how to do one. Now I'm sending out my resume and I can feel better about how I'm presenting myself."

On top of all his training and development, Anthony was also able to move into a new apartment with his

port the items to Anthony's new apartment to make the move less expensive. Anthony is still getting settled in his new place, but he says that CUMAC helped make his apartment feel like a home, and that's something he will never forget.

When Anthony first joined the Pathways program, he will tell you that he was quiet and discouraged. In many ways, the trauma of the last couple of years kept him from imagining a brighter future. He often felt like giving up, but the CUMAC team was always there to give him the boost that he needed. For Anthony, that support was vital. The past months have seen him flourish. "The team has been pushing me, encouraging me, and that's really helped me to spread my wings" he says. "I feel like I've grown a lot. CUMAC has really helped me break out of my shell." With more confidence in himself, Anthony continues to take on more responsibility around the building and impress the team with his abilities. Along with supporting day-to-day operations, he now helps train new Pathways members, and even leads groups on various projects. "CUMAC has helped me get into a better place in my life. Everyone here is like family. If you need to talk, they're there to listen, to help. I have a much more positive outlook on everything now. I smile more. I'm happier. I'm more open. I used to look forward to calling it a day, now I look forward to tomorrow, to the future. It feels good."

Anthony has passed his HiSET exam and has earned his high school equivalency. He's now working toward a career that he loves and the CUMAC staff couldn't be more proud. With Anthony's talent and enthusiasm, we know that he has a bright future ahead! 🇺🇸



Anthony's new apartment felt like a home thanks to Teresa, Community Closet Manager at CUMAC.

family. At first, he was worried about the move. Anthony and his sons had been staying with some family until they could get back on their feet. Living on a tight budget, he wasn't sure if he would be able to afford the additional expenses that comes with living on your own. Teresa, CUMAC's Community Closet Manager, helped ease his fears. When she heard about Anthony's dilemma, Teresa provided him with a new mattress, box spring, couch, table, chairs, kitchenware, dishes, and other essentials. Additionally, our team helped trans-

CUMAC's Pathways to Work program is providing our neighbors with the skills and resources they need to thrive. Thank you for supporting CUMAC and for making programs like Pathways possible.

CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

Capital District United Methodist Women Celebrate 150 Years



The United Methodist Women of the Capital District celebrated their 150th birthday at Allentown UMC. Photo by Mary McLemore

United Methodist Communities Named a Great Place to Work

The United Methodist Communities has been certified as a Great Place to Work for the second consecutive year by independent analysts at the Great Place to Work Institute. This honor applies to the UMC's 13 statewide locations, which includes nine senior residential communities.

Career Opportunities! GNJ, Local Church Positions and Summer Camps

Editorial Manager
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Regional Administrator

Join our team and check out these opportunities.
www.GNJUMC.org/job-opportunities

Camping Scholarships Available

All campers are welcome at summer camp this year, regardless of ability to pay. Scholarships will be extended to 80% of campers, and no camper will be turned away for financial reasons. During each of the four weeks of camp at Pinelands Center, campers will choose their own activities and make new friends with similar interests. Learn more at <https://www.gnjnextgen.org/2019-summer-camping-programs/>.

Free IGNITE Tickets for Volunteers at Next Gen Camps

Your youth group can earn a free ticket to IGNITE for every Summer Camp adult volunteer, contact Ryan Clements, rclements@gnjumc.org, for more information. Next Gen Summer Camps has several options for both paid positions and volunteers, including musicians, photographers and cabin leaders.

OBITUARIES

Rev. Dr. David Cousins, retired full elder, died April 13, 2019. A memorial service will be held at a future date to be announced. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Barbara Barr, 249 Forge Rd., West Creek, NJ 08092.

Jean M. Riley, surviving spouse of Rev. Norman Riley, died May 9, 2019. A memorial service was held on May 13 at St. John's UMC in Hazlet. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to her daughter Robin Roberts, 39 Idlebrook Ln., Aberdeen, NJ 07747. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association, 54 Pitman Ave., Ocean Grove, NJ 07756 or Solutions Health and Pregnancy Center, 837 Broad St., Shrewsbury, NJ 07702 in Jean's memory.

Dean Richard Amelung, retired local pastor, died May 16, 2019. A memorial service was held on May 23 at Stevensville UMC in Stevensville, Michigan. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to his daughter Dale Janoski, 1466 W. Broad St., Stratford, CT 06615. In lieu of flower, memorial donations may be sent in Dean's memory to either the American Parkinson Disease Association, PO Box 97216, Washington, DC 20090 or Community Supper and Shower Ministry of Golden Hill UMC, 210 Elm St., Bridgeport, CT 06604.

Rev. Thomas McKee, elder in full connection, died May 16, 2019. A private memorial service will be held later this year with family. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent in Rev. McKee's honor to a charity of one's own choice. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to his spouse, Sabine and mother, Ruth McKee, 8032 Spanish Oak Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34606.

Rev. Dr. James Edward Doran, retired elder, died May 16, 2019. Memorial services were held May 20 at Antioch UMC in Princess Anne, MD and May 25 at Malaga Youth Camp's tabernacle in Newfield, NJ. Memorial donations, in lieu of flowers, may be sent to either Antioch UMC, PO Box 297, Princess Anne, MD 21853 for their mission trip to Kentucky or the Malaga Youth Camp Fund, 4488 Arbutus Ave., Newfield, NJ 08344 in the Rev. Dr.'s memory. Expressions of sympathy may be conveyed at www.hinmanfuneralhome.com.



PRESIDENT

The Board of Trustees of Centenary University and the Search Committee seek the University's next president and invite expressions of interest to lead this dynamic University, serving more than 2,400 students annually. Centenary University has responded creatively and effectively to the educational needs of New Jersey and beyond, by offering an appealing variety of programs on its main campus and recognized, professionally based programs at off-campus sites in Edison, N.J., and Parsippany, N.J. Throughout its long history, the institution has maintained its commitment to educational opportunity, service of others, and lifelong learning.

Founded in 1867 by the Newark Conference of the United Methodist Church and located in beautiful Hackettstown, N.J., Centenary is the choice for students who wish to succeed in tomorrow's most in-demand careers. Signature academic programs include an acclaimed equestrian studies program, the pre-vet equine and small animal programs, business, education, biological science, criminal justice, and sports management. The fine arts offerings blend well with community participation and attendance at plays, concerts, and performances. Challenging academics are complemented by a supportive faculty and staff, robust extracurricular experiences, and a diverse student body.

Centenary's NCAA (Division III) teams compete in the Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC) and provide student-athletes with an excellent opportunity to compete in 14 sports. Centenary's award-winning equestrian team has earned accolades for decades.

The University's major strengths include the talent of its faculty and staff, inclusive leadership by the administration and trustees, an intentional approach to civility, a commitment to engaging the whole student, and concerted efforts to enhance shared governance. A spirit of continuous institutional improvement will give the next leader the opportunity to build on assessments that have identified academic standing, financial soundness, revenue enhancement, and student enrollment growth as important areas of focus. The Board of Trustees is committed to an increased role in fundraising, endowment building, and outreach to the broader community. The annual budget of the University is about \$35 million and the endowment has a market value of \$10 million. The University has 22,000 alumni and an active alumni association.

The Board of Trustees and the Search Committee seek a distinguished leader with the following characteristics:

- A transformational leader who can engage the Centenary community and its constituents in a shared vision for the future
- Experience developing, leading, and effectively executing a strategic plan at an institution of higher education
- Strong leadership experience in higher education with a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing higher education and the region
- Strong financial acumen and facility with financial reports, accounting, investments, and financing; a responsible fiscal steward
- Driven to advocate and fundraise for the institution, preferably with a proven track record, knowledge of fundraising operations, and knowledge of grants, annual fund, and capital campaigns
- A skilled communicator who is energized by interacting with students, staff, alumni, and community members and who can inspire constituents
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in all its forms
- A leader who will honor the University's history and traditions, and work productively with the local community and the region
- A mission-driven individual of the highest integrity who is passionate about serving Centenary and making its success their highest priority
- A change leader who works collaboratively and transparently with humility and humor within our unique culture to fulfill the institution's mission
- An accomplished scholar with a doctoral or terminal degree from an accredited university

The Search Committee will begin review of applications in June, 2019, and will consider candidates in its initial review those whose materials are complete and in-hand by **August 9, 2019**. The Committee will continue to accept applications for possible future reviews until a new president is selected. Applicants must present a letter of interest that addresses Centenary University's mission, attributes desired in candidates and opportunities for leadership outlined in the profile. In addition to the letter, a complete application includes a comprehensive vitae with 5 references, noting email and phone numbers for each contact. Please submit applications to **Rochelle Makela-Goodman, Chair of the Search Committee, at CentenaryUPres@agbsearch.com. Dr. Jim Davis, AGB Search Consultant, is assisting the search. You may direct inquiries and questions to james.davis@agbsearch.com and phone 540-539-9415. For a copy of the profile and other information, please consult: www.centenaryuniversity.edu or www.agbsearch.com.**

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UMC in Union

CONTRIBUTING CHURCHES

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Hamilton UMC (Neptune)
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Hopewell UMC
Hurffville Bethel UMC
Indian Mills UMC

Korean Community of NJ
Manahawkin UMC
Middletown UMC
Midland Park UMC
Midvale UMC
Montgomery UMC
Morristown UMC
Old First UMC (West Long Branch)
Parkside UMC
Salem UMC
Simply Grace UMC
St. Andrew's UMC (Spring Lake)
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UMC at Milltown
UMC in Branchville
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Zion UMC (Egg Harbor Township)

Find out more at:
www.gnjumc.org/miracleseverywhere



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